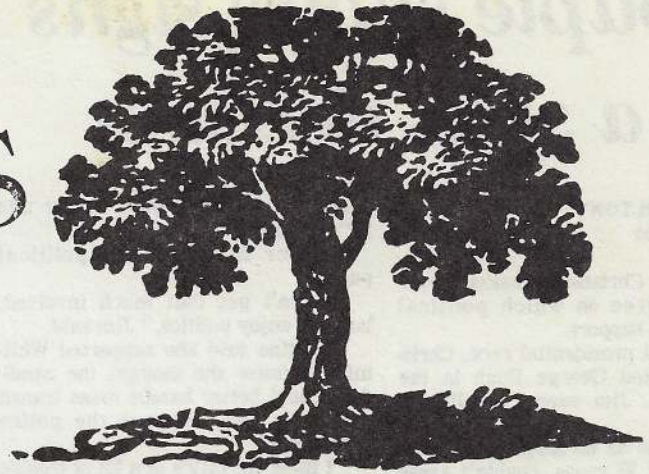


Garden Oaks Gazette

CHRISTMAS

DEC. 1981



§ President's message §

circulation 1500

Twas the night before Christmas
and all thru the house.....

Silent Night, Holy Night

Mistletoe and Snow

Joy to the World

All of these and more bring each of us cherished memories and thoughts of Christmases come and gone and of the promise given so many, many years ago - and unto to you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour a promise of and for the future.

As the holiday season approaches, each of us will remember it in so many different ways. From parents who will be sharing their child's first Christmas, to singles and young marrieds who will share friendship with families and friends; to children and Santa Claus; to Grandparents who will share their pasts as they watch the future go before them - each of us in Garden Oaks will also share with each other.

Christmas is and always will be a magic time, a holy time - a time of giving and of receiving.

Faith, hope and love, gifts which cannot be bought - gifts without price, the ornaments incapable of imitation, which cannot be bought or sold or bartered but only given away.

"This Christmas, mend a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion, and replace it with trust. Write a love letter. Share some treasure. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty in word and deed. Keep a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand. Flout envy. Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind; be gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Deserve confidence. Take up arms against malice. Decry complacency. Express your gratitude. Go to church. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it still once again."*

Christmas is a celebration but only as we grasp the significance of that first Christmas will we realize there is no celebration that compares with the realization of its true meaning. To each and everyone of you, a Merry, Merry Christmas from the Garden Oaks Civic Club officers of 1981.

Ruth Blanchette, President
Robert Taylor, Vice President
Cindy Murphy, 2nd Vice President
Mari Gibson, Corresponding Sec.
Willard Mills, Treasurer
Loma Wetzel, Recording Secretary

*"What We Think Christmas Is" by
Margaret Cousins

Couple shows signs of a split decision

By RICK BOLTON
Post Reporter

Jim and Christine Straker never seem to agree on which political candidate to support.

In the last presidential race, Christine supported George Bush in the early going. Jim supported Jimmy Carter.

So it came as no surprise the couple, married 33 years, couldn't agree on which candidate to support for Houston's mayor.

In the front yard of their two-story house in the 500 block of West 32nd St. in Garden Oaks, the Strakers made known their political preferences by strapping together Whitmire and Heard campaign signs.

Above the Whitmire sign was the word "Hers." Above the Heard sign was the word "His."

"HE DOES HIS thing, I do mine," Christine said on election day, Tuesday.

"He has known the Heards for a good while, and I just like what Kathy has to say."

And Jim: "I do not tell her how to vote, she does not tell me how to vote."

The Strakers posted the his-and-her campaign signs a few days before Tuesday's election in a neighborhood where preferences were split between the two mayoral candidates, Christine said.

Neither Christine nor Jim campaigned for a mayoral candidate, although Christine admitted she handed out campaign literature for Whitmire Tuesday.

"We just never seem to agree on either side," Christine said. "But we've been married 33 years and that didn't hurt it. Our political differences make it more interesting. We get into some really good talks."

Jim said he put up the signs to inject humor into the campaign.

