

## TOMMY'S WILL STAY...UNTIL MARCH

In our July issue, we reported that Tommy's might be moving in the near future. This may yet be the case. But probably not until spring.

Tommy's has a lease with Lewis Zipkin's Coventryard Corporation. Recently, Zipkin announced his position that this lease was invalid. Tommy's took the matter to Common Pleas Court. Last month, the Court held the lease valid and binding until its expiration date of March 31, 1977. So Tommy's will not be moving immediately--but it may still be leaving this neighborhood.

Few articles we have printed caused more of a reaction than our article "Farewell to Tommy's?" caused. It seems that many Coventry residents and visitors have taken this story to heart. If you have any thoughts or ideas on how to keep Tommy's around, we would be pleased to publish them. Let us know.

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THE NEXT MEETING OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1976 at 8:00 p.m. AT THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY ON LANCASHIRE ROAD.

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C-Saw Unmoved; Restaurant Variance Vetoed

The parking variance requested by Kenneth M. Ross for a Chinese restaurant on Coventry Road, conditionally granted by the Cleveland Heights Board of Zoning Appeals, was rejected by CH City Council on August 16th. The conditions imposed by the Board included a requirement that Ross "co-operate" with the City in further area redevelopment, a condition that Council found too vague to be purposeful. Council member Al Connors, speaking for the Planning & Development Committee of Council, urged the requestor to regard the rejection as a "deferral, not a dismissal," in that a more precise plan of development for that immediate area might win the approval of council. (P&D Chair Lee Chilcote did not participate in the deliberation or vote because of a potential conflict of interest.)

The C-Saw Saloon, located adjacent to the property for which the variance was sought, has been given an eviction notice by Ross, who sees a conflict between the C-Saw trade and the family-style business he hopes to attract to the Chinese restaurant. The C-Saw is still on-site and in business, however, its owner is contesting the eviction on technical grounds. The progress of the eviction is now in doubt; if Ross is sufficiently disenchanted by the variance veto to give up the restaurant idea altogether, he no longer has any motivation to evict the C-Saw, and can cancel the action unilaterally. It is ironic that the Coventry PTA and several area families opposed the variance before the Zoning Board as a device to pressure Ross into removing the C-Saw. With the current development, these opponents have gotten what they asked for, but the opposite of what they wanted.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. also opposed the variance before the Board on the grounds of the parking situation in Coventry. Ross requested a variance of more than twenty spaces. Speaking before Council, the variance

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was also opposed by management of the Pick-N-Pay chain and by counsel for the landlord of the Coventry Pick-N-Pay, both on grounds that the parking lot of the Coventry Pick-N-Pay (adjacent to the site in question) would be impacted by patrons' cars for which the restaurant did not supply spaces. Your correspondent, speaking as an individual, also presented a statement reminding Council of the dynamics by which insufficient space for after-hour commercial parking deprived residents of Coventry's high-density apartment streets the on-street space they need--and are granted by special Council dispensation--for overnight parking.

Two historical factors further cloud the future of this development. One is the old Dean property, which the City acquired last year and converted into the large municipal lot adjacent to both the Ross site and the Pick-N-Pay lot. That property was held by Ross at the time of its eminent-domain acquisition, and Ross points out that he would need no variance if he still held that land and could convert it to parking for the restaurant. Ross claims unfair treatment by the City in the double action of acquisition of the land and rejection of the variance. (Your correspondent feels constrained to add, from his own observation: The Dean property was already being used, albeit informally and inefficiently, as an overflow parking lot before its acquisition by the City. Addition of restaurant patrons' cars to its load would still have aggravated the Coventry parking crunch.) The second factor is that the precise private planning now requested by Council would require coordination between Ross and the Selgier family, landlords of Pick-N-Pay. This has been urged often in the past--by the City and by concerned Coventry citizens--and it has never happened yet.

