



The Soulard Restorationist

Volume XI Issue III

June 1, 1986

New "Umbrella" Group Formed South Side Neighborhoods Pool Info, Resources

It started at a party in Benton Park when two neighborhood association presidents realized they had no idea what was going on in each other's part of the world — even though they were practically next-door neighbors.

"I got talking to Jim Wheeler from Benton Park about some of the activities we were having in Tower Grove East," recalls Ann Auer. "I

didn't know you had so much going on," he said. "Isn't it a shame we don't communicate more?" We talked about all the needs our associations had in common, like membership drives and fund raising and the problems our neighborhoods shared."

From that conversation was born the Association of South Side Neighborhoods, a new coalition of

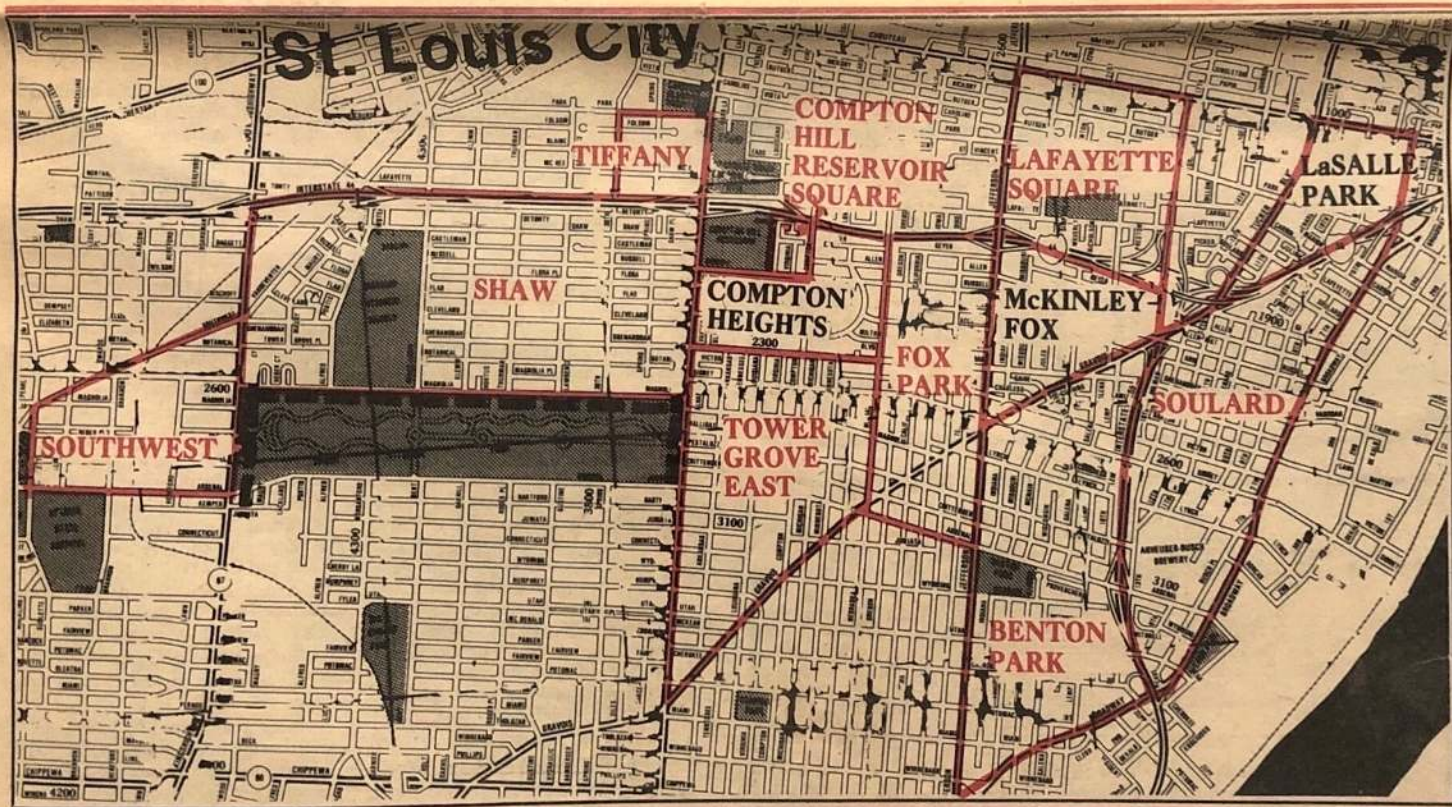
neighborhood associations on St. Louis' historic Near South Side.

Started late last fall, the loosely knit group meets once or twice a month as needed to share information and build a foundation for concerted neighborhood action on issues of common concern.

Neighborhoods currently covered by the association include Soulard,

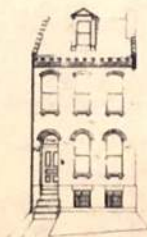
Benton Park, Lafayette Square, Fox Park, Tower Grove East, Compton Hill Reservoir Square, Tiffany and Shaw. The Southwest Neighborhood Improvement Association, which represents the area between Kingshighway and The Hill, and the DeSales Community Housing Corporation, which serves both Fox Park

NEIGHBORHOODS, page 2



Map courtesy of St. Louis Area Maps, Inc./W.C. Sales Co.

NOTES FROM THE BRICK HOUSE



I would like to congratulate the entire Souard neighborhood for a very successful First Annual Gardening Fair. This event was not only the annual continuation of the spring tree-planting tradition, it was also an event to help the entire Souard community in beautification efforts. I am pleased that so many of us share a common interest in making our neighborhood a better place to live through our gardening efforts! Special thanks to the beautification committee for their well-organized event and to all the volunteers who helped make this event successful.

Our Operation Brightside efforts in Pontiac Square Park resulted in fresh coats of paint for the park benches and playground equipment. A special note of appreciation goes to Alderman Phyllis Young, who inspired the City Parks Department to install a drinking fountain and to clean up the ballfield section of the Park! The "Man in the Park" program started May 5 (his hours will be roughly from noon till 8:30 p.m.,



Monday through Friday). I encourage all of you to use our neighborhood park and get to know our "Parkie."

The house tour committee has been working diligently on a very exciting Souard Art Exhibit to be held in conjunction with the September House Tour. This exhibit will include artists from all over the area and feature such notable artists as Chuck Wallis, who recently had a showing at the Museum of Westward Expansion at the Arch. The Art Exhibit & Show will highlight two-dimensional art forms, with the subject matter pertaining to Souard.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER AND DON'T FORGET TO WATER THOSE NEW TREES!!

*Nancy Ray Farber, president
Souard Restoration Group*

About The Souard Restorationist

The Souard Restorationist has a circulation of 6,000 and is published every two months by the Souard Restoration Group. It is mailed to SRG members, advertisers and subscribers and is distributed in Souard and St. Louis area businesses. Call 771-7766 to place ads and subscriptions. Membership information is available from SRG Housing Offices (771-5563). Letters to the Editor and articles are appreciated.

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The Souard Restoration Group,
P.O. Box Souard Station, St. Louis, MO 63157

Restorationist now home-delivered in Souard

If you live in Souard, chances are this copy of *The Souard Restorationist* showed up on your doorstep a few days ago. And you probably got the April issue at home, too.

The new Souard-wide home delivery is the result of a decision by the newspaper's publisher, the Souard Restoration Group neighborhood association. SRG's board has voted to fund home delivery of *The Restorationist* to all Souard residents at least for the balance of 1986.

"The paper started out 10 years ago as the SRG newsletter, but long ago it became far more than that," commented Phil Willman, SRG board member and *Restorationist* liaison. "It really serves the entire

neighborhood. It's both a community newspaper and a way of letting the rest of St. Louis know what Souard has to offer."

The Souard Restorationist is distributed by members of SRG's house tour committee to businesses in Souard, Lafayette Square and other South Side neighborhoods, the Central West End, downtown and Laclede's Landing and certain parts of West County.

Letters to the editor, guest editorials and columns, and suggestions for news items and feature articles are more than welcome. Send your copy to *The Souard Restorationist*, c/o Souard Restoration Group, P.O. Box 13312, Souard Station, St. Louis, MO 63157.

CALENDAR

JUNE IS NATIONAL ADOPT-A-CAT MONTH		July 4	Independence Day Souard/Lafayette Square Softball Game, Lafayette Park, noon
June 7	SRG Membership Picnic, Lyons Park, 2 p.m.	July 5	Voter Registration Deadline for Aug. 5 Primaries, Public Libraries
June 14	Flag Day	July 16	SRG Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
June 18	SRG Board Meeting, 7 p.m.	July 19	Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention Anniversary
June 23	St. John's Eve	Aug. 6	SRG General Membership Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m.
JULY IS NATIONAL ICE CREAM MONTH			
July 2	SRG General Membership Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m.		

Neighborhoods (from page 1)

and Tower Grove East, are also closely involved. Neighborhoods that may join the association in the future are LaSalle Park, McKinley-Fox and Compton Heights. The area covered by the group is roughly that of the city's Third Police District.

