



THE S.O.H.O. NEWSLETTER

REFLECTIONS

VOL. XII NO. 10

OCT. 1980

P.O. BOX 3571 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92103

SOHO MEETING IN HERITAGE PARK



SOHOO was proud to re-elect Carol Lindemulder president for another term. In addition Lindemulder was awarded "The SOHO Lady", a revolving award given to the volunteer who has put out the most work. Lindemulder said that in 1980-1981 SOHO would continue its efforts to save historical sites in San Diego, specifically the National Register Sites in Horton Plaza, the Rowing Club, and the Belmont Roller Coaster. Within the organization, new projects slated for the coming business year would include a new brochure for membership promotion, coordination of a volunteer placement committee, and setting up SOHO in its new location in Heritage Park, Senlis Cottage. In addition, Jan Kitchel announced some of the tours slated for the coming year which include a "kitchen tour" in Banker's Hill and a tour of National City's Victorians. Joan Easley appealed to SOHO members to search their "attics" for furnishings and artifacts which may be donated to the Senlis Cottage.



KAMERLING BECOMES CURATOR

Bruce Kamerling has been promoted to Curator of Collections for the San Diego Historical Society effective August.

Kamerling, 29, has served as the Society's Registrar and Exhibits Designer for the past year. As curator, Kamerling will be responsible for helping coordinate the Society's move to the soon to be completed Electric Building in Balboa Park which will become a new urban museum on the city of San Diego.

A native of Detroit, Kamerling is a past president of SOHO and a founding member of the Friends of Gill, a group formed to encourage appreciation for the work of the San Diego architect, Irving Gill, and a member of the Western Association of Art Conservators, and the Decorative Arts Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians.

A talented artist and sculptor whose works have won awards locally, Kamerling attended San Diego City schools and San Diego State University with a major in art history.

SOHO Newsletter REFLECTIONS

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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!



SENLIS COTTAGE FURNISHINGS

EASLY DONE

Soho Board Member Joan Easley requests members for Senlis Cottage necessities....

As you who were at the Annual Meeting know, we're close to our long awaited move into Senlis Cottage at Heritage Park. We have tried to use our limited funds wisely for the necessities to be operational as soon as the cottage is open to us, but we have lots of needs, which we hope the members can find in their (or their Aunt Elfie's) attic.

Specifically, we need: library shelving — anyone have some oak bookcases?

Sturdy smallish tables for office machines and card catalogues.

Rugs — 9' x 12' and smaller. American-oriental types would be suitable.

Desk lamp — to put on the good oak desk we hope someone can spare.

Vitrine or glass-doored bookcase for sale items.

Interesting turn-of-the-century artifacts.

If you have goodies you would like to share, call Joan Easley 295 or Carol Lindemulder. Our time frame is late 19th century to World War I, most of our furnishings are oak.

**an interview
with former
soho president,
BRUCE
KAMERLING**

by Eleanor Ratner Bolen

An urban history museum

run by the San Diego Historical Society, is slated to be the main tenant after the rebuilt Electric Building is completed. The Electric Building shell is scheduled to be finished in March 1981, but the museum won't be completed for another two years. The former home of the San Diego Aerospace Museum, along Balboa Park's El Prado, was completely destroyed by fire on Feb. 22, 1978, but because reconstruction had been slated, pieces of the facade were already removed for recasting.

The new building will be an exact reproduction of the Canadian Building of the 1915-16 Panama-California Exposition (later the Electric Building of the 1935-36 California-Pacific International Exposition), according to Bruce Kamerling, new curator for the San Diego Historical Society. The building has not yet been renamed.

Kamerling said that the new museum is also still unnamed and that the lease has not been finalized with the city. However, he said, the museum, which will show the relationship between Balboa Park and the City of San Diego, is slated to have 37,000 sq. ft, comprising two floors on the east end of the more than 100,000 sq. ft building.

The museum space will include a basement research center open to the public, a main floor exhibit area, a museum shop, and an auditorium. San Diego Historical Society headquarters will move from the Serra Museum to mezzanine offices.

Kamerling, a past SOHO president, was appointed curator of the San Diego Historical Society collections this past August. He will be responsible for the collections at the Serra Museum, Villa Montezuma, the new Balboa Park museum, and eventually the Marston House.

