



Tenney-Lapham newsletter

Nov.-Dec. 1984

A Few Street Notes



Take your pick: Cop shows or Crime Watch

I do polls in my head, especially on neighborhood walks. Like what percent of my neighbors planted marigolds in their summer gardens this year? And how many TV sets do I see flickering blue-gray in living room windows during a 9 p.m. stroll around the block? (Is anyone really watching?).

I confess. I'm a TVland elitist whose sole addictions are "Hill St. Blues" and "At the Movies." (And, after watching a current episode with the boys in blue, I'm even starting to have my doubts about who's guiding the action on The Hill. Were there really 10 references to sexual themes, scenes and jokes in that show? And a little more jazzy music, a tad more fast cutting in the editing room, and two new pretty cops that seemed to get more than their share of the action?) Yes, cop shows are back in fashion, along with lots of rich glitter, shapely bodies, slinky dresses, and blatant greed. Or so say the critics.

Me, I'd rather read a good book, or take in a neighborhood meeting. See the neighbors, share a beer, and maybe do something concrete about real crime. Like preventing another rape similar to the one on Few St. last month.

Do we need a real Neighborhood Crime Watch program in the Tenney-Lapham area? Come to the Thursday, Nov. 8 TLNA meeting and discuss the subject with Officer Gary Smith of the Madison Police Dept. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at Christ Presbyterian Church on Gorham. Topics will include crime reporting, identification of personal goods in case of theft, and residential lighting. Many neighborhoods around the city have set up full-blown neighborhood watch programs, and there seems to be some solid evidence that they help cut crime statistics.

And then on Thursday, Dec. 13, Janet Brandt, energy information advisor for Madison Gas and Electric, will speak at the December TLNA meeting. She'll discuss home energy auditing and appliance efficiency, just in time for the winter onslaught. Pick up some free tips on winterizing your home or apartment.

A warm welcome to the new businesses and their staffs on Fordem Avenue. Keep your eyes open for their ads in future newsletters.

While we're on the subject of warm welcomes, let's extend one to new TLNA Council members, Benita Walker of 109 N. Few, Vicki and Shaun Abshere 1038 E. Dayton and Coyla Rankin of 455 N. Few. Benita will be the new Transportation/Traffic chairperson; Shaun will represent Area A; Vicki will look after our Parks/Playgrounds Committee; and Coyla will represent Area C.

And for those of you who annually dread the coming of winter, a few upbeat words from former Milwaukee Journal columnist Bill Stokes. Stokes, now with the Chicago Tribune, has for years been a gentle, witty observer of life in Wisconsin. And, here's what he says about November in his delightful book, "Hi-Ho Silver, Anyway": "Sometime in November there occurs in Wisconsin one of those incredibly still, quiet afternoons when the heartbeat of the state stops and something close to death seeps over the land.

"Such a rare afternoon makes the rest of the gray old month worthwhile.

"There was one of them several days ago, and if you soaked it up it rinsed the gray dregs of autumn out of your spirit and made you feel as clean and cool as a new snowflake.

"Wherever you happened to be, it was a beautiful time, but it was particularly striking if you were away from the daily drag race and off alone somewhere with the trees and wild things..."

There are no three ways about it: You can either enjoy those wild Wisconsin winters, or let them become a drag.

David Wallner

Christmas party Dec. 9

The Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Association and Christ Presbyterian Church, 944 E. Gorham, will co-sponsor a Christmas Party at the church at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9.

Santa Claus will be on hand to do his thing, and there will be games, carolling, and gifts for children and adults of all ages. Call Pastor Jack Johnson at the church or Richard Linster at 251-1937 for further details.

Bring a pair of mittens, a hat or a scarf for the Mitten Tree, so that other Madison children can have warm hands, heads and hearts this winter.

Curtain rises on Madison Rep season

Madison Repertory Theatre was founded by Madisonians who believed that yes, a good theatre company was possible in this most enjoyable of cities. The Rep has produced 16 years of timely, magical theatre for intelligent audiences, proving that a good theatre company can thrive in this town.

The Rep now has plans to become a professional regional theatre for Madison and Southcentral Wisconsin. As a resident theatre company of the Civic Center, The Rep is in a position to make things happen. The arts are flourishing in Madison. The Festival of the Lakes, scheduled for 10 days in September 1986, will focus new and national attention on Madison's cultural achievements. Planning has already begun for this exciting event and Madison Rep is ready to take on the challenge.

