



Williams Park

MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

NOTES

We have a new contributor in this issue. Tom Haley (Old Roswell Street) offers the inaugural edition of his regular column, "Williams Park Cooks!" on page 5. Tom comes from a very food oriented Italian family and is doing his part to carry on the heritage. Take it from me... this guy is good!

We encourage the rest of you to contribute something. Deadlines for the next two issues of the MEMO are August 15, and November 15. We will accept submissions in almost any form (though we prefer electronic). Send your material to Casey at dingobrown@aol.com or 770-333-9995.

2006 CALENDAR

wpn happy hour
friday, June 16
6:30 pm
at 1580 spring st.
Helen and Alan Wilgus

wpn bridge club
wednesday, June 21
7:30 1496 spring st.

wpn clean sweep
June 24 & 25
saturday & sunday
(see page 6 for details)

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The Terrell McGee House turns 100 — by Casey Clavin



WHEN it comes to birthdays, the big, round-numbered ones deserve particular attention and this year marks one such really big, really round-numbered birthday for a notable house in our neighborhood as the Terrell McGee house turns 100 years old! NANCY MCGEE, a direct descendent

of the builder, and the current owner, has provided a wealth of information about life in the house throughout the century.

It all started in 1906 when the Terrells bought the triangular half acre lot at 1389 Roswell Street from Mr. Thomas P. Whitfield (yes, the same whose house was featured in our last MEMO). With lumber cut from the family farm three miles away (on Terrell Mill Road), 18 year old Carl C. Terrell helped to build the house for his widowed mother, Buena Vista Bellew Terrell. With the house done, and his mother settled in, Carl C. moved to the



Above, the house today. Left: Carl C., Bess, and Bob Terrell, dressed to travel in September of 1918. They were moving to the family's Smyrna home where their second child, Helen would be born the following year. Below: Carl, Bob and ---- — when the Terrells returned for good in 1927 their house still had its original wooden shake roof.

Midwest where he met and married Bess Embree (1912). By the time they moved back to Smyrna in 1918, they'd had a son, Robert, born in Nebraska (1913). After their second child, Helen, was born in the house in 1919, they moved away again — to Jacksonville, then Danville, then Greenville.

In 1926, when Buena Vista died, Carl C. made plans to move the family home for good. His wife, Bess, a life-long diarist, recorded the move on January 24, 1927. "We got up at 5 a.m. and I got breakfast right away and then we packed up our last dishes, and the bedclothes. Carl took down the beds and nailed up the last barrel. The movers came at 7:30 and by 9 were all loaded up. We... left Greenville at 9:15 this was a beautiful warm day, got to Athens, Ga at 1 p.m. and had

CALENDAR

continued from previous page

wpn book club
sunday, june 25, 3 pm
1021 windy oaks court
(To Kill a Mockingbird)

kids' story time
under the stars
tuesday, july 18
7 pm Williams Park

wpn happy hour
friday, july 21
6:30 pm
at 1574 spring st.
Janet & Steve Crabb

wpn book club
sunday, july 23, 3 pm
at 1450 whitfield st.
(book to be announced)

general assembly
neighborhood meeting
tuesday, july 25
7 p.m. at smyrna
community center

wpn happy hour
friday, august 4
6:30 pm
at 2635 gilbert st.
Jim & Tracy Duelmer

smyrna's birthday
celebration
saturday, august 5
7 pm at village green
(fireworks!)

wpn august cookout
saturday, august 12
4 pm at 1351 roswell st.

kids' popsicle social
saturday, august 12
4 pm at 1351 roswell st.

kids' story time
under the stars
tuesday, august 15
7 pm at Williams Park

wpn book club
sunday, august 27
3 pm
at 2583 old roswell rd.
(Fair & Tender Ladies)

for more event information,
please contact Jill Jones at
770-434-5494 or Sandy
Hamby at 770-435-5613. For
children's activities, contact
Shaun Latimore-Martin at
404-556-5282. For bridge
club contact Mary Helen Ellet
at 770-437-8620 or
mhellet@peoplepc.com

dinner. ... Got to Atlanta at 5 p.m. eastern time and out to Smyrna at 6." They moved by truck, which cost them \$90.

