

# Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

Volume 8, Number 5<sup>6</sup>

June 15, 1996

## CYBERMANIA!!!!!!

By Matthew Fernandes

A vacated shop space is back in business and, all of the sudden, Grand South Grand is at the forefront of the newest trend in high-tech socializing.

The new business, SOHO, is part cafe, part art gallery and wholly computer mecca. It is the first true "cybercafe" in St. Louis. This trend of cafes offering time on the internet along with the daily cup of Joe has been in practice for over two years now. Like many trends, cybercafes began to surface on both coasts and worked their way inland. Currently, most middle to large-sized cities boast a few.

Tom Freeman is the mastermind behind SOHO. Last December, he began to recruit potential investors for a unique computer shop - one that would mix the pleasures of art and social gatherings with advanced technical services. He convinced four others to pitch in and the result is a unique new addition to South Grand.

Not only can one surf the 'net (free of charge until June 8) while enjoying a dose of caffeine, SOHO is a full service computer retail outlet and service shop. According to Freeman, if a customer has a computer-related need, SOHO can accommodate it now or in the near future.

The business' services, far too numerous to mention here, include designing web pages for individuals and companies, providing corporations with an internet connection through their local area networks, providing e-mail accounts (\$5 per month) and selling, upgrading and even custom designing hard drives.



Apparently not contented with a full plate of computer-based services, Freeman collaborated with John Dobson, art curator, to fill the spacious cafe with artwork priced from \$500-\$15,000.

"We'll change over (the artwork) every month or so - we want to keep things fresh," Dobson was quoted as saying in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch recently. Also in the plans is to set up a web site for each artist featured in the cafe so that a potential buyer can view an artists portfolio at any given time.

The space which SOHO occupies was last used by the eclectic gift shop of the same name. With the large attractive sign in place (many regarded the year-long abandoned shop as one vacant storefront which actually looked good!), Freeman decided to keep the name, noting also that the term "SOHO" is computer jargon for any "small office/home office" computer configuration.

A 1920's pharmacy originally occupied the space and Freeman made use of the relics which were left intact. Smooth leather benches line the circular room in front where customers once sat as their prescriptions were being filled. Three old-style telephone booths are currently empty but will soon be equipped - one with an AT&T video phone.

Presumably, anyone will be able to wander into SOHO and dial up a number on the videophone...but will any one be on the other end to show their beautiful face to another phone-cam? Perhaps not at first...that is unless someone can locate George Jetson's video phone number!

## IT'S A JUNGLE

By: Matthew Fernandes

As deforestation ravages the world's jungles, a small patch of land on South Grand has just been reforested.



Edward Van Kast and Thomas Miller, co-owners of the new nursery, Urban Jungle (on Grand near Wyoming), are responsible for bringing a touch of rainforest to the area.

Upon entering the small shop one is surrounded by greenery. Potted plants line the walls and hang from the ceiling. Flora generally fills every conceivable space. The possibility of squeezing any more plants into the place seems highly unlikely, but...

"We'll be bringing in a lot more plants," assures Van Kast, his eyes scanning over the shop. Urban Jungle was conceived primarily because he needed "a place to store all of our plants," according to Van Kast. He, along with Miller, have operated a landscaping business called "Kings of the Jungle" for several years. They will continue to landscape while expanding Urban Jungle. Already, they have rented the open lot on Grand and Wyoming and are displaying plants outdoors. A brick and wrought-iron fence for the lot are in the works which is being partially funded by the city. (cont. page 9)

**The Tower Grove Heights Gazette  
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The Gazette is a non-profit publication that is published bi-monthly by the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. For information concerning advertising call Don Hardin at 772-9151. Your letters and comments are always welcome at the Gazette. Mail them to:

The Gazette/TGHNA 3203 S. Grand Blvd., Suite 103 St. Louis MO 63118

## RESIDENT PROFILE

By Erin O'Reilly

Susie Gudermuth moved into this area almost 16 years ago and started buying and rehabbing area rental properties. Although she is a maternal/child nurse by training and had worked in that field for many years she now devotes her energies to this full-time and has accumulated a number of properties. In the beginning she started with smaller projects and made repairs as needed and as time and resources allowed. In recent years, however, bigger and bigger projects have evolved and she has done extensive rehab jobs on most of her properties. After all of these rehab projects she has developed some very good contacts with area small job contractors and she keeps them busy! Her priority is high quality work for good value.