The Rep's artistic policy has always been to produce entertaining plays that make an audience think. Productions such as Buried Child, Nuts, A Man for All Seasons and The Dresser have done just that, and have received rave reviews. The staff of the Rep works tirelessly to maintain the high quality of theatre on the stage. The Rep's Acting Company has 14 members, each appearing in several shows during the season in both major and supporting roles. Professional guest actors perform with The Rep, coming from New York, Milwaukee and Minneapolis to work on the stage of the Isthmus Playhouse.

The Rep is also beginning to develop and expand its fundraising base which is a gigantic task. Community support has always been important to the Rep; it becomes even more so with the goal of becoming a professional theatre.

The 1984-85 season has begun, and it is an exciting one. Terra Nova opened Nov 2, and continues through Nov 17. A thrilling tale of adventure, it is the story of Captain Robert Scott and his heroic trek to the South Pole at the turn of the century. Courage, determination and honor are the virtues which Robert Scott lived and died by, and which make Terra Nova a gripping saga of a desperate struggle to achieve a goal.

The rest of Madison Rep's season is as thrilling as this noble story. Death of a Salesman opens Jan 11. This American classic will feature a professional guest actor in the celebrated role of Willy Loman. Crimes of the Heart, a wacky, off-beat comedy which won the Pulitzer Prize, fills the March slot. This story of a day in the lives of three sisters in a small Mississippi town runs the gamut from chuckles to tears to sighs to guffaws, all in one evening of entertainment. The final production, AMADEUS, promises to be a spectacular end of the season. This historical thriller about Mozart and 17th century musical intrigue and passions will be a fitting end to an ambitious season. AMADEUS runs from April 26 to May 11.

Madison Repertory Theatre entertains, shocks, delights and enlightens its audiences with each new production. Come to The Rep and discover another good reason for living in Madison.

Anne Katz

Editor's note: Anne Katz recently moved to Madison from New York City, and now lives in the Tenney-Lapham neighborhood. She is Madison Rep's new director of development.

TERRA NOVA
By
Ted Tally
NOVEMBER 2-17


Our belated congratulations to Whole Earth and the Willy Street Co-op, which both celebrated major birthdays in the past month. Whole Earth has hit the 15 year mark, and Willy Street is now 10 years old. Both provide friendly service, fresh produce and organic food, along with a bit of sage advice on the politics of food.

One more thank you to our typist Paul Fieber, and to all newsletter writers and advertisers. Call 256-2958 for details on submitting a story or an ad. Our next deadline will be Dec. 15.


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Business/Commercial-----	Teena Browder 251-2066
Area A Representative-----	Shaun Abshere 1038 E. Dayton St 255-1734
Area B Representative-----	VACANT
Area C Representative-----	Coyla Rankin 455 N. Few St 256-5882

Membership Update

As of Oct. 20 paid memberships in the TLNA over the last year have numbered 270. While this has been an encouraging development, it must be remembered that the newsletter is distributed to 1,800 households, so the membership committee has its work cut out.

All members are reminded that on Oct. 1 we began a new year, and all dues are payable. It is the intention of the committee to recruit aggressively so please expect to be contacted.

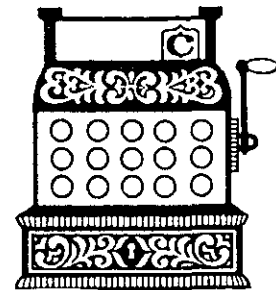
Members and residents are invited to suggest ideas for broadening the activities of this organization, and all ideas shall receive prompt attention.

A list of officers is provided elsewhere in this issue, as is a membership blank for joining.

This is your neighborhood association and it is up to you to make it work on your behalf.

Richard Linster

Treasurer's Report



The Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Association is a non-profit organization, and as such we attempt to match income to outcome each year with some excess as a small reserve. TLNA's books were gone over by an accountant (neighborhood volunteer!) and everything checked out. In short, our major sources of income last year were membership monies (thanks to R. Linster) and the pizza sale (thanks to buyers and sellers alike). The TLNA Spring Re-sale barely met expenses this year. Our major expense this year, as in other years, was the Newsletter. Thanks to our neighborhood advertisers, over half the newsletter expense was met through ads. Two social events, the Ice-Cream Social and the recent Spaghetti Dinner, both lost some money. TLNA made two donations last year, one to the Isthmus School Planning Council and one to the Tenney Park Garden Club. But all of these expenses were acceptable due to our fundraisers. TLNA's books are available for inspection, just contact me.

