

Columbia Missourian

69th Year — No. 282

Good Morning! It's Thursday, Aug. 18, 1977

16 Pages — 15 Cents

In town today

9 a.m. Boone County Court meeting, County-City Building.

Exhibits
See Sunday's Vibrations magazine for continuing exhibit schedules.

Movie listings on page 15

Students' legal advice aids needy

M.U. law students venture into court

By Alan Bule
Missourian staff writer

A 21-year-old woman, at fault in a car accident, was going to lose her driver's license and as a result possibly her job because she had no insurance and could not pay a \$500 judgment.

A 51-year-old man in debt, with his wages garnished, could not file for divorce and free himself from a marriage that was not working.

Both legal problems were solved by University law students working for Columbia's Independent Legal Services Association (ILSA), which provides legal aid to low-income Boone County residents, says Sherri Rosen, University School of Law student and director of ILSA.

"For the woman, ILSA arranged installment payments to the plaintiff's insurance company that allowed her to

Insight

keep her license," Ms. Rosen says. "The man obtained an uncontested divorce after the student filed for him in court."

ILSA, which began in 1971 in affiliation with the Human Development Corporation and the Boone County Bar Association, allows third-year law students to handle non-fee generating civil cases for low-income persons, she says.

A 1971 Missouri Supreme Court rule allows the students to appear in court. "Rule 13 allows certified third-year law students to appear in any Missouri court to represent indigents or the state under the supervision of a practicing member of the Missouri Bar," Ms. Rosen says.

Clients must meet income eligibility standards set by the Boone County Bar Association, but she says income is not the only consideration. "We take into account all assets and liabilities," she says. "A person's overall situation is the main concern."

Once a case has been accepted, students handle it under the supervision of one of the 17 Boone County attorneys who advise students.

"We couldn't operate without the donated time from the supervising attorneys," Ms. Rosen says. "Without them there would be no ILSA."

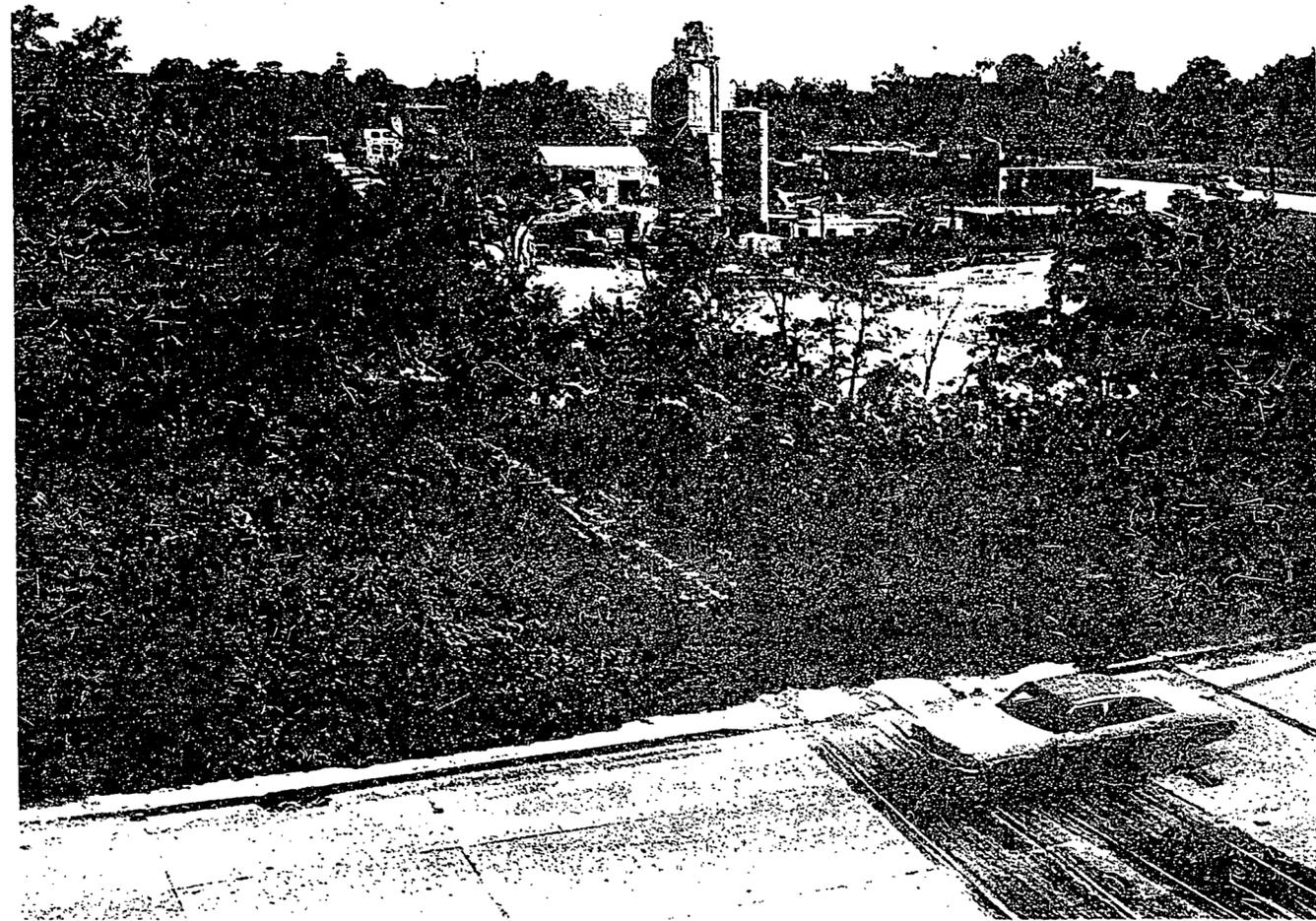
Tim Harlan, a supervising attorney, also participated in the program as a University student in 1972 and '73. He says ILSA provides three benefits: "It is good experience for the law students, it provides a service to indigents and it relieves the Bar of some of its indigent caseload."