The museum will tie Balboa Park to San Diego area development. For example, the park served as a Navy base during both World Wars. The exhibits will also relate San Diego history to the country as a whole: the effect of the Depression and Work Project Administration (WPA) projects; cultural, social, and economic history; area artists, musicians, etc.

One gallery will showcase changing exhibits from around the country and from the museum archives. The Historical Society's collection includes many architectural renderings and the largest local historical photo collection with more than 200,000 images. The Title & Trust Insurance (T&T) photo collection was deeded to the San Diego Historical Society last year. The archives now at T&T and at the Serra Museum will be consolidated in the basement research center open to the public.

A children's museum will feature hands-on exhibits (a hand-crank telephone to talk across the room, a coffee grinder, a telegraph), children's historical costumes, and toys.

Two people are now working exclusively on the Historical Society's enormous clothing collection, with its hundreds of items, in preparation for display.


Transportation is another possible exhibit. The Historical Society owns a Model T Ford, a surrey, and a high-wheel bicycle. Street car 54 once parked alongside the Whaley House in Old Town was moved into the new museum before the walls went up. The car, which is on permanent loan from the San Diego Railway Historical Association, was used from 1902 to 1914 downtown. In fact, four of the original trolley cars were cut in half and combined to form two city street cars. A stage coach was also moved from the Serra Museum to the new building.



Kamerling said that the Serra Museum will be devoted exclusively to the Spanish Colonial/Mexican period. (It now contains artifacts from a mixture of periods for want of space.) The Villa Montezuma will remain a living museum of the Victorian era. The Marston House will be restored as a typical home of 1904 through 1906 Craftsman architecture. The new Balboa Park museum will show Alonzo Horton's new town from the 1880s boom era through World War II.

Still other possible exhibits include Alonzo Horton's bedroom furniture, 14 by 20 ft tall WPA murals, and the story of San Diego water development illustrated with pieces of viaduct.

Opening of the Marston House remains unscheduled. In 1976, Mary Marston, daughter of George W. Marston, deeded her home, designed by Irving Gill, to the City of San Diego under the stipulation that she could live there throughout her lifetime and that the house would be operated by the San Diego Historical Society. Ms. Marston is now age 101.

Most of the exhibits in the new Balboa Park museum will be displayed for the first time. They have been stacked in a 6000 sq. ft warehouse and represent more than 50 years of donations to the San Diego Historical Society. 

Kamerling and Electric Building photos
contributed by the S.D. Hist. Soc.



OCTOBER



- Friday, Oct. 3
2:00 PM Public meeting for the Business Improvement District
Gaslamp Quarter Theatre/547 Fourth Avenue
- Monday, Oct. 6
7:30 PM SOHO Board Meeting
For more information call 297-9327 (new number at time
of writing) (1st Monday each month)
- Tuesday, Oct. 7
9:00 AM Historical Site Board, City of San Diego
4th Floor, City Administration Building
(1st Tuesday each month)
- Thursday, Oct. 9
9:30 AM Volunteer meeting, Gaslamp Quarter Association
Association Office/652 Fifth Avenue
Call 233-5227 for more information
- Saturday, Oct. 11
7:00 AM SOHO TOUR TO HOLLYWOOD
Meeting Place: Santa Fe Station
(Reservation only)
- Monday, Oct. 13
7:30 PM Uptown Planners
Call 299-4832 for more information
(2nd Monday each month)
- Tuesday, Oct. 14
7:00 PM Heritage Park Merchant's Association
Heritage Park Restaurant/Old Town
(2nd Tuesday each month)
- Saturday, Oct. 18
8:00 PM An Evening at the Gaslamp Saloon and Gambling Hall
Includes a raffle and an auction
Basement of the I. O. O. F. Hall/ 6th and Market St.
- Tuesday, Oct. 21
12 NOON San Diego Historical Society Board
Villa Montezuma
(3rd Tuesday each month)
- Wednesday, Oct. 22
3:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting (open to public)
Gaslamp Quarter Association
Call 233-5227 for more information
- Saturday, Oct. 25
8:00 AM SOHO TOUR TO REDLANDS' VICTORIANS
Meeting place - Robinson's East Parking lot in Mission
Valley (Reservations only)
- Saturday, Oct. 25
11:00 AM Grand opening of the restored Frank Kimball House and
Dedication of Heritage Square
Celebration complete with Dixieland Band
Kimball Brick Row/National City
- Every Friday
12 Noon Free tours of the Gaslamp District
Gaslamp Association Office/652 Fifth Avenue
Call 233-5227 for more information

Happy Halloween!