"By no means are we closed to any neighborhood," stresses Judy Carr, DeSales executive director. "This is not a very formal organization!" Nor is attendance at meeting limited to neighborhood association officers or even members — all community residents are welcome. For the date of the next meeting of the Association of South Side Neighborhoods, contact the DeSales office at 776-5444.

So far, the group's main activity has been information sharing. "We've met and we've talked a lot," says Ann Auer. "When we first started getting together, we didn't know where this was going to go. We've spent a lot of

time just getting to know each other and the common problems our neighborhoods share."

A special concern when the group was founded was to organize support for the city occupancy permit bill requiring stricter landlord supervision, which was recently voted into law. The group is currently working on a strategy for cooperation with the police and City Hall in fighting crime.

"Street noise and trash, crime, absentee owners, liquor licensure, the public school system, attracting families to the neighborhoods — these are all concerns we share," says Judy Carr.

"Our goal is that by sitting down and sharing information, we'll be able to come up with answers as a group," says Nancy Farber, Souard Restoration Group president. "We can get a lot more done together than on our own." ●

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ideal for owner occupant.

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w/two story deck and pool membership.

2315F Rutger **SOLD** \$XX,XXX
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underneath, special financing.

2321 Rutger \$75,900
New construction two bedroom w/parking
underneath, special financing.

2311F Rutger **SOLD** \$XX,XXX
New two bedroom house w/parking
underneath, special financing.

1544 St. Vincent **SOLD** \$74,650
Three bedroom house with attached
garage.

2624 Park Ave. \$72,000
Luxury two bedroom condo w/fireplace,
deck & private entrance w/ garage parking.

3224 Geyer \$69,500
Contemporary 3 br-2 1/2 bath - total rehab
in Compton Heights.

2352 South 10th \$65,000
Rehabbed townhouse in Souard w/3 br.
and 2 1/2 baths.

1523 South 10th \$59,900
Two bedroom and two bath condo in
LaSalle Park.

2632 Park Ave. **SOLD** \$56,500
Two bedroom condominium with under-
ground parking.

1307 Mississippi **SOLD** \$XX,XXX
(Condo) New construction, one bedroom
w/special financing.

2019 S. Grand #303 \$51,000
Two bedroom rehabbed condominium in
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1716 Waverly \$34,900
Spacious one bedroom turn of the century
condo 1/2 block from Lafayette Park.

2021 S. Grand **SOLD** \$37,000
One bedroom rehabbed condominium
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1223-25 Park Ave. **SOLD** \$28,000
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2351 Hickory \$23,000
A two story shell in Lafayette Square.

2350-52 South 10th \$130,000
Duplex in Souard - dramatic contemporary
rehab, FHA appraised.

1918 Hickory **SOLD** \$82,500
Three bedroom house on desirable
street. Nicely landscaped w/large deck off
kitchen.

2315D Rutger \$XX,XXX
New two bedroom townhouse w/parking
underneath, special financing.

2933 Moniteau \$79,000
Three bedroom brick tudor home w/nice
yard and two car garage.

2311D Rutger **SOLD** \$XX,XXX
New two bedroom townhouse w/parking
underneath, special financing.

1832 Lafayette **SOLD** \$75,900
Partially rehabbed three bedroom
townhouse in Lafayette Square.

1223 South 9th \$74,000
Three bedroom, 2 bath replica townhouse.

2310 Rutger \$72,000
Two bedroom condo w/commanding view.

1542 St. Vincent **SOLD** \$69,250
Three bedroom new construction in
Lafayette Square.

1313 Missouri \$59,000
Attractive two bedroom condominium in
Lafayette Square.

3722 Texas \$59,000
Dramatic Contemporary total rehab.

2019 S. Grand **SOLD** \$55,000
Two bedroom rehabbed condominium in
Water Tower Place.

1313 Mississippi **SOLD** \$XX,XXX
(Condo) New construction, one bedroom
w/special financing.

1407 Missouri \$49,900
Three story partial rehab facing park in
Lafayette Square.

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Condo 1 bedroom contemporary
rehab in LaSalle Park.

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Condo 200 sq ft, one bedroom, 1/2 block from
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1309-11 Park Ave. **SOLD** \$28,000
Multi-unit residential ITC project.

4011 McRee \$18,000
3 bedroom liveable home.

1825 Lafayette **SOLD** \$93,500
Spectacular three story Lafayette
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kitchen, roof deck and front downtown.

2315C Rutger **SOLD** \$XX,XXX
New two bedroom townhouse w/parking
underneath, special financing.

2315E Rutger **SOLD** \$XX,XXX
New two bedroom townhouse w/parking
underneath, special financing.

1538 Calhoun **SOLD** \$75,997
Three bedroom 1 1/2 bath - has attached
garage.

2311E Rutger **SOLD** \$XX,XXX
New two bedroom townhouse w/parking
underneath, special financing.

2037 S. Grand **SOLD** \$75,000
Newly rehabbed 3 bedroom in Benton
Park.

1203 Mississippi \$74,000
Three bedroom - three year old row house
in Lafayette Square Historic District.

1546 California **SOLD** \$69,650
Three bedroom house with attached
garage.

2350 South 10th \$65,000
Rehabbed townhouse in Souard w/3 br.
and 2 1/2 baths.

2021 S. Grand **SOLD** \$61,000
Two bedroom two bath luxury
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2317A Hickory **SOLD** \$58,400
New two bedroom terrace condo.

2017 S. Grand #204 \$55,000
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2300 Rutger \$51,900
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2205 St. Louis Ave. \$49,500
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1200-02 McRee **SOLD** \$38,000
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2920 Indiana \$32,000
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2344 Hickory \$27,000
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1717 Lafayette \$17,200
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SRG Picnic June 7

Soulard Restoration Group members will gather for their annual summer pig-out on Saturday, June 7 at Lyons Park.

"Everybody's basically going to eat all afternoon," says Jann Collins, who with Kathy Hurst heads the membership committee, which is coordinating the event. SRG is providing hamburgers, beer and soda; members are asked to bring salads and desserts. The frolic starts at 2

p.m., and "there is no closing time," says Jan.

The picnic will take place in the northwest corner of the park, which is on Broadway across from the Anheuser-Busch Brewery. Throughout the afternoon there will be tests of skill such as sack races and egg-on-spoon races. As a special treat for parents, Kathy Hurst has planned organized games for children.

Wallis Is Featured Artist In Fall House Tour

Charles H. Wallis, renowned for his luminous watercolor landscapes, will be a guest artist during the 12th Annual Soulard House Tour on September 27 and 28. Wallis' work will be on exhibit, and his illustration of the corner of Russell and Menard Streets is serving as this year's house tour poster.

Wallis paints with a straightforward representational approach, with colors that are rich, warm, and freshly harmonious. An extraordinary skill at capturing the quality of light gives his work a look that is unmistakably his. He has a great love for the Missouri landscape and its history, and travels

the back roads of the state and the historic sections of St. Louis for his subject matter.

Wallis has had work accepted in several juried shows, such as the American Watercolor Society, Watercolor U.S.A., Rocky Mountain National, and the Watercolor Societies of San Diego, Georgia, Baton Rouge, and Birmingham. He has also won several prizes in St. Louis watercolor shows.

The artist's painting technique is featured in *Watercolor Your Way*, a book by Carl Schmalz published by Watson Guptill.

Couleurs de Soulard Art Show Deadline Now August 1

Artists who've frantically been slathering paint on their canvases in hopes of meeting the June 1 deadline for the *Couleurs de Soulard* art show have been given a reprieve. The deadline for submission of art for the show, which is being held in conjunction with this year's Fall House Tour, has been extended to August 1.

Any art in a two-dimensional format is accepted for the show, including paintings, drawings, watercolors, fiber art, ceramic plates, and

photographs. The art must use Soulard as its theme. Artists should submit photographs or slides of their work to Roy Hayes, 2215 Menard Street, St. Louis, MO 63104. For more information, call him at 776-0535.

First prize for the show is \$500; second, \$250; third, \$125. Artists will also be able to sell their work during the two days of the House Tour, September 27 and 28.

Submit form to Mr. Roy Hayes, 1821 S. 9th, St. Louis, Mo 63104



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COULEURS de SOULARD ART SHOW Registration Form

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Artistic Media _____
Signature _____ Date _____



SRG members scrubbed off graffiti and painted playground equipment in bright primary colors.



Benches got a fresh coat of basic park green.

Soulard Sweeps Regional Brightside Prizes

Both prizes for Region II in the City of St. Louis Operation Brightside Blitz have been won by Soulard organizations: clean-up by Trinity Lutheran Church on 8th Street and beautification by the Soulard Restoration Group.

Region II extends from Soulard south through Benton Park and Dutch-town South. Trinity Lutheran won the clean-up award for its scouring of the yard behind the church.

