

FROM THE EDITOR

by Don Hardin

The Tower Grove Heights Gazette is widely recognized as the best neighborhood newsletter in the City, but where does it come from? I have talked to residents who assumed that it was published by the City and others who thought it was created by some publishing house.

Actually, the Gazette is created by your friends and neighbors. It is expensive to produce a newsletter of such outstanding quality, but it is the most visible investment of time and money that a neighborhood can make. Our very special neighborhood deserves to be represented by a very special newsletter. Fortunately, the Gazette essentially pays for its production cost through advertising.

The creative process begins about two months before delivery. The staff members (reporters and graphic artists) hold a planning meeting. At this meeting the schedule for the upcoming issue is decided upon and ideas for articles are developed. The deadline for turning in articles is also set and the reporters go to work.

While the reporters are gathering the information for their articles, the business

manager is busy working with the advertising that will be in the upcoming issue. Some of the art work in the ads is obtained from the advertisers and some is created by the graphic artists on our staff.

The reporters turn their completed articles over to the database manager. The database manager then transfers all the articles onto a computer and prints out a copy to each article for proofing and editing.

The initial (dummy) layout process is next. Several staff members and the business manager meet to decide how the articles and ads will be pieced together to create the unique look and style of the Gazette. It's an interesting and challenging process, kind of like putting together a jigsaw puzzle.

After completing the dummy layout process, the disk containing the articles is given to the typesetter. The typesetter creates article headers and adjusts the type size and line spacing of the articles so they will fit exactly into the desired layout design.

When the typesetting is complete, the typeset articles and the finished ads are brought together by the layout artist. The

articles and ads are pasted on boards that will be sent to the printer.

When the Gazette has been printed, the work is still not completed. To control expenses, and because it's fun, the distribution manager hosts a "folding party". At this gathering, where snacks and good conversation abound, the Gazette is assembled, folded, counted, and distributed to the block captains and the businesses on Grand South Grand. Copies are also mailed to City Hall, other neighborhood organizations, and various media oriented organizations.

Two months has passed since that first planning meeting. A lot of work and fun has gone into this issue. The hard working staff, consisting of many individuals each with a unique talent to offer, can now take a few days off before the next planning meeting.

We are always anxiously looking for new staff members. One of the reasons that the Gazette has been able to maintain its high level of quality is the diversity of its staff. If you would like to become a member of the Tower Grove Heights Gazette staff, please call me at 772-9151. If you would like to place an ad, call Donna, our business manager, at 664-5449.

IN THIS ISSUE

In this issue of the Gazette, your "Favorite Mechanic" Terry Mayes tells you how to avoid being taken for a ride by your repair shop. State Representative Pat Dougherty explains a new child care facilities safety bill; while Alderman Geraldine Osborn tells us why she thinks it's necessary to close the loopholes in the Housing Conservation District program. Stephanie Gavin reports on the upcoming grand plans for Botanicals'

expansion to "Parkgate" at the corner of Grand and Arsenal. In "St. Louis Underground", Rich Iezzi takes us on a unique trip into the sub-basements and train tunnels beneath the city, a world which has lain unseen and unused for decades.

In "Past and Potential on Arsenal Street", two area residents recount how they delved into the past of their home and came to touch a part of its history.

In our regular columns:

Don Hardin asks Tower Grove Heights residents how they use Tower Grove Park, in "Since You Asked".

Stephanie Gavin presents a profile of area artist Roy Smith in her Resident Profile.

And Lou Jenneman highlights another Grand business, The Vintage Haberdashery, in "On Grand".

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 Donna Mayes at 664-5449. Your letters and comments are always welcome at the Gazette.

The Gazette/TGHNA P.O. Box 63046
St. Louis MO 63163

ON GRAND

By Lou Jenneman

"If it's bad I will probably want it!!" Joile MacKney, owner and operator of The Vintage Haberdashery said it, but its probably misleading. Stepping into this store is a step into the past. Items that most people display in attics, are cleaned, repaired and available for rent or sale.

Murder Mystery Parties, theaters in Chicago and St. Louis and several well known movies have relied upon The Vintage Haberdashery for period clothing. Featuring clothing and accessories worn from 1900 through the 1970's, this exciting store is now a short walk from your front door. Beaded sweaters, feathered hats, wide short ties with odd designs are on display. Racks and racks of clothes you, your parents, or your grandparents might have worn line the aisles.

Joile and her staff, which include a seamstress are constantly working finding clothes and bringing them into shape to be available for any occasion. Not sure what you want to wear? Consultations are also available. The staff will help you in selection of the costume just right for the theme of the event you will be attending. With hundreds of items to choose from, you will not be disappointed, and you will surely have a unique costume. Jewelry, hats and some shoes are also available.

Buy, rent, sell or browse. Don't miss The Vintage Haberdashery located at 3143 South Grand.

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Jay P. Rosloff

Water, the "universal solvent". The major component of tears and the stuff used to wash those tears away. Too little causes animals to thirst and plants to wither. Too much and we see lives and dreams washed away. Impounded behind dams, it becomes potential electricity, future irrigation, recreational playgrounds, and commercial highways. In its frozen state it cools August iced tea and serves for Arctic architecture. Be it sea, river, swamp, pond, stream, or seasonal water hole it is the ultimate essential of life.

You would be hard pressed to find a civilization not built around water.

I believe one of the most evocative analogies is that of "the river of progress". Progress usually just rolls along within its banks, always different but recognizable just the same. Sometimes it sweeps out of its banks, washes away what long stood, and either renews or ruins the land. Like the great river, one cannot stand against progress, one can only hope to direct it for a little while to our benefit.

As always, there is change in the Heights and change on South Grand. Some old buildings go, some new assets take their place. Some old residents move on, some new move in. Cooperation builds.

