



# THE S.O.H.O. NEWSLETTER

# REFLECTIONS

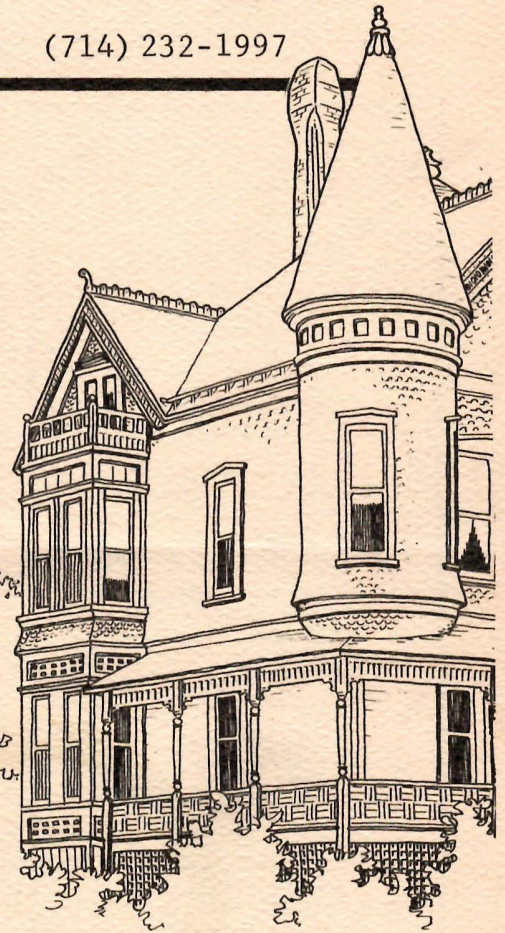
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MARCH 1979

P.O. BOX 3571 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92103

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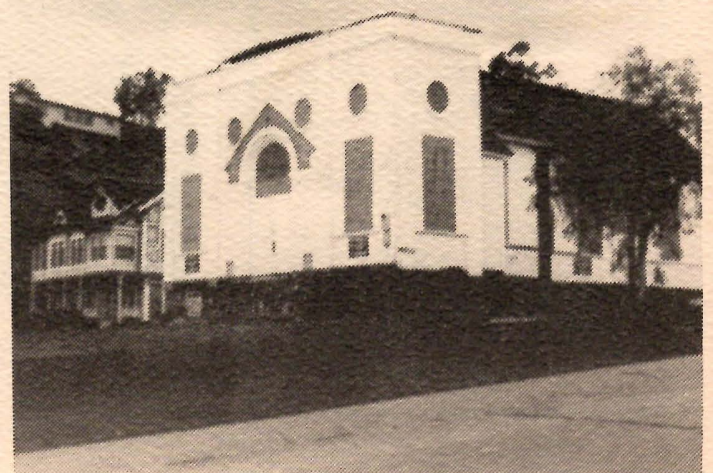
## general meeting in heritage park



On Sunday, March 11, there will be a General Meeting for SOHO's membership from 1 to 3 pm in Heritage Park. Don't miss this chance to see all the buildings in Heritage Park before, after and during renovation. The Burton House, the Sherman-Gilbert House, and the Bushyhead House will all be open for viewing on this day, and the doors will be open at the Christian House, the Senlis Cottage and the Temple Beth Israel so that interested members can look inside to see restoration in progress.

Please bring cookies or favorite goodies to share, and don't forget your recipes for SOHO's 10th Birthday Cookbook. That's Sunday, March 11th, from 1 to 3 at Heritage Park. We'll see you there!

## sunday march 11



# NEWS BRIEFS

## SAN DIEGO ROWING CLUB HOUSE

Letters of urgency have gone from local Congressmen and other advocates to the National Register of Historic Places to plead for speedy action on the application submitted on behalf of the Clubhouse of the San Diego Rowing Club. Built in 1900 by the club that had formed in 1889, the clubhouse has been the continuous home of California's longevity-record-holder among rowing clubs. Never a fancy or pretentious club, SDRC has been a bastion of civic leadership during its lifetime. Where many such organizations and structures once thrived, today even it suffers a dwindling of membership, which some attribute to the loss of its handball courts in the construction of the Port District mole and to the condemnation by the Fire Marshal in December of 1978. SOHO's board party, held there on December 10, was the last official function held in its public rooms.