The Soulard Restoration Group's beautification theme of "Let's Make it Bright and Colorful" centered around Pontiac Park at 9th and Ann Streets. The first step of the two-part project was a neighborhood-wide gardening fair held in the park April 26. On May 3, SRG members cleaned and

painted benches and playground equipment. The SRG efforts were coordinated by the group's beautification committee.

Operation Brightside is an ongoing city improvement program. Each spring, neighborhood efforts intensify in the Operation Brightside Blitz. Over a period of five weeks, starting this year on April 19 and ending May 17, organizations and institutions in each of 10 city regions carry out projects on designated days.

Area winners receive a \$100 prize and become eligible for the city-wide prize of \$1,000 awarded after the final Blitz Day. The city winner had not yet been selected as *The Soulard Restorationist* went to press.

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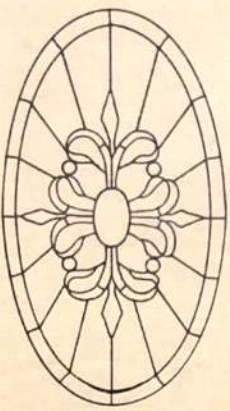
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN SODERBERG



Orange and yellow marigolds were given out for curb tree well planting.



The fair was held in Pontiac Park.



Redbuds, dogwoods, and hawthornes were among the 160 nursery-stock trees distributed.



Fairgoers enjoyed gardening displays and the free refreshments and how-to literature.

First Gardening Fair a Hit

About 200 Soulard residents came to smell the flowers — and find out how to plant them — at the Soulard Gardening Fair held in Pontiac Square Park April 26.

For six hours, residents could examine displays from area nurseries, share gardening lore with local experts, and watch tree planting demonstrations given by District Forester Steve Spezia of the Missouri Department of Conservation. Packets of flower seeds and lots of gardening booklets were free for the asking.

Soulard property owners who had pre-registered to receive a tree were given their choice of large nursery stock evergreen, ornamental or shade trees — 160 trees in all. "Everyone who wanted a tree was able to get one," says John Soderberg, chairperson of the Soulard Restoration Group beautification committee, which sponsored the fair.

In a prize drawing for which all Soulard residents were eligible, Josie Voracek of 9th Street won the first

prize of a deluxe gas barbeque grill. Paul Kjolrie of 11th Street, himself a landscape architect, won the second prize of an all-expenses-paid weekend in the Ozarks at the Soderbergs' cabin.

"I'd like to thank anyone who helped in any way," says John. "Volunteers from other SRG committees, members of the board and other neighborhood residents — everyone's help was invaluable in making this fair such a success."

Michael's

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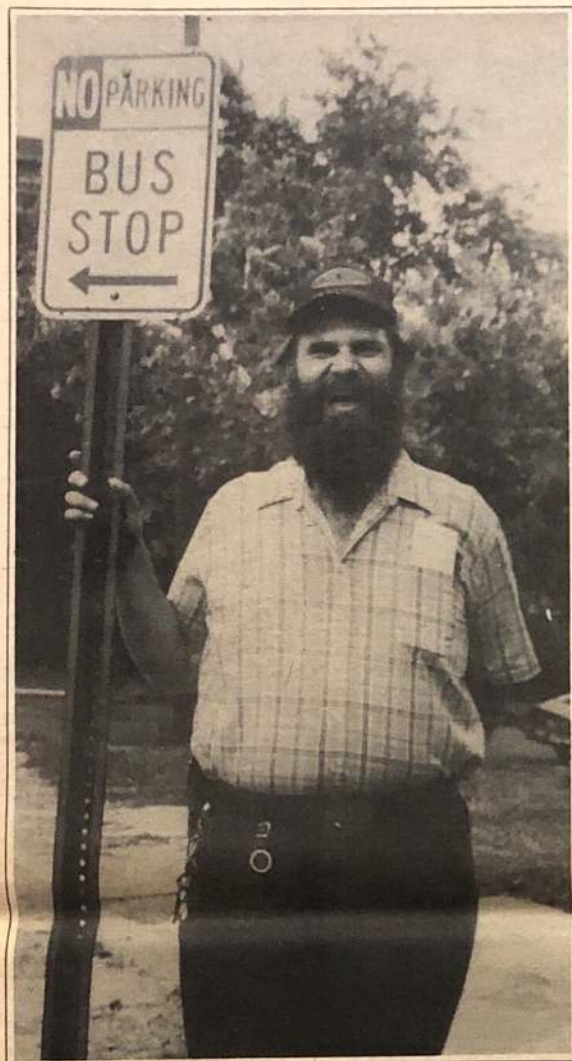
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY EDWARD R. FLISS

History Is Alive and Well on Route 73

Join Soulard scribe Skip Gatermann aboard the Carondelet Bus for a trip into another world.

by Skip Gatermann

Have your summer vacation plans gone afoul? Maybe you fear terrorists, so the flight to the French Riviera is out. Or perhaps you think you've been everywhere and the thrill is gone.

Well, dear hearts, don't give up, for a cheap vacation thrill awaits you literally at your front yard. For only 75 cents, you can take a ride into history right down good old 12th Street.

Six bits will get you aboard the old Carondelet Bus, line number 73, to ride south into the vast wilds of South St. Louis and South St. Louis County. You can catch the bus at most cross streets, drop the quarters into the fare box, and settle down in one of Bi-State's plush vinyl seats beside a picture window with a view of some of the greatest scenery the Mound City can provide.

The Carondelet Line was once half of the longest streetcar line ever to operate within the city limits. It was called the Bellefontaine Line and ran

from Carondelet 15 miles north to Robin and West Florissant Avenues in North St. Louis. The streetcars made their last run in 1947, and the line became two bus lines, the Carondelet and the Florissant.

Once on board the bus, you'll quickly leave Soulard as you travel south past the Lynch Street Police Station (don't miss its Art Deco architecture). The Carondelet moves onto 13th next to Interstate 55 to provide you with an excellent view of Busch Brewery. The Brewery is the largest in the world and covers 70 city blocks. A fine view is afforded as well of the new brewery tour and gift center.

At Pestalozzi Street, the Carondelet heads west into the Benton Park Neighborhood. This neighborhood closely resembles Soulard, and its mixture of old brick rowhouses interspersed with stately brick townhouses displays architecture with a strong European background. If you look to the east down the sidestreets, the brewery looms above like a mighty fortress.

The bus is now traveling south on Lemp Avenue. Passing by Cherokee Park, you catch a last glimpse of Soulard with the spires of St. Agatha Church as the skyline.

As your bus turns west onto Cherokee Street, a view of the immense Lemp Brewery complex comes up. Adam Lemp began his brewery operations in the early 1800s. When prohibition put the Lemp out of business in the 1920, the Brewery operations were sold for 10 cents on the dollar. The complex today is home to various and sundry businesses.

Shoppers' delight

This stretch along Cherokee is home to the city's best-known antiques district. For a half-dozen blocks, quaint shops offer anything and everything an "antiquer" could desire.

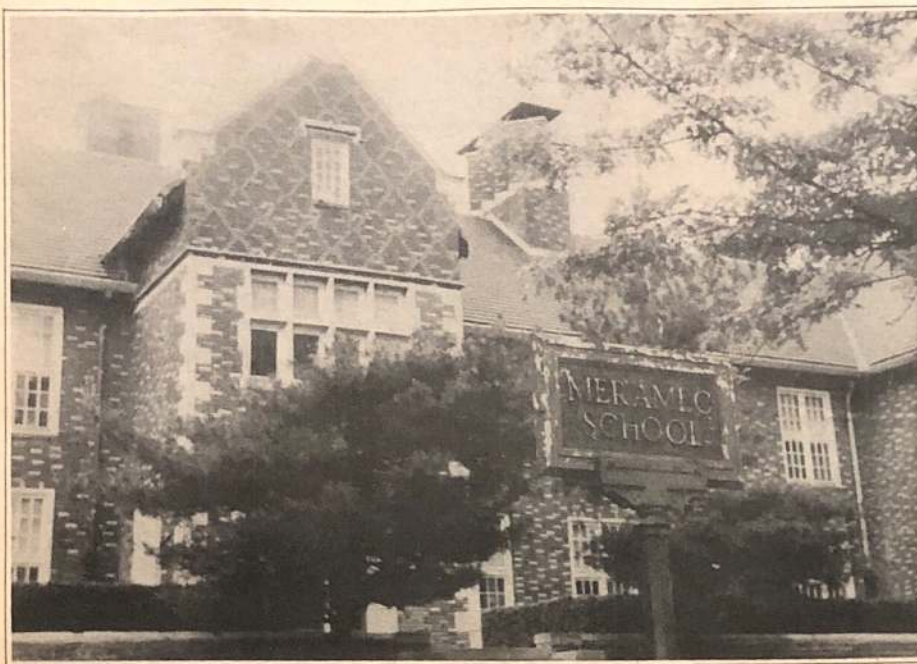
When the Carondelet crosses Jefferson Avenue, you pass through the Cherokee Junction shopping area. Behind these approximately 100 old storefronts you can buy anything from

discount wallpaper and hunting supplies to jewelry and some of the best bakery goods in town. Galleria, eat your heart out!

