



Save Our Heritage Organisation Newsletter

JAN - FEB

1973

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Now is your chance to take the famous tour -- the tour that SOHO created for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 25th Annual Meeting -- and help our hostesses, too!

SOHO will be providing hostesses for the Historic Tour of San Diego on a regular basis for California Leisure Consultants, a San Diego company that provides tours and activities to trade shows and convention visitors. They will be acting as our agency and will be making donations to SOHO for our services.

Our hostesses have been training for their jobs for six weeks now and their graduation ceremony will be to conduct the tour for SOHO members and guests.

The tour will be Sunday, February 25th. We will leave from the Town & Country Convention Center on Hotel Circle in Mission Valley at 1:30 in the afternoon. Tickets are \$3.00 per person.

You may send your check payable to Save Our Heritage Organisation, Post Office Box 3571, San Diego, California 92103.

For information or reservations, phone Pat Moore at 276-1108, Terri Recht at 453-1626 or Pat Teaze at 86-1854. They will be glad to help you.

Plan now to attend -- and tell your friends!

THE CURRENT EMINENT DANGERS OF WANTON DESTRUCTION

The advent of the railroad had a greater effect on San Diego's economic history than any other single factor. The formation of a new railroad company that would have San Diego as its terminus created wild booms in industry and population and the collapse of these plans created busts just as spectacular. There is no structure in San Diego that embodies this gyrating progress more than our Santa Fe Station. Its heroic size reflects the enthusiasm of our city for the railroad that finally came to stay; its style reflects the cultural background of the population; its destruction would

reflect the lack of concern and indifference to cultural heritage that we hope to prevent.

The station was completed in 1915 to commemorate the opening of the Panama Canal and the Pan Pacific Exposition in Balboa Park. Every phase of its construction was eagerly reported in the newspapers and families came in from all over the county to view this spectacular addition to the city.

The amount of steel used in the towers was a source of wonder, the huge interior overwhelmed reporters and sent them searching for new adjectives. Its Spanish Renaissance style served as a model for countless stations built throughout the state from that time on. It was ... and is ... truly a wonder.

Best of all, it is a living building. No one could even guess the number of service men and women who passed through the station, the figure must be astronomical. There is no estimate of the buckets of tears shed by wives and friends seeing young men off to war... or better yet ... welcoming them back. That it should be threatened with destruction is unbelievable, but the threat is real, and serious.

An alternate has been proposed, one that would save the station and keep its function while increasing its use, the plan is to make the station a transportation center for San Diego. Its location is ideal for this purpose and the proposal has met with quite a bit of enthusiasm. SOHO is working hard in cooperation with other groups to bring this to a successful conclusion.

One thing is certain, this structure must be saved. It is too much a part of the fabric of our city to have it destroyed.

Thelma White

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS

HISTORICAL SITE TAX BREAK SIGNED

A bill that could provide a property tax break to historical properties has been signed into law by Gov. Reagan.

The measure (SB357) would permit cities or counties, when asked by the owner, to declare the property a historic zone and tax it on the basis of actual use rather than on normal basis of potential value.

The owner would have to sign a 20-year contract agreeing to maintain the property in a use "consistent with its characteristics as property of historical significance."

The bill would apply to any property registered as a California or National Historic site. The Hotel del Coronado is such a designated historical landmark.

Effect of the bill will not be known until taxing process, including appeals, is completed.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT NEWS

THE OLD TOWN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This is the first in what we hope will continue to be a series of articles explaining to SOHO members the activities of other local historically-oriented organizations. It seems appropriate to begin with the introduction of the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, site of the first permanent European settlement in Alta California.

The Park was established by the State in 1969 in the midst of the vaguely defined "Old Town" area, during preparation for the City's bicentennial celebration. As with others within the State Park and Recreation system which require interpretation to the public, the Old Town Park was established with an advisory committee made up of local volunteers. Historians and architects on this committee aided in the development of the Truedell Report, the basis for the operating plan of the Park development. The Advisory Committee members are appointed by William Penn Mott, Director of the State Park and Recreation Department, and they are responsible directly to him. The Director has professionals -- architects, historians, archaeologists, engineers -- working on various Park Department projects. However, all plans that involve change to Old Town Park are considered by the local advisory committee, and their recommendations are generally accepted by the Director.