Through the Tower Grove South Housing Corporation and now the Grand Oak Hill Housing Production Committee, she has worked as a volunteer developer with Alderwomen Osborn and Vining to accomplish the neighborhood gut rehab projects on

Spring Street and will also soon be assisting with another one on Humphrey Street. She states financing her own projects is

probably the most difficult aspect of this work and involves creative piecing together of funding sources. She adds that financing is becoming somewhat easier as lending institutions are more willing to make stronger investment in our city neighborhoods. In the past few years lenders and their appraisers have begun to give added value to quality rehab projects. She is confident that as the neighborhood gets more and more improved homes through individual investment our property values will continue to increase.

Susie has a personal commitment to any of buyers of her property, to help them protect their investment as their investment is also her investment. She states that investing in your own neighborhood has many advantages. To name a few: 1) It protects your own home investment, 2) It improves your own living space, 3) The work is close by, 4) It attracts good neighbors, and 5) It is good for the neighborhood! She looks to events like the May 26th tour to give people an opportunity to come and see some of the projects.

### JUNE

**Federated Garden Club Flower Show** - June 1 & 2

**Exhibit - Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc.** - June 1 - 21 Photographs of African American history in Missouri from 1719 to the present, and photos of famous Missouri jazz musicians.

**Senior Day** - June 4. A Morning in the Chinese Garden. Tram shuttles, music and refreshment.

**Whitaker Jazz Festival** - June 5, 12, 19, 26 and July 3 Summer nights, simmering jazz, sounds of New Orleans, dixieland, and much more. Bring your picnic supper, a blanket or lawn chairs, and enjoy some of St. Louis' most exciting jazz ensembles performing under the stars. Tickets available 2 weeks in advance at the Garden.

**Mid-American Lily Society Show** - June 15 & 16

**Dahlia Society Sale** - June 22 & 23

**Environmental Event** - June 23 "Earthfriend's Day - Planet Friendly Living" - Positive, practical tips on how to go through a regular daily routine without impacting the environment in a harmful way.

**West County Daylily Society Show** - June 30



### JULY

**Family Fun Days - Nature Masks** - July 13, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Make a fanciful mask out of natural materials.

**Family Fun Days - The Birds and the Bees** - July 20, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Taste real comb honey and make peanut butter and pine cone bird feeders that you can take home. Enjoy lectures by local beekeepers at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.

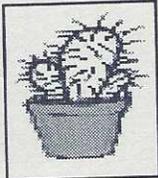
**Family Fun Days - Henry Shaw's Birthday Party** - July 24, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Celebrating the 195th birthday of the Garden's founder, Henry Shaw. Musicians and storytellers, the amazing Maze, and Henry Shaw himself will be on hand for fun and entertainment; refreshments will be served.

**Henry Shaw Cactus Society Show** - July 20 - 28 The 50th annual show and plant sale features a wonderful array of cactuses and succulents, including selections from the MBG collection.

**Family Fun Days - Grow a Sproutable Necklace** - July 27, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Children are invited to make "sproutable" seed necklaces to wear home.

**Greater St. Louis Iris Society Sale** - July 28

**All events free with regular Garden admission.**



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# BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES' MEETING NOTES

By Tom Booth

The May Block Captains' (now referred to as "Representatives") meeting was held at Nancy Dietz's home in the 38XX block of Wyoming. As usual, there was a full room of participants including 2 area police officers, Bill Brush and Kim Crowe, a representative from Americorp who works out of the Fanning Community Center, and Neighborhood Stabilization officer Barb Potts.

It was noted that Barb received an award from residents of the Shaw neighborhood because she was instrumental in bringing their recent landlord suit to a favorable settlement.

The topics discussed at the meeting included:

- There is a **neighborhood walk** on Mondays at 7 p.m. The walkers begin their weekly walk at the Divine Science Church.

- The **Arsenal** blocks didn't receive their copies of the last Gazette issue.

- The **Garden Awards** will be chosen in June, so nominations should be brought to the next meeting or general

meeting.

- The problem of the volume of **traffic** on 36-3700 Connecticut near Grand. Ideas were suggested that dealt with changing traffic patterns. - Some instances of **nuisance buildings** were discussed, including a few where encouraging results were brought about by residents watching and reporting nuisance activities to the police and the Neighborhood Stabilization officer.

- With the end of the winter season, **potholes** have become a problem. Troublesome ones should be reported to Barb Potts.

- There is a **\$100 reward** for turning in people who illegally dump in the alley dumpsters.

