



THE S.O.H.O. NEWSLETTER

# REFLECTIONS

VOL. X NO. 12

DECEMBER 1978

P.O. BOX 3571

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92103

(714) 223-1997



## Christmas in Kensington

Celebrate Christmas with SOHO at our annual Christmas party! It will be held in Kensington this year at the home of Bob and Ingrid Coffin, at 4321 Alder Drive, on Saturday, December 16, from 7 to 10 p.m.

All members and their guests are joyfully invited to share in the festivities of the season at this beautiful Spanish Colonial Kensington Rim Home, built in 1929 for President Rubio of Mexico as his retirement house. (President from 1930-1932).

The present owners, the Coffins, have graciously opened their home for the party. They own the Glass Gallery, a stained glass studio, and guests will be able to appreciate a mini-tour of the houseful of antiques from Art Deco to Victoriana -- in this lovely canyon home.

Members are asked to bring a tray of hors d'oeuvres to share, and liquid refreshment will be provided. Surprise entertainment as well! All those who would like to hostess are asked to call Claire Kaplan at 286-8836. We hope to see you there to celebrate the holiday season!

See Map on Page 5.



# NEWS BRIEFS



## PHOTOGRAPHER WANTED!

SOHO is in great need of an on-going photographer to add his or her talents to our graphic records and to the Newsletter!

Any member who would like to take pictures of events, structures, other members!...please contact the Editor at 298-2237 or 282-5893.

## FINTZELBERG APPOINTED TO FILL VACANCY

Nick Fintzelberg, former President of SOHO and current Board member, was named Vice-President for Governmental Affairs by President Pat Schaelchlin at the October 30 Board Meeting. Former Vice-President Mike Jones resigned his post citing business matters and Fintzelberg was appointed to fill the vacancy. Moving up from alternate to regular Board Member was Gordon Johnson, and appointed as alternate Board Member was Carole Collier Frick.

**MUST SELL:** Entire stock of Victorian woodwork, plumbing, doors and bric-a-brac. Call Doc Evans at 239-6876

## SOHO Newsletter REFLECTIONS

Editor  
Carole Collier Frick  
298-2237

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1978-1979

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## OFFICE

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(corner 6th and Market)

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San Diego, CA 92103  
(714)223-1997

The SOHO Newsletter is published monthly. Letters to the Editor are welcomed. Articles and/or photographs of interest to SOHO members and friends are most enthusiastically encouraged!



## FIVE WINNERS NAMED IN NATIONAL FILM AND VIDEO COMPETITION

Four filmmakers and a videotape producer are winners in the Fifth National Film and Video Competition sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

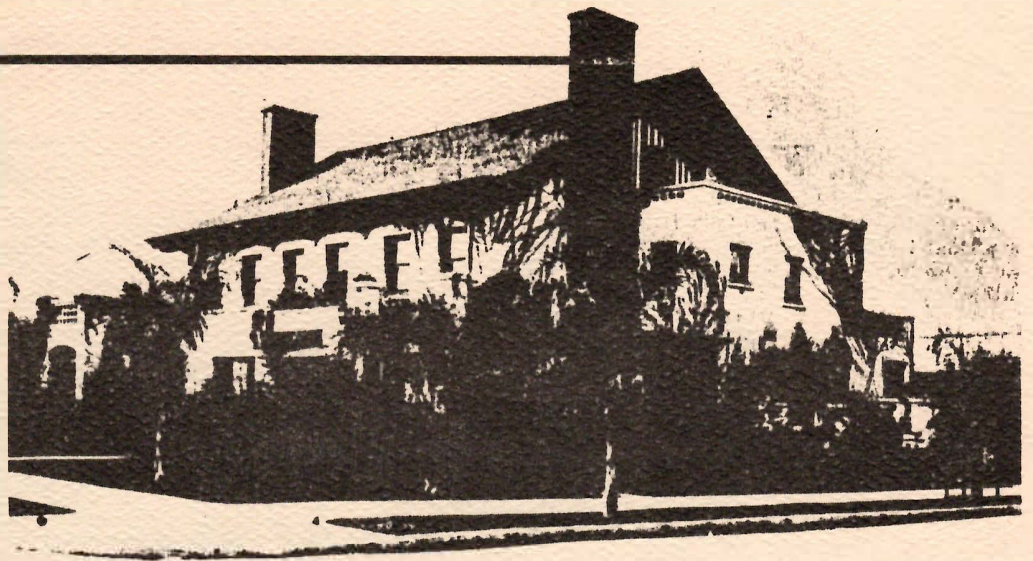
Each received a certificate and a \$1,000 cash prize during the National Trust's 32nd Annual Meeting and Preservation Conference held in Chicago in October.