Veteran Bi-State drivers have told me that new drivers are tested by having them maneuver buses down Cherokee Street because it is so hard to negotiate. It's said that if they can make it down Cherokee Street, they can drive a bus anywhere in the city.

Number 73 heads south now along California Avenue and passes by many well-kept turn-of-the-century brick flats and townhouses until you arrive at Meramec Street. To your left at this corner is beautiful Meramec School with its intricate brick work. At this point, once again the bus turns west.

Now called the Dutchtown South Neighborhood, this part of town was once known as the Wild Hunters Area and was the last part of the city to be settled. It was situated between the City of St. Louis and the former town of Carondelet. Meramec Street provides many interesting sights for the rider. The architecture here is newer



Meramec School at Meramec and California boasts intricate brickwork and a gracious design.

than in Souland, yet retains a European flavor, with most homes in the 80-year-old range.

At Nebraska Avenue, the bus runs along the stone wall with its ornate iron fence that once surrounded the original home of Maryville College. Later on, it became Augustinian Academy, and today houses a senior citizens community and postal complex. On the port side of the bus, St. Anthony of Padua Church is visible. The church was built in 1908 by monks and is frequently referred to as the Monks' Church.

At Virginia Avenue, the bus makes a left turn in front of the Dutchtown South Neighborhood offices. A quick glimpse of St. Louis transportation of the past is at hand. Look north on Virginia Avenue a half-block, and you'll see the old private right-of-way of the old Grand streetcar loop. The line made its last run on January 3, 1960.

Eccentric architecture

Our next sight is the former Cleveland High School, or as it was called by its students and faculty

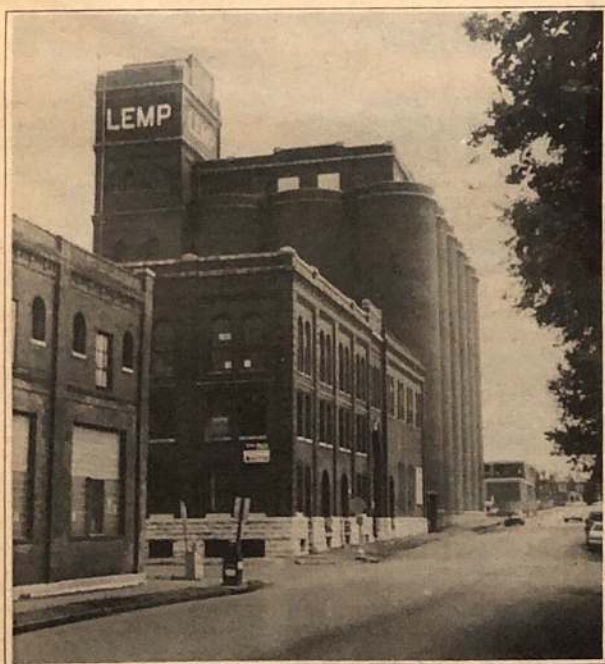
members, "the Castle." Built in the Tudor Gothic style and opened in 1916, it really does resemble a castle. Unfortunately, the bus passes it from behind and only whets your appetite to view its magnificent front facade. The school is now home to the Naval ROTC Junior Academy of the Magnet School Program. The loss of Cleveland as a general high school left some bad feelings in the community.

Virginia Avenue running at a slight angle here crisscrosses the other state-named streets. This angling creates a special need to design

buildings to fit on Virginia Avenue corners. These buildings are referred to as "wedge buildings." The first can be seen on the right side as the bus passes by the corner of Idaho. Its architecture is German in character.

The second wedge building is also on the right at the corner of Vermont. It once housed a movie theatre, and the style of its domed tower derives from the early nineteenth century Odeon Theatre in Paris, whose architecture inspired that of many movie palaces. One area resident has

ROUTE 73, page 10



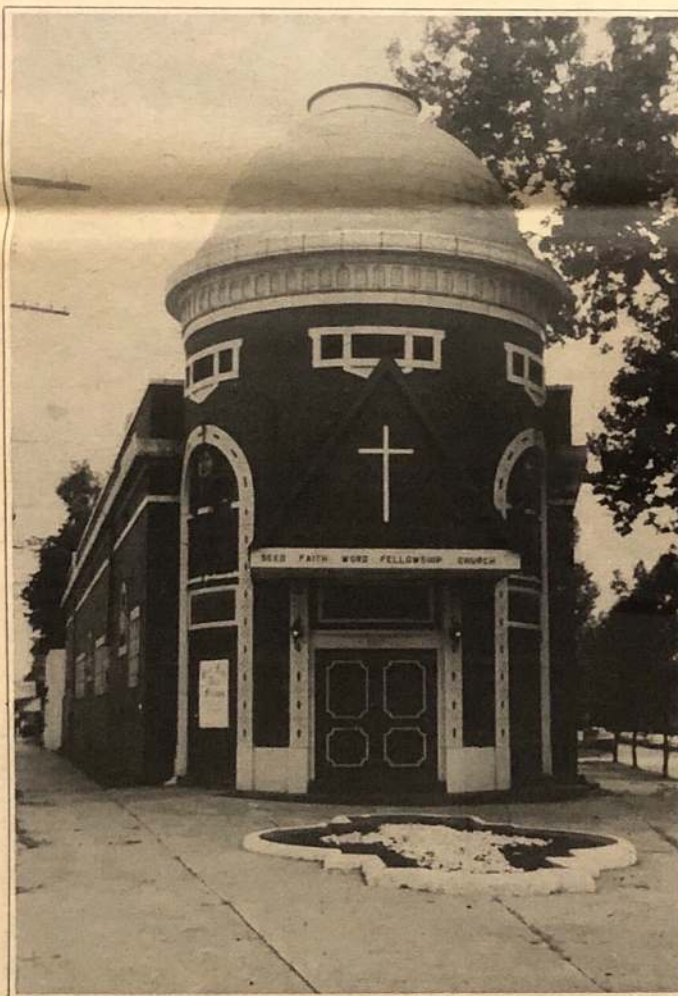
The Lemp Brewery seen from Lemp and Cherokee.



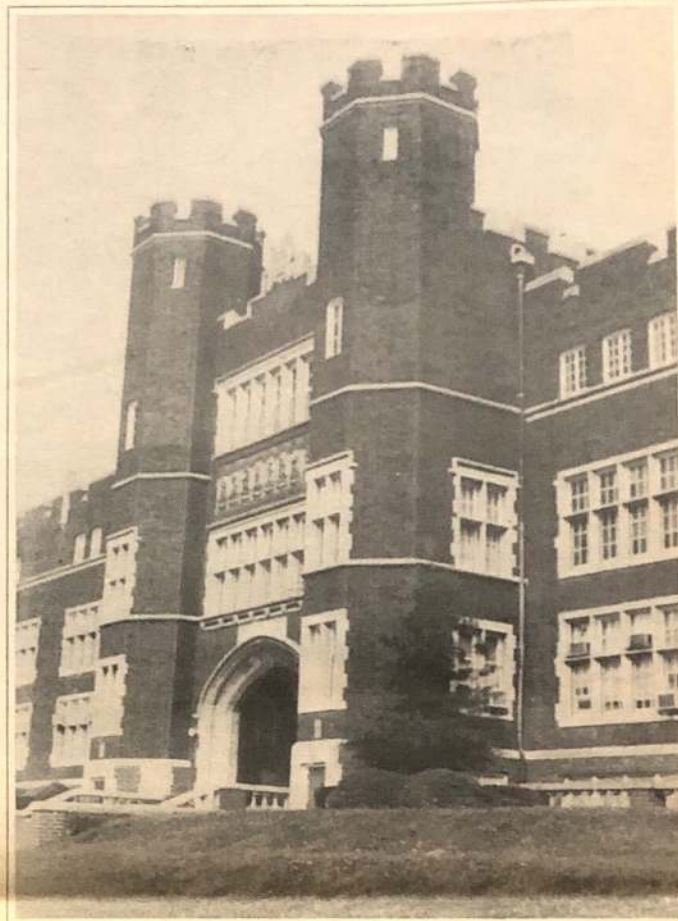
St. Anthony of Padua on Cherokee — the "Monks' Church."



This building has adapted to the unusual wedge-shaped block at the intersection of Virginia and Idaho.



The wedge building at Virginia and Vermont — once a movie theater.



"The Castle," once Cleveland High School and now a Naval ROTC Junior Academy. You have to get off the bus and walk a block west to get this view.

ROUTE 73 (from page 9)

told me that it was called the Dakota; today it houses the Seed Faith Word Fellowship Church.

The last building is at Bates on a triangular piece of ground bounded by Bates, Compton, and Virginia. Appropriately, it's called the Wedge Bar.

