

# Save Our Heritage Organisation Newsletter

## D A N G E R !    Bulldozers at work!

The Santa Fe Railway Station is next?????????????

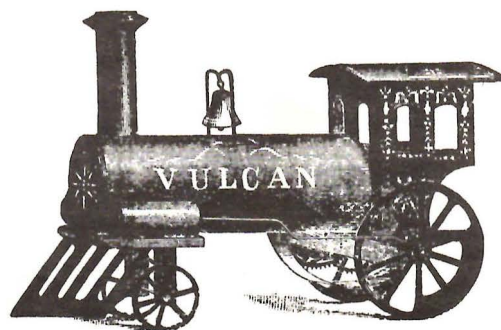
The Santa Fe Railway depot, on Kettner Boulevard at Broadway, has been described as the finest in the State of California. Construction began on June 15, 1914, was finished on December 31, 1914, and formally opened on March 8, 1915. It was designed in "Mission Style" to harmonize with the Spanish-Colonial architecture of the contemporary buildings in Balboa Park.

Historically, the station represents the growth of our city and the prolonged battle for a railroad, a winning battle involving the persevering efforts of every prominent person in San Diego. Completion of the new depot was timed for the opening of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition which commemorated the opening of the Panama Canal, and the new station architecture appropriately resembled that of the Exposition buildings.

The design of the depot is unusual in the treatment of its facilities with the ornamentation characteristics of early California architecture such as the Franciscan Fathers might have applied - and which applications are not particularly compatible with the functional requirements of a railway station. The total blending resulted in the construction of one of the most pleasingly beautiful depots in the United States at that time. The use of color in the tiled domes and in the wainscoting of the waiting rooms is but one of the many outstanding and innovativative features of the attractive building. (Information, courtesy of the Research Committee of the San Diego Historic Sites Board)

YOU can help NOW - by writing to the Editor of the San Diego Union, our Mayor Pete Wilson, and the City Council members. They need to know that the citizens are anxious to see this magnificent building preserved for future generations to enjoy.

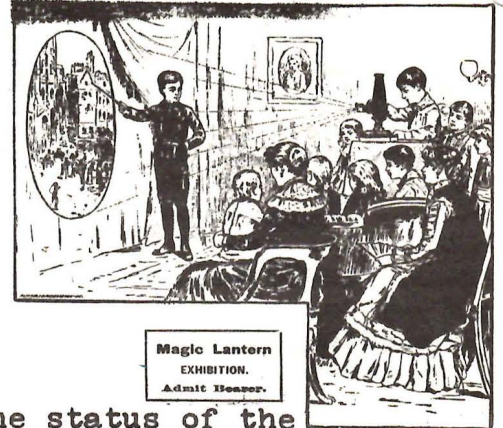
Come to our February 27th meeting and hear more about the station and what the future holds in regard to its possible preservation. SOHO was invited to be represented at the Mayor's meeting with officials of the Santa Fe Railway concerning station reconstruction plans. We will hear a report on important disclosures at this conference and more about the significance of the depot.



## HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

General Meeting - Sunday, February 27th - 7:30 p.m.

We will meet on the second floor of the historic Sommer Building, 432 F Street, at the northwest corner of 5th Street, one block east of the Off-Broadway Theatre. Off-street parking will be conveniently available at 5th and G or 6th and F Streets. We will be the guests of Mr. Melton Wallack who is currently remodeling this distinctive building and retaining many of its Victorian features which prevailed in the period during which it was originally built.



At this meeting we will hear a report on the status of the Santa Fe Depot proposed dismantling, also learn about future SOHO projects and view slides of prominent early-day structures in San Diego. You will also get a first-hand look at some excellent examples of Victorian architecture in the down-town business area.

Please bring a folding chair or cushion to sit on, since seating accommodations cannot be provided for everyone.

## A BUILDING WITH AN ILLUSTRIOUS PAST

The Sommer Building, originally designated the Keating Building, was built in 1890 by the widow of millionaire George J. Keating. It was the first office building in San Diego to use a "modern" style of architecture, getting away from "gingerbread" features of the Victorian era. Its strong, well-studied design, was considered a distinctly modern American style of architecture. The partially circular form of the southwest and southeast corner rooms required window panes of curved glass and ingenious devices to raise the windows. Originally, the building had a "cage elevator" and lighting fixtures providing both gas and electric illumination. (Research Committee of the San Diego Historic Sites Board)

We will meet in a southeast corner room where we can see these unusual windows first-hand. From our meeting place we will also have a view of the nearby Nesmith-Greeley Building and the Ratner Building, both constructed in 1889.

