

REFLECTIONS



APR. 1977
Vol. IX, No. 4

Newsletter of the
Save Our Heritage Organisation

GENERAL MEETING MAY 1st

GRANGER MUSIC HALL

NATIONAL CITY

SOHO welcomes one and all to an old-fashioned May Day celebration and general meeting at the historic Granger Music Hall in National City. Everyone is invited to bring home-made cookies or home-grown flowers in containers (or both), and meet us at Granger Hall (Fourth St., east of Palm Ave.) at 2 PM on Sunday, May 1st.

The Granger Music Hall was built by Ralph Granger in 1896 for recitals and also to house his priceless collection of rare violins. Irving Gill designed the original building which was enlarged in 1898 by the addition of a 30x80 foot auditorium. In 1969, the Hall was threatened

with demolition and was moved to its present site by the South Bay Historical Society. SOHO donated \$600.00 of the profits from our 1975 National City tour toward the restoration of the 75 foot ceiling mural in the auditorium. Restoration is nearing completion.

The program for the General Meeting will include updates on current SOHO projects, including the latest information on the possibilities of obtaining our own building. There will also be a presentation on the restoration of Irving Gill's Horatio West Court in Santa Monica by Margaret Bach, one of the owner/restorers. The court, built in 1919, and more recently the scene of over 350 police raids, had fallen on hard times until Don and Margaret Bach and four other enterprising persons decided to purchase it in 1973. Since that time, dramatic changes have taken place. The project, which was considered the most complicated restoration job in the state next to the capitol building in Sacramento, was written up in Progressive Architecture last year.

This promises to be an exciting meeting. Hope to see you there!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The fight to save Horton Plaza is not over yet, but some progress is being made. Our campaign has received a lot of media coverage, and more people are becoming aware of our desire to see the Plaza restored to its appearance of about 1910 to 1915. Besides the letter writing program initiated in last month's "Reflections", we have also started to circulate petitions. If you can help obtain signatures, call SOHO (225-1033) and we will send you a petition.

As part of our Save-the-Plaza activities, SOHO staged a picnic-protest at Horton Plaza on March 20th. At that time we displayed a rendering of the Plaza as it might look restored to its original simple beauty. We also received a telegram from Councilwoman Maureen O'Connor reading in part, "I support your efforts and hope many interested citizens will attend council hearing on this matter."

So far, the exact date for the hearing has not been set, but I urge all of you who are concerned to try and make this important Council meeting. It is necessary to show the Council that people do care about the quality of our environment Downtown. Call your Councilman to find out when the hearing will be scheduled.

Bruce Kamerling



POINTS TO PONDER

"Every day . . . we are making environmental changes with consequences we still don't understand or even suspect.

"Take heat, for example.

"Everytime we build a city block of highrise buildings, we change the wind pattern so there's less wind to carry the heat away.

"Everytime we heat or air-condition these buildings, use an electric appliance or light, drive a car or manufacture a product, 100% of that energy eventually winds up in the environment as heat.

"And it's not only cities.

"We know that when we clear a forest, the land beneath absorbs more heat. And this also happens when we plow fields, defoliate vegetation or take the life out of the soil. (One acre of grass, for example, has a potential cooling effect up to that of a 10-ton air conditioner.)

"We are eliminating natural cooling systems and creating urban heat islands where the climate is hotter, rainier, cloudier, more humid and, of course, dirtier, too. These artificially created climates, called 'micro-climates' are already altering their immediate surrounding environment."

From A Probability Report published by the Sierra Club.



OLD TOWN--LITTER STREWN MUD HOLE OR TOURIST TRAP

It was headlines like this that aroused San Diego's historic-minded public into action, as witnessed by various letters to the editor, television editorials, and uninformed persons who spoke at a recent Park and Recreation Commission meeting at the community concourse.

