City considers rental repair law

by Tom Krostad

Renters in St. Anthony Park may soon be able to repair their apartments and deduct the cost from their rent, should a proposed ordinance be adopted by the St. Paul City Council.

The proposed law, called the repair and deduct ordinance, would allow renters in St. Paul to deduct up to three months of rent per year to bring their apartments up to housing code standards.

The purpose of the ordinance, say its proponents, is to create a safeguard for renters against absentee landlords who allow the condition of their property to fall below housing code standards.

The proposal has stirred debate as it goes through the civic review process. Currently, the ordinance is being considered by the district councils.

An informal tally kept by the St. Paul Tenants Union, a group concerned with renters’ rights, shows that the great majority of the district councils in the city support the ordinance.

The plan is set for preliminary City Council consideration on March 3. On March 22 a public hearing is planned, with the council giving final consideration at a later meeting.

The plan calls for the city to act as an intermediary in cases where repairs may be needed. If a landlord fails to make a necessary repair, the tenant would call the St. Paul Department of Inspections.

Seminary building plan hits snag

by Mollie Hoben

The St. Paul Zoning Committee last week voted against Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary’s request to rezone its land along Fullham Street south from Hendon Avenue, in order to build a chapel and dining facility there.

Voting 4-2 to recommend that the St. Paul Planning Commission deny the seminary’s request, the committee found that the proposed project would be a "detriment to the residential character of the neighborhood and a detriment to the health and safety of neighbors."

The seminary hopes the Planning Commission will reverse the zoning committee’s recommendation to deny the rezoning request because the zoning committee did not include District 12 approval of the plan in its considerations.

The District 12 Council approved the plan by unanimous vote at its February meeting.

The committee apparently was responding to concerns voiced at its hearing Feb. 17 by five residents who oppose the construction. The seminary had presented more than the required number of signatures of residents living adjacent to the seminary who approved the plans. (A majority of the adjacent lots are owned by the seminary.)

The Planning Commission will consider the zoning committee’s recommendation at its meeting Feb. 25.

One plan is to build at almost the same spot but with the building across the Hendon end of the block on both the Fullham and Branston Street sides, instead of along Fulham from Hendon to the end of the block, as the current plan calls for.

Emergency foodshelf available

Residents of St. Anthony Park area who need food supplies on an emergency basis may use the Emergency Foodshelf Program at Merriam Park Community Center, 200 St. Anthony Ave.

The Merriam Park Foodshelf service is open Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. only. Persons may make use of this free foodshelf once every three months only, on an emergency basis.

The foodshelf is stocked basically with canned and dry food stuffs donated by area churches and special food giving program by area corporations.

The Merriam Park Community Center is located in the Midway area five blocks south of University and Cleveland avenues. For more information, call 645-0349.

There are no income guidelines for this free food service, but persons must show two forms of identification at the time of application. Identification forms must prove the applicant is living at the address stated on the application form, and one of the identification forms must be a photo identification.
Get your green thumbs ready, sign up for gardens

St. Anthony Park Community Gardens will have 100 garden plots, 15 x 20 feet, available this May. They are located on Robbins Street between Raymond Avenue and Highway 280.

Since last summer when only 23 plots were finally plantable because of soil conditions and rocks, the Air Force Reserve Civil Engineering Squadron 934 has worked several weekends at the site removing asphalt and concrete and doing grading.

When the squadron finishes its work this spring there will be over 12 inches of new dirt covering the site, plus layers of peat and composted leaves.

The Community Gardens Task Force is trying to have water available on site this year.

Ahrens to discuss budget at March 9 town meeting

The effect of Ramsey county budget problems on residents of District 12 will be discussed by County Commissioner Diane Ahrens at a Town Meeting on Mar. 9 at 7 p.m. in the St. Anthony Park Library Community Room. The county budget takes 25 percent of every property tax dollar paid by local residents.

Following Commissioner Ahrens' presentation, the update of the General District 12 Plan will be reviewed and either approved or revised by residents attending the meeting. A copy of the plan is available at the library or the District 12 Office for those wishing to review it before the meeting.

Revisions proposed in Dist. 12 bylaws

Delegates to District 12 Council from north and south St. Anthony Park may be elected by day-long balloting at a central polling place if proposed revisions in the District 12 By-laws are made.

Revisions will be considered at the Town Meeting on Mar. 9 at 7 p.m. in the Library Community Room, Carter and Como avenues.

Current by-laws state that elections must be held at a meeting in February. Council members have thought that this format limits the number of people who elect the delegates and that a longer time period for voting at a central location would encourage participation by more residents of District 12.

If revisions are approved on Mar. 9, they must also be voted on at a Town Meeting in the Fall. Interested residents may obtain copies of the current by-laws by calling 646-8884. A copy will also be available at the St. Anthony Park Library.

New District 12 delegates

Twelve new delegates and/or alternates will join the District 12 Council in March. 1983-84 delegation members will be: north St. Anthony Park–Jim Christenson, Jane Dietl, Quentin Elliott, Carlton Qualey, Jo Anne Rohricht, alternates Greg Haley and Akiva Pour-El.

South St. Anthony Park–Robert Bacon, Kathleen Clark, Jon Ljungkull, Dennis McGovern, Gertrude Gordanier.

Midway commerce and industrial area–Michael Baker, W.D. Huestis, Anne Price Lutz, Charles McCann, (Tom Leonard, Judy Lofstrom).

Lofstrom).

Residents wanting to report unschooled sidewalks should call the Mayor's Information and Complaint Office at 298-4747. District 12 will no longer take such calls. Residents must have the exact address for the sidewalk complaint. There are stated policies that all gardeners are expected to observe. These are printed on the applications so that gardeners can read the policies before signing that they agree to abide by them.

As applications are received in the District 12 office mail, they will be numbered. Plots will be assigned in the order received. The rental fee will be returned to anyone not receiving a plot.

If any plots remain after each D-12 household applying receives one plot, plots will be assigned to households requesting two plots. An additional $11 must be paid for the second plot. After that, any remaining plots may be assigned to residents of surrounding communities.

Permanent permit parking?

A permanent parking permit ordinance is being considered by City Council Public Works Committee. The area in District 12 with permit parking is one of two pilot areas tested by the city, beginning in December 1980.

District 12 Council is asking that the local area be grandfathered in when the permanent ordinance is passed. Otherwise the area would have to be established again through a petition process.

A telephone survey by the Department of Public Works showed that 63% of those called in the area bounded by Como and Cleveland avenues and the city limits still liked permit parking a year after it was installed.

District 12 Council is recommending that the new ordinance requires only 50% of the residents' signatures, on the petition not 75%, and that residents, not property fee owners, be allowed to sign the petition. Residents will be most affected by the ordinance.

The Council also asked that permits be sold in a neighborhood location and that the use of a non-police officer, possibly a local person, be permitted for ticketing of cars violating the ordinance.

Costs for the permits will probably rise when the new ordinance is enacted since Department of Public Works is recommending that the program be self-supporting. Cost of a permit is projected to be $10-15.

A public hearing date for the ordinance has not been set. Interested residents should contact the District 12 Office or the offices of Councilmen Robert Fletcher or Chris Nicosia. Nicosia chairs the Public Works Committee.

NEED A BLOCK NURSE?
Call 298-4548
between
8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
Say that you want to talk with
the block nurse.
Student from Paraguay enriches family's life

by Ann Bolger

What happens when a family agrees to host an American Field Service (AFS) student from another country? Last spring, our family decided to find out first-hand, when we agreed that this might be a good year for us to add another member to our household.

The first step was a family interview with a team from AFS, composed of a returnee who has lived with a family overseas, a parent who has been a host and an area representative from AFS.

Questions included, "Who makes the decisions in your house?" "How is discipline handled?" "What is a typical day like in your home?" There are no right or wrong answers, but an attempt is made to match the family with a student of similar interests and background.

In July, we received a large envelope from one Porfirio Ramirez of Encarnacion, Paraguay. Included were comments from Porfirio himself, his parents, teachers, doctors and the AFS committee in Paraguay.

We were given the option to turn down one student, but we felt that Porfirio would fit into our home. We had decided that our first choice was a boy who spoke Spanish; that he was. In addition, he indicated interests in music, religion, camping, hunting, and the outdoors. Looked as if he'd be easy to feed; he liked "fruits, vegetables, and little bowl of meal."

