



APRIL 1976

Reflections

Post Office Box 3571, San Diego, Ca. 92103

225-1033

A LINE DRIVE FOR SURVIVAL

NEXT DOOR TO THE GASLAMP QUARTER TWO PROPERTY OWNERS SEEK TO SAVE THEIR BUILDINGS, BUT IT COULD BE AN UPHILL FIGHT

"It seems like every time I've ever gotten a chance to set down roots, it's turned out to be in the wrong spot," says Alex Kuhnel glumly, as he sips a cup of coffee in a small Fifth Avenue cafe. Kuhnel, a lifelong San Diegan, owns the Royal Pie Bakery on the west side of Fourth Street between Market and J. His father started there back in the early part of the century as a young immigrant just off the boat from Germany. The bakery he runs seems like a pretty good place to set down roots. It's an old, old building of corbelled brick permeated with rich, simmering bakery smells.

But Kuhnel has been talking to San
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SOHO NIGHT AT THE SHOWCASE: AN HISTORIC EVENT

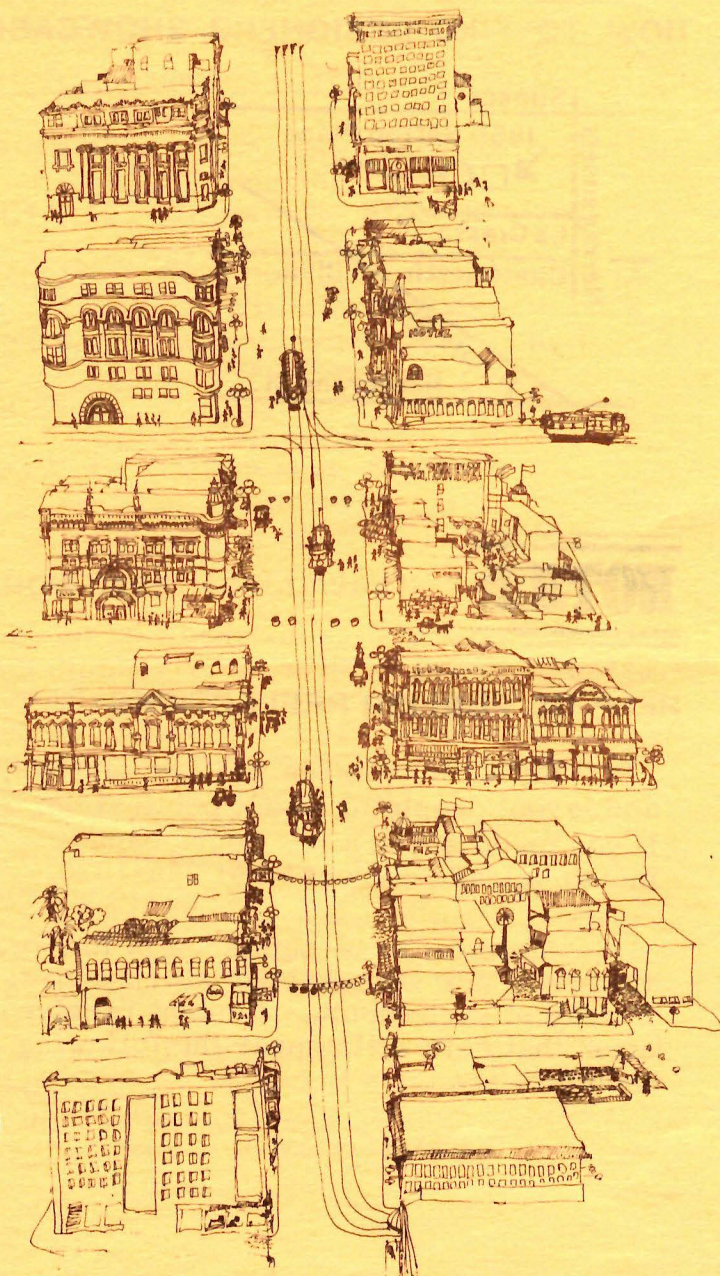
SATURDAY, MAY 1st 7 PM to 9 PM

A fun evening has been planned by SOHO for members and non-members alike at the Sefton House in Point Loma. This stately home is currently owned by Dr. and Mrs. Ortega St. John and is located at 1865 Sefton Place.

