



REFLECTIONS

THE S.O.H.O NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1984 VOL XVI NO.IX

Horton Plaza Saved Again

After literally thousands of hours of work by our President, Mary Joralmon and architect Wayne Donaldson and several others the City Council has finally decided to accept the plan offered by the Save Our Heritage Organization with some slight modifications. At the council meeting speakers were limited because of the time. However, the overall tone of the meeting was positive. Mayor Roger Hedgecock held up a huge stack of "postcard" and referred to the response the organization is getting from its membership. (A big thank you to every member who returned the postcards) With comments opened to the Council members, Uvaldo Martinez begrudgingly admitted his support for the SOHO plan because of the "Time and Money" issue. He felt the Halprin plan would take too long to complete and interfere with the opening of the Hahn Shopping Mall. He made the comment that he didn't feel money should make the proper decision on what to do with Horton Plaza. And he is right Historical Significance should. Although this reporter didn't get the impression he meant that. Councilman Murphy has some problems with the raised curbs and the bollards and chains; so did Bill Mitchell. After several questions to Ron Buckley, secretary to the Historical Site Board, the issue remained unresolved. The State Office of

Historic Preservation has stated that these items must remain for the park to retain eligibility for National Historic Site designation. Mayor Hedgecock refer to Horton Plaza as this city's first open space and historic gathering place. He stood firm on his commitment for a pure historic restoration of Horton Plaza by refusing to compromise on the raised curb, bollards and chains. While time ran short the discussion turned to comprises on the bollards and chains: move them, use them only on the corners, leave the bollards and remove the chains, leave the raised curb but remove the bollards. And on and on it went until no decision could be made.

LAST MINUTE UPDATE;

Horton Plaza will be restored its historical integrity and remain eligible for the National Registry of Historic Places by vote of the city council on November 5, 1984. The motion was made by Councilman Mitchell with support from Mayor Hedgecock. Councilmen Murphy and Martinez were the only dissenting votes.

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NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Francisco
Deirdre Lee & Lee Shouse
Clyde N. Sutton
Judith & Walter Munk
Rev. Sheryl Chicoine
Gregory R. Best
Dr. Judith Meyers
Jim & Jerry Ray

DONATIONS

Jeffrey E. Hunt
Helen M. Blanchard
Mrs. Allan S. Klauber
Ron & Marlene Buckley
Clyde N. Sutton
Tom Fetter
Paula Stober & Bill Bucklen



Memberships and donations make wonderful gifts and are tax-deductible! Call 297-9327 for further information.

REFLECTIONS

Michael Sullivan Editor

SOHO OFFICERS

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
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| Joe Jones | Vice-President |
| Robert Miles Parker | V.P. Govt Affairs |
| Bruce Herms | V.P. of Education |
| Paula Stober | Secretary |
| David Goldberg | Treasurer |

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Alternates

Sally Johns Elsie Spangler

Save Our Heritage Organisation

P.O. Box 3571, San Diego, California 92103
619/297-9327

The SOHO newsletter, *Reflections*, is published monthly. Letters to the editor and contributions are welcome.

Deadline is the 15th of each month prior to publication.

LETTERS

March 15, 1984

Ms. Mary S. Joralman, President
Save Our Heritage Organisation
P.O. Box 3571
San Diego, California 92103

Dear Mary;

Thank you for the letter expressing SOHO's position on the Halprin proposal for Horton Plaza.

Your recommendations are logical, sensitive, and appropriate to the development. Horton Plaza Park revitalization should be viewed as an opportunity, not as an unsavory obstacle.

By copy of this letter, I am expressing my support of your position to the Mayor and Executive Vice President of CCDC.

Sincerely,

BILL MITCHELL



news briefs...

HOUSE TO GO

That cute little pink house on Cedar Street in little Italy is about to go.

The owners have other plans for the property and the little house must go. The owners have asked SOHO to run this article to allow someone to save some of our heritage. The address is 434 W. Cedar Street between State and Columbia Sts. and the owners may be reached at 457-2770. Ask for Mary Ann Chase.