Harlan says some indigent clients still would receive legal services at greatly reduced rates from local attorneys if ILSA was not operating. "But some cases would otherwise not be handled," he says.

Ms. Rosen says up to 30 persons appear each Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Human Development Corporation offices, 206 S. Fourth St., seeking legal assistance.

"Only about 10 per cent of the people who come to see us ever get to court," Ms. Rosen says. "A lot of the people are above our income standards, and many

(See STUDENTS, page 13)



This view shows part of the neglected Flat Branch area along Providence Road

Eyesore gets another look

By Jim Drinkard
Missourian staff writer

Discussion of how to help the blighted Flat Branch area in Columbia's core has quietly, but seriously, been revived by a loose Chamber of Commerce coalition headed by former Columbia Mayor Bob Pugh.

The area known as Flat Branch — a decaying eyesore that extends four blocks south of Broadway along the east side of Providence Road — has been the subject of reclamation efforts for more than a decade. But all the efforts have failed, and the 34-acre (13.6-hectare) tract remains an area of wasted potential, Pugh said Wednesday.

From Broadway, where the creek that gives the area its name emerges from its underground course, to the University power plant at Stewart

Road, the land is littered with discarded trucks and equipment, dotted by the foundations of abandoned buildings and scarred by industrial waste.

A service station, a car wash, an antique store, a real estate office, an oil distributorship, an ice plant and a concrete plant also occupy the area.

But now, Pugh said, the time may be right for a new effort to reclaim the area.

The key to the area's reclamation is a recent move by the city to intervene in the abandonment by the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad of its track right-of-way through the area.

The right-of-way extends four miles (6.4 kilometers) southwest to link up at McBaine with the railroad's line from Jefferson City to Boonville.

This spring the railroad advertised — as required by federal regulations —

that it was considering abandoning the right-of-way. City Manager Terry Novak contacted the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in Washington and learned that the city could "intervene" and request first option on purchase of the railroad's rights to the 100-foot-wide (30-meter-wide) strip of land.

This month the council voted to formally ask the ICC to study the right-of-way for possible acquisition by the city.

That action, together with renewed talk of an extension of Elm Street and the offering of land for sale in the area, makes renewed discussion of development of the area promising, Pugh said.

Pugh has met informally with Chamber of Commerce officials, businessmen and architects to assess support for a redevelopment project

and to gather ideas about the best uses for the area.

