



# BROOKNOTES

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

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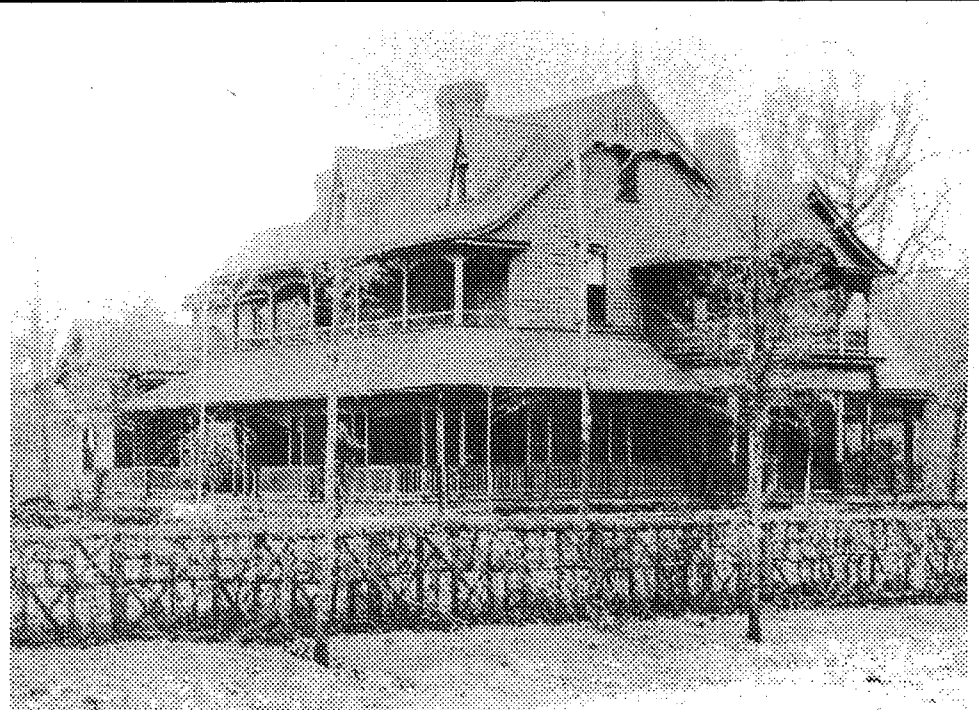
## The First Brookwood

by Betsy Crosby with Elaine Luxemburger

Many of us assume that the name Brookwood Hills was the product of the developers' imagination, in the same vein as red clay subdivisions today are optimistically called "Canterbury Court" or "Trotwood Acres." In fact, Brookwood Hills was named for a real country estate that was well-known in this section of the city. Built in the late 1880's, "Brookwood" was the rural retreat of Emma and Joseph Thompson, a prominent couple who played an important role in the Cotton States & International Exposition of 1895.

Emma Mims Thompson was the daughter of Major Livingston Mims, who served as mayor of Atlanta. Her husband Joseph Thompson was the proprietor of the Kimball House, called by the Atlanta Constitution "the finest hotel south of New York." The Thompsons lived in a suite of rooms in the hotel and retreated to Brookwood for their entertaining. There they received Presidents Grover Cleveland and William McKinley and Vice President Adlai Stevenson who visited Atlanta for the Cotton States Expo of '95.

Brookwood was located on the west side of Peachtree Street just north of the I-85 interchange at the current site of the Masonic Temple and the office complex (formerly apartment house) nearby. The property was well named, as the area was  
*(continued on page 6)*



Brookwood. Photo courtesy of the Atlanta Historical Society

*An excellent example of the Queen Anne style popular in the 1880's and 90's, Brookwood had a wrap-around porch, fish scale shingles and other florid decorative effects. A turreted front porch with turned spindles graced the front of the house, as can be seen at the extreme right of the picture. The view is most probably of the back and side of the house, due to the use of less decorative flat spindles on the railings and the placement of upper story sleeping porches.*



## BROOKNOTES

*Brooknotes* is published monthly for residents of Brookwood Hills on behalf of the Brookwood Hills Community Club, 77 Wakefield Drive, Atlanta, Ga. 30309. *Brooknotes* is sponsored on alternate months by Patti Junger of Buckhead Brokers and Sarah Hagood of Specialty Homes, Inc.

