



# Reflections

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Save Our Heritage Organisation

Includes Monetary Contribution

## SOHO Backs Plan To Restore Balboa Theatre

A five-point plan of action to support the Balboa Theatre Foundation's efforts for the restoration and operation of the historic theatre has been firmed up by the SOHO Board of Directors.

Board members Ann MacCullough and Kathleen Kelley-Markham led a lengthy discussion on the merits of such a plan. To assist in the discussion the Board was provided with an 18-page report which the Foundation had prepared and presented to the Centre City Development Corp. in mid-1989.

In the report it was pointed out that the theatre, with its 1400-to-1500 seat capacity, would satisfy the need for a mid-sized performing arts facility in downtown. Many agencies representing national touring shows have shown an interest in performing in San Diego in a theatre the size of the Balboa but they now pass the city by to perform in Los Angeles. It was also noted that the recent completion of the convention

center represents additional usage potential for the theatre.

Of major importance, according to the report, is that studies show the theatre has superior acoustics and that the physical condition of the building is superior to most other theatres of its era that have been restored elsewhere.



### SOHO Action:

1. Endorse efforts of the Balboa Theatre Foundation;
2. Approve the Balboa Theatre as a major project for 1990 and beyond;
3. Form a Balboa Theatre Committee to consist of SOHO Board members Rick Garbini (Chairman), Ann MacCullough, Kathleen Kelley-Markham, Kathy Flanigan, Suzanne Lawrence, and Charles Reilly;
4. Approve a contribution of up to \$3,000 with disbursement as approved by the Committee; and
5. Publicize all major efforts/events made on behalf of the theatre.

## Public History Conference Planned For San Diego

The National Council of Public History (NCPH) along with the Southwest Oral History Association will hold its annual meeting in San Diego from 7-10 March.

The conference will emphasize preservation, cultural resource management, oral history and parks and people of the 20th century.

### NCPH Annual Meeting

Contact: Sue Sullivan  
University of San Diego  
(619) 260-4579 or 260-4800

The scheduled workshops will feature prominent historians from throughout the United States. Local speakers will include SOHO members **Raymond Starr, Wayne Donaldson, Mike Stepper and Angeles Leira.**

The conference will be held at the Horton Grand Hotel in downtown San Diego. For registration and program information contact Sue Sullivan at USD, 260-4579 or 260-4800. **The early registration fee is only \$38.00.**





## Reflections

*Celebrating 20 years  
of active preservation  
in San Diego*

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Save Our Heritage Organisation  
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(619) 297-9327

Save Our Heritage Organisation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of cultural resources throughout San Diego County and is a member of

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

# Reflections

## From the President...

**Simple solutions to complex problems. We all want 'em!**

Use of historic Horton Plaza (not the "mall") by "non-paying citizens" has stimulated a suggestion to radically reconfigure our downtown park to make it a thing to look at but not touch.

Nowadays, we hear a lovely language about "pedestrian-friendly streetscapes" in our urban centers, and to this end downtown developers are allowed a greater intensity of use if they eliminate provisions for parking automobiles from their proposals. The assumption is that those who use the center city will also use public transportation to get there, and once there will contribute to the lively street life that characterizes many great cities.

Too often what really happens is that the next block gets demolished for a parking lot, coincidentally removing (more) historic buildings that provide both identity and street life, as well as moderate intensity and lower rents. How many small businesses have been priced out by downtown's economic "miracle" in the past ten years?

The city's lack of coordination of planning its transportation, parking, urban design and historic preservation policies means that good old buildings will continue to be torn down and goals for downtown will fail to reinforce each other. Without coordination the market "solution" may be destructive of all our goals.

Completed cultural resources surveys must be integrated into the planning process with designations where appropriate, at the earliest opportunity. Prior to this, resources in this area need legislative protection.

And those elements, best of all, owned by the public and dedicated **TO THE PEOPLE** must be cherished and not lost.

## Portions Of Congressman Jim Bates' Letter To Coastal Commission On The Green Dragon Colony

As you have heard from many...sources, the Green Dragon Colony in La Jolla is a site well worth preserving. This is not something to be saved only for San Diegans or Californians; it is a part of our fast-disappearing national history... As Coastal commissioners, you have a responsibility which must be taken seriously. It is important that you be the leaders in the preservation of California's unique coastal area. In voting not to issue a demolition permit, you are doing a great service for all of us who care about historic and architectural resources.

## Demolition Permit For Green Dragon Colony Withdrawn

Just four days before the matter was due to be heard before the California Coastal Commission in Los Angeles, attorneys for the Mosher Trust withdrew, without explanation, its application for demolition of the cottages known as the Green Dragon Colony.

