

# The Virginia·Highland Voice



Newsletter of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association

P.O. Box 8401, Station F / Atlanta, Georgia 30306

September, 1980

## GENERAL MEETING

The September Meeting of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association will feature a film about our neighbors in Candler Park.

This film, "Candler Park: a Neighborhood in Transition" was produced by the Georgia State University Department of Anthropology and Department of Educational Media, and the Committee for the Humanities in Georgia.

The film features interviews with people in Candler Park who discuss the history of the neighborhood and what it is like to be part of a revitalizing intown neighborhood.

Produced by Professor Robert Fishman and directed by Gary Moss, it is really an excellent film that explains the issues common to all of us in the intown area.

The meeting will be held on Thurs., September 25th at 8:00 p.m. at the Highland Branch Library. We will also have announcements and refreshments. See you there!

--Susan Walker  
Chairman



Candler Park Film Featured at September General Meeting

(Photo Courtesy of the Atlanta Historical Society)

## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

- 18 (Wednesday) Historical Society Workshop  
261-1837.
- 20 (Saturday) Safety Fair (see article).
- 25 (Thursday) General Meeting at Highland  
Branch Library, 8:00 p.m.
- 30 (Tuesday) Baby-Sitting Co-Op Annual Meeting  
at Hugueley's (872-4096).

### OCTOBER

- 1 (Wednesday) VOICE Deadline.
- 3-5 (Friday-Sunday) Historical Workshop  
688-4636.
- 11 (Saturday) Oral Hist. Workshop (see article).
- 13 (Monday) PTA - Inman Middle School, 7:00 p.m.  
Picnic Supper at 6:00 p.m. (optional)  
872-6531.
- 14 (Tuesday) Oral Hist. Workshop (see article).

## ANOTHER TIME... ANOTHER PLACE

### SINGED AROUND THE EDGES

Monday, May 21, 1917, marked a flaming event in the pages of Atlanta history that had not been experienced since General Sherman's march out of the city in late 1864. It was the day of Atlanta's "big fire," one which only singed the borders of the Virginia-Highland neighborhood with its destructive flames.

The "big fire" was one of four that broke out in separate sections of the city within the span of an hour: 11:39 a.m. at the Candler Warehouse on Murphy Avenue, 11:43 a.m. at York and Ashby Streets in West End, 12:15 p.m. at the corner of Woodward Avenue and King Street, 12:46 p.m. at the old pest house on Decatur Street, then used by Grady Hospital as storage depot. The 12:46 p.m. alarm was the beginning of the "big fire" that headed north by north-east, and within 24 hours ruined block after block of homes and wholesale property.

Although the fire was not in the Virginia-Highland area, it came close enough to scorch the outer edges, and to destroy some of the most beautiful sections of Atlanta that bordered our boundaries. The fire was bounded by North Boulevard on the east side until it got to Highland Avenue. At this point, it spread several blocks to the east, stopping just before it reached the Home of the Friendless on Highland Avenue. The flames spread north, down Boulevard Terrace and Boulevard

Place, taking every house on those two streets as far east as the ball park on Ponce de Leon, including Kennesaw Avenue. North of Ponce de Leon, on the east, it reached St. Charles Avenue and was finally extinguished at Greenwood Avenue.

The flames spread in several directions at Highland Avenue. To the east they ceased just short of Prospect Place, but razed the beautiful Grace Methodist Church at the corner of North Boulevard and Highland Avenue. The fire spent its force at Vedado Way and Greenwood Avenue. The fire never reached the ball park and Ponce de Leon leading into Druid Hills.

Neighboring towns sent fire engines, and people from all over the city hastened to aid the stricken. It was 10 o'clock in the evening before Fire Chief Cody and his associates got the flames under control. Thousands were rendered homeless and made their beds in Piedmont Park and in a large vacant lot on Edgewood Avenue. Fortunately, only one life was lost.

We can all be thankful that only the edges of the Virginia-Highland area were touched by the "big fire" of 1917. We are blessed with a visual, physical view of our neighborhood's history, that has been preserved and we are maintaining. However, to hundreds who were born and lived in the area devastated by the fire, the ruins were the grave of a neighborhood, to be replaced, but never to exist as before.

--Craig Strain

## THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW...

...that the August issue of the VOICE was collated by volunteers -- over a period of two days -- led by Jenny Chambers. Thanks to the Grace Lutheran Church for providing the space for the collating project. In addition to Jenny (and her children!) the star collator was Craig Strain. Other volunteers were Al Cedarholm, Jeff Whalen, Suzanne Hugueley, and yours truly.