A panel of eight judges from the American Film Institute, George Washington University, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Smithsonian Institution and the National Trust selected winners from the 33 entries.

One of the winners was Star of India, Iron Lady of the Seas, a 28-minute color film made by KPBS-TV in San Diego, California, and directed by Wayne Smith. The film depicts the history of the 1863 iron-hulled merchant sailing ship and its 30-year restoration, which culminated in an ocean voyage on July 4, 1976. She is now a floating maritime museum in San Diego.

--From News Service, a publication of National Trust for Historic Preservation





Melville Klauber House  
3060 Sixth Avenue

## THE KLAUBER HOUSE NEEDS YOU!

SOHO has become famous for its abilities to work miracles in the field of historic preservation. This has been due to the enthusiasm and support of its many members and the general public. We are now facing a new and dangerous crisis. On Oct. 23rd, the City Council voted to cut the 180 day stay on the demolition of the Klauber house imposed by the Historical Sites Board in half. That means that one of San Diego's greatest architectural treasures could be gone by the end of January next year unless you do something to help.

We have had other interesting buildings endangered before, but the Klauber house is the first building on the National Register of Historic Places locally to be threatened with destruction. Also, the building is to be replaced with a fifteen story highrise on the edge of Balboa Park. Both the destruction of this Nationally Registered structure and the construction of a fifteen story highrise could prove to be devastating precedents for the loss of the aesthetic qualities of our city and our city park.

After the City Council voted to accept the Uptown Community Plan in 1975, many pieces of property were rezoned to conform with this plan. For some reason, three parcels of R4C zoned property along Sixth Avenue (including the Klauber house) were "overlooked" by the zoning department. Now is the time to make them take a second look because this may be only way to save the house. If the property were returned to its original R4 zone the present owner would not be able to build his highrise, and might therefore sell the property at a reasonable price.

Here is how you can help. SOHO has had successful letter writing campaigns in the past. Our letters have successfully stalled the destruction of the Santa Fe Depot and the Grand/Horton Hotel, and have also succeeded in convincing the City Council to restore Horton Plaza and the Electric Fountain. Now is the time to write your elected officials and tell them how you feel about the destruction of this cultural landmark. We would like you to write your own letter, but if you do not have time, at least sign and mail the enclosed letter. Send a copy to the Mayor and your councilman or councilwoman. We can do it again!

--Bruce Kamerling  
FRIENDS OF GILL





## POSITIVE PRESERVATION

Next year will mark SOHO's tenth anniversary and where have those ten years taken us? SOHO and other historically orientated organizations have helped educate the general public of the importance of preserving San Diego's past. Granted we have not won all of the battles in which we engaged, but the SOHO troops have had some great victories in preserving that which in the past has been so easily destroyed.

Miles Parker and his persistence in the saving the Sherman-Gilbert House from becoming a pile of rubble has since seen the transplantation of the house to Heritage Park. Heritage Park has blossomed into the rose garden of San Diego preservation. The Bushyhead House, the Christian House, the Burton House, the Senlis Cottage and the Temple Beth Israel were also transplanted to the San Diego history garden. Funds from the County Parks and Recreation Department that were fertilizing the growth of the garden have been reduced and will have to be replaced with the love, care and financial support of the community.

SOHO and its supporters have seen the Gaslamp Quarter become a reality. Slowly, the buildings of 1900 San Diego are being restored to their original splendor. The two up-coming experimental block streetscapes will help boost the tremendous enthusiasm of those already involved and help pull new interested individuals to the front.

Horton Plaza has received the facelift so badly needed and Irving Gill's fountain is again flowing. Irving Gill and Kate Sessions would be proud of the work that has been done to preserve that part of their lives.

