



CENTER CITY

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MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

NOVEMBER 13, 1974

Counseling & Assistance Center Opens

The Counseling and Assistance Center was conceived and established by citizens of Shelby County for the purpose of complementing the work of public offender rehabilitation in our community. This effort was the result of cooperation between professionals and citizens interested in expanding the community's involvement in this work.

Project First Offender of Memphis has shown that citizens can make a significant contribution in assisting young men and women to return to a crime-free life. Several citizens led by Judge David Stinson and Judge Harry Wellford worked with members of Project First Offender to consider enlarging the scope of this program. They, as well as members of the First Presbyterian Church, saw a need to offer help through counseling and vocational assistance to those who are still incarcerated in our local jails, as well as those released to the custody of a probation program. This goal, in addition to increased assistance to on-going rehabilitation programs, was the impetus behind the establishment of the Center.

This plan was presented on behalf of Project First Offender and the members of First Presbyterian Church to the National Ministries Committee of the Memphis Presbytery by Rev. David Freeman, pastor of First Presbyterian, with help from Chaplain Lee Waltz of the Institute of Medicine and Religion, Judge Stinson, and Judge Wellford. The National Ministries Committee approved the plan and appropriated funds to initiate the Center.

In October the personnel committee of the Board of Directors of the Center hired Al Simmons of the Project First Offender staff to serve as counseling director. The Center will have eleven

full and part-time staff members and twenty-five specially trained volunteers working to fulfill its goal. Tom Brown, a State probation officer, was hired as the new director of Project First Offender. PFO will remain a separate entity, but is housed in the same facilities and operates cooperatively with the Center.

The major effort of the staff and volunteers will be directed toward carrying on a new program begun in June by Project First Offender and First Presbyterian Church. This involves the use of a teaching method called "Thresholds." The major objective of this program is the teaching of decision-making skills in a highly structured, short term setting. The idea is to help individuals achieve the ability to make their own decisions and effectively solve their own problems so that they can become integrated, independent people who are also conscious of their relationship and responsibility, to themselves, their neighbors, and their world. Catherine McMurtry serves as the coordinator for this particular aspect of the Center's functions. Each Thresholds teacher engages approximately 48 hours of instruction per client in this work. It is the assistance the Center will offer to the women in our county jail, to first offenders and others seeking such help.

The Counseling and Assistance Center will be formally dedicated on Sunday, November 17, during the service of public worship at First Presbyterian Church.

The Center is located in the church building, but it is hoped and assumed that it will be a community project in the broadest sense possible.

Footprints on the Chickasaw Bluff

On Saturday, April 15, 1876, the fountain arrived from New York. It had been shipped in pieces at a total weight of 20,000 pounds; however, the Star Union shipped it to Memphis free of charge.

Mr. James Elder was highly praised by the press for pushing the enterprise of getting a fountain for Court Square to its successful installation and collecting money from the citizenry for its construction. Mr. J. B. Cook was its architect and in charge of its erection.

On May 27, 1876 (Centennial Year), the citizenry of Memphis met to formally dedicate the fountain, crowned with the 7 ft. high copy of

Canova's statue of Hebe. The fountain, said to be in the "Renaissance style", is 19 ft. high with a 10-sided base 34 ft. in diameter, the rim of which is of iron with a coping of Alabama stone, 5 inches thick and 18 inches wide. At the time of dedication the basin was to have had lilies in full bloom and white swans throwing up jets of water.

"...In the heart of as sweet a little gem of a park as there is in the world,...there is one spot free to all, where the weary may go to be refreshed, the sad to be comforted, and the joyful to be glad. Old age will be rejuvenated at the sight of the fountain..."



Hebe, who is most times identified as the goddess as youth, or as in the Middle East interpretation, as the Earth-mother, was the daughter of Hera by Zeus, or as some say, by the touch of a lettuce. She served as cup bearer to the Olympians until her position was usurped by the young son of King Tros, Ganymedes, who had ascended to such favor with Zeus and was made immortal. Hebe was betrothed to Heracles, the adopted son of Hera.

The Trial of Wm. Peterson

Part 6

by J. T. L. Sneed, Esq.

Reprinted from the *MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL*

November 29, 1855.

As the chain of circumstantial proof would, link by link, demolish one after another, the strong bulwarks of the law by which the prisoner's life was guarded, behold! yet another and more formidable one still would rise in its stead, and for a time threaten to baffle the claims of justice, even when she clamoured for the sacrifice. Thus far the moral elements of guilt were all established. That Thomas Merriweather had been slain by a highwayman for his money, and that the prisoner was the guilty perpetrator of the deed, was shown by the proof beyond all shadow of doubt, and the technical requirements of the law were all answered with equal clearness and certainty. At this juncture the startling fact was elicited upon a cross examination of one of the citizens who first discovered the body, that there were appearances upon the leaves and ground, of the body's having been dragged from the road toward the tree where it had been found. This disclosure changed the whole status of the case, and unless it could be explained, it would imperatively, under the rules of law, demand the acquittal of the prisoner.

