### The Untimely Death of Tommy's

The C-Saw Cafe is a thing of the past, Dean Dairy's old garage bit the dust to make way for a parking lot. Now another landmark on Coventry Road seems destined to become only a memory. On March 31, 1977, Tommy's will leave Coventry. Its lease expires and there appears to be little chance it will be re-negotiated.

As we reported last year, the problem is a landlord-tenant disagreement. Temmy's is not willing to accept the terms proposed by the person directly responsible for Coventryard-one Lewis Zipkin, attorney, developer, entrepreneur. A spokesman for Mr. Zipkin claims that four options were given to Tommy's for a new lease. Tommy Fello retorts that none were deemed reasonable. According to the Zipkin spokesman, "six or seven" other applications for the store front space occupied by Tommy's have already been received.

One option offered to Tommy's would have relocated Tommy's in a basement space accessible via a doorway on Coventry Road. This space would be 1,400 square feet (as opposed to the 2,500 square feet Tommy's presently occupies). Cost of the space would be about \$6 per square foot per year. By comparison, space at Cedar Center reputedly sells for \$4,50 per square foot and under.

Not one of the options offered to Tommy's by Coventryard would have provided the shop with its present street front location and size. Speculation is that the present store will be split down the middle to create a "mall" effect with shops on either side, in the style of the main Coventryard mall.

The news of Tommy's departure has sparked activity among groups in the University Circle area, which are presently working feverishly to arrange a location near Euclid and Mayfield for a new Towmy's. To date, no new location has been found there or anywhere else. Towmy himself states that he wants very much to stay on Coventry Road. Every option is being thoroughly investigated.

Street opinion is unanimously behind Tommy's. An ad posted in Coventry Books asks readers to support Tommy's because "you can't eat a boutique." In a street paper called the Coventry Shopping News, people were exhorted to vigorously oppose the action being taken by Coventryard. The Zipkin spokesman worries that this street paper might have been the cause of some \$800 worth of vandalism recently occuring at Coventryard. For the most part, however, the attitude seems one of resignation, regret and bitterness.

Tommy's has been more than a commercial enterprise. Under the friendly, neighborly management of the Fello family, Tommy's has been a Coventry institution. It has served as a gathering place, as a landmark, and—not incidentally—as a damn fine inexpensive restaurant. The store has vigorously supported three Coventry Street Fairs and its window notice board made inter-neighborhood communication possible between offerors and acceptors of all sorts of goods and services. No boutique will truly replace Tommy's.

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THE NEXT MEETING OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1977 AT 8:00 P.M. AT THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY ON LANCASHIRE ROAD, ACROSS FROM MUSICIANS' TOWERS. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DROP IN.

### (Tommy's continued)

The death of Tommy's does not bode well for Coventryard and the entire commercial strip. One nearby merchant voiced a common concern when he stated that his store does considerably less business on days when Tommy's is closed. Without Tommy's as a draw, many shops now barely making a profit on Coventry due to high rents may be forced out of business. Mr. Zipkin's inability to come to terms with Tommy's may thus have disasterous consequences for all of Coventryard.

Tommy's has announced a "lise-out" sale from March 21 to March 31. Everything will be sold at a discount, except beer and wine. This will ease the task of moving. The sale will provide a last opportunity to say good-bye to one of the few Coventry stores that had the guts and stamina to survive the turbulent 1960's and the economic boom of the early 1970's. On March 31, the store will close its doors forever, a victim of what some would have us believe is called Progress.

- Alan Rapoport

### We're Having a Square Dance...

The Coventry Cadre of the School-Community Relations Program is sponsoring a Squre Dance on Friday, March 18th at 8:00 p.m. at the Coventry Elementary School. Elsie Jaffe will be the caller and the event is open to all Coventry residents. Admission at the door will be \$2.00. For further information, please call Carol Brown at 371-7238. And bring your dancing shoes!

### 3 - 5 a.m. PARKING BAN EXTENDED - Now 3 - 6 a.m.

At the January 17, 1977 session of City Council, the overnight parking ban for the City was extended one hour. Formerly in force from 3 a.m. to 5 a.m., it now is in effect from 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. In the course of debate, Council member Joseph Belfer, appointed in 1976 to fill the fraction of retired Council member Don Jaffe's term remaining until the 1977 elections, took a key stand on a controversial issue for the first time since his appointment.

