



Michael Edwards, left, has been a Big Brother to Lloyd Gant, 14, for four years. Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Kentuckiana named Edwards local Big Brother of the Year.

## Listening helps Michael Edwards in role as Lloyd Gant's Big Brother

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seemed more comfortable about talking to me."

Edwards and Lloyd see each other once or twice a week, and over the past four years, they've seen a lot of movies, gone roller skating, swimming, picnicking, bowling and visited museums — often with Edwards' 11-year-old son, Kevin, accompanying them.

Lloyd said his life has taken a turn for the better in the four years Edwards has been his Big Brother.

"The best part about having him as a Big Brother is that I have somebody to talk to," Lloyd said. "And he gets on me about my grades." Lloyd, who is an eighth-

grader at Myers Middle School, said his grades have gone from C's to B's since Edwards became his Big Brother.

He's set a great example, said Lloyd, who plans to become a Big Brother when he's 18.

Recently, Lloyd and Edwards set out for the movies, and along the way, stopped at a fast-food restaurant. Edwards ordered what he's learned are Lloyd's favorites — a cheeseburger, french fries and a strawberry milkshake.

As they sat there munching, they talked about Lloyd's position on a community football league team, and last year's awards banquet they had attended together.

But conversation was minimal.

That's not unusual, said Lloyd's mother, Mary Gant. "Lloyd and Michael are a lot alike. Both are kind of quiet, but they say a lot to each other — in the way they care about each other."

"I'm just as pleased with Michael as I can be," Ms. Gant said. Lloyd's parents are divorced and his father doesn't live in Louisville. Edwards has filled a gap in the boy's life, Ms. Gant said.

"They do the fun, boy-type things that guys do, but Michael cares about Lloyd as a whole person," Ms. Gant said. "He offers him spiritual guidance too, taking him to church . . . He deserved to be Big Brother of the Year."

## Doctors buying Turners building ask city for revenue bonds

By HOWARD MILLER  
Staff Writer

A group of five doctors is one step closer to turning the historic American Turners of Louisville building into the home of the University of Louisville School of Medicine's dermatology division.

"We've signed the deal," said Dr. Lafayette Owen, chief of the dermatology division and head of the doctors' group. "It looks like a go situation."

The doctors, who are all dermatologists and part-time faculty members at U of L, have agreed to pay the Turners \$450,000 for the 118-year-old building at 310 E. Broadway. The sale is to become final Jan. 1.

Owen's group has applied to the Louisville Board of Aldermen for a \$1.2 million industrial revenue bond

issue to help pay for the purchase and \$750,000 in estimated renovations. Renovations will include new air-conditioning and sprinkler systems and substantial improvements to the plumbing, heating and electrical systems.

Revenue bonds allow developers to borrow money below standard market interest rates. Owen said the sale of the property is contingent upon the bond issue.

"We just couldn't afford to do it otherwise," he said.

The doctors also will ask that the building be placed on the National Register of Historic Places to qualify for a 25 percent tax credit on the renovation work.

M.A. Allgeier, researcher for the Louisville Landmarks Commission, said the building has historical significance because it was the childhood home of U.S. Supreme Court

Justice Louis Brandeis.

The Turners, a local chapter of a nationwide group that promotes physical education, have used the building for a gymnasium since the early 1920s. Louisville Turners president Bill Maier said his organization was selling the building because it can't afford to maintain it and the Turners' summer facility at 3125 Upper River Road.

Since the sale won't be final until January, the Turners will have to wait at least that long before starting construction of a \$500,000 gymnasium on River Road, Maier said.

"I can't anticipate us having a building until next summer at the earliest," he said.

Maier said the Turners will continue to run their gymnastics, volleyball and bowling activities at the old building until January, when they will move into rented facilities.

## Meriwether-Fort Hill festival

Area's second homecoming is fund-raiser, too

By NANCY EVANS  
Special Writer

Last year's Meriwether-Fort Hill Fall Festival was barely over when John Wilson, president of the Meriwether Area Neighborhood Council, started receiving telephone inquiries about the 1983 festival.

One call came from his cousin Herman Wilson, of 1632 Beech St. in the West End. He was born in the Meriwether area, but moved after World War II.

"I thought the idea of a fall festival was a good idea, and I thought it should be held every year," Herman Wilson said.

Meriwether residents agreed. The second annual Meriwether-Fort Hill Fall Festival will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday at Lincoln-Preston Park, off East Hill Street between Bland and Clay streets.

"It's not just a festival for us residents," John Wilson said. "It's a homecoming for former residents of the area."

The emphasis on former residents is evident in the festival's name. There is no more Fort Hill, a large hill that was leveled years ago to accommodate the city incinerator. Still, the area was called Fort Hill until the early 1960s, Wilson said. "Most of us old-timers still call it that," he said.

But activities are planned for people of all ages, said council member Evelyn Tucker, who lives on Bland Street.

A quilt and afghan, both made by Meriwether residents, will be the first and second prizes in a \$1 raffle.

A "Wheel of Fortune Country Store" with prizes such as flour, sugar, coffee and shortening donated by residents should be popular, Mrs. Tucker said.

Several other games, including darts and horseshoes, will be featured at the festival, too, Mrs. Tucker said.

A food booth will sell fried fish and chicken, hot dogs, soft drinks and desserts, she said.

Profits will support community projects and help pay utility bills at Miles Memorial Community Center, where the council meets and neighbors gather.

Wilson said he would like to raise enough money to build a new recreation center for the young people of the area who aren't satisfied with the community center's facilities.

The area's youths used to use recreational facilities in the basement of the old Lincoln School, on Bland Street. But the school was torn down about 10 years ago.

Most Meriwether residents agree a new neighborhood center is needed, Wilson said. But, he added, the community would need public funds in addition to any money it could raise.

Last year's festival attracted 300 to 400 people and raised \$1,000 after expenses, Wilson said. This year's festival should draw at least as many people, he said, and he hopes it will raise \$1,500 or more after expenses.

## Streets being lowered, repaved

Milling work is making downtown driving hazardous

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said Bobo, and in a few cases there have been delays.

The city does not reimburse the utilities for the cost of raising and lowering the covers.

"It's increased our costs, definitely," said Howard Martin, general foreman for L.G. & E., who said the company may have as many as 10 manholes at one intersection in downtown areas where gas lines are concentrated.

"It's a pretty good-sized job for us," said Reggie Eubank, general manager for South Central Bell. "They cost us a couple hundred dollars apiece when we have to change them." "Ultimately our ratepayers have to pay for it."

Lowering and raising covers on

the water company's small valve box covers will cost an estimated \$25,000, according to Jerry Ford, manager of administrative services.

Milling is expensive for the city, too. It will cost about \$250,000 to tear down the 6.7 miles the city is milling this summer, Bobo said, not including the cost of repaving those streets.

This is the first year of extensive street lowerings, he said. A change in the way federal officials interpret regulations on the use of aid for urban systems allowed the work.

The city is receiving \$900,000 in urban systems aid this year, Bobo said. In the past, this money could only be used for construction projects. Paving jobs were considered maintenance and were not supported by federal aid. Now, Bobo said,

milling and repaving are considered to be structural improvements and qualify for urban systems grants.

In addition to the 6.7 miles being milled and repaved, the city is repaving an additional 10.8 miles of streets this year at a cost of \$1.5 million. The work must be done while the weather is warm enough for working with asphalt. This year's paving began in April.

K.A. Barker Construction Co. is the city's general contractor for all the work.

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