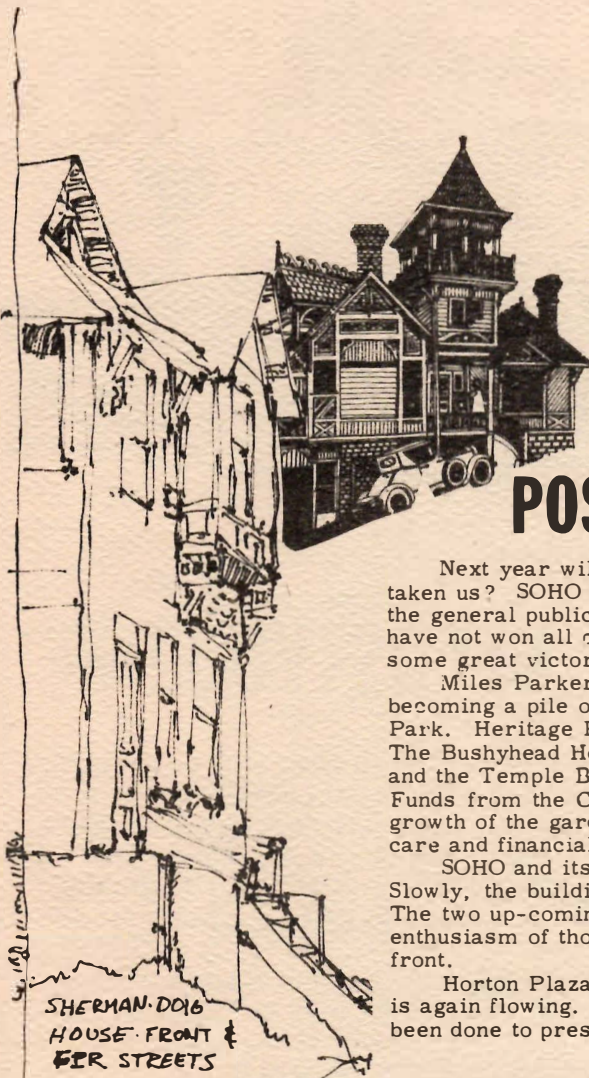
SOHO's outcries for preservation and restoration have been heard by many. The rebirth of historic San Diego can be seen throughout all of the county. Turn-of-the-century buildings are being groomed to perfection.

SOHO's Golden Hill tour showed the beginning stages of the resurrection of one of San Diego's oldest neighborhoods. Individual efforts are to be commended for the saving of many of San Diego's landmarks in history.

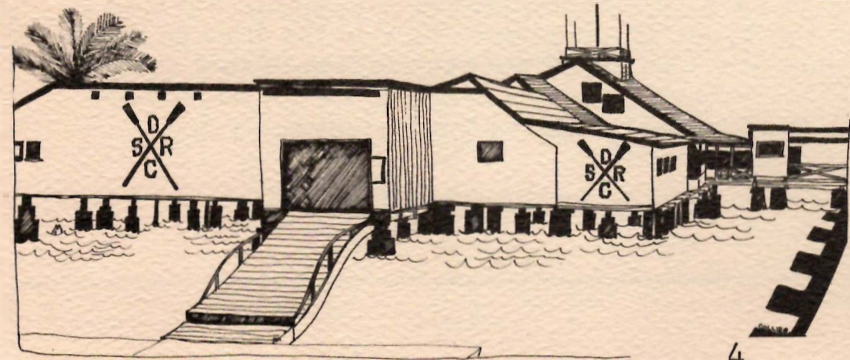
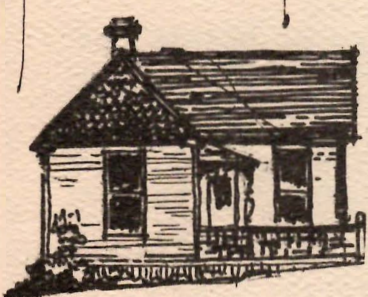
New efforts toward preservation can be seen in action daily. The McConaughy House at Union and Cedar has recently been refurbished to house legal offices in the magnificence of Victoriana, the paint is being stripped from the house at First and Juniper, and the Ford Building will soon open its doors as the new Aerospace Museum.

