

Mid-City Center

VOLUME II, NUMBER 43
OCTOBER 30, 1975

“COLOR IT MEMPHIS” FOR WKNO

by
Kay F. Myracle

“COLOR IT MEMPHIS,” a pictorial history of Memphis in coloring-book form, is now on sale at various locations around Memphis to help produce additional funds for the operation of WKNO. Described as “an educational experience,” “COLOR IT MEMPHIS” is the latest project (and one of the most ambitious) of the Friends of WKNO, the volunteer support group of Channel 10. Each of twenty-five prominent local artists contributed a drawing of a well-known Memphis landmark or tradition to the project.

At this time of increasing interest in the Downtown redevelopment of Memphis, it is significant that of the twenty-five drawings ten are associated with Downtown Memphis. Included among these sketches are the Mississippi River, the old Cossitt Library, W. C. Handy statue in Handy Park, Calvary Episcopal Church, the Magevney House, the Hunt-Phelan home on Beale, Victorian Village, and Cotton Carnival as it once was. In addition, there is a fanciful drawing of the ducks in the fountain at the now defunct Hotel Peabody lobby; it was the landmark choice of Draper Hill, cartoonist and advisor and creator of the book’s cover. A preview sketch of the Mid-America Mall, currently in progress, was provided by Charles Shipp, architect of the Mall. Of the remaining fifteen drawings, ten belong to our “Mid-City” area. Only three

could be categorized as belonging “out-East!” What better proof could there be of the historical significance of Downtown Memphis?

Interesting and highly readable background information written by Dr. Charles W. Crawford, a Memphis State history professor and historical advisor to the project, accompanies the drawings in the book as does a succinct history of the city. Artists featured in “COLOR IT MEMPHIS” are as follows: Rick Alley, Elmer Blalack, Ellis Chappell, Sophie Coors, Roy Harrover, Connie Hendrix, Charles Inzer, Lynda Ireland, Clair Jones, J. D. Kelly, Ben Madden, Francis Mah, Carolyn Moss, Ron Pekar, Fred Rawlinson, Veda Reed, Robert Riseling, Marjorie Schwartz, Georg Shook, Dolph Smith, Geneva Stroud, Charles Tuthill, and Marvin Yates.

According to Friends’ Chairwoman Mrs. Clary Lunsford, “COLOR IT MEMPHIS” is “designed to give Memphians the opportunity to learn more about their city through visual as well as literary means, and to provide additional funds and public support for WKNO.” The 56-page publication is endorsed by the Memphis Bicentennial Commission and by the West Tennessee Historical Society. Copies of the publication, which sells for \$3.00, are now on sale at the WKNO TV studio and at the Great Expectations art gallery.

A SPECIAL MAGIC

by
Janet Woolwine

There's a special magic somehow in being out where you're not usually at night. For some people, it's a walk by the river; for others, it's watching for shooting stars from a hillside camp. Friday night, it was all downtown, concentrated in First National Bank of Memphis' Main Office Plaza at 3rd and Madison.

First National's wall of windows provided a fluorescent backdrop, and, to the east, the Sterick Building stood in blanched and pallid majesty. The Exchange Building looked as if it were frosted with pale green lichens, and a few lights burned while one last project was finished for the week-end. The structures had a put-by tranquility, suspended in time until the Monday bustle put them in motion once more.

Closer to the street, though, there was more activity than you could shake a microphone at! First National had brought the Free Street Theater to Memphis, complete with all the frills.

Chilly? It was!

Windy? It was!

But fun it was, too, and few complained of the breezes that corner is so famous for! The greasy but irresistible aroma of pronto pups slathered with mustard filtered through the crowd, punctuated by whiffs of charcoaled shish-kabob, and pop-top cans sounded off around the plaza like tiny misfired cap pistols.

It was indeed "Free", presented at no cost to the crowds who gathered for both the noon and