Rowing facilities remain accessible to members in spite of the condemnation, thereby deferring complete abandonment of the building, which proponents of saving the structure fear would lead to its untimely destruction. Jerry Navarro, ardent advocate for the building, expresses the hope that a suitable tenant may be found to assume responsibility for its preservation and maintenance. He points out that the area is zoned for use by industrial work boats and that tenancy by a marine engineering company could produce desirable adaptive use. Meanwhile, best hopes rest upon a prompt designation of the site by the National Register.

## SOHO'S TENTH BIRTHDAY COOKBOOK

In honor of our 10th Birthday Year, SOHO is collecting recipes from all of its members to be put together into a commemorative cookbook. Please share your favorite recipes with us and be part of this historic 10th Birthday Cookbook -- sure to become a collector's item. Send all recipes to: SOHO Cookbook, P.O. Box 3571, San Diego, CA 92103, and make sure to put your name on your recipe. The Cookbook will be printed in the fall, just in time for everyone to use it for the next holiday season's entertaining!

## NEW MEMBERS

Kathleen Cassidy Pinon  
COL Lane Carlson  
LTC Mary G. McDonald  
Barney & Shirlee Kellen  
William M. Thomas  
Gini Garrison  
Shelley Marie Julianelle

## PILES OF SMILES AT MILES

On Wednesday, January 31, Robert Miles Parker opened his fabulous Victorian home for the first party of SOHO's 10th Birthday Year. The party was attended by original charter members of SOHO and scores of the SOHO faithful over these past 10 years, along with the SOHO past presidents.

City Councilman Bill Mitchell presented Miles with a Resolution from the City Council, signed by Mayor Pete Wilson and all the Council members, commending Miles and SOHO for their continuing efforts on behalf of preservation and restoration in the San Diego community.

Many old-time SOHO members were on hand to witness the presentation of the Resolution and the party, held on the eve of the 10th year of SOHO's formation, was a rousing success!



Robert Miles Parker, right, holds Resolution from the City Council. Among the crowd from left, Architect Homer Delawie, SOHO President Pat Schaelchlin, Councilman Bill Mitchell, and SOHO Board Member Joe Jones.

photo by Peter Kon, courtesy of Applause Magazine.

## SOHO Newsletter REFLECTIONS

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298-2237

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Nick Fintzelberg,  
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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!





# SOHO'S YEARLONG 10<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!



SOHO's Birthday Year was kicked off January 31 at a party at the home of SOHO founder Miles Parker. This year SOHO will be celebrating its tenth anniversary through many activities.

On March 11 the first General Meeting of the year will be held in Heritage Park. All of the Heritage Park buildings will be open for viewing by SOHO members and their guests.

Cathy Grigsby will be giving six free walking tours throughout the County. Her first tour on April 1 will be in Chula Vista. The second tour will take place in the Burlingame area on June 24. The third tour of the Gaslamp Quarter will coincide with a celebration in Horton Plaza and the re-sodding of areas in the Plaza on July 4. The fourth tour will take a look at Del Mar's early beach area cottages on August 26. The fifth tour will survey Balboa Park. The final tour will encompass Golden Hill. These tours will enable us to take a close look at six different areas of the County.

On April 28 SOHO will host the daytime open house at the Designer's Showcase and on May 5 SOHO will host a black-tie optional Birthday Party in the evening.

May 10, 11 and 12 SOHO, under the guidance of Dr. Clare Crane, will provide tours for the preservation conference being held in San Diego.

On June 9 SOHO members will be boarding the SOHO Birthday Train to tour Pasadena. Joan and Jamie Easley, heading up the event, have a terrific tour in store for those who get their reservations in on time.

July 15 will be the day of SOHO's First Annual Invitational Croquet Tournament to be held in the Balboa Park area. SOHO will be challenging the San Diego Historical Society and we hope to pit the City Council against the County Board of Supervisors.

In August SOHO will again host a Bar and Grill tour in downtown San Diego. Touring some of San Diego's oldest and finest bars.

September 16 is the date set for SOHO's General Meeting and Elections.

On October 20 SOHO will celebrate its birthday in Heritage Park. By then many of the buildings will be complete and in operation. The Senlis Cottage, SOHO's home in the Park will be celebrating its grand opening.

The Birthday House Tour will take place on November 10 in the Mission Hills area. This year's House Tour will be a walking tour. The six free walking tours should get you in shape for the big one.

SOHO will wind up its Birthday Year at the Christmas Party on December 15.

All of the events are in celebration of ten successful years of hard work by SOHO Members new and old. Preservation in San Diego has grown through the guidance of SOHO. A surprise Birthday Present from Save Our Heritage Organisation to the community is in the planning stage--its going to be a big one--so be prepared!