One final word...it's you the members who make this organization what it is. Your money and effort see that this newsletter is published and that other events are held. If ANYONE would like to see a social event held---and you are willing to help---give R. Linster or myself a call. Our phone numbers are in the list of officers in this newsletter.

Judy Ann Jones
Secretary/Treasurer

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Memories are made of this

On the rare, crisp sunny days we've had in the past month, it's been tempting to go outdoors and think for a while longer about bracing air (instead of fuel bills) and fall color (instead of that snow shovel, which is... somewhere?).

So I set off the other day for the Lenzer Replat, which many of you may know as Sherman Avenue, and points south toward Gorham. I went to admire Now, and to try to imagine the area at the turn of the century, as it was so fondly recalled by Mr. Ludwig Lenzer of Ingersoll St.

Mr. Lenzer arrived here from Chicago at the age of 20 months, and lived in a house on what was then his grandfather's dairy farm along the lakefront. Mr. Lenzer recalls, as a boy, going to and from the old 8-room Lapham School near Marston and Dayton, walking along paths or wooden 2-by-4 pine-slatted sidewalks. He recalls a time when there were few cars, notably a couple of Brush autos. One had trouble getting up the hill, then on Johnson Street, causing the passengers to descend and walk to the top. And, he remembers Dr. Walter Sheldon, who made house calls in a horse-drawn trap.

During Mr. Lenzer's boyhood, much of the landfill work was going on, with teams and wagons dredging the Mendota shoreline to level the Isthmus area and provide more habitable space. He and other youngsters (and poachers!) regretted the filling-in of an estuary where Camelot now is. The spot was a spawning ground for northern pike, where fish could be caught at night if wardens could be avoided. And rats "as big as cats" could be shot

in the old City Dump by Marston and Mifflin. The East High area used to be a circus ground, where the boys could get in to see Barnum and Bailey and the Ringling Brothers shows, in return for watering the elephants. (Once Mr. Lenzer and his brother concealed a case of the mumps, so they could catch the whole show. Their mother was very angry.) Buffalo Bill, we now know firsthand, was "magnificent" on his horse; Mr. Lenzer was taken by his grandfather, and has never forgotten the day.

When the island in Tenney Park was a lowland, filled with cattails, a temporary bridge was built so that teamsters could haul in sand. Lenzer and friends watched as a team of white horses fell into the lagoon as the bridge gave way. Both horses drowned as the young teamsters struggled to unharass them, weeping with frustration.

East past the Yahara was a sauerkraut factory, a hog farm, and the Bruns dairy farm. ("Best milk in town - all Guernseys.") And so much more.

So, even as the leaves and temperature fall and snow is in the air, and walks are less tempting, I can sit on my landfill and imagine a little of how things might have looked then. And how life might have been.

Thanks, Mr. Ludwig Lenzer. And let's hear from others of you who have stories to tell.

Martha Gordon



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Changes galore on Johnson St.

Fall has brought more than a change of seasons to the Johnson Street Business Community. We have new faces in old places and old faces in new places. By the beginning of the new year, we will have experienced a rather extensive facelift.

We have a brand new butcher shop (The Butcher Shop) at the corner of Johnson and Paterson, brought to you by the people at Cork 'n Bottle. They are receiving expert assistance from butchers Emmett and David Liddicoat. Emmett operated the old Model Meat Market in this same location for 27 years until he retired 10 years ago. In fact, Emmett keeps trying unsuccessfully to retire! The Butcher Shop features personal service, low prices, homemade brats and sausages, and such amenities as croissants from Croissants Etc. and cakes from the Jamieson House.

At the other end of the Butcher Shop building, we have the new home of Spruce Tree Music and Repairs. Owner Wil Bremer has just completed a month of hard work on his new location, which began with Wil and some friends moving the former tenant to his new location on East Dayton Street. Spruce Tree moved just one half block from its former home between Papendieck's Upholstery and the Whole Earth. This move provides for much needed expansion.

The Tenney-Lapham Corporation has begun a major renovation project in the same block. It involves the building which houses Mildred's Sandwich Shop and the adjacent empty lot and two-story residential building. The area merchants are hoping for the transformation of the empty lot into a customer parking lot. The project will also enable Mildred's to double its space and offer more services and better seating for restaurant customers. Thank-yous are in order for the Tenney-Lapham Corporation's commitment to the neighborhood and its business community.