SOHO and its contemporaries still face some tough battles and the war will go on indefinitely against those who choose to destroy that which we hold to be significant to San Diego's early growth. SOHO has been instrumental in kindling the fire under the decision makers. SOHO has seen great strides taken in preservation and must continue with your support to educate the general public in the benefits of preserving San Diego's past. There are many structures remaining that may become threatened. Your participation in the ranks of SOHO's troops and your continued support can make the difference. You should be proud to be a part of those who care.

--Ted Foley



SHERMAN-DOB  
HOUSE FRONT &  
RER STREETS





## HERITAGE PARK CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

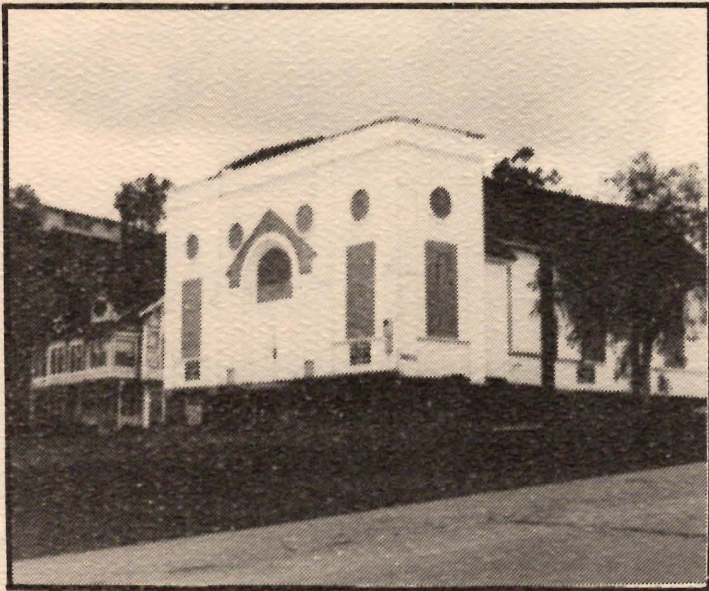


Heritage Park, in Old Town, is SOHO's birthplace, will be our home, and is our ongoing concern. In this spirit, we present regular news briefs on the structures of Heritage Park and the issues surrounding them.

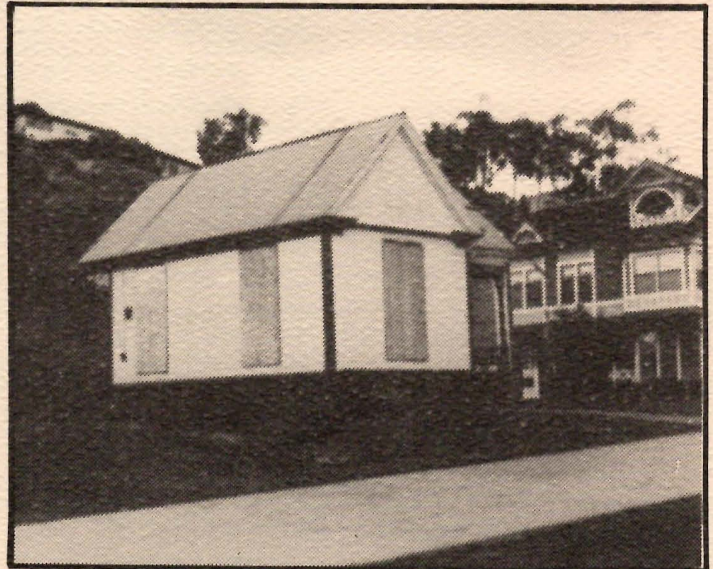
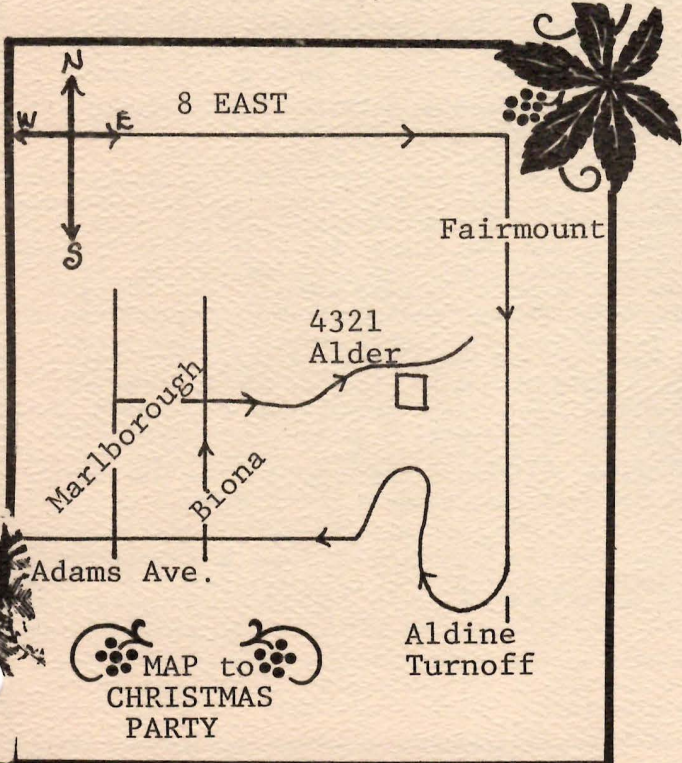
# TEMPLE IS MOVED!

