



AFTER THE SHERMAN-GILBERT HOUSE CAROL LINDEMULDER

Once upon a life, everybody ought to have to be President of something! A few are born to it, and eventually move to a big white house. The rest of us usually begin to experience sleeplessness, a queasy stomach, and a little sheer terror, beginning the week before they take office.

The first Board meeting is the killer. Everybody is smiling too broadly, waiting for you to produce some instant "pearl of wisdom." As fourth President of SOHO, fall of 1973 through 1974, I had been shanghaied into the job. I didn't like those broad Board smiles. I had been told that since we had saved the Sherman Gilbert House, and thereby had lost public awareness, SOHO needed a new goal, and it was my job to change things around. Oh, Boy!

The Hartfield-Timberlake-Christian House was soon to be demolished (just up the street from the original site of the Sherman-Gilbert House). I suggested (with no money in the bank and a sagging membership) that we move it to Heritage Park. Those broad smiles vanished from those Board faces, and they said I'd lost my mind. I look back knowing they were right.

I told the Board I would make them a deal! I would put SOHO back on the front page of the newspaper by putting together a major fund-raising event. If I pulled it off, the Board of Directors would commit to saving the Christian House. Sensing an impasse, the Board agreed. (I mean no fault to a Board which was

continued on page 4

The Mission San Diego de Alcalá

Cindi Malinick

Though the "cartoon" pictured below is meant to be sarcastic, it also hopefully sent a message to the citizens of San Diego that there are critical issues facing us this summer. SOHO's concern of course, is that of the Mission San Diego de Alcalá, the first mission established in Upper California, by Father Serra, and his Spanish compadres in 1774. It again is in danger of desecration by the Catholic Church, in that plans may be going forward to construct a 4,000 sq. ft. "multi-purpose" room over a recorded cemetery, as well as the remains of the first wooden church, and the first permanent adobe chapel.

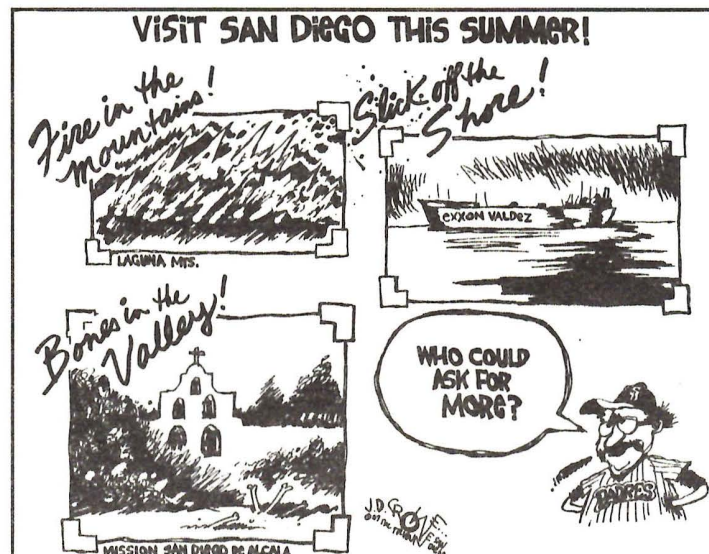
The history behind this story is long and extends over a period of many years; so, suffice to say that the Catholic Diocese states that it has a valid City building permit, and therefore, should be allowed to continue with its construction schedule. Archaeologists, hired by the church to exca-

vate the area when human remains were uncovered some time ago, recently walked-off the site when they fully realized its magnitude. In addition to human remains, the archaeologists also uncovered artifacts, as well as what they believe to be the features of the earliest structures for the Mission.

SOHO, along with CPF and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, believe that in light of these latest, and highly-significant findings, the Cal. Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), requires a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) be issued. We further believe that when a SEIR is submitted, its recommendation will be to deny further construction on the site.

The Mission is a National Historic Landmark, and as such, deserves respect and honor from San Diego, the state of California, and even the nation. SOHO staff has been working diligently to educate the San Diego City Council and the

City Attorney about this issue. We also are keeping state and national officials apprised of the situation in order to ensure that the Mission San Diego de Alcalá is protected. The City Council will hear the matter at a public hearing on August 7th.



