

M Center City ©

VOLUME II, NUMBER 30
JULY 30, 1975

GO FISH

by
Janet Woolwine

One of the most popular games known to the "8-and-overs" is Go Fish. And, in the way of many other things, the fascination doesn't necessarily stop with that age – or that kind of fish!

Drive to the northwest corner of Mud Island, almost any day, and you'll find Memphis' finest, going at it rod and pole. Though it's only minutes from the downtown bustle, once you're behind the sparse growth of willow and poplar trees, the rocks and white sand beach could be anywhere from North Carolina to New England. (If you forget, though, passing barges of farm equipment or grain make it uniquely the Mississippi.) The river backs up east into a slough there, and the water is as quiet as the river is swift, making it good for either trot lines or line fishing.

Sunday morning, 7:30-ish, the fishing was already well underway. One family had been there since Friday, and the smell of their fire hung over the scarlet sumac vines. Dog tracks made a crazy pattern in the sand, and smaller prints (a raccoon?) marched purposefully to and from the water. A toddler in sneakers had stomped by, and someone wearing only left shoes. (Regrettably, the beach had also appealed to a group with an appalling appetite for grape soda and watermelon.) The sun had been up long enough to begin burning the haze off the water, but in the shade of the bank, the breeze was still cool.

Using sparkplugs for sinkers to counteract the river's current, Mud Island fishermen rely on a variety of baits to attract bream, crappie, buffalo

and, naturally, catfish. One portly gentleman, of the worm persuasion, seemed to be the most successful that morning. He hauled in a four pound plus buffalo, rebaited the hook, and sank the handle deep into the damp sand. There were six other rods just like it, each with its tiny cowbell at the tip of the rod. It boggles the mind to think what the commotion would be if a whole school struck at once. His biggest catch was a 21 pound catfish that was somewhere around three feet long. (For a novice fisherman, it's hard to imagine doing anything but apologizing to a fish that size!) Another man, with amazing modesty, told of having caught a 14 pound catfish, so apparently there are some very worthwhile fish over there.

The company was pleasant; the remoteness, surprising. Whether you're looking for sport, or just a super place to get away and think for a while, if you've never tried it, head for Mud Island.

Go fish!



From where I stand...

ON DISCOVERING MUD ISLAND

by
David Bowman

Last Saturday I explored Mud Island with a friend and his Jeep. We discovered that Memphis already has a great park there. I can't understand why a \$23 million public expenditure is needed to make it into VOLUNTEER PARK.

You reach Mud Island by following North Second up to its end, about two miles north of the Civic Center, then bear left along the causeway that cuts off the old Wolf River channel. A quarter mile later you're astonished by a million-dollar view of the Mississippi. The City has just built a small parking area and a rough-cast concrete lookout platform. This point is probably the intended end-of-the-line for auto traffic, but now you can continue south on a dirt road which meanders three miles down to the tip of the island opposite Beale. The road is okay; you don't need a Jeep.

The road follows the spine of the island. At times the river disappears behind willows and cottonwoods and re-appears just as suddenly. Doves fly up from the high grass. The road dips into a dense willow copse and curves out underneath the new bridge.

If you go east along the bridge piers you come to the asphalt landing strip from the island's abandoned airfield. If you drive down the landing strip to its south end, you can pick up another dirt road down to the tip. People at Tom Lee Park point and wave at you. They seem surprised to see you there.

The best way to appreciate the riverbluffs downtown is to look up at them from Mud Island. From that perspective it becomes clear why we need to remove the parking lots and clean up the riverfront for public uses.