MEMBERSHIP QUIZ

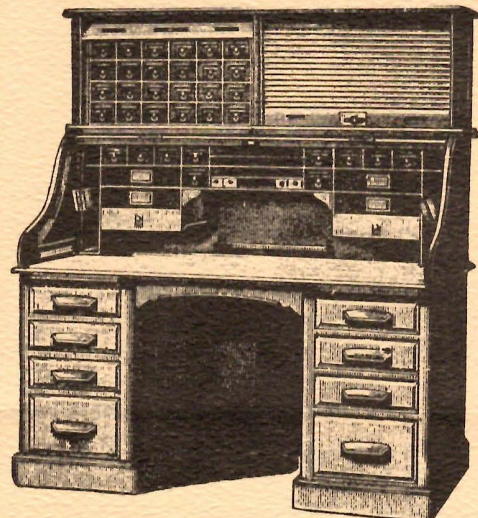
SOHO is experiencing a rebirth. We have many new board members (see September newsletter) and a new director of development, Dot Brovarney. As individual members with an interest in the preservation of San Diego's architectural heritage, you are vital to SOHO's future growth.

PLEASE take a few minutes to share your thoughts and interests with us by completing the enclosed questionnaire AND RETURNING IT IN THE MAIL.

NEW EDITOR

INTRODUCTION

It's a new year for SOHO, a new board of directors, new officers, and once again a new newsletter editor. It's going to be a great challenge for me to follow in the footsteps of our previous editors, Nancy Roberts-Sullivan and Judy McCutcheon. Nancy and Judy have provided the inspiration for my undertaking of the editorship of REFLECTIONS. Their work has been exemplary and above reproach. Following their example of excellence and with my own aggressive style and glib tongue, we will mark a new beginning for our REFLECTIONS. I can only hope I can provide the information and news of preservation in our hometown and the rest of the State and Country in such a manner that it doesn't inspire one to sleep. No longer filled with just news but with commentary and investigative-style reporting, REFLECTIONS will undoubtedly cause some commotion. Something I hope will encourage our membership to read every line we print just to stay up to date. SOHO has always been the delinquent child in this city. With our maturity, we have learned that all is not always what it seems. With a skeptical eye on the redevelopment of our town and



a finger in every pie, we can better understand the motivation of the people spending our tax dollars and trying to tear down our historic structures.

With comments from our membership, our readers, and articles from various publications, articles from our board of directors and officers we will fill up the pages of REFLECTIONS. If there are issues, articles, endangered structures or problems you would like to see dealt with and discussed in this forum, please feel free to mail your comments and letters to REFLECTIONS, care of SOHO, Post Office Box 3571, San Diego, CA 92103. Hopefully, I will learn from these items and put that information and knowledge to work for all of us to care and enjoy.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Sullivan

New President for National Trust

NATIONAL TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SELECTS NEW PRESIDENT;

BALTIMORE, MD., OCTOBER 27, 1984;
J. Jackson Walters, a 43 year-old lawyer with a career in land use and real estate development law and public management has been named president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The announcement was made by Alan S. Boyd, chairman of the board of Trustees, at the organization's 38th National Preservation Conference in Baltimore.

In making the announcement, Mr. Boyd said, "The National Trust, with the participation of the entire preservation community, has recently set an agenda for the next five years with its strategic planning process. That agenda includes moving toward financial self-sufficiency, reaching out to new audiences with the message of preservation and serving as an advocate for historic buildings before Congress, federal regulatory agencies and, whenever needed, in the courts. Mr. Walter's experience in managing both government agencies and a nonprofit corporation in Washington, D.C., together with his background in land use and planning law and real estate development, makes him particularly well qualified to lead the National Trust in converting that agenda for the future into a reality."

Mr. Walter comes to the National Trust from the National Academy of Public Administration in Washington, D.C., where he was the president. The academy is a federally chartered 350 member "who's who" of practitioners scholars of public management. It advises Congress, State, federal and local officials and the President on the practical aspects of government administration. During his tenure at the National Academy, the organization achieved

its goals of obtaining a federal charter, made significant progress in building a general endowment and published America's Unelected Government: Appointing the President's team, a primer on presidential personnel recruiting for which he was chief editor.

