

# Center City

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MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

AUGUST 21, 1974

## Legal Services Looks at the Elderly Dilemma

*by Sally Hunt*

The Memphis and Shelby County Legal Services Association, under the direction of Attorney A. C. Wharton, has been in existence in Memphis for more than five years. With a staff of fifteen attorneys, six paraprofessionals and ten clericals, the legal agency for the poor has served approximately nine thousand Memphis citizens. The civil, legal problems include housing, consumer, domestic relations, Social Security and Welfare problems, and general legal assistance. The agency requires specific financial guidelines to be met in order for one to be eligible for the legal assistance, yet these guidelines are low and many Memphians— the poor, juveniles, and the elderly— are eligible.

The problem that faces most government social agencies is not just one of money, but public awareness and communications. One group which has been sorely neglected is the elderly. The 1970 Census shows that there are over 86,650 senior citizens in the Memphis area who qualify for legal services. While the Legal Services Program has a long history of effective services to all of its clients, because of its heavy caseload and meager resources it has not been able to provide the comprehensive and extended care that many of our elderly citizens require.

The more basic reason for this inability is that the problems of the elderly are in many instances complex and reflect primarily the necessity for a specialized effort designed to meet their unique problems. Thus the agency has been able to handle only one problem at a time for a given elderly client, while the client may have many problems growing out of the central problem with which

they approach the Legal Services Program. For example, an elderly citizen faced with fines for violating the City's Health Code might come to Legal Services with many companion problems that give rise to the chief problem, such as insufficient income, health related problems, and problems with maintaining the proper utility services so as to comply with the city codes. While in each instance it would be preferable to take the client and assign a staff person who will work with the client until all of the problems, both primary and secondary, are rectified, the Agency has not the resources to do so.

In addition to the immediate legal problems, Legal Services must remain aware of such special problems of the elderly such as: age discrimination, involuntary commitment, quality of nursing home care, medical programs, social security and benefit programs, pension plans and housing, both public and private.

As with any other program designed to focus on the needs of a special group, Legal Services could not be successful without an initial outreach effort. The agency proposes to undertake its program in conjunction with other service agencies and organizations now devoting a large amount of their time to serving the needs of the elderly. In terms of accessibility, the ultimate aim would be to place staff attorneys and/or paraprofessionals in community centers and other locations which contain a high density of elderly. This would make home visits by attorneys and paraprofessionals possible, thereby providing the Memphis elderly with the basic services due all persons.

CENTER CITY is an effort in *communication* within the context of a particular *community*, Downtown Memphis. But communication does not occur simply by the publication of this paper. Nor does community exist just because thirty or forty thousand people regularly frequent a particular area.

Both *communication* and *community* stem from a root word meaning "to share." Thus, community exists when people share with each other, and communication is the active process of sharing. Sharing what? The ideas, the feelings, the hopes, the aspirations, the fears, the conflicts, etc., that comprise the reality of our lives.

A full and adequate redevelopment of Downtown Memphis requires that this be a community effort, a sharing by and among all. First Presbyterian Church is one small segment of this community (or effort to become a community). We earnestly seek the opportunity to be involved in the communication process. We have ideas and feelings, hopes and fears, which grow out of our faith; and which we would like to share within the life of this community. We hopefully assume that other persons and groups possess similar concerns.

CENTER CITY is offered as a vehicle by which some sincere sharing may take place, and thus strengthen the possibility of genuine community in Downtown Memphis.

# Goals of Center City

by  
*David R. Freeman*  
Pastor of First  
Presbyterian Church

## History With a Purpose, A Landmark Ordinance

Perhaps from the ruins of Beale Street and from the communal pathos which accompanied the demise of the celebrated street, an unanticipated and truly hopeful spirit has arisen: historical consciousness. Recently, after years of apathetic acquiescence which allowed the wholesale destruction of important landmarks, this emerging consciousness has begun to materialize. The form which the spirit has taken is a proposed Landmark Preservation Ordinance. The ordinance, which is the creative effort of City Hall, attempts to preserve and enhance those sites which are significant reflections of the cultural or historical heritage of Memphis. The ordinance further endeavors to foster civic pride in the beauty and accomplishments of the past, to improve the aesthetic and economic vitality of the City, and to promote and enhance tourism.