Just before Bates, to your left is a row of storefronts which was once home to Willie the Bug Man. He operated the most unusual exterminating business in St. Louis, featuring large model bugs in his display window. I always enjoyed riding past Willie's, and I was sorry to see on my most recent bus ride that his establishment was no more.

Carondelet character

Number 73 now passes under I-55 and you enter Carondelet proper.

Carondelet was once thought to be a good site for the nation's capital. Just imagine Carondelet, D.C. and St. Louis as a suburb. Carondelet was founded by Clement De Lore Target in 1770 and is home to some of the oldest homes in St. Louis, everything

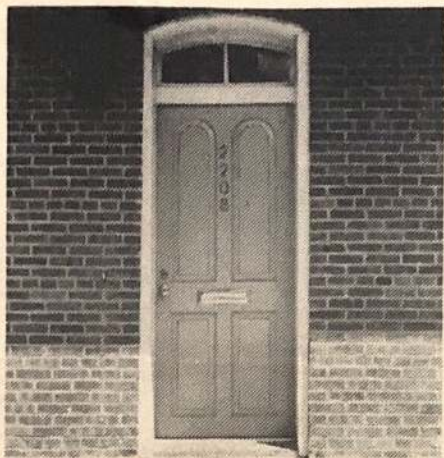
from frame Victorians to stone cottages. Though it hasn't been an independent town for 106 years, it retains a strong personal identity. Most area residents will say that they live in Carondelet, not St. Louis.

The bus turns at Fillmore Street to go one block to Virginia Avenue again and then continues south. At Loughborough you pass Blow School, named for William T. Blow, once U.S. Ambassador to Columbia and father of Susan Blow, who taught the first public elementary school kindergarten in the United States.

The bus continues south on Ivory Streets and Alabama Avenue. At this point you pass the famous Carondelet horse trough. No longer used to water dray teams, it has been turned by the city into a flower garden.

As you travel on, to your right is an excellent view of the Monsanto Carondelet Plant. You'll spot this just after you pass beneath the Oak Hill branch of the Missouri Pacific Railroad. Constructed in 1887, this rail line once carried the famous

ROUTE 73, page 12



FIVE MINUTES

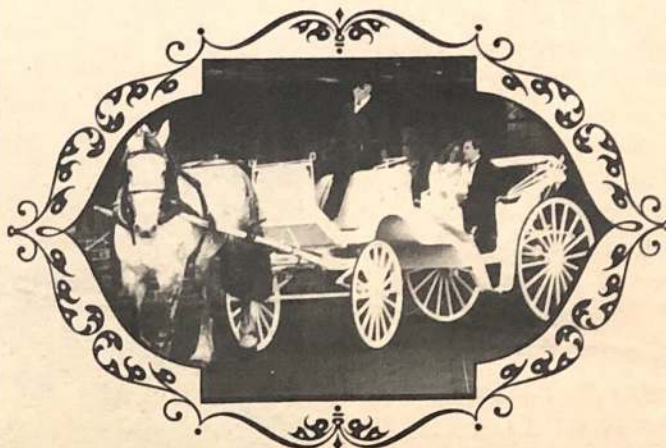
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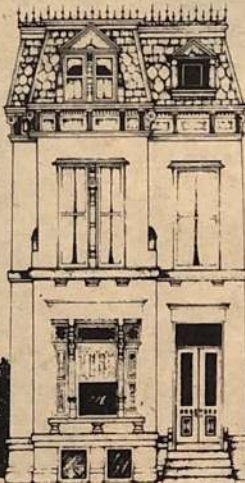
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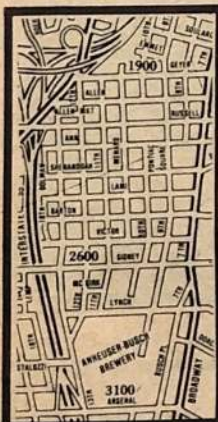


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Route 73 (from page 10)



Our author takes a break at the Carondelet horse trough before heading back north.

Texas Eagle. Today it takes Am-track's Eagle to the Lone Star State.

At River Des Peres, you leave the city. River Des Peres is named for the Jesuit Fathers who established the Mission of St. Francis Xavier in 1700 at the mouth of the river. It is the site of the first white settlement within the city limits of St. Louis.

From this point, the bus works its way along Lemay Ferry Road (named for the Le Mas family which once operated a ferry across the Meramec River) through Lemay and Mehlville to South County Shopping Center.

On the return trip, there is just as much to see. A few points of interest not visible going south should be noted. At River Des Peres on the north bank and just to the west is a big hill. This hill at one time was

home to 13 dairy farms, and area residents over the years have affectionately termed this neighborhood "Cowshit Hill." Opposite the old water trough to the right going north is beautiful St. Boniface Catholic Church, which shows a Central European influence in its architecture.

Through the Carondelet Neighborhood, the route follows Michigan Avenue north. At Iron Street is the home of the Carondelet Historical Society. This building was originally Des Peres Public Elementary School and was where Susan Blow taught her kindergarten class. For years afterwards, the building was used as a warehouse for Cook's supermarket. When the Historical Society took it over to restore it, they found that none of the individual

blackboards had ever been disturbed.

By no means have I pointed out all the sites and stories. After all, this is your vacation and you should discover much on your own. Just think, south of River Des Peres is a whole foreign country — South St. Louis County — to be explored. Don't worry, customs officials at the river won't check the precious treasures you bring back from your trip to South County Center.

Also, rest easy, for no Carondelet Bus has ever been hijacked, nor do any known terrorists operate in the area. Why, they probably couldn't find the place, nor would want to — the likes of Willie the Bug Man would strike terror into a terrorist's heart! •



Carondelet Historic Center, run by the Historical Society.



Number 73 heading north on 12th Street — home at last.



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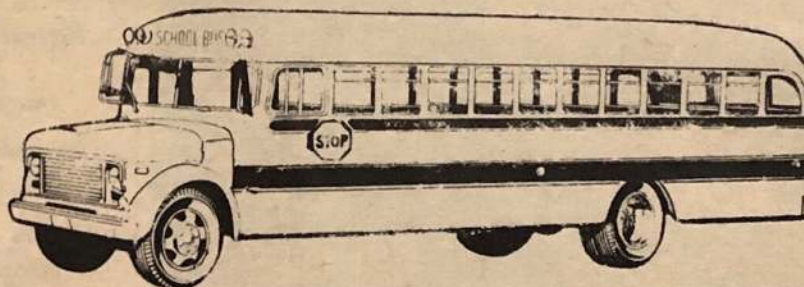
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The Amateur Rehabber Goes to the Movies:

THE MONEY PIT

by Jay Gibbs

Picture a claw hammer hitting a nail. Then imagine that nail folding under the blow. If this sequence is familiar to you then you'll certainly enjoy *The Money Pit*, a comedy dedicated to the mystique of rehabber. This movie brought from me more than one nostalgic chuckle, that "I know, I've been there" laugh.

When Walter (Tom Hanks) and Anna (Shelley Long) get booted without notice from her former husband's New York City apartment, they are forced to find a new home, pronto. A real estate agent friend sells them, at a "steal" price, a Long Island Georgian mansion which all concede needs "some redecorating." Yeah! Heard that before?

When the couple moves into the dream home, however, things, especially the house, go downhill fast. A partial list includes an entire brick chimney, an ornate freehanging wood staircase, a ceramic bathtub, a "weak tree" and the front door. When Walter and Anna try to repair a few minor problems themselves the domino effect sets in, and soon the house (and their sanity) has been reduced to practical ruins.

As humorous and nostalgic as the house problems are, the arriving at resolution is hilarious. Walter calls in a plumber named Shirk (I love that name!) who also has a brother in the contracting business. The fact that plumber Shirk wants \$5000 sight unseen is only slightly less wild than the sight of contractor Shirk's "work animal" laborers roaring up the driveway in vehicles reminiscent of that cartoon *Wacky Races*. Mr. Shirk's smiling "two weeks" work completion date never varies over a five month period, and the irate plumbing inspector's "Ya gotta get

a permit!" is a rehabber's classic.

As Walter and Anna's relationship approaches the nadir already reached by the house, the workers follow every shouted word back and forth, tennis-spectator-like. It's interesting how the house drives the couple apart and yet keeps them together as well; real-life renovators know what brutal wounds the ragged edges of a rehab can inflict on a relationship.

Fortunately all turns out well for both house and relationship, and our protagonists are finally wed beside their newly renovated home. Ironically, they are driven back together by the fact that neither is willing to leave the scene of their long suffering, as the house, even as a dump, becomes home in their hearts. And of course, as smiling Shirk says, "If the foundation's good, everything else can be fixed."

The only item in the film that is glossed over is the final bill for all that rehabilitation work. That figure was the point of a lively discussion afterwards by the group with whom I saw the movie — and I could picture a great hospital emergency room scene following submission of the final "time and materials" statement.