"IT WAS GETTING so serious we

As an interesting follow-up to the above article the sign the following day read "She Won - I'll do the Dishes"

While we appreciate everyones support of the election process and we welcome active participation in political campaigns we want to remind everyone that the placing of signs of any size in yards or common areas is in violation of their Deed Restrictions.

Thank You

decided we'd throw some humor into it," Jim said.

Neither is active in a political party.

"I don't get that much involved, but I do enjoy politics," Jim said.

Christine said she supported Whitmire because she thought the candidate could better handle mass transit problems and improve the police department.

"I think the city's in a lot of trouble and she can do something about it," she said.

On the other hand, Jim supported Heard because he believed the candidate had a broader knowledge of Houston city government than Whitmire.

But Christine said she knew the true reason her husband supported Heard.

"My husband is a male chauvinist," Christine said. "He doesn't think a woman can do anything. He just thinks a man - any man - can do better than a woman."

Jim disagreed with Christine's reasoning.

"I'm not a male chauvinist," he said. "I think a woman with a broader knowledge, like Barbara Jordan, could handle it. I'm talking about age and experience versus inexperience. I like the opposite sex. That's my favorite sex."

JIM EVEN CONCEDED Whitmire "did a damn good job keeping the purse strings" as city controller. The his-and-her signs were only "friendly competition" between themselves and the neighbors, he said.

It isn't impossible for the Strakers to agree on a candidate. After Bush was defeated in the primary last year, Christine agreed to vote for Carter in the presidential election.

No matter who wins the Houston mayoral race, the Strakers will support the victor, Jim said.

"We're going to work the best we can to make this a fine city," Jim said. "May the best man or lady win."



The Strakers: Disagreeing makes it interesting

To all my friends and neighbors in Garden Oaks my personal thanks for giving me the privilege of serving as your President this past year. It was an honor, a joy and definitely a privilege.

TO ALL OF YOU -

Merry Christmas and
GOD BLESS

Paul Blanchette

CRIME ALERT

Recently, there have been several burglaries in Section I of Garden Oaks HOWEVER, all residents of Garden Oaks must be on the look out for a white male in his early 40's with ^{GRAY} ~~BROWN~~ hair and driving an army green pinto. The police are aware of this individual and are on the lookout for him. If you think you see him - do not alert him but contact your police at the N. Shepherd station 699 - 1913 Also if you have been burglarized recently or have seen or have information on the above individual - Call officer Skipper

Also, as the holiday season approaches, REMEMBER don't advertise your gifts - When you have bought a gift, LOCK it out of sight in the trunk of your car. WATCH your purse and packages as you walk about the stores and malls and across parking lots to your car. SIMPLY, as always during the holiday season EXERCISE CAUTION.

CIVIC CLUB MEETING

OUR APPRECIATION

DECEMBER 1

Our final Civic Club meeting of 1981 will be held Tuesday, December 1, at 7:30 p.m. with refreshments starting at 7:00 p.m. Plan to attend this final meeting of the year as we plan a block walkathon (to sell home tour tickets to our neighbors): to vote on the slate of officers chosen for 1982

- Billy Bijak, President
- Linda Masera, 1st V.P.
- Mary Lehman, 2nd V.P.
- Pat Eckert, Corresponding Sec.
- Willard Mills, Treasurer
- Loma Wetzel, Recording Sec.

Also, your Limited Edition poster is here and it is fantastic. It will be on view - they are signed and numbered and there will only be approximately 130 available SO, get your order in now if you have not already done so. To place an order call:

Lucian Nietman 862-5656

She will be happy to take your order. Cost = \$10

REMEMBER, this is the final meeting before your Home Tour. So, Spruce Up - you've invited a lot of people to our home (Garden Oaks) so let's show them just how special we really are - they may become a neighbor who cares just as you and I do about the quality of our life and our homes. REMEMBER -

GARDEN OAKS IS GREAT

GARDEN OAKS CLIPPINGS

On December 10, at 7:00 p.m. the Garden Oaks Garden Club and Civic Club will join together in celebration of the holiday season and successful completion of the 1981 "Traditional Christmas Home Tour". All residents of Garden Oaks are invited to attend. Civic Club members will furnish dips, chips, sandwiches and coffee while Garden Club members will furnish cakes, cookies, candy and punch. SEE YOU THERE.