The only stumbling block seemed to be that he liked a neat house, with everything in its place! We decided that he could keep his room neat and learn to adjust to the rest of us, so we signed the acceptance and sent him a welcoming letter with our family picture.

A phone call informed us that Porfirio would arrive about 5:30 p.m. on July 30 at a church parking lot in Brooklyn Center. My husband Bill, 16-year-old daughter Patty, who is a Como Park junior, and I left our daily activities early to be sure to be there when the bus arrived.

It was quite a scene—a hot afternoon in a paved parking lot rapidly filling with cars from all over Minnesota and Iowa. There were families of all descriptions and sizes, ages ranging from small babies to older folks with no children. Most were carrying banners—"Welcome, Porfirio!," "Hello, Brigido!," "Bienvenido, Jeanne." A truck was doing a rapid business selling corn on the cob for that first American meal.

When the bus arrived we held up our banner, and a boy in the second seat waved, grinned, and gave us a thumbs-up signal. He looked like his picture, only not nearly so thin. Sure enough, he was among the first called off the bus.

"Hi papa, hi mama, hi Patrecia," he greeted us with a heavy Spanish accent, solving the problem immediately of what he was to call us.

We're now at the halfway point of Porfirio's year with us. Our lives have been enriched with knowledge of Paraguay and Porfirio's family there. We have been frustrated at times that our meager Spanish and his limited English don't always mesh.

Turns out that he had done no camping, no hunting, no swimming, no boating, and spent little time in outdoor activities, but he has enjoyed learning these new skills, along with skating, skiing, broomball, ice fishing, and even snow-shoeing! He's not too fond of most vegetables or fruits, but sure does love meat and his new discovery, cold cereal, some of which he mailed home to Paraguay.

Porfirio Ramizarr. Photo by Diane DuBay.

At home, Porfirio lives with his father, mother and one 15-year-old sister. He has adjusted to living with two siblings and having six brothers who pop in and out for minutes or weeks at a time. He's also adjusted to four-generational Sunday dinners, with up to 18 of us at a sitting.

Porfirio is a senior at Como Park, where he finds calculus the most difficult course, and computer his favorite. Computers are just being introduced in Paraguay, so he will have an edge on most of his countrymen when he returns.

He is still surprised at the freedom of women in the United States. In Paraguay, women rarely drive a car, work outside the home or leave the house alone. His first day here, it was a shock for him to find that not only did I drive a car, but so did Patty, as well as both of her 80- year-old grandparents! He has learned to cook his own breakfast and lunch and to live with some disarray, but he still vacuums frequently.

He has met new friends of all ages, carefully recording their names in his address book and is filling his scrapbook with pictures and clippings of his experience in Minnesota.

If your family is interested in expanding your horizons and taking in an AFS student next year, call Julie Lietzke, 645-7934, or Ralph Dobie, 489-9201. Interviews for next year will be held soon. Funds for the AFS exchange are raised at the chicken barbecue on the Fourth of July.
Editorial

Repair bill makes sense

The repair and deduct ordinance that the St. Paul City Council will be considering in the next few months should be of special interest to St. Anthony Park, where tenants make up a higher proportion of the population than in the city as a whole.

One has only to read the Bugle want ads or check the announcements at Speedy Market to know that people are eager to live in St. Anthony Park. For some, it’s a matter of necessity because of the area’s proximity to university or seminary. For others, it’s a desire to live in a quiet, safe neighborhood with character. Because demand is high, renters sometimes believe they must put up with substandard conditions in the space they rent.

Such conditions probably are not typical in St. Anthony Park, where rental property generally is well maintained. Many local landlords live in or near their rental property and have a personal interest in it. Nonetheless, tales of furnaces that don’t work right or of wiring that is dangerous are occasionally heard.

The proposed rent and deduct ordinance would allow renters to make necessary repairs that their landlord refuses to make and to deduct the cost from the rent. Extensive safeguards are built into the ordinance to ensure that renters don’t take advantage of the landlord. This is a carefully constructed ordinance that should be passed.

The District 12 Council has taken a stand supporting the passage of the bill. In the City Council, fourth ward councilperson Bob Fletcher may hold the swing vote on the ordinance. Early indications have been that the other six councilpersons are evenly split for and against the bill, with Fletcher not yet starting a position.

If you have opinions about the ordinance, March is the time to make them known. A public hearing is scheduled for March 22. The Bugle would like to provide a public forum for views about the bill, too. Send us your opinions, pro or con, and we will print them in the next issue.

Bugle Dates

Bugle staff meeting, Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m. 2380 Hampden Ave.
Park Press Board of Directors, March 2, 6:30 p.m., Healey Building.
Copy and want ads deadline, March 21; ad deadline, March 17.
April Bugle published, March 30.

Commentary

Legislation is needed to simplify tax form

by Joe Skovholt

(State Skovholt was a member of the State Income Tax Simplification Committee.)

A story in the February issue of the Bugle made several references to the complexity of the state income tax form, the M-1. Anyone who struggled with the 1991 version of the M-1, particularly the famous line 7 (federal income tax deduction allowable) is well aware of this complexity.

Last April, Governor Quie appointed a committee of 15 persons to study the matter and to make recommendations for simplifying the form. This group, the State Income Tax Simplification Committee, met almost every week from late May to late September.

The committee studied forms from other states with income taxes and found that Minnesota’s form was among the most complex. A major reason is that Minnesota, to a greater degree than nearly any other state, uses the tax system to provide incentives or deterrents in order to advance economic and/or social goals.

It was not within the committee’s charge to study tax rates or the amount of money collected. Rather, it was to strive for simplification without appreciably changing the distribution of the tax basis on net income. Because line 1 of the M-1 asks for a derivation of the federal adjusted gross income the committee agreed that the state filing requirements should conform to federal requirements whenever possible. This would eliminate much duplication. The study revealed that some states presently do this.

The committee’s recommendations, stated simply, were as follows:

1. Introduce a new short form, the M-1A (on green paper), which could be used by nearly a half million people presently reporting for the 1982 tax year. Since no tax law changes, were involved, the recommendation has already been accomplished.

2. Change the current M-1 form by using the information available from the federal form on line 37 (taxable income). To arrive at line 37, the taxpayer has already figured deductions and exemptions; the current M-1 form requires duplication of this figuring, which the recommended changes would eliminate. Some additions and subtractions could be added (a limited number, hopefully) to the one-line entry, line 37—taxable income times the tax rate.

The recommended changes in M-1 represent a substantial simplification and would result in enormous saving of time for the 1.8 million taxpayers who use the form and for the Department of Revenue. If legislative action is taken now, the new M-1 form could be used in 1984 for reporting 1983 taxes.

For those working with the current version of the M-1 who believe simplification is desirable, I suggest you call your state senator and representative, urging them to study the tax committee’s report and help with the necessary enabling legislation.

Bugle goals: What do you think?

For the past few months, the Board of Directors and the staff of the Bugle have been engaged in long-term planning and goal setting. We have elaborated our mission statement, which is printed on this page, and we have chosen goals to focus on during the coming 12 months.

The goals to which we have given top priority are as follows:

- To educate, inform and alert readers, by increasing our coverage of "hard news," and of events of record (deaths, births, marriages etc.), and by increasing topical reporting.
- To provide coverage of community problems.
- To encourage an active, critical response from our readers and to encourage debate.
- To provide a medium for creative efforts.
- To encourage volunteerism.
- To record history and make it accessible.

We would welcome your reactions to these goals: which do you see as most important? least important? how should we go about achieving them? Do you have other priorities for the Bugle? Call or write us with your ideas.

Letters to the Editor

(In the January issue we asked readers to tell us what they would like to see in the Bugle. Here is one reader’s response. Do you have other ideas?)

I would like to see some favorite recipes from the marvelous cooks in the area—specials from the luncheons and dinners that are given.

I’d also like a column of “unusual happenings” or some such thing that would note bird or animal sightings of the past month, news of people who maintain bird feeders.

I guess especially want to know more about people in the neighborhood. No, I really like historic news of the Park—even a running column on “houses in the Park”: history, past owners, etc.

