

## The view from here

Like most people, I never really thought too much about the decisions we face as a neighborhood. Unless you're on a city council or a neighborhood board, things always seem to move along pretty much on their own. Indeed, things do move along - but hardly on their own. It's remarkable all of the issues that impact our community right now, even one that is relatively small, largely self-contained, and reasonably well established. Just consider:

Will the University Grove be designated as a historic district and how will this affect us as homeowners? Will there be a new Bell Museum of Natural History right next door and what will it bring? Do we need to take steps to quiet traffic on our streets and what sort of steps should they be? Is oak wilt fungus killing our trees and what can we do about it?

Of course, these questions co-exist with many older questions we've faced in the

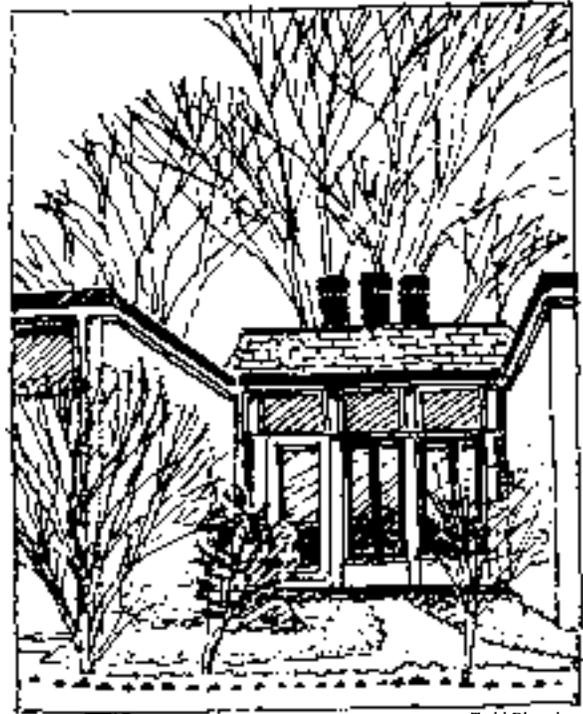
Grove for quite some time. Should we broaden the definition of potential buyers? Exactly how should the provisions about hardship for home sellers be interpreted? What are the limits to home and landscape changes we can make as homeowners? I bet you can think of others.

Some of these questions will take years to resolve (if ever). Others require decisions quite soon. Residents of the University Grove are noted for their civic engagement and public participation. It is still several months before the next annual Grove Association meeting. Don't wait until then to think about these important questions; discuss them with your neighbors, and share your thoughts with the Board.

— Nevin Young

# University Grove News

February 2003



Todd Rhoades

## The king of spinach

As the world watches the deliberations of the United Nations (U.N.) over Iraq's noncompliance, Professor Phil Raup and his military colleagues participated in developing the protocol used today in these international meetings. In 1945, Germany was under Allied control by U.S., Britain, France and Russia. Meetings between these four powers necessitated simultaneous translation, rotation of chairs, and accommodation of military, cultural and social mores. Devising these operating rules was crucial to running occupied Germany. Many were ultimately adopted by the U.N., building upon earlier practices developed by the League of Nations.

Born on a farm in western Kansas, Phil never strayed from his agricultural roots. In his 50-plus years of teaching and research, he's logged hundreds of thousands of miles traveling and living abroad, always with the focus on world agriculture and its impact on economic development.



When young, Phil Raup considered becoming a tool-dye craftsman.

His vitae reads like a world history book coinciding with major 20<sup>th</sup>-century events. After getting his undergraduate degree at the University of Kansas, where he met his wife Marian, (they're married 62 years this month), he applied for graduate study at the University of Wisconsin. "Unlike today's generation, the prospect of being drafted clouded every choice from courses to career prospects," he said. Following completion of his Ph.D. exams at Wisconsin in 1941, he became a Fellow at the Brookings Institute. When the ships at Pearl Harbor sunk, so did his thesis work for an eight-year hiatus. Rather than be drafted, he volunteered for the Navy. After three years as a naval officer, Phil applied for overseas transfer in early 1945. He was assigned to the U.S. Office of Military Government in Berlin where his first task was - "without a lick of training"- to work with the Allied powers in rebuilding the food supply in occupied Berlin.

(continued on back)

## City news

Thanks to **Toni Middleton Detzner** for serving on the city Planning Commission for the past six years. Congratulations to **Barbara Lukermann** who accepted an appointment to this commission.

Many neighbors volunteered to build the capacity of residents who can help respond to a disaster in Falcon Heights: **Karen Kloser, Virginia Massey, Sheila Richter, Barbara Lukermann, Bob and Sue Gehrz, Noni Dworkin, Betty Ellis, Ben Zimmerman, Barbara and Pat O'Leary** participated in a First Aid Fast training with the St. Paul Red Cross. **Susan Harding** helped arrange the training. **Dudley Riggs** and **Sue Gehrz** trained in emergency traffic management with the St. Anthony police. **Stephan and Karen Kistler, Sheila Richter, Jeff Roberts, Rick Wagner, Lis Christenson, Dudley Riggs, Carol Rasmusson, Rick Wagner, Karen Kloser, Susan Phipps-Yonas, Susan Harding, Nancy Meeden, and Bob Gehrz** participated in a Neighborhood Liaison session. Thanks for stepping up to the plate.