...that Orin Kell, who does the photography work for so many of our Civic Association projects, went above and beyond the call of volunteerism for the August issue. After taking the photos at the In-Town Celebration, he had to go out of town on an extended business project. So -- Orin set up a darkroom in the bathroom of his motel room and developed the photos used in last month's VOICE! Orin, we think you're great!

...that about 20 neighborhood residents took advantage of the free leadership workshop sponsored by the Civic Association on September 3. Susan Walker promises to put them all to work as soon as possible.

--Diane Grimes



### All Saints Church

North Avenue and West P'tree  
8:00 - 9:00 - 11:00 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Services:  
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## SEPTEMBER SAFETY

A Safety Fair is being planned for Saturday, September 20th from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. It will be held in the gym at the Druid Hills United Methodist Church, and at the Druid Hills Church Association Community Center, 1200 and 1226 Ponce de Leon Avenue, respectively.

The Fair will provide an opportunity for a wide range of safety projects and services to be displayed and demonstrated. Home, business, and personal safety will be emphasized.

Some deadbolt locks will be discounted, and installation can be arranged at a reduction. Reflective house numerals will also be offered at a discount. Other products include alarm systems and chemical sprays. T.H.O.R. will have a mobile unit on home protection and neighborhood watch. The Police Department's SAFE Program will also participate.

--Linda Cook

## PRESERVATIONISTS

The newly formed Atlanta Preservation Center, a city-wide coalition and resource center for promoting the preservation of Atlanta's architecturally, historically and culturally significant structures and neighborhoods, is seeking members and volunteers to assist in the work of the Center.

For more information on the Center's volunteer meeting on September 22nd and the activities of the Center, call Eileen Segrest or Lynn Meyer at 522-4345.

## OF INTEREST TO LOCAL HISTORY BUFFS

DISCOVERING THE PRIMARY SOURCE:  
LOCAL ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES,  
September 18, Atlanta Historical  
Society. \$5.00 registration fee  
includes lunch. Call 261-1837.  
Deadline is September 12.

GEORGIA HISTORY: A COMMUNITY AP-  
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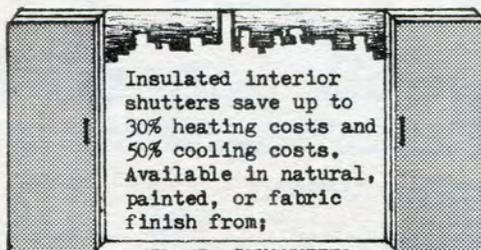
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## TERRIFIC TUESDAYS A SUCCESS

Question: What do you have when you get 30 children, ages two to six, together at Orme Park for lunch and recreation? If you guessed Terrific Tuesdays, you're right!!

Terrific Tuesdays was the fun way neighborhood children enjoyed their summer June 17 through August 19. The capable and dynamic Diane Stockemer led the children in activities ranging from carpenter day, nature hikes, to a trip to the post office. Each week a new theme and exciting activity was planned. The children explored art, the world around us, and most of all, each other as friends.

The grand finale was the children's pet show. Awards were given to each pet dressed in Virginia-Highland Flair.

Parents agreed to have Terrific Tuesdays as a tradition.

--Suzanne Hugueley



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Meets Thursday evenings (8-10:30 p.m.). Quilting,  
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NON-COMMERCIAL PERSONALS ACCEPTED FREE From Virginia-  
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October 1 (distributed approximately 2-3 weeks into  
the month). Send your items, with name and telephone  
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872-2001.