On Thursday, November 2, after a couple of false starts, the aged Temple Beth Israel finally made its way up to Old Town and into Heritage Park, where it is now up on blocks across the way from the Senlis Cottage.

The foundation is being completed and the structure will probably be set down by the time you read this. Plans include making the Temple water tight on its foundation, but, that's where the plans end! The rest is up to us!

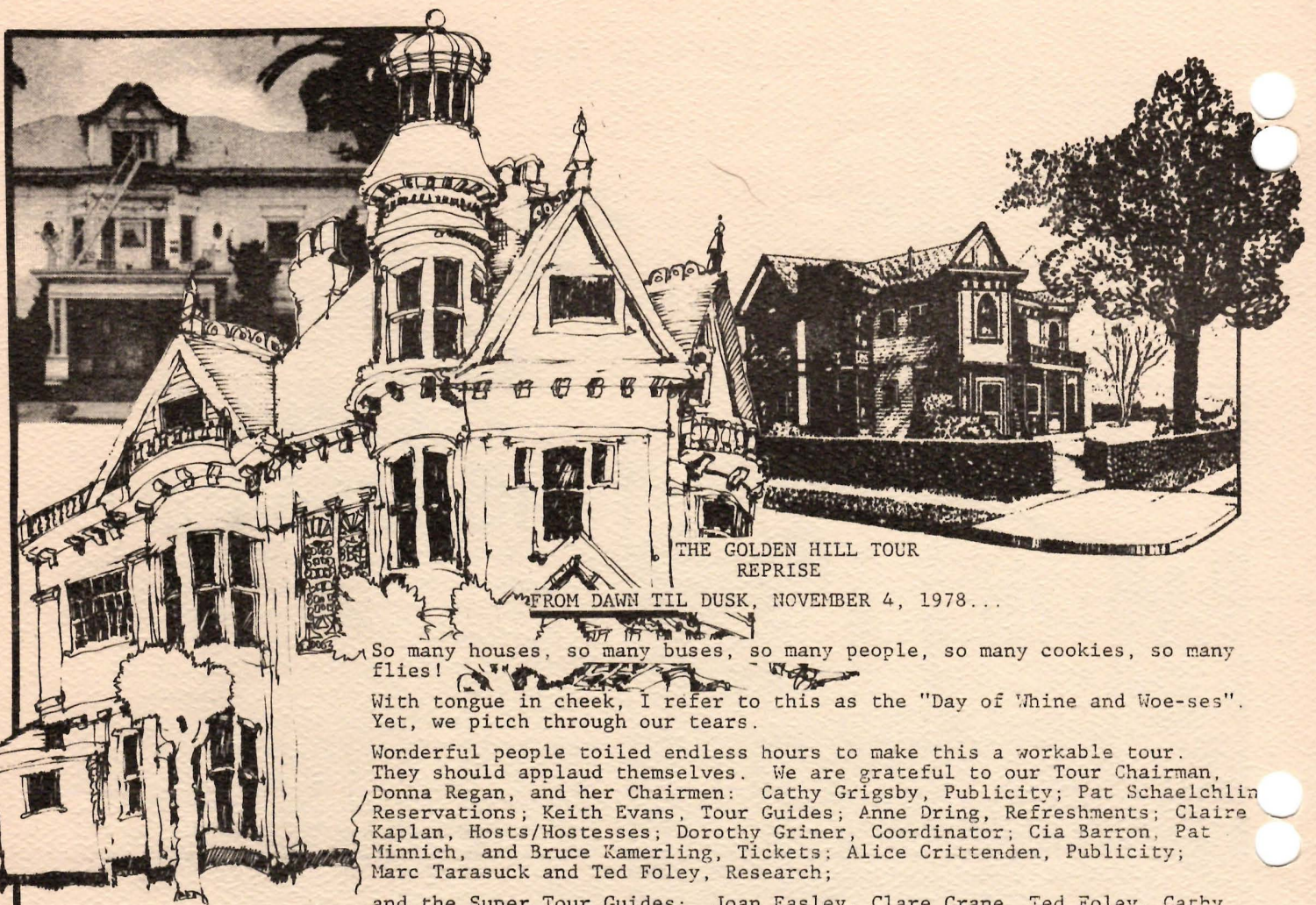


The New Kid on the Block. Up on blocks, the Temple Beth Israel, new arrival in historic Heritage Park.



The Senlis Cottage, still up on blocks, with the Sherman-Gilbert House in the background.





THE GOLDEN HILL TOUR  
REPRISE

FROM DAWN TIL DUSK, NOVEMBER 4, 1978...

So many houses, so many buses, so many people, so many cookies, so many flies!

With tongue in cheek, I refer to this as the "Day of Whine and Woe-ses". Yet, we pitch through our tears.

Wonderful people toiled endless hours to make this a workable tour. They should applaud themselves. We are grateful to our Tour Chairman, Donna Regan, and her Chairmen: Cathy Grigsby, Publicity; Pat Schaelchlin, Reservations; Keith Evans, Tour Guides; Anne Dring, Refreshments; Claire Kaplan, Hosts/Hostesses; Dorothy Griner, Coordinator; Cia Barron, Pat Minnich, and Bruce Kamerling, Tickets; Alice Crittenden, Publicity; Marc Tarasuck and Ted Foley, Research;

and the Super Tour Guides: Joan Easley, Clare Crane, Ted Foley, Cathy Grigsby, Judy McCutcheon, Nick Fintzelberg, Joe Jones, Pat Teaze, Marc Tarasuck, Keith Evans, Carol Lindemulder, and Donna Regan.