Frans Han
Irish roots
by James Wesley Brogan

I've lived in the city of St. Paul for six years now, and it occurs to me that I've never taken part in the festivities on St. Patrick's Day. One reason may be good sense. I've been told you people get rowdy by late in the afternoon, if not before, and that I might be risking my life to go downtown on March 17. Another reason is no doubt laziness; I can't seem to get myself organized for anything more complicated than taking out the garbage on Monday mornings.

But there is also an element of uncertainty involved, in that I've never been able to define precisely if I'm Irish or not. People who meet me frequently assume that I am because of the way I look and because of my name.

Handy parents' guide to PCBs
by Susan Barker

One.
When the note comes home from school announcing "No hot lunches until further notice," due to a leaking transformer (leaking what?!), at the district's central services building, it's safe to assume they've not ALLuding to the discovery of the G spot at the source of all school hot lunches. Don't get angry at this initial attempt to stonewall information about a highly-toxic PCB hot spot. In just a moment you will understand that protectionistic urge.

Two.
When your kids hand you the note, do not show signs of alarm as they watch you reading. Do not let them hear your knees knocking. Do not start retching when you think of all the years of inexpensive and easy lunches they've enjoyed. Substitute your hysterical tone, and ask what they'd like for a bag lunch tomorrow.

Three.
When your kids call your bluff and shout in alarmed tones, "You mean I'll get cancer and die, don't you?" understand they're making you, rather than the suspected cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyls, the target of their anger. Then, think of a way to allay their fears. (Let me know what you come up with.)

Four.
When your kids hear on the TV news that the hot spot was discovered in November and it's not until the end of January that the news is released, give them a quick lesson in bureaucratic procrastination.

When they hear that the spill might be ten years old and they wonder why no one knew about the dangers of PCBs until recently, resist the urge to tell them the tale of how the U.S. government assured Western ranchers for years that atomic weapons testing in their own backyards was perfectly safe. And put out of mind photos you've seen of these cancer-stricken believers testifying at government hearings for reparations.

Five.
While shopping for your kids' lunch fixings, don't be overly fearful. Resist the urge to imagine that all the processed items in your cart are emitting an unearthly chemical glow. You might otherwise come home empty-handed. Then, there would be no lunch at all tomorrow.

Six.
When you hear on the news that the PCB hot spot is much larger than first estimated (though, thank God, no signs of contamination appear in the building's kitchen). Resist the urge to come unhinged. Sit down with your kids and talk to them about vulnerability, helplessness and powerful manufactured forces beyond their control. Tell your kids they should welcome this invaluable learning experience—a kind of internship in the laboratory of late 20th century life. Look hard enough and you're sure to find a silver-lining in any cloud.

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Flutist previews Carnegie Hall debut

Flutist Gretchen Pusch, former St. Anthony Park resident, will appear in a preview performance of her 1983 Carnegie Recital Hall debut at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 19, in the Recital Hall, College of St. Catherine.

As a winner in the 1982 Artists International Young Musician's Competition, Pusch will be sponsored by Artists International in her New York City appearance. The identical St. Paul performance will include works by Mozart, Franck, Debussy and Couperin.

For advanced reservations, call 645-6294.
Premiere features bass, harp duet

by Mary Winget

On Sunday, Feb. 27, the Music in the Park series will feature the premiere performance of Christopher Brown’s “Piece for Double Bass and Harp.”

This will be the third premiere performance that the concert series has sponsored in its four year history and the second of the season.

Brown began writing “Piece for Double Bass and Harp” in 1978 and 1979 during a period when he was unemployed in Boston. He said “I wanted it to be a major work and I don’t write very fast.” When he got a job, he stopped composing until 1982 when he picked it up again. He finished the piece that fall.

“Initially I made an effort to have a twelve-tone piece, but when I came back to it I just didn’t feel the need to continue in such a strict way,” Brown said. It worked out to the same mood, but the structure changed.

It is a one-movement piece with several parts featuring the bass, but the instruments are integrated, rather than just using the harp for accompaniment. Although it was originally intended for bass and piano, Brown felt that the delicate features of the harp would enhance the bass and that “the textures of the two worked well together.”

Kathy Kienzie, harpist, will perform with Brown. Brown received his B.M.A. from the University of Michigan in 1973. From there he moved on to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as a bass player. He soon left the Symphony, however, because of his interest in pop music and went on tour with singer Maria Muldaur.

Brown returned to Minnesota for a one-year temporary position with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra during the 1978-79 season, then both he and his wife played in the Pittsburgh Symphony for a year.

In 1980 they returned to the Chamber Orchestra and have stayed here ever since. Brown is principal bass player and Elsa Nilsson, his wife, is first violinist. Brown said, “We have been very fortunate in both of us being able to find work in the same geographic area.”

The Feb. 27 Music in the Park program “has enormous variety,” according to Julie Himmelstrup, coordinator of the music series. All the music to be performed was composed in the 20th century, with the exception of a Bach piece.

This concert is the third of the 1982-83 Music-in-the-Park season, sponsored by St. Anthony Park Arts Forum and by COMFAS with a grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the St. Anthony Park Arts Forum.

Tickets are available in advance at Micauber’s Bookstore and the Bibelot Shop.

Como High happenings

Richard Ashe has been re-assigned to Como Park High School as assistant principal. Ashe was assistant principal at Como when it opened as a senior high in 1979. In 1981, he was transferred to Central High School. At Como, Ashe will work with tenth and eleventh grade students.

Physics students had a project to construct model bridges from 150 popsicle sticks and one ounce of white glue. The bridges were required to have a ten-inch span and to carry a minimum weight of 100 pounds. Testing began by stacking bar-bell weights on each bridge until it broke.

Mike Poor’s bridge did not collapse under the Como test, so it was taken to the University for further testing. Mike’s bridge held a record 2250 pounds before it broke! Last year’s record was 500 pounds. Mike is a senior at Como.

Como junior Mark Henrie recently left for ten months in Honduras as an AFS exchange student. He will be living with a family in La Ceiba, on the northern coast of Honduras. His new father is principal of the high school that he will attend.

Eleven Como juniors and sophomores will travel to Washington, D.C., Feb. 27 for a week. They will attend congressional committee meetings, tour Washington and surrounding areas, and meet with congressmen from Minnesota. Faculty sponsor is Carol Rice, English and social studies teacher.

The well-known comedy, "Arsenic and Old Lace," will be presented at Como on March 23 and 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Health Awareness Week will be held at Como on March 1, 2 and 3. High-level wellness will be encouraged by blood pressure tests, lifestyle quizzes, height and weight evaluations, nutritional studies and exercise programs. A fun-run for students, staff, and parents around Como Lake is planned.

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Workin’ on the railroad

by Karen Andersen

Ever wonder who works in the rail yards building beneath the Raymond Street bridge?

One gray winter day I wondered, and I walked right into the building and upstairs to the control room to find out. What I discovered was a world with a routine and a language all its own.

Yardmaster Warren Hanson was upstairs at his desk, which overlooked the yards and all the train activity. He’s there every day, every morning, five days a week,” he said.

Hanson keeps an exacting log book of yard activity. For each crew person, he said, “We keep a log of everything he does during his eight-hour shift, or overtime.”

Then he explained the activities of a crewman he had the log opened to, a “7 o’clock switch conductor,” he called him.

“He put an engine on top of that blue train this morning. Then he went over to the BN, delivered our cars to the BN as well as picked up their cars that belonged to us on the return. Then he takes out tracks 4, 8 and 12, he does County Road D,” and he followed his activities through the afternoon.

“In fact, he’s due in just about now,” Hanson said, looking out the window and down the tracks.

Hanson’s company, the Minnesota Transfer Railway Company, is owned by four railroads, the Milwaukee, the Omaha, Burlington Northern and the Soo Line, but it services about 150 industries.

The time log is very important, because regulations prohibit a crew person from working over 12 hours.

Supervisor Ed Devine happened to be in the office this afternoon. He explained that the weight of the train cars were regulated, too, and this was done on a “weight track.” He said, “We had a car in here from Paper Cal that was 23,000 pounds overweight.”

Two-way radio communication is used to give switching instructions to the crew person, but in the old days a hand-written “switch list,” or “hickies,” in railroad language, was used. Hand signals and, in the evening, lanterns were used to send messages.