The various "news" media had heard, second or third hand, that the state was going to cut down all the trees and bushes and remove the grass from the plaza in Old Town in order to recreate the actual community witnessed during the period of 1821-1872. --The public was so misinformed by these "news" gatherers!--

The Old Town Citizen's Advisory Committee meets on the second Monday of every month at 3:30 p. m. In five years of serving on this board, attending the meetings regularly, and taking minutes for two years with access to all sign-in sheets, I have not been aware that a member of the press has been present at any one of these meetings. Yet, in usual journalistic fashion, the negative was presented in glaring headlines. --It certainly sells papers!! The news media failed to state that while the committee was researching Old Town and had stated that Old Town was not presently authentic, the committee had carefully stated at the end of the report that to make Old Town a dirt area--void of vegetation--was not practical and could not be obtained.

The fact of the matter is, that the reconstruction of Old Town is to take upwards of twenty-five years to complete and that continuous archaeological excavations are taking place in order to recreate the various architectural styles which existed during the 51 year period of its (interpretive) history.

As for the vegetation in the park, shrubs, and trees which die of old age (the eucalyptus has a life span of about 100 years) will be replaced. The vegetation will not be done away with; rather, selections will be carefully made from the 150 various species of trees, plants, shrubs, and herbs which were either native to California at the time or introduced by the Spanish-Mexican cultures which inhabited the area.

No one has asked for destruction and ruination of Old Town. No one is taking from "the children" of our city an open space and exciting historical area. Rather, the state Park and Recreation Commission and local Old Town Committee are setting guidelines/goals, which will add to the beauty of Old Town by presenting authentic, attractive shrubs and trees, and hopefully some archaeological information which will enhance the park. The excavation, much as is being done in Presidio Park, will help provide this information. All of this research gives a better knowledge of our past and provides information for future generations.

Old Town should not be labeled "Litter Strewn or Tourist Trap". Instead, it should be thought of as a place to visit for beauty, knowledge, and historical interpretation.

There is so much going on in the world today that needs our time and energy for positive action. Hopefully future articles will let the public hear the entire "presentation", not selected phrases necessary to sell a news media product.

Barry Worthington



SOHO LIBRARY

The SOHO Library, specializing in the ownership and restoration of vintage houses, has recently acquired several books and leaflets dealing with the repair and reconstruction of older houses. These books are available to our members, although not on a check-out basis but for use on the premises. We also have the late 1890's issues of "Carpentry and Building", a trade paper of the day, and some bungalow pattern books dating to the early part of this century.

If you know of any books which will enhance the Library, please let us know and we will attempt to purchase them. Donations of books are always welcome and can be done with a suitable specialized book or by a money request. Please contact Pat Schaelchlin, 459-8409, for using the Library or information regarding the content of the Library.



All Aboard!



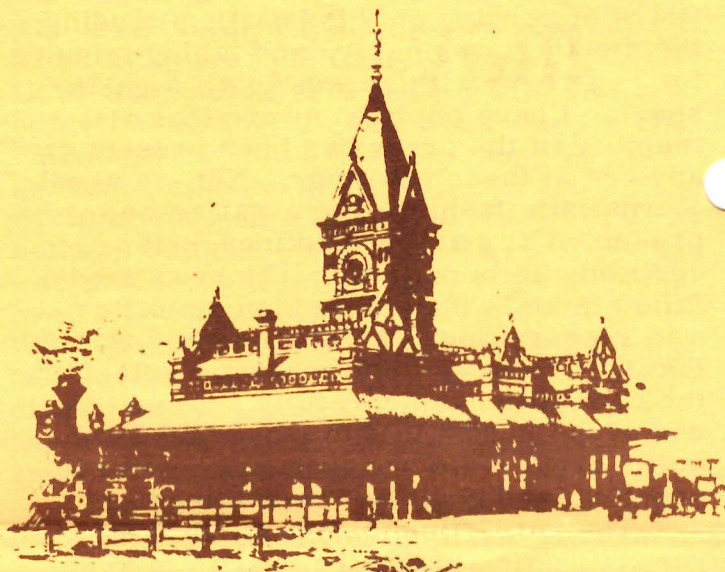
Train Tour

If you haven't been on a SOHO train tour in the past, you are in for a real treat. If you have, this one will top them all!