### Brooknotes Staff

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Alison Caughman, Micki Gambrell, Belinda Donovan, Elaine Luxemburger, Sandra Player

Photographs provided by The Atlanta Historical Society (Brookwood), Sarah Ellen Love (snow scene)

*Brooknotes* welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of *Brooknotes* is Friday, February 16, 1996. Submissions should be in writing and should be dropped off at Betsy Crosby's house, 34 Brighton Rd.

### Letters to the Editor

*Margaret Murphy sent the following excerpt from the Washington Post on 12/5/95 concerning the existence of a pattern to severe dog bites:*

Severe dog bites resulting in hospitalization or death occur most frequently in children under 5 and usually involve large dogs, particularly German shepherds, who are known to the child... Contrary to popular belief, they [doctors in Seattle and Kansas City] found that stray dogs were involved in only 3 [out of 40] attacks. In most cases the dog was a pet of the child's family or of a neighbor and the attack occurred inside a home...

"Parents and dog owners must assure adequate supervision of children, especially infants and toddlers, at all times in the presence of dogs, even the family dog," they conclude.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Alison Caughman

I hope many of you will take the time to come to the Community Club's Annual Meeting this year on February 4th at 7:00p.m at the Rich Auditorium (located in Piedmont Hospital). The Annual Meeting is the time when new Board members and officers are voted into office, and it is an opportunity for you to find out about what's happened in Brookwood Hills during the year.

Tree Committee Chair JoAnn Hagaman has arranged for a special program at the meeting devoted to the "tree crisis" in Brookwood Hills. Spencer Rosenfeld of Arboguard, Inc. has put together a compelling and informative slide show which describes the plight of our aging street trees. City Forester Jay Lowery will also attend and will be available to answer questions. Our trees enhance our property values; it is in everyone's best interest to understand the serious problems we (and the trees) now face.

As I conclude a very full year as your Community Club President, there are many volunteers to thank for their efforts in maintaining and enhancing our neighborhood. First, a big thank you goes to Pelham Wilder who served as Community Club Treasurer for three years. Pelham continued the mandate (put in place when Lee Robinson was Treasurer) to pay down as quickly as possible the note which financed the 1990 pool repairs. This year the Club is paying an additional \$40,000 toward the principle on that loan.

In his third year as Government Relations Chair, Mike Egan was a terrific asset, making timely calls to appropriate government offices to get action on supposedly mundane services such as sink-hole repairs. His insight into politically expedient ways of solving problems was invaluable. Nancy Bramlett and Elaine Moynihan took over the mammoth job of membership services. They planned and executed a party for new neighbors (Thanks Chuck and Barbara Slick for serving as hosts!) and through their efforts Community Club membership grew for the first time in several years.

Unless you've been involved in the Park Committee you have no idea how much work is involved in keeping our much-used park in good condition. Laranne Oser and Sarah Ellen Love (along with a lot of help from Sheldon Jeter) oversaw its operations in 1995. They brought about drainage repairs in an effort to cure the perpetually boggy conditions on the playing field and have done an excellent job dealing with the damage to the park and the pool pavilion from Hurricane Opal.

For the second year in a row, Jim Porter watched over the pool operation. Another huge job, it was made all the more difficult this year when events conspired twice to close down the pool--once due to a water main break and once when an intense storm overwhelmed city sewers. Bibbie Withers finished her third year in charge of the tennis courts. Thanks to Bibbie we now have a net dividing the courts -- an improvement much appreciated by regular players.