There were more clerks employed then to keep all the written information going.

“Now they’ve got IBM’s, they punch it out and have copy machines to make it simple,” Hanson said. “But the operation is the same, the only difference is the computer printout.”

Crew workers make good money (in the ballpark of $100 a day), but people have been laid off. We used to have nine engines. We’re down to two or three,” Devine said. Right after World War II they had as many as 42 working engines.

Some crew people were calling in as twilight set in. Yardmaster Hanson and supervisor Devine prepared to leave the building beneath the Raymond Street bridge after another day at the yards.

Late afternoon rail yard activity below the Raymond Avenue bridge. Photo by Karen Andersen.

Winter Sports Day at Langford Park brought out kids of all ages. Like many kids, Kevin Peterson, 6, had a great time sliding down the mounds of snow, while Todd Holmberg, 4, surveyed the scene from the top of one. Photos by Terri Ezekiel.
Behind the scenes at the Legislature

by Terri Ezekiel

Much of the meaningful work of a state legislator isn’t accomplished in the stately chambers of the House or Senate. On most days the real work goes on in small committee rooms or in the clusters of people who often huddle in the halls discussing bills or planning strategy.

A typical day for State Representative Ann Wynia begins in Room 57 of the state office building, where the Appropriations Committee is listening to an overview of the Minnesota Historical Society’s budget. Several committee members are abstrac tly seated in space and others thumb through the newspaper as aides wander in and out of the hearing room with messages.

The committee’s seeming lethargy, Wynia explained, was due to the fact that the Legislature had not received Gov. Perpich’s budget message, so there were no concrete budget proposals to comment on.

“We’re waiting for the governor,” she said. “The new members haven’t heard the departmental overview, but the returning members have heard it before, several times.”

This session Wynia was named chairman of the Health, Welfare and Corrections Division of the Appropriations Committee. Any bills in those areas that require outlay of state money pass through her division, where, she says, “we decide whether the state can afford it.” As chairman of the division, she must organize hearings, and with the input of committee members, schedule subjects and witnesses.

After the early morning hearing, Wynia makes her way to her office on the second floor of the state office building. She is stopped several times on the stairs and in the halls by members of her committee who want to discuss the hearing planned for that afternoon.

At her office, her secretary, Janis Isaacson, hands her a pile of papers and a list of that morning’s appointments, which she carried into her sunny, plant-filled office and adds to the stacks of paper on her desk.

Keeping up with the volume of reports and other printed material she receives is almost impossible, Wynia said. She reads constituent mail “religiously,” and material relating to a bill she is sponsoring, but for the rest she said she relies on oral communica tion—informal meetings with staff, other representatives or lobbyists.

Lobbyists are an inescapable fact of life for a state legislator, and since she has been named chairman of an appropriations committee, the number of lobbyists who request meetings with her has increased.

“I try to give everyone a chance to be heard,” Wynia said, “especially when it’s on an issue that will come before my committee. I wouldn’t want a lobbyist to say later in the session that I didn’t let them express their views.”

Meetings with lobbyists can be helpful, Wynia said, because by meeting with advocates of different views on an issue, she can begin to see the broad picture.

“The lobbyists tell me the main points of contention, then I can find out the rest from the staff people,” she said.

Staff aides play an important role in the Legislature because legislators must rely on them to provide information on the myriad of bills that compete for a legislator’s attention during the session.

In between appointments, Wynia is handed a stack of telephone messages and letters. She said she reads all of her mail from constituents and added, “I wish I heard from them more often.”

Letters from constituents frequently ask her help with a problem or express opinions about issues the writers feel strongly about. Taxes and social issues are two of the most popular letter topics, she said.

If someone writes to her for help with a problem, Wynia said she either will refer them to the department that can help them, or, “depending on what needs to be done and how much time I have,” she said she will attempt to handle the problem herself.

In the House of Representatives, both the DFL and IR caucuses have constituent services departments to help legislators sort out problems.

Several times during the session, Wynia will act as the principal sponsor of a bill before the House. As the chief author of a bill, a legislator must present the bill to the committee to which it is referred, answer questions at hearings, line up supporters for the bill, respond to critics, make changes if necessary and be prepared to refute proposed amendments if he or she does not agree with them.

If the bill is passed in the committee, it then goes to the House floor, where the principal sponsor must explain and defend the bill. Being the chief author of a bill is “rewarding,” Wynia said, “because you can make a positive change for people.”

Once the morning’s appointments are completed, Wynia might spend a spare hour to read a report she is interested in, or to attend an informal meeting on an issue she is concerned about. On this day, she heads over to the Holiday Inn for a lunch with the Joint Religious Legislative Council, where lobbyists again compete for a few minutes to gain a sense of where she stands on an issue. Before she leaves, she gives aide Timothy Leahy a rundown of the information she’d like available for future hearings she wants to schedule.

After lunch, Wynia returns to her office briefly to meet the other members of her committee so that they can leave for today’s hearings at Anoka County Hospital. The day will end as it began—in a small room where the work of government goes on.

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University at Raymond, 546-8866
Math students flex mental muscles

by Val Drogus

"Are we gonna win? Are we gonna fight? Are we gonna get those problems right?"

No pompom-carrying cheerleaders or raucous spectators were there to root for them, but one team member from North High cheered anyway when they posted the scores for the Pythagorean theorem problems at the Jan. 17 Math League meet at Johnson High School.

Most of the other students in the math room merely glanced at the results, then continued to warm up for the next event with a few more mental calisthenics.

Math League may not be as glamorous as basketball, but the 21 team members from Como Park Senior High School who devote two nights a week to school to practicing math skills say that it's fun.

Once every three weeks from January through March they test their mettle in meets with other Twin Cities high schools. The problems they solve there under a time pressure would baffle most college students, said their coach Frank Kernik.

"It's a way to get sharp kids to learn a little more than they would in the classroom," said Kernik, who has coached the Como team since it began three years ago.

Math leagues achieved popularity in the East a number of years ago. Then in 1980, Wayne Roberts, a Macalester College math professor, became interested in founding a Twin Cities league as a step to improve area schools' scores on the National Math Exam.

A grant from Sperry Univac enabled Roberts to start a league with four schools the first year. His idea grew so fast that in its third year 20 schools joined the Twin Cities league and 12 joined the new league on the Iron Range.

Como's team is exceptionally large. Any student is welcome to join and participate in meets, but only the answers of eight designated students score points. These scorers must include at least two underclassmen.

"You don't have to recruit (team members) half as hard as you do for volleyball," said Kernik. He announced this year's first practice once in early December and a roomful of prospective team members appeared at the first meeting.

"I'm very much interested in math," said Barbara Dumas, a senior who is on the team for the second year. "I love the challenge. It seems like you learn a lot."

"You learn shortcuts, and it helps you not to forget," added senior Bill Day. "You stay half a step ahead of everybody else."

"They feed you better here than in any other sport," joked junior Julie Libera. Team members were sitting around munching on pizza and apples and snacking pop while waiting for their next event.

Each meet consists of four events and each student chooses to compete in two events. Twelve minutes are allotted in each event to solve three problems. After the individual competition, there is a team test with six questions that must be answered in 20 minutes. Team members may consult with each other on solving these problems.

Although schools know ahead of time which topics a particular meet will cover, the actual questions are secret. Topics covered in the Jan. 17 meet were story problems in two variables, Pythagorean theorem, exponents and factoring and complex numbers and De Moivre's theorem.

The problems are so difficult that students do well to get half of them right.

"One of the advantages of the Math league is that students are exposed to math over and above what they'd see in the classroom," said Don Singer, a Como math teacher and second team coach. Most math team members said they are headed for careers in engineering or computer sciences where this additional exposure is helpful.

Como won the Jan. 17 meet, but there was not true air of jubilation on the bus going home. The problems had been particularly difficult, and the overall scores depressing low. Even though they won, team member Libera said she didn't feel "too good" about the results. Most team members were philosophic about it.

"You learn to accept it," shrugged Bill Day.
Two plans for senior housing move closer to reality

by Pamela Fields

Two plans to increase housing options in the area for older people have been discussed for months and are now moving closer to realization.

