

# M Center City<sup>®</sup>

VOLUME II, NUMBER 28  
JULY 17, 1975

## A Raft, A Craft & People

by Janet Woolwine

It takes a lot of commitment to float more than 1100 miles on a homemade raft, playing to audiences in some 24 towns and prisons along the Mississippi, but fortunately for the people of Memphis and Waterproof, Louisiana, alike, the 10 members of Otrabanda Company are committed to their raft, their craft, and their people.

Saturday night in Jefferson Davis Park, the company presented its River Raft Revue to an agreeably receptive audience who giggled, clapped and cheered its way through a dizzying performance. Made up of comedy skits, pantomime, juggling, magic and music, the fast-paced revue had all the bally-hoo of a modern day Chautauqua show, plus the shaving cream of slapstick, the soft shoe of vaudeville, the frantic choreography of the Keystone Cops, and the darnedest assortment of Malaysian and Chinese lions and beasties you ever saw!

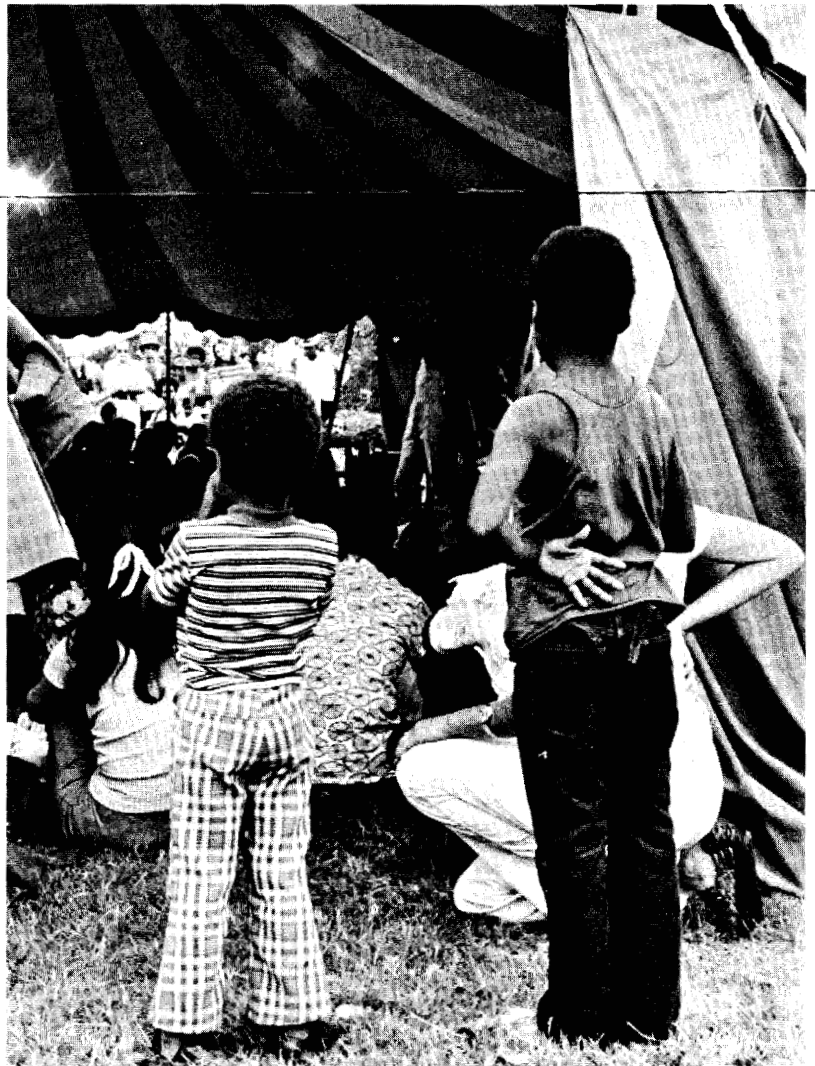
Members of Otrabanda do a little of everything, from playing a flute, clarinet, or Balinese gamelon, to swallowing razor blades, to taking down the cheerful red



and yellow circus tent at the end of the performance. They're friendly, boundlessly energetic, and above all, dedicated to their river and its people. Formed in 1971, the group is in its third year of bringing free theatrical variety shows to those who might otherwise not have access to this entertainment. Rather than resting on their laurels or the nearest pier, though, their next ambition is to be able to go up river, as well as down, probably by means of an old-fashioned steamboat. If and when this goal is realized, they will have taken a giant step toward reviving the lost tradition of the traveling river shows.

