



# REFLECTIONS

## THE S.O.H.O NEWSLETTER

VOL. 19, NO. IV MAY 1986

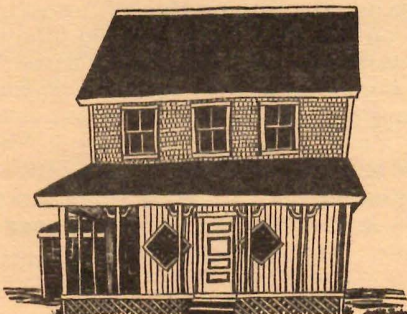
### *Celebrate Historic Places♦♦ Our Past for Our Future*

PRESERVATION WEEK ♦♦ MAY 11-17, 1986  
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Every city and town and every rural community has historic places. Please join us in celebrating them this year during Preservation Week, May 11-17, 1986.

Each one of us has a fond memory or a special affection for a historic place--it could be a revitalized Main Street in our hometown, a turreted Victorian mansion, an Olmsted-designed landscape, an Art Deco skyscraper, a tall ship or a great town--the list is endless. This year we want to take time to recognize the contributions historic places make to the quality of life in our communities and to introduce them to the newest generation of Americans, our children. In 1986, we hope to attract the broadest possible public attention by building events around these historic places and to draw attention to the 20th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which created the National Register of Historic Places as we know it today.

Here in San Diego, our celebration is centering around the newly and uniquely restored Horton Grand Hotel. In 1887 the Horton Grand Hotel was built for \$16,000; it has been reassembled with the Kahle Saddlery for 200 times that cost. Prior to its dismantling in 1981, the Victorian hotel listed among its visitors, such royalty as King Kalakaua of Hawaii and even a United States President, Benjamin Harrison. You too can be a V. I. P. if you join SOHO at the Horton Grand to toast preservation and the People In Preservation Award winners! It promises to be an elegant evening as wineries from all regions of California are pouring their best vintages. Join the festivities at 311 Island Avenue on May 17 from 5:30-8:30 pm. Celebrate Preservation!



WEIGELA ROSEA (SHRUBS)

### SAN DIEGO'S HORTICULTURAL HERITAGE

How many times have you heard people (both visitors and resident San Diegans) comment on the lush tropical greenery of our city, or extol the virtues of its beautiful parks and gardens? For most of its history San Diego has staked its reputation on its perfect climate and horticultural bounty--even being known as "Paradise on Earth" and "The Garden City." But, how many admirers are aware that our so-called "native" landscape has almost all been planted by recent generations. Most of what we see and enjoy today in our parks and gardens wasn't even introduced to the Southern California garden until around the turn of the century.

Providing educational material about this facet of San Diego's unique horticultural history, as well as many others, will be the task of a new San Diego Historical Society group known as the Horticultural Heritage Committee. The Committee will concern itself with: promoting research on the persons who have contributed to San Diego's garden history; documenting the development of parks, nurseries, landscapes and private gardens of the area; gathering information on such topics as appropriate landscaping for historic San Diego buildings; and making authoritative information available to persons who wish to preserve, restore and recreate period San Diego and Southern California gardens.

## CORPORATE & PROFESSIONAL

### MEMBERS

Fritz Ahern, Inc., Contractor  
Bloom Real Estate  
City Builders/Sara Stickler  
Coup & Smith, Architects  
Crain/Cover Architects  
Mrs. Robert S. Davis  
Delawie, Bretton, Wilkes Associates AIA  
Roger DeWeese, Inc., & Associates,  
Landscape Architects  
Daniel P. Dixon  
M. Wayne Donaldson, Architect  
Robert D. Ferris, Architect, Inc.  
Donald R. Goldman & Associates,  
Architects AIA, Inc.  
Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Henderson  
Kawasaki, Theilacker & Associates,  
Landscape Architects  
The McConaughy House  
Robert A. McQuead, Architect  
Dixiana Much, Dixiana Interiors  
Marc Tarasuck, AIA  
Gary Rose Weber, Community Planning  
Arelene Wolinski

