

BROOKNOTES

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

December 1993, Vol. VII, No. 12

A Piece of Brookwood Hills History

Editor's Note: Nearly twenty years ago, in 1974, the neighborhood published its first Brookwood Byword, the predecessor to Brooknotes. In that issue, Elaine Luxemburger wrote an article about some of the history of the neighborhood. It is reprinted in part here, with italics used to indicate updated information. If anyone else would like to contribute similar articles about our neighborhood's history, please let Alison Caughman know, at 355-7662. It's fun to be reminded about how special Brookwood Hills truly is.

Mrs. Burdett Remembers

by Elaine Luxemburger

Do not call her elderly or, worse yet, that euphemism "Senior Citizen!" She is, she says, "a young lady who has lived a long time." She is Mrs. Sadie Burdett, whose husband, Arthur and father-in-law, Benjamin Franklin Burdett, developed Brookwood Hills fifty years ago. As envisioned then, it was to be a neighborhood of substantial homes, owned by well-established professional and business people. To ensure the quality of houses, a minimum house cost of \$10,000 was required. Huntington Road property, later incorporated in the neighborhood, had a minimum cost of \$7,500. Brookwood Hills then was Palisades, Northwood, Woodcrest, and Huntington as far as Palisades. "New" Brookwood Hills was developed later and included parts of Brighton and Camden, Montclair, Wakefield, Parkdale, and the remaining portion of Huntington.

Three original residents recently agreed to reminisce about these early days for the first edition of this paper. In addition to Mrs. Burdett, there were her neighbors at 84 Palisades, Mrs. Thomas Lewis (*owned by Sade and Bill Fryer*), who bought and built in 1924, and a new Brookwood Hills resident, Mrs. W. Griggs Shaefer of 62 Camden (*owned by her son W. Griggs Shaefer Jr.*), who built in 1927. Mrs. Burdett's daughter, Polly Miles, added some childhood memories of growing up in the new subdivision.

Mr. B.F. Burdett was remembered well and was considered the most popular gentleman in Brookwood Hills -- all the ladies loved him! It was Mr. B.F., with his helpers "Pink" and "Green," who planted the oak trees along the streets that have become the neighborhood's most distinctive feature. But he also planted two flowering crape myrtle bushes between each oak. Few of these remain today since they require sun which the oaks prevented as they grew tall. Mr. B.F.'s house stood on Peachtree next to the Pot-O-Gold (*Harry's In a Hurry*). Behind it were pastures and corn fields. Polly Miles remembers running through these corn fields to her grandfather's barn, which was on Palisades where the Arnold Mitchell house (*home of Ginna and William Pope*) is today. The barn was later burned on a Halloween night, possibly by neighborhood boys. Beyond the barn was a rushing creek, which was later covered by Parkdale Way, the present entrance to the park.

The first house in the subdivision was built by the Arthur Burdetts at 10 Palisades, today owned by the Hobart Aikens (*Robin and John Churchill's home*), and now connected at the rear to four townhouses. Later the Burdetts built a bigger house at 70 Palisades (*the home of Eve and Joel Goldstein*), and put a tennis court beside it where a guest house (*Jean and Brown Dennis' house*) stands today. (See Page 3 for more.)

Winter Gardening Tips

By The Garden Club

The longer freezes start in December, but roses can still be planted. It is best to put in your tulips at the beginning of the month. All kinds of shrubs and bare root trees can go in the ground now. Use a guy wire on trees if they are more than three inches in diameter. This seems to be a good month to move old boxwood. Wait until February to prune these boxwood, if possible.

Insect tip: Mix those ashes from the Yule Log with water. Paint the mixture on tree trunks to repel borers.

Poinsettias normally bloom in January and February. Seasonal poinsettias have been greenhouse forced. The following timetable will help the poinsettias of Christmas 1993 survive and prosper until Christmas 1994. Clip this and save it for pluperfect poinsettias:

- 1) Keep plant moist and provide good, bright light.
- 2) Feed the poinsettias with a 12-6-6 fertilizer; the high nitrogen stimulates bigger, greener leaves.
- 3) On June 1st prune back 50% of its height.
- 4) On July 15th pinch the growing tips of each new shoot; continue bright light, fertilizer and slightly moist soil.
- 5) On October 1st at EXACTLY 6:00 p.m. put the plant in a closet with absolutely no light; take out each morning; return to closet at 6:00; continue this alternation for forty days and forty nights (has sort of a ring to it, doesn't it?).
- 6) On November 1st all your efforts will pay off with bushy, healthy poinsettias for the Christmas season.