Diane Mangold
President
Garden Oaks Garden Club

The Garden Oaks Civic Club gratefully acknowledges the support and assistance of the following people who are helping you in having a successful home tour:

- Action Printing
- Alfreds Times Square Flowers
- Aloha Flowers
- Sandy Altman
- Bill Angele
- Diane Austin
- Billy Bijak
- Bird's Kwik Kopy
- Dorothy Blanchette
- Burt of El Cheapo Dictating & Answg Machines

- Jeannie Caberra
- Rose Fitch
- Flowertime Florist
- Vee Gaines
- Brett & Mike Hansen
- Mike Himel
- Jamails
- Albert Jasso
- Terry Jeanes
- The Leader Staff
- Mary Lehman
- Glenda McKenney
- Steve & Linda Masera
- Willard Mills
- Lucian Nietman
- North Shepherd Florist
- Options
- George & Kay Paul
- Tom & Pat Roberts
- Raff Rushton
- Wayne & Brenda White
- Cherrie Wiggins

Barbara Wingate of Century-21(Bice-M) James Villman - Zekes Hamburgers Geri Zamora AND, all those very special friends and neighbors who sold tickets, put up posters, will act as Trouble Shooters; Ticket, Cookbook & Bake sellers and as home tour guides. To all of you our very special THANKS - We could not have done it without you.

On the back page we want to share with you the homes that will be on the Home Tour in the hopes that if you have not bought a ticket you will and will bring a friend. REMEMBER, it is your home tour and we've tried to have something for everyone from add-ons to originals to re-dos. ONLY YOU can make it a real success.

Tickets can be bought the day of the home tour at the Sears Parking lot or at the individual homes.

*We Need You!
Bake, Bake, Bake
for the
Home Tour Sale
Goods Baked*

*CANDIES.
Cookies
Breads
for
Holiday
Gift
Giving*

*We've had to order
more tickets - keep
it up folks - You're
Great!*

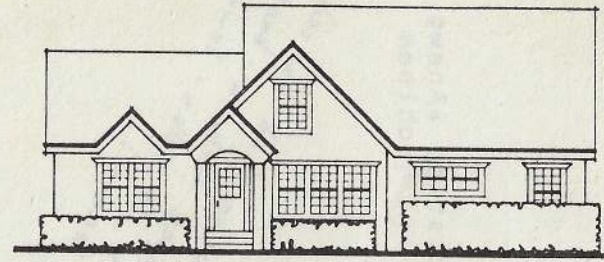


ONCE UPON A TIME A MAN HAD A DREAM OF CREATING A COMMUNITY OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS OF HOUSTON THAT OFFERED WINDING STREETS AND LARGE LOTS. IN 1938 SHEPHERD WAS A GRAVEL ROAD; YALE WAS A NARROW STREET THAT WOUND ITS WAY OUT NORTH; THE SHOPPING CENTER WAS A FIELD THAT YIELDED THE BIGGEST, FATTEST BLACKBERRIES YOU EVER SAW. TO THE WEST LAY A DAIRY FARM, AND GOLF ST. LED TO THE HEIGHTS GOLF COURSE.

ONCE UPON A TIME YOU COULD BUY A HOME FOR \$195.00 CASH AND \$.99/DAY. CHILDREN ONCE PLAYED BALL IN THE MIDDLE OF 43RD, AND GARDEN OAKS RESIDENTS HAD THEIR PICNICS ON THE BANKS OF THE BAYOU THAT RAN WHERE ELLA NOW EXISTS.

WHEN SEARS WAS BUILT NEIGHBORS BROUGHT OUT THEIR LAWN CHAIRS; AND ONCE A YOUNG RECRUIT WHO WANTED TO SAY HI TO HIS FOLKS, FLEW TOO LOW AND CRASHED HIS PLANE.