The largest single undertaking thus far has been the restoration of the Casa de Estudillo. State funds, provided for in an earlier bond issue, were used to restore the structure. The furnishings of the Casa de Estudillo were assembled by the Colonial Dames (Daughters of the American Revolution). The monies received from admission to the Estudillo House go into the general fund, for operating the house is too great to be covered by locally generated funds.

The purposes of the Park are manifold, primarily the interpretation of history, but also including public recreation and the commercial activity of shops and restaurants. There are eleven major concessionaires in the

Park, with twenty-one sub-concessionaires working within their leases. All of these have contracts that specify the integrity of is to promote the history of San Diego 1820-1872. The purpose of the Park is to interpret history, not commercialism. Shops are an adjunct rather than the focus of the Park.

The most recent change in the area is the closure of San Diego Avenue, through the boundaries of the Park. This will now allow visitors a casual inspection of the Old Town area, free of the traffic that used to traverse it. Soon a building is scheduled to be built that will recreate a house/store which stood just south of the Machado/Stewart House. Since the original street ran differently than modern San Diego Avenue, this building -- and others along the early main street -- will extend into the present street. All of these activities are part of the long range plan, which will see at least one-fourth of the buildings which once surrounded Washington Square (Plaza Central) recreated.

The advisory committee consists of twenty-one members, currently chaired by Tom Ham. At their twice-monthly meetings, they discuss long range plans of the use and interpretation of the Park. Like a board of directors, they do not interfere with the daily activities of the professional staff. There are sixteen permanent park rangers assigned to the Old Town area, a few of whom share responsibilities with the other state activities of San Pasqual, Borderfield State Beach and Silver Strand Beach. A docent program will begin in 1973, with tours designed to be flexible enough to interest young school children, foreign visitors and serious historians.

Nicholas Fintzelberg

NOTE: Nicholas Fintzelberg and Barry Worthington are members of the Old Town Advisory Committee.

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

The Cultural Heritage Commission is appointed by the County Board of Supervisors and reports directly to them on a broad area of cultural activity in the County. For the past two years, the Commission has primarily concerned itself with the creation and development of Heritage Park which is bounded by Harney Street on the north and Juan Street on the west. The park encompasses nine acres in Old Town.

The first historically, culturally or architecturally-significant structure on the property is, of course, the Sherman-Gilbert House. There is room for twelve

structures according to the plan. One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) has been set aside to grade the property and to install the usual improvements. It will be a gently rolling terrain. Another Ninety Three Thousand Dollars (\$93,000) has been budgeted to restore the Sherman-Gilbert House which will be used by the County Department of Parks and Restoration.

Currently, the Commission is involved in setting up standards of selection, methods of financing, conditions of moving a desirable structure to the site and setting it up. Bob Ferris, a longtime member of SOHO, past President of the San Diego Historical Society and current President of the Inter-Museum Council is Chairman.

It is anticipated that private funds will be required to move a structure to the site and restoration funds will come from the private sector as well as help from HUD (Housing and Urban Development) as was the case with the Sherman-Gilbert House.

Harry Evans
Representative from SOHO
Cultural Heritage Commission

★★★

A SHORT DISCOURSE ON

A WORTHY STRUCTURE

The Klauber House located at 3060 Sixth Avenue was designed in 1907 by Irving Gill for Melville and Amy Klauber. The design reflects the finalizing of Gill's style -- brick veneer covered by stucco, oak floors, simple interior paneling, built-in storage, early use of Mission Arch on the front porch, personally designed hardware and the open, central staircase he typically used as the center of life and light to the house. An integral part of this house, as with so many of Gill's houses, is the gracious garden.

Come stroll through the garden and view one of the works of Irving Gill ... for this may be your last opportunity to view this fine home. Rumors are that the home will be destroyed to make way for another hi-rise. We have also heard that the new owner may live in the house a short while. Whatever the future is for the Klauber House, we are fortunate in being allowed a chance to view and experience the magnificent work of one of the world's great architects.

We will have a speaker to guide you through the house and answer any questions you might have regarding Irving Gill or the Klauber House.

Join us at our general meeting and learn more about San Diego's history. Also, learn the exciting ventures SOHO is setting out on in the very near future.

