

# The Buzz

North  
Lincoln Park's  
Neighborhood Newsletter

September 2000

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## Oral History of North Lincoln Park: Mr. James White

Last month, the *Buzz* announced an occasional series of oral histories of folks who have lived in the neighborhood for over 30 years. Mr. James White, age 83, of the 500 block of 14th St., NE, volunteered to share his recollections of the neighborhood. Mr. White has lived on this block longer than any other current resident. Below is an excerpt from his discussions with the *Buzz*.

"I lived in the neighborhood since 1953. I paid \$12,000 for the house, you can't get nothing now for \$12,000. When I was looking for a house, they carried me around and showed me a lot of different houses. But I was working for

strip in photo here at 100%, remove this border. Crop at 2 ¼" wide to include both sleeves, and 2 ½" high to go from just above the head to the waistline.

Pepsi, it was right up there on 17th Street and I Street; it's torn down now. I used to get up in the morning, and run from home every morning. My mother used to call and wake me up ever morning. Couple of guys who lived on F  
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## History of Lincoln Park, Part 2

by Nick Barbash, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade,  
School Without Walls  
Second in a series

In 1959, Congresswoman Frances P. Bolton of Ohio introduced a House Joint Resolution that granted power to the Secretary of the Interior to erect a statue of Mary McLeod Bethune in the park. Bethune, in addition to founding the National Council of Negro Women, was a member of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's cabinet, the first African-American woman to be a member of a president's cabinet.

Bolton's resolution was unanimously passed by both the

House and the Senate and was signed by President Eisenhower on June 1, 1960.

The Council of Negro Women chose New York sculptor Robert Berks to build the memorial depicting Bethune and her two children. They originally wanted the statue to be complete by 1963, to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. However, there were many complications that prevented the statue's completion until 1974.

Next month: *Lincoln Park, neighborhood park.*

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- NLPNA meeting, Sept. 5, 7:30 p.m., Lane Memorial Church, 14<sup>th</sup> & C Street, N.E. **City council member Sharon Ambrose will attend to discuss constituent concerns.**
- School Board candidate forum at Hine Jr. High School, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. Be an informed voter! NLPNA will have a "community booth."
- *The Buzz* needs contributions to pay for future issues. Please send your tax-deductible contribution to NLPNA Treasurer, 160 Tennessee Avenue, N.E.

## Distributors Needed

*Buzz* distributors are needed for the 600 block of 14th Street and the 1100 block of E Street, NE. Call Elizabeth at 543-3512 if you can help out. If you have already volunteered for one of these blocks, we apologize for misplacing your name; please call again.

## Thanks, Tim!

Tim Vojtasko, a neighbor on North Carolina Avenue, printed the entire August issue of the *Buzz* (1900 copies!) at his office. A huge *thanks* to Tim and to his company, Electronic Data Systems (EDS) for allowing him to do the copying on their machines. This is a really big savings for us.

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Street also worked at the bottling plant.

“When I moved here, it was so quiet, you didn’t hear nothing around here. You could go in at night, and you didn’t have to close the door. For years I didn’t never lock my door. A lot of times, I’d sit out on that little porch all night. Just get me a chair and sleep out there. Nobody would bother you. That was how nice it was around here then. There were families. Deacon William Jones lived at the corner of 14th and F. Ms. Abry was across the street. We were the only colored who lived here then. Then Arnold Young’s father bought the one on 14th and Emerald.

“There was a corner market at 14th and F Streets. I called it the Sunday morning store because during the week I didn’t have time to go to the store – I worked six days a week. I jumped up on Sunday morning, and ran across the street and get me something to fix me for Sunday before I go to church. On F Street by 15th, there’s an apartment there now. There used

to be Blue and White market and an ice house.

“14th Street used to be two-ways. One side parking. It was real narrow. The buses run down 13th Street, it still came back down 15th. One day when Deacon Jones came home, they had put a bus stop in front of his house. He went downtown then. We didn’t get any warning.

“Deacon Jones stands out. He was the spokesman for everything. He was with Rehoboth Baptist Church at 621 Alabama, SE. He didn’t want them to put that bus stop there or the one-way street. He’d come around with his pad, talk to you about it, see what you think about it, work it and see what we could do. They told him it was already done, and there was nothing he could do about it.

“I miss how nice it used to be. Someone asked me when I was going to sell and move out. I told them I guess I’ve gone got too old to try to buy something else now. Ain’t no need in me going nowhere now.”

### *On a related note ...*

Sharon Cochran would like to include historical photos of the neighborhood on the NLPNA website, [www.nlpna.juniperdc.com](http://www.nlpna.juniperdc.com). If you have old photos you’d be willing to share, please contact her at 399-0715. She will return them safely after scanning them.

### ***WANTED! Halloween Festival Chairperson***

We’re still looking for a volunteer to head up the planning committee for the annual Children’s Halloween Festival. Elizabeth Nelson, who had that job that the last couple of years, would be happy to help in a small way and will gladly share her notes and contacts. She can be reached at 543-3512.

#### THE BUZZ EDITORIAL TEAM

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