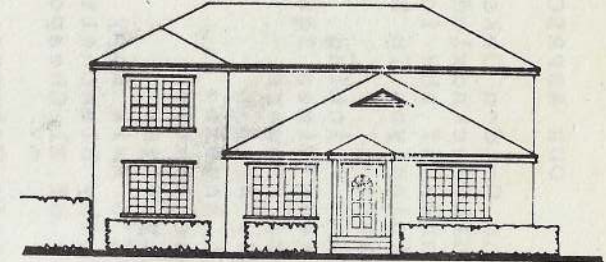
PARADES WERE ONCE HELD MEANDERING THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD WITH OUR OWN FIRE TRUCK AND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT LEADING THE WAY. WE WERE A SMALL TOWN BUT, DON'T ASK US ABOUT THE FISHING POLE BURGLARIES - THAT'S HOW WE GOT STARTED.



403 W. 31ST

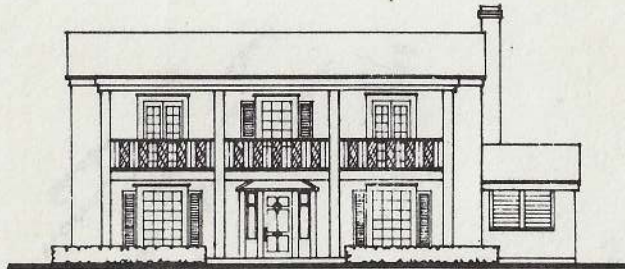
THIS HOME COULD BE A SON-IN-LAWS DREAM WITH ITS TWO DISTINCT, TOTALLY SEPARATE UPSTAIRS LIVING AREAS. THE OWNERS HAVE TAKEN A SMALL 1300 SQ. FT. HOME AND ADDED 1900 SQ. FT. CREATING A LARGE, LIVING AND ENTERTAINING AREA WITH FRENCH DOORS, 12-FT. CEILINGS AND A FIREPLACE AS WELL AS AN INDOOR JACUZZI. FROM THE UPSTAIRS MASTER BEDROOM SUITE AND GAME ROOM TO THE LIBRARY DOWNSTAIRS, THIS HOME IS ONE YOU CAN THOROUGHLY ENJOY.

NO, THEY WERE NEVER STABLES NOT EVEN APARTMENTS, BUT SIMPLY A WONDERFUL, INTRIGUING, OLD-FASHIONED GARAGE THAT THE OWNERS HAD BUILT TO MATCH THEIR CAPE COD HOME. INSIDE THE HOUSE RESIDES HISTORY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS. FROM THE VERY WELCOMING ROOMS, TO THE COZY UPSTAIRS MASTER BEDROOM WITH ITS SEWING ROOM AND HIDDEN NOOK, TO THE DOWNSTAIRS SUIRY, TO THE BEDROOM WITH ITS BRASS BED, AND THE GLASS-ED IN BACK PORCH WITH OLD-FASHIONED WHITE WICKER FURNITURE, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHY THE OWNERS NEVER WANT TO LEAVE.



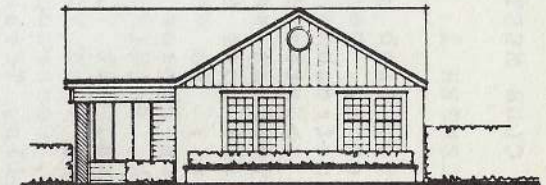
858 W. 43RD

THE OWNERS OF THIS BEAUTIFUL HOME AND THEIR CONTRACTOR, CASTLE BUILDERS, TOOK A VERY SMALL 2-STORY HOME AND CREATED A SHOWCASE WITH OVER 4,000 SQ. FT. THE KITCHEN IS A MASTER CHEF'S DREAM AND CREATION. THROUGHOUT THIS WONDERFUL GEORGIAN COLONIAL HOME, WITH ITS VERY REAL FEELING OF "TARA", EXISTS BEAUTY AND COMFORT FROM THE LARGE MASTER SUITE (OVER 1,000 SQ. FT.) TO THE 4-COLUMNED FRONT PORCH AND ITS OLD FASHIONED STREET LAMPS WHICH LIGHT THE WAY. ON THIS DAY THE DOOR OPENS WIDE FOR JUST A FEW HOURS IN OLD-FASHIONED SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY.