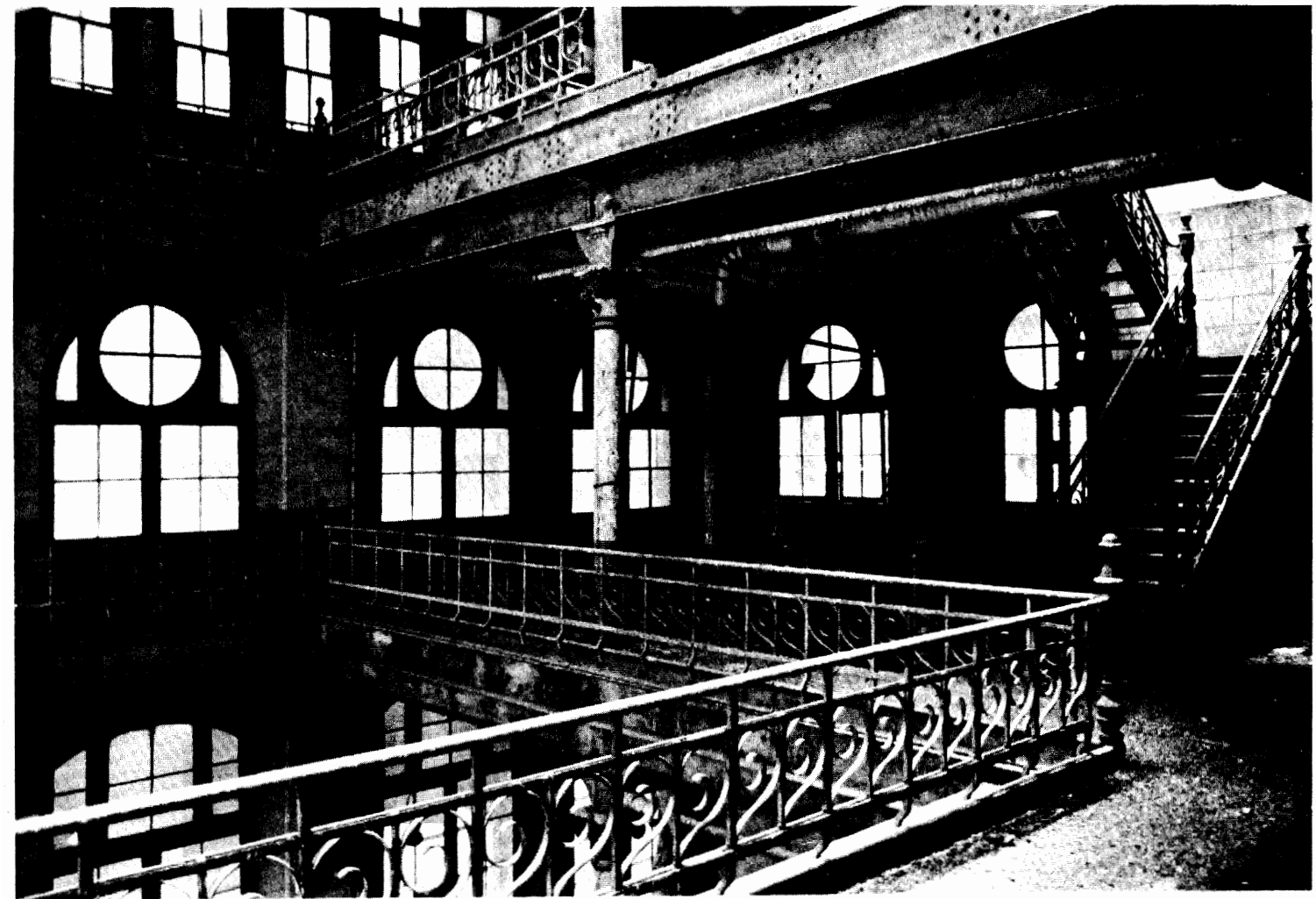
The Park Commission has already improved the island by putting in picnic tables with all-weather

bases underneath them. With a moderate expenditure there could be a footbridge from the Civic Center, walking trails, and other recreational features. Mud Island may also be the best site for bicycling in the city. It might also be a good place for small herds of grazing animals fenced in at the upper end of the island. Even the nine abandoned barges at the south end of the causeway could be floated out at high water, patched up, and recycled into new riverside uses!

Why do we need to wait for large expenditures to be lavished on the place? (The original Marcou, O'Leary Associates Plan suggested a \$10 million price tag, but the figure heard most now is \$23 million.) Let's not clunk it up with concrete or carve up its sides into rigid unnatural angles. The model for Volunteer Park suggests there will be as much earthmoving and concreting as went into Sardis Dam!

We ought to let Mud Island be what it is now—a fine river island with willows and cottonwoods, cattails and sedge, swallowtails and monarchs, doves and redwing blackbirds.

Inside the Tennessee Brewery



earthly delights

DOWNTOWN EXHIBITS

First National Bank (Lobby)

August—Paintings by Valerie Morgan Berlin*

National Bank of Commerce (Lobby)

August—"The Magnificent West: An American Heritage"—Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibit*

FILM

Center Film Society

August 1—"Sundays and Cybele"—UT Student Alumni Auditorium — 7:30 p.m.

Lyceum Film Theatre

August 5—"The Lion in Winter"—First National Bank Auditorium — 7:30 p.m.

Peabody Library

August 8—"The Haunted Castle"—7:30 p.m.*

THEATRE

Circuit Playhouse

Through August 17—"Moon On A Rainbow Shawl"—Friday through Sunday—8:30 p.m.

Circuit Playhouse

Through August 12—"The Imaginary Invalid"—Friday and Saturday—8:30 p.m.

Memphis State Speech and Drama

Through August 9—"The Roar of the Grease-paint, The Smell of the Crowd"—8:00 p.m.

DOWNTOWN ACTIVITIES

Confederate Park

August 1—"Glider"—Noon concert*

*Free

words
swords

*He pounds nails for a small-time 'preneur;
She'll politely beg your favor.
The salt drawn from his brow blinds his eyes;
She scrapes and bows
to indifferently take
Coins discretely dropped on the table.
The sun falls on her 5:30 bus;
He waits with a drink to recall himself;
They pass at a quarter to six.
She turns off the lights
and picks up a book;
He dreams of a life in the country.
Gulping his milk
he rushes his car,
And sighs at the hours' fleeting—
Of purchasing face with a third of their days,
And those stolen while they were sleeping.*

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 31 - AUGUST 11

THURSDAY, JULY 31

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

Barbecue Pork/Bun, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw

MONDAY, AUGUST 4

Roast Beef, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

Salmon Croquettes, Hash Brown Potatoes, Tossed Salad, Rolls

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

Spaghetti, Cole Slaw, Rolls

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

Ham, Potato Salad, Stewed Tomatoes, Rolls

MONDAY, AUGUST 11

Chopped Steak, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls



166 Poplar
Memphis, Tenn. 38103

Second-class
postage paid at
Memphis, Tennessee