Wherever and however they go, they will be well and warmly received, welcomed by people who need, just for a minute, to let go and laugh unabashedly at their own quirks and foibles. The healing ways of laughter will go with Otrabanda as long as there are families picnicking in the twilight, and as long as there are fat little girls in muslin ballerina dresses, holding a hot dog in one hand and the future in the other.

Go safely, friends. Come back soon.





**DON'T FORGET VANCE STREET! DISCOVER DOWNTOWN!**

*SUNDOWN*

*Nose deep in the fragrant grass I lie,  
An ant climbs a blade near my startled eye,  
A drowsy bee nuzzles the clover nearby,  
And peaceful is my heart.*

*I'm a part of the vagrant evening breeze  
That skips o'er the meadow and hides in the  
trees  
'Til the whisp'ring twilight gives it release,  
And peaceful is my heart.*

*I'm the tiniest quill in the robin's wing,  
I'm a leafy fern where the crickets sing,  
I'm a part of every living thing,  
And peaceful is my heart.*

*Nell Gardner*

words  
swords

**SPACE MOBILE**

The Department of Youth Services is sponsoring the NASA Space Mobile on Friday, July 25, 11 AM and 3 PM in the Pent House of City Hall. There will be a lecture and demonstration by Mr. Jim Tillery, an experienced space science educator and specialist on the operations of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

*The*  
**IDEA BANK**

Soon to appear in CENTER CITY will be a new feature called "The Idea Bank." Readers are asked to share their good ideas about the downtown community with their co-readers.

So take those dream projects from beneath the pillow and deposit them in our idea clearing house. Put those ideas into writing—limiting the verbiage to no more than one typed page, double-spaced—and maybe someone will bring them to fruition. As we collect enough schemes and fancies for a full column or page, we will periodically print them, recording good thoughts for safe keeping and forever acknowledging their originators.

# earthly delights

## DOWNTOWN EXHIBITS

### National Bank of Commerce (Lobby)

July—"The Freedom Shrine"—Downtown Exchange Club collection of historical documents\*

### First National Bank (Lobby)

July—paintings and drawings by Norman Lodes

### Sterick Building (Lobby)

July—paintings by Miss Jewell Ritch

## FILM

### Peabody Library

July 25—"Great Radio Comedians"—7:15 p.m.

## ACTIVITIES

### Overton Park Shell

July 22—Memphis Federation of Musicians—8:15 p.m.

July 24—"Mid-South Arts & Crafts Show"—1:00 p.m.

## AN EVENING WITH PHYLLIS DILLER

Women's Resources Center of Memphis will sponsor an evening with Miss Phyllis Diller at the Airport Hilton on Monday, July 28, 1975, 7:00 till 11:00 P.M. For further information call 272-1481.

## DOES MONEY TALK?

CENTER CITY will pay up to \$10 for articles selected for publication. Persons unable to donate their time and work can now be compensated for their articles, poems or fictional material (unrelated to their regular employment). However, we have only ten dollars a week to be distributed according to the quality, interest and magnitude of accepted works.

If you are interested write to CENTER CITY, 166 Poplar, 38103. All articles for-pay-only must be designated as "free-lance" or they will be considered donated material. "Free-lance" material which cannot be paid for will not be printed, and will be returned, provided a stamped self-addressed envelope is sent with the entry.

## 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 JULY 17-JULY 25

#### THURSDAY, JULY 17

*Fried Chicken, Rice/Gravy, Apple Sauce, Rolls*

#### FRIDAY, JULY 18

*Meat Loaf, Whipped Potatoes, Fruit Salad, Rolls*

#### MONDAY, JULY 21

*Steak w/onion gravy, Green beans, Buttered carrots, Rolls*

#### TUESDAY, JULY 22

*Turkey-Dressing, English Peas, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls*

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

*Spaghetti, Cole Slaw, Rolls*

#### THURSDAY, JULY 24

*Ham, Macaroni-Cheese, Turnip Greens, Corn Bread*

#### FRIDAY, JULY 25

*Chili-Mac, Three-Bean Salad, Crackers*



166 Poplar  
Memphis, Tenn. 38103

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