- Barb Potts mentioned that in the last year or two **29 police officers** have moved into our area. Everyone felt this was a strong positive for the neighborhood. Barb also suggested that residents call the police department and tell them when you see policemen doing a good job, since too often it's only the complaints that get heard.



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# BARB POTTS ON THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

by Donna Blanca

I caught a very busy Barb Potts on a date with her husband on a rainy Saturday morning. Despite the weather and her personal commitments, Barb was most aglow with the recent landmark case in the Shaw Neighborhood in which the residents sued their landlord for properties not being maintained and managed. What was the substance of the suit? The property was not well managed or maintained by the property owner and the suit is similar to a dereliction of duties by owner suit. The ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH reported the suit claims victory for city living. Historically, the suit was filed in July 1994, when part of the Shaw neighborhood was a battleground between residents and Gorecki, the landlord. Residents, with the help from the city, filed a \$2 million suit which focused on three of Goreckis buildings. Residents acknowledged that within a few months

of the suit's filing, Gorecki improved the buildings conditions and got better tenants. The tenants hope is, that as a result of this suit, landlords will apply the golden rule, managing their properties and selecting their tenants as though they, themselves were living next door.

What makes this a landmark case, Barb? This is a landmark case because such a case has never been tried by the city or state before. No remedy at law or nuisance aspect has been attempted for the social dereliction of duties and for the care and concern for people in and the care and concern for people around the property. There is no precedent. Even though there was no trial, there is still a settlement for precedence. What led to the success? The settlement information and documentation, the depositions were detailed and specific. The evidence was very well documented.

What does this mean for TGHNA?

The community impact is great. This case is evidence of responsible community oriented capitalism not just dollar oriented property management. The importance of community perseverance and patience is apparent. The guts and courage it took to pursue this is exemplary. It proves a commitment to neighborhood can save its soul. TGHNA landlords know that if your properties are not being maintained or managed, you will be on notice.

Barbara Potts was recognized by the Shaw residents for her work on the fruition of the Gorecki trial with the Excellent Neighbor Award. Barbara is the previous Administrative Director of Operation Safe Street. Currently Barbara is the Neighborhood Stabilization Officer for Tower Grove Heights, Tower Grove South, Grand Oak Hill, and Parkside South neighborhoods. This area encompasses Arsenal, Chippewa, Grand and Kingshighway.



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# VACATION DESTINATION

by Donna Blanca

Whether you are planning a foreign or domestic vacation this year, travel safety is an important issue to making your vacation a fun filled stress free time. The same security consciousness that your practice in your home, in our own Tower Grove Heights, is the same security to practice in travelling. It's a fact that almost all types of personal and household

crime are highest in the warm months when people spend more time relaxing their lives away from home, involved in outdoor activities or vacations. There are ways to avoid becoming part of the statistic by protecting your office, home, property and family while you are relaxing and having fun.

At work, secure any personal items while away from work and secure employment keys in a non-

employment area. Use discretion when communicating your vacation plans to coworkers.

At home, before you leave, make sure your home looks lived in, not empty, by stopping mail and or other deliveries. Leave shades and blinds in normal positions and put an automatic timers on various lamps and a radio on. Trusting neighbors to keep a key and your itinerary also helps manage your emotional and physical security.

When travelling, carry a minimum amount of cash and use travelers checks or credit cards and keep records of your expenditures. Travel tickets can be sold for cash - keep careful tabs on them. When travelling in a foreign country, know where the Embassy is located in the event you lose your passport. Also, know the words for Police.

*(continued on page 13)*

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# DON'T WORRY BE HEALTHY

by Tom Booth

I always know when the weather is changing. My nose tells me. Or I should say my nose and upper respiratory tract tells me. It's no mystery, it's just more pollen or mold or whatever in the air. And it seems like most people I talk to are in the same boat. Most of you think it's just something you have to suffer through... that you'll need to take some drug (whose side effects may interfere with your mental functioning or motor skills). But there are many safer, and more successful ways of coping with allergies, such as avoidance, desensitization and optimal nutrition.

To begin with, there are 2 types of allergies which some authorities estimate affect nearly 50 percent of the population:

- Type 1 allergy symptoms include asthma, eczema, hay fever, headaches, facial swelling, fatigue, chills, irritation, frequent urination, sensitivity to light and loss of appetite, rashes, and some internal disorders. Most Type 1 allergies start in infancy or childhood due to inherited tendencies and/or early exposure to pollens, dusts and other environmental substances.