## REFLECTIONS

Susan Skala	President
Kathleen Kelly-Markham	Vice-Pres. Governmental Affairs
Joe Jones	Vice-Pres. Education
Kathryn Lyon	Treasurer Board of Directors
Harris Evans	Paul Amidei
David Goldberg	Bruce Herms
Joy Higginbotham	Joe Jones
Carl Luhman	Kristen Aliotti
Gary Thomas	Kathryn Lyon
Alternate:	Sally Johns

*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.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following New Members:  
Theresa Friederich Takasugi  
Joseph T. & Gloria J. Flynn  
Jean Tuell                      Robin Webster  
Catherine Sarnat      Nancy Jon

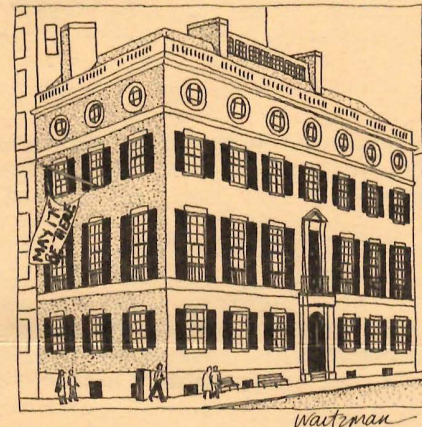
Rita & Gary Godshalk  
Penelope F. Wilkes  
Robert Burns  
Helen Trevey

## DONATIONS

Donations have been received from the following.

Thank you!

Klara A. Sienknecht  
Susan M. Andrea  
F. N. & Sarah W. Spiess  
Donna Cundiff



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to founding member, Mary Ward! She is now officially San Diego's County Historian. Since March, 1975, she has worked through the Park & Recreation Department as historian, but in February, 1986, the post of County Historian was classified and made a permanent position, for which Mary met the standards.

The Historian, under the direction of the Parks Director, provides advice and assistance to County staff and interested public in all aspects and facets of the area's history and historical activities. More specifically, she identifies historical value of county parks, maintains a County-wide historical research library, conducts presentations and workshops, and reviews and keeps records on gifts to the County of an historical nature. Also, Mary provides liaison on her subject between the County and other City, County and State agencies, is responsible for the storage, distribution, sales and accounting of historical books, keeps records on all historic sites and supervises volunteers. Her extensive studies of many sites have resulted in her writing books and/or brochures on Rancho Guajome, Rancho Penasquitos, the Johnson-Taylor Adobe & oth

Mary Ward, as a founding member of SOHO, was one of those who worked so hard to get SOHO started and over the years she has been supportive and generous with her time and talents. Thank you, Mary.

SOHO recently asked mayoral candidates Maureen O'Connor and Bill Cleator to comment on various historic preservation issues. We are pleased to share their responses with our members.

1. Do you support a permanent preservation plan for the 3500 block on 7th Ave? If so, how would you implement such a plan?

BC: Yes, I support a permanent preservation plan for the 3500 block of 7th Ave., and I would be open to your suggestions for the best means of implementation.

MO: I cannot participate in any discussion of this property because of an interest which I hold on some of the property.

2. What is your position on the Belmont Park (Thoryk-MacHutchin) proposal?

BC: My preference would be to preserve the existing exterior architecture of the Belmont Park property if, in fact, the Thoryk-MacHutchin development goes forward. This matter will be heard in the middle of June at Public Facilities & Recreation Committee. Your input would be very helpful.

MO: Members of my staff are presently doing research on the Thoryk-MacHutchin proposal. They have listened to a presentation of the proposal by Paul Thoryk and Graham MacHutchin to save and renovate the plunge and also create a commercial development on the Belmont Park site. They have attended community meetings of a grass roots organization of Mission Beach community members who want to stop the project. I feel strongly that the hearing process should be fair and open and that the final decision will be based on what is best for the immediate community and San Diego at large.

