

center ©
city

VOLUME II, NUMBER 3

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

JANUARY 22, 1975

Citizen Comments

A Letter to the Editor by Elinor B. Bridges

TV newscasters have reported the quandary of our city fathers as they debate uses for the Crump Building on North Main Street, a recent acquisition of the people of Memphis. One day it is to be used as supplementary offices for city agencies. We need a justice complex; while we are waiting perhaps the Crump Building could be used to house the overflow. But we know where action without planning will ultimately lead. Quick! Before they can move in with the cranes and balls to batter down another remainder from our past, let's offer them a plan. While we are at it, let's make a few plans to use many of those vacant Main Street Buildings which confront us with the blankness of a blind face. Let's start using Main Street, now!

Frankly, I am alarmed as I read of the grandiose schemes for rejuvenating downtown and proposed appropriations running into millions. Not one of those plans really makes use of what Memphis already has, and none of them captures the real flavor of Memphis which [we] older, and some not so old, Memphians remember and would like to recapture.

There is a way to keep a portion of this invaluable flavor and the expenditure could be nominal. Imagination could be the yeast, and community interest could be the agency to effect restoration. Here are a few suggestions for the optimum use of vacant buildings on Main Street, but let's begin at 110 Adams.

1. Keep the Crump Building. Make it a museum of Crump memorabilia of which there must still be literally thousands of bits and pieces floating around Memphis. Let's assemble them all in one place. Whether or not you admired Mr. Crump, he was a unique individual, part of a vanishing political breed, and he loved Memphis and Memphians. Let's preserve everything we have and know of Mr. Crump. He was a historical personage. His like will never appear again.

2. Main Street Memphis was the birthplace of that peculiarly American institution, the supermarket, which is such a great idea that it is developing world-wide. Let's capitalize on its beginning here by restoring an exact replica of Clarence Saunders' first self service store. If the Supermarket Institute could erect his original store at their convention in Cleveland, Ohio in 1967, we certainly have the information and know how to do it in Memphis in 1975. We must have that authentic 1916 flavor: wood floors, wood rails to separate the sections, a wood table to hold the adding machine for customer checkouts, wood turnstiles for entering and leaving, wood shelves to hold the cans and packaged goods, and wood-slat market baskets to hang over the arm and fill with purchases, keeping the store stocked with goods and actually selling them. Clarence Saunders was a great Memphis character of his time and he had an original idea which has done much to change our lives. Let's put his store back in operation on Memphis' Main Street.

3. Cotton is inextricably woven into Memphis life today and it was the most important part of its

Exploring Downtown

1.



These are an artist's renderings of how certain downtown buildings could, and should appear if proper emphasis were placed on simplicity and integrity in their maintenance.

CENTER CITY will reward the first three persons correctly identifying these buildings by street address, but entries must be sent by postcard. The first will receive five free lunches at First Presbyterian Church's CCCCC; the second, three free lunches; and the third, one free lunch. Winners will be ranked by postmark, and in case of ties there will be a drawing.

Remember these buildings will often be camouflaged by distracting signs and misguided renovations, but they do exist within the boundaries of Exchange and Linden, Front and Danny Thomas.

"EXPLORING DOWNTOWN"
c/o CENTER CITY
First Presbyterian Church
166 Poplar
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

CITIZEN COMMENTS/ELINOR B. BRIDGES

commercial past. Let's use another building as a cotton museum with everything from a spinning wheel, a hand-carding machine, a loom, etc., to a man at work pulling swatches and classing them. A movie should be made dealing with the history of cotton, the cotton industry past and present, the cotton carnival, you name it! There should be extensive displays: cotton cloth, cotton products, everything from a canvas tent and tarpaulins to the sheerest cotton organdie dress fabric.

4. Music is part of Memphis history from the earliest days to now. Let's set aside a music building and have attendants and the sound of Memphis music emanating from this building and ringing down our Main Street. It is possible to reproduce original W. C. Handy as well as every other music great who ever lived in Memphis. People would even be fascinated by a recording of banjo players on a riverboat, the background singing of the stevedores we once had, and ending with sounds of a paddle-wheel steamer in motion, a steamboat whistle, then picking up on an old steam calliope as it is heard coming back from a boat moving down the river. Recent Memphis music and its story are just as interesting. Let's start preserving it! Better yet, let's play it right here in Memphis!

5. Finally there needs to be a confectionery store. There should be a candy counter with horehound drops, lemon drops, striped peppermint sticks, etc. There should be a cookie and bakery counter with authentic, old-type butter cookies and genuine pound cake. There must be an ice cream counter with real ice cream made with cream and milk, eggs, and sugar and vanilla,

actually made with a hand-cranked freezer. Tourist's orders could be taken and the products sent to people all over our country. Or, we could even specialize on Memphis fruit cake made with watermelon rind preserves, pecans, etc., and aged in bourbon.

