

# Autumn In Overton Park Is A Time For Reflection

By WILLIAM THOMAS

It was still early when Robert B. Dorris and his wife, Martha, walked into Overton Park, holding hands inside their Indian Summer gloves.

They are 81. They've been married since 1918. Somewhere along the way, they managed to adjust themselves to each other's stride. So they walk easily together.

As they walked through the park yesterday, they passed other Indian Summer people.

There was a barefoot girl with a St. Bernard on a long rope. There were two middle-age housewives on old-fashioned bicycles with balloon tires. There was a man drinking something hot out of a tin cup. There was a young couple swinging in a swing for one. There was an artist with a piece of unpainted canvas. There was a horde of private school children jumping out of a bus and running around in red romping shorts.

Dorris, who retired from business 16 years ago, said he and his wife go for a

walk whenever the weather is pleasurable. "This is ideal," he said of yesterday. "We left right after we'd seen our morning TV program so we could walk before it got too warm."

Usually, it takes an hour and a half for Mr. and Mrs. Dorris to make the round trip between the park and their apartment at 190 Auburndale. "We have friends along the way and so it takes longer when we stop to talk," Dorris said.

Dorris has noticed a number of changes in the park since he and his wife began going there.

"There used to be quite a lot of hippies down by the lake, but we haven't seen them lately," he said. "Also, there were mockingbirds in the bushes and shrubs across from the Doughboy Statue, and they would rise in a bunch to meet you when you came by. They've cut all that down, now, you know. Since then, Martha and I have often wondered where the birds and hippies went."

It is a good question for Indian Summer.



—Staff Photo by David Darnell

Mr. And Mrs. Robert B. Dorris: Easy Walkers

## An 'Autumn' Joy

To The Commercial Appeal:

I just finished reading the article "Autumn In Overton Park." It's really great that a couple of that age are still together after all those years. It's really very nice for someone to think about how older people feel and to ask them their viewpoint of Overton Park. Some people really couldn't care less.

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