The train leaves at 7 a.m. on May 21st., from the Santa Fe Depot. Reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis. All reservations must be in by May 7, 1977!

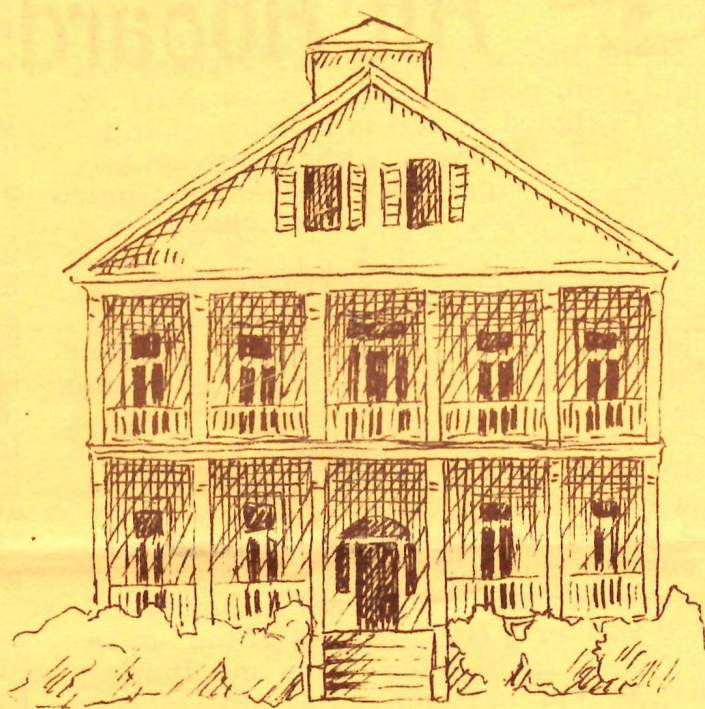
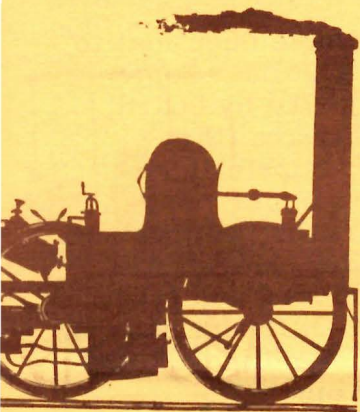
This year's tour is taking us to the eleven acre estate of the late petroleum heiress, Arline Barnsdall and the first residence designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in the Los Angeles Region. The Hollyhock House, built between 1918 and 1920 in Wright's Mayan influence, features a horizontal exterior enhanced with a cast-in-concrete motif of the Hollyhock. The home is surrounded by gardens, terraces and pools. The interior is highlighted by Wright's extraordinary use of volumes, windows, skylights and indirect lighting. Some of Wright's furniture is also on display.

We will also be visiting the twenty acre Banning Park and the thirty room colonial style mansion of California state militia General Phineas Banning. Banning,



SANTA FE DEPOT, SAN DIEGO

greatly renowned for his compilation of stagelines, ocean-going vessels and railroads, became known as the transportation king. The house, built in 1864, features stately columns and wide verandas. We will be able to see the incomparable harbor view once enjoyed by civic, governmental, business and military leaders of the late 1800's who once met at the Banning House.



may 21st

The Banning House

If time and arrangements can be made, we also will visit the Victorian Restoration Neighborhood on Carroll Avenue near Echo Park.