The house they returned to was as it had been built — simple, yet very attractive. Both the facade and the layout displayed perfect bi-lateral symmetry. There was an eight foot wide central hall (divided by a doorway into a 16' deep front hall and an 18' deep back hall), which ran through from front porch to back porch. The hall is flanked by three rooms on each side, all 15' wide but of diminishing depth — the front rooms are 13' deep, the middle rooms are 12' deep, and back rooms are 10' deep. The ceilings are 11' high. The rooms on the right, front to rear, have always served as parlor, dining rom, and kitchen. The rooms on the left, previously all bedrooms, are now two bedrooms and a den. There was a well just beyond the back porch, and a utility shed (called a plunder house) and an out-house stood beyond that.

They set to work immediately to make the place their home. January 6, 1928: *Carl made a dog house for Spot today — it is a fine one.* January 26, 1928: *Set my incubator this morning — put 77 eggs in it — It was 3 o'clock before the eggs got up to 103 degrees.* April 3, 1928: *Carl went to Marietta (sale day) + bought a wagon + part of a set of harness for \$15. (I) Walked down to Smyrna this afternoon + got some groceries for tomorrow. Turned my eggs for the last time tonight + closed the incubator — have 59 eggs in it. My 2 setting hens have 26 eggs so hope I can get about 75 chicks.*

The market crash of 1929 brought economic difficulties for everyone, though the Terrells weathered the depression reasonably well. Then a new administration brought optimism. March 4, 1933: *The big day — inauguration of Roosevelt. Bands are playing "Happy Days are Here Again" and I hope better days will soon be here. We listened to Roosevelt's speech in which he said he would drive out the money-changers.*

In this 1932 photo, the house reflects the scarcity typical of the depression — the shutters are off and the place needs paint. Peggy, in the Model A Ford, is oblivious to the hard times.



Above: Helen in 1927. The swing on the porch still hangs there today.

January 1, 1934: *Well here is a brand new year — we have lots to be thankful for as things look much better than a year go. Carl is district foreman of the Smyrna CWA workers and his pay is \$1 per hour for a 30hour week. He also is paid \$4 a week for his truck to haul tools, by the county. ...Robert [the son] worked till 12 today at Black and Webbs. [a store in downtown Smyrna] He has been working all week since before Christmas, getting \$5 a week. But as business is dull now — he will probably work only*

Fri. and Saturday.

Luckily they still owned the family farm (though diminished in size due to a land sale to pay taxes), and it provided lumber for Carl to build a garage and two chicken houses. Late in the 1930s, the main house got indoor running water and the end of the hall was closed off to create a bathroom.

The years passed. Carl worked for the City and on the farm. Bess cooked and cleaned, tended the chickens, gardened and sewed, a passion her daughter Hellen developed as well. Leisure time was spent visiting with other families in the area, reading library books, and listening to the radio. Bob and Helen grew up and left home to start families of their own — three kids each — and because the clan remained tight-knit, the grandkids were often with their grandparents.

Carl and Bess lived in the house until their deaths, his in 1971, and hers in 1974. Then their granddaughter Nancy McGee (Helen's daughter), moved into the house she'd spent so much of her childhood visiting. She had all the buildings painted yellow with white trim to go with the green roof, and settled in.

After living there about a decade, Nancy began a series of alterations, updating the house for comfort and efficiency, as well as adding function through adaptive reuse of the outbuildings. The result is a very livable environment in the beautiful, well integrated compound of five buildings, decks, landscaping, and driveway we now see. The chronology went something like this: In 1985 she remodeled the back of the house, putting in a new kitchen, updating the one bathroom and adding a second (remarkably large and luxurious master) bath. Four years later she added a sizable utility room at the back and, off of that, a deck. Somewhere around 1990 she started gardening and developed a landscape plan. In 1994 she added the lower deck and pergola tying the buildings into a cohesive group.

Making the leap from the corporate world

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MEMBERSHIP

continues to grow — With eighteen new families since the first of the year (and only a few families not renewed), membership now numbers 98 families. Despite a good (nearly phenomenal) renewal rate, the Board decided that year's end is not the best time for people to remember to renew. The solution: change the annual membership expiration date (from December 31 to 15 March). From now on, annual membership begins on March 16th. Members who join or renew for 2006 will be current thru 15 March 2007 — that's three free months — 25% more membership for your money!