In 1995, Nancy Kennedy took on the job of Security Chair. The latter half of the year was relatively quiet on that front, but for awhile in the late spring Nancy was producing near-weekly security notices. Judy Horton spent 1995 marshalling troops to deliver security notices and *Brooknotes*. She's now on a first-name basis with every 9 to 13 year-old in the neighborhood. Betsy Crosby concluded her first year as *Brooknotes* editor and has agreed to continue as editor through 1996.

JoAnn Hagaman was the unlucky "stuckee" who served as Tree Chairman during

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Hurricane Opal. Her diligence and persistence have been great assets in dealing with the City on the maintenance of our trees. Even though she's rotating off the Board, JoAnn has agreed to stay active with the Tree Committee so that they can take advantage of her great wealth of knowledge in this area.

Mac Irvin spent another year (his third) as our zoning watchdog, together with Mike Nadal who attended monthly NPU meetings throughout the year. The big zoning controversy of 1995 involved changes to the City Subdivision Ordinance, which were revoked six weeks after their original passage. Micki Gambrell led an effort to better understand our neighborhood's parking problems. (See article on this page).

Mary Lynn Eckl served as the Club's faithful Secretary. As a liaison from the Garden Club she helped to coordinate with Betsy Crosby the major pool and park sidewalk refurbishing project, a joint venture of the Garden Club and the Community Club. Celeste Porter, president of the Garden Club, contributed mightily to this effort, as did the many industrious members who planted and maintained the mondo grass bordering Wakefield.

Finally, Vice President Hank Harris organized the property tax information clearinghouse, a service used by countless residents to fight the County's increase in property assessments. Elizabeth St. John was a major contributor to this project, providing Community Club members with the assessed values for every house in the neighborhood. Hank will take on the job as your 1996 President at the Annual Meeting. Do come and cheer him on as he starts his year at the helm of the Community Club. And take time to thank those Board members who (along with me) officially retire at the meeting: Mike Egan, JoAnn Hagaman, Mac Irvin, Sarah Ellen Love, Jim Porter, Pelham Wilder and Bibbie Withers.

## Parking Survey Update

by Micki Gambrell

Results of the Parking Survey conducted this fall indicate that several neighbors need to have daytime parking available in front of their homes for themselves, their guests and their workers. Due to their proximity to Peachtree Street, many homes have restricted parking (or no parking at all). As a result, these neighbors and their guests and employees have been receiving parking tickets.

A solution to this problem would be to install a residential permit parking program similar to that used in Ansley Park. That program allows permitted cars to park anytime in the designated parking area, while non-permitted cars are restricted to a consecutive two-hour period between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, and/or between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Permitted parking such as this would allow parking from Peachtree businesses and from Piedmont Hospital on a short-term basis.

To instigate a residential permit program, a petition must be circulated and 70% of the affected addresses must indicate their approval. At this date I don't have a listing of the addresses that would be included in the permit area. In determining if an area is eligible for the permit designation the area "shall contain no less than 100 single-family street addresses and shall contain no less than 12,000 linear feet of street frontage, measured from the center of adjacent intersections."

Some facts about Residential Permit Parking:

- The BWH permit parking area would have a unique permit expiration date.
- Full-term parking permits will be valid for two years. The permit fee is \$12 for a permit issued one year or more from the expiration date and \$6 for a permit issued less than one year from the neighborhood's expiration date.
- Two visitor permits may be issued at no charge to the holder of the residential permit only upon request by the holder (this can be done by telephone.) The visitor's permits are only valid for 15 days.
- Each address with a single residential unit may receive 2 permits.
- Each address with two-family or multiple family dwellings will receive 1 permit per dwelling.
- The residential permit is a decal that must be attached permanently to a vehicle.

The residential parking permit will be an agenda item for the next meeting of the BWH Board of Directors on February 12, 1995 at the home of Hank and Linda Harris, 81 Huntington Road. If you would like to attend, please call Hank or Linda at 872-0119. All Community Club members are welcome.