In order to fulfill these objectives, the ordinance calls for the creation of a Memphis Landmarks Register. The Register would serve to describe and to give public notice of structures and areas deemed so significant as to warrant special protective and preservational attention. The major protective measure would be a prohibition on the demolition or irrevocable deterioration of registered landmarks. However, if the public safety necessitates, a registered landmark may be altered, even razed, provided the assent of the City Council is obtained.

The ordinance would create a Landmarks Council, whose members would be appointed by the Mayor, subject to City Council approval. The composition of the five member Landmarks Council

would include a historian, knowledgeable in local history, an architect, a local attorney, a city planner and a private citizen. This composition reflects a conscious effort to assemble the needed expertise to assure the viability of the Council.

The Landmarks Council would be empowered to identify and evaluate potential structures and sites, and to recommend for City Council approval those sites and areas worthy of landmark designation. Besides the role of landmarks identification, the new Council would be an active coordinator of the multifarious facets of preservation. The Council could administer a revolving fund with which to aid in the acquisition and refurbishment of landmarks.

The Landmarks Council, as an agent of the City, could negotiate for the acquisition of easements on the developmental rights of registered landmarks. Moreover, the Council would serve an educational purpose through the dissemination of information to the public concerning those sites worthy of preservation.

If there are some city officials who question the urgency, or even the necessity of a landmarks ordinance, considering such a step an obstacle to redevelopment, a careful reading of the proposed ordinance should effectively allay any fear of obstructing progress. Landmark preservation is a positive step towards a self-identity.

City Hall can be commended for making this step towards restoration; but, it has yet to make a serious effort at implementation.

by *Don Donati*

There are no vendettas at CENTER CITY, I wish only to seek out the soul and future of this community for public discourse.

Readers will not find award winning reporting here, for there is not the financing, nor as I deem it, the community activities or talent for it. When one says "good journalism" or "bad journalism," there is inherent the assumption that there is a fixed standard. As is most times the case the standards vary. Sometimes good style can make a fragment of content better, while different emotional interpretations of the same facts may represent an article as "good" to some persons, and "bad" to others.

But I would guess that with reasonable men there is a credo of "good journalism," and that this creed has at its core analytical criticism, both of what one is writing and what is written about. Another equally important part of the creed is a clear-headed advocacy. I am sorry to say that I have seldom witnessed "good journalism" in this city.

We here do not presume to place ourselves, at least financially, in a class with the media powers. We are a service. We have a faith in the ability of reason to adapt and better the conditions of this community.

I, as editor, am obligated to be critical of both this paper and the affairs of this community, and to resist cynicism at all cost. I can state definitely that there are very few creations, if any, in this world that deserve an unqualified rejection.

I am of the opinion that Memphians must look deeply within the makeup and workings of this community, and become involved even at the expense of leisure. There is no disputing it, the world may be at peace or war, but ultimately it is ourselves as a community with whom we and our descendants must come to terms.

Memphians will in the future, if we are to be a city, have to pay the price of civilization: there will be responsibilities taken, taxes and even restraints. In paying the price, however, the citizens must also become more active in decision making. There are millions in Federal Revenue Sharing monies to be forthcoming in near months which need citizen input as to their usage. However, we should find it appalling when citizens are merely given the semblance of participation, to be manipulated by persons who in fact are loath to receive such intrusions. The mere fact of public notice does not mean that officials have communicated with the people they represent; notice must be accompanied by understanding.

There are major developments and decisions occurring weekly which must be scrutinized as to their ramifications for this community. We all have the right and the duty to weed the garden of ideas and activities of this community. If a personality be scratched in the process it is regrettable and a lesson should be learnt from it. Yet, we do not regret the weeding: the discerning of our movements to make us a viable whole.

