

CENTER CITY[©]

VOLUME II, NUMBER 23
JUNE 12, 1975

Fireflies at Twilight: More People Projects

"A Mid-Summer Night's Carnival" is the next major event scheduled for downtown Memphis. The carnival follows Memphis' first Waterfront Fair, which drew thousands downtown during the final week of the Memphis in May Festival.

The carnival will be produced by Memphis puppeteer Jim Crosthwait, and co-sponsored by Union Planters National Bank and the Downtown Council. Featured event will be a June 21 parade themed by Crosthwait as "The Stuff That Dreams Are Made Of."

Beginning at 4 p.m., a procession of people in homemade costumes will move south on Second and Jefferson, then west to Confederate Park. Groups will include representatives of Chucalissa Indian Village, Shriners on floats of their own design, children with kazoos and harmonicas, a mule-drawn wagon bearing bluegrass and ragtime musicians, plus baby elephants, ponies, goats, and baton twirlers.

According to Crosthwait, "Participants will be guided only by the limits of their imaginations, and imagination will be what makes the parade work."

At Confederate Park following the parade will be performances by about 15 musical groups, the Circuit Playhouse and the Red Balloon Players with a flat-bed truck as their stage. And, with the setting sun for his light source, Crosthwait will do

a shadow puppet show paralleling the history of Memphis on the Mississippi with that of its namesake, Memphis of the Nile.

Crosthwait conceives this carnival celebrating the beginning of summer as an open invitation to community participation.

Beginning in May, he scheduled a series of workshops in city parks to help interested organizations and individuals in designing and building their own costumes and floats. The final workshop will be June 14 from noon to 6 p.m. in the Overton Park pavilion.

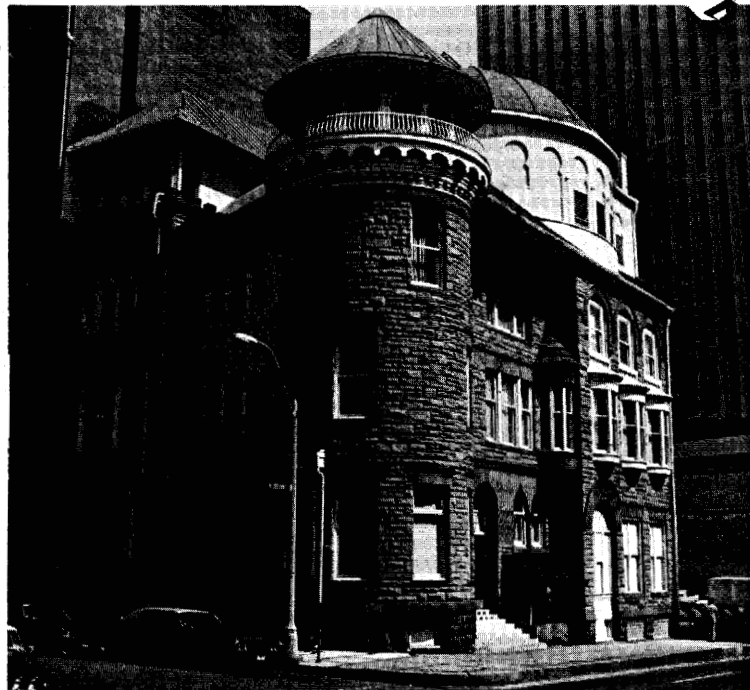
Crosthwait's background includes a year with the Chicago Free Street Theatre and performances at the Mid-South Fair. He emceed the 1968 Memphis Country Blues Festival, and plays the washboard with "Crawdad," a local bluegrass band. Recently, he provided the "scenery" for the Jackson Symphony Orchestra performance of Stravinsky's "Firebird," in the form of a shadow puppet theatre illuminated by rear-projected slides.

CENTER CITY has been allocated \$10 a week for paying writers whose articles are selected for publication.

If you are interested call or write: CENTER CITY, 166 Poplar, 38103; 525-5619. All articles for-pay-only must be designated as "Free-Lance" or they will be considered donated material.