Reflections

Celebrating 20 years
of active preservation
in San Diego

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(619)297-9327

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- o National Trust for Historic Preservation
- o California Preservation Foundation
- o San Diego Historical Society

From the President

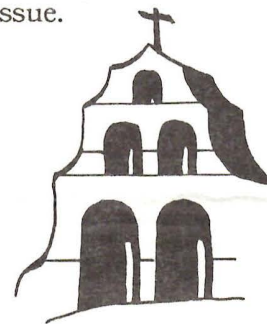
SOHO is embarking on possibly its most important preservation effort ever, that of safeguarding the archaeological and historical remains recently uncovered at the Mission San Diego de Alcalá. The importance of this effort is twofold: foremost is the historical significance of these new finds, not only for California's history, but also for the history of our nation; and secondly, City Council's decision in this matter will impact the future of preservation in San Diego.

For years, San Diego preservationists have had to endure rhetoric implying that the region has no nationally significant sites. SOHO knows that these words are not true. The Mission's prominence as the foundation of the Spanish colonization of the West Coast is well-documented. It is equivalent to Mt. Vernon or the Plymouth settlement.

Although regrettable, some irrevocable development has occurred. We must protect the historical integrity of the remaining site. In this effort, SOHO must impress

upon City Council that action must be taken to protect these remains. If we fail to "enlighten" our local decision-makers on the importance of the most historically significant site in the city, then any attempts to strengthen local preservation ordinances or secure a pro-preservation climate within the region, are almost certainly destined for failure.

If you are to put forth but one effort for preservation this year, let it be that you contact your Councilperson today. I implore you to take this step by August 7th, when City Council will hear public testimony on this issue.



SOHO NEWS

July Board Action

- Endorsed a public hearing before the City Council regarding the **Mission San Diego de Alcalá**, a National Historic Landmark.

- Heard report from **Summer Intern, Melinda Williams**, regarding her work on the Preservation Primer, Façade Easements, and Furniture Inventory.

- Financial Committee presented a draft for the 1989-90 annual budget, to be voted on at the August Meeting (a copy is available at the Office for members to review).

Art Deco Sub Committee

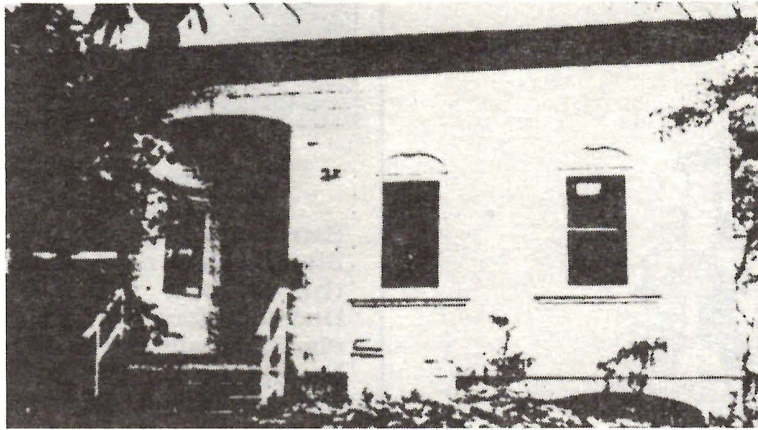
The Art Deco sub-committee will present a slide show on the development and extent of Art Deco architecture in San Diego County on Saturday, August 19 in the lodge room of the Masonic Temple. The presentation will

include examples of both existing and demolished structures. The show will be presented by Michael Reams and **Helen Halmay**. The presentation begins at 7:30 pm with a discount entrance fee for SOHO members.

The Temple is located at 3795 Utah St., in North Park. For further info., please contact Helen Halmay, at 296-3322 or Michael Reams at 692-9927.

Cindi Malinick and **Melinda Williams** are serving on the City Historical Site Board Preservation Incentives and Funding Sources Committee.

President **Robin Webster** spoke before the San Diego Chapter International Society of Interior Designers (ISID) on July 19th regarding historic preservation in San Diego and introduced SOHO to the group.



The Beaver House Photo by Ray Brandes

Challenges Ahead for Point Loma College, Part II
Rose M. Anderson

Three of the historically-designated structures on the Point Loma Nazarene College campus are currently threatened with demolition. These are Cabrillo Hall (the Tingley residence), the last remaining Lotus home, and the Beaver House.

Cabrillo Hall first served as offices for the Brotherhood headquarters, and later, after 1906 or 1907, as Madame Tingley's residence until her death in 1929. According to Duane Little, Ph.D., a Theosophical Society International member, he "... spent over a week going through over 200,000 pictures of the Theosophical Society in Pasadena," and never came across any documentation referring to the date of construction. He further noted that it was probably constructed in 1902 or 1903 from two farm houses which the Theosophists purchased and joined together.