- Type 2 allergies usually occur in hyperactive children and in adults above the age of 20, often subsiding when they avoid offending foods and chemicals, as well as environmental pollutants. The most dramatic symptoms from Type 2 allergies are migraine headaches, confusion, hyperactivity, depression, anxiety, mood swings, memory loss and personality changes.

Research on the immune system shows that allergy-prone people produce an overabundance of certain complex proteins known as antibodies, which in turn, trigger specialized cells known as mast cells, which

release chemicals that produce inflammation throughout the body. These chemicals, histamines and leukotrienes, must either be neutralized in a severe allergic reaction or prevented from being released by means of an optimal nutrition program.

Histamines are probably the best known of all the chemicals that produce Type 1 allergies, because of all the prescription and non-prescription anti-allergens on the market. Formed by the action of a body enzyme on the amino acid histidine, histamines are released by specialized cells known as mast cells and basophils. Histamine causes small blood vessels to widen and become more permeable to fluid, allowing fluid to pass from the bloodstream into surrounding tissues, causing local swelling.

In the skin, this swelling produces the red bumps of hives. In the nasal passages and eyes, it produces con-

gestion and tearing. Histamine also causes a contraction of the smooth muscles in the walls of the lungs, blood vessels, stomach, intestines and bladder, bringing on a wide range of clinical symptoms, including asthma.

An often neglected way of coping with and preventing allergies is through applied clinical nutrition. Many nutrients in optimal amounts enhance proper immune system functioning and can, therefore, help an allergy sufferer.

Vitamin A contributes to the integrity of the skin and mucous membranes and to the maturing of certain immune system cells and to stimulating antibody production.

Most health professionals insist adults take at least 5,000 IU/day of vitamin A.

*(continued on page 7)*

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*(continued from page 6)*

Sometimes they advise taking much more for short periods only, inasmuch as vitamin A is a fat-soluble vitamin that is stored in the body, and, if taken over extended periods in large amounts, can cause toxic reactions.

B-complex vitamins are essential for the proper functioning of immune systems enzymes. Vitamin C boost the activities of lymphocytes and macrophages, raises levels of interferon, is a powerful free-radical scavenger, antiviral agent, and strengthens connective tissue all over the body, thus increasing our resistance to allergic reactions.

Vitamin E also boost immune function, because of its antioxidant properties, particularly in tandem with vitamin C.

Other essential nutrients that help to strengthen the immune system are calcium, copper, selenium, zinc and

essential fatty acids.

Certain herbs are also powerful anti-allergens. Butcher's broom, for example, contains chemicals called saponins which have steroid-like, anti-inflammatory properties. By decreasing capillary permeability, it also decreases allergy-related inflammatory response.

Ginger interferes with the manufacture of inflammatory prostaglandins. Ginkgo biloba inactivates chemicals known as platelet-activating fac-

tors, which are implicated in anaphylactic shock and asthma.

White willow has anti-inflammatory properties similar to aspirin. Nettles and marshmallow root help to sooth inflamed mucous membranes. Goldenseal, echinacea and astragalus are well known herbs that boost immune function. Ephedra (ma huang) is the premier herbal decongestant from which many of the best-selling prescription and non-prescription medications are derived.