Before joining the National Academy, Mr. Walter was director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics from 1979 to 1982 under Presidents Carter and Reagan. He was the first person to hold the position and put into place a management program to enforce federal conflict of interest laws in the executive branch. During the 1980-1981 presidential transition, he personally had to review the financial and conflict of interest circumstances of all Reagan Administration appointees.

Mr. Walter's career in public management began in 1976 when he was appointed the Secretary of the Florida Department of Business Regulations by Governor Rueben Askew. In that position he was responsible for collecting state taxes from regulating certain industries including pari-mutual betting, alcohol beverage and tobacco sales as well as the state's hotels, restaurants and condominiums, land sale companies and various licensed occupations. His legal career included private practice where he specialized in historic preservation, environmental, land use and municipal law. He was also director of planning and governmental relations for Land/Vest, Inc., a major rural land marketing and development firm in New England.

Mr. Walter received his law degree from Yale Law School in 1966 and his A.B., cum laude, from Amherst College in 1962. He and his wife Susan, Manager of State Government Issues Operations for the General Electric Corporation, live in Washington D.C., where their Allison, attends Sidwell Friends School. They also own a farm in the historic village of Waterford, VA.

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FOUR STORIES FOR ART

FOUR-STORY WING PLANNED FOR NEW SAN
DIEGO ART CENTER

By Anne Marie Welsh
reprinted from the San Diego Union

The proposed San Diego Art Center has a developer and a plan for building a \$2 million, four-story wing as part of its restoration of the Balboa Theater adjacent to Horton Plaza downtown, it was announced Sept 4, 1984.

The Balboa Building Partnership, a limited partnership consisting of Lincoln Land Investment Corp. and the Art Center, plans to develop the San Diego Art Center, which includes a \$6.5 million adaption of the Balboa Theater and the construction of the new wing. There will be a total of 76,000 square feet of galleries and 18,000 square feet of retail space.

Mayor Roger Hedgecock, Councilman Uvaldo Martinez and the Centre City Development Corp. yesterday endorsed the new plans, which lay to rest recent doubts about the feasibility of a project announced last fall by La Jolla arts patron Danah Fayman.

Chris Mortenson, president of Lincoln Land Corporation, has completed other multi-million dollar restorations downtown, most recently the Golden Lion Tavern, (where SOHO just had our general meeting) and the Exchange Building on Fourth Ave across the street from the proposed new wing of the San Diego Art Center.

"The announcement that Lincoln Land Investment corp, and Mortenson are involved in the project is a significant step toward ensuring that this development will come to fruition" said Gerald Trimble, executive vice president of CCDC, the City Council's redevelopment arm.

Russo Family Enterprises and the

Suburban Theater Corp. are joint owners of the Balboa Theater and have yet to come to terms with the CCDC, which must acquire the property prior to resale to the Balboa partnership. "We were recently told", Paul Russo, one of the owners, said, that "CCDC would aquire the property in November by condemning it and forcing acquisition by the city for resale to the San Diego Art Center."

Trimble said he hopes that a public hearing on the acquisition of the theater and the land will be held by the City Council on Nov. 15, 1984, with a subsequent sale of the complex to the Balboa Building Partnership in the spring.

Both the conversion and the new wing were designed by Richard Weinstein and Associates of New York, in conjunction with Pegasus Architecture and Design and the Jerde Partnership, both of San Diego.

Architects' renderings of the new wing were unveiled at a press conference arranged by CCDC.

The wing will extend from the Balboa Theater half a block south to the truck ramp and parking garage for Horton Plaza. Retail shops are planned for street level; the upper three floors will house exhibition space, storage space and an auditorium for the museum.

"Elements of the San Diego Art Center project which are not yet finalized are financing arrangements, the exact level of public subsidy and the extent of participation by Earnest W. Hahn Inc.," said Trimble. Hahn is the developer of the Horton Plaza retail, restaurant and entertainment complex scheduled for completion next August.

