



CENTER[©] CITY

VOLUME II, NUMBER 9

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

MARCH 6, 1975

Mall Progress Report

Construction on the Mid-America Mall began Monday, February 24. The east side of Main from McCall to Union is the first area underway and general traffic has been removed from that two-block stretch. Work has also started in the Civic Center in the area of the Police Parking Garage. Parking will be removed from the top deck and the level raised to correspond to surrounding plaza levels.

Construction of the entire 10-block mall is expected to take 20 months. However, the shopping district between Adams and McCall will be re-

paved prior to the Christmas shopping season next year.

Offices of Rush Engineers, the general contractor for the Mall, are on North Court Avenue adjacent to Court Square. The wood fence around the northern half of the park is to protect materials and machinery stored there during the course of construction. Rebuilding of Court Square will be one of the last phases in the construction sequence.

—Charles Shipp
Mall Co-ordinator

*The Court Square Wall —
not a sound from the
bandstand.*



Photograph by Alan Copeland



Above: Mount Mid-America

Right: The way we were — dull.

mall fotobook



DARWINISM IN MEMPHIS

WEEKLY PUBLIC LEDGER — APRIL 28, 1874

The Darwinian theory as to the connecting link between the different orders of animals so as to make a clear sweep up to humanity via the monkey, has even believers in Memphis. Yesterday a police officer arrested an old French monte-bank or traveling troubadour, who with a dog and monkey gave exhibitions on the streets. The monkey — or gentleman from South America — did most wonderful things, and in a Christian manner; indeed, he had a most intelligent countenance, even more so that many of those who grouped around him. The monkey had been taught the manual of arms and rode like a calvaryman, using both saber and carbine in the latest and best style of art. He loaded and fired his toy gun, it having in it a small charge of powder. The police officer arrested the monkey for "shooting within the corporation," and arrested the old Frenchman as being an "aider and abetter in the act." On carrying them to the station-house Chief Athy promptly discharged both prisoners and reprimanded the over-zealous officer, whose ideas of municipal law were drawn too fine for practical use. But being a Darwinian, he believed the monkey to be a responsible being and responsible for all breaches of municipal law, liable to be arrested for any misdeamenaor or felony committed, and one who could sue and be sued in any law or chancery court in Tennessee.

Believing a little in the Darwinian philosophy, and even more in the philosophy of Pythagoras, which teaches the transmigration of souls, our

Does Money Talk?

CENTER CITY has been allocated \$10 a week for paying writers whose articles are selected for publication. The ten dollars will be divided up according to the quality, interest and magnitude of accepted works. This means that persons who are unable to donate their time and material, and who submit acceptable articles, poems or fictional material (unrelated to their regular employment) will be awarded for their work.

In addition, each week CENTER CITY will give TWO FREE LUNCHES in the Community Culinary Club at First Presbyterian Church (paid for by CENTER CITY) for the best humorous story submitted for publication.

CENTER CITY does not have unlimited resources, but it understands that for continuously good and diverse material many persons need an extra incentive. Hopefully, this experimental policy will help in stimulating contributors to become involved in their downtown community.

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. "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.

Ledger Liner informs the philosophic police officer that the times are out of joint: the people are too uneducated at present for the comprehension of these advanced principles of nature, and advises him that he will have to wait a few years before the monkey will be made amenable to the laws and before he can claim the rights of citizenship or the right to vote. It is no argument in favor of such a right that other human beings of even less intelligence enjoy all these privileges. No Sumner is yet born who will advocate a civil rights bill for these little human waifs cast off by their fellowmen. The policeman had read Gulliver's Travels to

Lilliputia, and had a knowledge of little mortals whose existence is doubted by untaught and ignorant people. The monkey race no doubt built the mounds in the Mississippi Valley, and are the pre-Adamic inhabitants of this continent. They were driven out of the country by the way of Mexico and Central America into South America by a more powerful race, but they wisely keep their mouths shut about the tradition and retain their ancient language, which is not as musical as modern lingos, but which, nevertheless, answers every purpose either for conversational or operative uses.

A Nichel's Worth from the Editor

Bicentennial (March 1975 – December 1976)

Tax Discount: the Lollipop before the Medicine

Round and round: another century as a nation, another income tax deadline. Maybe what bicentennial really means is that for the next two years one can speak of revolution as a patriot, rather than as the subject of an FBI investigation.

Whether one likes it or not, this country is in the midst of a revolution—a significant adaptation of our way of life, particularly its public aspects. Now this is not necessarily a doomsday outlook; it's likely that most people will directly benefit from the consequences. As the President has said, the challenge alone might foster a current of fresh air.

What constructive suggestions are citizens offering as solutions to this challenge? Any solution must eventually have the consent of citizens; but for the moment there is little citizen initiative beyond the traditional yipe and whimpers: "taxation without representation": "don't spend our money!" Yet at the same time the cry is still: "why doesn't the government do something?"

Agreed, we see less and less from our tax money. The federal government claims priority over the biggest portion of it, justifying its authority on the assumption that it is the sole moral arbiter and guide to the good life in this country. The states and cities have been reduced to begging for year-by-year handouts and to dependence on regressive tax methods. But one must admit that in the past local and state governments haven't

displayed an overwhelming eagerness, nor an adeptness in dealing with broad needs, like public welfare and the quality of life. The federal government can intimidate the average Joe with its mighty effective tax collection mechanism—most would not pay otherwise; but unfortunately, too many know that parking tickets needn't be paid, and that the screams of citizens over spending, and the pressures of large land owners concerning tax rates will cower local officials.

Our public policies are going to change; the quicker that is conceded the faster solutions will come. Memphis has an election this year, and there's a national election next year. It's about time citizens demanded programs from would-be public servants. Any politician who feeds the public with phrases like "less taxes" or "less government" is either a fool or a demagogue, if not both. One way or another we will have to pay more for a healthy society, especially where city affairs are concerned. Sure, we could do with less federal inefficiency and manipulation, but only if average citizens, public officials and big business simultaneously exhibit a sincere and judicious responsibility for the well-being of the entire community. However, at present it looks like continued bickering and recriminations, for the prevailing attitudes toward society, government and business appear stale and deficient: the dogma "every man for himself" remains the insufferable tyrant.