The St. Anthony Park Lutheran

SEMINARY continued from page 1

Thus, the seminary is asking for rezoning so that it can build along Fullham, but it would be able to build along Hendon between Fullham and Branson without rezoning, because that land is all zoned the same way (R-3).

The seminary’s reluctance to build along Hendon is that doing so would require destruction of four houses. Instead of calling for the rezoning, the seminary, according to Svendsby, has called for the current plan, according to Svendsby, has called for the current plan, regarding Svendsby’s current plan, regarding Svendsby’s current plan.

Svendsby said that the current plan is an attempt to meet community concerns expressed at a meeting several years ago when the seminary was planning to build the Sanfogren apartments.

“The two things I remember from that meeting are, save the green space and save houses,” Svendsby said.

The second alternate plan being considered by the seminary is to build the chapel-dining facility on the green space at Como Avenue and Eustis Street.

Svendsby believes the current plan is preferable to the alternatives. “We will be preserving as many houses as possible and preserving green space. That will be keeping faith with the community,” he said.

Some residents, however, believe there are other options that the seminary has refused to consider. “They’re being real inflexible,” Charlotte van der Wege said.

Van der Wege, who lives on Fullham across from the proposed site, believes the building could be constructed in the green space on Como without destroying the space.

“I don’t want the green space taken either,” she said. “They tell us the building won’t be large, grand and obtrusive. If it won’t be on Fullham, it won’t be on Como.” She said there are other possibilities the seminary has not seriously considered, such as the site where Aasgaard hall now stands.

Church congregation has been studying the possibility of developing senior housing on the empty lot it owns on Luther Place. At the same time, The University of Minnesota has been illegally using the empty space at Coffman and Larpenteur avenues in the University Grove area as a possible site for retirement condominiums.

“We’re further down the road than ever before,” said Kent Eklund, president of the Luther Place congregation, describing the church’s planning process.

The congregation’s housing committee, which has been studying the feasibility of using the church land for senior housing, expects to present a proposal to the congregation by May 1.

The committee has been consulting with Ebeneser Society of Minneapolis as it works to prepare a detailed development plan.

The committee also has polled congregation members, and responses indicate strong support for a housing project for senior citizens capable of independent living.

There are increasing numbers of older people living alone, in houses too large for their needs, according to Eklund. This, along with rising energy costs and the current economic times, pose extremely difficult problems for older people and prompted the need for the study, he said.

The University of Minnesota Retirees’ Housing Corp. is planning to introduce new housing in the University Grove area, said Gertrude Estes, president of the corporation.

The corporation has preliminary designs to build a 100-unit condominium with common dining and recreational areas. The four-story building would occupy approximately one acre in the vicinity of Coffman and Larpenteur avenues. The main entrance to the project would be off Larpenteur.

“It will be late spring before we hope to know what is happening,” she said. “Over the next few months, we would need to be sold “before a shovel is placed in the ground,” she said.

Estes, who has been active in the groundwork of the project, said she is concerned that an article in the Minneapolis Daily, following a recent meeting between the retirees group and Grove residents may have painted a negative picture of the housing plan.

“There are a lot of people living in the Grove who are in favor of it,” she said.

Having lived in the Grove area for 22 years, Estes believes she understands the variety of concerns expressed by people also living there. The Grove is a rustic, quiet area with trees and open areas. One concern is that this tranquil atmosphere could be lost if a multi-story housing project were built.

Estes said a multi-story housing unit “would make life simpler and easier” because it would have the added advantage of a built-in support system for people who share common interests. The unit would specifically house university staff and faculty ages 55 and older.

Some Grove homeowners are reluctant to say whether or not they favor the plan.

Robert Ellis, a Grove homeowner, said, “Although I am predisposed against it, I would not say that I am against it. It is not clear to me that there is a need for it.”

Frances Busta, president of the Grove Retirees’ Housing Association, said, “It is premature to make a statement for or against it.”

The association is designed to protect the interests of the 102 homeowners in the Grove. Busta said a questionnaire is currently being drafted to be presented to all homeowners in the area. This questionnaire would allow all homeowners equal time to present their views.

The plan proposes a cost per unit of $60,000. Busta said he questioned whether or not 100 people want to place $60,000 into a retirement home here.

“I can imagine Arizona or Florida being a more likely spot,” he said.

The District 17 Council is making a plea for those interested in housing for older people to call their office. They are forming a task force to study the need for it and ask that people call 646-8884 to express their concerns.

Writers Workshop

Jill Breckenridge, a Minnesota writer and critic, will meet with the St. Anthony Park Writer’s Workshop on March 3, at 7 p.m., 1309 Raymond Ave. She will critique writing presented by the workshop members and discuss publication strategies.

All writers in St. Anthony Park who might have considered joining the Workshop are encouraged to attend this first in a series of meetings with guest writers-critics over the next six months.

Breckenridge and the other invited writer-critics are sponsored by the St. Anthony Park Arts Forum. Call 644-6909 for more information.

March, 1983

St. Anthony Park Association

Editor: Sue Stegmeier, 644-3848

Energy Park Update

On Tuesday, March 8, Ken Drugan from the Port Authority will present a program on the current status of the Energy Park to SAPA members and friends. He will include slides and a period for questions and answers. Come prepared for an informative evening.

1982-83 Board of Directors: President, Tom Rohrlich; 1st Vice President, Mary Warpeha; 2nd Vice President, Gail Dentiz; Secretary, Cindy Altigren; Treasurer, Steve Townsel; At-Large Directors, Steve Wellington, Dave Maschitz and Charlie Flinn. Address: P.O. Box 10062, Como Station, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108.

DATE: March 8, 6 p.m. dinner, program to follow.

PLACE: United Church of Christ.
COST: $4.25 for members, $4.75 for non-members.

If you have not been called by Friday, March 4, call Bridges (654-4940) for reservations. Babysitting is available upon request when making reservations. Cancellations must be made before 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 6, or you will be billed for dinner costs. Call Bridges or Peg Van Zandt (644-7451) to cancel.

SAPA Board to Meet

Tuesday, March 1, SAPA board members will meet at the home of Dave Maschitz, 2234 Carter Ave., at 7:30 p.m.

Local Royalty Crowned

Fun and food were the agenda on Feb. 5 and 6 at Langford Park. Winter Sports Day was again a smashing success! Ray Poor was crowned Prince Anthony and Michelle Reuter was crowned Princess Antonia, recognizing their contributions at Langford. In addition, King Boreas crowned Tom Ruddy “Baron de Booster Club” while Brad Rasmussen was crowned “Sir Bradley of Culinary Connection.” A round of applause to these residents and the many others who contributed time and efforts to make the event a success! A special thank you goes to the many commercial contributors who so generously donated. The event is sponsored by the SAPA and Langford Booster Club.

Recreational News

Spring registration for soccer will take place March 14-31. Teams for children grades 9 and under will be organized. Children may register weekdays from 3:30-5 p.m. and 6:30-9 p.m. at Langford and South St. Anthony. See registration forms for details.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT, MARCH 31

On March 31, both recreation centers will hold Easter egg hunts at 4 p.m. Children 10 years and under will play games, color eggs, hunt eggs and try to find the “Golden Egg”! It’s FREE for all, so bring your youngsters to enjoy the fun!

On Campus For You: SPSCC Events

The St. Paul campus Student Center will offer the following activities during March:

WEEKEND FILM SERIES: Friday and Saturday, 7:30 and 9:45 p.m.; $2.50 non-students, March 4-5; “Time Bandits.”

IN THE THEATER:
Losaff and Dean: Twin Cities Premier Dance Performance, 8 p.m., March 10-13.

Minniota Jazz Dance, 8 p.m., March 18-20.

PAUL WHITNEY LARSON GALLERY: February 26-March 25.

Pictorial Hooked Rugs by Dorothy Sabur.

WILDFLIEWEEK: North Star Ballroom. (Special lectures at 12 noon) March 7-11.

THIS SPACE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE ST. ANTHONY PARK ASSOCIATION
‘Great Branches—New Roots’ explores Hmong family life

by Karen Andersen

How does the making of a creative documentary film come about? Where does the idea originate, and why would anyone go through the difficulty and expense of producing a film?