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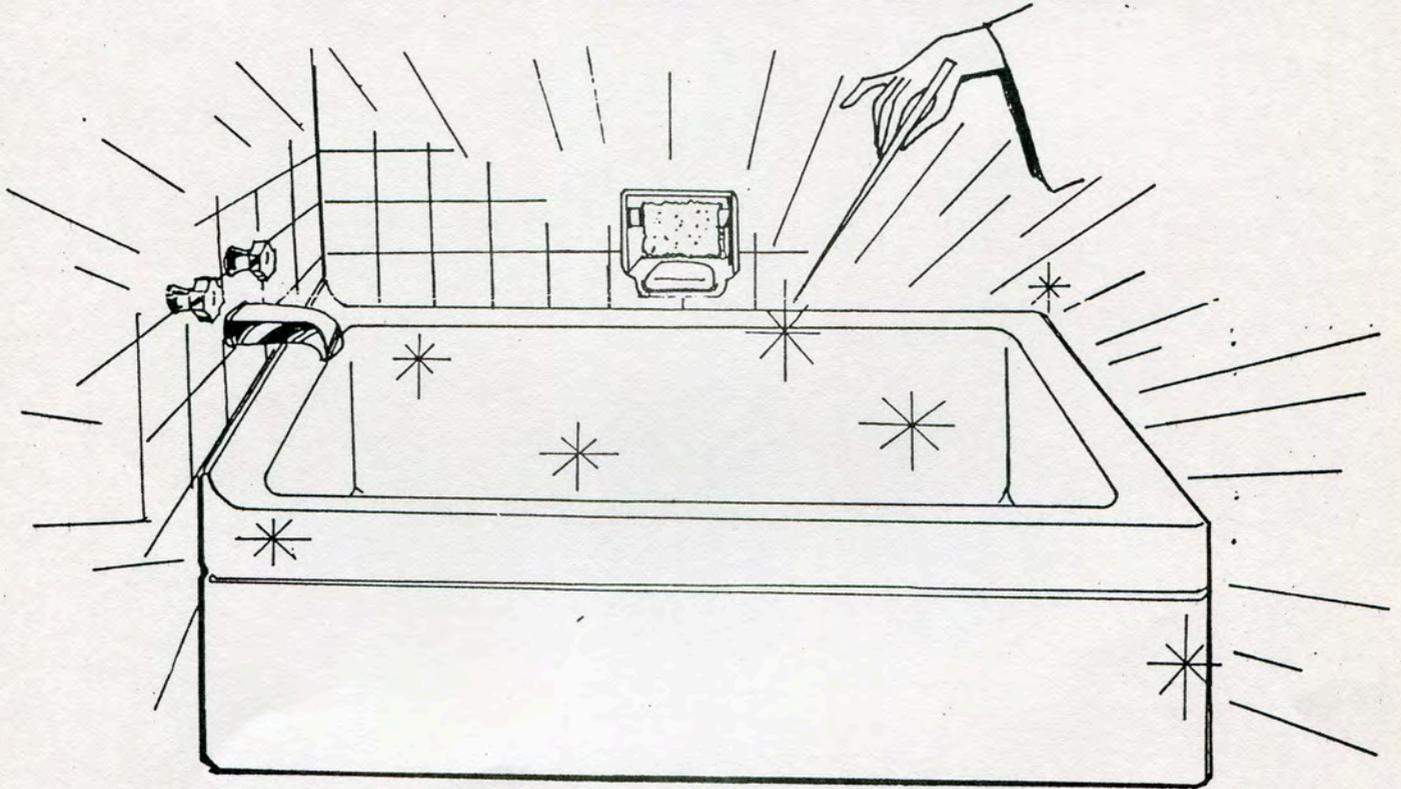
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# The Virginia·Highland Voice



Newsletter of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association

P.O. Box 8401, Station F / Atlanta, Georgia 30306

## SAFETY FAIR

On Saturday, September 20, an exhibition of safety and security products and services will be held at Druid Hills Methodist Church from 10 AM until 4 PM. Representatives of the various Atlanta Police Department citizen involvement programs will be present, as will various merchants who offer quality locks, alarms, etc. for sale. The Safety Fair has been organized by several neighbors on St. Charles and Greenwood Avenues.

## DELAPIDATED HOUSES

Councilmember Mary Davis has introduced a resolution in the City Council to provide money to demolish four apartment buildings currently belonging to the DOT in the I-485 right-of-way. They are beyond repair and are homes for vagrants. For more information, call Don Giddens at 892-8775.

## WHISTLESTOP

Information on the Whistlestop program of personal safety is available from the Police Assistance Committee of the Association. Call Gail Novak at 875-3126.

## ATKINS PARK ZONING

The rezoning of four lots on Ponce de Leon at St. Augustine Place to Apartment Zoning has been defeated for the fourth time by the Atlanta City Council. This application is being repeatedly proposed by Councilmember James Howard. His interest has made these proposals difficult to defeat. However, Mary Davis, our councilmember, has succeeded in each case to organize the votes for its re-

jection. However, it may be reintroduced again. To help call Cindy McCarty at 876-4925.

## LIQUOR LICENSE

The City is seeking to revoke the liquor license of the Ponce de Leon Pub. The Pub has been the site of numerous violent incidents in the past several months. The hearing will be on Wednesday, October 8, at 5:30PM at the Atlanta Police Department headquarters at 175 Decatur Street. A large turnout of neighbors will be very helpful. Contact Linda Cook at 875-2833.