"We've already talks with Hahn and his chief executive officer, John Gilchrist, about the integration of the parking for the Art Center and Horton Plaza and the integration of people coming in. The total integration of the retail space

Ad Hoc Committee

AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS;

Here Today, Here Tomorrow, is the theme of a report by SOHO's Ad Hoc Committee. Led by Pat Schaelchlin, the committee suggests a plan enabling SOHO "to answer the contemporary challenges of preservation in San Diego".

The committee recommends that SOHO take the following steps: voice its concern with the future of Heritage Park, develop a broad committee format to include general membership as well as the board of directors (advisory, membership, financial, fundraising, nominating, etc.), enhance its image through an active public relations program (conferences, speakers bureau, publications, networking), generate funds for projects (grants, membership drives, fundraisers, publications), undertake projects which reflect us as an active preservation force in our community (acquisition of real estate, development of a preservation self-help packet, involvement in historic surveys).

The Ad Hoc Committee stresses that through implementation of its suggested plan, SOHO will develop sufficient resources to carry out ambitious projects in the future.

Summary provided by Dot Brovarney, Director of Development. Thanks Dot.- Editor.

Editors Note:

Please forgive the tardiness of this publication. Since this is the first in a continuing series I'm confident that my timing, typing and spelling will improve with my knowledge of this computer. I must also thank Dot Brovarney and our previous co-editor, Nancy Roberts for their help. Thank You all... Sincerely, Michael.



Heritage Park

Continued from Page 8

all of it. Not to mention the fact that some modifications will have to be made to the existing structures and SOHO will be watching with an eager eye.

What is really needed is for a representative from the each department who is capable of making the final decision for that department to meet with all the major lease holders and SOHO. From this meeting an understanding of the needs of all involved can be aired and hopefully satisfied. So let us pray that despite the confusion and the passing of an eon of time Heritage park can once again reach its fullest potential.

N.T.H.P.'s New President

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Mr. Walter succeeds Michael L. Ainslie who resigned in July 1984 to accept the position of president and chief executive officer for Sotheby's Holdings, Inc. Mr. Walter is expected to join the National Trust in December 1984. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is the only private, nonprofit membership organization chartered by Congress and dedicated to the protection and continued use of America's architectural, cultural and maritime heritage. With regional offices in Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Charleston, San Francisco and Denver and a field office in Fort Worth, Tex., it provides technical advise and assistance to preservation organizations and state and local governments. The organization owns 14 historic house museums throughout the country including some of America's most significant historic structures and properties.



Four Stories for Art

Continued from Page

with the cultural center is our goal," Trimble said.

Earlier this summer, CCDC and Gaslamp Quarter Council signed a memorandum of understanding to upgrade the uses and appearances of the buildings on the east side of Fourth Avenue across from the Art Center. The targeted area is in Councilman Martinez's district.

"The extension of the San Diego Art Center will provide positive artistic and retail uses along the west side of Fourth Ave.," Martinez said, "and will encourage other developers and entrepreneurs to replace the card rooms, seedy bars and other undesirable uses across the street with activities which will attract people to what will soon be an exciting destination point in downtown San Diego."

Sebastian "Lefty" Adler, director of the San Diego Art Center, said recent reports that the project had run into difficulty were merely rumors. "You know the old song 'Rumors are Flying'. A lot of people here like to sing that. But as they say at NASA, all systems are go for an opening in 1986."

Adler also said that the proposed new wing for the San Diego Art Center "will give San Diego a museum to compare favorably in square footage with new museums in Los Angeles and Dallas."

Christmas Party

Certainly never an organization to allow the season to pass without due celebration. The SOHO Christmas Bash will be held this year at the home of Mary Ward. Mary is a charter member of SOHO and has been gracious enough to open her lovely home for the event. On DECEMBER 15, 1984, AT 7pm the festivities begin. The address to look for is 4118 LARK STREET, for

more information look in the mail for the flyer due out soon or call SOHO at 297-9327.