Ted Foley

# PRESIDENT'S DESK

SOHO's telephone rings often with requests for information, requests for assistance and involvement and for leadership. It is amazing how well known we are.

In one day, I had a half dozen inquiries from grade school children asking about Golden Hill. They ask "Who lives in the Matthew Sherman house?" "Where can I find information about Charles Haines?" and "Who was Louis Wilde?" They are interested in a school project instigated to learn about a section of early San Diego. Educational inquiries don't just come from grade school children for I have had requests for information from a U. C. S. D. professor. She is conducting a study to determine the economic and social history of Del Mar and wanted our input. And we have been asked to give a lecture to an Adult Education Class at Mt. Helix to emphasize that preservation does work. SOHO is clearly a part of the educational environment.

Calls for assistance have varied from "How can I find a Victorian house in Golden Hill for my office?" and "Where can I apply for funds to help me move and restore an old house?" as well as "How can I get site designation on the house that I am renting so that it won't be torn down?" These inquiries point out the varied needs of people who want to use these historical buildings - historical in the sense that they reflect the architecture of their time.

We also get calls for involvement - the San Diego Museum of Art has asked our participation in a pictorial display of Irving Gill's works. It will be shown at the Museum and SOHO has voted to support a permanent traveling display. The La Jolla Chamber Music Association asked that SOHO be one of the members of the Honorary Committee for their benefit "Naughty Nineties!" We will participate in the May Historical Conference jointly with the San Diego Historical Site Board, San Diego Historical Society, Committee of 100, the City of San Diego, the California Historical Preservation Office, and the Gas Lamp Association. San Diego State University is conducting an oral history program and wants our help.

We have been requested to assist in the raising of money for the restoration of the Temple Beth Israel. The County will not be allocating funds and it is up to the public sector to find some.

We are looked to for leadership and this is important. Such questions from the media as "What does SOHO intend to do about the Klauber House?" and "What buildings will you try to save in the Redevelopment area?" and "What do you intend to do about the loss of houses in San Diego?" come every day.

As the only local organization dedicated to actively preserving our heritage, we are looked to, to initiate that preservation. SOHO has come a long way from that infant group who saved the Sherman-Gilbert House and fought for the creation of Heritage Park. We now realize it isn't enough to carry banners and throw ourselves in front of the bulldozer, crying "Save this house" because they just run over us. We must look beyond the present safety of structures, decide what is important to save and do it before the demolition permit is applied for.

We must urge our City Council to make a statement for preservation. They must realize that property rights must include the right of the people of San Diego to have and to be able to appreciate San Diego's visual heritage not just today but in the future. This is a larger issue than individual property rights.

We commend Councilman Bill Mitchell for his continuing efforts in addressing this problem. We will watch to see the decisions reached by new member Lucy Killea and conservatives Larry Stirling, Fred Schnaubelt, Bill Lowery, Leon L. Williams and Tom Gade. With Maureen O'Connor's absence from the council lineup, we will be interested in who takes her place. The judicious guidance of Mayor Wilson is important for he is the leader of the city and reflects the climate that we must live in.

Our concern is not limited to the City Council but also the County Supervisors. Supervisors Bates and Hedgecock have intelligently considered all of the county's preservation matters. We need to enlist the assistance of Supervisors Hamilton, Moore, and Taylor.

We are concerned with the decisions of the Planning Commission for they decide zoning and that is one of the starting places for loss or preservation. We watch the Redevelopment agencies for their sweep clean architectural philosophy destroys our heritage. They must be educated towards architectural preservation and creative planning.

Our elected Council Members, and Supervisors must realize that they are subject to their constituents. SOHO, the Historical Site Board and the San Diego Historical Society have received many phone calls regarding the Klauber House. The public sector does not want it lost. There is a large population out there trying to make their wishes known.

SOHO must ask questions. Such as "Why must the Washington Street footbridge be demolished so that a cement one can be built?" It would cost less to repair the existing bridge. It would be significantly faster to repair it. The bridge is used by many senior citizens who may not have the time to wait for a new footbridge --especially if they use the Washington Street crossing. We must also ask why the City has allowed this bridge to become what it is today, a hazard for usage. We could also ask why the Horton Plaza Fountain had minimal care so that it needed almost \$100,000 to put it back in operation. These are house keeping chores that the City should be doing and it is our responsibility to ask why they are not done. It just isn't good economics to spend more money to tear things down when they could be more cheaply repaired - OR look ahead and don't let it deteriorate.

cont. p.7

## LETTERS

In the SOHO newsletter of February appears a picture of the Torrey Pines Lodge "where Ellen Browning Scripps remembered playing as a child."

