NewsBank
Milwaukee Sentinel (published as MILWAUKEE SENTINEL) - December 4, 1972 - page 5
December 4, 1972 | Milwaukee Sentinel (published as MILWAUKEE SENTINEL) | Milwaukee, Wisconsin | Page 5

SEE CX STORY, 72-12/6 sent

Open Enrollment Evaluated

By MARILYN KUCER

There are some Milwaukee neighborhoods that have a stable mixture of black and white residents, but have schools that are predominantly black.

In these neighborhoods, black and white families live side by side. The neighborhoods are racially balanced, and considered nice places to raise a family. But some of the white parents will not send their children to the neighborhood schools.

This situation is possible because of the Milwaukee Public Schools' open enrollment policy, which actually is an exception to the state law requiring pupils to attend district schools here.

The open enrollment policy has been considered a means of voluntary integration of the schools.

But, while it has increased the dispersion of the black pupils to more schools, it has not significantly altered the racial proportions of the system's schools, administrators concede.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEWS

Release Valve

Miss Lorraine Radtke, a member of the Milwaukee School Board, sees open enrollment "as a release valve for the Negro."

That evaluation is true. Otherwise, would there be 30 black pupils enrolled at Hamilton High School, a South Side school, or 209 blacks at Wilbur Wright Junior High School, where without open enrollment the percentage of blacks would be .6%? With open enrollment, it is 20.2%.

Others, though, say open enrollment fosters segregation.

That also is true. Otherwise, would Peckham be a predominantly black school, even though the 1970 census shows its neighborhood is 25% black?

The Board Committee on Equality of Educational Opportunity will conduct a public hearing Thursday to hear how parents feel about open enrollment at Peckham and at Steuben Junior High School, which is predominantly white because of the open enrollment policy.

De Facto Segregation

The committee will hear from people like Mrs. John McEvilly, a member of the Sherman Park Community Association, ~~which has asked for an end to open enrollment at those two schools as a way of stopping what they call de facto segregation.~~

They also will hear from people like Mrs. Julia Conway who last month told the committee she'd sell her home and move out of the Peckham neighborhood if they ended the transfer policy.

Mrs. McEvilly, of 3404 N. 39th St., is trying to "convince the white parents that if they would co-operate and not move their kids out of the neighborhood, we could make demands on the schools."

Mrs. McEvilly, whose son attends Washington High School, and her group have been trying to "drum up support to get people here to talk substance rather than emotions."

Limited Success

She admits it isn't easy and that the group is having only "limited success."

She said, "We ask them why they didn't stay at Peckkam and fight for quality education? They say their friends left, so they did."

It frustrates Mrs. McEvilly, who believes that if more parents were brave enough to keep their kids in schools like Peckham and then work for better education "it could be really creative use of power, this working together. That's

Turn to Page 9, Col. 5

Turn to Page 21, Col. 3

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL
LOCAL NEWS
PAGE 5, PART 1 MONDAY, DEC. 4, 1972



A bow hunter sought small game as he skirted the brushy woods along Lincoln Creek in an area of the old Army Disciplinary Barracks that is being sought by conservationists as a nature and wildlife preserve.

—Sentinel Photo by Ron Overdahl

Arts Study Committee To Report This Week

By JAY JOSLYN

What should be one of the least controversial of Gov. Lucey's task forces — the Study Committee on the Arts in the State and the Wisconsin Arts Council — will make its report this week.

The committee, chaired by A. A. Suppan, dean of the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee Fine Arts School, had before it a problem discussed many times previously.

The main recommendation expected from the committee is the creation of a state funded, statutory arts council. Wisconsin stands alone in the nation without such an organization.

In lieu of such governmental support of the arts, the state is served by the privately supported and operated Wisconsin Arts Council which serves on a year to-year basis. It is the state's recipient of federal assistance funds through executive order of the governor.

The need for a state agency concerned with the arts was repeatedly pointed out at the nine hearings the task force subcommittees held in seven localities in the state from April to July, Suppan said.

The structure and aims of such a state agency will make up the bulk of the task force's final report due on Jan. 5.

"No one on the task force, I'm sure, fails to recognize the service the Wisconsin Arts Council has provided the state," Suppan said. "But the future of the arts in the state needs governmental recognition and assistance."

Grants from the National Endownment for the Arts, handled by the arts council, have grown from $11,600 in fiscal 1967 to $110,000 available this fiscal year.

Wisconsin has made no matching grants as other states have.

These matching grants and the cost of administration have come through private sources in Wisconsin. This tends to limit the scope of interest in the council, according to findings at the task force hearings.

Recurring comments at the hearings, Suppan said, reflected the limitations under which the privately operated council worked.

Comments at the hearings highlighted:

- The difficulty of small groups getting grants because of no available matching money.
- A nearly complete lack of recognition of Indian arts.
- The need for more emphasis on poetry and creative writing.
- The need for more grants to rural areas.
- The feeling that funds and projects were dominated or controlled by Milwaukee or Madison groups.
- The need to contact and encourage minority art groups.

