

Overton Park purchase

## Quite A Bargain

### To The Commercial Appeal:

There is a misunderstanding about how the land for Overton Park became part of the parkland of Memphis. It was the first purchase of the first Memphis Park Commission.

Judge McFarland, chairman, R. Galloway and J. R. Godwin, members of the first park commission, went to Nashville to buy the land known as Lea's Woods from Overton Lea. Mr. Lea's price was \$400 per acre.

This price was considered outrageous. In November, 1901, after negotiations, 337 acres were bought at \$330 per acre. Total cost was \$110,000. The land was re-evaluated in 1938 at \$2,300,000. What would it cost today?

The wisdom and foresight of these men is impressive. Judge McFarland said "... as cities grow, the necessity of parks becomes more pressing." Acting with unified vision, this park commission bought 427 acres fronting the Mississippi, "The greatest inland river in America."

George H. Kessler, landscape artist, was hired to plan and oversee the development of these parks. His plans included tying the parks together as a wreath with the parkways.

These are the men who planned a civilized city to leave to a grateful posterity.

ROSE MARY ALLDERDICE

217 Waring Road

TRAFFIC - (ironic)

## Fun Behind The Wheel

### To The Commercial Appeal:

I don't desire to be killed, nor do I want to kill anyone. However, if I don't start using my head and stop being a Memphis roadhog, tragedy is inevitable.

You know me. You see me every day driving to and from work. I delight in quickly switching lanes without using a signal. It really gives me a rush to turn on red without stopping. Oh, the biggest thrill is when I'm in a hurry and I ride your bumper.

Driving can be such a pleasure and it hurts me to see drivers who don't follow simple rules of etiquette that I do. Everyone knows that one should drive defensively. Just follow my example: The next time someone wants to move into your lane of traffic, be sure to speed up so he will have plenty of room to move in behind you.

See? If you just keep a cool head, no one will be injured. That's the last thing we Memphis drivers want to happen, isn't it?

GINNY DAVIS

4655 Johnson Cove

CA, Sun, Aug. 29, 1976

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## Listen To The Wise

### To The Commercial Appeal:

Michael Lollar's article on the I-40 public hearing demonstrates the unwillingness of the press to face reality.

Mr. Lollar suggested that Secretary

Coleman fly to Memphis with two objective highway engineers and solve the problem. All highway engineers have the same blind spot, they see only more highways as the answer to the congestion problems.

Several speakers at the hearing suggested the answer might be with a system that included some form of mass transit. Why does the press continue to ignore these suggestions? How much more taxpayers' money are they going to spend before our leadership sees the light?

L. C. MARSH

2384 Tarbet