The original form of this ordinance would have extended the ban from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. Coventry Neighbors, Inc. went on record in opposition to thes. The extention was requested by the City administration for reasons of law enforcement and of debris and snow removal from city streets. The Council committee handling this item was split on the issue. Dick Weigand, Chair, conceded that both police and street-cleaning problems correlated strongly with those residential streets having a shortage of off-street parking, but noted that most such streets have for that reason been exempted from the overnight ban altogether and will remain exempted, or are adjacent to such streets; while in the part of the City that has adequate offstreet facilities, the overwhelming majority, most cars have been off the street by midnight under the old arrangement. Thus, Neigand reasoned, the extended ban would have little effect either where there now is a problem or where there is not, and would merely create a nuisance for the occasional person who has legitimate need to park on the streets past midnight. Committee member Oliver Schroeder leaned toward Meigand's position.

Libby Resnick, third member of the committee, was strongly impressed by the anti-crime aspect of the proposed change, and reasoned that even the slight

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### (Parking Ban Extended - continued)

improvement in security that could be brought about was worth the additional inconvenience to residents.

Alan Rapoport and I both testified before committee and Council against the change. I as an individual and Alan both in that capacity and as President of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. delivering a statement of opposition. Alan delivered CNI's message and went on as an individual citizen to challenge the desirability of the parking ban even in its old form relative to the entire City. My presentation was limited to the hardshop a setback from 3 a.m. to 2 a.m. would work for people on streets where parking is tight, and I proposed an exception for such areas rather than a city-wide change. Since Rapoport and Burwasser were the only non-City staff people heard from, community testimony on the change was 100 percent negative.

The committee worked out a compromise: extend the ban to be in effect from 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. When it came before Council, however, this change had to be passed as an amendment. It was quickly clear from their questions of the City Manager that Lee Chilcote and Al Connors would vote against the alteration. This made Belfer the key. Assuming the committee members would sustain their compromise (they did), and in the absence of Mayor Marjorie Wright who was out sick, Belfer's vote would determine whether the poll would be 4-2 for or split 3-3, which fails under parliamentary procedure.

Belfer inquired if the compromise was indeed supported by all members of the committee; all affirmed that it was; Belfer voted "Aye" and the result was 4-2. Council then passed the amended extention 6-0.

Your correspondent is happy to see Mr. Belfer take a position both agreeable and independent, and to have helped give him the opportunity to do so.

- Dave Burwasser

# Happenings In and Around Coventry

We hear that Pick-n-Pay will soon commence an extensive remodeling project in its Coventry Store. Plans include addition of a bakery. The store will remain open during the remodeling period.

Heights Guild or Artists and Artisans will open The Art Gallery somewhere on Coventry on or about May 1st.

If you have any ideas or suggestions as to where the Coventry Library could relocate, June Wortman (321-0246) of the Coventry PTA would be pleased to hear from you.

Welcomes are extended to new Coventry residents Randy Lake, Pat and Glenn Solomon, Charles and Gail Bromley and Carl and Mary Ubbelohde.

Project Outreach has gone into effect. The plan is that all new residents of Coventry-homeowners and rentors alike-will be visited to hear about the schools, city and community programs. If you are new to Coventry, please drop a note to the Editor so that we may add your name to the Coventry Newsletter.

### President's Report on Communications

Two letters have been sent out on behalf of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., prompting replies to the organization. On January 31, a letter was sent to RTA complaining of poor service on the #7A bus line even without regard to recent poor weather. In his reply of February 8, Michael T. Browne, Transportation Planner, wrote as follows:

"Our most recent checks taken on this line, before the extremely poor weather caused massive traffic problems, indicated that we are scheduling sufficient vehicles to meet the demand from the Coventry area. However, your remarks have been forwarded to the Schedule Department with instructions to review the riding on the \*7A line and to immediately make the adjustments required to alleviate an overcrowded condition if one exists."

On February 2, a letter was sent to the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Library Board in support of the strong statement of the Coventry PTA asking for assurances that the Coventry branch of the Library will be kept in existence. Sarah Cody, Library Director, responded that:

"The current Coventry Village Branch Library lease with Fairmount Center continues through February of next year, 1978. Both the Executive Director and the Board of Fairmount Center have stated, in writing, that the lease is negotiable for a further period. When these terms are established they will be made public."

Alan Rapoport

# CNI Suggests New Names for Lower Hampshire

A few months ago, CNI proposed that "lower" Hampshire (west of Coventry) be renamed to avoid confusion with "upper" Hampshire (east of Coventry). The Newsletter asked for suggestions and, naturally, CNI was swamped with two replies.

irving Green wrote in to suggest that "lower" Hampshire be renamed "Fuldheim Road" in honor of Dorothy Fuldheim and her many lower Hampshire fans. He also proposes re-naming Lancashire as "Granata Road!" Irving, it might be noted, lives on "upper" Hampshire. Nice try, Irving.