## HISTORY BUFFS

The 8th Annual Congress of History Convention will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 3rd and 4th, at the new Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. This year's theme will be "Bridging the Border" (the United States-Mexico border). The history, the excitement and traditions related to the invisible line that separates the two countries will be depicted in books, papers, art, music and dance.

Persons interested in attending may call Sally Johns, 222-7888.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We are deeply grateful to the efforts of the Alumni Chapter of Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, especially Diane Elliot and Jill Gibs, for providing organization, hostesses and Victorian dresses from the Globe Theatre for a very successful Victorian Home Tour that netted \$1086.59 for SOHO.

I was invited to represent SOHO at a meeting held on February 3rd with Mayor Wilson and representatives of the Santa Fe Railroad. The meeting was concerning the possibility of saving the 1914 railroad depot at Kettner and Broadway.

Barry Worthington

## CURRENT EVENT

An Art Mart is being held by the San Diego County Art Club on February 12th and 13th, Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Playa Pacific, just south of the Hilton Hotel on Mission Bay. SOHO is the beneficiary of this event, so if you are looking for a new painting here is an opportunity to support SOHO and find something lovely for yourself.



## HAPPINESS IS A VICTORIAN HOME

Carolyn Hay has a charming Victorian home on New Jersey Street, and Frank Palazzalo has a new shop in an interesting old building at 1735 India Street.

There is a Victorian home for sale at 2044 Front Street. In Point Loma there is a lovely Victorian home for sale at the corner of Silvergate and Rosecroft.



## SOHO SAVES

Write the President of the Santa Fe Railway and let him know San Diegans do not want the depot destroyed!

Railway Exchange Bldg.  
80 East Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, Ill. 60604

Let's not wait until it is too late. Write the Mayor, write the City Councilmen, write the Editor!

Write or send copies of your other letters to  
William Rick  
3576 Emerson  
San Diego, Ca. 92106

SPECIAL BOUQUETS GO TO

The Alumni and Active Chapters of the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority for the marvelous home tour which was so well attended and enjoyed by everyone. It was a grand boost to our treasury and a wonderful opportunity to show off our Victorian homes.

Reverend Steven, Mary Austin, and the Phoenix Society for opening their homes for the tour.

Lynn Kaplan, Thelma White, Mary Ward, Marie Cox, Barry Worthington, and Sally Johns for acting as guides on the buses.

Kay Nicholas, Mary Dell Worthington, Peggy Shepley, and Carolyn Hay for acting as guides in the homes.

Mildred Hill, Claire Kaplan, Chris Smock, Gary Bunny and Janet Johns for working in the booths during the tour.

Paul Mears and Scott for directing traffic on the tour day.

Patricia Roll and Barbara Briggs for the Christmas party.

Roy and Barbara Johnson for the donation of some lovely tablecloths for SOHO events.

Lee Douglas and Carol Lindemulder for the coffee-makers.

NOW IS THE TIME...TO COME TO THE AID OF...SOHO

We need someone to help fold and mail our Newsletter.

We need several people to serve on a telephone committee.

We need people to gather items for our rummage sale in March.

We need a committee to plan a train trip to Los Angeles to visit historic buildings near their depot in late April.

We need ladies who could serve as hostesses in Victorian homes during a home tour planned for May.

If you would like to work on any of these projects, please send your name, address, telephone number and which activity you are interested in to Mrs. Barry Worthington, 4344 Date Street, La Mesa, California 92041.

MEMBERS ARE FOR GROWING

We have 160 brand new members and many friends of SOHO have renewed their memberships. If you know anyone who might like to join, please pass along our membership coupon and help us to keep growing.

Please make checks payable to Save Our Heritage Organisation and mail to Mrs. Claire Kaplan 4850 Louise Drive San Diego, Calif. 92115

SAVE OUR HERITAGE ORGANISATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

All donations over \$5 are tax-deductible

Available for Committee Work \_\_\_\_\_

Single membership \$5.00

Family \$10.00 Teenage Workers \$1.00