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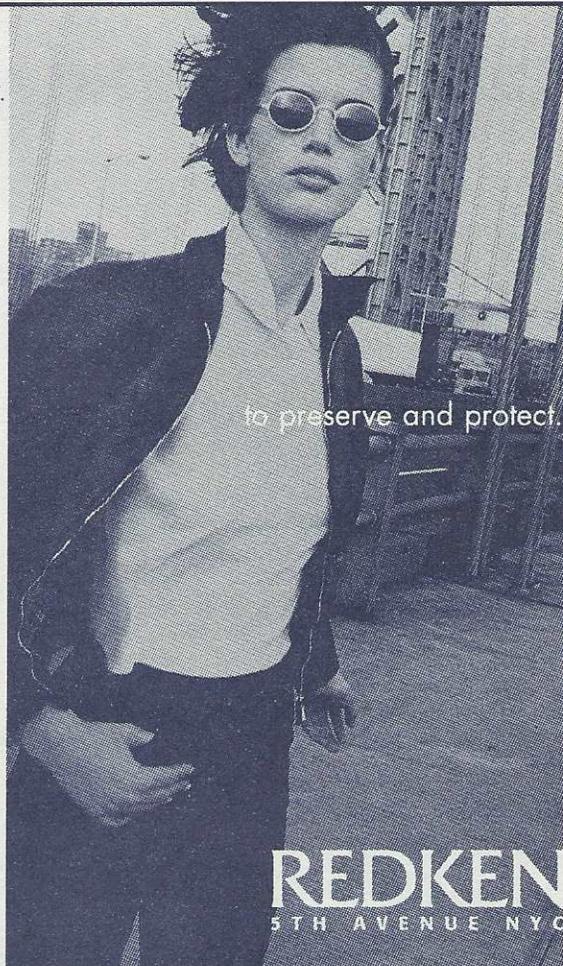
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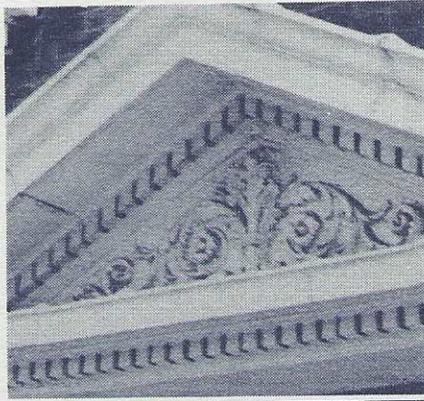
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### NEIGHBORHOOD TREASURES

Do you know where this beautiful piece of masonry work is?

(answer on page 14)



### NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Did you know that you can do something about those noisy booming car radios you hear going down the block? Make a note of the license plate and call Neighborhood Stabilization Officer Barb Potts at 622.4628 and tell her when and where you observed the nuisance. Barb will have a notice sent to the offender. Yeah!

### PARKSIDE CENTER

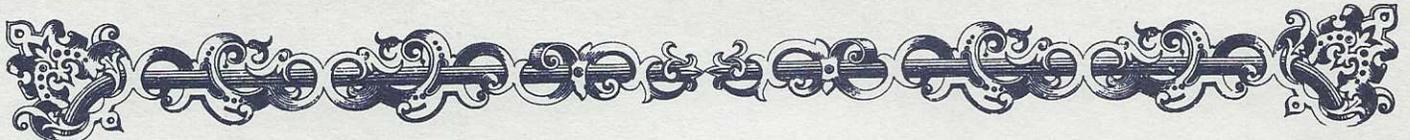
The new Recreation Center located at the corner of Hartford and Alfred was officially opened with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Saturday, March 30, 1996. David Sorden, from the Mayor's Office offered the Mayor's commendation on the opening of the center. Alderman Marge Vining and former Gerry Osborn cut the ribbon marking the grand opening. The Center was the brain child of former Alderman Osborn, who saw the vacant space as an opportunity to erect a center for the creativity of the youth in our neighborhood. Alderman Vining saw the project through to completion, without the two, this project could not have been completed. Already the Center is filled with children from the neighborhood, laughing and playing in a constructive environment.

The Parkside Center has activities for "youth" of many ages. Activities include games for children, table tennis, arts and crafts, field trips, and sign up for teenagers for activities and sports at surrounding centers and parks. In addition, the "older" youths can attend aerobics and other programs designed for the young at heart. Give them a call at 773.3406.

The center needs volunteer help to make it even more successful. If you have a particular talent or skill you'd like to share with the kids in our community, or you'd just like to donate a few hours a week to help out, give them a call.

### HOLY FAMILY PRESCHOOL

For younger children, Holy Family Preschool will expand their program to include a Summer preschool program for children 2 - 5 beginning June 3. The program is open daily and includes lunch and two snacks. For rates and other information, contact Mrs. Thenhaus at 776.2558.



### Announcement

The Wolfgram's are pleased to announce their move from the Central West End to Tower Grove Heights.

Kurt Wolfgram is an attorney. His practice is primarily on behalf of the plaintiff in personal injury, commercial litigation, work injuries, and general civil litigation. Office phone 721-8899 or 608-3294. Robin is a graduate of Washington University School of Social Work and currently works in that field. Kurt and Robin have two children: Christian, 3 1/2, and Jerod, 2 months. We hope to be able to follow the example of our neighbors in contributing to this great community.



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(continued from page 1)

Urban Jungle will be acquiring unusual tropical plants and feature a different hybrid each month.

On top of running two businesses, Urban Jungle's owners are doing their part in beautifying the city. They are currently the proud adoptive parents of the giant urn located in Lafayette Square Park. By adopting the historic urn, they became responsible for caring for it and landscaping the area around it.