Still, the movie is well worth seeing. For a hilarious look at home improvements and its effects on personal relationships, do see *The Money Pit* — then someone let me know where I can buy an old cherubic fountain like that.

Editor's Note: For an earlier cinematic look at rehabbing, watch Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House (1948), with Cary Grant and Myrna Loy, on Channel 9, Saturday, June 14, at 10:30 p.m.

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Home Renovation: A Cat's Meow

by Minnie

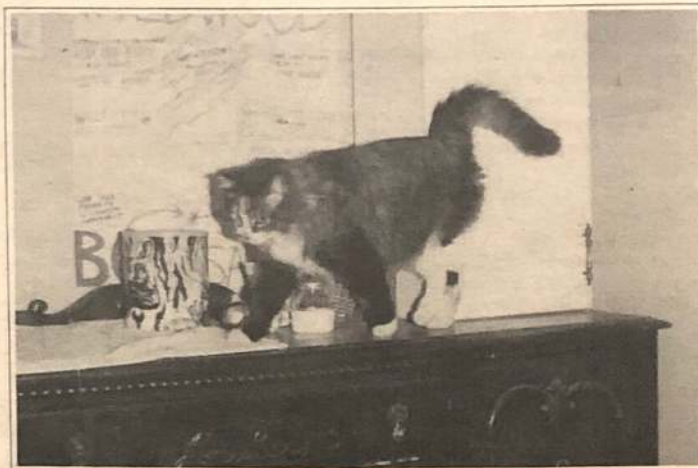
Editor's Note: Jay Gibbs, Soulard's Amateur Rehabber, in this issue relinquishes his column to a guest author.

Hi gang! You don't know me, so let me introduce myself: they call me Minnie, Jay's cat. Jay's off hanging drywall from the sound of it, so I've taken it upon myself to give you all the true scoop. Listen to him yell! You'd think the house was collapsing or something. Well, come to think of it, sometimes I do too.

You see, I was happily enjoying my suburban lifestyle, green grass, no traffic, lots of birds and dogs to chase, you know the scene, when one day Jay plucked me from the garage (that's where I used to stay at night), tossed me in his car, and drove me to this place. After that chaotic drive he dumped me into a room that made my garage seem cozy and well-kept. I was so upset and scared (even we cats get nervous) that I ran and hid, and there I stayed despite his pathetic bribes of food and milk. How could I think of eating after being ripped from my home? Well, when I ventured out of hiding the next morning I found that the room was a whole house, but noticed I wasn't going to be allowed outside that day, or as I soon discovered, any more at all. Oh horrors! I like being inside as much as anybody, but not all the time!

At first the house was like a prison, only worse. It was, and is, dusty, cluttered, and uncomfortable. I mean, my old garage was warmer than Jay's house last winter, and cleaner, too. The worst thing of all, though, was that I lost my outdoor savvy and have become fat (yes, *me*, fat) and lazy. I'll never live it down!

Spring finally came. I could tell because Jay started leaving windows open, and I could sit on a windowsill and breathe clean air (I'm talking comparatively here) and watch the



Our guest author gingerly picks her way through her companion's "dusty hole that we call living quarters."

More Adventures of an Amateur Rehabber

world go by. Recently, joy of joys, Jay has let me outside while he's working in the yard or whatever; he doesn't know how nice it is to get out of that dusty hole that we call living quarters. I've grown used to its safeness, though; from the sound I'd guess that there are some pretty crazy alley cats around here.

One other thing about spring: I have been shedding my winter coat and it makes Jay really mad. His grumbles turn to dire threats when my floating hair gets on his hands while he is trying to put in his contact lenses. But if I act dumb he softens up. Like he says, I can't help it if I'm forced to shed in the house, y'know?

I pride myself on being observant, so I soon learned the goings-on of this

new place. The neighborhood is called Soulard, our street is called Ninth Street, our lifestyle is called Rehabbing, and our house is called — oh, I can't repeat that, I'm a lady. In the course of the last several months I've witnessed Jay in the throes of several different house projects, but the one common thread running through them all was accompanying language that absolutely curled my whiskers. Strangely enough, he's pretty nice the rest of the time. I guess it's true what I heard: an old house brings out the best of our hidden selves. I know it's true with me. I enjoy catching and sadistically playing with one of the resident mice, then letting it go, unless Jay hasn't fed me enough lately (don't tell him that or my Purina will disappear for sure).

Jay's pretty sleepy around 5:00 a.m. when I wake up, and I can't understand why he always shoves me off the bed when I sink my claws in his chest or walk on his head. He can be such a grouch in the morning; after all, all I want is a little attention. I have learned to steer clear while he's rehabbing, though, because in addition to the inevitable blue words I once nearly took a stepladder between the eyes when he wasn't paying attention to where I was standing. The nerve! Still, he doesn't devote enough time to the house; he's always going to meetings or to this thing he calls "Work." What is Work? All I know is that he's gone a lot, and I'm always glad to see him come home, 'cause it gets boring being cooped up in four floors of mess without someone to pester.

I wish he'd finish this house so I could have a decent home, maybe even my own room (Lord knows he has plenty of those!). Why should I live in this sub-pristine environment with him watching *The Cosby Show* and *Hill Street Blues*, when he could be laying carpet or something? Of course, who am I kidding — at this rate he'll finish one room every 5 or 6 years, the house about the year 2033. Hope I'm still around then, but I won't belabor the point with any 9-lives jokes: this is a class operation.

Uh oh, here comes Jay fresh from hanging some drywall — I can tell by his deranged look and the white dust in his sweaty face. Yuck! I better quit while I'm ahead. Now to get this to editor Barbara, I remember her because she fed me hotdogs at a party Jay threw a few months ago. I wish she'd come back, there's this leftover hamburger . . .

If you want the real gossip at this address, skip the Amateur Rehabber stuff and come talk to me. For a morsel of chicken or turkey I'll say anything. Right now I feel the urge to sharpen my claws on Jay's only nice stuffed chair, heh, heh. Bye gang!

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Unique Playgrounds

They're fantasy playgrounds. Not just a jumble of jungle gym bars, but a mansard-roofed house, a Victorian water tower—and the most wondrous of all, an enormous steamboat complete with smokestacks and steering wheel.

Even the most jaded adult would be tempted to rediscover childhood on the playgrounds of Cherokee, Compton Hill, Franz and Lafayette Parks. Designed by Souldard landscape architect Paul Kjorlie, they are certainly irresistible to children. What's more, the playgrounds' imaginative design, reflecting the character of the neighborhoods in which they stand, recently won the highest award in a national design contest.

Paul Kjorlie learned this past January that he had won the award of excellence in a playground design contest sponsored by *Play Area Review*, a nationally circulated playground magazine. His playgrounds were selected from entries from both the United States and Japan.

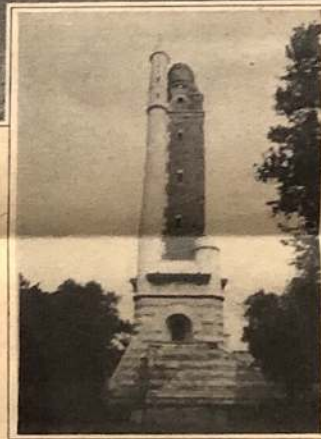
The playgrounds got their start in 1981, when the St. Louis Heritage and Urban Design Commission requested custom designs for city parks that would reflect the architectural and riverfront history of the city. Paul designed his group of four in 1982; they were completed in 1984.

A riverboat is recreated in Franz Park at Mitchell and Prather in the Dogtown neighborhood. The boat is equipped with a pilot house and working steering wheel, steel smokestacks and levee "timberheads." At the Compton Hill Reservoir Park at Compton Hill and Russell, the 1897 water tower becomes a slide. A house directly across the street from the park, styled with the bay windows and peaked roof typical of Compton Heights, is the model for the rest of the play area. The narrow three-story mansard-roofed townhouses that surround Cherokee Park at Utah and Lemp and Lafayette Park between Park, Lafayette, Missouri and Mississippi are the inspiration for the playgrounds in those parks.

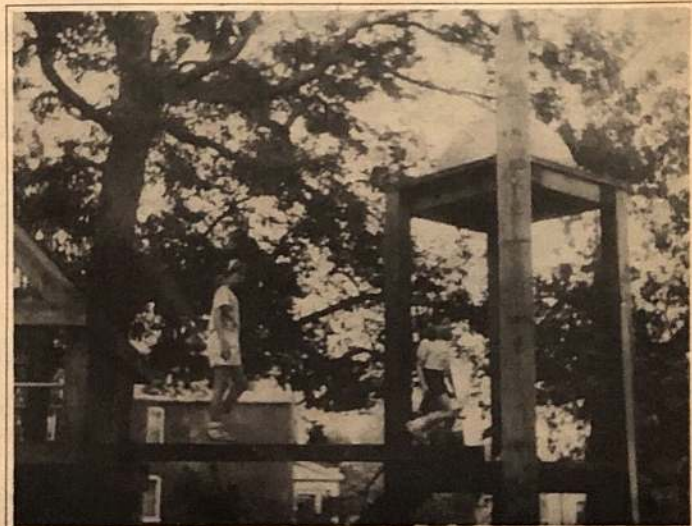
"It's fun for me to get the children's reactions to the equipment," Paul says. "Most kids see the resemblance to the prototypes (although one child thought the water tower slide was a rocket!)." He believes that all St. Louis neighborhoods have unique architectural landmarks that can be used to give them one-of-a-kind park playgrounds. •



PAUL KJORLIE



The water tower of Compton Hill Reservoir Park (left) and the Victorian houses of Compton Heights were the prototypes for this playground in the Compton Hill Park.