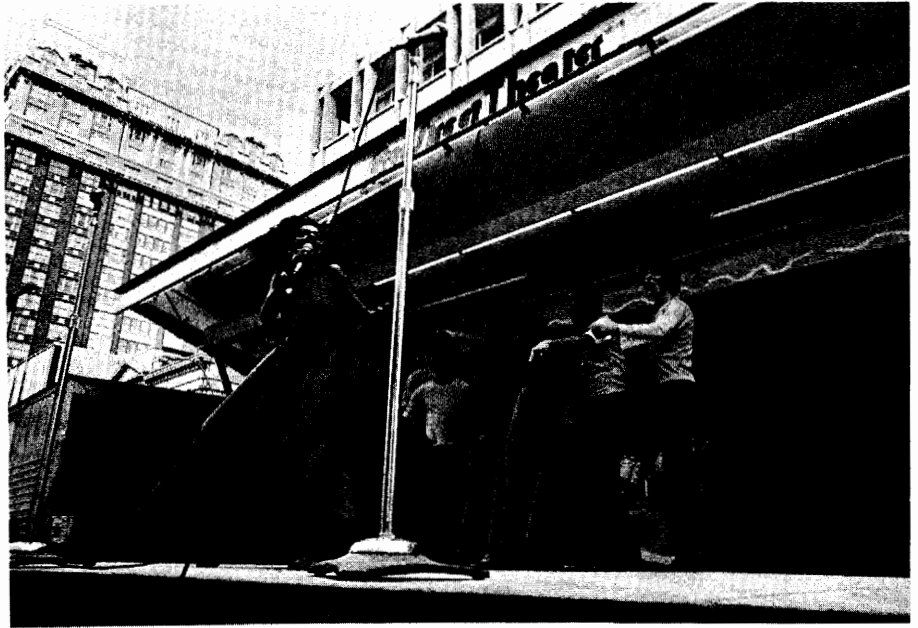


Evening shows on Friday. It was most certainly "Free", presenting ideas elemental to an individual's pursuit of happiness and achievement, whatever he perceives them to be. It was euphorically "Free", gathering together as varied a group as you'd hope to see. Pin-striped and gray-flanneled professional types, men in earrings, women in overalls (and vice versa). Beautiful People, and those not quite so blessed. Old and young, black and white were drawn to the performers and to each other alike, since there's something wonderfully unifying about agreeing on a good time, no matter what else you may disagree on.

Formed in 1969, Free Street Theater consists of 25 actors, singers, dancers, and technicians, all dedicated to one purpose — communication. Since its beginning, FST has accomplished a tour of 17 states and Europe, entertaining more than a quarter of a million people on street corners, in parks, plazas, and playgrounds. Their purpose is to act as a catalyst to creative life in the communities they visit: to strengthen existing avenues of expression and to open new ones.

That communicating got to be as much fun to watch as it was to do — whether the star was a hefty 60-ish lady who "collided" more than she Bumped, or 6-year-old Rusty McSpadden who threw himself lock, stock and woodsmen into directing the cast through their paces in "Little Red Riding Hood."

Let's hope the magic of this special place continues, and that communication and attractions can once more make downtown entertainment an all-the-time treat.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALAN COPELAND



earthy delights

DOWNTOWN EXHIBITS

First National Bank Building

October—Paintings by Carol Sims and Stella Enrich-Brownstein*

Sterick Building

October—Photographs by Stephanie Harrover*

National Bank of Commerce

October—Paintings by Clementine de Roode and Patti Bradford*

FILMS

Filmtrak

November 4—"Hearts and Minds"—Jewish Community Center—8:00 p.m.

Lyceum Film Theatre

November 4—"East of Eden"—First National Bank Auditorium—7:30 p.m.

Center Film Society

November 7—"Boys in the Band"—UT Student Activity Center Auditorium—7:30 p.m.

MUSIC

Memphis Symphony Orchestra

November 8 (8:30 p.m.) & 9 (3:00 p.m.)—violinist Lilit Gampel—Auditorium Music Hall

LECTURES-REVIEWS-DIALOGUE

The American Issues Forum

November 4—"Freedom of the Press"—discussion led by Ed Ray, Managing Editor of the *Memphis Press-Scimitar*—First National Bank Auditorium—12:14 p.m.*

November 6—"Freedom of the Press"—discussion led by Hodding Carter, III, editor and publisher of the *Delta-Democrat Times*, Greenville—Cossitt-Goodwyn Library*

Trinity Lutheran Book Reviews

November 5—Carol Coletta, Director of Promotions, Mid-America Mall, reviews The Death and Life of Great American Cities by Jane Jacobs*

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First Presbyterian Church, 166 Poplar Avenue
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MENU FOR OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 10

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

Fried Chicken, Rice & Gravy, Squash or Green Beans, Rolls

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

Ham, Black eyed Peas, Corn, Corn Bread

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Chopped Steak Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Pork Chops, Potatoes Augratin, English Peas, Rolls

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Spaghetti, Cole Slaw, French Bread

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Barbecued Chicken, Lima Beans, Apple Sauce, Rolls

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Ham, Macaroni-cheese, Turnip Greens, Corn Bread

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Steak w/onion gravy, Buttered Carrots, Whipped Potatoes, Rolls

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