Another project which Van Kast (and surely many another resident) hopes will fly is the placing of large urns up and down the Grand South Grand business district. Van Kast says he is willing to keep plants alive and well inside the urns if the city is willing to fund the project. Van Kast is currently working with Alderman Marge Vining and Lenita Moore, city liaison to the business district, on the idea.

It looks like these two new store owners are planting all of the right seeds to one day make South Grand a much greener place.

## THE HEIGHTS' OWN HISTORIAN

by Don Hardin

Mark Abbott (of Hartford) is an Associate Professor of History at Harris-Stowe State College where he teaches courses in American History and Urban Studies. He also teaches a course on the History of St. Louis at Saint Louis University and is an Adjunct Professor of History at Forest Park Community College.



Abbott has a Ph.D. in American Studies from Purdue University (1985) where his doctoral research involved studying the role of the "master plan" in twentieth century urban planning.

Abbott's current research interests include the history of Tower

Grove Heights - a South side St. Louis neighborhood - and the history of planning in St. Louis.

In addition to his teaching and research interest, Abbott has also been a free lance urban planner and has prepared a number of development plans for various St. Louis neighborhoods as well as several housing studies for

the metropolitan Boston area.

Mark will be a featured speaker at the June Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood General Meeting. He will present the second chapter from his book-in-work about Tower Grove Heights. The subject will be Tower Grove Heights 1910 - 1930, the golden years.

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# ATTACK OF THE KILLER MAPLES

by Richard R. Clinebell II

In May of this year the neighborhood experienced a powerful wind-storm which toppled several trees in Tower Grove Heights. A couple of the biggies, which took a couple of cars with them were *Acer saccharinum*, the Soft Maple tree. While other maples, such as *Acer saccharum*, the Sugar Maple, make fine shade trees with hard wood, the Soft Maple is a weedy tree with weak, soft wood which rots easily, which makes the tree dangerous when it gets large with the interior of the trunk rotted out.

Just how dangerous Soft Maples are was readily apparent on Hartford Street on the morning after the May storm -- one tree down and several cars totalled in the 3800 block, and another tree down in the block to the West.

Soft Maples are native to this area, where they grow mostly in floodplains along creeks and rivers, and are "weedy" trees which grow rapidly and produce copious amounts of seed and seedlings, which I seem

to be forever pulling out of the garden.

A lot of Soft Maples have been planted in St. Louis (by the City?) as shade trees, but I make the argument here that they are dangerous. Even though they go up fast, they also come down just as fast. They make this crabby old botanist a bit nervous!

When I first moved into the neighborhood, I noticed that one of our neighbors had a Soft Maple tree -- a young one about 25 or 30 feet tall -- and "jack-in-the-beanstalking" up and over our porch.

About two years before the Attack of the Killer Maples, I started my campaign of diplomacy to plant in my neighbors' minds not only what could happen to our house, but also to theirs. Of course I didn't start talking about the issue until I had gotten to know them, and I'm sure before the storm they thought me a bit "airy." Here I do not have that luxury of awaiting the perfect moment to approach this issue, so I apologize to any Johnny Soft Maple Seeds or other aficionados of Soft Maples that might

read this. Aesthetics and utility notwithstanding, I think the storm made my point for me. There are many fine street trees available for St. Louis streets, one of which is a Victorian "heirloom" species, well represented in the Soulard neighborhood. This is the Japanese Pagoda Tree, which is a very nice shade tree in the Bean Family, with whitish flowers and yellow, string-of-beads type pods. Don and I have been trying to germinate the darned seeds all winter, but they haven't come up yet. Eventually, I think they will -- after all, another Japanese heirloom species, Japanese Wisteria, with seeds just as hard, and which we found on a neighborhood fence at a garage sale, has made it to the second story of another neighbor's house at three years of age from seed, and I just germinated some three year old seed for our porch.

Other really cool trees that can be grown here are too numerous to mention, and far less likely to come crashing down in a storm on cars, houses (people?) than Soft Maples.

Let's get rid of them!

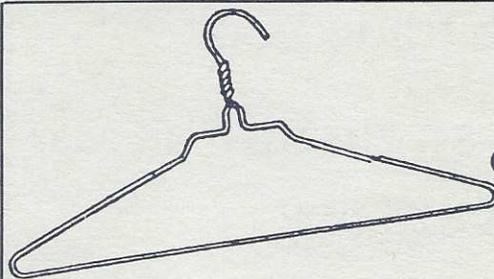


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## IN SEARCH OF HISTORY MYSTERIES

With the warm weather at hand, a lot of us will be into rehabbing again. As an encouragement for all this activity a reprint of this article that appeared in the Gazette in the February 29, 1992 issue seems to be in order.

