



BROOKNOTES

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

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A Piece of Brookwood Hills History

by Carla Fackler

Mildred Harris, the youngest daughter of author Joel Chandler Harris, creator of the Uncle Remus stories, grew up in the Wren's Nest, the family's West End home, and, during her marriage, built one of the first houses in Brookwood Hills. As a little girl, Mildred Harris had the run of Br'er Rabbit's briar patch and called Tar Baby and the other critters "cousins." Mildred was the family extrovert. In an 1899 letter to Lillian, his oldest daughter, Harris wrote that Mildred was "as good as a show; she has kept me laughing nearly the whole time since you left She reminds me very much of the way I used to do when I was a boy."

Mildred married Edwin Camp in 1909 and, four years later, moved to one of six houses Harris built for his children on the five acres surrounding the Wren's Nest. In 1924 during the first development of Brookwood Hills, the Camps built a house at 115 Palisades Road, which stayed in the family for sixty-five years. It was sold to JoAnn and Dave Hagan nearly five years ago. For a 1979 Brookwood Byword article, Mildred's daughter, Toodie, talked to me about her mother and father and growing up in Brookwood Hills.

When the Burdettes (the BWH developers) divided the farm into lots in the 1920's, Toodie's father built one of the first houses, a brick colonial designed by "Uncle" Ray Abernathy. As Toodie explained, "He wasn't our uncle, but everyone called him that. Daddy put \$10,000 into this house -- quite a sum back then -- and a lot of people questioned building a house for that much way out here!" Their house sat at the edge of the city limits. Across the street at 80 Palisades Road (now the Fackler homestead), Henry Grady's granddaughter was also building a house, in Fulton County! By the time the family moved to Brookwood Hills, Camp was managing of the Tri-Weekly Journal, distributed to small towns throughout the state, and had been an associate editor of The Atlanta Journal. His column under the byline of "The Old Timer" was read by sports fans throughout the state. If Georgians weren't reading his prose, they were listening to his broadcasts on WSB Radio, "View of the News."

Toodie, who was born in the front bedroom at the Wren's Nest, loved to tell the story. "When Mama had me, she was yelling so that the doctor told her to quiet down, or the Pace girls next door would never get married. And, don't you know, Mama said they never did get married!"

Toodie remembered when Brookwood's massive oak trees were seedlings and violets covered the fields of the former Burdette farm, clear to the creek. As she recalled, "Mama would let us (Toodie and her younger sister, Elizabeth) go down to the creek with our Annie Laurie, we couldn't go alone, and we'd pick violets for what seemed like hours. Palisades ended not far from our house and what is now Huntington was all woods." Also moving to the Palisades Road home was Harris's widow, who had joined Mildred's family when the Wren's Nest was turned into a memorial. When Toodie married Dick Wright in 1934, they held the wedding in the front bedroom so the ill Mrs. Harris could attend.

After living ten years at 191 Huntington Road (now home to Ann Williams), Toodie and Dick and their three daughters moved to the Palisades Road home in 1959. The couple lived there nearly thirty years. Dick died in 1988, followed by Toodie a few months later.

July 4th Celebrations #1

by Mary Long

The Third Annual Brookwood Hills Fourth of July Bicycle Parade went forth during a well-timed interval in the monsoon rains. Laranne Oser and Chuck Wood of Dorsey-Alston Realtors generously sponsored the event and provided the celebrants with hundreds of hot dogs, moon pies, munchies and beverages.

This year's parade was led by "Aunt Samantha," filling in for Uncle Sam. Several children graduated from the Big-Wheel Parade around the park path to the Two-Wheeler Parade around the perimeter of the park. The children were thrilled to cruise the streets without the threat of automobiles, thanks to the help of neighbors who volunteered to monitor traffic. Each neighborhood home sported an American flag for the colorful event.

Despite the weather, a fun time was had by all, and plans are already in the works for July 4th, 1995.