See ya on the streets.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT BRINGS OUT THE BEST

By Tom Booth

The tenth annual National Night Out was celebrated on Tuesday August 3rd this year, with the theme "Give Neighborhood Crime and Drugs a Going Away Party". The celebrations among Tower Grove Heights residents was much more subdued this year than in past years. Marilyn Abbott of the 3600 block of Hartford said they closed their block to traffic and enjoyed sodas, ice cream and conversation. On 3600 Wyoming, Betsy Vanderheyden et al brought desserts to the church parking lot and visited with neighbors, amid balloons donated by Grand Books. Since the Utah blocks couldn't block their streets, they gathered instead in backyards. In the 3600 block, Michelle Kerr hosted residents in her yard with hot dogs, beer, soda and chips and dip. She said "the adults talked... the kids played." Veda Lynn invited those on the 3800 block of Utah to her yard, as she did two years ago. They enjoyed snacks, soda and beer. 3800 Hartford was the only block to

have a full blown block party. Neighbors there shared 3 grills for barbecuing hot dogs, and a mix of side dishes and desserts. Terry Mayes took home the honors and a watermelon, in the watermelon seed-spitting event. In an unexpectedly fierce competition, Mayes and Tom Booth managed to stay dry during the water balloon contest, and came away with a gift certificate to Ted Drews Frozen Custard. But in an exceptional gesture of sportsmanship, they offered the certificate as first prize for the winner of the tricycle race, handily won by Margaret Murphy. With the addition of volleyball and Beach Boys tunes, the evening was complete.

No matter what kind of celebration your block planned for National Night Out, the evening's purpose seemed to have been met: to reaffirm contacts with the neighbors in your block, and to light up your porch lights.

For most in the area, the night served as a reminder of what they like about city living: that they belong to a community.



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Day Trippin'

By Mary Schroeder

This issue I had planned on writing about going to St. Charles, Mo. but as everyone knows the flood... HOWEVER, St. Charles old town is one of the few places in St. Charles County that is still in business and unflooded. The parking lots by the river are flooded but there is still ample parking other places there. Merchants are begging for customers, so you may get some good deals on crafts and county decorations. Even with lots of extra water, St. Charles is still a place where you can see and feel history. Plus, there are a number of great restaurants there to choose from. Restaurants where you can sit on a terrace or deck and watch the floodwater only a couple of blocks away.

Since I did not really get to tour the old streets this time, I have other information that I want to give you. It's a recipe that has gotten lots of praise at parties, looks elegant, and is cheap and easy to make.

Shrimp Mousse

- 1 Pkg. Frozen Shrimp (chunked)
- 8 oz. Cream Cheese
- 1/2 Cup Chopped Celery
- 1/2 Cup Chopped Onion
- 1 Cup Mayonnaise
- 1 Can undiluted Tomato Soup
- 1 Pkg. Gelatin
- 1/2 Cup Water (for dissolving gelatin)
- 1/2 tsp. Worcestershire
- Dash Tabasco Sauce

Heat soup to boil, add dissolved gelatin. Add cheese using a mixer. Fold in onion, celery and shrimp (pre-dried on a paper towel). Then add the mayo. Finally, pour into a buttered mold and chill. Unmold, serve with crackers.



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PRAIRIE WILDFLOWERS

in Tower Grove Heights Gardens

by Richard Clinebell

Tower Grove Heights (TGH) is surrounded by many kinds of native grasslands, and by railroad corridors to the Great Plains, along which seeds of many western plants literally rode the rails in ballast and on livestock cars to extend their natural ranges into the Mississippi Valley. Wildflowers of many of these communities, including the oak-grassland savannah (which is what TGH probably was), are now little jewels of our neighborhood's landscape. Here are some of their stories.

Mississippi Valley Wetlands. *Liatis spicata*, the Marsh Blazing Star, is the tall, wand-like purple-flowered plant, growing 3-4 feet tall in clusters of up to 50 stems. It's actually quite rare around here in nature, but abundant near Chicago, and again in the Bootheel. Our neighborhood garden plants (3632 Hartford and 3734 Hartford have nice clumps of these, along with many other yards) are probably among the few local individuals one currently does not have to snorkel to see -- the natives being submerged in the flood. The native around here which looks like

our garden plants is Prairie Blazing Star (*Liatis pycnostachya*, with reflexed bracts rather than *spicata*'s appressed bracts) and was certainly native and abundant in TGH.

Oak Savannah. *Echinacea purpurea*, Purple Coneflower, is a classical savannah plant, growing at the prairie-forest interface of the savannah mosaic, and only there! It was certainly a TGH native, but on the edges of tree shadows rather than in the full sun of the prairie phase, where Prairie Blazing Star lived. These Coneflowers are the familiar purple daisies of our neighborhood, about 4 feet tall, with orange centers -- and TGH has these in dozens of yards. Note how they grow better in partial shade, as in their native niche. Again, a "cousin" native to TGH is currently extinct in the neighborhood, the sun-loving Pale Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*. It is a shorter plant with paler, more drooping "petals" (actually ray flowers, to be technically correct), and created acres of pink/purple mist and nectar for the nearly extinct Regal Fritillary butterfly.

Tall-Grass Prairie. A third TGH native composite (Compositae = Sunflower family, and yes, *Liatis* is in the Sunflower family) genus is *Heliopsis*, the false sunflowers. There is a cultivar of the False

Sunflower, *Heliopsis helianthoides* with 3-4 rows of "petals" in the yard at 3632 Hartford, and another clump of the cultivar at 3734 Hartford, in front of the *Clematis* trellis facing Spring Street. The wild type, with a single row of "petals", can be seen along the yard adjacent to the back of Ted Drewe's on Grand. This is quite an obscure little plant, and I was surprised to find two forms of it so close by.

Railroad Waifs. I'll close with one of the Great Plains beauties which rode in on the railroads, rather like Joel McCrea and Veronica Lake in "Sullivan's Travels", albeit from the plains of Kansas and Nebraska rather than the Paramount lot. Showy Evening Primrose, *Oenothera speciosa*, in the Evening Primrose family, is in several yards, but no longer in bloom. They are about 2 feet tall, and their leaves are now, in latest July, blotched in red. Our Showies are from the nursery trade, but the species *did* move into the midwest on its own.