## GREAT PARK

The State Authority appointed by Gov. Busbee to study the disposition of the I-485 right-of-way south of St. Charles Avenue is considering both transportation and housing plans for this land. Since the property lies on both sides of Ponce de Leon Avenue, the plans for it will have a major effect on the future of the entire of Ponce de Leon. The Association has just presented to the Authority at 95-page memorandum demonstrating that there is no engineering justification for a new road or any major widening of existing streets. Also under review are the housing and park proposals. All the major organizations working on this problem argue that the land between St. Charles and Ponce de Leon should be used for housing, but the density and design are very much in question. For more information, contact Charles Longley at 875-7804.

**WORSHIP WITH US**

*Druid Hills Baptist Church*

1085 Ponce de Leon Avenue, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30306  
(Corner N. Highland and Ponce de Leon)



**BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.**

(A special Department for  
Singles & Singles-Again)

**WORSHIP SERVICES 10:55 A.M.  
& 6:30 P.M.**

(Morning Service broadcast  
Radio WAEC 860 am)

**A PRAYER FOR YOU 874-0298**

**Reserved Visitor Parking**

**HELP NEEDED**

The "Last Chance Fall Fling" is now being planned by the Druid Hills United Methodist Church as a community event on Saturday, November 1st, and they need your help.

Some of the events needing volunteer organizers are: music in the round, artist opportunities for display and sale, a "genuine no-tee shirt, no-entry fee, sociable-type 2, 4, 6, 8 mile run," and more.

Other planned activities include food, magic, hobbies, a surrey ride, book fair, flea market, country store, baked goods, and even a plant doctor for your sick plants.

To volunteer for this fun neighborhood fair, contact Tom Perry (875-3704) or Warren Harbert (377-6482). They (repeat) "need help!"



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ATKINS PARK REP/Cindy McCarty .....	876-4925
SPECIAL ADVISOR/Joe Drolet .....	688-3451



## OVER 60 - AND INVOLVED

Senior citizens on fixed incomes are guaranteed transportation for medical treatment thanks to Woody Smith and his associates in the Silver-Haired Legislature.

Smith is Virginia-Highland's representative (21st District) for this very special interest, the over 60 set, and a bill he sponsored in the legislature's first session last fall was the pilot bill for a new law that went into effect July 1, 1980. That law stipulates that the State of Georgia will supply transportation for indigent senior citizens and those on fixed incomes to medical facilities.

That was just one of the bills adopted by the Silver-Haired Legislature, a lobby group that Georgia legislators are paying more attention to these days.

The senior citizens have put together a legislature much like the official state body, and patterned after a successful program in our southern sister state, Florida. Bills are introduced, discussed and voted on and those which are passed become official causes of this senior group.

"Legislators are listening to us because 65 percent of all those who vote in Georgia are over 60," said Smith. "We limit the number of bills that can be introduced to 16 so that we can concentrate our efforts, and so far we have been a very effective voice."

This year's session will be held at the State Capital November 17 through 21 and will be open to the public. It is slated to be covered from gavel-to-gavel by public television.

"This year I'm going to propose a constitutional amendment to exempt citizens 60 and over from paying school tax and school bonds," said Smith.

In January, many members of this senior set may be found again at the State Capital, this time talking to representatives and senators from their own districts.

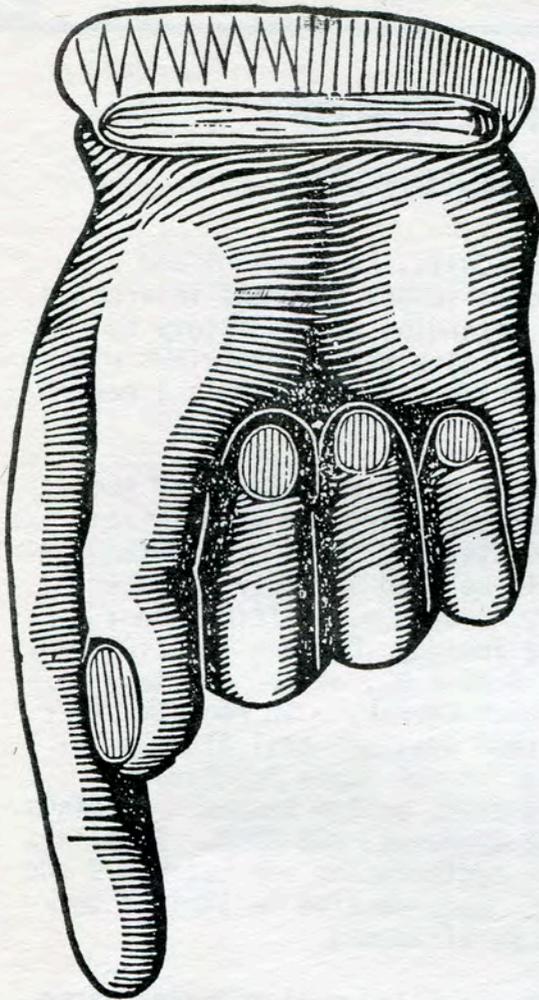
Our local representative has more qualifications than just age. He has a law degree and is retired with 26 years experience with the Georgia Department of Labor where he still works as a part-time consultant on a voluntary basis.