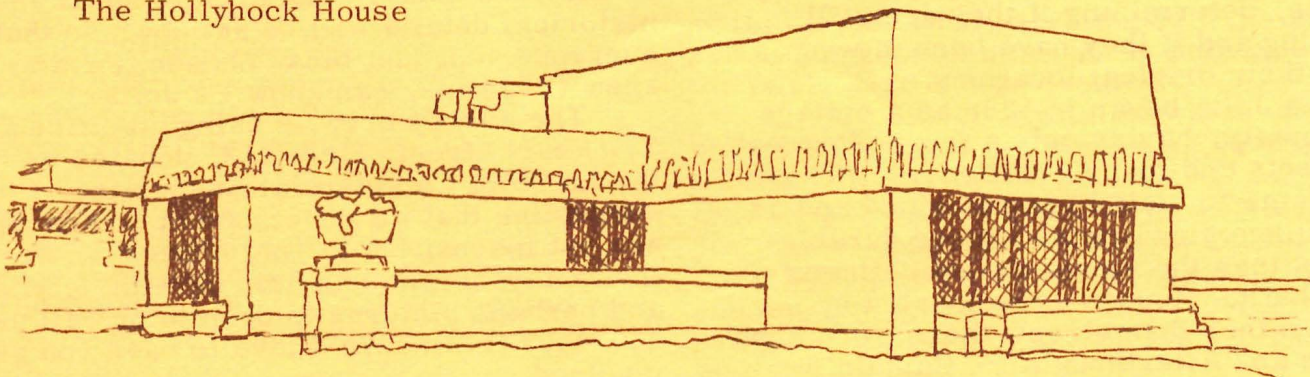
Cost is a mere \$22.50 for a great day in the big city of Los Angeles. All admissions and train and bus transportation are included. Send your reservations and check to:

Pat Minnich
5187 Bristol Rd.
San Diego, CA 92116

If there are questions, please call:
Cathy Grigsby at 295-0204, or
Pat Minnich at 284-0293
See you on May 21st!
Ted Foley
Pat Minnich



The Hollyhock House



DESIGNER'S SHOWCASE 1977
SOHO DAY

SOHO Day at Designer's Showcase will be held from noon until 5 p.m. on Apr. 30, 1977. Designed by William Hebbard and built in 1912, this year's showcase house is still at its original address--3226 Curlew Street, San Diego. Admission charge is \$3.50.

William Sterling Hebbard was first associated with Reid Bros. Architects. He became a partner of Irving Gill in 1898. At the encouragement of George W. Marston, Hebbard directed initial preservation efforts at the Mission San Diego. He became one of the architects at the Panama California Exposition in Balboa Park.

A.S.I.D. designers are breathing a new vitality into this 7200 sq. ft. stucco structure located in the heart of lushly planted Banker's Hill. Areas of the house being redone include the living and dining rooms, reception room, solarium, terrace, entry, home office, music room, kitchen, powder room, master room, sitting room, baths, four upstairs bedrooms and an outside lanai.

We look forward to seeing you on the 30th of April.

Remember, it's SOHO Day!

Pat Minnich



RESEARCH OF EARLY HOUSES
IN LA JOLLA BEGUN

A research team of architects and historians have begun the investigation of early houses in La Jolla. The survey will concentrate on identifying the early houses, determining if they are still standing and if they have been moved from their original locations.

La Jolla began in 1886 as a cottage community, having only a few permanent residents and many vacationers. Those who came to visit often remained and as the village slowly grew, more durable houses than the single walled cottages were built. Houses were located by name rather than street; there were such names as "Afterthought", "Captain's

Hold Up", "Cozy Nook", and "Aksarben" (which spelled Nebraska backwards - the state of origin of the builder). There was the "Lafalot", the "Snuggery", "The Doll's House", and "Tiny Tim" - just built for one - and the Spanish influenced "Casita Verde" and the German "Klein-aber-mein".

Many of the homes have been lost to urban development in La Jolla. Some have been taken down, board by board, and re-constructed in Tijuana (the "Meadowlark", for one, hopefully rebuilt); some were moved intact, such as the "Playhouse" and perhaps, somewhere in Tijuana, it still stands. More often, the boards were homogenized and taken away to be recycled into different houses. Many have been simply demolished, their parts taken to the dump and lost.