The neighborhood supports many other North American wildflowers, from virtually Arizona to Pennsylvania, but I've used my space to tell a little more about a few of them, particularly their history before they arrived in our gardens.



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September '93

INNER SPACES

Slipping Into Something New

By Tricia Heliker

How long have you arranged the furniture to hide the faded side from view? Do you fret over the worn arms on your favorite chair when company drops by? Could your living area stand a perk-me-up? Maybe you're in the enviable position of having moved into a home that has been recently decorated to your taste, but, alas your new sofa doesn't blend in. Slipcovers can be the answer to any of these situations and more.

Slipcovers are recommended when:

- existing furniture is a variety of unrelated patterns, textures, styles and/or colors.
- the original fabric has faded.
- the color does not work with the room or adjoining rooms.
- there is a need to protect the upholstery from children or pets.
- the customer wants a seasonal change.
- it is desirable to match the drapery to the furniture (ex: boudoir chairs or chaise lounges)

Slipcovering is not the answer when:

- the original fabric is badly worn.
- the springs are worn or need retying.
- the cushions are sagging.
- the joints are loose.
- the frame is in poor condition.

Once you've decided on slipcovers you must make the decision whether to do it yourself or hire a professional. If cost is a concern, select a few good books on the subject from the local library. After researching the process you will either feel confident or be convinced to hire it done. Your research will be helpful in working effectively with the person you select for the job. A pro can do the job faster and will take responsibility for mistakes. He also knows how to handle unusual pieces and unforeseen problems. If you know no one who can recommend a person for the job you might check with fabric stores. They often have people on file who have proven themselves to do



good work. They may require that you buy your fabric from them before they will give out any names. An interior designer will also help you to find a reliable professional. If you must select from the yellow pages or advertisements, spend time examining work they have completed for someone else. It will be time well spent and will be helpful in communicating to the pro exactly what you do or don't want your finished product to look like.

When examining the completed piece be sure to check:

- seams for double stitching which makes them stronger
- stitching that shows from the right side (only topstitching should show)
- lined skirts which will hang better than unlined.
- type of closures used. (Velcro is easy to use. Snap tape works best for detachable skirts because it is less bulky than velcro and creates a flush appearance. Zippers give the tightest fit and the most tailored look).
- snug fit (wrinkles will cause wear and fading at the wrinkles)
- matching of patterns, stripes, plaids, and florals where they meet.
- ease in removing slipcovers for cleaning.

Check the next Gazette for tips on selecting the appropriate fabric for slipcovers.

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ON THE TOWN

in the Neighborhood

By Mary Schroeder

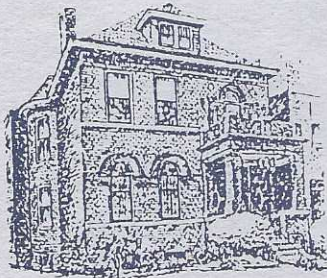
Really famous food critics like Joe Pollock have given rave reviews to the Mekong restaurant. So who am I to argue with the pros? The Mekong has very, very good food and a pleasing atmosphere. It's decorated with relaxing dark greens all around, and even has a tropical fish tank.

I met friends for dinner there recently, and all were impressed with Mekong's food. I'll give you a sampling, each of us ordered something different. Patsy O. or-

dered Pho Tai Chin Dac Biet, soup with sliced beef, beef meatballs, and rice noodles and Goi Cuon Chay, steamed rice paper filled with vegetables and tofu, with a spicy peanut sauce on the side.. Janet K. got Rau Xao Thap Cam, stir fried vegetables with mushrooms and tofu. Then Janet decided Patsy's Goi Cuon Chay looked so good... Suzi B.D. had Dau Hu Xao Ot, fried tofu with lemon grass and hot peppers. Peggy O. had one of the specials for that day, I don't remember the name, but it had beef, shrimp, a Vietnam-

ese eggroll and rice. Peggy was right next to me, so I could tell hers really looked delicious. I ordered Bun Ga Xao, a soup of chicken breast, bean sprouts, vermicelli, green leaf vegetables, basil and fish sauce. That was great. We had a fun evening, and I even remembered my calculator for dividing the check.

There are some things that you might like to know about Vietnamese food if you are hesitant to try it. All dishes are not extremely spicy. At Mekong you can order the level of spiciness you want. Many of the foods are like Chinese foods. The first time I visited the Mekong, I got a dish that was basically Cashew Chicken. Then, do not fear that you must speak Vietnamese to order, we got through with dignity intact ordering by number. And finally, if you think fish sauce will taste like fish, you are wrong. (I was.) It is a light, sweet-sour sauce, sort of like the kind used on vinaigrette coleslaw. Vietnamese food fits right in as dinner on a hot, humid St. Louis summer evening. Try the Mekong - 3131 S. Grand, 773-3100.



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A MESSAGE FROM REP. PAT DOUGHERTY

Children enrolled in child care centers across the state will be cared for in safer surroundings due to legislation passed earlier this session. The measure will require unlicensed religious child care centers as well as summer camps, graded boarding schools and nursery schools to meet health, sanitation, fire and safety standards.

The bill had been debated in the General Assembly for over 15 years. During this time it has been defeated or passed or vetoed a number of times. When it becomes effective August 28, Missouri will no longer be the only state that totally exempts religious child care centers from any type of health and safety requirements.

While provisions of the bill will now require religious child care centers to meet health and safety standards, the state will be prohibited from interfering with the program, curriculum, ministry, teaching or instruction offered in such a facility.

Under the new law, the Department of Health will be responsible for regulating child care facilities. Local inspection of both licensed and unlicensed facilities will be allowed under the measure if local standards are equivalent to state standards.

