

Retired Addisons are dedicated to Columbia

By **TARA STEFFENS**, *Missourian staff*
October 15, 2001

Tony and Jane Addison are not from Columbia, but from their dedication to improving the city, you'd think they were natives. Tony and Jane were married in 1954 and left their home in North Finchley, London, for the United States in 1962.

Tony is an accomplished viola player, conductor and arranger. He was a member of the Carl Rosa Opera Company and music director of the London University Orchestra, and he conducted for many ballets and operas. For 40 years, he has directed and taught opera in Europe, at the University of Texas at Austin and at Rice University in Houston.

After living in Houston, the couple decided they didn't want to spend the rest of their lives there.

They knew that change meant heading north. Jane's specialty as a medical categorizer was the final factor in deciding where to move. It brought them to Columbia where Jane worked in the Health Sciences Library until her retirement in 1998.

As soon as they arrived in Columbia in 1992, the two became actively involved in the community.

Tony founded the Columbia Civic Orchestra because of the persuasion of musical friends who involved him in chamber music. In 1993, Jane worked to establish the Shepard Boulevard Neighborhood Association.

Both are very involved in the neighborhood, but take a modest approach when it comes time to take credit.

"I just kept it going," Jane said.

When an issue arose about pet owners not picking up after their animals, Jane put up signs and let people know that it would not be tolerated. Along with a few other neighbors, Jane picks up trash and tries to keep the neighborhood clean.

Earlier this year, Tony retired from the orchestra but still enjoys playing with a small group.

"He's this great conductor and here is his wife picking up trash in the neighborhood to keep it nice," said a neighbor.

Although both are now retired, Tony and Jane have and will continue to make a lasting impression on Columbia.

PHOTO BY TARA STEFFENS FOR THE MISSOURIAN