



THE S.O.H.O. NEWSLETTER

REFLECTIONS

VOL. XII NO. 12

DEC. 1980

P.O. BOX 3571 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92103



A Merry Christmas

SOHO ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 21, 1980

7:00 til 10:00 P.M.

The Louis Bank of Commerce Building
(formerly the Ratner Building)
835 5th Avenue

Thank you for bringing one tray of appetizers.

You are cordially invited to SOHO's Annual Christmas Party to be held this year at the Louis Bank of Commerce Building, thanks to the kind invitation of Donald Reeves. This 1888 Victorian building is one of San Diego's most prominent historical buildings.

First owned by businessman, Isador Louis, it was designed by architects Stannard and Clements and built by J.R. Harding.

Those wishing to serve as hostesses may call Claire Kaplan at 286-8836.

The Senlis Cottage needs volunteers on Saturdays. Volunteers greet visitors and provide information on preservation.

Why not volunteer one Saturday per month? Individuals or couples welcome.

SOHO
Newsletter
REFLECTIONS

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Kathy Cogen

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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!



DECEMBER



- Monday, Dec. 1
7:30 PM SOHO Board Meeting. At home of Sally Johns, 1062 Albion Street, Point Loma. (First Monday each month)
- Tuesday, Dec. 2
1 PM Historical Site Board, City of San Diego
5th floor Conference Room, City Administration Building
- Friday, Dec. 5
5 PM Heritage Park - Holiday Open House - Refreshments
NOTE: The previously announced SOHO Christmas Party for Dec. 5 has been changed to Dec. 21. See separate article.
- Sunday, Dec. 7
Noon - 7 PM Mission Hills Third Annual Christmas Walk
(See separate article)
- Monday, Dec. 8
7:30 PM Uptown Planners. Central Federal Savings, 610 West Washington. Call 296-2577 for more information.
- Tuesday, Dec. 9
7:00 PM Heritage Park Merchants' Association. Heritage Park Restaurant. (2nd Tuesday each month)
- Tuesday, Dec. 16
12 Noon San Diego Historical Society Board
Villa Montezuma (3rd Tuesday each month)
- Wednesday, Dec. 17
3 PM Gaslamp Quarter Association Board Meeting
Grand Pacific Hotel, 5th & J.
- Sunday, Dec. 21
7 PM SOHO CHRISTMAS PARTY
Ratner Building, 835 Fifth St.



FROM THE BOARD ROOM

At the November Board Meeting, members agreed to pursue looking into taking two facade easements: one for a cottage in Coronado and another in the Mission Cliff area (near the Trolley Barn Site.) The Board determined future rules for accepting facade easements.

The date of the Christmas party was changed to December 21, (formerly scheduled December 5th.) Additionally, the public open house festivities for the new Senlis Cottage were postponed until after the first of the year.

There was a presentation by Peter Todd and his wife, who are interested in finding an old building to be the subject of a TV series in the mode of the KPBS program, This Old House. It is their intent to emphasize the history of the house as well as the restoration process. Suggestions are now being sought by Mr. Todd for the subject property. Those with ideas are urged to contact SOHO President Carol Lindemulder at 295-6188.

January Tour:

The Victorians of National City

VINTAGE VICTORIANS VIEWED

A half dozen vintage Victorian structures will be viewed when SOHO tours National City on January 24. Among sites toured will be Heritage Square (see story below), the George Kimball House, the White Castle, and the Granger Music Hall.

Participants will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the east parking lot of Robinsons, Mission Valley. The tour is limited to 300. Tickets must be obtained beforehand. Send checks, along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: SOHO, PO Box 3571, San Diego, CA 92103. Tickets will be \$9 for members; \$11 for nonmembers. Call SOHO at 222-3148 for further information.

Volunteers to host, please call Claire Kaplan at 583-4640; volunteers for tour guides or to help with the tour pamphlet, please call Jan Kitchel at 233-3560, evenings.

WHEN NATIONAL CITY OPENED ITS HISTORICAL PARK, SOHO WRITER ELEANOR RATNER BOLEN WAS THERE...