WELCOME

to these most recent new members:

on Roswell Street
Kim and Eric Ferguson

on Spring Street
Alan and Helen Wilgus

on Hawthorn
Greg and April Moncrief & 3 year old Grace

on Highland Avenue
Christie Howie and Brian Dammond

Our mission is to promote community among neighbors through social interaction, emphasizing the unique character of Smyrna's oldest neighborhood.

Events in review

The March 4th **beautification project** in Williams Park was a resounding success. Neighbors turned out to help plant or just socialize. WPN Beautification Chair, David Whited said, "I was amazed at how well we all worked together. We had to do a bit more than originally planned, but we still completed it within two hours and it looks great." Yes it does, and the landscape plan Nancy McGee developed will improve over time as the plants mature. (see also, "kudos" in this issue)



PHOTOS BY GREG MARTIN



Our first anniversary party was lots of fun. We had live music for the first time, and an artist in residence 7 year old Gus Jones set up shop drawing portraits of individuals and couples (sitter's choice) for a dime or a dollar (sitter's choice). There was an anniversary cake and champagne to toast the occasion, but the big draw, of course, was the pecan cooking contest — and competition was fierce. There were boasts of organically grown Williams Park pecans, and a custom made serving plate for optimal presentation! After careful deliberation, the winners were:
1st Judy Kessler, chocolate pecan tort
2nd Madge Jackson, frozen pecan fruit salad
3rd Vic Koch, classic pecan pie

WPN president, Ron Davis for his multiplicity of community service. If you weren't there you probably can't imagine this, but Ron was actually speechless!

Thanks are due and given to our generous sponsors for this event — see page 6 for a list.



PHOTO BY SANDY HAMBY

We've now caulked up four of our **in-home happy hour** events and they're proving popular. Hosts so far have been Liz and Ron Davis, Pam Adams, Jill and Larry Jones, Sam and Sandy Hamby. The format is simple: you bring a dish and some grog and hang out chatting with neighbors. It gives "old-timers" an opportunity to size up "newbies" and it gives the new-comers a chance to find out what they've gotten themselves into. Helen and Alan Wilgus are hosting us this month. They relocated to Smyrna recently at the recommendation of their daughter and son in law. Moving into one of the "lofts" on Spring Street, they attended their first Williams Park event within a week of their arrival. Stop by and add your voice in welcoming them to WP.

Our Beautification Committee's first **adopt-a-mile event** is in the can (pun intended). WPN was approved by Keep Smyrna Beautiful for adoption of Roswell Street from its beginning at Windy Hill Road to its end at the railroad tracks. After assembling on a Saturday morning for coffee, a briefing, and supplies, participants were delivered to Windy Hill Road and worked their way down to little five-points (six-points). Drizzly weather meant a light volunteer turn-out but, nonetheless, we picked up and hauled off 26 big bags full of junk, plus a few tires and such — a full truck load of trash! For this we got two tangible rewards — lunch and a Keep Smyrna Beautiful t-shirt — plus the intangible reward, expressed by one

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MILE -

births

Mike and Leslie Hornigold (Hawthorn Avenue) (Spring Street) have a new baby boy, Porter Michael born March 15 weighing in at 7 lbs. 8 oz. and 20"

illness

Gerry Scoggins (Roswell St) is home from the hospital with a new hip. Welcome home

deaths

We offer condolences to Judy Brassfield (Gilbert Street) for the death of her father in March.

We offer condolences to Mike Kemp (Highland Avenue) for the death of his uncle.

Judy Green (Morris Circle), a life-long resident in this neighborhood died March 28. She was 55 years old. She is survived by her mother, Mary Elizabeth Green; a brother, Ken Green; and a sister, Cindy Green. She was loved and will be missed.

Amir Askarian, owner of Cafe Michel, and a friend to our neighborhood died Sunday, March 28, after suffering a stroke four days earlier. A warm and good-natured man, Amir welcomed patrons to his restaurant as friends. Always smiling and shaking hands, he was particularly bright-eyed greeting children. On several occasions, he provided Café Michel gift certificates for us to give away as door prizes at WPN events. At last year's Harvest Fest, he served, along with Mayor Bacon and Councilman Scoggins, as a judge in our Chili Cookoff. He is survived by his wife Melanie who will continue operating the restaurant in Amir's honor. A kind soul has left us.

