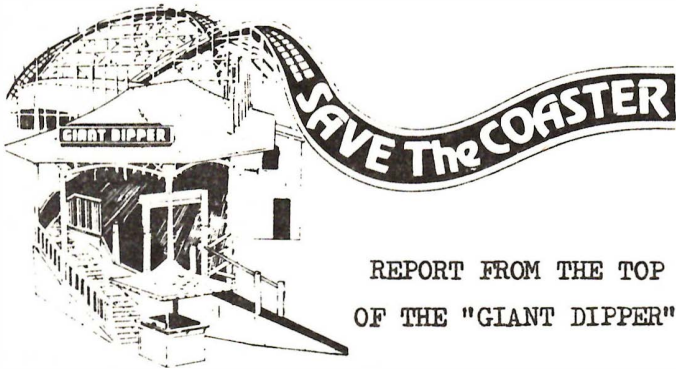




# REFLECTIONS

THE S.O.H.O NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1983 VOL.XV NO.VII



REPORT FROM THE TOP  
OF THE "GIANT DIPPER"

It has nothing to do with "double dipping" as I'm sure most of you know. Our most recent endeavor at fund raising was the June 18th "Historic Walking Tour of Mission Beach." A resounding success, our only complaints came from the folks who couldn't get loose to join the crowd. Organized, spearheaded, and directed by our own Coaster Carol (known to you as Lindemulder and to the City bureaucracy by a host of nom de plumes), the event was polished, informative, and very interesting. Mission Beach has heretofore been of little interest historically, though it contains many colorful nuances.

Among the homes visited were the Babcock House (1958: the most significant contemporary design in Mission Beach), Ken Kellogg's house (1938: an unique blend of eclectic beach architecture), a Victorian (train?) station moved to the area in 1939, a 1924 beach cottage, and the 1925 home of the first operator of the Plunge building.

The inbetweens, of course, are numerous and interesting, since the houses are close together. Density is over 40 units to the acre. It is in the plan to do this tour over again in the early fall and perhaps add more tours on a regular basis. Watch for the announcements....

On the main stream, the restoration of the Earthquake roller coaster is gathering much steam in the organizational and fund-raising stages. The American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE) are nationally organized and rabid preservationists; their letters, checks, and help in locating information and missing pieces are great stories for another time.

We are planning to open the project on weekends, giving on site tours, as well as having some of our meetings combined with beach parties! The weather at the beach has been outrageous! And, of course, the view from the top of the Coaster, a full 40 feet above the height limitation, is spectacular.

—by Norm Starr



Editor's Note:

One of the best ways to promote awareness of this interesting renovation, directly aid the arduous fundraising effort, cover up your recent sunburn, and display the casual yet elegant taste that Californians are known for is to buy a "SAVE THE COASTER" T shirt. They are available in all sizes and many colors, either from the Roller Coaster Cafe (across from the Earthquake itself) or by calling Judy Swink at (619) 488-8916.

—Loch David Crane (new Editor)

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"GOOD OLD DAYS" LIVE AGAIN IN THE  
"FOOTBRIDGES TO FORTUNE" TOUR

The past will come alive again on Saturday October 22, 1983 as SOHO leads a walking tour through the Banker's Hill area of San Diego. It will be a day of seeing how your rich great-uncle might have lived, viewing houses, fashions, and cars from the turn of the century, hearing the music of the day, and eating the food.

The whole neighborhood of Banker's Hill, which borders the west side of Balboa Park, is a well preserved time capsule of craftsman-style architecture from the era immediately preceding World War I. Such noted architects as Irving Gill, Richard Requa, William Sterling Hebbard, Carleton Winslow Sr. (head architect of the Panama-California Exposition), and Emmor Brooke Weaver are heavily represented. Five houses and one garden will be open for viewing during two-hour walking tours starting at 10 am and 1 pm. The open houses, which range from 1908 to 1920, are prime examples of the roots of modern architectural design.

The five-mile route will cross two canyon bridges, including the Spruce Street Suspension Bridge, which was built to give residents easier access to the street car line which ran down Fourth Avenue. About 40 other structures will also be covered.

As they enter the grand finale party, participants will be greeted by a display of antique autos. Then, they'll be startled by the panoramic view of San Diego Bay below the wide, sweeping lawn of the party site.

Views of Point Loma, Navy ships, and the Coronado Islands will provide a backdrop for period entertainment. The City Guard Band,

40 members strong, will play authentic turn-of-the-century music in the morning, and the 50-member Sun Harbor Chorus will perform barbershop quartet songs in the afternoon. Even the sense of taste will be tantalized with hot dogs, lemonade, and baked goods.

Participants will also compare how top local artists interpret the architecture. A different artist will draw each open house. The drawings will be showcased in a collector's item program, or party guests can buy inexpensive souvenir prints and bid for the originals in a silent auction.

Admission to the party and tour is \$10 for prepaid admission (prior to September 22); \$12.50 after that date. Reservations will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis and may be sent to SOHO, Dept. 00, PO Box 3571, San Diego, CA 92103 due October 14. Please include address, phone, and time preference (am or pm). For further information, call SOHO at (619) 297-9327.