## Of Baseball and Spring Cleaning

To get on the list to reserve practice times at the park, coaches for spring soccer and baseball teams should contact Laranne Oser at 351-4825. **PLEASE NOTE THAT AA AND AAA BASEBALL TEAMS MAY NOT USE THE PARK FOR PRACTICE OUT OF SAFETY CONCERNS FOR OTHER CHILDREN PLAYING AT THE PARK.** All teams using the park are asked to clean the field of their litter and place it in the trash receptacles following practice.

The Park Spring Clean-Up is tentatively scheduled for March 16, 1996. Whether you're a gardener or just willing to lend a hand, please join us.

# Olympic Opportunities

In the next few weeks the City of Atlanta will be looking for youths ages 10 to 16 to participate in the Atlanta Youth Ambassadors Program to serve as hosts and greeters for the Olympics. Each neighborhood will nominate one candidate as its representative. Final selection will be made through the Neighborhood Planning Unit (the NPU) for our area of Atlanta.

Duties will begin in May and will extend into September. The Youth Ambassadors will take part in many activities, including the International Olympic Committee Reception, the International Paralympic Reception, the WSB 4th of July Parade, the Inner City Games, the Olympic and Paralympic Torch relays, the Cultural Olympiad, In Celebration of Women, The Olympic Road Races, and Airport and Marta Station Greeters.

Participants must meet the following criteria:

- be age 10-16
- make a commitment to serve at least 4 dates between May 1-August 31, 1996
- be eager to participate
- complete two orientation sessions
- have a congenial attitude
- complete application form
- be a resident of neighborhood they are representing
- be actively involved in some community-related activity (i.e. Scouts, Little League, YWCA, YMCA, Church, Boys & Girls Clubs, etc.)

To request an application contact Susan Bronston of the Office of Olympic Coordination at 330-6022. Completed applications should be submitted to Mike Nadal, 90 Huntington Road, 874-9534. Mr. Nadal will make his recommendation from the group of applicants to the NPU.

If you thought you missed your opportunity to volunteer for the Olympics, you're wrong. The ACOG Volunteer Services Department is recruiting volunteers for its Transportation Department. One of the jobs being offered is for VIP Motorpool drivers. Volunteer drivers are needed to transport VIPs, dignitaries, and special guests in sedans and mini-vans. Drivers must be 21 years old by May 15, 1996. For additional information, contact Marilyn Shaw at 548-2065.

## Calendar

### Jan. 27 Brookwood Boys

The Brookwood Boys and their Dads are planning an activity during the weekend of Jan. 27-28. Anyone who is interested in participating should give Jeff Bramlett a call at 351-3609.

### Jan. 28 Brookwood Girls

On Jan. 28th, the Brookwood Girls and Fathers (or Special Friends) will tour the Etowah Indian Mounds near Cartersville, GA. Please meet at the Parkdale entrance to Brookwood Hills Park at 1:00 p.m. to arrange ride sharing for the trip. Please call Randy Coley's secretary, Victoria Wilcox at 572-4816 to RSVP. Brookwood Girls is open to all neighborhood girls in grades 1-5.

### Jan. 31 Westminster Summer Expo

From noon until 6:30 p.m. at the Westminster School. Learn about

opportunities for teenagers for travel, adventure and learning next summer. Call 609-6327 for more information.

### Feb. 4 Annual Meeting

7:00 p.m. at the Rich Auditorium at Piedmont Hospital. Open to all members. The agenda for the meeting is the election of new Board Members and discussion of reforestation options for the neighborhood. Those unable to attend may send their proxy to 77 Wakefield Drive.

### Feb. 12 Board of Directors Meeting

7:15 at the home of Hank and Linda Harris, 81 Huntington. Open to all Community Club members. Please call Hank or Linda at 872-0119 if you would like to attend.