I. II.



Exploring Downtown

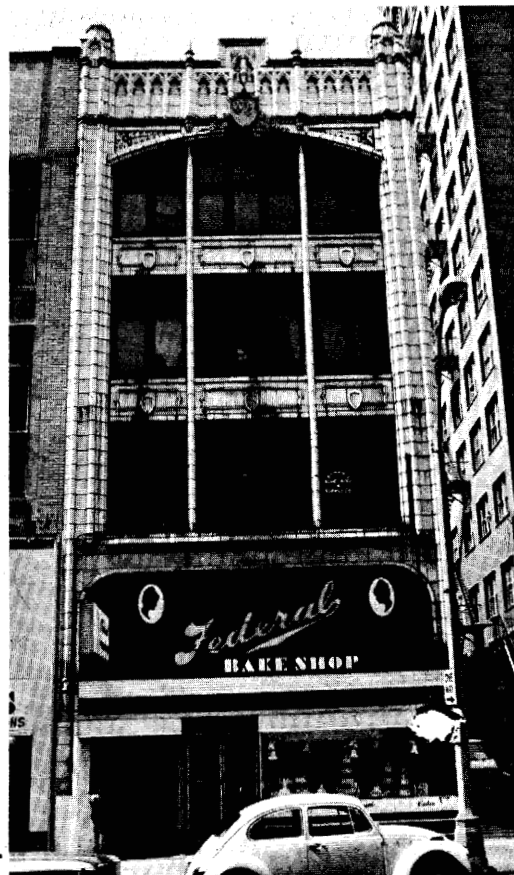
CENTER CITY will reward the first three persons correctly identifying these buildings by street address. The first will receive five free lunches at First Presbyterian Church's CCCCC; the second, three free lunches; and the third, one free lunch. All entries must be submitted

by postcard. Winners will be ranked by postmark, and in case of ties there will be a drawing. The deadline for entries is June 27.

Remember, these buildings are located within the boundaries of Exchange and Linden, Front and Danny Thomas.



III. IV.



HISTORY—THE STORY OF AFFLUENCE?

Since the mid 1960's Dr. William R. Ferris has photographed numerous aspects of the folk heritage of the South. Together with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the Smithsonian Institute, he developed a 14 panel exhibit that focuses on the folk architecture of his home state, Mississippi. The exhibit, a study representing the spectrum of folk architecture from various parts of the state — including everything from homes, barns and outbuildings to churches and stores— is now on display at City Hall and will be there throughout the month of June.

FOLK ARCHITECTURE

Perhaps as a prelude to visiting the exhibit one should ask William Ferris: Why should I care about old country shacks anyway — what's to be seen in them?

Folk architecture is the study of traditional structures which are built by craftsmen with no formal training in architecture. Their skills are passed on from generation to generation, and basic designs of buildings and tools used in their construction vary little. Folk structures remain conservative and functional in their design, and changes occur only when necessitated by factors such as weather and building materials. . . .

Americans are much more anxious to preserve affluent architecture than that of the folk. Colonial homes in the East and ante-bellum homes in the South have been restored and furnished, while folk structures are either destroyed or allowed to rot. Mostly homes of the wealthy which were designed by formally-trained architects have been accepted as part of our American heritage. Ironically, it is folk architecture which is the oldest and most permanent part of our culture. —*Wm. Ferris*



Photograph by Bill Ferris: A "dog trot" house near Hickory Flat, Mississippi. "Two blocks, of two rooms each, one room behind another. Between these blocks a hallway, floored and roofed, wide open both at front and rear." —James Agee, Let Us Now Praise Famous Men

Dr. Ferris, a native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, is Assistant Professor in Afro-American and American Studies at Yale University and is Co-director of the Center for Southern Folklore which is located in Memphis.

earthy delights

words
swords

DOWNTOWN EXHIBITS

First National Bank (Lobby)

June—paintings by Richard Knowles*

City Hall

June—Smithsonian Exhibit of Mississippi

Folk Architecture*

Sterick Building (Lobby)

June—paintings by Mrs. Terry Pera*

FILM

Peabody Library

June 13—"Of Human Bondage"—7:15 p.m.*

Brooks Art Gallery

June 15—"The Last Hurrah"—2:30 p.m.*

THEATRE

Circuit Playhouse

June 5-July 6 (Friday thru Sunday)—

"Veronica's Room"—8:30 p.m.

Circuit Playhouse II

June 13-July 12 (Friday and Saturday)—

"The Firebugs"—8:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Overton Park Shell

June 17—"That's Show Biz"—Jane

Bischoff Dancers—8:15 p.m.

June 19—"WMPS Presents Concert in the
Park"

*Free

LOVE POEMS FOR THE MALADROIT

V. *Walking down the street
minding my own
city zany rushes from a doorway
stabs me twenty times
in the heart*

p. waters

CIVIC CENTER COMMUNITY CULINARY CLUB

Serving from 11:30 to 1:00

First Presbyterian Church, 166 Poplar Avenue

PRICE: \$1.50 per serving, including drink

MENU FOR JUNE 12-20

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

Ham, Macaroni-Cheese, Turnip Greens, Corn Bread

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

Chili-Mac, Three-Bean Salad, French Bread, Ice Cream

MONDAY, JUNE 16

Salmon Croquettes, Hash Brown Potatoes, Tossed Salad, Rolls

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

Roast Beef, Whipped Potatoes, English Peas, Rolls

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

Spaghetti, Cole Slaw, French Bread

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Fried Chicken, Rice w/gravy, Squash or Green Beans, Rolls

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

*Barbeque Beef/Bun, Baked Beans, Pineapple/Cottage Cheese &
Salad*



166 Poplar

Memphis, Tenn. 38103

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