Welcome New Neighbors

Newly arrived to Brookwood Hills and the new owners of 38 Camden Road are Carolynn Cooper and her husband Pratap Mukharji. Carolyn is the Credit Marketing Manager for Rich's, and Pratap is Principal, A.T. Kearney Management Consultants.

Welcome to Grady and Betty Black, who have bought the home located at 295 Camden Road. Betty is in institutional bonds sales with Bear Stearns. Grady, who was also in the investment business, is now retired. Grady and Betty's arrival is a real family affair, as Grady is "Dad" to Laura Inman (318 Camden Road) and Libby Simons (230 Brighton Road).

Another Brookwood Hills multi-generational celebration took place in honor of the birth of Taylor Gale Wilson, born July 10th. Taylor is the daughter of Hayes and Kimberley Wilson, 63 Huntington Road, and the granddaughter of long-time neighborhood residents Rick and Pat Wilson, 32 Huntington Road.

Sallie McClain Hays was born on July 7th to proud parents Paige and Richard Hays, who live at 110 Huntington Road. Her arrival was equally celebrated by proud siblings Kathryn and Ben.

July 4th Celebrations #2

by Ryan Shaw

A little rain can't stop the fun down at the Brookwood Hills Pool, where the spirited lifeguards and concession standers continue to supervise summer with style. At no time was this more evident than on July Fourth, when the wet but wacky Gaardvarks celebrated Independence Day with a hardy band of pool rats and parents.

Poolgoers who braved the rain were greeted by guards with the Stars and Stripes plastered proudly across their grinning mugs, courtesy of master artisans armed with brushes and fingers. Soon miniature versions of these crazed patriots could be spotted all over the pool.

As the mellow sounds of John Moyer's KBWH drifted through the loudspeakers, the Lifeguard Chorus took to the bulkhead for a rousing rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner. This was followed by an exciting series of relays, including the Balloon Pop and the Greasy Watermelon. Next was the Money Toss, where young capitalists managed to scoop up as much as ten dollars in change off the pool bottom. Then it was time for the ever-popular Whirlpool. This Brookwood Hills tradition had parents and toddlers alike giddily whirling about the shallow end, out of breath but full of cheer.

Soon everyone headed out to the park for some egg and water balloon tossing, which quickly degenerated into wet, eggy warfare. After everyone had washed the yolk out of their hair, they returned to the diving well for a take-no-prisoners game of Sharks and Minnows, dominated by a certain Mr. Joel.

As everyone relaxed at the end of the day with a hot dog or chicken sandwich grilled to perfection by Kathleen Roskopf, they agreed that, despite the weather, the pool was once again the place to be on our nation's birthday.

You're Welcome to Come

The next meeting of the Brookwood Hills Community Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, August 1st, at 7:00, at the home of Lee and Pelham Wilder, 7 Montclair Drive. In order for them to have an idea of how many people to expect, if you would like to attend, please call Lee or Pelham at 876-0716. All members of the Community Club are welcome.

Huntington Road Has The Spirit



The May 15th Huntington Road Block Party was a tremendous success, with most Huntington Road homes represented. The children enjoyed many fun games and activities, especially the water balloon toss! One new mother was delighted to see how many children were on her street. Sarah Hagood is pictured above holding a map of Huntington Road residences, showing that most homes participated. As the person who spearheaded the event, Sarah wishes to thank those who provided tables, delivered notices, and put their creative genius together. Special kudos to Lib and Robbie Foster for organizing the children's games and activities.

One More Graduate

Brooknotes missed noting the fact that Nathan Fackler, son of Carl and Carla Fackler, 80 Palisades Road, graduated from the University of Washington with a B.A. in Southeast Asian Studies, with an emphasis on the Vietnamese language. For the past five months Nathan traveled through Vietnam on an independent study program. He also studied nearly two years at Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan.