### Feb. 13-15 Cathedral Antiques Show

Hours are 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Feb.13-14, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb 15. Benefits Families First, an agency

for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Tickets are \$6.

### Feb. 17, Spotlight on Dyslexia

Conference from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Peachtree Presbyterian Church. Topics include strategies for dyslexia and approaches to treating ADD. Features Edward Hallowell, M.D., Co-Author of Driven to Distraction. For more information, Call Betsy Robinson, 875-3631. Cost is \$60 per person, \$90 per couple.

### Feb. 17, Historic Homes Workshop

Held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Georgian Terrace. Sponsored by the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. Experts will share basics of researching, restoring and maintaining historic houses (those at least 50 years old). Cost is \$25 per person, \$35 per couple.

### March 16, Park Clean-up (tentative)

# BROOKWOOD BUZZ

by Belinda Donovan

A few new neighbors have moved into Brookwood Hills since the fall. Please take time to welcome these newcomers. If you know of anyone we have missed, please give us a call so we can include you in the next issue. Welcome to the following:

**22 Brighton** 355-1838

Just married a few weeks ago, **Freddy and Katie Simon** have barely had time to unpack. Freddy is a manufacturing representative at the Apparel Mart with his own line of clothing. Katie is in the insurance business. They met when Freddy noticed Katie sporting some clothes from his line.

**41 Camden** 361-0581

After leaving their native Ireland and making stops in Tokyo and Boston, **Kevin and Jean O'Halloran** now call Atlanta home. The O'Hallorans have two children, Ciara (5) who is attending the International School and Amy (2 1/2) who is at the Heiskell school. They are expecting their third child in February. Kevin is a Vice President in charge of mergers and acquisitions at Compent, Inc.

**228 Camden** 352-5886

In early February, wedding bells will ring for **Rick Lathan** and **Virginia Donald**. Virginia, a native of Birmingham, AL, will join Rick in Brookwood Hills following the wedding. She has not made any career decisions yet. In Birmingham, she owned a specialty gift shop called Table Manners. Rick is with Stevens and Wilkinson, a commercial architectural and engineering firm.

**242 Camden**

**Alex Smith** moved into his home on Camden Road the Friday before Opal hit and was greeted soon after by a large branch through his

bedroom window. Now that the roof and window have been repaired, Alex is busy planning to renovate his home. He is a limited partner with J.C. Bradford, a stock brokerage firm.

**24 Wakefield** 351-8992

**Cheri and Mike Riley** are busy updating their new home. Both are residential real estate agents with Jenny Pruitt. Cheri is the Vice President Managing Broker of the Buckhead office, and Mike works out of the Cobb office. Their children Tripp Saunders (14) and Caroline Saunders (11) attend Christ the King and Morris Brandon, respectively.

**109 Wakefield** 355-3143

The third time is the charm for **Hank and Paula Rossell** who moved into their home on Wakefield Drive in August with their two children, Andrew (12) and Emily (9), both currently attending the Wesleyan School. This is

the third time the Rossell's have made Atlanta their home, having moved nine times with Hank's company, DSP Worldwide, a medical supply firm. Hank is Vice President of Sales and Paula is currently a homemaker.

Two Westminster Juniors will spend next semester on the Maine coast. **Kate Irvin**, daughter of **Mac and Jan Irvin**, and **Bailey McCallum**, son of **Mimi and Robert McCallum**, were selected from private school applicants all across the country. Although it is not unusual for two students to be selected from the same school, it is very unusual for those two students to live on the same street! The Chewonki Foundation teaches students environmental awareness in a farm setting and requires students to do chores and participate in building a boat in addition to their normal academic curriculum.