This action of Jan. 5 is the latest in a series of hearings, designations, appeals, delays and continuances in the now four-year old battle over the historic cottages. The matter has been before La Jolla Community groups, the San Diego Historical Site Board, San Diego City Council, the State Office of Historic Preservation, and other

statewide preservation organizations. SOHO has voiced its strong support for the preservation of the cottages and had planned to reiterate its position at the Coastal Commission hearing.

Kim Berry, a preservationist who is helping La Jolla architect Tony Ciani in his mission to save the cottages, says she is confident that another attempt to gain a demolition permit will result in a denial. "In the final analysis... the Trust would be better off selling.. for the fair market value and using the profits to develop some other less sensitive property more suitable to the kind of project they wish to build" Berry said.

## Green Dragon T-Shirts

The price of the specially-designed Green Dragon T-shirts has been reduced to \$14 each. Available in sizes M-L-EXL, these 100% cotton shirts feature colorful artwork on both the front and back. To order, call Kim at 454-7141.



## Calendar

Feb. 20	Aztec Brewery Hearing	City Council Chambers 12th Floor, City Hall
Feb. 28	San Diego Historical Site Board Meeting, 1 pm	12th Floor, City Hall
Feb. 28	Liffreing House Hearing	County Board of Supervisors
Mar. 1	Earthquake Workshop 8 am	War Memorial Bldg. Balboa Park
Mar. 5	SOHO Board Meeting 6 pm	Sherman-Gilbert House Heritage Park
Mar. 7-10	NCPH/SOHA Annual Meeting	Horton Grand Hotel
Mar. 24	SOHO Walking Tour 10:30 am	El Cortez Hotel

## SOHO Membership



### Application/Renewal

Membership privileges include the monthly newsletter *Reflections* to keep you informed about preservation issues and activities in San Diego County, as well as special prices for SOHO workshops, tours and related activities. Membership categories are:

- Life* • \$1,000
- Benefactor* • \$500
- Corporate* • \$250
- Executive* • \$100
- Professional* • \$50
- Individual/Family* \$25
- Student* • \$10

Please call the SOHO office for more information at 297-9327. To join SOHO, please complete the following form and send it and 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
- Office
- Other

## Living On The Fault Line

The March 1 date for the EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP is rapidly approaching. In this series of four sessions, the state's foremost experts will examine earthquake preparedness and response procedures, emphasizing the impact of building codes and regulations on older and historic structures.

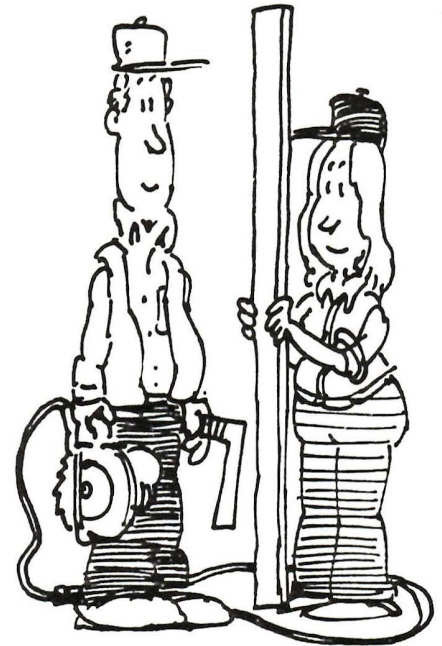
The workshop will be held in the War Memorial Building, 3325 Zoo Dr., in Balboa Park (north side of Zoo parking lot). Registration opens at 8:00 am, with coffee service. Sessions run from 9:00 am until 4:30 pm, with a break for lunch.

Day-of-workshop registration cost is \$120 (\$85 for CPF members) and in-

cludes: admission to the all day conference; lunch and coffee and snacks throughout the day; a binder of abstracts of presentations; new publications to the building codes; and a one-year CPF membership.

The workshop is sponsored by California Preservation Foundation (CPF), California Building Standards Commission, California Office of Emergency Services, California Seismic Safety Commission, International Conference of Building Officials, State Historical Building Code Board, and State Office of Historic Preservation. Local co-sponsors are the City of San Diego and Save Our Heritage Organisation.

For more information, call CPF at (415) 763-0972.



Save Our Heritage Organisation

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(619) 297-9327

HELP us save on overhead costs by renewing your membership before it is due. Your renewal date? It's shown in the top right corner of the mailing label. The first digit(s) is the month you are due for renewal. The other number is the year of your SOHO membership. A good practice is to send in your renewal check one month before the renewal date.

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