— Mayor Sue Gehrz

**Phil Raup** continued

Told to attack the food problem in Berlin as the newly installed "county agent," Phil recruited German experts to utilize some 30,000 acres of potential agricultural land within Berlin (it's a big city), despite the fact Germany was in ruins and it was already July. On the advice of German nutritionists, he retrieved six tons of spinach seed, somewhat surreptitiously from the Soviet-occupied territory of Berlin. This confirmed to the Germans the stupidity of Americans: "How was spinach going to feed them this winter?!" However, grain was already en route from the U.S. and some was in storage in Western Europe. Thus he earned the title "spinach king of Berlin" in a GI newspaper article.

Phil reminisced that while America was getting food to Germany, the Russians were taking food out, along with everything else they could loot. Fortunately many of the warehouses and mills were in the American and British zones of Germany. "It became our obligation as a victorious power with a food surplus economy to supply a defeated, food-deficit nation - a novelty in war history," he said. In order to get the food production pipeline reestablished, the allied forces needed to remove bombs, clean up airfields and military lands, decontaminate, and do soil surveys. One of the most significant acts Phil undertook was to work with legal experts to repeal the Reich Hereditary Farm Law, a symbolic and legal maneuver of Nazi economic policy limiting farm land ownership to Arians. He helped write the language for a new land reform and land settlement law. He finished his Ph.D. thesis analyzing the land reform program of the Soviet Zone.

While in Germany, he and Marian lived through food airlifts, the Soviet blockade, a border closing incident that left their two children on the Russian-occupied side and them on the other, and a growing Russian resistance to the collective Allied governing agreements. The stage was set for the Cold War and the Raup family returned in 1949 to the safety of university housing in Madison. Hired as a professor at Wisconsin during the post-WWII enrollment surge, he was also a part-time USDA cooperative agent where he worked to promote rural

development and land use management of abandoned logged lands. Many of these abandoned areas became state and county government property, creating a backbone for the paper industry as well as another important use: "Second-growth trees also make good explosives. These lands were a supply base for munitions plants like those in Arden Hills and Rosemount," he said. The Rosemount facility is now part of the University's ag experiment station.

With his extensive military government experience, Phil's unique background was highly desirable. Lured to Minnesota, Phil and Marian, with three kids in tow, moved in 1953 while they were still completing their new Madison home designed by a Frank Lloyd Wright architect. The Raup's rented the Barber house in the Grove and immediately began building their Close-designed Fulham home. Familiar with the Bauhaus design from Europe, and with the Close architects as neighbors, they favored the open floor and flat roof design used in their Madison home they only briefly lived in.

Upon arrival, Phil utilized his international experience. He helped organized a multi-discipline tour exchange with 12 faculty to Russia. Former Grove residents William Bouchta, Robert Halloway, John Turner and E.W. Ziebarth were included in the first tour in 1958. It was among the first of technical exchanges between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. resulting from Khrushchev's famous U.S. visit and his tour of the U's experiment station. Phil is most well-known around the state for publishing the annual Minnesota Rural Real Estate Market Report on sales and land valuation with his graduate students for 40 years.

Although retired in 1984, he's made a daily trek to the office for the past 19 years. He continues to publish and visited Russia most recently in October 2000. He and Marian remain active in the university community. Observing the work habits of his colleagues today, he laments the loss of the "coffee break." "It was a time to exchange ideas. Today people sit in front of their computers instead."

**Your opinions wanted (by March 16)**

Lis Christenson is a natural choice for chairperson of the District 12 Community Council neighborhood profile project cosponsored with the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation. She grew up on Knapp Street in the home known as the Donhowe house and attended St. Anthony Park Elementary and Murray High School. She moved away only to attend college.



Lis Christenson, 10-year Grove resident

"Remarkably, it has the same strong sense of neighborhood now as back then. It's still a good place to live and raise a family," she said.

Lis has been a foundation board member since its inception in 1998. As one of the only foundations focused on an urban neighborhood, its purpose is to build an endowment to fund charitable and community activities. One of the foundation's more visible fundraising events is the annual Gus Donhowe Jazz Concert, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, honoring her father's love of jazz music and St. Anthony Park.

As chair of the grants committee, Lis helps the board determine funding priorities. The neighborhood profile project, which includes north and south St. Anthony Park, the Grove, one block of Fulham Street in Lauderdale, and 1666 Coffman, grew out of the grant review process and the need to create a strategic plan for the future.

Other Grove foundation board members are **Eileen Pinto**, and **Barbara Lukermann** who is working with District 12 on this project. The survey deadline is **March 16**. A copy is available at the SAP library or online at [www.sapfoundation.org](http://www.sapfoundation.org).

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