Unlicensed religious child care facilities will be required to provide parents with a notice of parental responsibility which would include notification that the facility is exempt from licensing; names, addresses, and phone numbers of the agencies that inspect for fire, health and safety; a statement of child to staff ratios; and a state of disciplinary and educational philosophies. Parents will be required to sign an acknowledgement form stating that they had read the notice.

Another provision of the bill will change current law regarding license determination for individuals who care for children to whom they are related if they also care for other children.

If you would like a copy of this legislation please feel free to contact me at 772-1948.

Police Beat

By Ed Schroeder

The July 8th Third District Police Public Affairs meeting was hosted by the Shaw Neighborhood Association. It was held at St. Margaret of Scotland Church Hall.

We were introduced to the new Commander of the Third District. He is Captain Eugene Reece Sr. Capt. Reece moves to this position after being the Commander of the Public Affairs Division. His son, Officer Eugene Reece Jr., is a patrolman in the Third District.

Captain Reece is committed to keeping the "Cops" (Community-Oriented Problem Solving) program going. To accomplish this, he wants to have an eight hour Saturday training session to which two residents from each neighborhood would be invited to attend. He would like to have our public affairs meeting expanded to include a daytime/Saturday schedule that would allow residents to attend on the weekend and during daylight hours.

The meeting stressed that it's important to understand that problem solving is not a police initiative alone. Citizens can't expect to sit back and watch the police solve all of the city's problems without citizen help.

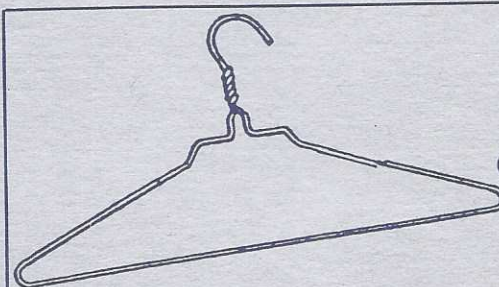
There will be a "Meet the Commander" meeting scheduled in the near future. All of us are invited to attend. All the neigh-

borhoods of the Third District welcome you aboard, Captain Reece, and we are behind you 100%.

I reported on last April's meeting, writing that Jean Liebel, the treasurer of the Third Police District Public Affairs Committee, would receive the "Good Citizen's Award" the same night as she graduated from the Citizen's Police Academy after finishing her "Ride with a Cop" Program. Well, Chief of Police, Clarence Harmon decided to wait until Jean's home neighborhood (Shaw) hosted the Third District public affairs meeting to give her award. July eighth was the date. Chief Harmon presented the award, and her many friends from the police department were there to congratulate her. They included Charles McCrary, Assistant Chief of Police, Lt. Steve Mueller, Commander of Public Affairs, Lt. Richardson, Commander of Mobil Reserve, Major Gregory Hawkins, and, of course, Officer Terry Shoemaker.

Again, congratulations, Jean. You deserve it.

As of press time we do not have a meeting location for the September ninth public affairs meeting. Because of the flood, Officer Terry Shoemaker has been doing double duty, working downtown at the communication division.



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A MESSAGE FROM ALDERMAN GERALDINE (GERRY) OSBORN

The Housing Conservation District program has saved our neighborhood and other St. Louis neighborhoods from severe blight and decay. Admittedly, we still have problems in spite of this program. However, this program has given us a powerful weapon to resist the deterioration of our housing stock and to encourage the actual improvement of housing conditions in our neighborhoods.

The Conservation District program operates within districts that have been designated by ordinance and provides for the inspection of dwelling units within these designated districts whenever there is a change in ownership or in occupancy. The owners of property inspected under this program are notified of any violations or deficiencies which must be corrected in order to meet minimum housing standards.

A single family home or a multi-family dwelling is not subject to inspection under this program unless there is a change in ownership or occupancy. Thus, an individual or family may live in a house or apartment for years and never have an interior inspection of the dwelling unit by the City. However, the program attempts to make sure that dwelling units are brought up to minimum housing standards whenever they are transferred from one owner to another or from one tenant to another.

The City had a Minimum Housing Standards Ordinance (MHSO) for years before we established the Conservation District program. However, a major weakness of the old MHSO program was that it relied primarily on exterior inspections. The old MHSO program did not guarantee access for interior inspections as the Conservation District program does. An exterior inspection may indicate the need for tuckpointing or a new porch railing but it does not detect falling plaster or dangerous electrical wiring or defective plumbing. Thus, under the old MHSO, a slumlord might deny access to a City inspector even though his tenants, both adults and children, were living in dangerous, filthy, overcrowded, unsanitary conditions with bare, frayed electrical wires, crumbling plaster, peeling paint and clogged toilets.

I have had the entire 15th Ward designated by ordinance as a Conservation District and I am deeply committed to the success of this vitally important program. The Conservation District program has worked fairly well for several years. However, we learned from experience that there were some weaknesses in the program which needed to be corrected. For example, the original Conservation District ordinance allowed a new owner or a new tenant to move into a dwelling unit prior to the inspection of that dwell-

ing unit and the issuance of a Certificate of Inspection. Thus, if serious violations were discovered when the unit was inspected, it was sometimes necessary to condemn the unit for occupancy and require the eviction of the person or persons occupying the unit. Obviously, it is much better to require that a dwelling unit be inspected and that the Certificate of Inspection be issued before the new owner or tenant is allowed to move in.

During the current session of the Board of Aldermen, which started in April, I introduced a board bill which is designed to correct the weaknesses and close the loopholes which we had discovered in the original Conservation District ordinance. This board bill was passed by the Board of Aldermen and was approved and signed by Mayor Bosley on June 24. This new ordinance, Ordinance 62887, will go into effect on September 1, 1993. This new measure should allow the City administration to do an even better, more effective job of protecting our neighborhoods from blight and decay by vigorously enforcing the provisions of the Conservation District program.