The Lotus home, a tiny, 30 foot square, two-room building with a roof that resembles a tent, was one of a group of buildings which

served as residences at night and school rooms during the day. These homes were part of a quite controversial education system. In this program, children were separated from their parents as early as possible and placed in a "Lotus Bud" class, held in the Lotus houses. By the age of three, these students could spell words such as "attention," "determination," and "concentration."

The Beaver House was constructed c. 1906. This structure served as a residence, and later storage. With its clean lines, inset windows, and offset entries, the Beaver House encompasses the Theosophical Institute style of construction.

In order for the college to use a \$5 million donation from Gladys Cooper, they must build an arts building as a memorial to her husband. Cabrillo Hall, the Lotus Home, and the Beaver House all lie in the area of the proposed structure. Hence, the dilemma.

A special thanks to Emmett A. Greenwalt, author of "California Utopia: Point Loma 1897-1942."

!!! ATTENTION !!!

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Pt. Loma Home Tour, originally scheduled for Aug. 26, has been postponed until November. Watch for new details in next month's newsletter.



**MEMBERSHIP
Application/Renewal**

SOHO is a 501 (c) 3 organization. Membership privileges include the newsletter *Reflections*, as well as reduced prices for workshops, lectures, and tours.

Membership categories are:

- Active: \$20.00
- Professional: \$35.00
- Corporate: \$100.00 - \$500.00
- Patron: \$500.00
- Benefactor: \$1000.00

Call SOHO for more information at (619) 297-9327, or complete the form below and mail with your check to:

SOHO
P.O. Box 3571
San Diego, CA 92103

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

I would like to help with:

Newsletter
 Tours
 Workshops
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 Other _____



THE CHRISTIAN HOUSE 1887
HERITAGE PARK SAN DIEGO, CALIF

Sherman-Gilbert

continued from page 1

showing reasonable concern over a gamble as scary as the Big Spin.)

First, I went to a crash course seminar on publicity for non-profits, hosted by the San Diego Union. Then I contacted the City, and told them we wanted to put on an event in the empty, soon-to-be-demolished Land Title Building on the south side of Broadway. City officials stared at me, but finally gave in. Next, I went to the newspapers and met with the City Editor, as well as a number of writers. We made up press release forms with big logos, and I gave all the Board members SOHO business cards.

My final part of the bargain was to call everybody I had ever known in my entire life, (housewives, bank presidents, lawyers, teachers, artists) to enlist their aid. And the rest is history. Buddy Colette, one of the greats of Jazz, brought down a group for the basement Cabaret, lawyers ran roulette tables, my boyfriend, and also my tennis partner each played bartender . . . there was Dixieland, a buffet, an Auction, and 600 people all dressed in costume, in an empty building lit by electricians' lamps on floors with torn-up carpets and missing walls.

It rained, it poured! One of the Band members was mugged right outside the door, while the Vice Squad was inside threatening to close us down. Where was our ABC license? This President

had really goofed. While my lawyer friends corralled the Squad in the lobby, I drove frantically up highway 163 to get the license I had left at home. Forty-five minutes later the Vice Squad went away happy, when I returned soaking wet to the party. City College taped the jazz for their radio station, and the "BLOCK BUSTER" record was produced, named after SOHO's event, the BLOCK PARTY, which focused SOHO's first public attention on the demolition of downtown landmarks.

The newspaper article was a full page with pictures. The workers drank up most of the profits. We made \$400, but SOHO was again famous overnight. So, we took on the Christian House, and got the Burton House thrown in. We started our first Tour program (under the leadership of Terri Recht, Lynne Kaplan, Cia Barron, Claire Kaplan, and Liz Matto, to name a few). Having taken on two houses, we suddenly also acquired the Bushyhead House, which stood on stilts in the lot between for many months. These moves took time, more time than my one year Presidency.

We had found a new goal. In 1975, we won the Press Club Award for 1974, and I was embarrassingly proud. My wonderful Board came through, and kept me hopping, and laughing, all year. There are still more things I remember about 1974, but I spare you that. Still, once upon a life everybody ought to have to be President of something! It's the best heart-rate stimulant I know!

Preservation Update

City Preservation Unit Reorganized

San Diego City Architect Mike Stepner, has announced that the Urban Conservation Division, formerly under City Planning, will now come under his auspices. Arthur Duncan will function as Interim Director during this restructuring period. Marsha Meleske, who served as the principle planner for the Unit for the past year, is no longer with them.