The Designers Showcase is sponsored jointly by the San Diego Historical Society, the San Diego Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and the Junior League of San Diego.

The decorated areas of the home

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CALENDAR

MAY

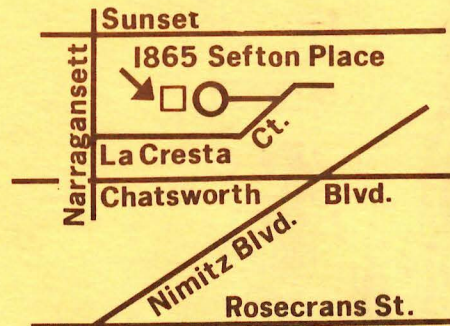
- May 1 SOHO night at Designers Showcase.
- May 3 SOHO Monthly Meeting. Features a slide tour of Denver, Chicago, and Salt Lake City. 7:30 p. m. 4545 Collwood Blvd.
- May 7 San Diego Historic Site Board Monthly Meeting. 10 a. m. 4th Flr City Administration Building
- May 8 SOHO's Fifth Annual Train Tour highlighted by a visit to the J. P. Getty Museum and historic Los Angeles. 7 a. m. Santa Fe Depot
Cost: \$20.

Can Down-town Be Saved?

JOIN SOHO's Horton Action Group.

The fight to save the architecturally worthwhile buildings of the Horton Plaza area is entering a crucial phase. The City Redevelopment Agency is preparing to purchase more property to make into parking lots for an indefinite length of time. The Horton Hotel and the Balboa Theatre continue to deteriorate while the city makes up its mind about their ultimate fate. We can make a difference if we take the time to organize an alternative to senseless destruction. Please, if you have the time, attend the first meeting of SOHO's Horton Action Group, 7:30 P.M. May 3rd at 4545 Collwood Blvd. If you can't make it, send us your name and we'll contact you.

HOW TO FIND DESIGNERS SHOWCASE:



NOTICE

HELP US PUBLISH REFLECTIONS

Reflections needs writers, artists, and layout people to assist publication. If you could spare a few hours each month, please contact us at 225-1033.

Material to be published in Reflections will now be accepted until the first Friday of each month. Content received after that date will appear the following month.

EVENTS

MONTHLY MEETING:

DENVER, CHICAGO & HORTON PLAZA

A slide tour of historic preservation in the Midwest and the first general meeting of SOHO's Horton Action Group will highlight the monthly meeting for May. Michael Jones, an architect and historic preservation expert, will continue his eight part program documenting a recently completed three month trip through most of the United States.