Geraldine (Gerry) Osborn
Alderman, 15th Ward
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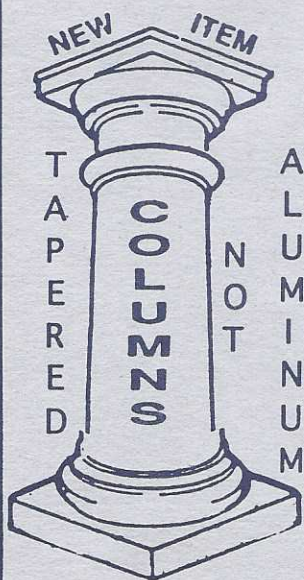
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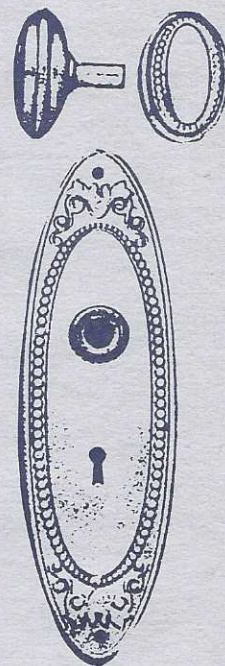
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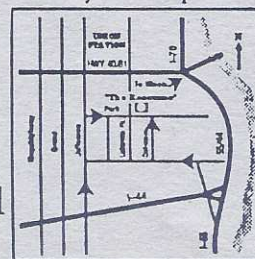
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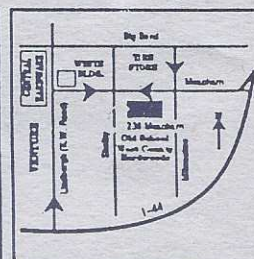
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MY FAVORITE MECHANIC

By Terry Mayes

Hello again to all readers and car enthusiasts. And a big hello to all of you "Car Killers". (You know who you are so I need not mention any names... although, his address is 3807 Hartford.) If anyone should see this person driving a brown station wagon with the license plate Pgasus, steer clear. It's possible things may fly off of the car like an engine or transmission.

Enough of this ribbing, down to business. This issue, I will talk about what to look out for when taking your car to a repair shop. Number 1 and most important, if you feel as though you're not getting a fair shake, confront the mechanic. Always ask for any old parts that the shop claimed to have repaired. (But don't ask for the furl filter or oil filter. You'd be sorry if you get these back.) That way, if there's any questions of whether the work needed to be done or not, you have some proof.

Some of these shops and gas stations advertise certified auto mechanics. Yeah, but certified by whom? Sometime it's the same company that employs them. Look for a shop that uses an independent certification company to certify their mechanics. Just go to someone you trust, that's the trick. If you don't know them, how can you trust them? Call the Better Business Bureau. They'll tell you if there have been any complaints about the shop you are contemplating using. Or, ask your friends or neighbors about the shops they use.

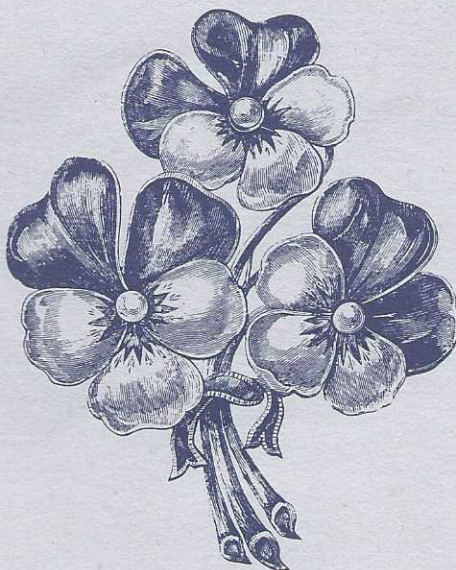
Now, pay attention to major point Number 2: many unscrupulous shops make big money off of uninformed consumers when it comes to car inspections. It's unfortunate when people get ripped off by a state inspector. If you feel that you've been taken for a ride, that is, if you feel unnecessary repairs have been called for, you do have recourse to a higher authority. Call the state Highway Patrol. That's Troop C for our area. The state provides a free service to people like you nearly everyday. They have challenge stations located in a few areas around St. Louis. These people work for the state and are paid with your tax dollars, so use them. If you feel or KNOW that you're being ripped off, call for an appointment

and they will reinspect your car FREE. They will not protect the original inspection station. They are completely unbiased and what they say, goes. Bring the computer printout that calls for the repairs in question, and if the repairs are uncalled for, they will make the original station pass your vehicle. Remember, this service is only provided when your vehicle fails a state inspection, or if you feel the shop did an improper job on the inspection.

To illustrate this point, a friend recently took her car to a local gas station for an inspection. The shop told her that she had a worn inner tie rod and a burned out brake light. Amazingly enough, her husband took his vehicle to the same shop the next day and they told him the exact same thing. Coincidence? I don't think so. Well, the husband couldn't wait so he had the repair work done that day but, the wife brought her car to me to have the repair work done. I inspected her tie rod and could see nothing wrong with it. I called Troop C and set up an appointment for the next day. They didn't find anything wrong with it either, so they instructed the original inspectors to pass the vehicle. My friend saved \$165 by not blindly accepting the original station's word.

Remember that mechanics are only human, and they do make mistakes. But, you don't have to pay for their mistakes. If you don't feel right about confronting the mechanic or proprietor, take someone with you who knows cars.

Safe driving. Buckle up and change that oil.



MEET THE PRESS

Lou Jenneman has been a resident of Tower Grove Heights since April 1992. Previous city living experiences were almost nonexistent. What a change to move to a corner with a four-way stop!

Attracted to the neighborhood by large brick houses and tree lined streets, she and



her husband Tom have enjoyed meeting new friends and neighbors. Both are active members of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. Lou is the circulation manager for the Gazette, an emergency room nurse, and mother of a labrador retriever.