A Dixieland band, officials in top hats and tailcoats, ice cream, balloons, and a row of vintage cars marked the dedication festivities for Heritage Square, a unique historical district in National City. The ceremony on Oct. 25, 1980 signified work that actually began with the 1974 National City community plan when Mayor Kile Morgan and the Community Development Commission applied for federal grants to redevelop the area between Plaza and 8th Avenues at A Street.

The Kimball House, focal point of the park, was built in 1868, four years after the Monitor and the Merrimac and 30 years before the Brooklyn Bridge. The owner, Frank A. Kimball, was not only founder of National City, but all of the South Bay. He purchased 30,000 acres for \$26,000 and started a dream of building a city. He donated many acres to the city for churches, the library, a school, and a cemetery.

The Kimball House will be open to the public on weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A family that lives on the upper floor will lead tours.

The museum housed in the Kimball House is representative of the Victorian life style when Frank Kimball and his wife Sarah owned the property. The restored house has American-Victorian furnishings purchased mainly in San Francisco; however, the bedroom set was owned by the Kimballs.

Across the street, the Kimball Brick Row is patterned after 19th century Philadelphia row houses. This 10-unit structure remains in its original location, where it housed railroad executives. (National City was the first West Coast terminus of the railroad, predating Los Angeles or San Francisco.) Built in 1887 through 1888 by the Kimball brothers, the row house is the only known structure of its type on the West Coast. R. C. Ball was the architect. Individual owners are restoring the units; the structure is listed with the National Register of Historic Places.

Construction of Heritage Square meant tearing out houses between the two main structures to make way for a paved walkway and landscaped minipark. The Rice-Proctor House and the Crandall-Ennis House, located on either side of the Kimball House, were moved from other parts of the city.

The Rice-Proctor House to the south was built in approximately 1887. The Crandall-Ennis House to the north was built in 1879.



a montage of Victorians from San Diego



art work - Miles Parker

story - Kathy Cogen



EDNA'S: It's the end of the year, a time when we catch ourselves looking back. Funny how old houses can become momentos. They give us ties to the past. They help us understand the way things used to be. So often, surrounded by dirt lots or framed-in construction they stand there sadly abandoned --- out of place and out of time. Once a place for the living, they are reduced to shells of memories destined for demolition.

It was through the September Reflections that Miles learned of Edna's death. They were both original SOHO members, lived near each other, talked to each other - and listened. "She used to come over for dinner now and then," said Miles with a distant look. He looked out of the kitchen of his old Victorian house as though towards the direction where Edna used to live. "She was a remarkable woman. She really was. The nicest thing about her was her ability to be non-judgemental. You could have a completely different view and she was able to listen to it and still accept you as a person."

"And she was funny, too," Miles went on. "The way she related to getting old. Sometimes when she talked her wig would get crooked and she'd straighten it up with a comment on the inconvenience of losing one's hair at her age."

Miles gave me the art work he had done. There were two pieces: one of Edna sitting in her living room, Good Friday, the last day she lived in the house; and the other of the house itself. I was glad Miles drew Edna's house. Several days later it was demolished.



SOHO SALE ITEMS

"BLOCK PARTY" JAZZ RECORD: Recorded live at the SOHO downtown Block Party, in 1974. Musicians - five of the West Coast all time famous jazz musicians. This record is a collectors item, donated to SOHO for fund-raising by the musicians/recording company. The cover shows the Land Title Building, no longer standing, where the event was held, and contains the story of the Party, and SOHO's efforts to save historic buildings in the downtown renewal process. \$5.95.

SOHO GLASSES: These glasses are also a collectors item, as there are no more available, and no likelihood that these designs can be reproduced. There are still 7 designs available, each by a different San Diego artist, and of a different historic building. Christian House (Heritage Park Restaurant), Burton House (Heritage Park), Miles Parker's residence, Front Street, Matthew Sherman House (no longer standing), Santa Fe Depot, Britt-Scripps House (Britt House Bed N' Breakfast), Long-Waterman House (Parker Industries, First & Kalmia), Villa Montezuma (Sherman Heights, owned by the San Diego Historical Society). \$2.50 each.