*Walter Love gets a helping hand from Harvey Ross as Katie Long and Ben Ross wait their turn on the sled. Residents woke to a winter wonderland on Sunday, Jan. 7. A good portion of the neighborhood skipped church to play in the snow.*

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wooded and in close proximity to Peachtree Creek. By 1908 many other fine homes had been built in this section along Peachtree. Emma Thompson died unexpectedly that year at the age of 44. In her obituary in the Atlanta Journal she was called "virtually the founder of Brookwood, now the most fashionable suburb of Atlanta... She built the first country home there and her example was speedily followed."

Among the followers was the J. J. Spalding family who settled at Deerland on the rise where Piedmont Hospital is now located. Jack Spalding, Jr., the grandson of J.J. Spalding, remembers Deerland as being very rural with a barn, animals, a one-acre garden and chickens.

Residential development along Peachtree Street proceeded in concert with the extension of trolley lines. By 1906, the Atlanta Journal noted that the area north of Fourteenth Street was so fashionable that the little property left for sale was offered at a premium. Comparing the area to Brookline near Boston or Riverside Drive in New York, the Journal declared "The tendency of society to go north has been pronounced. Even beyond Brookwood, land has advanced from \$75 a front foot to \$125." The paper offered the following explanation: "Perhaps one reason of [sic] the popularity of the north side is its elevation, its beautiful topography, agreeably broken with hills, and the fine views. It is also convenient to the city, although removed from its noise and dust."

Noise and dust, however, proceeded to creep northward as Peachtree Street continued to develop. Brookwood Station was built in 1918 in unfortunate proximity to Joseph Thompson's country retreat. Grand estates such as Brookwood and Deerland were surrounded by smaller homes. In fact, Joseph Thompson is partially credited with the development of the area we now know as Brookwood, the community behind the Masonic Lodge.

Joseph Thompson died in 1921. His striking home was demolished along with so many others along Peachtree in the 1960's.

## CLASSIFIEDS

- \* **Wanted.** Babysitter one day a week, or two mornings a week for easy-going eleven-month old. Also be willing to perform light housekeeping. Call Libby Simons, 355-5005. Thanks.
- \* **Sitter Available.** For nighttime and weekend babysitting and housesitting. I am a responsible young adult who has lived in Brookwood Hills my entire life. I have worked several years in the field of child care. Call Kathleen Summers, 351-4597.
- \* **Beach House Available.** Every year we rent a wonderful house for a week at Litchfield Beach, S.C. We can't use it this summer, but would like to sublet it to a special family to rent it in our place. (The owners have approved our doing this). The house sleeps 7, has a dock on the creek and is a 3-5 min. walk to the beach. The cost is \$775, plus a refundable \$100 security deposit. Dates are June 15-22. Call Alison Caughman, 355-7662.
- \* **Lessons Wanted.** Beginner student of electric guitar is looking for an experienced teacher in the neighborhood for a one-hour lesson once a week. Please call Kip at 351-8216.
- \* **Pet Sitter.** Going out of Town? Need a pet-sitter? Just call Petcare! Seven responsible girls who love animals. For more information, call Anna Mintz, secretary, 352-0198.
- \* **Duplex For Rent.** Unfurnished 1/2 of duplex, Huntington Rd. Available March. Two bedroom. Stove, refrigerator, garage, washer and dryer furnished. No pets. References required. \$600.00 per month. Call Stella Johnson or Ruth Murphy for appointment, 874-3429.



## The Acorn Auction

by Sandra Player

To restore the beauty of the neighborhood following Opal's devastation, the Garden Club is hosting an auction in late April. We are seeking both individual and corporate donations of goods, services and monetary gifts. The 1994 auction raised over \$16,000, a large part of which funded the beautification of the sidewalks around the park and the pool.

Call with your donations and we will arrange a pick-up (Jaye Smith, 355-0344 or Sara Jean Burke, 355-6288). Most important of all, don't forget to attend and bid generously.

*Specialty Homes Inc.*

**BROOKNOTES**  
sponsored by your neighbor

**Sarah Hagood**  
Owner/Broker  
231-5678