"I have been asked (by the Chamber of Commerce group) to talk to creative people and see what their ideas are," he said.

"Timing is very important, and this may be the time. The political components might be in place and make it feasible. I don't know for sure, but my instincts tell me that. If you've got the timing and the political unity, you're halfway there."

Pugh said he fears that if steps are not taken soon to plan for the development of Flat Branch, the land could be eaten up by "strip" commercial development. A "strip" — a line of store-front establishments that leaves land behind the frontage lots at less than its "highest and best" use —

(See DEVELOPMENT, page 16)

Advisory group may keep meetings closed

By David Thomasson
Missourian staff writer

The technical advisory committee for a new county-city communications system for police and fire agencies might continue to hold closed sessions, a member said Wednesday.

George Hughes, director of disaster preparedness for Columbia and Boone

County, said he wants to talk with City Counselor Rhonda Thomas before deciding whether to open meetings.

"I have no objection to opening the meetings," Hughes said, "but I'll go by whatever Rhonda says."

The question of closed sessions for the group was raised Tuesday after Hughes refused to admit a Columbia Missourian reporter to a committee meeting. Hughes said Wednesday he closed the

meeting because personnel matters were discussed. "We talked about job descriptions connected with the communication system," he said, "and I didn't think these personnel matters ought to be made public."

Under the Missouri open meeting law, a meeting may be closed if it relates to the "hiring, firing or promotion of personnel." Hughes said the committee is not

authorized to hire or fire personnel.

Steve Paulsell, acting chief of the Boone County Fire Protection District and a member of the committee, said Tuesday, "We did discuss some of the responsibilities of the administrator, but we didn't talk about individuals."

Mrs. Thomas told the Missourian Wednesday that the committee is exempt from the open meetings law

Icebreaker reaches North Pole

USSR shows off ships' skills in ice

N.Y. Times Service

NEW YORK — The Soviet Union announced Wednesday that its nuclear icebreaker Arktika had reached the North Pole, the first surface ship to break through the Arctic ice to the top of the world.

Press dispatches from Moscow said the 25,000-ton (22,500-tonne) Arktika reached the North Pole at 7 p.m. CDT Tuesday, in a voyage timed to mark the 60th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

The 460-foot (138-meter) ship was commanded by its regular captain, Yuri S. Kuchiev, and in an evident effort to give the expedition added weight, the Soviet minister of the merchant marine was aboard.

The voyage, apparently intended to demonstrate the Soviet Union's increasing capabilities in ice navigation, was performed with the second of a growing fleet of nuclear icebreakers. The first of the series, the 16,000-ton (14,400-tonne) Lenin, has been in operation since 1960.

The Arktika entered service in 1975, and the Sibir, its sister ship, is undergoing dock trials at the Baltic Shipyard in Leningrad.

Thus far, the Russians have used their icebreakers mainly to keep open shipping lanes along the icebound northern coast of Siberia, particularly between the large nickel, copper and platinum mines at Norilsk and the port of Murmansk.

Nuclear icebreakers are more powerful than conventional diesel-powered icebreakers and can operate for longer periods before returning to port. Nuclear ships have enabled the Soviet Union to extend its Arctic shipping season from three or four summer months to more than six months along the crucial Norilsk-Murmansk run.

Moscow has been giving priority to prolonging the navigation period because platinum and allied metals figure prominently in Soviet exports to the United States and other Western industrial countries. The Russians are eager to sell these and other natural resources to earn the foreign exchange needed for the purchase of modern Western technology.

In a further effort to extend the Arctic season, nuclear icebreakers were used in the spring of 1976 and again last February to convoy supply ships to a natural-gas development project at Cape Kharasavei on the Yamal peninsula of northern Siberia.

The United States nuclear submarine Nautilus passed under the North Pole ice in 1958. Two years later, the American submarine Skate found an opening in the ice and surfaced at the North Pole.

Local Presley fans plan own memorial

By Cheri Duncan
and Vicki Allen
Missourian staff writers

More attention may be focused on the mourning for Elvis Presley in Memphis, but many Columbia residents also are feeling sorrow for their lost youth and a fallen hero.

Columbia record stores report Elvis' fans are snatching up his albums at a furious pace, and a Columbia woman and her daughter are planning a memorial march starting at Broadway and Sixth streets at noon today.