Some buildings were converted to new uses. A barn which stood behind the old "Botsford House" (demolished in 1936) had a new use as a home and was called the "Hay Barn"; until 1954 (when it, too, was torn down) it functioned very nicely. The "Kalapacki" is today's Top Of The Cove Restaurant, altered but still in use. Sometimes, only the name survived. The "Meadowlark" was once the name of the gardener's house at the home of Miss Ellen Scripps; the name was transferred to a cottage south of Pearl Street and when that was moved to Tijuana, the name was hung over a new doorway on Muirlands Vista Way, a part of it still there. Many houses had several names, such as the reputedly oldest, still standing, "Jenny Wren" - it has also been known as the "Villa Waldo" and the "Mudgett House".

The gathering of the picturesque history of La Jolla will be the focal point of the investigation. Through the houses, we will see the village as it was at the turn of the century. Some of this history remains today but it is slipping away. The survey will capture the status of the houses as they are today. The architectural and historical details will be set down so that everyone, not just those chosen few who knew it "when", can know La Jolla.

The survey crew is using an office at 737 Pearl Street, Suite 213, donated by the La Jolla Commercial Associates, suggesting that all development companies are not insensitive to "old houses". We invite anyone who can help us with details and perhaps pictures to drop in or call us, 459-8409 (Pat). We'd love to have you get involved.

HOW TO KISS

Speaking to 1,800 Mississippi school teachers, at Natchez, Dr. Fred. J. Mayer said in a lecture on tuberculosis:

"If you must kiss, impress the chaste salute on the back of the neck. There is a nerve originating in the back of the neck which leads to the heart, to the stomach and to the liver. By kissing on the back of the neck you will warm the heart, improve the digestion and save a doctor's bill by stimulating the liver. The ordinary or garden kiss, he said, never should be imprinted on the lips of the loved one, save after the use of carbolic solutions."

It is not at all likely that ardent lovers will consent to apply carbolic solutions as a preliminary to an embrace, or even to kiss on the back of the neck. However without being a faddist or a "bugafobist," it may readily be admitted that no better way could be conceived of facilitating the wandering of microbes than by pressing two pairs of moist, warm lips together. And these microbes will proceed to make themselves at home, and do business, where the blood is impure and non-resistant.

In other words, the less lip kissing you do the better.

--from "Brain and Brawn" (a health magazine) November, 1912



Dues Due!

All memberships are due and payable on the 1st of January each year. Due to the increased costs of printing and postage, we will soon be forced to limit circulation of the newsletter to those members whose dues are currently paid up. If the last time you paid was before November of last year, then your dues are due (sorry but we don't have the personnel to keep track on a month-to-month basis). Please continue your support with a membership renewal.

Memberships available include:

Single	\$8.00	Patron	\$ 100.00
Family	\$12.00	Benefactor	\$1000.00
Donor	\$50.00		

Please send checks, payable to SOHO, to SOHO at Box 3571, San Diego, CA 92103.



Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____

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

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SOHO

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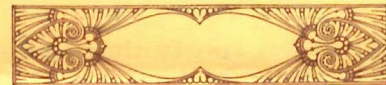
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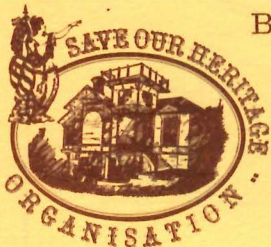


NOTICE

SOHO has rented storage space at the LincolnSpace Center in the hope of consolidating our sale items, files, artifacts and miscellaneous junk. If you have a box of stuff that belongs to SOHO, here is your chance to get rid of it. Leave a message with the answering service (225-1033) and we'll send someone out to pick it up.

DEADLINE

Items to be included in a specific issue of "Reflections" must be turned in by the 15th of the preceding month.



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