NEW MEMBERS

Ellen Ehlers Barbara D. Straker
Joe & June Orlando Gigi Schiff
Dona D. Sharp Dian Joralmon
 Kimberly A. Erickson
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Wagner

DONATIONS

Robert & Dorothy Cleary
Mr. & Mrs. Rush Canon
 Mary Vaughn
To help stop City-side:
Robert & Virginia Thorsen



GRAND OPENING SLATED FOR KIMBALL HOUSE

Mayor Kile Morgan invites you to the dedication of National City's Heritage Square and the Grand Opening of the restored Frank Kimball House (circa 1868), Saturday, October 25th, 1980, 11-12 Noon. Dixieland band, ice cream, etc., location of the Kimball Brick Row. Heritage Square is located on A Avenue, directly north of Plaza Blvd. Take the 8th Street exit from I-5 south, or the Plaza Blvd., exit from 805.

HISTORICAL SITE BOARD MEMBERS NAMED

Mayor Pete Wilson announced the following new appointments to the city's Historical Site Board: (area residence in parenthesis)

- Lyle Gabrielson, 40, an official of the Rick Engineering Company of San Diego. (Navajo)
- Thomas Atkinson, 60, president of the engineering firm of Atkinson, Johnson & Spurrier. (Morena)
- Paul Robinson, 33, former aide to the Mayor and a land-use attorney with the firm of Worley, McDonald & Hecht. (Kensington)
- Estelle Milch, 42, community activist, including Junior League of San Diego. (Kensington)

The appointments, for terms of two years, are subject to confirmation by the City Council on Monday, Sept. 29, 1980. In addition, Wilson has designated board member Katharine Rosenberry, a Scripps Ranch attorney, as the new chairman of the board.

Terms of Pat Schaelchlin, Richard Mitchell and Richard Reed had expired. Richard Bundy resigned. Named for new terms on the board were Dorothy Jean Rudd (Mission Hills), Patricia Dwinell (La Jolla), and Katharine Rosenberry.

The Historical Site Board advises the Mayor and City Council on historical preservation and is empowered to declare significant structures historic landmarks to help prevent their destruction.



SOHO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES NEW MEMBERS

The following people will serve as members on SOHO's Ways and Means Committee: Lois Haselton, Gwen McFarland, Harry Evans, Pat Schaelchlin, Alice Crittenden, Jan Kitchel and Sally Johns. Serving as resource persons will be: Bruce Herms, Joan Easley, Cathy Grigsby, and Nick Fintzelberg.



A LAWN FOR A VICTORIAN GARDEN

In restoring the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion and grounds in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, they wanted everything in and around this 1859 vintage Norman Gothic style "villa" (as it was called then) to be as it was in its heyday, so people could see and study the life-style of the era. Therefore even the shrubs, flowers and grasses were being chosen with meticulous attention to literature of that period.

After diligent searching, an authentic Victorian mixture (38% Rhode Island Bentgrass, 31% Red Top, 13% Creeping Bentgrass, 9% Timothy, 6% Common Kentucky Bluegrass, 3% White Clover) was put together by Scott.



CORRECTION

Please note that the use of the word "walkabout" in the August newsletter referred simply to taking a stroll. It did not refer to an activity sponsored by Walkabout International.

NEWS BRIEFS

Susan Woodridge, the Architectural Historian hired by the NAVY, has determined that the SHORE PATROL BUILDING is eligible for the National Register.....

THE COASTAL COMMISSION made the recommendation to the Port District: that they include THE ROWING CLUB in their master plan as a site on the NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER; that they solicit individuals interested in restoring the building; and that they secure the building for the safety of the public and the preservation of the boathouse.