We have seen that the indictment was preferred in the circuit court of Shelby county at Raleigh. In the judicial arrangements of the county the criminal jurisdiction is divided between two courts. The court at Memphis, a distinct tribunal, has jurisdiction of all crimes committed in the 5th, 13th, and 14th civil districts, and the court at Raleigh exclusive jurisdiction of all crimes committed in the 12th and all other districts in the county. The body was found in the 13th civil district, some forty or fifty feet from the Hernando road, and the dividing line between the 12th district and the 13th, which lay on the opposite side of the road, was the road, or ran along the same for some distance in either direction from the spot where the body was found. The dividing line was not very well defined in proof, but it was generally understood that the road was on the same. The fact that the body was found in the 12th civil district, with-

out countervailing evidence, would, of itself, have sufficed to identify the venue as averred in the indictment. But, in view of the important fact referred to in reference to appearances upon the ground, it became a matter of momentous concern to rebut the presumptions arising therefrom, or else the prisoner could not legally be convicted under the indictment. If the proof indicated that the murder was done in the 13th civil district, the court had no jurisdiction of the cause; if, on the other hand, it satisfied the minds of the jury that it was done in the road the result was equally fatal, and the doctrine of "reasonable doubts," must inevitably acquit the prisoner.

Thus, again, was the prisoner's fate suspended on the pivot of doubt, when his doom had seemed irrevocably sealed. The witness was asked, if it did not seem also, that the body had been dragged about by the animals which had been feeding upon the flesh? This he answered in the affirmative, but still adhered to the conviction that appearances indicated that it had been dragged from the direction of the road also. Another witness with him at the time, had not observed these appearances. At this critical point, the counsel for the State bethought them of certain marvellous and novel conduct of the noble horse which has been referred to, which had come to their knowledge in conversation with the witnesses, and which in their judgements, settled the question of venue as authoritatively as it could have been done by the sworn testimony of a score of human witnesses. The known instincts of animals have, from time immemorial been esteemed in the law as among the sources of evidence by which the dearest rights of life, liberty and property, have been determined. Testimony as to these facts was proposed to be submitted on behalf of the State, but was stoutly opposed by the prisoner's counsel, who knew its overwhelming force. The learned Judge overruled the objections and admitted the testimony.

(To Be Continued Next Week.)

Groups wishing either to contribute or to distribute Christmas baskets: To facilitate your efforts and avoid duplication, the Welfare Department is offering to serve as a clearing house. Please contact Vicki Bolton at 534-6132 and arrangements will be made for your group to receive names of families needing assistance, or you may check on requests for help you may have received.

The 1975 Masters' Photography Exhibit, consisting of the society's top 100 photographs of the year, is now on display in the lobby of the First National Bank Building at Third and Madison. The Exhibit will be there throughout the month of November.

"Meet Me in the Middle"

At noon on December 4, Ms. Francis Hale will speak on "Health Care for Indigent Women-Good-Bad-Indifferent?", in the auditorium of the UT Student Center.

Memphis Film Series

Lyceum Film Theatre

November 19 -- "The Informer"

UT

November 22 -- "Jesus Christ Superstar"

Memphis Public Library

November 22 - "Americano" & "The Eagle"

MSU

November 25 -- "Wuthering Heights"

Center City

First Presbyterian Church
166 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

ENGAGEMENT WITH INDECENCY

*We've a schedule to keep
there's no waiting for the woman
running with the baby
eventhough the passengers are yelling
giving the signal to stop*

*There's a dealine to make - a straightline
eyes fixed and elbows at work
there can be no hesitation
and for that no regrets*

*Ordained to grasp and horde
until it's made the corner
the lead box has no fiddling
the motion-dance has no time*

*Swiftly, no pondering or gazing
at that old man, laxed and deliberate
or at her, bouyant and silent
without a schedule*

**words
swords**

CIVIC CENTER COMMUNITY CULINARY CLUB

Serving from 1:30 to 1:00

First Presbyterian Church, 166 Poplar Avenue

PRICE: \$1.50 per serving, including drink

MENU FOR NOVEMBER 14 - NOVEMBER 22

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Corned Beef, scalloped cabbage, buttered potatoes, corn bread

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Beef stew, tossed salad, and corn bread

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

*Chopped steak with onion gray, whipped potatoes & green beans
& rolls*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Spaghetti, cole slaw and French Bread

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Turkey & Dressing, English peas, cranberry sauce & rolls

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Meat Loaf, potatoes au gratin, lima beans & rolls

*Second-class
postage paid at
Memphis, Tennessee*