Nathan had the opportunity to serve as interpreter and guide for his mother and father when Carl was one of six American orthopaedic surgeons to attend the recent Vietnamese-American Orthopaedic Conference in Hanoi, Vietnam. Sponsored by Orthopaedics Overseas, the conference was the first meeting for orthopaedic surgeons in the twenty year old Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Carl also participated in a conference at the Center for Traumatology and Orthopaedics in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

Fall Carpools Forming

Anyone with children attending or interested in attending Greater Atlanta Christian Schools in Norcross and interested in carpooling, please call Karen or Kurt Tausche, 352-0533.

Anyone interested in joining the Westminster afternoon shuttle for Junior and Senior High students, please call Cathy Fox, 874-6507 or Esther Stokes, 876-1809.

Want to Get in Brooknotes ?

The deadline for the next issue of Brooknotes will be Friday, August 12th. Brooknotes submissions must be in writing and should be dropped off at Alison Caughman's house, 200 Camden Road. Occasionally someone will drop off an unsigned submission; you must include your name and address or phone number in order to have your item published.

Metropolis Cafe Loses at BZA Hearing

The Board of Zoning Adjustment voted 5-0 to uphold an earlier decision by the City Bureau of Buildings to revoke the certificate of occupancy for the Metropolis Cafe, located at 1923 Peachtree Road. The July 15th vote was the latest chapter in a two year effort by the neighborhood to ensure the establishment's compliance with zoning requirements. Earlier this year the Bureau of Buildings determined that the Metropolis was in violation of several requirements that permitted the cafe to operate under a 1978 variance originally granted to the operators of Zazu's restaurant. The current violations included: 1) lack of off-street parking; 2) unlawful expansion of the restaurant/lounge space beyond permitted usage; and 3) violation of hours of operation during both Sundays and weekdays. During the most recent hearings, the City and Brookwood Hills were aligned in opposition to the current operation of the cafe. In supporting Brookwood Hills' position, the City may be showing an increased willingness to help protect neighborhoods from inappropriate development.

A lawsuit, independent of the recent city action and challenging operation of the cafe under both zoning and liquor licensing regulations, was filed in 1993 by the Community Club and several nearby residents. This lawsuit was originally filed to halt the opening of the cafe when it appeared that the city was not going to be willing to force the Metropolis to comply with city requirements. The lawsuit is continuing to wend its way through Fulton Superior Court, and is scheduled for court-ordered mediation on August 25th.

The Metropolis may now seek a new variance from the City to reduce requirements for off-street parking in order to continue its operation. The effect of such a variance, if sought, would be to eliminate any requirement that the business provide off-street parking for its customers. Lack of parking has been the core of the neighborhood's opposition to this establishment all along. Whenever a restaurant or lounge located on the Peachtree strip of shops backing up to the neighborhood has attracted a large number of autos without provision for parking, patrons park on Brookwood Hills streets. The City's zoning and liquor licensing requirements are designed to prevent this flow of parking into residential areas, and after this two-year battle it appears that, at least in this instance, the neighborhood will be rewarded for its persistence in this matter. However, strong neighborhood opposition will be necessary, should a new variance be applied for by the Metropolis ownership.

A big vote of thanks goes to the neighborhood volunteers who have worked tirelessly on this seemingly endless controversy: Nolan and Pat Leake, Mac Irvin, Bill Withrow, Lee Robinson, and Dave Forquer.

Classifieds

After-school child care needed. We need a responsible person with a car to take care of two boys (a second grader and a sixth grader) in the afternoons after school. The schedule would be Monday - Thursday from 2:00 or 2:30 until 6:00 p.m. Duties include supervision of homework and playing in the park. Some driving might be required depending on sports schedules. School starts on August 29th, but the job could begin earlier if necessary. This job could be split between two college students if class schedules permit. Please call Lee Wilder at 876-0716.

Parents' Morning Out and Preschool applications at Peachtree Christian Church, 1580 Peachtree Street, are now being accepted for the Fall term. Classes are available Monday through Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for children aged two months through four years. For more information, call Leslie O'Callaghan, 876-5535.



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