Terrell McGee from page 2

to self employment, she enlarged one of the chicken houses, converting it into an office in 1996. The next year she ordered shutters made (actual operable louvered shutters) to replace those missing since the 1930s.

In 2003 she hired a stone mason to replace the front path (was concrete), porch stairs (were wood), and the front porch underpinning (was lattice). She paved the driveway and terrace area that same year.

Did she work toward a master plan, we asked. "Are you kidding? Heavens no. The



The garage, above, viewed from two sides, has an automatic garage door disguised to look like its original swinging doors.

projects were individual entities. I'd just think about something for three or four years, considering how it should fit in. Then I'd finally get around to doing it." The landscaping, she clarifies, was loosely preconceived as a whole — though the plan has not been slavishly followed.

There are still the out-house and one chicken house not yet assigned new uses, but they wait in style — roofed, painted, and maintained like their more fully employed siblings — adding significantly to the charm of the whole. And when the climbing roses are holding forth on the pergola... holy cow, the place is stunning.



Nancy McGee, center, photographed in 1950 with her siblings, Suzanne and David in front of the chicken house which would later become her office, left.

Events continued from page 3

participant as "...an unexpected feeling of gratification — it felt good." Oh, and Sam Hamby found a five dollar bill!



PHOTO BY GREG MARTIN

Shaun Latimore- Martin (Anderson Circle) continues to produce great **children's activities**, this year with an official helper in the person of Heather Kemp (Highland Avenue), herself a mother of two. So far this year, they've held a spring celebration (which drew about 25 kids) and a school's out event, plus child-specific activities at the our anniversary party.



PHOTO BY GREG MARTIN

WPN Pet Profiles

PHOTO COURTESY OF DOUG ERICKSON



Bebe — Our Pet Profile this time is in memory of a recently departed Williams Park pet. Bebe Hersom (Old Roswell) was 12 years old and in declining health when she said goodbye to her family on Wednesday, March 15. Always a young soul, playful and free spirited, Bebe was also lion-hearted, thinking of herself more as a Great Dane than as the soft-coated little Spaniel she was. She loved water, swimming in any pool she could find, and even in the ocean. She loved play-fighting with her sister, running from African snakes and chasing squirrels in the snow. Her friends and family will miss her very much.

NOTICES

Interested in wine?

Ben and Louisa Cohn (Whitfield Street) are involved in a wine club called Friends of the Vine. The 100 member group (generally aged 30-50), holds monthly wine tasting at local restaurants. They taste 15-20 wines interspersed with good appetizers (for \$12). If you would like to receive the group's e-newsletter, send a note to olliega@netzero.com asking to be added to the e-mail list.

A black cat with a greenish yellow collar died on a front porch in the 1500 block of Roswell Street the morning of March 8. It had no identification.

"KYANOS" BY GREG MARTIN



Williams Park Cooks! ... Tom Haley

I'm no chef, but I sure like to cook. I bet there are many people just like me in the neighborhood... people who like to try new recipes and then dress them up to make them their own. Finding easy recipes for delicious meals can sometimes be a daunting task, but now you can find flavorful new ideas right here in your own urban village.

With summertime upon us, many of us want to eat lighter and stay fit while still enjoying a great meal. Here are some relatively easy foods that you can make and still have time to enjoy those summer activities!

Spicy Lime Shrimp

I received this recipe from my sister-in-law and prepared it for a summer gathering last year. It went over so well with everyone that I wish I had made a double batch!

1 lb. large shrimp, shelled
1/4 cup sesame oil
1/4 cup lime juice
1 tablespoon minced ginger
3 scallions, minced
1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
1/4 teaspoon salt
pinch of crushed red pepper
1 lime

Cook shrimp in rapidly boiling water until just pink. Drain immediately and rinse under cold water. (I buy cooked shrimp and avoid this step.) Combine the rest of the ingredients and toss with shrimp. Marinate at least 2 hours in the refrigerator. Arrange on lettuce leaves; garnish with lime wedges.