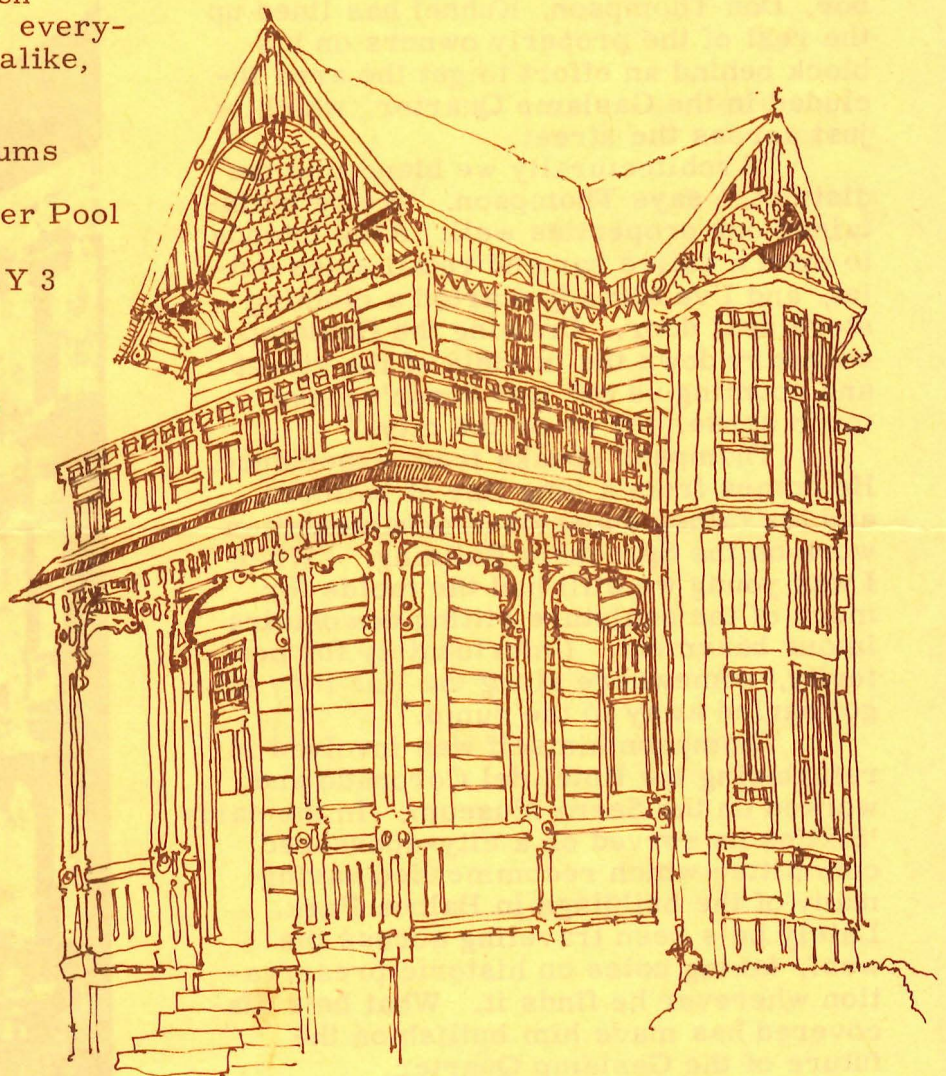
The Horton Action Group, formed to preserve and enhance the historic buildings of the Horton Redevelopment Area, will map a plan of action. Representatives of the Redevelopment Agency Staff and the City Council have been invited to be present. As always, everyone, members and non-members alike, is encouraged to attend.

LOCATION: Collwood Condominiums
4545 Collwood Blvd.
Recreation Room Over Pool
San Diego

TIME: 7:30 - 9:00 PM, MAY 3

NEW MEMBERS

Delores Parks
Marigay Grana
M. E. Gresko
Past Presidents Association
Federated Womens Clubs
Douglas & Sharon Reid
R. T. Silberman
Faucher & Meenan
Dale St. Denis
Karen Ledterman
Lonnie Rowell
Corinne Moss
Daryl Lassen
Janet Craven
David & Carolyn Turner
Dominic Romano
Kathy & Bob Conger



LINE DRIVE

Continued from page 1

Diego's Redevelopment Agency, and they have told him they have other plans for his property. Highrise apartment houses. Second homes for jet-setting Los Angelenos who can't squeeze into Marina Del Rey. Flashy hotels. Maybe even a world trade center. Trouble is, there isn't any room for the Royal Pie Bakery. Not the way the redevelopment people have planned it anyway.

Kuhnel has heard it all before.

"I grew up in Logan Heights. My father put together a nice little homestead there. Then along came the state and before we knew it we'd lost the back part to the freeway and the front part to the bridge." Maybe Kuhnel's jinxed, but he prefers a more down to earth explanation. He thinks the people at City Hall sometime lack a little common sense.

Together with his next door neighbor, Don Thompson, Kuhnel has lined up the rest of the property owners on his block behind an effort to get the area included in the Gaslamp Quarter, which is just across the street.

"Architecturally we blend into the district," says Thompson. "We've maintained our properties well. Alex intends to open a coffee bar and retail sales outlet, and I've already started a clothing store next door. Drawing the Gaslamp boundary down the middle of the street and counting us out just doesn't make much sense, for us or the city."