SAN DIEGO: FROM MISSION TO METROPOLIS

Learn about the exciting history and development of San Diego, from earliest settlement to present status as seventh largest city in the United States, in a course beginning Wednesday, August 24th. Presented by the San Diego Community College District and the College of the Emeriti, the course is a part of the colleges' fall semester offerings.

The class, titled "San Diego Urban History," will meet Wednesday mornings 8:30 to 11:30 am, starting August 24, in the activity room at LION'S MANOR, 310 Market St., in San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter. The story of the city's development will be presented through slide lectures, guest speakers, and field trips to historic sites such as Mission San Diego, the Presidio excavations, Old Town, Villa Montezuma, Heritage Park, Gaslamp Quarter, Julian, and Cuyamaca State Park. Emphasis will be placed on San Diego's colorful personalities as well as on geographic and economic factors that shaped the city. Instructor for the class is Dr. Clare Crane, local historian, consultant, and SOHO Board Member.

This course may be taken for college credit or for personal enrichment. Registration takes place the first day of class, August, at LION'S MANOR, 310 Market St. Classes are tuition-free for residents of San Diego City and County. For additional information, call Dean Linder's office, San Diego City College, at 230-2529.

REFLECTIONS

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## HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TO PRESERVE HISTORICAL AMBIANCE

The 1983 California Historic Preservation Conference, held at Orange County's Chapman College May 5-8, was a well organized offering of historic preservation workshops and tours. There were concurrent sessions in politics and planning, construction and design, old house restoration, neighborhood conservation, commercial rehabilitation, and cultural resource management. Each session lasted over a two day period, and hosted a good selection of guest speakers and panel discussions.

I selected the neighborhood conservation sessions and shared ideas of neighborhood organizing with other preservation groups.

Some of the stronger ideas gleaned from these workshops to organize your neighborhood into action:

### A. Recognize signs of deterioration:

Widened streets

Mixed zoning

Building use which does not contribute to the ambiance of the neighborhood

Closed, boarded up homes

Signs of disrespect for property

### B. Accomplish a survey: see what number and kinds of institutions, factories, businesses, and residences exist there.

Make up maps showing relationships of institutions, residences, businesses.

Bring people in from other neighborhoods on small tours. Show residents there is an interest in the neighborhood.

Sponsor renovation workshops in the area featuring experts; have varied seminars open to the public to attract interest to the area.

Organize a Neighborhood Watch.

Organize a neighborhood arbitration board made up of an impartial peer group.

A Mural program in parks, on walls, reflects how people feel about their neighborhood.

Walk up and down streets, knock on doors, talk face to face with residents.

Set up a Neighborhood Association with its stationery showing the association's logo.

Establish open communication with politicians—know whom they are and whom to call.

B. FUNDRAISING IDEAS. Have a variety of fundraisers to attract different segments of the local population and stimulate interest. How about a Mother's Day home tour? Have small but steady fundraising activities.

Develop ongoing relationships with members of the press for coverage of fundraisers, public events, workshops.

—Cathy Grigsby

## HAVE YOU HEARD? —by Clare Kaplan

MY FRIEND TRUDIE: At 82 years young, Trudie Casper maintains a pace that would keep a teenager hopping. She is copy editor of the History News of the San Diego Historical Society, and also one of the editors of oral interviews conducted for the Society's research library. Among the works written by Trudie are "The Blochman Saga," "The Case of the Missing Book of Hours," and "San Diego's Open Forum—Birth and Death." She has edited a two-part interview with the late Jerry MacMullen (San Diego's newspaperman of distinction) "An Uncommon Man." Bravo Trudie!

MR. PRESIDENT: The newly elected President of the San Diego Historical Society, Harry Evans, has many goals to achieve in his term of office. Harry plans to get SOHO and the Historical Society together in mutual objectives. Another goal is to complete a capital improvements campaign on the Museum of San Diego History in the Casa de Balboa. Harry plans to emphasize a history lecture series headed by Dr. Nicholas Fintzelberg, a Past President of both the Historical Society and SOHO. We're proud to note that Harry Evans was a charter member of SOHO, and served many years on the board.

GREETINGS! SOHO wants YOU! SOHO needs YOU! Co-Chairpersons Eleanor and Bill Bolen are hard at work formulating plans for SOHO's Tour of Banker's Hill on Saturday, October 22nd. To date, they have obtained permission to visit five homes and one fabulous garden in that area. To continue our reputation of conducting the greatest tours, WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to act as host/hostess, tour guides, docents, refreshment servers and sellers, greeters, merchandisers, and hot dog aides. We have had wonderful response so far but we need more people to assist in making this another great SOHO event! WE NEED YOU! Please don't wait until the last month. . . call now. Leave your name and number at the SOHO Cottage (297-9327). We'll call you back and answer any questions as to the how, when, where, and even WHY. Remember, it's always a joy to be involved with SOHO. . . .

☆ TRACING HISTORY AND PUMPING IRON ☆☆☆☆

If the above are your hobbies, we need your help for some heavy lifting! ALSO NEEDED: A TRUCK. Owner not need be the same as above. What does all this mean? Wayne Gilbert has offered his band organ for the October home tour. All we need is to get it there from Poway! Truck must be heavy duty, with a power lift gate. Call Bill Bolen, 268-3847.





# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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

### 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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