We also have a brand new addition to the 900 block of Johnson Street. Studio 924 has completely transformed the space between the Weaving Workshop

and Wild Child. Owners Joe Bonardi and Nancy Kraemer bring a combined eight years experience in all forms of men's and women's hairstyling. They bring a very contemporary new business into an equally classy older building. They offer top quality hair designs at affordable prices. Joe and Nancy are also interested in the neighborhood and are already involved in our business association activities.

Things are happening fast on Johnson Street. The next newsletter will have news of another major business move and two potential new businesses. Please stay tuned.

Teena Browder

Music strums along East Johnson

TLNA would like to extend a warm welcome to Norm Stockwell, who has opened The Old Town School of Folk Music-Madison at 817½ East Johnson.

Norm comes to Madison from Chicago, where he grew up. He not only played guitar and banjo himself, but also worked with folk musicians as a producer, both for concerts and for special musical events.

Norm moved to Madison in 1983, saw the need for a folk music center here similar to the one he had worked with in Chicago, and went to work. This school will offer instruction, from the beginning level on up, in guitar, mandolin, banjo, autoharp, fiddle and more. For information call 255-7008. Both private and group lessons are available.

Now that the school is settling in, Norm would like to expand the programs to include the history and culture of folk music; perhaps a library of records and tapes, and books; and, of course, outreach to local musicians who are out there with a great deal to contribute. The school will also be offering workshops and house concerts.



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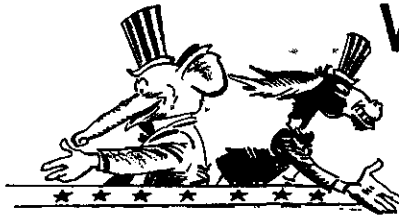
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Council Capers



Well, the Fall colors are almost gone, but the media have already put color into their news on the city and county budgets. Yep, you'll be hearing and seeing a lot of top stories and front page headlines on the Mayor's \$86.6 million proposed budget.

Also, you may recall a June article in the Wisconsin State Journal about the Madison School Board adopting a \$96.3 million budget. About 52% of each of our Madison tax bills goes to the Madison Metropolitan School District. The actual expenses for 1985 are expected to increase by 8.4% from 1984 with an increase in the tax levy of 5.9%.

Mayor Sensenbrenner's proposed budget increases the actual expenses by 2% from last year, with an increase in the tax levy of 4.4%. Some items he has recommended are summarized below. **NOW** is the time to contact me at 266-4071, or Mayor Sensenbrenner at 266-4611, on your suggestions, preferences or for more information. You can be most effective if we hear from you soon. **TLNA** had a representative speak at the common council's open hearing on the budget last week. That participation is what democracy is all about!

Fire: Reduction in firefighter overtime may require temporary closing of stations until June when the new 15 firefighters graduate. (Although other persons besides Chief Durkin do not believe the station closings are necessary if the department were better managed). To that end, the Mayor will approve all hiring and promotion of commissioned personnel in 1985 and a committee will study the eight-hour work day for firefighters (rather than paying them for sleeping at the station).

Social Services: Decrease in budget of about \$160,000 due to program efficiencies by the new director, including voluntary employment services.

Civic Center: In 1984 the city budgeted \$902,360 for the civic center operations. The Mayor is proposing \$875,000.

Wrzeski explains budget, announces retirement

WANTED: Mature, enthusiastic person with excellent listening skills any time, day or night; ability to work well with a whole variety of persons, particularly, egomaniac politicians; acceptance of \$250./month for approximately 40 hours/week; acknowledgement of the significance of participatory democracy and the freedom it allows for all citizens within the law.

By now you've guessed that your alderperson for the past five years is not seeking re-election, right? Being on the common council is an incredibly growing and rewarding job--why not think about running?

Call the city clerk's office (266-4601) for details.

Pam Wrzeski

Library under the knife

Madison has been called the "Athens of the Midwest", and now is the time to prove it.

The last several years have seen an increasingly beleaguered library and staff attempting to cope with severe cutbacks. The library board has chosen to disregard citizen objections and has cut services generally. As a city we have all suffered because of it.

Recent suggestions of the Library Board and the mayor's office seem to anticipate a new round of cuts.

At this point with morale of the staff at a record low and with some of the City Council calling for city control, what can be done to aid the library?

To paraphrase the mayor's comments at recent budget hearings, residents must make their views known to their alderpersons, city departments and the mayor's office throughout the budget process. Unrelenting pressure should be brought to bear on this issue.

Richard Linster



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