The terrific Refreshment Committee: Gini Garrison, Sue Huish, Patrisha Rutledge, Lee Douglas, Ginger Griffith, Karen Sharpe, Tanya Callahan, Arienne Callahan, Peggy Rawlins, Eleanor Ratner, and Pam Fields.

The marvelous House Chairman: Barbara Briggs, Betty Elwell, Jerilyn Jones, Dorothy Griner, Sunny Tarasuck, Marilyn Crehore, Gwen MacFarland, Joan Zeenkov, Jean Thomas, Alice Converse, and Marcie Buckley, and all the great SOHO people who served as Hosts and Hostesses: Ellen Smothers, Virginia Jones, Ralph Jones, Lizz Matto, Jane Wilson, Barbara Klauschie, Robert Klauschie, Ramola McKenney, Mike Cunningham, Michelle Lequin, Martha Atwell, Sandy Fisher, J. Anderson Black, Adele Block, Kathy Danks, Arlene Watters, Judy Newcomer, Sandra Griffin, Mary Ann Wheeler, Linda Kaczur, Laurel McGuire, Robert McGuire, Barbara Biewer, Jean Woodward, Cheryl Lewis, Bianca Studer, Meg Bowman, Monique Bowman, Natalie Mates, Stephanie Degan, Carolyn Turner, Kristi Peterson, JoLynn Kolk, Kenneth Kolk, Ann Breslauer, Pat Hook, Maxine Jones, Betty Fraser, Fran Wager, Mary Hanger, Barbie Goldie, Florence Nagler, Luraine MacLeod, Marion Kamar, Kathy Lehtola, Sue McMillian, Joan Bigge, Alice Crittenden, Marion Kutchins, Margaret Cauthen, Dottie Stamper, Margaret Tuite, Joe Sutter, Phyllis Blum, Margaret Ham, Phil Ham, Dorothy Muth, Carolyn Foushee, Pat Ziebarth, Millie Murphy, Vivian Pollock, Linda Webb, Pat Kettler, Mary Callison, Nancy Mattison, Ron Converse, Cathy McCloud, Suzanne Watson and Dee Smothers.