Memphis industries would probably contribute both materials and labor to make these restorations if they felt the project belonged to the people of Memphis. The restoration process must not be placed in the hands of outside developers. The West Tennessee Historical Society and the Society for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities could supervise. Private individuals who own some historically valuable keepsakes should be encouraged to donate them. The project could obtain the widest newspaper coverage possible and enlist the aid of every radio and TV station in town.

Then, when the whole thing is really ready to go, let the Junior League, Le Bonheur, and Les Passees (to name only a few) groups provide volunteers to operate these businesses and keep the profits to operate their charities and worthwhile undertakings. The only way you can possibly restore civic pride in our people is to let them have a hand in doing civic things. As we are now doing things, the people do not feel that it is theirs. They have to be a part of the action. Otherwise, they will stand by and let it fail.

Let's make it possible for all of us to "love Memphis again." The more people enlisted in the activities, the more great ideas we will receive and the better the development will be—and maybe the act of creation will begin bringing our people downtown again!

Due to an expansion program currently underway at the First Presbyterian Kindergarten and Day Care Center, there are openings available for pre-school children, ages 3-5 for full-day (8-5) care.

<p>COST Weekly payments are based upon a sliding scale furnished by the State Department of Welfare. Consideration is given for special circumstances. More than one child from the same family pays only 50% of the basic rate. The maximum is \$18/week for one child (Less than 37¢/hr.)</p>	<p>STAFF Mrs. Margaret Griffin, Director Miss Paula Garrett, Teacher David R. Freeman, Pastor Jerry M. Evans, Bus. Manager</p>
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Dear Mrs. Griffin:

Please call me with further information. Phone _____

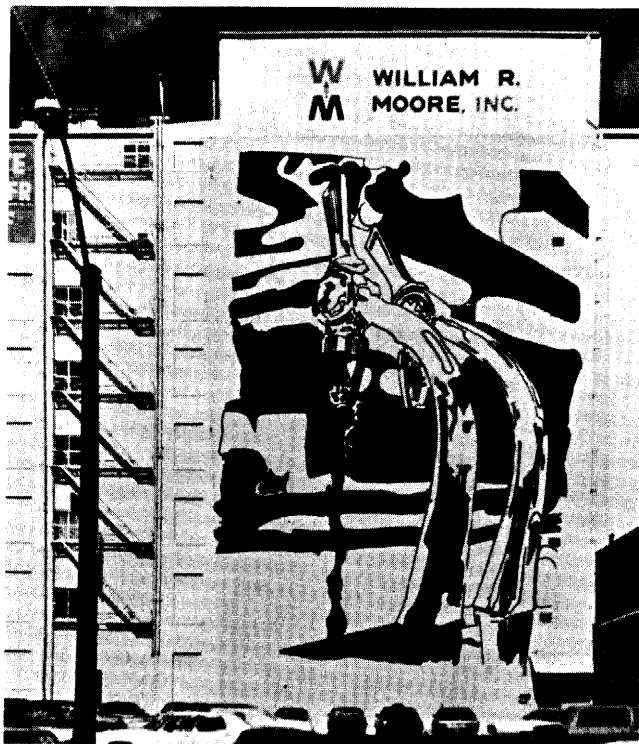
I would like to visit Date _____

Children: Name _____ Age _____ Name _____ Age _____

Parent's Name _____ Address _____

I know a friend who might be interested

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____



DOWNTOWN WALL ART—The above is the winning design for the Wm. R. Moore Building done by Tim Higgins.

MEMPHIS FILM SERIES

Lyceum Film Theatre

January 28—"The Collector"

UT—Center Film Society

January 31—"Citizen Kane"

Brooks Art Gallery

February 2—"Blue Angel"

Center City

First Presbyterian Church
166 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Ms. Joyce Hulme
169 Roberta Dr.
Memphis, Tenn. 38112

Announcements

"Faith Unlimited" is a girls sextet from Greenville College, Greenville, Illinois. Between semesters they are traveling some 3,500 miles performing for groups throughout the East and Southeast. They will be featured at the Civic Center Community Culinary Club on Tuesday, January 28, as well as the family night supper of First Presbyterian Church, on Monday night January 27.

The group includes two Music Education majors, two Art Education majors, and one major in Nursing.

All are invited to hear them perform at First Presbyterian Church, Poplar at Third.

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 JANUARY 23 – JANUARY 31

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

Fried Chicken, Rice and Gravy, Squash, Rolls

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

Meat Loaf, Potatoes Au gratin, Lima Beans, Rolls

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

Country-fried Steak, Blackeyed Peas, Creamed Corn, Corn Bread

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

Oven-baked Chicken, Rice & Gravy, Peas & Carrots, Rolls

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

Spaghetti, Cole Slaw, French Bread

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

Corned Beef, Scalloped Cabbage, Buttered Potatoes, Corn Bread

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

Beef Stew, Tossed Salad, Corn Bread

*Second-class
postage paid at
Memphis, Tennessee*