Any playing Ellen Browning Scripps did as a child was in England where she was born in 1836. She did not arrive in La Jolla until she was 60.

Clifford L. Graves, M. D.

Letter sent by City Councilman Larry Stirling to Assemblyman Larry Kapiloff on December 14, 1978:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your recent letter to Mayor Wilson regarding the possible destruction of the Klauber House.

I, too, am concerned with preserving this historical site and others within our City. Amending state law to provide a tax break for historical buildings would enhance preservation efforts. Would you consider introducing such a bill in the State Assembly?

I look forward to receiving your comments on my proposal.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Larry Stirling

# GILL SHOW OPENS AT MUSEUM

A show on San Diego architect Irving J. Gill will open at the San Diego Museum of Art in Balboa Park on Saturday, March 31. The show will run to May 20, and will feature over 20 original drawings, paintings and presentation renderings by Irving Gill, along with pieces of Gill-designed furniture from the Wheeler J. Bailey House in La Jolla, built by Gill in 1907. One of the drawings to be exhibited is his drawing of the Garretson House, his first project in San Diego. The show will span his entire career, including his last project on the Rancho Barona Indian Reservation where Gill designed a chapel and twelve cottages in 1932-33.

Born in 1870 in New York State, Gill went to Chicago in 1891 to work in the famous architectural firm of Alder and Sullivan along with another young architect, Frank Lloyd Wright.

In 1893, Gill travelled to San Diego, and in 1897, became a partner with William Hebbard, a prominent San Diego architect. Their partnership lasted for ten years, but Gill became more interested in a simpler adobe mission style of building.

In 1907, he joined with a second partner, this time Frank Mead, who had studied the indigenous architecture of Africa. The firm of Gill and Mead built the Klauber House, the Bailey House, and the Allen House in Bonita during their one year partnership, but then Gill went out on his own again, developing his almost cubist modern style. He designed houses using primarily the straight line, arch, cube and circle -- at a time when Picasso and Braque were developing cubism in painting in Europe. He also worked closely with horticulturist Kate Sessions, and together integrated the designs of home and gardens.

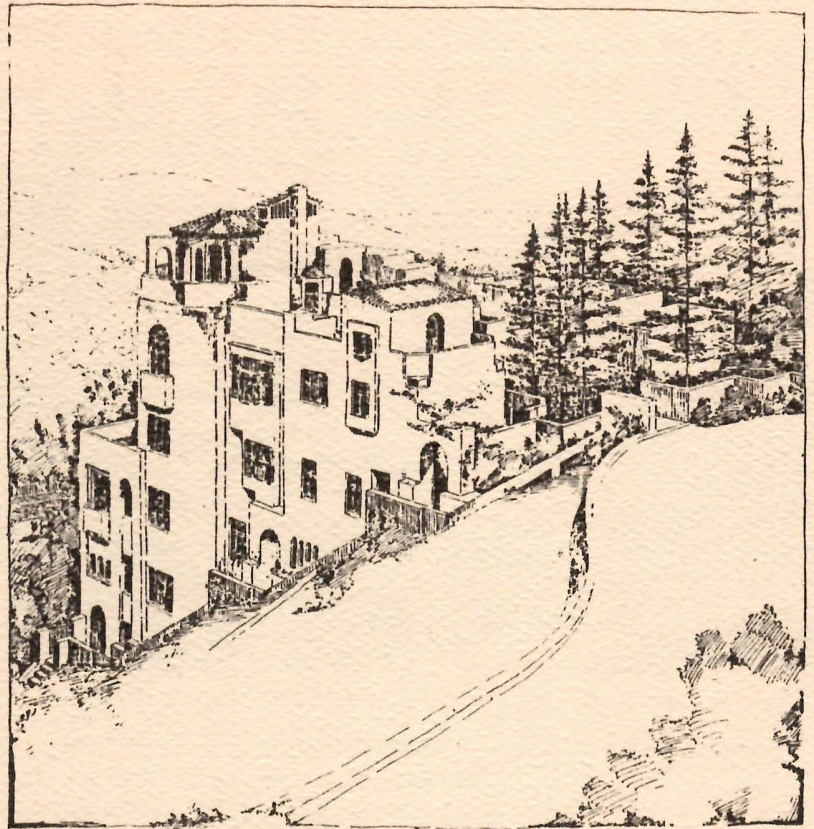
Irving Gill was prominent until 1915, when the Exposition in Balboa Park brought with it the fad of Spanish Colonial architecture. Gill went to Los Angeles to seek work and never regained his former popularity. He died in Carlsbad in 1936, but had influenced a whole generation of architects, among them Richard S. Requa, Hazel Waterman, and his nephew Louis Gill.