“Great Branches-New Roots,” a soon-to-be-released documentary about Hmong people who have immigrated to America (specifically the Twin Cities), is the result of a number of interests that converged in a single project.

For Nancy Haley, a Park resident and one of the film’s three filmmakers, it began in 1978 when she was teaching English as a second language to adults in the Minneapolis Public Schools. At that time there was an influx of new Hmong refugees.

“Getting interested in the Hmong people themselves preceded getting involved in the film,” Haley said. “I knew that these people were from Laos, but that’s about all I knew about them the first night of class.”

Haley had also been a weaver for some time and was very active in the Weavers Guild of Minnesota. This formed a connection between her and the new students, because the Hmong have a highly developed textile art. Haley’s students began to bring her their textiles to sell for them.

At the same time Haley was studying at Film in the Cities and made a seven-minute 16 mm film on the Hmong as a student project. She said she felt it was important to have the film reflect Hmong aesthetics, so the film was based on the textiles and the music of the Hmong culture.

As a result of doing the short film, Haley met another filmmaker, Kathleen Laughlin, who needed a piece of equipment Haley had borrowed from Film in the Cities. It turned out that a woman Laughlin knew, Rita LaDoux, was also interested in making a film on the Hmong.

Early in 1981 Laughlin and LaDoux raised over half the money for the film. In June of 1981 Haley decided to stop teaching and start devoting her time to filmmaking. She and LaDoux began to work on grant proposals. They contacted scores of foundations, almost all of which were not interested in funding films.

From August 1981, through the spring of 1982 they sought funding sources, and finally things began to fall into place all at once. They received funding from the Northwest Area Foundation, the Otto Bremer Foundation, the Whitney Foundation, the Joseph Paper Foundation and the Minnesota Humanities Commission.

Haley said they chose Hmong family structure as the subject of their film because, “The Hmong family structure is an incredibly cohesive, supportive structure, based on what we call a clan system.”

The film begins with a storyteller and an animation of a traditional folk tale. That leads into a brief historical section and then a section that introduces many different families and different issues, such as economical and educational matters.

The final half of the film centers around one specific family group. “That family group is composed of 16 nuclear families, but we’re really talking about probably 75 people,” Haley explained.

“That family group provides us with a nucleus out of which come all of the different issues: assimilation, cultural preservation, problems with the jobs, problems with education, the frustration, longing for the traditional life and the real drive to try to preserve the culture,” she continued.

Haley, Laughlin and LaDoux ended up with about 40 hours of recorded conversations they have transcribed with their translator, Tou H. Yang. The completed film will be 30 minutes long.

An important factor in the making of the film has been the cooperation of the Lao Family Community in St. Paul.

“In a sense they endorsed the project,” Haley explained. “Without that endorsement we wouldn’t have been able to get in the door.” The film’s theme necessitated filming in the subjects’ homes.

Many of the persons appearing in the film have been former students of Haley’s.

“I think that the opening and interest experiences money for Part of the money for Part of the movie was raised by people living in St. Paul and other parts of Minnesota.”

The Vu family has worked very hard to return of separation.

An enthralled grandchild listens to his grandmother’s folktale about how the Hmong got their clan names. Photos on these two pages are by Nancy Haley.
y, who has cons-
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kind of thing.
ason the Hmong
Minnesota and in
cause there is a
community interest in other cul-
tures.

“I think this is a whole group of
people that in years to come will
prove to be a tremendous asset
to the community and will be-
come a part of the history of St.
Paul,” Haley said.
The film will be released in April
or May.

Filmmakers (from left and back), Rita LaDoux, Kathleen Laughlin and Nancy Haley with members of the Ka Leng Vang family.

“I like to fix cars,” says Yer Vu. “It’s not my car, it’s my brother’s car. If I know how to
fix it, I can help them. We live together, we must help together.”

Tou H. Vang, translator, works with the filmmakers at the Hmong farming project.
Plans to upgrade Snelling worry Falcon Heights residents

by Richard Bale

Falcon Heights residents are concerned about the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MDOT) proposed changes to Snelling Ave.

Under a repair and resurfacing project set to begin in December 1983, MDOT wants to upgrade the road's classification to "expressway."

The change in Falcon Heights would mean limiting access to the major intersections, Hoyt, Larpenteur, Roselawn and Garden. A west-side service road would also be added, along with traffic lights at the Roselawn and Hoyt intersections.

The project carries a $2.8 million price tag, according to Jerry Stiverson, an MDOT planner. An additional $1 million will be needed to install the new traffic light system.

Initially, MDOT wanted to close the Garden St. intersection and create one-way service roads.

But after the city council and residents objected, saying that would restrict emergency vehicles, MDOT decided to keep Garden open and create two-way service roads.

Residents were also alarmed at the possibility of assessments for road work and replacement of the 42-year-old storm sewers in the project area.

However, in a Feb. 8 meeting with Falcon Heights city engineer Brad Lemberg, MDOT planners said the project would use mostly federal, state and county funds.

Snelling Ave. residents reportedly would have a very small amount of money assessed for the work now being planned, according to MDOT, said Lemberg.

John Carnes, 1755 Snelling Ave., said there are still problems with a preliminary plan presented at a Feb. 10 city council meeting. Carnes, along with other residents, merchants, and the city council, object to the closing of the Crawford Street intersection.

Carnes said that Snelling's "east-side residents wouldn't have good access anymore to Falcon Heights' shopping area on the west side. I think that would cut down their business tremendously."

Jim Korf, who owns Falcon Barbers, 1713 N. Snelling, agreed that the loss of business would be substantial.

"To survive and do well here you need as many corners as possible. If they close Crawford, impulse buying will be gone," Korf said.

"Someone getting a haircut won't go across the street, for example, to the liquor store anymore. With the road changes, they might as well go down to Har Mar," said Korf.

Pearsons to dance at Normandale

Dancer Jerry Pearson, who grew up in St. Anthony Park, will perform with his wife Sara at Normandale Community College March 7 at 8 p.m. The performance is open to the public without charge.

Korf also said that dividing Falcon Heights with a limited-access expressway hampers the community's fire and police protection by making it difficult for them to get across.

"We need to have as many crossings as possible in Falcon Heights," he said.

There are also problems with the proposed west-side service road.

"The new service road is going to have wide, sweeping corners," said Robert Brown, 1592 Maple Knoll Dr. Residents feel the wide corners encourage people to roll through stop signs, increasing the chances for accidents.

"They destroy the integrity of the stopping area," said Carnes.

Brown, whose property lies on a corner, added, "There is a tendency of motorists coming through these sweeping corners not even to slow down."

The Falcon Heights city council plans to work closely with MDOT to make the changes as "palatable" as possible for residents, said Lemberg at a recent city council meeting.
REPAIR
continued from page 1

"As I recall, there was some concern over the long period of time a renter has to wait before going ahead with the work," Eagles said.

St. Anthony Park is not without those who question the usefulness of the plan.

Steve Townley, a local realtor, wondered about the quality and the cost of the contractors whom tenants would pick to do the work.

"Landlords usually know how to get work done well at the best possible price. I don’t think a tenant would look any further than the first contractor they came upon."

According to the provisions of the ordinance, a licensed, approved contractor must be used by the tenant to get the work done. Only contractor’s fees and material costs can be deducted from the rent. Any work done personally by the renter is not deductible, though the cost of materials is.

Townley also suggested that the costs of the deductions would probably be seen in escalating rents, perhaps needlessly, should the ordinance become law.

However, those who support the bill see it as a way to improve housing in the area. Renters would not be subject to "nitpicking" or insignificant appeals - only to those confirmed as being below housing code standards. Landlords can appeal citations to the Housing Board. And the landlord may still evict tenants.

"The ordinance’s distinguishing characteristic is the inclusion of a city inspector in the process," said Tom Vasaly, a lawyer with Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services who is working with the Tenants Union for adoption of the ordinance.

"Other states and municipalities already have similar statutes on the books. Theirs are, in general, more loosely construed in favor of the renters than this one."

Vasaly said the main reason for the ordinance is to combat the few landlords who find it more economically appealing to forego any type of improvements and simply put off repairs.

In addition, Vasaly sees peripheral benefits to the plan. Deterioration of rental units affects the property values of a whole neighborhood.

But Townley said the opposite may occur.