- David Burwasser

-----ADDENDUM

*One parking variance temporarily down, one coming up.*

*Ross Realty will still fight for its variance. A Notice of Appeal from the City Council decision to deny the variance has been filed with the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County.*

*In the meantime, a new variance request has been submitted by a group which wishes to convert the old Rainblue store into a three-story fondue restaurant. The requested variance would be considerably larger than that sought by Mr. Ross. More details when available.*

- Alan Rapoport

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THE CHANGING SCENE

A new construction boom on the Coventry strip is evident to even the most casual observer. Such a boom is hardly novel. Every few months, the sawdust flies. Then some stores move out. Then the sawdust flies again. Et cetera.

The old gas station at the south-west corner of Coventry and Mayfield is being converted into an Open Pantry Food Mart. Paul R. Kane, Sr., the new owner, has an application pending before the Department of Liquor Control for a permit which would allow him to have a carry-out liquor license business there as well.

The Saloon is busily redecorating its front. Of more interest, perhaps, is the expansion and remodeling of the interior.

Irv Sacks (of Coventry Beverage & Pizza fame) is planning to convert the Chinese dry cleaning store at 1803-05 Coventry into a laundromat. The old owner is retiring. Irv plans to have 20-25 washers, 12-13 dryers, a full-time attendant, folding tables, chairs, soap vending machines, and FM music. Hours will be from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m., seven days a week.

So it goes.

- Alan Rapoport

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MOPERY WAVE HITS COVENTRY

It was reliably reported by several sources at Irv's Deli this past week that Coventry is going through yet another one of those crime waves which have plagued the community over the years. Seventeen separate incidents of mopery have been documented so far, and the rate of mopery is already up 156% over last year. No FBI statistics were available for purposes of comparison, but it is widely believed that Coventry may have the greatest incidence of mopery in the City of Cleveland Heights, and perhaps one of the highest rates in the entire County.

Especially noticeable has been the increase in mopery without a permit, which is a most severe criminal offense. Several apartment residents have been found committing this crime, including two unrelated elderly ladies living together in sin on Mayfield Road without a license to commit mopery. Vehicular mopery is another problem, though the City has acted promptly to remedy this by requisitioning more forms for Ticketman Ernie.

Many of the residents queried about this problem have declined to express their anger, lest they be accused by aggravated mopery.

The crime of mopery (pronounced "mop-er-ee") has caused many problems for law-abiding citizens of Coventry because it is ill-defined. One cynic has suggested that "you can violate a hundred separate laws against mopery around here just by breathing." Informed sources say this is an exaggeration, and that anyone who says different is committing malicious mopery.

Mopery has been a special problem in Coventry for some time now. During the 1960's there was a severe outbreak of walking-down-the-street-with-intent-to-commit-mopery. This has subsided somewhat during the 1970's and has largely been replaced by public mopery and the flu, which are now acknowledged to be the two greatest remaining threats to the Health, Safety and Welfare of the City. Various solutions have been suggested, included a plan to raze Coventry and replace it with a scale model of the Emerald City of Oz. No federal funding has been available for this, and private funds are currently being solicited by interested developers.

There has been no public comment by responsible officials about the recent waves of mopery. No accurate statistics of the incidence of mopery are available. Some sources report rumors of a plan by the City Council to fine all residents of Coventry for mopery against the public interest. However, it can be definitively stated that such rumors are products of a paranoid mentality and are absolutely without foundation at this time, even though they are out to get us.

- Elmer Fudd

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A NEW YEAR BEGINS: Coventry Neighbors, Inc. begins its new year with its annual election meeting next month. Dues for the 1976-1977 period can be sent to CNI, c/o 2630 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights (where else?), 44106. (That's \$3.00)

We would also like to serve notice that we are once again revising our mailing list. Anyone who wishes to remain on the list should drop a note to the Coventry Village News, c/o Apt. 301, 2753 Euclid Heights Blvd., Cleveland Heights (of course), Ohio 44106, or call Karen Lind (321-2274), week-ends or evenings only. The only qualification for being on the list is interest in receiving the newsletter.