Since it was such a success last year, we will have another gift exchange, with each guest bringing a present (under \$2.00 and marked for a man or a woman). Also there will be a drawing for door prizes every half hour. As always, please bring a plate of goodies to share!

Heritage Park Update

HERITAGE PARK- WHERE DE WE GO FROM HERE?

To better understand who and what's what, let's start with the cast of characters; they include the County Dept. of Parks and Recreation, they are in charge of the Park itself, the maintenance and upkeep; the County Dept of General Services, they are in charge of the building maintenance; the County Counsel, they are in charge of the legal matters; the County Dept of Real Property, they are in charge of the Leases on the buildings; the County Auditor, they are in charge of the bookkeeping; the County Tax Collector, they are in charge of collection of the taxes on the properties; the Major Lease holders, they hold the leases on the individual buildings; the Sub-Leasees, they lease the offices and the shops; the Office of Supervisor Leon Williams, the park is in his district and don't forget the SAVE OUR HERITAGE ORGANIZATION, we are responsible for the entire existance of the park.

Two years ago the SOHO board of directors established the Heritage Park Task Force. The idea was to come up with the inspirational solution to the problems which have plagued the park for years. After several meetings the office of Leon Williams suggested that a marketing survey be conducted to determine the marketing needs of the park. The county therefore authorized the expenditure of some \$10,000 for the survey to be done by the Sanford Goodkin Group. It was done, not very promptly, but none the less it was finally completed some six months later. The suggestions were analysed and the conclusion was reached that a Master Leasee be recruited to oversee the entire operation of

Heritage Park and to create a dialogue with all the characters involved with the park. So the county proceeded with the "Request for Proposal" process. This took another three or four months and, before you know it, it's been TWO years since the formation of the Heritage Park Task Force, and nearly three years since the problems in the park began to get seroius.

Now with the processes all but finished, the RFP's are in, the county has one, only one, response to the RFP. The proposal comes from two long-time residents of the park. Two people who have suffered through all the problems and are still willing to put monies up front to the tune of \$10,000 to Save Heritage Park. Unfortunately, to this date, NO progress has been made. To date the county has spent over \$10,000 dollars and hundreds of man hours, the private sector has spent at least the same \$10,000 and sacrificed thousands of dollars in revenues from their businesses.

At this moment, all that is left is hope Dan Banburg and Ruth Pagett have the stamina to put up with the processes thrust upon them by the county and can become the Master Leasees. There are some stumbling blocks, the lease on the Sherman-Gilbert House has been sold to an Tarzana developer and the lease on the Christian House has also been sold.

Now I have some supprises for the new owners of those leases. As far as the county is concerned, the new owners of those buildings hold leases to buildings to be operated as office and shop space and as a restaurant. Now, if you see the sign in the park announcing the coming of a Bed and Breakfst Inn, please hold

your reservation. If the new owners of these leases wish to open B and B's, they must renegotiate their leases with the county. That, my friends, is similar to opening the world's largest can of worms and you will need all the luck in the world and we wish you

Volunteer of the Year

NETTIE SCARRY

Nettie has kept us well-fed through the years as our refreshments chairperson. Nettie has begged, borrowed, toted, carried, dragged and set up countless boxes and bottles to keep SOHO events from the want of refreshments, and the SOHO tummies are happy because of it. And to quench our thirst here's a toast to you, Nettie: "WE LOVE YOU".



Director of Development

In October, Dot Brovarney joined SOHO as director of development. Dot is a former educator, has worked on several projects in San Diego; most recently in the planning and research for restoration of the Johnson-Taylor Adobe (1862) at Rancho Penasquitos. She has a broad range of interests in local history including Archaeology, architecture and she enjoys a good lurk around old cemeteries late on halloween eve. Her experience has shown her there is room for a strong preservation group in San Diego and Dot believes that SOHO is the key group to ensure the protection of our city's valuable heritage. She envisions the Board of Directors and members of SOHO as vital players in San Diego's preservation movement. Welcome aboard Dot, SOHO can surely use your talents and help in encouraging our members to also become more involved in the saving of our heritage.