We also would like to express our appreciation to Bruce & Susan Dammann, Bob & Margaret Summers, The Frost Family, Jean Leonard, Harris & William Bennett, Fred & Judy Newcomer, Michael London, and the San Diego Historical Society.

To all of you tireless SOHO-ers, you deserve a dozen long-stem yellow roses, but inasmuch as we operate on a tight budget, I can only thank you with a warm smile, a handclasp, a slap on the back and a very tight promise that I'll be calling you again...

Though the Tour was a lot of work, it was a labor of love--and it beats ironing.

CLAIRE KAPLAN



# NEWS FROM OTHER PLACES



HISTORIC STRUCTURES  
HOUSE EATERIES

## Historic Tavern Serves Big Macs

The historic Frontier House in Lewistown, N. Y., is once again in business serving food and drink -- this time as a McDonald's Restaurant.

Built in 1825 as a tavern for Joshua Fairbanks and Benjamin and Samuel Barton, prominent local businessmen, the stone building with Federal-style elements once hosted such notables as John L. Sullivan, the Marquis de Lafayette, Jenny Lind and James Fenimore Cooper. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Fires in 1973 and 1975 caused severe damage to the structure but now, following a \$300,000 refurbishing, the exterior has been preserved and the interior features three dining rooms. The McDonald's corporate symbol, golden arches, appears only on a painted sign on the side of the building. The front still boasts the "Frontier House" sign that has been there for years.

A brochure about the property, which is operated by Robert and Yvonne Jones of Lockport, N. Y., is available to visitors. The restaurant manager calls the historic building "an incredible tourist attraction" that draws even international travelers interested in the renovation.

## CORNERSTONE OF PITTSBURGH 'RENAISSANCE' IS RAILROAD DEPOT TURNED RESTAURANT

The Grand Concourse, a 500-seat restaurant in a former train station, is the newest business to open in Pittsburgh's planned \$30 million office, entertainment and shopping center, known as Station Square.

Mayor Richard Caliguiri has dubbed the project "Renaissance II." Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation (PHLF) has leased 40 acres of riverfront land and buildings on them for 50 years and, using money from a family trust, is the sponsor and prime developer of the preservation and re-development project.

The restaurant opened in late spring after owner Charles (Chuck) A. Muer of Michigan spent \$2 million to restore the depot and convert it to its new use. He owns 13 restaurants, including the Gandy Dancer in the old Michigan Central Railroad depot in Ann Arbor, Mich., an 1886 Romanesque granite building; and Engine House No. 5 in an 1880s Gothic stone firehouse in the German Village historic district of Columbus, Ohio.

--From News Service, a publication of National Trust for Historic Preservation





# MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete and return this membership form to:

Save Our Heritage Organisation  
Post Office Box 3571  
San Diego, California 92103

SOHO depends upon membership dues, contributions, and fund raising activities to support our restoration/preservation expenses. Members receive the monthly SOHO Newsletter and invitations to special events. Gift memberships are available and we will send the recipient a card in your name announcing the gift. Memberships and donations are tax deductible. Please join us!

### Membership Categories

- Benefactor . . . . \$1,000.
- Patron . . . . \$100.
- Corporate . . . . \$50.
- Professional . . . . \$25.
- Family . . . . \$12.
- Single . . . . \$8.
- Donation . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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.



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