"I've always been interested in politics," he said. "My father was involved in politics in Tennessee. My family tree is filled with politicians and Methodist ministers."

Woody Smith thoroughly enjoys the part he plays in Georgia's Silver-Haired Legislature. He is a member of our neighborhood who likes to be involved.

--Al Cedarholm





## BRIARCLIFF SUMMIT

The interior of the historical Briarcliff Hotel is being renovated to provide its new residents --- persons over 62 or disabled --- the maximum in comfort and safety. The exterior of the building which characterizes an earlier era in Atlanta (1925) will be preserved and renamed the Briarcliff Summit Apartments.

The leasing office for the Briarcliff Summit, which opened on July 21, 1980, is located at 752 C. N. Highland Avenue. According to Sid Malcolm, Property Manager for Atlanta Briarcliff Properties Limited, over 150 applications were given out the first day. Nancy Peek with MPS, Inc., will be the Resident Manager and Coordinator of Activities and can be contacted for information at 872-8214. The projected opening is early October.

-- Ann Taylor Boutwell

## — We Need You —

### Interest Areas

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

- Advertising
- Education
- History Committee
- Membership
- Neighborhood Planning
- Newsletter Distribution
- Newsletter Publication
- Parks/Recreation
- Parade/Picnic (4th of July)
- Tour of Homes
- Zoning
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Clip and mail today!

Membership Chairman  
Virginia Highland Civic Assoc.  
P.O. Box 8401, Station F  
Atlanta, Ga. 30306

- 1980 Dues: \$10
- I prefer not to give but would like to be a member.


**COMMITTEE NEWS**

**PLEA TO PARENTS**

I, personally, am very upset and dismayed about the lack of parental participation at Inman Middle School. Last year when the big controversy about the closing of Inman Elementary School and what to do with the program at O'Keefe Middle School was going on, the auditorium at Inman was packed with people wanting their concerns to be heard. Where are all those concerned people now? The PTA at Inman Middle School met every month last school year, but there were only a hand full of people there and the PTA business had to be handled by 2 or 3 people.

Mr. Powers, the principal, and the fine teachers at Inman need our support, not to mention our children, who are wondering why they are not having any activities at school outside of the regular curriculum. What happened to PTA sponsored parties? What happened to fund-raising projects to finance the extras our children deserve, but are not provided by the administration?

If you did not have an opportunity to participate this past year you will have another chance. The School will still be there this fall and the children will still be there. I hope some parents will be there.

If you have any interest in helping out, please contact me. I promise not to make you the President!

Jennifer Chambers  
(872-6531)

**ORAL HISTORY****WORKSHOPS**

For adults, high school and middle school students interested in recording local history by conducting taped interviews with longtime Virginia-Highland residents.

Taught by Alice Knierim of the Georgia Department of Archives and History, the free workshops will be held Saturday, October 11, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; and Tuesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at the Highland Branch Library. To register for either session, call Alice weekdays at the State Archives, 656-2399; or Ann Boutwell evenings and weekends, 876-0998. Deadlines for registration are October 9 and 12. Each session is limited to 35 participants.

Ann and Alice will welcome suggestions for possible interviewees.

--Emily Calhoun

**NEW OVER 60 GROUPS**

Dr. Hilary Jones, Virginia-Highland resident, is the author of a Comparative Study of the Fears and Problems of the American and British Elderly. She is contemplating forming free, small psycho-therapy groups composed of people over 60 who have recently lost their mates and have problems adjusting to the situation.

Interested persons can telephone her at 874-0519.