Suppan said that arts agencies in other states have met many of these problems through ability to supply matching funds from the state

Turn to Page 9, Col. 5

Officials, Conservationists Seek Land for Wildlife

By LARRY VAN GOETHEM

A chunk of US Army land that has to rate as one of the Milwaukee area's major eyesores is being promoted as a nature and wildlife preserve by some city and county officials and a conservation group.

The problem is that the nature area proposal is just one of several for the military reservation — some of which is surplus and some of which still is held by the US Army — on the city's Northwest Side.

The entire block of land is home these days to the 84th Training Division and a reported population of small animal's including rabbits, pheasants and even, say some, raccoons.

The particular area sought as a nature preserve is 30 acres of land which lies west and slightly south of the old Army Disciplinary Barracks, which was a prison during World War II for German and Japanese POWs.

The barracks have been torn down, as have several administrative buildings surrounding the huge concrete prison compound, which stands like a bombed out building just off N. Sherman Blvd.

Much Destruction

The prison is a mess. It represents a monumental cleanup and demolition job for whichever local agency eventually takes over the land which has been declared surplus by the the Federal government.

Virtually every one of thousands of windows have been broken. Glass litters almost every square foot of the prison and immediate area outside.

"They're (vandals) gradually reducing it to rubble," said Brig. Gen. W. L. Bjornstad, assistant 84th Division commander.

The open fields just north, south and west of the prison are littered with almost every imaginable type of material, from mattresses to car parts to trash. A dump lies a ouple hundred yards west of the prison.

The ruins of the prison, once the county correctional facility, dominate the entire military complex, which is an area of 377 acres, including an Army Reserve area in its southwest corner adjacent to the divisional headquarters.

It is bounded on the south by W. Silver Spring Dr., on the north by the North Western Railway, on the west by N. 55th St. and on the east by N. Sherman Blvd.

40 Acre Plot

In sharp contrast to the prison is a 40 acre plot of open land and trees which lies east of the prison in rough triangle bounded by the Milwaukee Road tracks which run diagonally across the entire grounds, N. 55th St. and Lincoln Creek.

Mrs. Cari Backes, leader and founder of a group called Equality and Quality of Life, EAQOL, has been leading a neighborhood movement to have the land taken from the Army and preserved as a nature area or wildlife preserve.

Mrs. Backes, of 5708 N. 56th St., knows the area well. She calls it an urban wilderness.

According to Mrs. Backes, the land, which is used for field training by the Army, contains a startling variety of vegetation, some of virgin growth, an 11 acre stand of trees to the north, and a waterway, Lincoln Creek.

A movement is afoot on the Milwaukee Common Council and the County Board to have the Army stop its training there in order to preserve it for wildlife.

Mrs. Backes said rabbits, squirrels and even some game birds live in the little enclave.

"If something isn't done soon there isn't going to be much left," she said.

Bjornstad Disagrees

However, the suggestion that the area be converted to a wildlife preserve met with disfavor from Bjornstad. He said the area is the only open field training ground in the Milwaukee metropolitan area for troops to train.

Bjornstad noted that the whole area north and east of the proposed park area, about 237 acres, has been declared surplus.

He said that 62 acres, including the prison, was given by the General Services Adminis-

Turn to Page 17, Col. 1



Piles of junk littered the land around the ruins of the old Army Disciplinary Barracks prison compound, just off N. Sherman Blvd. The prison once housed the county correctional institution and more recently German POWs. A move is on to allot about 40 acres of land southwest of this complex for a nature and wildlife preserve.

—Sentinel Photos

Man Dies In Rooming House Fire

A 55 year old man was killed Sunday when a fire broke out in his third floor room in a West Side rooming house.

The victim, Herbert Rice, of 854 N. 17th St., was dead on arrival at St. Mary's Hospital Burn Center at 10 a.m.

The medical examiner's office said the cause of death apparently was smoke inhalation although there were second and third degree burns to portions of the body.

George Boyce, 5th Battalion fire chief, said the fire was discovered by a passerby, Miss Mary Grant, 23, of 929 N. 17th St., who saw smoke coming from the roof of the three story frame building.

Miss Grant alerted the housekeeper, Mrs. Edith Murphy, 81, and called the Fire Department.

Two other residents of the rooming house, Barry Singer, 27, and Delmar Ebert, 44, tried to reach Rice but were driven back by the heavy smoke.

Firemen found Rice lying on the floor at the foot of his bed.

Boyce said the fire started in a wastebasket in the kitchen area of Rice's room and apparently was caused by a lighted match or cigaret being thrown into it.

The fire was confined to Rice's room, the ceiling and roof. Boyce estimated damage at $10,000 to the building and $1,500 to contents.