Crunch Romaine Toss

I received this recipe from my mother and it's always a big hit. It makes an excellent side dish any time of the year, but I make it more often in summer.

1 cup walnuts
1 package Ramen Noodles (any flavor because you'll won't use the seasoning)
4 tablespoons margarine
1 bunch broccoli tips cut in small pieces
1 head romaine lettuce (I use two packages of the prepared Romaine lettuce that you get at Publix. The dressing is enough for both packages and then some!)
4 green onions
1 cup sweet and sour dressing (below)

Brown walnuts and broken noodles in margarine. Drain and cool on paper towel. Combine lettuce, onions, and broccoli. Toss with dressing and right before serving, add the cooked walnuts and noodles.

... and the dressing for it

1 cup oil
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup wine vinegar
3 teaspoons soy sauce
salt and pepper to taste

Next time you're looking for a new recipe to try, give these a whirl! And feel free to add some special touch to make it your own. Be sure to drop me a line and tell me how it was. Or better yet, invite me over for a bite! Bon Appetite!

Kudos for neighbors

Riley Shay is in like Flynn — he's been accepted into the Magnet Program at Wheeler High School! About 350 kids applied for about 100 openings to in the academically elite program. Evaluation criteria include grades, teacher recommendations, involvement in activities, and PSAT scores. Riley, who's already taken Algebra (a Freshman High School course) at Eastside Christian School, has a 97 grade point average. The Wheeler Magnet Program is a science and math program with a phenomenal college placement rate — 100% of the kids who graduated from the program last year went to college (many on scholarships). so Riley will be right in his element their. His parents are "very thrilled" and we are too. Congratulations, Riley!

And kudos to the **WPN Beautification Committee** for recent awards and praise. They received the Helping Hand Award from Keep Smyrna Beautiful last year's Clean Sweep, this year's park project, and participation in Adopt-a-Mile. The project in Williams Park also garnered a letter of gratitude from Mayor Max Bacon in which he wrote, "Indeed, this undertaking is noticeable scene for people coming from Atlanta Road into that neighborhood! ...thank you for your generosity toward the beautification of the City of Smyrna."

Greg Martin (Highland Avenue) participated in an art exhibit at the Atlanta Photography Group's gallery in March and April. His photo, "kyanos," hung in the show called Photographer's Choice 2006. Greg is our WPN photographer, recording many of our events for posterity.

Congratulations to **Neil Cantrel** (Roswell Street) who's back from Iraq. A Specialist E4 in the Army Reserve National Guard, Neil volunteered for an 18 month deployment to Iraq with the 40th Brigade. After six months of training, he served six months in Baghdad and six months in Tallil. Because his specialty (chemical decontamination) wasn't needed, he was reassigned to provide security for civil affairs workers building and repairing roads, bridges, water towers and such. His unit also provided security for pole workers and ballots in the national election, and for the people who wrote the new constitution. For this tour of duty Neil received an Overseas Ribbon, an Iraqi Campaign Metal, and a Meritous Service Metal. He returned to the US on May 6 and we join his parents Wayne and Peggy Cantrel (Roswell Street) in welcoming him home.

THANK YOU

to these sponsors for their generous support of our anniversary party

- Spring Rd. Liquor Store — champagne
- Old South Barbeque — BBQ
- Sonny's Barbeque — BBQ
- Atlanta Party Rental — Jumper for kids
- McDonald's (Spring Rd) — hamburger buns
- Wendy's (South Cobb Dr) — iced tea
- Fat Boy's Restaurant — Cole slaw
- Publix — cash certificate
- Lighthouse Chiropractic (Spring St) — services
- Sam and Sandy Hamby — Flowers

Coach's Corner

Formula for Life Success...

In a continuous striving to HAVE the life we want, we must first begin the process of "BEing" the new person or the new Identity. Most will be too lazy... so remember, you can only DO what you ARE... and you are what you THINK... so remember to CHOOSE your thoughts and words well. At the end of the day keep your thoughts working for you and not against you. Remember your mind is like a garden bed, if you plant negative thoughts (weeds) then you will grow a negative reality... if you plant positive thoughts they will grow into a positive outcome. What you think about most are the seeds that will grow. That's why worry is a killer. In time, you'll HAVE what you DO!