REMEMBER TO FEED THE BIRDS DURING THESE WINTER MONTHS!

Be Pet-Wise

Lane Gormley, who has returned to Brookwood Hills after growing up here with her grandmother Rebecca Gormley, has kindly offered to write a "Pet Column" each month for Brooknotes. She intends for the column to be a means for advertising lost animals, printing seasonal tips on protecting and caring for animals, and so on. If you would like to contribute to her column, drop the copy off at her home, located at 40 Northwood Avenue. Contributions from children are especially welcome.

Security Bonus

Your check for the holiday gift to the Brookwood Hills security officers can be dropped in the mail slot at 30 Wakefield Drive anytime before December 20th. Let's give our officers a big holiday thank you. If you have any questions, call Sara Jean Burke at 355-6288.

Welcome New Neighbors

Ginnie and Ben Maffitt are the new residents of 347 Camden Road, along with sons Charlie, age 16 and Will, age 13.

Karen and Kurt Tausche have moved into 49 Camden Road. They have two children: seven year old Kayla and ten year old Christopher. Kurt is in advertising with Tausche, Martin & Lonsdorf.

Terri Thompson and her husband Keith Jolly will soon be moving from Virginia Highlands to their new home at 46 Montclair Drive.

Mark and Kelli Potts are our new neighbors at 220 Brighton Road.

Welcome new babies! Lib and Robbie Foster announce the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth "Burgess" Foster, born November 5th.

And Ben Ross, son of Harvey and Mickey Ross, is proud to announce the arrival of his new brother, Samuel Harvey Ross, born December 2nd.

Brooknotes Schedule

The deadline for the next issue of Brooknotes will be Friday, January 14th. Brooknotes submissions must be in writing and should be dropped off at Alison Caughman's house, 200 Camden Road.

You're Welcome to Come

The next meeting of the Brookwood Hills Community Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, January 10th, at 7:00, at the home of Dave Forquer and Barbara Croft, 35 Wakefield. In order for them to have an idea of how many people to expect, if you would like to attend, please call Barbara or Dave at 874-3254. All members of the Community Club are welcome.

BWH History (cont'd)

Then as now, the swimming pool and park were frequent gathering places and a unifying force of the neighborhood. A spring-fed lake used to be where the tennis courts are today. Only the older children who were good swimmers could go in the lake. The pool was built soon after the neighborhood opened, around 1926. Mrs. Shaefer remembers parties on the pool deck and said it was considered the best place to go swimming in town. Mrs. Lewis recalled books of ticket to get into the pool at 10¢ a ticket and children being cautioned not to wander out the gate because it would cost another 10¢, a dear amount especially during the Depression years.

Every family seemed to have had servants, either living in rooms on the property or coming by the street car that ran down the middle of Peachtree. Jesse Coleman, who has worked for the Burdetts all these years, remembered that there was a man at the front and another at the rear and the fare was 10¢, not too far from MARTA's 15¢ fare (\$1.25!) today. There were cooks, laundresses, nurses, and combination handy men/furnace stokers/chauffeurs, often jointly employed by several nearby neighbors.

Around Brookwood Station, long before the expressway (75/85) intruded, was a group of stores where the neighborhood shopped for groceries. Across Peachtree from the station were cleaners and other commercial establishments used by the residents. Later there were an A&P store at the corner of Brighton and a Colonial store at Palisades and Peachtree; these were called "real neighborhood stores."

The mail delivery dramatically illustrates the changed times; can you imagine a row of mailboxes at the corner of Brighton and Peachtree? Mrs. Shaefer remembers them, but says she or the chauffeur picked up their mail every day at the 10th Street Post Office.

Most of the children attended E. Rivers Elementary School and North Fulton High School, driven in riding groups, frequently by chauffeurs.

Much of the land was wooded and the children had great fun with woods to play in. Mrs. Lewis laughed when she recalled a very high tree house; only a few were in the select group allowed to ascend. There was even an elevator bucket for the dogs!