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ST. LOUIS UNDERGROUND

By Rich Iezzi

Some of St. Louis' best attractions are 20 feet underground. Way down, in a world of sub-basements and train tunnels. That's how a group of us felt when we planned a walk through the "great train tunnel" connecting Eads Bridge with the tracks south of Busch Stadium. I'd read that the tunnel was used to haul the granite blocks to build the Old Post Office and that it once had a 20 foot diameter fan housed in a 120 foot smokestack midway through the tunnel for ventilation. There was also sort of a depot at the Old Post Office but it was sealed to keep out the coal smoke. Completed in just over 2 years, the tunnel is 4,095 feet long with 5 foot thick walls and a 16 1/2 foot ceiling. Its last brick was laid on August 1, 1874.

I had walked to the tunnel's southern entrance and was amazed at how out of sight it was even though it was in the middle of everything. It's at 8th and Spruce but you'd never see it without walking down the embankment.

When we finally did get our flashlights and mud boots together for the tunnel tour it was mid-August and the tunnel's mouth was exhaling its 60 degree breath as we entered. It's big: 20 feet wide, 16 feet high and it appears exactly the way it did 119 years ago except the tracks are covered to let inspection trucks through. The first several hundred feet are open to both tracks; then a massive center brick wall appears with center arched openings every 25 feet to enable workers to avoid trains. The walls are stone and brick blackened with coal smoke. About half way through we saw the Old Post Office entrance now sealed with newer stone. There wasn't much of a depot, only an area large enough to roll a mail cart on. The tunnel makes a turn right after the Old Post Office and bats appeared in our flashlight beams. You lose sight of both openings in the wide, sweeping turn and it's absolutely dark. In the middle of the turn you can see the site of the old smokestack. The entire ceiling is repoured concrete for 25 feet and we wish we could have looked out the old 120 foot snout.

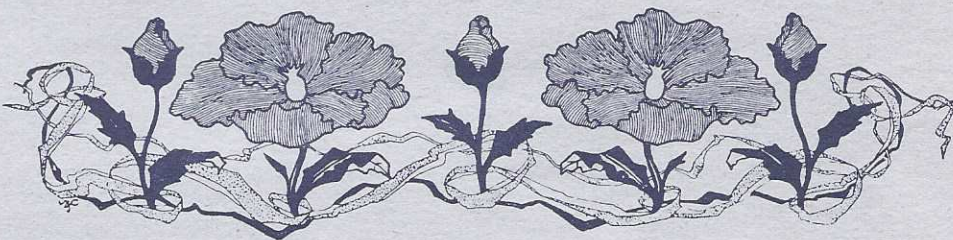
Stalactites and a musty odor give the tunnel a cave-like appearance. As you complete the turn you see a pinpoint of light that is Eads Bridge 2000 feet away. You feel the power of the bridge as you emerge within its bowels on the lower rail

deck. Immense girders and strutwork frame a never-seen-before view of the riverfront. Fences prevented us from climbing onto Wharf Street so we retraced our steps and came out into sunlight and the 20th century 45 minutes later. The only relic we found was an ancient coke bottle; the tunnel was picked over years ago.

The tunnel was fun and overwhelming but there are other areas frozen in time beneath the St. Louis streets. The sub-basement in the telephone building at 1010 Pine is also fascinating. As a Bell employee, I can sign out the key to the fist-sized lock for the steel fire door to the cable vault. You go through a room of arm thick cables, some in their original polished lead sleeves. A trap door in the floor leads to a stairway down to the sub-basement and right back to 1925. You go

way down (the ceiling is at least 15 feet) and become surrounded by extra marble and walnut moldings, spare doors and monstrous diesel engines. The engines ran standby generators in the pre-transistor, vacuum tube days but their deep-throated voices have been silenced and replaced by the whine of a 100 gallon an hour drinking turbine. The engines look like they're off a ship and are simply too large to remove. Somehow it's peaceful 30 feet below the street beneath thousands of tons of St. Louis's finest stonework.

I've snuck into other basements while taking my lunchtime walk downtown and always see something interesting. You'll walk among the girders and stone footings, turn a corner and see the 15 foot long gray ghost of an original steam boiler trapped in time. You're back in the 1800's and it's peaceful and quiet.



DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?



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3. HOT LINE: 773-9743
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6. HOME OF: "THE GIN BUCKET"

7. GOOD!
8. CLEAN!
9. DEPENDABLE!

LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENED

PAST AND POTENTIAL ON ARSENAL STREET

by Elliot Blevins and
Fredric Rissover

We bought the house at 3850 Arsenal in October, 1990, and moved in after eight months of repairs and replacements. We liked the house when we first saw it, and we liked being across the street from Tower Grove Park and being near the beautiful Botanical Garden and the developing Grand South Grand. We call our home Potential House because friends and visitors look it over and say, "Yes, this place has great potential." Little by little, we're trying to realize this potential, as time, money and energy allow.

Potential House has personality. Two floors with full attic and basement, it is built of closely laid red brick with black tuck pointing and ornamental brickwork in the front. It has a steeply pitched roof, a bay window on the east side, and, on the northeast corner, a two-story turret topped with a witch's hat. It is a one-family house set among multiple-family dwellings, but we could tell that, for a time, it had been divided into two flats.

Curious about the background of our unusual home, we paid a visit to the library of the Missouri Historical Society. There we leafed through old city directo-

ries and, by tracing the listings as far back as we could, we discovered that our house had been built around 1896 by a travelling shoe salesman named George Schlueter. Mr. Schlueter's name appeared at the address until 1938, when it was replaced by the name Elmer Schlueter for two years. After 1940, the house was no longer occupied by the original family.

Visits to the city library for records of building starts and to the city hall for housing plans revealed that our home had indeed been built in 1896 by a contractor (it had no architect-- details such as doorways, the bay window, and the turret were selected from a catalog) and that the final cost came to nearly \$5000, a substantial amount at the time.

Checking the phone book, we found Elmer Schlueter listed and gave him a call. Yes, his father had built the house which the family owned until 1940. Yes, he would like to come for a visit. Before we arranged the visit, we received a note from his older sister, Clarisse, who said that she, too, would like to visit. So, last summer, Elmer and Clarisse, escorted by their daughters, came to see us and their former home.