### LOOK WHAT I FOUND

By Tom Booth

The phrase "One man's trash is another man's treasure" has never been more true than it is in our neighborhood. The Gazette recently took a poll of some of the area's rehabbers to see what sort of treasures actually lay within the walls, floors, and ceilings of these vintage homes. The results were an interesting collection of whatnots, which to their original owners were all too common, but to whose new owners became precious; or at the least conversation pieces.

"I found a 1916 quarter in the plaster dust remnants as I finished tearing down an interior wall, which included two closets," says Steve

Telford. "So evidently the individual had hung his pants up and the quarter had fallen out on the floor of the closet... a silver quarter of course." Steve says it's pretty amazing he was able to find it considering the amount of debris on the floor.

He also found a battery igniter for gas lamps. "It was underneath the floorboards in the attic. I tore the floor up in the attic to insulate... and exposed it," he said. While scraping off multiple layers of wallpaper, Steve also found "a little message underneath the fifth layer, from the original remodeler. He gave his name, phone number, address, and dated it... sometime in the fifties."

Inspired by this bit of historical graffiti, Steve decided to leave something from our day for some future rehabber to find. After building an interior wall, "I stuck in a current newspaper. I think it's kind of like a tradition."

Tricia Heliker won't be following the same kind of tradition in her house. Not long after she moved into her house 14 years ago, she took an

interior wall down in her basement, and found a secret stash from a previous resident: "a bottle of rum, a handgun, and a cigar, all wrapped up." She speculates maybe "that was the only place he was allowed to drink and smoke." Though it might have been tempting to keep the stash together, Tricia had some reservations. "We gave the gun to my dad, because I hate guns. I just didn't want it in the house, even though it probably didn't work. My dad thought it was kind of unique." She kept the bottle of rum, though. "It was still sealed. I kept it for quite awhile, and then I think we did open it...but I can't remember the particulars of the event." She thinks she threw the cigar away. Her interest in rehabbing may have been enhanced by her father's discovery in one of his houses. "My dad found a diamond ring once on top of a medicine cabinet, but not in my house, in one of his on Shaw. So I kept thinking, well any day now...I think of that whenever I tear something out."

Mary Schroeder also happened upon a hidden alcove in a house she formerly owned. "I had this electrician come in, and he found a closet under our stairs in the basement, and found a lamp shade he swore to me was worth over a thousand dollars. It was some kind of fluted glass that was only made in the 20's." She hadn't noticed the closet before because "it was set back and made out of the same kind of wood." Aside from the shade, there was a miscellaneous collection of kitchen and bathroom products, and a 50th wedding anniversary plate belonging to the only people who lived in the house before her.

She says she left the items "in the same closet, so it's there for someone else to find. It just seemed neat to leave them with the house."

In her present house, where her husband Ed grew up, Mary said they found old newspaper under the

*(continued on page 12)*

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*(continued from page 11)*

linoleum in the kitchen. Her husband Ed claims there's an old light bulb in the fruit cellar that's close to 60 years old, and still works. "He claims it hasn't been changed since he was here as a little kid," she said, betraying more than a little skepticism of her own. Mary said her husband "did find a coal oil lamp in an unused clean-out flue." She says she knows he kept that, because "he keeps everything."

Not everything unusual is found in hidden cubbyholes, or behind walls though. Betsy Vanderheyden says when she and her husband Brian moved into their house, there was an old Maytag wringer washer in the basement. "I think it's probably from the 30's," she said. "We also had a little gas stove in the basement, where they used to heat the water for the Maytag washer." She says she's not sure where the stove or the washer are now. Like Mary Schroeder, Betsy says she and her husband found newspaper from the 20's underneath the carpet pad in one of their bedrooms. "It was between the floor and the padding," she says.