SAVE THE HORTON Posters: an original drawing, reprinted, by SOHO Founder Robert Miles Parker, and used for donation sales and City Council hearings to save this structure, in the path of downtown redevelopment. Currently it is hoped that this structure can be moved and rebuilt from the original materials on some site in Gaslamp. This is not an assured way of saving the building, now condemned by the Center City Development Corporation.

Building: The Horton Grand Hotel, on the National Register of Historic Places. A collectors item, as a drawing, and as the building may one day be gone. \$10.00 each.

"CONSERVING ENERGY IN HISTORIC BUILDINGS" Pamphlet: A current pamphlet discussing energy saving methods in restoring/using historic or older structures. \$3.00 each.

SOHO BUMPER STICKERS: "SOHO SAVES". A purchase and use of this sticker will help SOHO get our message out to others in the community, and help raise money for our continuing efforts in preservation. House depicted is the Sherman Gilbert House, the first SOHO project. \$1.00.

VICTORIAN PLANTER BOXES: Original design boxes donated to SOHO for fund-raising. These wooden boxes are excellent for outdoor plants as they retain the minerals within the wood just as normal redwood boxes do. They also show your friends your interest in Victorian preservation. Priced as marked.

VICTORIAN/CAR PLAQUES: These unique plaques were also donated by the same artist who made the Planter boxes; there are only a few, and they would make delightful childrens room decorations. Priced as marked.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS: Donated to SOHO by a member, for fund-raising; all are handmade crochet by Mrs. F. G. Lindemulder, and would decorate an appropriate Old-Fashioned Christmas Tree. Included are stuffed Santas, stockings to put money in, ice-skates, poinsettias and others. Also available (while they last) a 15" Mr. & Mrs. Santa just right for a table decoration. Most ornaments 3 to 5 inches. Priced as marked.



DONATIONS

David M. Miller, Jr.
Leone O. Lindemulder
Mr. & Mrs. Will Rudd
F. N. & Sarah W. Spiess
COL L. Carlson
Dorothy East
Karla Holford

NEW MEMBERS

Sharon Almond
Deborah J. Black



GRANNY'S GOODIES

The aroma of pumpkin bread baking in Granny's Goodies kitchen has filled the Bushyhead House this fall. Now Granny Herta is sharing her family recipe for Stollen (German Christmas cake) which is bound to be a hit with us all. Granny will also prepare fruit cakes as well as continue with her cookies, carrot cakes, hand-dipped chocolates and gift items.



CHRISTMAS WALK IN MISSION HILLS

The merchants of Mission Hills cordially invite you to their Third Annual Christmas Walk and Open House, Sunday, December 7th, from 12 Noon until 7 PM.

many will offer refreshments as well as hospitality. Please come and enjoy the wide variety of shops and merchandise in Mission Hills.



FOR SALE

Twenty-five old-fashioned doors and hardware are for sale. Dates range from 1910-1930. Interested persons are asked to call the La Mesa Historical Society at 460-3726.



OLD SCRIPPS LABORATORY

The Old Scripps Laboratory, built by architect Irving Gill, is currently being restored. Located at the renowned Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the building is undergoing two phases of work. The first phase has just been completed.

The Scripps building is open to the public. For tours, or more information, interested parties are asked to call 453-0373 or 453-0334.

Those wishing to make donations to this preservation project are encouraged to send checks to:

Old Scripps Restoration Fund
UCSD Foundation, Q-011
La Jolla, CA 92093

All contributions are tax deductible.

Gracious Living Survives



TOUR TO REDLANDS

The SOHO bus tour to Redlands on October 25 started off inauspiciously; we stood around for half an hour while Goodall's looked around for a bus that would get us there. We were off on a beautiful day that remained so throughout the tour.

We arrived at the A. B. Smiley Public Library only ten minutes late and were met by the archivist, Dr. Larry Burgess, who must know every building in Redlands and most of the people.

The Library has suffered superficially at the hands of several city councils (what else is new?) but it is very close now to being in its original state. There is an interesting memorial building to Abraham Lincoln on the grounds.

After that we took off in all directions to see great houses and great little houses. Dr. Burgess was at pains to give us the flavor of Redlands and its movers over the years, not just facades. Under his tutelage, we saw just what some of those old timers were aiming at; those who had the money, the time, and the benign temperament to do the generous thing.