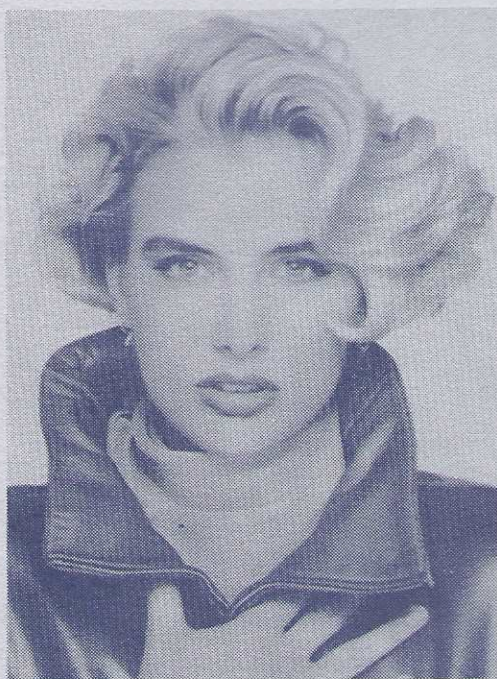
They were full of information, especially Clarisse who had written on several

sheets of paper what she remembered about the way the house was originally furnished. The living room walls had been decorated with hand-painted panels. Brass fixtures had provided gas lighting. The four fireplaces (two downstairs and one upstairs remain) burned coal and made a terrible mess. Clarisse called the house "a woman killer" because the coal soot required so much cleaning. Later steam radiators were installed; now the house has a gas furnace.

The back rooms on the first and second floors used to be screened sleeping porches for hot summer nights. Later they were enclosed to make rooms. (On hot nights, we were told, residents of the neighborhood sometimes slept in Tower Grove Park.) The downstairs bathroom was not original; it was added later in space formerly occupied by a rear stairway. The upstairs bathroom originally contained a tub and a hot water heater. Toilets were in a brick outhouse on the periphery of the back yard where pipes joined the city sewer under the alley.

Ten people occupied the newly built house: George Schlueter and his wife Elizabeth, six children, grandfather, and a live-in maid. In the thirties, after Mrs. Schlueter died, Mr. Schlueter divided his home into two flats, and, for a while, Clarisse and her husband occupied the second floor. The house, sold two years after Mr. Schlueter's death, was occupied by a number of families until we bought it fifty years later.

Elmer and Clarisse Schlueter kindly loaned us a photo of the house taken around 1905. A copy of it hangs in our entry hall. It shows the house with a large side yard (now the site of a neighboring residence) on its little hill above Arsenal Street, then a dirt road with streetcar tracks and gas lights. On the lawn sit some children; one is Clarisse who was born the year the house was built. We value the picture as we do our house with its interesting past and, of course, its great potential.



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RESIDENT PROFILE

By Stephanie Gavin

If you don't know Roy Smith of 3720 Hartford, chances are you know his work. You know the Tower Grove Heights t-shirt design? That's work of Roy. The circus figures at the Crestwood Plaza food court were designed by Roy. The detailed map drawings at the zoo and the Botanical Gardens are also his work. Roy Smith is an artist who is definitely not starving. The majority of Roy's work is done for ad agencies solicited by his agent. He draws a lot of pen and ink portraits in brochures and print advertisements for companies



like Southwestern Bell and McGraw-Hill. He is currently working on a design for a collectable beer stein for Anheuser-Busch that depicts the history of beer. There are two major reasons Roy enjoys his way of earning a living. "I don't have to spend any time going some place, and I can make my own hours." His own hours usually end up at night--often until 3:00 a.m. or so. Does he have a tendency to put off work? "I really can't. I have tight deadlines," he says, smiling. Originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, Roy has lived at his Hartford house with his wife, Barb (a Gazette staff member), for "8 or 9 years." When he was looking at houses to buy, he was attracted to Tower Grove Heights because of its stability. "I liked the good boundaries--Oak Hill, a solid neighborhood, the park, and the business district." What does he like about city living? "You get a lot more house for the money, and better built. I like the easy access to downtown and the highway." In addition to his commercial artwork, Roy teaches photography one day a week at Whitfield, a small private school. He looks forward to his weekly excursion because "it's nice to get out of the house. It's good to get out and meet people." Roy's undergraduate degree is in art and history with a minor in photography. He also has a master's degree in drawing and painting. Other hobbies include collecting old baseball "stuff," antique advertisements, and old toys. He also enjoys creating wooden sculptures. His freelancing keeps him pretty busy, though. "I can't think of anything I'd rather do." And obviously he does it well. It doesn't look like Roy Smith will ever go hungry.

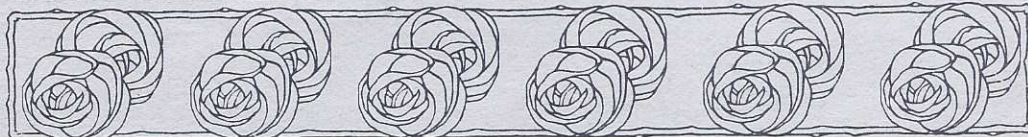


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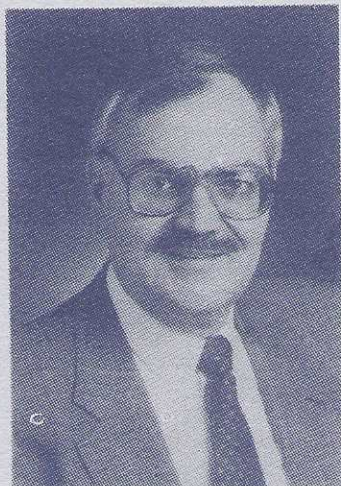
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SINCE YOU ASKED

By Don Hardin

How do you use Tower Grove Park?