Dee Anderson, 42, of 901 Westport Drive, and her daughter, Katie, 15, are organizing the march to "show Elvis he still lives as far as we're concerned," Mrs. Anderson said.

Mrs. Anderson, mother of 11, said she and Katie had to take sedatives

after learning of their idol's death. "We can't eat or sleep, and I can't swallow without a lump in my throat," Mrs. Anderson said.

Katie said Presley's death is "the most terrible thing that ever happened, I guess." She said she and her mother will hold their memorial "if we're standing by ourselves."

Other Columbia fans may not be that dedicated, but Doug Carr, manager of Best Tapes and Records, 25 S. Ninth St., said his store was sold out of Presley records and tapes by 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, 30 minutes after the store opened.

Carr then ordered about 10 times the normal order for one artist, but RCA told him it would be at least 10 days before he would receive the records, he said.

About 60 Presley albums are listed (See RUSH, page 18)

Carter praises music's king

80,000 bid farewell to Elvis

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI) — More than 80,000 mourners, sobbing in anguish and fainting from heat, pushed and shoved their way to the iron gates of Elvis Presley's mansion Wednesday for a final glimpse of the king of rock 'n' roll.

Only 20,000 of them succeeded. Some 150 police, sheriff's deputies and National Guard troops were called to control the vast crowd that stretched for a mile on each side of the gates of Graceland mansion. Three helicopters hovered overhead.

In the cool, stony silence of the music room just inside the front door of the 18-room mansion, Presley's body lay in a copper coffin.

He was dressed in a white suit and a pale blue shirt, with a white cravat. Four at a time, for two and a half hours, the faithful were allowed through for a final farewell before his burial Thursday.

Several of 42-year-old singer's fans fainted to the marble floor as they

walked past the coffin and had to be carried out.

"I think of my first love when I hear his songs," sobbed Sandra McMahan, 32, who caught a plane from Birmingham when she heard Presley's heart had failed.

"I was a hell-raising teen-ager when he was."

"Please don't say he was fat," cried Mary Murphy, who fainted before she

entered the music room and was nearly hysterical when she left. "They made him look fat in the coffin."

Presley died on the bathroom floor upstairs Tuesday of cardiac arrhythmia, an erratic heartbeat doctors said may have been produced by his high blood pressure and artery troubles.

He weighed more than 200 pounds (90 kilograms). A quarter of a mile (.4 kilometer) from the mansion, down a driveway

lined by sheriff's deputies and floral wreaths, the crowd milled around the gate. Policemen with bullhorns stood on the brick walls and urged onlookers to quit pushing and shoving.

Hundreds of transistor radios blared the songs Presley rose to fame with in the mid-1950s.

When dusk fell and police said "That's it, folks. Please leave quietly." The family has requested this time for themselves, a low wail of anguish welled up and the crowd, estimated at that point at 30,000, surged at the gates.

Police held firm, but the crowd did not begin to disperse until an hour later, when officers on motorcycles drove slowly down the sidewalks along Elvis Presley Boulevard to clear them.

Hours later, several thousand persons still milled around the gates, apparently intending to see the hearse leave for the cemetery today.

Memphis Police Director Buddy Chapman estimated the total crowd for the day at more than 80,000. He said

because it was not appointed officially by a governmental body.

The eight-member committee is composed of police, fire and government officials from the city and the county.

Hughes said the group was called together informally to help plan the communications system. D & M Engineering of Columbia is designing the system.

20,000 were allowed inside the gates and into the music room to see the body. He commanded a force of 30 National Guardsmen, 80 policemen and 40 sheriff's deputies at the scene.

Flags were lowered to half mast through much of the South, and President Carter lauded Presley as a symbol of the nation's "vitality, rebelliousness and good humor."

Radio stations coast to coast planned a moment of silence to coincide with his private funeral.

The Memphis Fire Department said it kept six ambulances in constant service ferrying mourners stricken with heat prostration to hospitals.

Several arrests for disorderly conduct were reported. The immediate family, including Presley's father, Vernon, and his bride-to-be, 19-year-old Ginger Alden, remained secluded in Graceland.

The sickly, sweet smell of funeral

(See CAUSE, page 18)