AND WE KEEP ON DANCING.... The Fairmount Center for Creative and Performing Arts' Spanish Dancers will perform at Cuyahoga Community College, Metro Campus, on Saturday, March 12th at 8:00 p.m. The group will perform Spanish folk, Classical, South American and Flamenco dances along with Informal, Informative talks about the dances presented.

There is no admission charge for this performance and underground parking is available. For further information, contact Carlos R. Colon, Jr., Center Director, at 932-2000.

# Co-Ed Volleyball Comes to Coventry

Adult Co-ed Volleyball has started at Coventry Elementary School on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 9:45 p.m. The program, which is free and open to Coventry residents, is under the direction of the Coventry Cadre.

If you would like more information about it, please call Karen Lind at 321-2274 (evenings only).

We understand that the four teams (as yet unnamed) are comprised of enthusiastic neighbors who are preparing for a challenge game against the Canterbury volleyball teams.

### IT'S PARKING VARIANCE TIME AGAIN

On March 16, at 8:45 p.m. at City Hall, the Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on the request of David Grumbach for a variance in off-street parking requirements and a conditional use permit. Mr. Grumbach proposes to operate a carry-out submarine sandwich shop at 1776 Coventry, which is presently the site of Tony's Deli.

This site is across the street from the Saloon, which recently sought and received a parking variance. Present owners of Toni's Deli report that cars parked without permission in the Open Pantry parking lot are being ticketed and towed. In light of these factors, CNI will discuss its position on the variance request at its next meeting.

# Report on The Comprehensive Housing Program

On Wednesday, February 23, a meeting was held at the Heights Community Congress (HCC) at which reports were given to neighborhood leaders on the status of the City's Comprehensive Housing Program. The following is an abstract of and extreme condensation of remarks.

Bonnie Franks spoke first as Chairperson of the HCC Open Housing Task Force. She reported that real estate agents were monitored in the Fall of 1976 to determine if racial steering still exists in Cleveland Heights, and that steering was found in 39 percent of the checks. Two of five cases of steering involved agents who took the Preferred Agents Program offered by the City. Overall, however, Ms. Franks felt blacks were getting more service than in the past and that whites were being shown a fairer view of the Heights area.

Diana Woodbridge of the Forest Hills Church Housing Corporation spoke about questionnaires sent to new homeowners in the City. Complaints surfacing as a result of the questionnaires are being referred to the City's new Housing Board.

Dave O'Konski, an HCC Trustee and a real estate agent, spoke about the Preferred Agent Program for educating agents about the City. He suggested that some form of continuing education might be desirable. Gay Quereau of the HCC Open Housing Task Force added a recommendation that agents get preferred (PAL) status and city-sponsored publicity only if they pass a test.

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(Housing - continued)

Jeanne Martin of the Open Housing Task Force spoke about the Heights Housing Service. She admitted that the transition from the HCC to the City caused some problems for the service, but indicated that the organizational structure is tightening up. She mentioned that PAL real estate agents expect more to get information from the City than to give information to the City, and that the agents often take a "what can the City do for us" attitude.

James Huston, a Trustee of the Cuyahoga Plan, made some purely personal observations about its attempts to push integration on a County-wide basis. The Plan, he stated, has had problems encouraging minorities to move into "non-traditional" areas. It has had no success getting families to bring legal actions against real estate agents. An "affirmative marketing agreement" was signed between the real estate industry and HUD, but its success is doubtful. According to Mr. Huston, it may not be tenable to have the real estate industry as part of the coalition that supports and directs the Plan.

Reginald Hayes of Boulevard Neighbors reported on vacant housing in his community. Copies of a strong letter sent to the City were distributed. Among other things, the letter recommended that provisions be made for speedler foreclosure procedures.

Mary Boyle of the HCC Financial Institutions Task Farce spoke about redlining and dislayed ment. She spoke positively about the City's new Financial Institution Advisory Committee. Matters being discussed include: legal problems concerning the City's options about what institutions to place funds on deposit with, mentions with loan officers and lending institutions, and the possibility of "no payment" loans for the elderly under special arrangements.

Diana Woodbridge then spoke again, this time on the subject of housing code enforcement. She felt the inspection program is much improved and gave some credit to Marcia Noian's services as a City housing advisory. Interior inspection of houses will become and it will be systematic. Firemen will do the inspecting. Ms. Woodbridge suggested that the present brochure to be distributed is not informative enough and could be better. Also, she argued that enforcement must have teeth in it, with monitoring of re-inspections and repairs.

The meeting at the HCC was, on the whole, informative in content and guardedly optimistic in tone. My personal feeling is that a consensus did exist award people present that the Chry is moving in the right direction to combat problems of housing, and that it must continue to move aggressively.

- Alan Rapoport

#### COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS

A Publication of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. and the Heights Community Congress

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