Luckily for us all, Redlands has retained the ambiance of gracious living and, although the in-town orange groves are making way for \$125,000 boxes, enough remains to give us a glimpse of another era to which we hungrily hark back.

The Kimberly Crest House is still in probate, and the Morey House (my favorite) has just been sold to a couple of rich young men who are restoring it so we didn't get into them. To make up for the lack, we toured Burgess' own home--the Fisk House, which is on the National Register and stands in its own orange grove. It is a large delightful home beautifully furnished and maintained by Larry and Charlotte Burgess.

We toured surrounding countryside, seeing the site of the original Brookside Winery, Asistencia of San Gabriel Mission, unusual farm houses and the early irrigation canal, the campus of Redlands University. Lunch was eaten in a beautiful little park and we were conducted to a near-by view point for an overview of the whole valley and mountains. On the way out of town we visited the Edwards Mansion which was moved out of town, restored and is now a restaurant; and had a quick look at the neighboring County Museum. At four p.m. the bus turned toward home.

Nettie Scarry did a great job as food chairman; Jan Kitchel took on transportation.

On the first Sunday in December every year Redlands puts on an Open House when a number of fine houses can be toured. Maybe next year some one can plan a trip to go again on that date.

--Harry Evans

NEWS BRIEFS

The BOARD OF SUPERVISORS voted to accept the McCONAGHY HOUSE as an addition to HERITAGE PARK. Action is pending their decision on whether to amend the number of structures allowable within the Master Plan. In LA MESA, the HISTORIC SITES PRESERVATION COMMITTEE presented drafts of an historic preservation element and a cultural resources management ordinance. Groups working on behalf of preservation in La Mesa would like to see a designated historic area. The city has applied for a grant to do an HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY. The HISTORIC SITES BOARD of San Diego designated the MARAN HOTEL, in the Gaslamp District, as an historic site. They also designated the HAWTHORNE-PLAINSMAN HOTEL (at Hawthorne and First) as an historic site. On behalf of the Historic Sites Board, KATHERINE ROSENBERY, together with JERRY TRIMBLE and BILL NELSON of San Diegan's, Inc., are exploring the possibility of raising funds to restore the BALBOA THEATRE. SAN DIEGANS FOR THE ROWING CLUBHOUSE, INC., has gone before the CITY COUNCILS OF CORONADO, CHULA VISTA, IMPERIAL BEACH, and NATIONAL CITY. It requested a resolution giving all reasonable consideration to any proposal for the commercial rehabilitation of the Rowing Club boathouse. The Resolution serves to reflect the concern of these Councils for the preservation of historic buildings. The boathouse is the only National Register Site in the tidelands area. The San Diego City Council has already issued such a resolution. The RFP is now available for Mission Beach Park (Belmont Park). Potential developers may contact BOB KRUGER at 236-6927 (the City's property department.) Proposals may be submitted which preserve the Roller Coaster. There has been a lawsuit preventing the demolition of the four historic structures in HORTON PLAZA. The lawsuit, continuing through December, was brought to court last month. The GASLAMP QUARTER is planning a NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTMAS PARTY for Senior Citizens. For more information call 233-5227. Also in the Gaslamp Quarter, the Avant Garde 552 GALLERY will be featuring the art work of Marjorie Nopelman. The 552 Gallery, located at 552 Fifth Avenue, is situated in a building undergoing renovation. WALKING TOURS of the GASLAMP QUARTER are now being held Fridays, 12 Noon-1, and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - Noon. Tours are free. In HERITAGE PARK, merchants will be having a HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5th from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. The grand Victorians will be open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Visitors to Heritage Park would be well advised to check out the Christmas Stollens made in GRANNY'S GOODIES, the bakery at the Bushyhead House. In the SIERMAN-GILBERT HOUSE, the ART COLLECTOR'S December Exhibit features watercolors by Sherry Andrews.

NOTICE

The Knights of Pythias Building was determined eligible and was recommended for the National Register by the State Historical Resources Commission on Nov. 14.



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

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