Be there -- Sunday, February 18th at 4:00

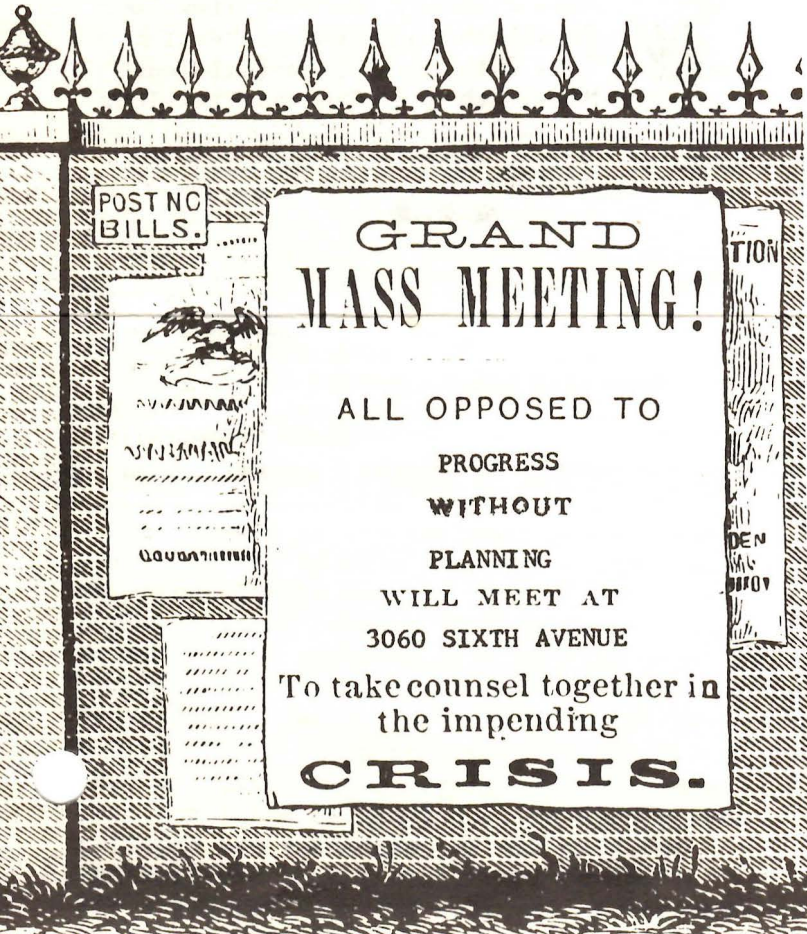
SUPPORTIVE EFFORTS

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!! PLEASE RENEW YOUR SOHO DUES TODAY. THANK YOU.

AWARENESS

"Awareness" is a new article to our newsletter. We plan to bring you into contact with places you've probably never seen, people you've never met, work of other related organizations interested in San Diego and interesting events to experience.

The first in this series is devoted to Cypress View Mausoleum gallerie.



PAST COMFORTS/
WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION

The art at Cypress View constitutes one of the most extensive, permanent and important private collections in San Diego. This is a relatively little-known fact, which points up one of the basic motives for this article.

Cypress View's art totals more than 500 individual pieces, not counting the many exquisite stained glass windows in the three buildings of the complex. The importance of the collection lies in the art objects, which represent mans' striving for beauty in nature and in human life from antiquity to modern times.

To enable SOHO members to share in the beauty of this marvalous collection, we have arranged for two tours of the gallerie. The first tour will be January 28th at 1:30 p.m. The second tour will be March 4th at 1:30 p.m. There is no charge for the tour. In fact, Cypress View will pay SOHO \$1.50 for every adult going on the tour. You will be under no obligation.

We will meet at Cypress View's parking lot located at 40th Street and Imperial Avenue.

Please telephone for reservations. Reservations are limited, so please phone at your earliest convenience. Phone 295-9309 for information or reservations.

*Remember: January 28th 1:30 p.m.
March 4th 1:30 p.m.

BUILDINGS TO BE HAD

108 Ivy by Durell Williams Realty.
828 27th (at Treat Street) Queen Anne
for sale by Century Realty.
Hawthorn and Front Streets by Durell
Williams Realty.

HAPPIER CONSIDERATIONS

Note restoration of Spanish Revival house on 1800 block of Third Avenue for architect's office.

Sixth and Cedar--restoration of church for architect's office.

1970 Third (at Grape)
Second and Juniper (red and white house)



2230-2260 Front--to be destroyed



CALENDAR:

Jan. 28th Cypress View Tour
Feb. 18th General Meeting
Feb. 25th Historical Tour
Mar. 4th Cypress View Tour



SOHO

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