Ed and Mary Schroeder: "We celebrated Ed's 60th birthday in Tower Grove Park. We rented the Stupp Memorial Center and invited many friends and relatives. It was a fun time and a special memory. We were pleased with the way the staff of the park worked with us to make this one of our fondest memories."

Andy Duggan: "I like to go bike riding in the park. The bike trails are great. I plan to check out the tennis courts also. I love the architecture in the park. My father grew up on Hartford and I have many old photos of my family in the park."

Cathy Moss: "I like the walking trails best of all. The trees and greenery are so restful."

Rita Willey: "I have wonderful memories of the park. I have lived in the neighborhood for 53 years. My mother and her sisters had many a picnic there, and my kids played there."

Susan Gavin: "My husband takes our two sons to the playground at least once a week."

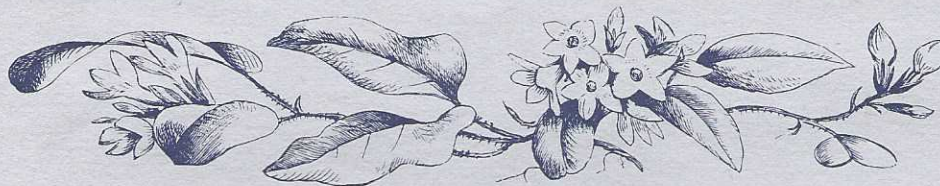
Katherine Zelich: "My daughter Tracy was married in the park. We reserved one of the smaller gazebos, decorated it with silk flowers and potted mums, and hired a guitarist and a flutist. The bride and groom arrived and departed in a carriage (rented from the park). The staff at the park was very helpful in planning this special occasion."



Become a friend of Tower Grove Park.

The Friends of Tower Grove Park is a non-profit, volunteer organization formed in 1989. The goals of the organization are to promote the Park, a National Historic Landmark; to raise funds for the restoration of the many lovely historic structures; to enjoy the wonderful legacy of the Park; and to work to ensure that this legacy of a treasured, St. Louis Victorian-era, will live on into the future.

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ATTENTION

In the June issue of the Gazette, the wrong type of solder was inadvertently recommended for soldering water supply pipes. The following is a quote from EPA the Lead Ban: *Preventing the Use of Lead in Plumbing Used for Drinking Water.* "...only "lead free" pipe, solder, or flux may be used in the installation or repair of (1) public water systems, or (2) any plumbing in a residential or non-residential facility providing water for human consumption, which is connected to a public water system."

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association

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President Elect: Margie Meyer
Secretary: Michele Kerr
Asst. Secretary: Diane Hurwitz
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Past President: Janice Nesser
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Publications: Don Hardin
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Diane Hurwitz (3640)
3800 Arsenal
Jean Iezzi (3809 Hartford)
3600/3700 Hartford
Marilyn Abbott (3648)
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Shauna Feely (3871)
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Chris & Rich Jamison (3625)
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Laura Neuman (3729)
3800 Humphrey
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Patricia Goddard (3840)
3600/3700 Utah Place
Lou & Tom Jenneman (3735)
Michele Kerr (3636)
3800 Utah Place
Katy Blair (3862)
Susie Guderemuth (3834)
Veda Lynn (3855)

THE MOLE

We city people like to poke fun at our county friends and I know they do the same to us. Sometimes I hear a city person talking about the county as the promised land but then I'll go to a West County party or hear my South County friends speak in hushed tones at work and I wonder. Posing inconspicuously as "the mole" I've heard the following conversations:

\$200K SUBDIVISION RESIDENT:
"I'm paying my handyman \$35/hr. to tighten doorknobs, etc.

MOLE: "GASP"

\$200K RESIDENT: "What's wrong? Am I paying too little?"

NEW GUY MOVING INTO \$150K SUBDIVISION: "So how's the neighborhood?"

RESIDENT WHO'S BEEN THERE AWHILE: "Well, the kids are doing the usual things."

NEW GUY: "Like what?"

BEEN THERE: "Oh, driving over new trees, shooting out the windows in your car and house, beating up your mailbox and sticking Coke cans up your tailpipe. And, of course, EVERYBODY is getting lawn jobs."

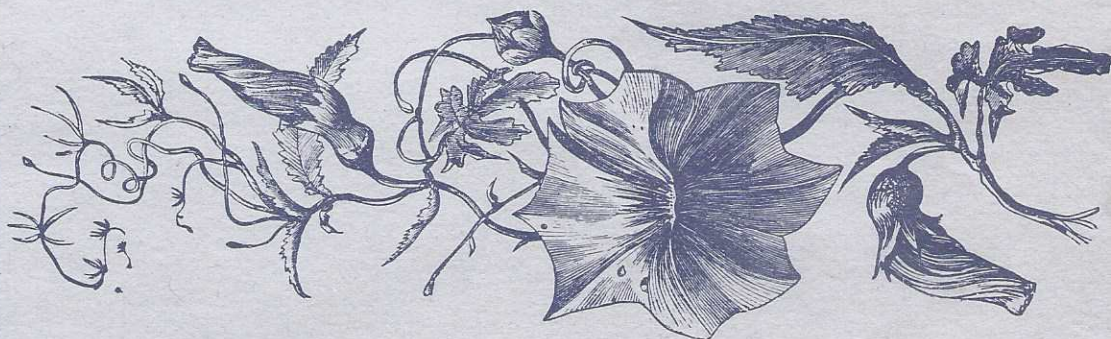
NEW GUY: "You're joking."

BEEN THERE: "Nope, and the kids like to sneak into your home at night just to prove they can do it. Sometimes they even take things."

NEW GUY: "Huh?"

BEEN THERE: "And, you better watch out when you paint your house. The guy down the street is being sued for his garage door color choice. By the way, welcome to the neighborhood."

Anybody else out there is Tower Grove Heights hear any good one-liners by county (or city) people? Report them to the Gazette via "the Mole".



Tower Grove Heights Gazette
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