3. As mayor, how would you work to preserve invested tax credits?

BC: The use of the investment tax credit is the only means I know of that will preserve the tax credit situation; however, this question rests with the federal authorities. Therefore, the only avenue available to the mayor is through contacts with the San Diego delegation in Washington and the President, which I would vigorously undertake.

MO: As Mayor I will work with the appropriate levels of government to preserve invested tax credits.

4. Briefly comment on your views regarding the Balboa Theatre. Will you support the Arts Center proposal? If so, why? If not, why not?

BC: No answer.

MO: I believe that if you look at my voting record while I was on City Council and the Port Commission you will find that I have consistently supported the preservation of historical sites within the community.

5. What is your voting record on historic preservation issues?

BC: My voting record on preservation issues is probably one of the most positive on the Council. Mike Gotch and I worked hard to save the Rowing Club, and I was subjected to a great deal of abuse for my efforts to save the Gill house at First and Redwood; and, I helped save the Gill house in La Jolla, next to the Presbyterian Church. These and other votes to save historical properties are a matter of record.

MO: I believe that if you look at my voting record while I was on City Council and the Port Commission you will find that I have consistently supported the preservation of historical sites within the community.

6. Do you believe that any of the old Naval Hospital buildings should be saved? If so, which ones would you vote to retain and why?

BC: We should save as many of the old Naval Hospital buildings as feasible, especially the main structure, for which special effort should be made.

MO: We need a balance in the preservation of the Naval Hospital buildings with regard to historical and architectural significance and the original intent. I believe that there are other possible alternatives for the use of these buildings which would benefit our entire community.

7. The Marina District is ripe for redevelopment. Usually sites are cleared and new structures are constructed resulting in the loss of historically significant buildings. Which buildings in the Marina are, in your opinion, likely candidates for adaptive reuse?

BC: There are several Oriental structures that we should try to save in the Marina District. I hope that we can and will be able to achieve an authentic "Chinatown."

MO: Although redevelopment in the Marina District is being currently considered, I don't believe that it should necessarily result in the loss of any historically significant buildings. I am aware of structures such as the Police Station, the Soap Factory, and the Chinese buildings which are possible historical sites for adaptive reuse.

8. Do you believe that the City's Historic site ordinance is effective? If not, do you support strengthening the ordinance? How best can the ordinance be strengthened?

BC: I believe the Historic Site Ordinance is effective; but, if it is deemed appropriate to strengthen it, I would support that action. Determining the best means to do so would require input from SOHO and other historic preservationists.

MO: I believe that the Historical Site Board is as effective as possible within the framework of the present ordinance. I believe that we need to work together with the Historical Site Board, the community, and other interested organizations to consider all options in moving toward a revision of the ordinance.

9. Would you favor the use of the old downtown SDG&E powerhouse as an aquarium if it is found feasible?

BC: Yes, I would favor utilizing the SDG&E powerhouse as an aquarium if it were feasible to do so.

MO: I am aware of several sites that are being considered as possible locations for a new aquarium including the historic SDG&E building. As new or additional information is available I will be better able to make an informed decision as to feasibility of this building for use as an aquarium.

10. SOHO supports on-site preservation. Recently several homes in the Centre City area have been moved in order to make room for new office buildings. Will you support upzoning which helps create these very problems?

BC: My position is that it is preferable to preserve all structures on their original sites.

MO: I believe in solving problems, not creating problems. I believe we must work together in the community to find reasonable economic incentives which would make preservation of such properties on-site more viable.

## PRESERVATION DILEMMA

The good part: This 1880's cottage was saved from demolition by a two block move to its city hall "holding ground" site (above).

The bad part: This is the second of Del Mar's six Victorian cottages to be "saved" and "moved" due to redevelopment of its original site.