Jazz Benefit a Super Show for a Superstar

By DEAN JENSEN

It was clearly established Sunday that Milwaukee is the home of some of the brightest, most exciting jazz musicians anywhere — and that was without the services of perhaps the No. 1 superstar.

Of necessity, the superstar — jazz pianist Sig Millonzi — had to sit out probably the greatest concert ever put on by Milwaukee's pantheon of jazzmen.

Two months ago, Millonzi, 48, suffered a heart attack and hasn't been able to perform since.

Sunday, six Milwaukee jazz groups performed without fee and the Pfister Hotel provided its Imperial Ballroom rent free for a benefit concert for Millonzi. More than 700 jazz lovers turned out for the four hour show.

"I'm overwhelmed . . . absolutely awestruck," said Millonzi of the tribute. "Look at all these beautiful, beautiful people. I guess nobody ever really knows how much his friends mean until something serious happens to him."

Solo Talents

Opening the concert was the Millonzi Octet, minus its leader.

Millonzi smiled broadly as the soloing talents of his old sidemen like trumpeter Walt Ketchum, alto saxman Chuck Hedges, trombonist Ted Torcivia and guitarist Don Roth were showcased in old jazz standards like "Norwegian Wood" and new ones like "You've Got to Change Your Evil Ways."

Picture on Page 16.

"The group sounds real good to me," Millonzi beamed.

Millonzi said he was not sure when he would again be able to perform, but observed that "things are looking very bright for me."

Millonzi, who has been popular as a jazz pianist in Milwaukee for more than 20 years, said he has to return to the hospital later this month for tests.

Hall Opened

"It won't be until after that that I'll know when I can go back to work," he said.

When no more jazz and Millonzi fans could be squeezed into the ballroom, the hotel had to open an adjacent meeting hall to take care of the overflow crowd.

And the music was almost nonstop as one group after another took the stage and churned out jazz, hot and cool.

Besides Millonzi's Octet minus one, established groups that performed were guitarist George Pritchett's Trio, guitarist Manty Ellis' Quintet, with popular tenor saxman Berkley Fudge and pianist Don Martinson's Quintet with Don Momblow, a guitarist who appeared with Millonzi in national jazz clubs in the 1950's.

Also performing in the tribute to Millonzi were two recently organized jazz groups, Jasmine, and La Verne, both aggregations with avant guarde sounds.

Millonzi applauded them all.

"There's only one thing hard about coming to a show like this," Millonzi said. "I get emotionally involved with the music and would like to sit down at the keyboard and join in with these great musicians."

East Side Woman Raped, Shot

A 22 year old woman was shot in the foot and raped Sunday by a man who came to her East Side apartment and asked for a man named Darrell.

Police said when the victim told him that there was no one named Darrell at the apartment, he stepped inside and demanded money.

The victim said she did not have any, police said, and the man then pulled out a gun, forced her to disrobe and raped her.

The man again demanded money, police said, and when the victim repeated that she didn't have any, he shot her in the right foot.

The victim was in satisfactory condition at County General Hospital.

CREDITS EXPECTED

The Lucey administration's property tax relief money may come as individual tax credits rather than in the form of local school aids. Story on Page 15, Part 2.

The Frying Pan

LEO TIEFENTHALER, veteran civic watchdog and recipient of many testimonials and honors in his 92 years, was singled out again Friday at a Citizens' Governmental Research Bureau luncheon in the University Club.

The speaker, Ald. Robert O. Ertl, chairman of the Common Council Finance Committee, told the group of about 100 that Tiefenthaler was the only person in the room he wanted to talk to.

"He's the only one who lives in the 10th District," said Ertl, who represents the 10th Aldermanic District on the council.

* * *

The Lake Michigan Basin Commission was conducting a hearing last week at the Memorial Center. Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.), in a telegram, sent his regrets that he could not attend the hearing.

A hearing officer read the message aloud, but said it was from Congressman Les "Asprin."

In the audience was Douglas La Follette, Kenosha, recently elected a state senator.

The audience chuckled when Aspin's last name was mispronounced. La Follette observed that the name could easily be mispronounced and added, "But he really did give me a headache."

Aspin nosed out La Follette in 1970 in the primary election in the 1st Congressional District.

* * *

The Allied Construction Employers Association put up a big $9,000 billboard and gave it to the city to call attention to the building of the exhibition hall that will be a key part of MECCA — the Milwaukee Exposition and Convention Center and Arena.

The sign depicts in color what the building should look like when it's finished, in about a year or so. It also bears the words: "Milwaukee's New Exposition And Convention Center — All It Took Was Constructive Thinking."

Then, at the bottom of the big sign, are the words: "Mayor Henry W. Maier and The Milwaukee Common Council."

Instead of flattering the egos of a few politicians, wouldn't it be more appropriate if the association gave credit to the folks who are footing the bill for it all — the taxpayers of Milwaukee.

© This entire service and/or content portions thereof are copyrighted by NewsBank and/or its content providers.