"Landlords who don’t want to improve their property will just raise the rent enough to cover the missing three months. That will eliminate what low-cost housing there is around. Renters will look around until they find something they say ‘Gee, it wasn’t so bad when it cost less.’"

Is such an ordinance important for the St. Anthony Park area, where absentee landlords are few, Eagles was asked.

He answered with an example: "There was a condemned building in the area several years ago. The district went through quite an involved process of helping the evicted get relocated. The ordinance could quite possibly make that kind of situation difficult to happen again."

Family folk dance

St. Anthony Park Elementary School’s second annual family folk dance will be held March 18 at the school, 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be sold during the week before the dance and at the door: $4 per family or $1 for single tickets.

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Local writer publishes new romance

by Jim Brogan

Marge DeBoer's newly published novel, "Crown of Desire," may not have made the New York Times' list as yet, but in St. Anthony Park, it is already a bestseller.

By mid-February, Miller Pharmacy had sold more than a dozen copies and had to reorder to keep it in stock. The book is also available at Micawber's Books, where on Sunday, March 13, from 1 to 3 p.m., DeBoer will appear to autograph copies for interested buyers.

Originally scheduled to come out last November, "Crown of Desire" was delayed when its publisher, Tower Books, unexpectedly went out of business. Fortunately, one of the principals in that firm was able to secure refinancing and, under the new imprint of Dorchester Publishing Co., bring out DeBoer's novel after all. It is one in a series called Leisure Books.

Most of the books in this series are romances, said DeBoer, although her own is something of a maverick.

"When I wrote it, I thought of it more as an historical novel," she said, pointing out that the story is set in Paris at the time of the Franco-Prussian War and its aftermath. It was a complex, and in many ways, harsh period of history, not what you would expect to find in a contemporary romantic novel.

"Romances are read mostly as light entertainment," explained DeBoer, "and people don't want to be disturbed by what they read in them." Some of her readers consequently may be surprised when DeBoer's novel gets into what she calls "the harder facts of war and what happens during a siege."

"I was even disturbed when I was writing it," she admitted, "having to go into what really happened."

Nevertheless, she had no choice.

"It was the history that I was after," she explained, "and getting my characters involved in the history of that time."

On March 11 at 8 p.m., DeBoer is scheduled to address the Women Historians of the Midwest in the assembly room of the St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ. Her topic will be "Modifying History for Popular Fiction."

Although she hasn't yet completed her preparations for that address, DeBoer said it will center on "how I got my background for the book, and the sorts of things I had to do to adapt it for a novel."

In the meantime, she is learning the tricks of the book trade, or Life after Publication.

She has met some of the people engaged in distributing her book, including the representative from the regional wholesaler, Kable News in Chicago. Locally the book is being distributed by Gopher News, and as part of the public relations effort, the man from Kable threw a party for DeBoer and some of the people from Gopher News who will actually be delivering her book to the stores where it will be sold.

The idea, said DeBoer, is to introduce the author to the rack-jobbers and hope they remember the occasion favorably when they are in the stores deciding which book to place in the most prominent position on the shelves.

Pizzas and beer at a bar in Golden Valley isn't exactly dinner at Elaine's, but it's a start, and as important in its own way as the hours a writer spends at her desk struggling to make a character come alive.

A friend of DeBoer's who has published five books already tells her that it is only now, since the last one, that she has finally begun to earn "a living wage" with her writing. Getting published, in other words, is not the professional author's destination, but merely a transfer to a moving train. There are no guarantees in the business, and an author has always to be looking ahead.

With this in mind, DeBoer has been checking around on her own to see how her book is doing. She has learned from a relative in Mitchell, South Dakota, for example, that three stores there have "Crown of Desire" on the shelves. Even more encouraging is the news that B. Dalton's has evidently decided to stock it in at least some of their stores.

For a first novel, that's not bad.
Zoids, frig and gox! Wordslingers compete in Winter Carnival tourney

by Tom Krogsstad

Tall and lean, he strode purposefully into the hall in his cowboy boots. He was ready to take all comers. They called him Doc.

But this wasn’t an old saloon; it was a modern gym at the South St. Anthony Park Recreation Center. And Dr. Bob Watson wasn’t a gunfighter. He wasn’t an athlete, either. He did battle with words.

In the end, he was done in by a friend.

Dr. Jim Adams won the 1983 winter carnival Scrabble tournament Sunday, Feb. 6, with a 7-1 tournament record, succeeding his Scrabble practice partner and 1982 winner, Watson.

While the ebb and flow of victory and loss in such tournaments is often hard to trace, Watson felt he lost the hard-fought sixth game, played head to head with Adams, ironically enough, on the word “poise.” That and the lack of “Ss” he drew during the game.

More than 130 people played in the three-day event (the 8th annual) which began Sunday, Jan. 30 and continued the following weekend. Players are divided into Recreational and Competitive divisions. Sixteen Recreational and 30 Competitive players made it to the final day.

Players were paired with someone new in their division in each of five 50-minute games. Tournament Directors Don and Robin Proud paired players like Adams and Watson with other players acknowledged to be among the best in the state. Contestants for this event came not only from Wisconsin. Five Scrabble Clubs exist in the Twin Cities area; now there is one in Bemidji.

During the breaks, some Scrabblers did body stretching exercises or played a pickup game of basketball on the half of the two-court gym not filled with tables of Scrabble boards. Members of the District 12 Committee operated a refreshment stand from the kitchen.

The Scrabble boards themselves were mainly of the "deluxe edition" variety, and game pieces were stored in a variety of soft velvet bags. Many players preferred using the monogrammed bags that expensive liquor comes in.

When the exercise stops and the wordplay begins, the only sound heard is an occasional "Challenge!" which sends a referee scurrying to the competitors with an official Scrabble Players Dictionary to check on the veracity of a word.

Ah, yes, the words themselves. Posted next to the tote board is each of the challenge slips, and the notation of whether the word is acceptable. Some of the acceptable words were:

Gox, wire, foamlike, zoids, wo, souped, tamjar, azures, moultes, ar, wons, retailer, haunsters, xori, gege, true, promiiser, elqupey, fring, totters, roquat, disrated, jebl.

Unless you have the official Scrabble Players dictionary, don’t worry about disputing these. That is where they are listed.

In game six of the tourney on Sunday afternoon, Watson suffered his important loss to Adams. He also lost the final two games of the afternoon. Behind Adams, Victor Etienne and Bonnie Redland placed second and third, respectively.

In the recreational division, the winner was Bob DiGusto, a St. Paul postal worker who won his last game by a scant four points. Kathy and Ted Fricke, both of St. Paul, came in second and third.

For their efforts, winners received promotional items from Selchow and Righter, creators of Scrabble. Winners are judged first on the number of winning games. Should two or more people win the same amount of games (which often occurs), the player with the best total point word score is the winner.

This tournament, one of two major annual competitions in the state, is not an end in itself. From here, the final 16 Recreational players will be required to compete on the Competitive level. The top half of the Competitive entrants and the top five Recreational players can attend a district competition. From there, winners go to state and regional play, and then finally to the national tournament. Being a wordslinger isn’t easy. There’s always someone gunning for you.

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Referee checks word in match between Bob Watson (left) and Jim Adams (right, partially hidden). Photo by Tom Krogsstad.
Fencers foil opponents; swimmers make splash

by Ann Bulger

Local athletes have come out on top in some of the lesser-publicized sports this winter.

Fencers Miles Phillips and Chris Stout, both St. Anthony Park residents, accounted for four championships at the Minnesota Junior Olympic Fencing Championships held in early February.

Phillips won all three events in the under-20 age group—foil, epee and saber—and became the first fencer in Minnesota history to hold all three championships simultaneously. Phillips, who is 16 years old, just entered the under-20 class this year.

Stout won the epee competition in the under-16 age group and placed 3rd in the under-16 foil and 5th in the under-19 epee.

Olav Ormseth, also of St. Anthony Park, finished 6th in the under-16 foil competition and 6th in the under-19 epee.

All three fencers compete with the Excalibur Fencing Club, coached by Bob van der Wege, also of St. Anthony Park.

The three are among the 12 Minnesota fencers who competed this past week in the National Junior Olympic Championships in Tampa, Florida. Van der Wege is the coach of the state team.