Thompson speaks from experience. He comes from a long line of builders, and his father supervised ornamentation work on the Spreckels Building. "When I was young we still had the molds for much of the sculpture sitting downstairs in our basement. Unfortunately for posterity, somewhere along the line they all got hauled away to the dump."

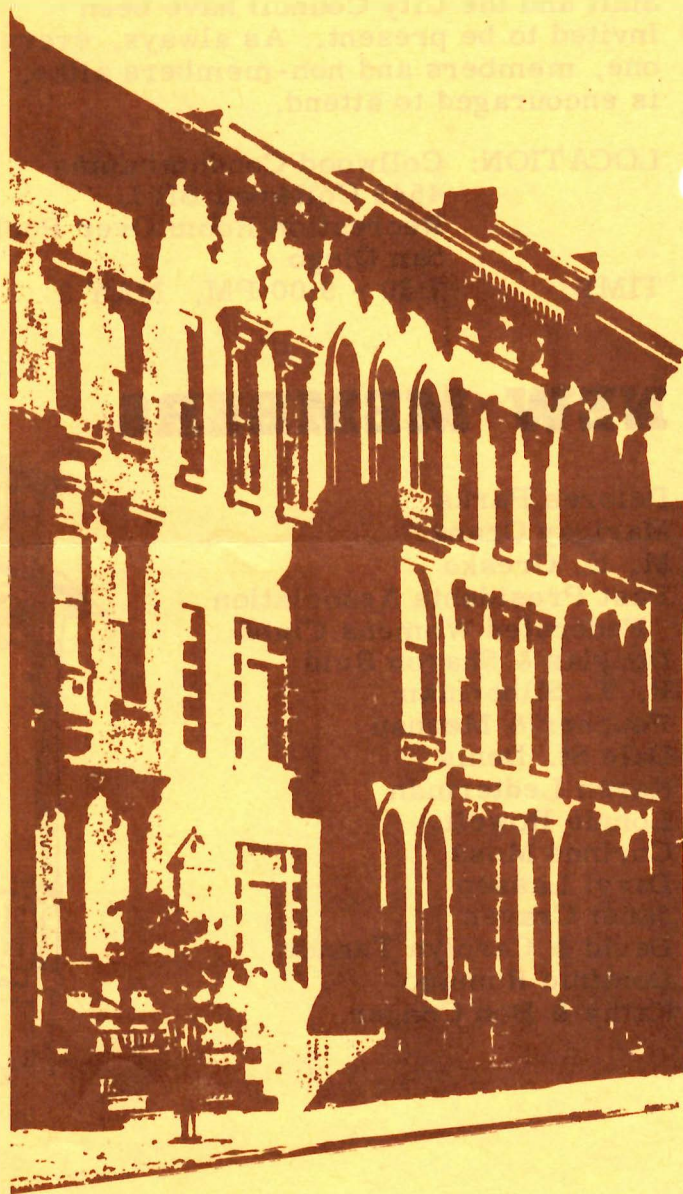
Thompson himself was involved in refurbishing the Hotel del Coronado and worked on the Serra Museum. In the early 'Sixties he served on a city-sponsored committee which recommended saving many of the buildings in Balboa Park. Lately he's been traveling across the west, taking notes on historic preservation wherever he finds it. What he's discovered has made him bullish on the future of the Gaslamp Quarter.

"Downtown San Diego has great

potential," Thompson proclaims. "We've got a unique location, sunny and right next to the harbor. And the buildings are beautiful and basically sound. The only thing that worries me is the city's tendency to rely on outside consulting firms to tell us what to do. Our town is famous for not using good local talent."

Thompson, Kuhnel, and their neighbors have taken their case to city hall, where they are hopeful the City Council may be receptive to the pleading of successful and sensitive property owners. They realize it may be a long and convoluted battle.

Meanwhile, Kuhnel wryly ponders his fate at the hands of the unseen bureaucracy. "We've seen a lot of good times and a lot of hard times, and we've always managed to hold on. But what the devil do you do when somebody draws a line down the middle of the street and says you're on the wrong side?"