It is this: that we do not desire as our end to be a showplace-- a spectacle-- but we want a home and a community of opportunities, cooperation and interests. This alone will make Memphis unique to this world.

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Participants have been chosen for the first Court Square Market. The market, a show and sale of original work by Memphis artists and craftsmen, will be held Friday, August 23, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on North Court Avenue alongside Court Square.

Selling their work under the colorful canopies will be the following artists:

Judy Lindy, weaving	Jim Frazier, watercolors	Caroline McCartney, weavings
Agnes Stark, pottery	Roy David White, watercolors	Dale Baucum, pottery
Janna Bernheim, batik and tapestries	Roy Tamboli, sculptures	Harriet Price, watercolors
Mimi Semmes Dann, pottery	Mary Scobey, apple dolls	Linda Hardwick, metal
Dana C. Curtis, wood	Mildred Feazel, paintings on wood	Dorothy Carter, weaving and stitchery
Carolyn Moss, watercolors	Max R. Johnson, pottery	Janice Kennedy, quilting
Sig Gruenwald, watercolors and oils	Betty Malone, watercolors	Clara Miller
Mary Lou Baruchman, copper enamels	Camille Thomas, watercolors	Janis McKinney
Betty Page, watercolors	George Ensminger, leathersgoods	

Demonstrations of various crafts will take place throughout the day. Admission to the market is free.

the  
editor:

"let  
the  
buyer  
beware"



COURT  
SQUARE  
MARKET



**HEALTH CAREERS PROJECT**  
Dr. Dan Dunaway of the UOC is planning a project to interest high school young people in the Health Sciences. The need for workers in this field is great and will continue to grow.

Dr. Dunaway and his fellow workers hope to kindle early interest by introducing these fields of opportunity together with a survey of training requirements. Tours of local facilities will be made and local availability of post high school training will be presented.

This project is particularly suited for minority youth, since active recruitment is needed in this area, but it is also suited for a general audience. Depending on the success of this project, it could be expanded to study other career opportunities.

Dr. Dunaway plans to begin the program in late September at First Presbyterian Church for youth living in the area.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE**

Workers, especially college students, are needed to be available to assist in counseling young people concerning the value of study, methods of making application to schools, and scholarship availability. As audio-visual aids are used, help with projection equipment is also needed. This would involve a commitment of one hour every Wednesday afternoon or evening for the duration of the program; the time of service is flexible.

**INTERESTED?**

Contact June Hicks at the church office, 525-5619

*Grandfather is raking leaves  
He murmurs something to God  
His eyelids are dark.*

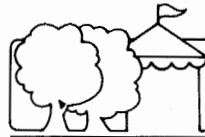
*Mother in waking grieves  
She has children to direct  
Her eyelids are red.*

*Father is faking  
Attempts to exist  
His eyelids are purple.*

*Brother is shaking  
He exists  
His eyelids are black.*

*I am remaking  
To escape  
My eyelids are crossed.*

by w. thornton



**Court Square Market**  
August 23 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.  
Sale of original work by Memphis Artists & Craftsmen

**CIVIC CENTER COMMUNITY CULINARY CLUB**

*Serving from 11:30 to 1:00  
First Presbyterian Church, 166 Poplar Avenue  
Price: \$1.25 per serving, including drink*

**MENU FOR AUGUST 22-30**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 22**

*Corned Beef, Scalloped cabbage, buttered potatoes, corn bread*

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23**

*Beef Stew, tossed salad & corn bread*

**MONDAY, AUGUST 26**

*Chopped Steak with onion gravy, whipped potatoes, green beans & rolls*

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 27**

*Macaroni & cheese, turnip greens, corn on the cob, beets & onions  
corn bread*

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28**

*Spaghetti, cole slaw & french bread*

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 29**

*Turkey and Dressing, english peas, cranberry sauce & rolls*

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 30**

*Meat Loaf, potatoes au gratin, lima beans and rolls*

**Center City**

**First Presbyterian Church  
166 Poplar Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103**

*Second-class  
postage paid at  
Memphis, Tennessee*