The impetus for demolition most often comes from the financial benefits obtained by optimizing the current zoning of any land parcel. When zoning changes occur that increase the size, number or type of units allowable on a parcel--there's your motivation for redevelopment, more \$\$.

SOHO urges its members to be alert for zoning changes like these--they provide the incentive for destroying properties we value for their architectural, cultural, and historical significance.

"Saving" a building by moving it to another site should be viewed as a last resort, not as a viable alternative or component of a redevelopment plan. SOHO feels that preservation on site reflects not only a concern for architecture, but a recognition of the dialogue between a structure and its environment: gardens, neighborhoods, or topography.



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### CLIP'N SAVE PRESERVATION

We have members who clip and save articles for SOHO from the SD Union and LA Times. We need help clipping and mailing from the SD Tribune, Daily Transcript, the Times-Advocate and other local papers. Call Anna, if you want to clip and save for SOHO, and we'll supply the postage to mail clippings to SOHO offices. Thanks for your help with this important SOHO project.

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## OLD HOUSE JOURNAL

SOHO has a chance to receive a \$1000 grant from the Old House Journal.

Old House Journal is a how-to magazine for the home restorer. It provides data on everything from finding hardware to repairing wooden shingle roofs. This magazine is a great complement to our workshops.

The Old House Journal is offering an opportunity for non-profit organizations to raise a little money. They are offering a one year subscription or renewal for only \$14 - a 22% discount off their regular price of \$18.

SOHO will receive \$7 for every subscription sold and become eligible for a drawing which will provide \$1000 to the lucky organization.

How to take part: Send a check for \$14 (made out to SOHO) and your name and address, to SOHO. We send twelve names at one time to the Old House Journal and then they begin your subscription. The deadline for this offer is November 28, 1986.



# PLEASE NOTE

You can save SOHO money by noting the date on the right hand corner of your label on the newsletter. This is the anniversary date of your joining, and when dues are due each year. Many of our members pay on the anniversary date and we appreciate this. If you forget and receive a first notice, please renew quickly, and save us the cost of a second mailing.

# CALENDAR

- May 4 - 26 - "Designer's Showcase; Past to Present."
- May 12 - "Pride of Place: Building the American Dream" #8, "The Garden & the Grid" KPBS, 8 pm.
- May 12 - The New School of Architecture will present the last of its series on Harvard Architects. Jose Martinez will discuss "Casting Urban Shadows of Permanence." Call NSA at 429-6000.
- May 17 - People in Preservation Awards Winetasting at the Horton Grand, 5:30-8:30 pm. \$25.00/person.
- May 20 - Spark Forum, 3806 Fourth Ave., 8:00 pm. Topic for the evening is "San Diego 2020: Fantastic Ideas for a Fantastic City."
- May 25 - The Star of India will be sailing with a specially trained crew.
- June 21-28 - AIA "San Diego by Design" SOHO will show two videos, "An Introduction to SOHO," and "Newington House" in the Senlis cottage.

## Come Join Us

When you become a member of the Save Our Heritage Organization you will receive the bi-monthly newsletter, discounts on tours & activities and much more.

### GET INVOLVED

My profession is \_\_\_\_\_

My interests are \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be involved in the following:

Tours \_\_\_\_\_

Docents \_\_\_\_\_

Refreshments \_\_\_\_\_

Special Events \_\_\_\_\_

Fundraising \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Office Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Assistant \_\_\_\_\_

Research Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

Restoration Expert \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return to SOHO

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP

#### CATEGORIES:

Benefactor \$1000

Patron \$100

Corporate \$50

Professional \$30

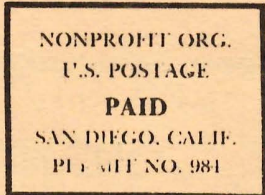
Family \$20

Single \$15

Any donations are tax deductible.



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