The Gill Show opens with a reception for Museum members and members of the sponsoring organizations on Friday, March 30th, at the San Diego Museum of Art, Balboa Park. Bruce Kamerling, a SOHO past president and one of the founders of Friends of Gill, is guest curator for the Show. Call the Museum for details.

Carole Collier Frick

## NOTICE

Due to increased operating expenses, SOHO has had to raise its membership dues. A single membership is now \$10 per year, and a family membership is \$15 per year. All other categories will remain the same.



APARTMENT COMPLEX — SKETCH BY IRVING GILL

This interesting drawing was found among Gill's papers deposited in The Art Galleries, University of California, Santa Barbara. It was probably a project drawing and never built. There are others in the collection revealing design trends never realized in construction.



As the membership of SOHO continues to grow, the goals of our organization and the needs of fellow members will change. One of the ever increasing needs of our members is to be able to access information concerning the restoration and preservation of historically significant structures. SOHO is responding to this need by establishing a library to which our members can refer in order to research preservation and restoration techniques; to identify architectural styles and methods of construction of historical structures; and to learn skills that might be needed by those repairing their own older homes.

Right now, our library is young and small. It will grow to consist of a collection of valuable resource materials that are useful to all of its members. Books, pamphlets, journal issues, etc., pertinent to the goals of the collection are being purchased. Of course, donations as well as suggestions are always welcome.

Future newsletters will provide you with informational reviews of materials now in the library. Watch for them! The library is located in SOHO's office on Market Street.

Karen Sharpe, Librarian



The Richards-Dupee/Burham-Van Ness House.  
photo courtesy of: Historical Collection,  
Title Insurance & Trust

# DESIGNERS SHOWCASE 1979

Opening day of the Designers Showcase Saturday, April 28th, will be hosted by members of SOHO from 12 to 5 P.M. The sixth annual Showcase is a joint project of the San Diego Historical Society and the American Society of Interior Designers.

Located at 1015 Ocean Blvd., the palatial mansion is the largest in Coronado. This 20,600 sq. ft. house features 27 rooms, including a ballroom, billiard room, music room, 17 bedrooms, 12 bathrooms, service and public rooms. Several of the rooms have ceilings overlaid with 24 karat gold.

If you would enjoy participating as a host or hostess on SOHO day, please phone me (286-8836) no later than March 20th.

Claire Kaplan, Chairman  
Host/Hostess Committee

## Claire Crane's Continuing California Classics

### "TWELVE WHO SHAPED SAN DIEGO" RETURNS TO THE AIR

Biographies of twelve significant individuals who shaped San Diego will be broadcast on KPBS-FM (89.5) Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m., starting March 4th. These programs, first aired last fall, are being repeated by popular demand. Funding for the project came from a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The twelve men and women profiled in the series illustrate the development of San Diego from the time Cabrillo first set foot on our shores in 1542, to the dedication of a statue commemorating that event at Cabrillo National Monument four hundred years later. Following the Cabrillo program, successive Sunday afternoon broadcasts will focus on Father Serra, Henry Fitch, Jose Estudillo, Louis Rose, Alonzo Horton, John Spreckels, Kate Sessions, Ellen Scripps, William Kettner, Edward Fletcher, and George Marston. These twelve were chosen as subjects for this series not because they were the only important individuals in San Diego's past, but because they represent the courage and compassion, the imagination and initiative, of the many thousands whose lives have made our city what it is today.

After a short biographical sketch of the subject, each program broadens into a discussion of what life was like in San Diego at that time, and how the impact of that person shaped the city's development. Producer Peter Hamlin and Historical Consultant Clare Crane bring the past vividly alive as they interview experts in various fields. More than fifty guests participated in this series of programs, including University professors Iris Engstrand, Paul Ezell, Ray Brandes, and James Moriarty; historian Richard Pourade; biographer Elizabeth MacPhail; City Attorney John Witt; Councilwoman Lucy Killea; Senator James Mills; Architect Sam Hamill; Preservationist Bea Evenson; civic leaders Frank Curran, Lee Grissom, Ed Fletcher Jr., and Hamilton Marston.