I am Ron Steiger, your neighbor, and business coach. Feel free to contact me at RonSteiger@action-international.com or on the web at <http://www.actioncoaching.com/ronsteiger>, EntrePartners, Inc.

Clean Sweep

Are you going to be ready for the 2006 edition of *Operation Clean Sweep*, scheduled for June 24 and 25. This is an opportunity to dispose of things we're no longer using in one of several different ways.

part one: On Saturday June 24, we'll hold a community yard sale with stations in Williams Park and throughout the neighborhood. Here we can clear out items by sale or donation. To sell our own things, we can set up a booth in the Park or sell in our own yard. If that's too much hassle or if you just feel generous, you can donate items to WPN: they'll be sold by neighborhood volunteers at the WPN booth in Williams Park. Proceeds from the sale of donated items will be used for a neighborhood project. Last year's profit went toward a new landscaped area in Williams Park. Since the City more than matched our funds, it paid off very well.

At 7:00 am, WPN volunteers will set up in the Park and start selling as soon as the buyers arrive. At 5:00 pm, they'll close down the booths and take any unsold items to a local charity. Last year several trucks delivered good useable household items to M.U.S.T. Ministries.

This well-advertised and highly visible event should generate a good number of buyers. WPN will publish an ad in the *Marietta Daily Journal*, an article in the *Bright Side*, place flyers with local businesses, and post signs on the main neighborhood thoroughfares during the week before the sale.

part two: Sunday June 25 is our opportunity to get rid of the other stuff — the unsaleable, the unusable, the unwanted. The City of Smyrna has agreed to a free pick-up of those items during the following week. All we have to do is get them to the curb — and there's help with that too. Volunteers will assist in moving items to the curb on Sunday, June 25 between the hours of 12:00 and 4:00. If you need help call 770-435-1904 before June 22, and leave your number.

There are some limitations to the free pick-up. Excluded are tires, paint, chemicals, appliances containing refrigerant, extremely large items (such as hot tubs), and extremely large volume of construction debris. If you have questions about excluded items, call Smyrna's Public Works department at 770-431-2850.

If you have *Clean Sweep* questions or donations, you can call David Whited, WPN Beautification Chair) at 770-435-1904 or Ron and Liz Davis at 770-431-9786.

Did you know...

you can access Smyrna's codes and ordinances online?

- go to www.municode.com
- click on "online library"
- click on "georgia"
- click on "smyrna" (on the right hand side there is a box that says "continue to smyrna, ga code of ordinances") — click that whole line
- click on the folder that appears in the left column
- a list of chapters or categories will appear indicating what codes or ordinances are noted in that section

Those are the official directions. It didn't work that way for me (I'm on a Macintosh) but it wasn't hard to figure out. Here are a few samples of the stuff you'll find there.

Chapter 14 Animals

Sec. 14-44. Limit on number of dogs

(a) The keeping of dogs shall be allowed as an accessory use on any lot, provided such dogs are for personal use and enjoyment and not for commercial purposes.

(b) The number of dogs permitted shall be in accordance with the following schedule, except that, in determining the number of dogs allowed, only those dogs six months or older in age shall be counted.

# of dogs	minimum lot size
1 to 2	no requirement
3	20,000 sq. ft.
4	30,000 sq. ft.
5 or more	40,000 sq. ft., plus 10,000 sq. ft. for each additional dog

(c) This limitation shall not apply to veterinary clinics, licensed animal shelters, pet shops or grooming establishments.

Chapter 80 Property Maintenance

Sec. 80-6. Policy on time limit of containers at streetside.

(a) The purpose of this section is to set an expectation on policy. Violators shall not be subject to citation.

(b) A garbage can, bag, box or other such container shall not be placed or allowed at streetside prior to 6:00 p.m. on the evening prior to the scheduled day of collection; nor shall said container remain placed or allowed at streetside longer than 9:00 p.m. on the day of collection.

(c) Violations shall be referred to the community development department. Said department or other city employee shall leave a notification of this policy and request the cooperation of the person(s) occupying the location.