814 AZALEA

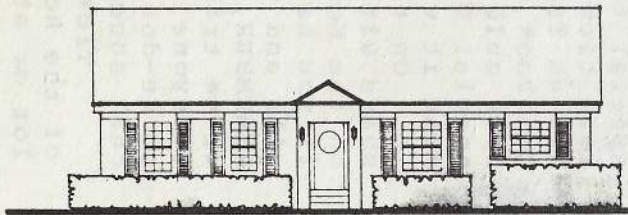
THOUGH THIS SMALL, UNIQUE HOME IS IN THE "WEST 40" IT IS NOT TO BE MISSED. THE OWNER HAS WITH A SMALL 2 BEDROOM - 1 BATH CREATED AN ILLUSION OF SPACE COMPARABLE TO A HOME TWICE THE SIZE. THE BRIGHT COLORS, PAINTINGS AND PRINTS, OLD REFINISHED STAINED GLASS DOORS, WALLS THAT HAVE BEEN TURNED INTO WINDOWS, AND THE USE OF MIRRORS AND UNIQUE, UNTHOUGHT OF SPACE MAKES THIS HOME A REAL CHARM.



1070 ALTHEA

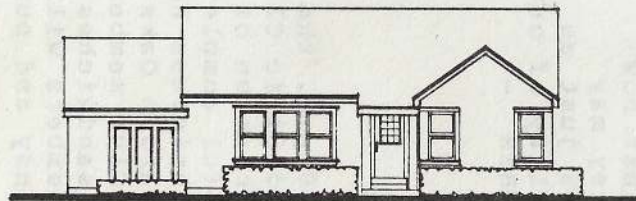
THIS IS NOT MEANT TO BE A FAIRY TALE BUT WE HOPE THAT THE ENDING WILL BE AS WE GO FROM A COMMUNITY ON THE UPSWING TO ONE OF EXTREME PRESTIGE.

THE
END!



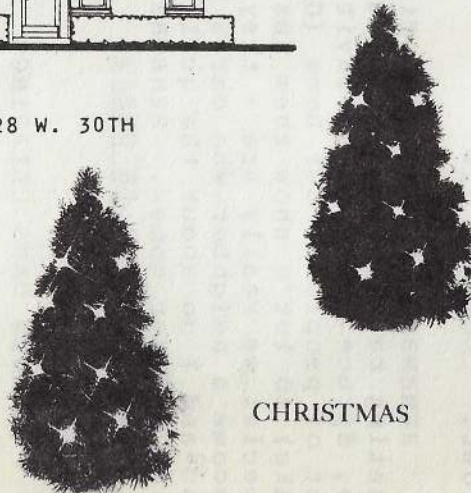
515 W. 30TH

YOU WILL VISIT MANY HOMES ON THE HOME TOUR WHICH HAVE HAD STRUCTURAL CHANGES BUT, WE WANTED TO SHOW YOU WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH A LITTLE PAINT AND CREATIVE THINKING. THIS HOME WITH ITS BRIGHT BLUE SHUTTERS HAS ONLY HAD THREE OWNERS AND IS EXACTLY AS IT WAS WHEN IT WAS BUILT. THE OWNER HAS WITH CRISP, CLEAN COLORS CREATED BEAUTY AND INTEREST AS HE POLISHED THE HARDWOOD FLOORS, REFINISHED THE GLASS AND BRASS DOORKNOBS, CREATED NEW LIGHTING CONCEPTS AND MIXED OLD AND NEW CONTEMPORARY FURNISHINGS, MAKING YOU FEEL RIGHT AT HOME.



228 W. 30TH

THIS VERY CONTEMPORARY INVITING, WARM WELCOMING HOME IS A TOTAL RE-DO BY THE OWNERS. THEIR CREATIVE TALENTS HAVE EXTENDED FROM THE ART WORK HANGING ON THE WALLS TO THE FURNITURE IN THE BEDROOM AND LIVING AREAS. THE KITCHEN WITH ITS TILE FLOOR, THE SUNKEN DEN WITH ITS OWN PRIVATE COURTYARD AND PLANNED FISH POND AND FOUNTAIN, THE POOL AND THE SURROUNDING DECKS MAKE THIS A HOME THAT YOU'LL WISH YOU OWNED.



CHRISTMAS