Mike Miles says that "it seems like every time I tore up things, I always found money. It never was a lot of money, it was always coins." He says he found coins from the 30's behind the kitchen walls and also when he was tearing out a false ceiling in the basement. "I found them lying up on top of some beams. It was like whoever did it would always take the change out of their pockets, because it was falling out or something, and then forget it." Mike found items other than money of course. "We found some old tins of throat lozenges which made a great Christmas present for a friend of mine who collects old medicine bottles," he said. He guesses the tins "go back to the 30's." Mike traced some previous rehabbing in his house to 1942, because there was a fire in the house. He says at that time, a back staircase was removed and in the enclosed space he found newspa-

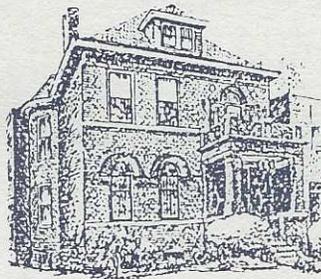
pers. "They used newspaper as shims. I started opening them up and they were all dated 1942. They just crumpled right up, but it would have been neat if I could have saved some of them, because there were whole articles and advertisements," he said.

One of our veteran rehabbers, Rich lezzi, has a list of items he's found over the years. One item he found was a package of "Dr. Smith's Constipation Pills Guaranteed To Cure Constipation Naturally." Rich says, "it looked like someone was trying to hide it," because it was secreted behind a bent radiator pipe. Some of the other objects he's found are: a 1903 penny rubbed shiny from a pocket door passing over it; a 1910

newspaper addressing the evils of drinking; a huge pile of dustcovered buttons he eagerly mistook for coins; a carpenter's calipers enclosed in the apron of a window from 1896; names and dates signed by the builder in 1902; and an unopened Christmas card dated 1902, found behind the living room mantle.

Those of you who share a fascination or objects from the past need not look far. You may find that behind your walls, under your feet, above your head, lay intriguing glimpses of the past waiting to be discovered.

Help us compile another list of such rehabbing adventures, so please send us your own stories.



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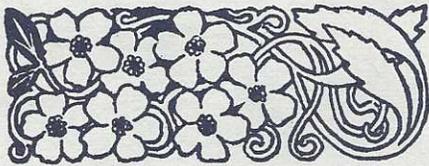
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(continued from page 5)

KSDK Channel 5 featured a must for foreign travellers this week.

The Borderless Travel Book features hieroglyphics recognizable and understandable in almost every foreign country where communicating the basic words: police, doctor, bus, train,



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taxi, can be challenging.

Travelling with a car requires keeping a minimum amount of luggage out of plain view and carefully marked. Always lock your vehicle, whether attended or not. Never pick up hitchhikers and remain on your designated route. Triple A offers TripTix, a carefully marked and guided map of safe and reliable travel routes throughout the United States. This service is free to members.

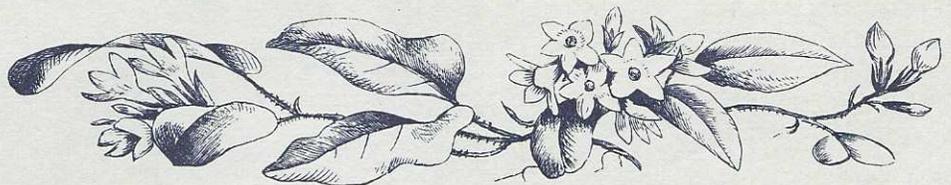
When travelling to hotel/motels, place all valuables in the safe deposit as soon as possible after checking in. Protect your room key, whether inside or outside the room. Use the double lock and chain. Most importantly, know and check your belongings daily.

While sightseeing, learn and select your surroundings BEFORE you leave home/hotel. Ask the hotel management or local residents what to avoid and select sightseeing tours carefully. Avoid deserted areas, however, seek out adventurous opportunities and entertainment options wisely.

Lastly, when travelling on package options, know your vacation contract

and read it carefully before signing. For example, Funjet Vacations offers its travellers a Bill of Rights. In the Bill of Rights, clearly delineated are the travel agents responsibilities to provide and examine all travel documents and the policies and fees which govern them. It delineates your responsibilities to check in times, leisure travel only packages, and time frames for filing claims. Funjet owns responsibility for its adherence to Charter Regulations, and clearly specifies its liability/absence of negligence clauses. Air Carriers responsibilities are also clearly specified in the Bill and options for pretravel and post departure travel insurance are offered.

To summarize, plan your vacation with fun, relaxation and enjoyment in mind. The above mentioned protective services from WUMS, KSDK Channel 5, and Funjet Vacations are guidelines to maximize your precious vacation time. No matter where you go on vacation, your safety and security need not be worries if you plan ahead accordingly. Enjoy your vacation time and customize your own perfect vacation destination.



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