

# The West End

By and for the  
West End Neighborhood

September 1991

## FESTIVAL AT GRACE COURT -- A K-G SUCCESS . . . .

The Good Lord, or whatever you want to call Her or Him, smiled down warmly on the West End Saturday, the 7th day of September. And it's a good thing, because, had the skies wept, The Festival at Grace Court could not have been a kinder, gentler success.

The event was . . . well, it was a healthy thing. A few hundred runners in the Piedmont Federal 8-K got the day off to a sweaty, vigorous beginning. Somehow, all these bagels and beers appeared, which was not a burdensome thing, when taken in age-appropriate moderation. As soon as the awards ceremony was over, the musicians took over the stage in the gazebo. Sam Sanger and his group started things off nicely with what he calls "alternative folk;" they were followed by the slightly more raucous "Behind the Times" rock and roll band. Next, we heard some classical music from the Matrix Brass Quintet (remember when that used to be referred to as "long haired" music? -- thanks, MTV). Finally the Charlie Culbreth duo filled the air with gentle jazz. While there was no mass dancing in the streets, at least four brave souls shuffled on the sidewalks.

As promised, there was a very popular food and beverage vendor. Yes, the lines did get a little long around mid-day, but that's what happens when things work out better than expected. And draped all around Grace Court like a lively necklace were twenty-one exhibitors selling a variety of objects to take home and enjoy.

This being in the nature of a chronicle, let's take inventory: Timothy Nichols offered painted furniture. James Day had Moravian miniatures, Christmas ornaments, and scrimshaw knives. Olivia and Decio DeCarvalho -- nature pictures and dried flowers. Leslie Hiatt -- lionheart pins, barrettes and headpieces. Keith Brown -- wooden toys. Janice Eagle -- handcrafted jewelry. Cindy Poindexter -- baskets and rag rugs. Linda Rubin -- metal and glass jewelry. Rosa Green -- ceramics. Annie Van Every -- Raku pottery and jewelry. Hank and Delia Vestal -- bears, woodwork, needlework. This having turned into a long paragraph, let's take a short break.

There. Julia Frye offered collages, including several which brought old homes to new life. The Vintage Touch -- vintage fashions. Margie McKenzie -- clocks, pins and paper art. Larry Brown -- photo portraits. The Corner Antiques -- antiques and collectibles. The Garden Path -- garden accessories. Lovett & Lovett -- books. The Arches -- antiques and collectibles. One-Way Antiques -- architectural antiques. Transdesign, Inc. -- interior designs and accessory pieces. And Beverly LaRue -- nifty pepper (not paper, pepper) wreaths.

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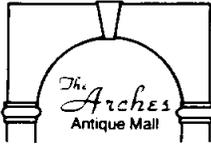
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Oh yes, the West End Association sold a bunch of quite remarkable T-shirts. All the extra-larges were sold out, but there are plenty of S, M and L's still in inventory at \$15 a pop. According to Wendy, the West End Windbag, if you don't own one of these garments, you are likely to be considered somewhat of a dullard, and you will not receive invitations to exciting parties, nor will you be asked to perform interesting, meaningful, highly remunerative work. It may not be fair, but that's the way of the world.

Perhaps what made the Festival so successful is that virtually everyone who showed up -- whether browser, buyer, vendor, exhibitor, performer or hearer -- seemed to have a compatible reason to be at Grace Court. One of the problems with Street Scene, it seems to this writer, is that -- in spite of all the good things that were going on -- the event got so big and it tried to satisfy too many different tastes (urges? hungers?) at the same time. You'd walk downtown and end up being jostled by a large crowd that seemed to not to have a soul. Maybe I'm just getting old. Anyway, The Festival at Grace Court was open to anyone who wanted to sample its wares, but the event did not try to satisfy everyone. Good planning, good performances and good luck combined to produce a Good Thing. Hope you enjoyed it.

**WHAT ELSE IS NEW?**

On October 8th, your Board met at the Suggs/Wells' home to discuss topics of current import to the West End. Here's what was on folks' minds.

Festival Afterglow -- Was It Good For You?  
Wanda Merschel, the High Priestess of the Festival, announced that the exhibitors reported very good sales and even better exposure; they want to come back next year and do it again. In fact, lots of folks want to build on 1991's success, so it was unanimously agreed that we'll have the Second Annual next September. Can we afford it? The neighborhood "invested" about \$900 net in the Festival, in large part to pay for the music. Much of the cost is tied up in T-shirt inventory, which can AND WILL!! be recovered.

The Board approved of a proposal to seek sponsorship for a "West End Emerging Artist" Award to be given out at next year's Festival.

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Local Historic District Status -- what's cooking? Lea Loftis has been selected to join the city's Historic District Commission. Progress has been a little slow lately, due to the need to achieve consensus on how detailed should be the restrictions.

Hanes Park -- what's the plan? On September 2nd, the City revealed what is likely to be the "final" plan for the ongoing renewal of Hanes Park. Bill Sugg attended the meeting and reported that the Association "got 90% of what we suggested." Drainage of the ballfield near the Y is a primary part of the plan, as is the planting of numerous trees to replace those lost in recent storms. Some of us were chagrined to learn that there are likely to be several six-foot-wide asphalt-covered paths where lesser intrusions on the landscape now lie, but the sense of the group was that 90% ain't so bad.

The Newsletter -- how periodic is this periodical going to be? After a relatively brief, but impassioned discussion sparked by Warren Sparrow, the Board decided to try to keep the Newsletter coming out on a monthly basis.

Connections -- Bill Wise reported on a meeting he attended of the "Affordable Housing Coalition," a group of landlords of primarily low-income housing. Bill relayed dire warnings from this group of even worsening housing shortages if the rules of the game are not made "fair." This kicked off another brief, impassioned and friendly debate over this complex and controversial subject. One thing that seemed to emerge from our discussion is an appreciation that whatever takes place in East Winston -- both the discouraging and the encouraging -- have an effect on what takes place in the West End, and in Buena Vista and, for that matter, in Bermuda Run. We are in this thing together, are we not?

**WHAT'S NEXT?**

The November meeting will be (has been?) held at the Wise's home at 1113 West Fourth Street, on Tuesday, November 7th. You're invited to attend this and all meetings of your Board.

Put Friday, December 6th on your calendar for the annual West End Christmas Party. Details will be forthcoming once we figure them out.

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