Presidents Corner

MARY JORALMON

I am so pleased to have Dot Brovarney as Development Director. She will be a great asset as SOHO moves forward into new areas of endeavor in the preservation of San Diego's architectural heritage.

As we begin a new year in SOHO, I want to thank the 1983-1984 Board of Directors for an outstanding job. I did attempt to thank each of you individually for your accomplishments at the general meeting, but I not sure everyone heard me.

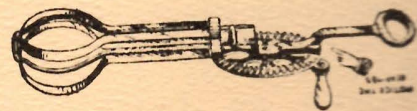
At any rate, it bears repeating; I could not have functioned without you. DON'T go too far away!

A special goodbye thanks to the following who are leaving the Board. Gwen MacFarland, Michael Sullivan, Nancy Roberts, Carol Heepke, Eleanor Bolen, Claire Kaplan, Judy McCutcheon and David Hutchinson.

Salvage Bank

We have a wonderful opportunity to receive salvage materials from houses that are to be demolished. Sonni and Lee Burch, staunch preservationists and new owners of the Greg Rogers house are able to save such great items as lighting fixtures, bathtubs, sinks, baseboards, and all kinds of usable restoration items.

What we need is a place to store or "bank" these items. Does anyone have some vacant space that SOHO could use? This is a golden opportunity for us to help one another, Call the office at 297-9327.



Victorian for sale

THE GEORGE KIMBALL HOUSE
circa 1880's.

The George Kimball house at 1515 "L" street in National City is being offered FOR SALE

You may remember this house from the last National City tour. The home is being restored by the Grebbiens. This historic victorian home has been 90% restored. It need only to be decorated with new carpets, drapes, wallpaper and/or paint to be a magnificent authentic victorian home. The house has 5 bedrooms and a study, full basement with a workshop, playroom and two misc. storage rooms. It also has an acessible full attic and widows walk.

The house has a new gas forced air heater and a new foundation. The 700 square feet of veranda has new decking, railings, and trim. A NEW kitchen includes a microwave oven and a dishwasher. Its exquisite antique wood and gas range and oven make the kitchen a dream.

The entire house is redwood and is in excellent condition. The exterior has been recently repainted, the chimney has been rebuilt and fireplace work beautifully. The charming gazebo presently serves as an aviary.

This house is located just south of the South Bay Plaza Shopping Center and north of 16th Street. PLEASE call the owners for an appointment to show or call JEAN MORGAN at the offices of RHODES AND ILIFF on 511 south Magnolia Ave, El Cajon, CA 92020 or call at 579-5555 or 579-0379.

an old ferry...

A plan to return a 52 year old ferryboat to Coronado as a restaurant, which got a cold reception from the City Council six months ago, is still afloat.

Roger Morgan, the Coronado businessmen thwarted in an attempt to put the ferry in Glorietta Bay, says his bid to have the boat located in the Tideland Project south of the Coronado-San Diego Bay Bridge toll station was to be considered by the Port District on Sept. 28.

"If the port rejects the bid," Morgan said, "the ferryboat will stay in Vancouver B.C., until we can find a suitable location for it. We think it belongs down here where it was part of history for 83 years."

The ferry, the San Diego, serviced the city and Coronado before the bridge opened in 1969. It has been in a Vancouver boat yard since the ferry system was put out of business.

The Coronado City Council in April repealed an ordinance that would have authorized the placement of the ferryboat on Glorietta Bay. Morgan then turned his efforts to the Port District, trying to keep the project alive.

The district has jurisdiction over the Tideland Project that will include a 200 to 400 seat restaurant, shops and a public park at a site on First Street in Coronado, where the ferryboats once docked.

Morgan said the ferryboat recently was spruced up and is ready to take its place at the dock.

Restoration Workshops

We are going to start a new class in January and need your suggestions plus assistance to make the new sessions successful.

Since the workshops are popular adjunct to SOHO, it would be appropriate to form a small committee of alums to program future series. It's fun and I'll thoroughly enjoyed setting up the workshops but I simple don't have
PAGE 10

the time to do it all alone.