Clear Creek was a favorite place for children, with a swinging bridge "one board wide" across it. In the Spring, the bottom land was purple with violets and the children would bring back wash buckets full. Mrs. Lewis' husband and son frequently went hunting in this area and would always return with quail for supper. Another popular place for the children to gather was Brighton Road, a dead end street. Before the lots were built on, it was the perfect place for hockey and games and for roller skating right in the middle.

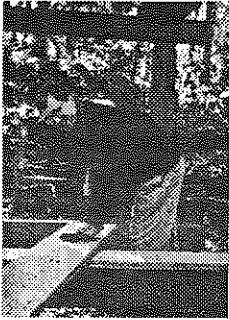
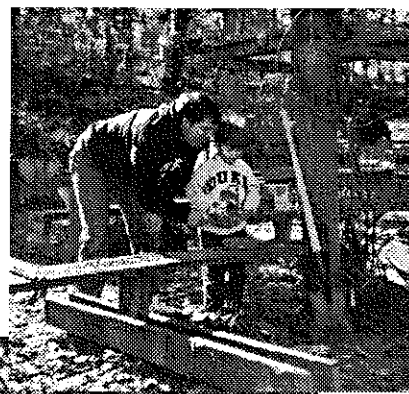
There was a good deal of socializing among the neighbors, according to Mrs. Shaefer. Because of the availability of servants, the women were greatly involved in volunteer work at Sheltering Arms or in garden club projects, for example. Doors were rarely locked: You just didn't think about it! The Depression brought changes here, as elsewhere. Some families were forced to sell or rent their houses, since taking in boarders was not allowed. The pool closed at some time during World War II, and a new group was organized later to reopen it.

Brookwood Hills has continued to expand, but the community identity has held. We are grateful to the Burdetts for their contributions.

Work Day a Huge Success

November 20th was a great day for the neighborhood. Over 25 neighbors turned out to help in the park. Many necessary projects were tackled, saving the Community Club money that would have had to come from other sources. Moreover, the weather and camaraderie were terrific.

Led by Dave Forquer, an ambitious crew that included Pelham Wilder and Jimmy Love turned minor repairs of the arbor into a major construction project. What started out in the morning as a replacement of some worn and dilapidated seat benches, by late morning had become a total replacement of benches, supports and anchor posts. (For those in need of post hole digging services, contact Pelham Wilder!) By late afternoon (after two trips to Home Depot, several blown fuses in the park electrical system, and 400 pounds of quick drying, "easy to mix" concrete), the undaunted crew unveiled their new and improved arbor. Upon reflection on their efforts, the crew agreed that none of them intended to be around during any future efforts to replace or renovate this arbor! (See next page for more.)



Neighbors Refurbish Park

Additional projects tackled (see pictures, above), included the following: Barbara Croft and Kathy Bernhardt marshaled many folks to clear the leaves in the pool area. Jimmy Henderson led a crew pruning their way through the overgrown bushes along the banks. Alison Caughman and young Pelham Wilder cleared the walking path through the woods. Sheldon Jeter and Zeke Fairchild demonstrated vast technical skills on various repairs. With David Rowell only recently departed to North Carolina, Hank Harris has quickly seized the title of "Neighborhood's Loudest Leaf Blower," but put his machine to good use clearing and mulching the leaves in the park infield. Many thanks to all the wonderful neighbors who helped, including: Dave Forquer and Barbara Croft, Pelham Wilder, Jimmy and Sara Ellen Love, Hank and Linda Harris, Floyd Newton, Margaret Murphy, Zeke Fairchild, Diane Ray, Dave Hagaman, Ken and Kathy Bernhardt, Barbara and Chuck Slick, Melanie and Russ Hardin, Andrea Reilly, Alison and Wright Caughman, Jimmy Henderson, Jane and Sheldon Jeter, Lee Robinson, and Mary Long. Everyone's efforts were greatly appreciated!

Classifieds

House sitter/tenant(s) wanted to occupy our Brookwood Hills home in April, May and June 1994. Please call 352-3464.

Bartender for your holiday party. College student, age 21, male. Can provide local references. Parents live in Brookwood Hills. James Holmes, 514-9920.

Lost: Dark gray striped tiger cat with very predominant white markings (white face and chest and paws). May be seen in the woods, as this cat grew up wild in the area. Call 872-7741.



BROOKNOTES

Sponsored by your neighbor

Patti Junger

Broker Associate

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