NOTES

SOHO's Garage Sale Goes On and on. When we last tuned in, a one-day installment had netted over a hundred dollars. We're always looking for donations: tools, kitchen items, toys, books, and anything else of value or interest. Drop them off at Bill Cartright's, 3821 First, or call Bill for pickup: 298-1021.

A renewal of your membership in SOHO represents a contribution to the economic and cultural well-being of all San Diegans. It helps us build a stronger organization to preserve our legacy of heritage for our future and to sponsor the events which bring us closer to our past. Use the form on the back of Reflections to re-state your interest and concern.

MICHAEL JONES SLIDE PROGRAM:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| JUNE 7 | Montreal, Toronto, & New England |
| JULY 12 | Newport, R.I., Boston, Strawberry Banke, N.H. |
| AUG. 2 | Philadelphia, Washington DC Williamsburg & New York |
| SEPT. 13 | Charleston, Savannah, & New Orleans |
| OCT. 4 | Houston, Galveston & San Antonio |
| NOV. 1 | Portland, Seattle & Vancouver |

SHOWCASE (continued)

consist of 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, living and dining rooms, a large paneled library, butler's pantry, and a downstairs sitting room. These areas are decorated by members of the ASID and interior design students at San Diego State.

The ticket price of \$5.00 will entitle you to tour the home at your leisure during the 2 hours it is open. Following the tour you will find complimentary hors d'oeuvres, wine available and entertainment provided by a talented guitarist, Mr. Arthur Frick. A raffle will be held for a late 19th Century French Mantel Clock valued at approximately \$200. This clock was donated to SOHO by the Francis Family Antiques.

POSTSCRIPT

MILES ON THE TUBE

SOHO Founder, Robert Miles Parker will greet the dawn April 28th with Barbara Walters and Jim Hart on NBC's Today Show. Miles, who is completing a book about his travels across America in search of historic architecture, is expected to discuss SOHO and local preservation efforts. Today is aired locally over Channel 10 for two hours beginning at 7 A.M.

QUOTABLE

"I believe that something such as the redevelopment project should be a study of our heritage. It should reflect our local history and environment and should be planned by local people and built by local hands.

"That's not what's being done, so I've decided to do my own little urban renewal project. We've got a half-block downtown and we're going to redevelop it in the style and flavor of San Diego."

Paul Thoryk, San Diego Architect, in the San Diego Evening Tribune.

THE VIEW FROM BUNKER HILL

Having lived in Los Angeles for more than 40 years, I remember the original Bunker Hill and our Angels Flight. There were quaint little houses on Bunker Hill occupied by poor elderly folks. There were a few old apartment houses, and there were many beautiful trees.

Then along came the urban renewal bureaucrats and bulldozed everything in sight. They were supposed to make Bunker Hill modern and arrange for housing for the displaced persons who lived there for many years. They did nothing of the sort.

It's been many years now and Bunker Hill looks barren and desolate and ugly.

All in all, Bunker Hill today is an

(over)

ugly blight on our City of the Angels. Urban renewal has been a failure in St. Louis, New York and other cities. It has created jobs for political hacks and has been a bed of corruption for a long time. Millions upon millions of the taxpayers' money has been wasted. What do our city fathers intend to do about desolate, barren Bunker Hill?

Sam Schiffman
Los Angeles
From the Los Angeles Times.

WHY JOIN SOHO?

SOHO offers an opportunity to let elected officials know that our heritage is too valuable to be needlessly discarded. We provide financial and technical know-how to individuals and groups which seek to save older buildings. And we conduct tours and other events which let ordinary people share in San Diego's fascinating past. If you appreciate the intricate craftsmanship of an earlier era, are planning to buy and restore an older home, or just enjoy a weekend walking tour of an old San Diego neighborhood, then SOHO has something to offer you.

Membership & Renewal 1976

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Memberships available Individual \$8.00 Family \$12.00 Contributing \$20.

I am interested in joining an action group. Please contact me !

Tax Exempt Status

SOHO is exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and has been classified by the I.R.S. as a charitable, educational organization.

SOHO

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