EDWARD R. FLUSS

Sara Graham (left) and Kelly Hurst of Souldard explore the playground tower.

Celebrate St. Louis Heritage

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EDWARD R. FLISS



St. Louis' riverfront past and present is celebrated in this Mississippi River Steamboat at Franz Park, Prather and Mitchell Streets. Climbing the ladder to the upper deck is Meaghan Hurst of Soulard.



Christopher Hurst checks out the steamboat's slide while sister Kelly and Sara Graham wait for their turn.



Kelly plays riverboat captain in the Franz Park steamer's pilothouse. The steering wheel does turn.



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BUSINESS REVIEWS

Norton's Downstreet Cafe

by Jay Gibbs

In the revival of our Business Review column, a group of distinguished colleagues and I decided to try out *Norton's Downstreet Cafe* at 808 Geyer Avenue. We intended to munch out simply for scientific reasons, but Pat Norton's food and hospitality got the better of us. Let's start at the beginning.

The decor of the *Downstreet* is a coherent cross between that of an old neighborhood tavern and that of a trendy upscale restaurant. Ceiling fans above, old pine floors below, and a cobblestone fireplace set our mood along with arched brick walls and an art glass panel. Ten simply-set tables complete a just-right background — not too cutesy, not overly old-fashioned.

We chose our food selection from handbill menus and from a specials board. The fare tends toward sandwiches and pizza, but there are also several dinner entrees from which to choose. Ed's choice, barbecued pork chops, were very meaty, and a lot of 'em for the price. Barbara's hot pastrami sandwich was nicely spicy, unlike most others in St. Louis. Jann and Dennis shared a thin-crust mushroom/olive pizza and between mouthfuls sang its praises. My hot tuna melt was tasty, not too cheesy, very satisfying. In fact, the constant thread among our divergent meals was their homemade tastiness and perfect portion size — not too large nor small. Even with our side dishes, we all had room for dessert and were soon passing around homemade carrot cake, in which one could actually see and taste the carrots. Yum!

The service matched the food and atmosphere: straightforward, pleasant and prompt. The prices were better than reasonable, especially considering the portion sizes and fast service. A full bar and full Sunday hours complete a good thing.

If you're looking for glitz, look elsewhere. But if good basic hearty food, unpretentious but charming atmosphere, and reasonable prices appeal to you, as they did to us, we recommend *Norton's Downstreet Cafe* at 808 Geyer Avenue. The combination is refreshing and awaiting your trial.

Friends of Soulard Sponsor Seedling Lot

A permanent renewable resource for the greening of Soulard is growing in a once-vacant lot at Barton and 13th Street, thanks to the Friends of Soulard and the Soulard Restoration Group beautification committee.

Hundreds of tiny pine seedlings were planted in the lot in mid-April and have since been painstakingly cared for by beautification committee members. The Friends of Soulard, non-Soulard residents who support the neighborhood's revitalization, are underwriting the planting and maintenance.

"This will be a future source of trees for the whole neighborhood," says John Soderberg, beautification committee chairperson. "It's wonderful that the Friends of Soulard are making it possible. We'd like to thank Mead-McClellan as well for letting us use their lot."

Pat Price and Judy Marquis are co-chairpersons of the SRG Friends of Soulard committee. For information on joining this neighborhood support group, call Pat at 771-1194 or Judy at 773-4453, or send in the coupon below.

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South Broadway Athletic Club News

Club is softball champion

Soulard's own South Broadway Athletic Club was the victor in the Metro St. Louis A.S.A. preseason softball tournament held at Lyons Park on April 19-20.

In playoffs, South Broadway defeated Union Electric 7-6, the St. Louis Warriors 14-9, Sherrill's South Siders 11-6, and Brew House 5-4. Brew House emerged from the losers bracket to play the Soulard club for the second time, and South Broadway won the tournament championship 6-5. Third place went to Iowa Buffet and fourth to Zimmerman Insurance.

Summer calendar of events

The South Broadway Athletic Club, located at 2301 South 7th Street at Shenandoah, regularly features professional wrestling and other events. Here's the schedule for the rest of the summer:

June 20	Wrestling
July 12	Bar-B-Q
18	Wrestling
August 2	Wrestling
22	Wrestling
23	Club Dance
30	Bar-B-Q
Sept. 20	Homecoming
26	Wrestling

For more information, call the club at 776-9600.

Soulard vs. Lafayette Square In July 4 Softball

An ancient rivalry will be revived once more this July 4, when the Soulard Restoration Group and the Lafayette Square Restoration Committee battle for neighborhood supremacy in their annual Independence Day softball game.

Longstanding tradition has it that the loser supplies the beer for the subsequent year's game. "We've been doing this in excess of 10 years," says Soulard coach Ed Bushmeyer, "and in that time Lafayette Square has only won once." He says he can't comment on the condition of this year's team, as "we usually put the team together in the stray moments before the game!" Anyone interested in joining up before then should call Ed at 773-6771.

The game starts at noon on July 4 at the softball diamond in Lafayette Square Park and should be over by 3 or 4 p.m. Spectators are advised to bring a picnic lunch.

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by John Soderberg

The Birds of Soulard

Part Two

The hold of birds on my imagination goes back as far as I can remember. Obviously, it is birds' power of flight, setting them apart, that has associated them in my mind with the gods, who enjoy the same transcendence over gravity and distance.

Few other creatures seem so alive in every fibre of their beings, so quick in response to the outer world or to inner promptings, so fully given to the action, whether in song, in motion or in display. With that introduction, I give you more Birds of Soulard.

Chimney Swift

These little birds earn their name by nesting and roosting in unused chimneys, propping themselves against the inside surface with their short, stiff tails. They spend their whole day aloft in groups circling over the houses and buildings of Soulard. One of the reasons that our neighborhood is relatively mosquito-free is the presence of these insect-eating, highly beneficial birds.

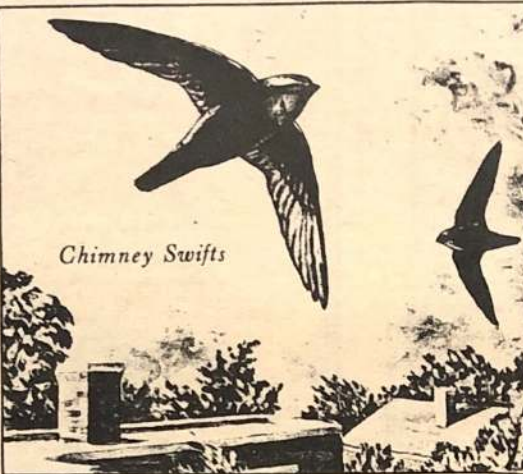
Chimney Swifts are easily identified by their slate-gray color and very streamlined body shape with blade-like wings, as well as by their chatter of chipping cries.

Nest-building behavior of Swifts, while difficult to observe because of the inaccessible location of nests, is nevertheless fascinating. The Swift gathers nest material while in flight, first choosing a tree with many dead twigs of the desired size. It dives at the tree and grabs a twig with its feet, trying to break the twig off as it flies by. As the bird flies back to the nest, it transfers the twig from its feet to its bill. The pieces of twig brought to the nest are cemented onto a vertical surface with a secretion from the bird's mouth.

Watching Chimney Swifts in flight is akin to seeing acrobatic stunt planes. So the next time you are lounging on the stoop, just look up above the roof tops and enjoy the show.

Nighthawk

After the sun goes down and the chimney swifts have gone to roost, out come the Nighthawks to take over the mosquito patrol. Most people are not aware of nor have ever seen Nighthawks, even though they are a very common bird of Soulard. During the day, while at rest, the Nighthawk perches lengthwise on branches, power pole crossarms, logs, or on the



Chimney Swifts

ground; and hence is very difficult to spot.

Nighthawks are powerful, fast fliers with the exceptional maneuverability required to catch flying insects. One can catch fleeting glimpses of this bird in early evening as it zips around and between buildings, sometimes silhouetted by the street lights.

However, one is more likely to hear the Nighthawk than see it. Before aviators broke the sound barrier, Nighthawks had their own "sonic boom," created by diving vertically from considerable height and flaring sharply upward near the ground. The "peent" call of the Nighthawk once heard and recognized is so distinctive as to be unmistakable. For me, the summer evening sound of Nighthawks on patrol is far more comforting than the electronic sizzle of those manmade bug-zappers so popular today.