A fifty-page Resource Guide, including a brief outline of each program, bibliographic suggestions for further study, and a complete list of program participants, may be ordered from KPBS-FM. Tape-recorded cassettes of the programs may also be ordered.

Join us on Sunday afternoons for a stimulating exploration of local history, and meet "Twelve Who Shaped San Diego."

### SAN DIEGO: SUCCESSFUL FAILURE!

In 1975, the Christian Science Monitor selected San Diego as one of the ten most livable cities in the United States. It earned that distinction, according to the Monitor, because its founders failed in their dreams to turn it into a great railroad and industrial center, and the major commercial port on the West Coast. Today, therefore, although San Diego is the U.S.'s ninth largest city, it is world-famed for its parks and beaches, its climate, and its controversial leadership in the managed urban growth movement. The colorful story of our city's development from 1850 to the present will be the subject of a short course in San Diego History, subtitled "From Gaslight to Space Flight." Four slide-lecture programs, presented by local historian Clare Crane, will be held in the auditorium of the Centre City Community College Adult Center, 1400 Park Blvd. The class begins March 7th at 9:00 am. For registration information, call 231-6745.

## HERITAGE PARK CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



# BUSHYHEAD HOUSE ALMOST COMPLETED

Heritage Park is galloping along at a snail's pace. Latest developments indicate the Bushyhead House is almost completely renovated. Al and Gladys Folkman are in the process of looking for retail tenants for the upstairs, and Gladys will be operating a "Gifts for Men" shop downstairs. She has also begun the arduous task of investigating the possibilities of recreating an 1887 kitchen atmosphere where one may purchase baked goods, candy, a cup of coffee or cold lemonade.

The Men's Shop will consist of three rooms; each room will attempt to give the viewer the illusion that he has stepped back into a parlor, dining room or gentleman's den of yesteryear.

The Bushyhead House, built in 1887, represents the stick style of architecture, so named because of the use of wooden boards attached to the structure giving it definitive horizontal and vertical lines. The house was originally located at 232 Cedar Street until August of 1976 when Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) raised funds to have it moved to Heritage Park. It now stands at 2460 Heritage Park Row.

--From San Diego History News of February, 1979, a publication of the San Diego Historical Society

## President's Message cont from p. 4

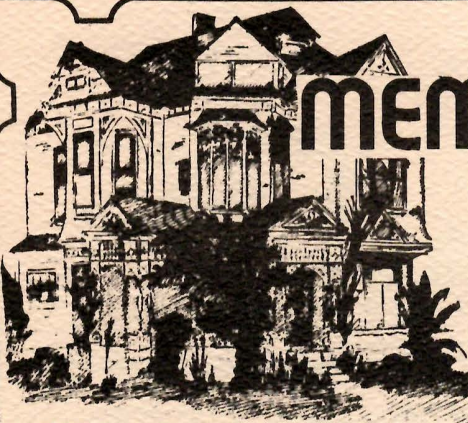
SOHO can't just indulge in asking questions and demanding actions. We must take the initiative and find solutions. The Klauber House will not be "saved" until someone owns it who will care for it. We are actively looking for that person. We will be doing a survey of a part of the city this year to determine what historical properties are there. We will be pushing for stronger support for the Historical Site Board for it is here that the first legal strength begins. We will be ready to recognize problems and to meet them with alternatives.

SOHO is moving into its second decade, and like the females, we have come a long way. Our prime house keeping chore will be to become more solvent so that we can move into our Heritage Park Senlis Cottage and have a paid staff. SOHO is just becoming too important and active to keep operating with a box number and a telephone answering service. We are receiving attention in that our Reflection articles are being reprinted in national publications. We are being noticed outside of San Diego.

I spoke with James Biddle, President of the National Trust, and Bill Sagawa of the West Coast National Trust office when they visited San Diego recently. I asked how we could obtain funds to accomplish our goals and they have both given valuable advice. I have talked with members of other like groups who have made it and their suggestions were offered. We are moving ahead and soon may be in a position to more effectively and efficiently operate.

But SOHO is not just policy and efficiency - it is heart and all the people who care about their heritage. It is people who voice their concern in whispers and shouts; people who join and work with us. Preservation is not a fad - it is an ongoing working art form, in need of all of us. Let's help.

Pat Schaelchlin



# 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!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- Benefactor . . . . . \$1,000.
- Patron . . . . . \$100.
- Corporate . . . . . \$50.
- Professional . . . . . \$25.
- Family . . . . . \$15.
- Single . . . . . \$10.
- Donation . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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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