As an element of this restructuring plan, the **City Historical Site Board** is involved in developing a "Mission Statement," and establishing a comprehensive preservation plan. The Board hopes that these initiatives will better integrate it's efforts and needs with those of the City Urban Conservation staff.

Egyptian District Historic Designation Falls

During the April Council meeting regarding the developer's appeal of the Egyptian Revival Historic District, **Councilman Wes Pratt** moved that "arrangements" made between property owners and Council would be subject to City Staff review and public testimony. **Mayor Maureen O'Connor** seconded his motion, and noted that "win-win" solutions often end up "lose-lose", citing the Mission Beach Plunge as an example.

In spite of testimony from SOHO and its Art Deco Sub-committee, Greater North Park Planning Group, Uptown Planners, and historians, the motion was defeated. The Council went further and overturned the Historic Designation of this group of landmark buildings.

SOHO RETURNS TO THE "NEW" GASLAMP QUARTER

Kathy Flanigan

In keeping with the SOHO tradition of honoring historic preservation projects and hosting special events at these locations, SOHO will hold its 1989 general membership meeting at the newly-opened Kansas City Steakhouse, 535 5th Avenue on September 16, 1989.

lamp Quarter. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm and at 8:00 pm, the group will retire to the "rustic" cellar for coffee and the annual meeting.



Look for the history of this historic building in the next Reflections.

At 5:30, a tour will commence of the restaurant, the upper floors, and basement of the historic Begole and Higgins buildings - the oldest built on-site structures in the Gas-

Watch for your invitation to the SOHO Annual Meeting in your mail box this month.

DATEBOOK

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Aug. 7 | City Council Meeting
Mission San Diego de Alcala 10th floor
Hearing, 2:00 pm | City Administration Bldg. |
| NOTE 7 | SOHO Board Meeting, 7pm | Senlis Cottage, Heritage Park |
| 9 | County Historical Site Board 1:30 pm | 5201 Ruffin Rd., Suite B
Dept. of Planning & Land Use |
| 19 | Art Deco Committee Slide Show 7:30 pm | Silvergate Masonic Temple lodge room. See Page two, "SOHO NEWS" |
| 23 | City Historical Site Board 1 pm | City Administration Bldg.
Community Concourse MS4A |
| 29 | Preservation Action Committee Meeting, 5:30pm | SOHO Office, Senlis Cottage |
| Sept. 16 | Annual Fall Membership Meeting 5:30 pm | Kansas City Steakhouse, 535 5th Ave. Begole/Higgins Bldgs. |
| 23 | Park Day at Rancho Peñasquitos
Contact S.D. Archaeological Society for Info. | Mary Ward will be speaking on the history of the Johnson-Taylor Adobe |
| Oct. 15 | SOHO's 20th Anniversary Time T.B.A. | Horton Grand Hotel and the Hahn Cosmopolitan Theatre |

SOHO SALUTES ITS NEWEST MEMBERS

June-July, 1989

Active Memberships:

- Bruce W. Bennett*
- Thurston Coe*
- Bob Dillon*
- Mary Grandell*

- Vicki Granowitz and William Lees*
- Chris and Susan Racanelli*
- Candace and John Schumann*
- Jack Swartz*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
June-July, 1989

Active Memberships:

- Gloria Eddy, Kathy Flanigan, Lawrence Forman, Bayonne Glenn Joanne Gooden, Lynne Hunter Claire Kaplan, Milton and Lucill Kittredge, Mr. and Mrs. Rober Lossing, Peter Love, Bernis Love, Kathleen Markham, E. Nicoloff Maureen O'Donnell, K.C. Pinon Deborah Rahe, Judith Swink Theresa Takasugi, David West*

Professional Memberships:

- City of Carlsbad*
- Jim Gibson*
- Coup & Smith*

DONATIONS

Lee Douglas
In honor of the anniversary of Claire & Joe Kaplan for the restoration of the Temple in Heritage Park

Judy Swink

CORRECTIONS

In the "Home Tours" article, the **Dickinson-Boal** house was misspelled. The correct spelling is Dickenson-Boal.

In the "People in Preservation" article, the firm which helped the DeCristofaro's with the restoration of their home was **Chadwick Elegant Homes**, not Elegant Remodel Homes.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Reflections accepts classified ads for 30 words or less for \$15.00. For larger ads (business ads by members), contact the SOHO Office to request an Ad Sheet.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20TH OF THE MONTH!