Mourning Dove and Pigeon

The common Pigeon found in all cities is descended from the European Rock Dove that was introduced to this country. Pigeons are probably

Soulard's most common year-round bird. They only require any flat surface on which to lay their eggs surrounded by a little nesting material. Pigeons have rather interesting and unusual behavior patterns, however, particularly during mating season when they put on displays known as bowing, tail-drag, billing and wing-clapping flight.

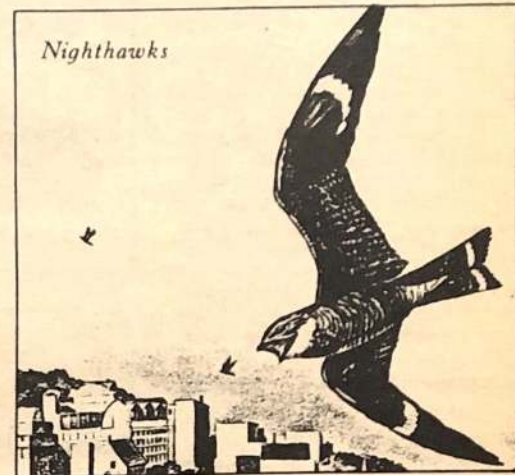
Pigeons are often so numerous as to be a nuisance, fouling building ledges, park benches, statues, and occasionally people. The Pigeon is by far the most familiar and recognizable bird to urban dwellers.

The less common member of the dove family to call Soulard home is the Mourning Dove. It can be distinguished from the pigeon by its longer neck, which sports a dark spot on the side. Unfortunately, the Mourning Dove is a hunted game bird in many states and is therefore safer in the city than the country.

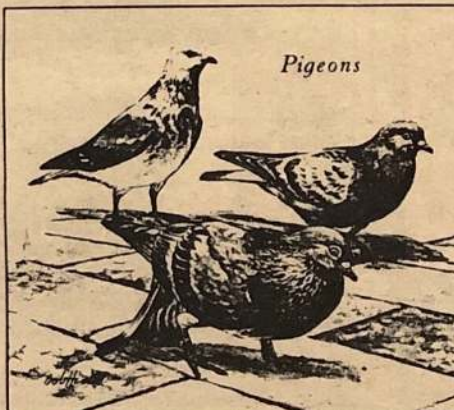
Upon hearing the peaceful cooing of this bird that is also known as the turtle dove, one can understand why songs are sung and poems written

about it. With good reason this gentle bird has become part of our folklore.

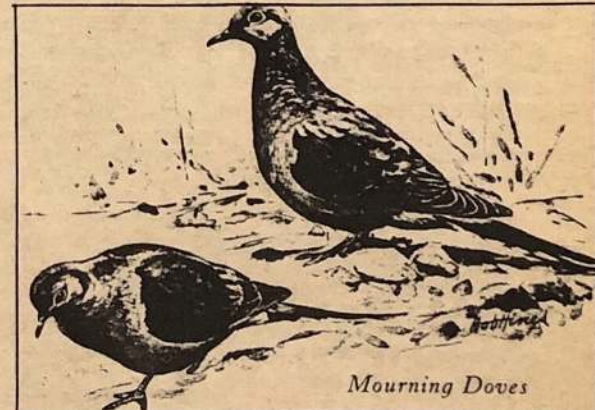
All of the birds I've discussed here can be observed at this time of year anywhere in our neighborhood. So do yourself a real favor — relax, take a walk, look at the newly planted trees and flowers, and let your mind soar with the birds. •



Nighthawks



Pigeons



Mourning Doves

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Neighborhood Schools Start Fall Registration

Trinity Lutheran School

Since 1839, Trinity Lutheran School has been teaching the children of Souland. It is a traditional kindergarten-through-grade-eight elementary school, run by Trinity Lutheran Church and located at 1809 S. Eighth Street.

The school states its goal as providing "a quality education in a Christian environment for the children of our community." It has a defined code of school conduct and a defined homework policy, and the staff makes regular efforts to communicate with and involve parents in their children's education.

The academic program emphasizes basic skills in reading, mathematics, and oral and written language. There are programs in computer literacy, outdoor education, and extracurricular activities as well. Enrichment programs for gifted students and remedial programs for those who need additional help are also available. Trinity Lutheran provides a full-day kindergarten.

For more information or to arrange for an orientation conference and school visit, call 621-0228. Trinity Lutheran's pastor is Samuel I. Goltermann; the school's principal is Clyde C. Miller.

Lafayette Park Pre-School

The Lafayette Park Pre-School, a parent cooperative, provides two morning programs September through May for children ages 2 to 5. The school is located in a large room in the Lafayette Park United Methodist Church at 2300 Lafayette.

The class for 2-year-olds meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The program emphasizes socialization, and the children enjoy story time, gym activities, and a large number of play and learning materials. This class may be considered for 3-year-olds with summer birthdays. Class size is limited to eight children.

The 3- to 5-year-olds meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. This class emphasizes social development and kindergarten readiness. Besides using the resources of the pre-school, the older class makes regular visits to the public library and goes on field trips approximately once a month. Class size is 12 children.

The school is staffed by one certified teacher, with parents serving as teacher-aides. Parents are also required to participate in running and maintaining the school. Current tuition is \$25 a month for the younger class and \$35 a month for the older.

For more information, call Jan Gordon at 771-2347 or Gloria Bratkowski at 421-6038.

Notre Dame Elementary Pre-School

Notre Dame Elementary Pre-School is a parent cooperative created to provide an opportunity for young children to develop social, cognitive, and motor skills. A certified teacher with a master's degree in special education and 11 years of experience directs the class, with the aid of parents who take turns as classroom aides, field trip escorts, room cleaners, and officers.

The school is located at Gravois and Ohio (it is not affiliated with St. Francis De Salle Day Care Center). The pre-school classroom is located in Notre Dame's elementary school building, and the school's schedule generally follows the elementary school calendar.

The class for 3-year-olds meets from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; tuition is \$30 a month. 4-year-olds attend class from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; tuition is \$40 a month. A \$20 registration fee and \$25 activity fee are paid at the beginning of the school year.

Pre-school classes begin on Wednesday, September 3. If interested, call Linda Frei at 621-1627.

Girls Club Moves, Expands

In just three years, the Girls Club of Souland has grown so rapidly that this past March it had to change not only location but identity.

Now called the Girls Club of St. Louis, the group has moved its Clubhouse from the old storefront at 900 Shenandoah to newly renovated quarters at 2216 Sidney. The former St. Agnes School, abandoned for 14 years, underwent a \$60,000 reconstruction to provide a completely-equipped kitchen area, library, recreation room, art room, and other space for social and educational programs. The new Clubhouse was dedicated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house on May 14.

Money for the renovation was raised in a community fund drive conducted last year. The need was clear: since the club was founded in 1983, its membership had grown from 33 girls to 200. Membership now stands at

550, and girls continue to join at the rate of 20 per month.

"The community response was tremendous," says Wanda Alexander, executive director. "The girls are so proud of their new Clubhouse, and our daily attendance has more than doubled since the move."

The Girls Club is open to all girls and young women from ages 6 to 18. It provides daily educational, recreational and motivational programs in personal development, cultural enrichment, recreation and social development, health and physical fitness, citizenship and leadership development and career awareness. It is the only club for girls in the St. Louis metropolitan area, compared with five Boys Clubs.

The Girls Club of St. Louis is a United Way member agency and is affiliated with the Girls Clubs of America. For more information, call 771-0044.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Domed Stadium Idea Needs Reflection

by Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl, Jr.

On May 12, I announced that I had been urged by local business leaders to reevaluate the possibility of developing a new domed stadium as part of the expansion of the Cervantes Convention Center in the downtown area. As a result, I held the first of a series of meetings with local elected officials, business leaders and community leaders to discuss the stadium idea. The purpose of those meetings is to see whether there is a consensus that the City should further explore the possibilities of building a domed stadium. The reaction thus far has been that the stadium idea merits a closer look.

As currently envisioned, the 70,000 seat stadium would form the eastern end of the expanded convention center. Costs have yet to be determined. The plans are very preliminary and will only be pursued if there is general agreement among City and community leaders.

A new stadium will require some form of public financing. While the public revenue sources to fund a stadium have not yet been determined, a general increase in the property tax is not under consideration.

The stadium will not be built unless it receives some form of voter approval. The residents of St. Louis will ultimately decide whether we should construct a new stadium.

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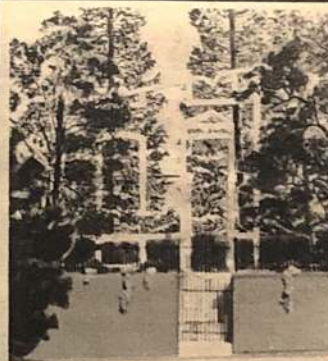
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