The Como Park High School boys' swim team has captured the city title and will compete in the city conference meet of Feb. 24, the Twin City meet on Feb. 26, and the Section VII meet during the week of Feb. 28.

Anna Engele, Como Park sophomore, was recently featured in Sports Illustrated's "Faces in the Crowd" section for winning the national handball championship for girls 15 and under. Engele, who plays against the women's state champ once a week for practice, traveled to Florida during Christmas vacation to win her title.

Murray news notes

by Ann Bulger

The Winter Exposition at Murray Magnet Junior High, originally scheduled for Feb. 17, was postponed to Thursday, Feb. 22, because of conflicting community events. The exposition will begin with a short program in the auditorium at 7:15 p.m., followed by demonstrations and exhibits throughout the building. The event is open to the community, with a special emphasis on sixth-graders and their parents.

Murray has a new look, with exterior and interior painting of the building almost completed. New drapes for the auditorium stage will be in place before the spring musical and concerts. New cafeteria tables and chairs are expected by September.

Old couches or easy chairs are needed for Vernon Peterson's Peer Counseling classroom, in order to provide a more informal setting for discussion. If anyone would like to donate old furniture, please call the Murray office, 645-9474.

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It appears that there will again be a limit on the number of seventh-graders permitted to enter Murray. Two years ago, a cap of 250 students was put on entering seventh-graders, making a total enrollment of 500 in the school.

Last year, the cap was lifted, and 350 entered, raising the enrollment to 600 and leading to crowded conditions in the school. If 350 were permitted to enter next September, the school total would be 700. The limit will probably be set at 270 to 300 for next fall.

For the first time, applicants from outside the immediate attendance area will be required to fill out a racial balance permit. This will ensure that other junior highs in the city are not left with a minority percentage above the state guidelines.

****

Seventy Murray students and twelve parents and teachers will go to the Environmental Learning Center near Isabella, Minnesota, March 8-11, for the annual Environmental-Intercultural Retreat.

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Good news for seniors in St. Paul, where it all began:
SHARE’s new Medical Center in St. Paul’s Energy Park becomes newest big reason to join SeniorCare now.

It was less than ten years ago that SHARE began in the heart of St. Paul’s Midway area – in the original St. Paul Medical Center at 555 Simpson Street. Here, too, just five years later, SHARE turned SeniorCare from a dream into a reality. "The dream," according to a SHARE spokesperson, "was to implement principles that we knew would offer our senior citizens a complete, quality health care program and still keep costs under control."

The SeniorCare principles worked in practice. As a result, the SeniorCare membership grew by leaps and bounds. And, with great anticipation offset by a bit of the sadness that goes along with leaving the original family home, SHARE is about to take another giant step forward.

SHARE’s new Medical Center, scheduled to open this fall in the much publicized Energy Park, will be the largest and most complete facility of its kind in St. Paul. Specialties will range from internal medicine, surgery, cardiology and radiology to pulmonary medicine. The 56,000-square-foot Medical Center will also offer full-service laboratory and X-ray departments and a complete optical services department.

SeniorCare members who use the new Energy Park Medical Center will continue to be referred to Midway Hospital.

Good News For Seniors:

No rate increase in 1983 means even more good news for St. Paul seniors.

In addition to the good news about the new SHARE Medical Center in Energy Park, you may already know that SeniorCare has announced there’ll be no rate increase for 1983! Complete SeniorCare coverage will continue to cost you just $19.75 per month when supplemental insurance plans now average more than $40 per month.

Also continuing in effect for 1983 is the SeniorCare money-back guarantee that refunds your first three months’ premium if you’re not satisfied.

Learn more by attending a SeniorCare Community Meeting. Call SHARE for a schedule of meetings near you.

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Or send the coupon now.

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(Not available in Twin Cities Metro area and at the East Range Clinics in Virginia and Aumur, Minnesota, only)

Good News For Seniors:
**20 Park Bugle**

**Thursday/Feb. 24**
Winter Exposition, Murray Junior High, 7-16 p.m. (Note date change)
Pop Concert, Como Park Senior High, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday/25**
Recycling Unlimited curbside pick-up, north and south St. Anthony Park.

**Sunday/27**
Music in the Park series, United Church of Christ, 4 p.m.

**Monday/28**
Cub Scout pack meeting, Methodist Church, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday/March 1**
St. Anthony Park Association board meeting, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday/2**
Leisure Center, Methodist Church, 10 a.m., Barbara Brooten: "China Painting"

**Thursday/3**
District 12 physical committee, 2300 Hampden, 5 p.m.
District 12 human services committee, 2300 Hampden, 7 p.m.
St. Anthony Park Writers Workshop, 1309 Raymond, 7 p.m. Guest writer/critic: Jill Breckenridge

**Saturday/5**
Recycling Unlimited pick-up at St. Anthony Park Drive-In Bank, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Monday/7**
No school—St. Paul elementary schools
Northern Lights 4-H Club, 2264 Commonwealth, 7 p.m.
American Legion Post #34, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday/8**
St. Anthony Park Association, United Church of Christ, 5:45-8 p.m.

**Wednesday/9**
Leisure Center, Methodist Church, 10 a.m., A.H. Steinhauser: "Panama"
District 12 Council, 2380 Hampden, 7 p.m.

**Thursday/10**
World Language Festival and Inter-cultural Fair, 3-8 p.m., Central High School, St. Anthony Park School Association board meeting, 7 p.m.
Evening conferences, St. Paul elementary schools
St. Anthony Park Neighborhoods for Peace, Peace Institute at Aasgaard Hall, Luther-Northwestern Seminary, Como & Hennepin, 7-30 p.m., call 645-3045

**Sunday/13**
Turkey dinner, Corpus Christi Catholic Church, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m., tickets in advance (644-8426) or at door.

**Tuesday/15**
Como Park High School parents meeting, library at Como, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday/16**
Leisure Center, Methodist Church, 10 a.m., Polly Mann: "Women Against Military Madness"
"Arsenic and Old Lace," Como Park Senior High, 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday/17**
"Arsenic and Old Lace," Como Park Senior High, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday/19**
Recycling Unlimited pick-up at St. Anthony Park Drive-In Bank, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Monday/21**
League of Women Voters, Unit 8, 1069 Mary Lane, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday/23**
Leisure Center, Methodist Church, 10 a.m., "The Impressionist Revolution"
Langford Booster Club, Langford Park, 7:30 p.m.

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Japanese student will miss Minnesota but not winter cold

by Robin Nelson

"Minnesota is nice, but it's too cold," said Osamu Ohsone, a foreign exchange student from Tokyo.

Ohsone, 17, has been in Minnesota since August and lives with the Avery Stewart family in St. Anthony Park. He attends Como Park High School. He explained that in Tokyo it is warm most of the time and snows only three or four times a year.

But Ohsone said he likes it here because there is time to have fun. "In the United States, people have freedom and they are not always so busy. I like the freedom."

According to Ohsone, going to school here is much different than in Japan. "In Japan we have to study so hard. Most Japanese people, like 90%, go to college," he said. Japanese high schools prepare their students for college so that they will be able to get good paying jobs. He added that in Japan, students are not allowed to choose their classes or teachers, and must wear uniforms.

Ohsone enjoys going to Como. "I have met many fun people at school, good people. And there are so many different kinds of people in school too. Black people, Spanish people, Hmong people.

Festivities to honor Al Capone's Pal

Morris "Red" Rudensky, once one of the best safecrackers and lock breakers in the country, and now a resident at Common-wealth Healthcare Center, will be honored at a special celebration March 13 at the center.

Rudensky was once a confidante of Al Capone and the Alcatraz Birdman, Robert Stroud, and spent more than 35 years in and out of prisons before going straight in 1942.

In his straight life, Rudensky worked to educate the public and businesses on foiling burglars and safecrackers. He also formed a variety show which performed at many hospitals and nursing homes in the Twin Cities area.

His variety troupe is still active and will be performing at the celebration March 13. The public is invited to attend; festivities will begin at 2 p.m.
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"A long time ago, the rivers and oceans flooded the earth..." A Hmong grandmother telling her grandchildren a story. See story, photos pages 12 and 13. Photo by Nancy Haley.