THE CITY COUNCIL voted unanimously on a resolution requesting that the Port District preserve the building and solicit parties interested in restoration. 78th District Assemblyman LARRY KAPILOFF sent a letter to the Council in support of this restoration..... Downtown, THE JEWETT HOTEL, at 4th and A, is proposed as a site of demolition.

A bank building is slated for this location..... THE HAMILTON-KIER BUILDING, at 3rd and F, suffered a major fire. Several firemen were injured.

Arson is suspected. The FIRE DEPARTMENT requested that CCDC improve security for those buildings acquired by the agency.....The owners of the

McCONAUGHY HOUSE, Historical Site # 114, at Union and Cedar, are asking that the house be relocated to Heritage Park for continued use as professional offices.....HERITAGE PARK will be having some new residents. In the CHRISTIAN HOUSE, the Heritage Park Restaurant has a new chef, Jon Jividen.

New specialties include a savory: shrimp gevoudan, fillet of sole served with avocado butter, tornadoes a la moelle, and veal saltimbocca.....

Downstairs in the BURTON HOUSE will be a specialty shop carrying handmade wear for infants, particularly baptismal outfits. Upstairs, Arlys Rapp is taking special orders for old-fashioned, bisque dolls with real hair and hand-made clothes.....While in the BUSHYHEAD

HOUSE, the three grandmothers running Granny's Goodies are featuring special hand-dipped chocolates and cookies designed for Halloween.....In the SHERMAN-GILBERT HOUSE, The Art Collector October Art Exhibit is a Casteneda Black Onyx Sculpture show.

SOHO'S STRENGTH DEPENDS ON NUMBERS

A LETTER FROM HARRY EVANS
1979-1980 SOHO TREASURER

SOHO is the only active preservation group in San Diego which has made any progress against the destruction of usable attractive old buildings. More than any other organization, it has put its money and its sweat into creating Heritage Park which is gaining national fame. It was the spawning ground of the small group which bought and saved the Villa Montezuma. Never has SOHO been more effective than it is today.

Yet, SOHO is in trouble. Week by week just a few more members drop off than are coming on. Almost no dollars have been added to our treasury this year--everything collected has been going for current expenses. We have cut out all cutable costs in order to concentrate our resources on preventing yet another good "rehab" from being demolished.

SOHO does not receive public funds and it shows in our actions. Can you imagine a public fund supported group taking on Pete Wilson and the Center City Development Corporation?

What's wrong, then? In my opinion, what's wrong is that as individual members we are not recruiting our friends to join SOHO. We should carry membership applications wherever we go, just in case. We need more fund raising events and more people to run them. So far our tours are calculated just to break even, and a lot of non-members get a bargain. We have to start charging a good deal more. We should raise our minimum dues.

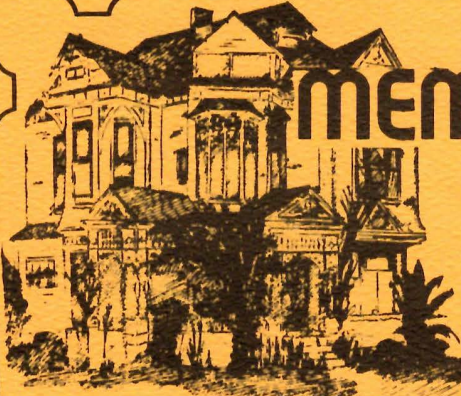
We must ask for support on every hand--couldn't we furnish the SOHO office with donated furniture? Can't we publish a list of books and periodicals we need so that people can give them to us?

Oddly, preservation doesn't seem to appeal to the rich. The laws (and the people we elect to implement them) are all tilted in favor of the developers. Our crusade has enlisted the small (I mean small) business men, retirees, teachers, students, artists, social workers, and the like, few of whom ever attend charity balls.

Our strength must depend on numbers, not just a few fat cats. It is not too late to reform ourselves. There is still much to be done. What we need are people who are really dedicated to save what the city has left for ourselves and for generations yet to come. We need you, friend.

You can't do it for ten bucks a year!





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	\$15.
Single	\$10.
Donation	\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Add my name to your Volunteer List _____
I prefer the following types of activities: _____

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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