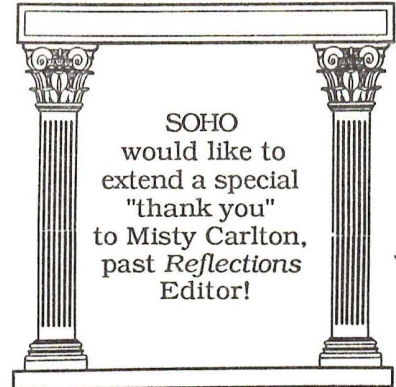
SEND YOUR BIRTHDAY WISH TO SOHO!

For \$5.00 you can place a three-line greeting to SOHO or an individual in our October Newsletter.

Some examples:
 Happy Birthday, SOHO! Here's to another 20 wonderful years!!! Best wishes! An adoring member.

Hats Off to John and Jane Doe for 20 years of dedication to preservation. Thank You both!

For more information, contact the Office at 297-9327 or send in your message and a check for \$5.00.



In Upcoming Issues of Reflections

"Using Period Wallpapers" by Alana Coons

"Why Preservation is Important" Excerpts from a Speech by Robin Webster

"Mission Beach Plunge" by Kathleen Kelley-Markham



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HELP PROTECT THE SITE OF THE CEMETERIES AND FIRST PERMANENT CHURCH AT MISSION SAN DIEGO DE ALCALA!

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT MISSION SAN DIEGO DE ALCALA, AT THE SITE OF THE CHURCH'S PROPOSED "MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING", REVEALED A WEALTH OF ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES. SOME OF THESE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN PART OF THE FIRST PERMANENT CHURCH AT THE MISSION. A LARGE AMOUNT OF HUMAN REMAINS WERE ALSO DISCOVERED, SUBSTANTIATING THE BELIEF OF MANY THAT THE BUILDING SITE WAS THE LOCATION OF PART OF ONE OF THE MISSION'S CEMETERIES.

DESPITE THE SENSITIVITY OF THE KUMEYAAY INDIANS TO THE TREATMENT OF THE REMAINS OF THEIR ANCESTORS, AND DISREGARDING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE TO ITS OWN AND SAN DIEGO'S PAST, THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE HAS NOT ABANDONED ITS PLANS TO BUILD THERE.

THE SAN DIEGO HISTORICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND KUMEYAAY COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN TRYING, WITH STRONG HELP FROM DEPUTY MAYOR JUDY McCARTY, TO HAVE THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT THE BUILDING. SO FAR, THE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND CITY ATTORNEY ARE REFUSING TO TAKE ANY ACTION TO PROTECT THE SITE. ALL THAT THE CITY HAS AGREED TO DO IS HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY, AUGUST 7TH.

YOU CAN HELP THE CAUSE OF PRESERVATION OF THIS PORTION OF OUR SAN DIEGO HERITAGE BY:

1. WRITE (202 C STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101) OR CALL MAYOR O'CONNOR (236-6330) AND THE COUNCIL MEMBERS TO TELL THEM OF YOUR SUPPORT FOR PRESERVATION OF THE SITE AND RESPECTFUL TREATMENT OF THE HUMAN REMAINS. PHONE NUMBERS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE:

ABBE WOLFSHEIMER, 236-6611	RON ROBERTS, 236-6622
GLORIA McCOLL, 236-6633	WES PRATT, 236-6644
ED STRUKSMA, 236-6655	BRUCE HENDERSON, 236-6616
JUDY McCARTY, 236-6677	BOB FILNER, 236-6688

2. COME TO THE PUBLIC HEARING (12TH FLOOR AT 202 C STREET) ON AUGUST 7TH. WE SUGGEST YOU CALL 533-4000 ON THE 4TH, TO VERIFY THAT THE MISSION ISSUE IS STILL ON THE DOCKET. PLAN TO ARRIVE WELL AHEAD OF THE 2 PM SCHEDULED MEETING TIME, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. MANY PARISHIONERS FROM THE MISSION WILL BE THERE, SO WE NEED A LARGE TURN-OUT BY PRESERVATIONISTS.

3. THERE IS A STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT WE WILL HAVE TO INITIATE OR SUPPORT LEGAL ACTION TO PREVENT CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING. PLEASE MAKE A GENEROUS FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAUSE BY SENDING A CHECK TO:

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX A-81106
SAN DIEGO, CA 92138

MAKE THE CHECK PAYABLE TO "SDCAS", AND INDICATE THAT IT IS FOR THE DEFENSE FUND. DONATIONS TO SDCAS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF MISSION SAN DIEGO DE ALCALA AND THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY THANK YOU!