This time we will feature bungalows; Roger Showley, writer for the Union-Tribune Home section wishes to feature this type of architecture in the paper. (He is an alumni, too!) SOHO would like you to seek out some of those very special areas in San Diego that abound with bungalows that wed might incorporate into a self-guided tour.

Cliff Mansion Tours?

NEIGHBORS HAVE A LIMIT TO
ADMIRATION

by Barbara O'Neil
reprinted from the San Diego Union.

Neighbors of the stately Cliff Mansion on Sunset Cliffs Blvd. are the first to admit that the 58-year old structure is a fascinating place, quite worthy of admiration. The last thing they want, however, is a museum in their backyard.

Thus, when the mansion's owner, Dr. Joseph Ryan, recently applied for a permit to open his ornate doors to regular tours and musical events, the neighbors came out in force against it.

"This is a quiet, residential area; it's not the right place for that kind of thing," said Betty Cowan, who lives next door and has collected the signatures of 39 neighbors opposed to the idea. "Sure, it's a pretty house. but with the beaches, we have enough people here' you don't have to bus people in."

Ryan could not be reached for comment, but city planners said his main intent is to offer groups a glimpse of his 19 room residence and its wondrous marble stairway, impressive stained glass windows and lavish furnishings. The two story structure, built by Sunset Cliff developer John P. Mills in 1925-1926, is a designated historical site.

The permit application went before the Planning Commission last week, and commissioners agreed to visit the mansion on Nov 8, 1984, before making a decision. a second hearing is scheduled for Nov. 15, 1984.

Meanwhile Ron Buckley, secretary to the city's Historical Site Board said, "It seems like a perfectly good idea to me. It's a magnificent mansion and its builder is significant in San Diego history."

Buckley said that Ryan, who works for the alcoholism program at

Sharp-Cabrillo Hospital, plans to donate tour proceeds to an alcoholic rehabilitation foundation.

Cowan and other neighbors say, though, they are worried the tours will lead to parking problems, security risks, and litter from possible snack and souvenir stands at the mansion.

"Why would anyone have a museum in an R-1 zone area?" neighbor Ken Zumwalt asked.

Buckley said there is only one other, similar historic home-museum in the city, the Villa Montezuma in southeast San Diego, an arrangement that is a good one sharing history with residents and tourists.

"It takes a lot for someone to open up their home like that," he said. "Apparently, people are always coming by, and he (Ryan) invites them in."

Long time neighbors of the Cliff Mansion are not quite as enthusiastic about all the attention.


"I've lived here 25 years, and this has always been a problem," said Zumwalt.

At various times the house has been a boarding house, a location for weddings, bar mitzvahs and movies, and even the setting for a beer commercial.

"That (the beer commercial) was just great," said Cowan, sarcastically. "They were giving out free beer to everyone".

One neighbor complained that portapotties were once placed under his bedroom window during a designers showcase tour.

Further, neighbors claim that the Cliff Mansion and its builder, Mills, are not all that historically significant. Mills, a somewhat controversial figure, was penniless when he left San Diego in 1930- his magnificent mansion was sold at auction.



This story appeared in the San Diego Union on October 22, 1984. As a preservationist, but more so as your newsletter editor I would greatly appreciate your comments. Send me a note it will help SAVE OUR HERITAGE. Thank You.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

MEMBERSHIP CATAGORIES

| | | | |
|------------------|---------|--------------------|------|
| Benefactor | \$1,000 | Professional | \$30 |
| Patron | \$100 | Family | \$20 |
| Corporate | \$50 | Single | \$15 |

Donation\$ _____

My profession/interests are: _____

I would like to volunteer to help for the following: (check as many as you wish)

- Tours Docent Refreshments Special Events
- Fundraising Telephone Committee Office Volunteer

Please complete and return to:
 SAVE OUR HERITAGE ORGANISATION
 Post Office Box 3571
 San Diego, CA 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: _____

PHONE: _____

ANY DONATION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE. 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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