

Reflections

Volume XXI No. 16, October 1990

Save Our Heritage Organisation

Four New Appointees

Directors and Officers Named At Annual Meeting

The 1990-91 slate of SOHO directors and officers was approved by a voice vote at the annual membership meeting held Sept. 27 in the Horton Park Plaza Hotel.

The 15-member board of directors includes 4 new appointees and 11 returnees.

The new officers are David Swarens who was elected to a second term as president; Suzanne Lawrence, vice-president who served as secretary last term; Charles Reilly, secretary who served as chair of the membership committee; and Melinda W. Tomes, treasurer who served on the finance committee.

In addition to the officers, other returning board members include Corey Jon Braun, Rick Garbini, Kathleen Kelley-Markham, Angeles Leira, Ann MacCullough, Anna Major and Robin Webster.

The appointees, all of who spoke briefly, are Nancy Ajemian, executive director of Harmonium Inc., Dr. Edward Millican, political science professor at SDSU who has been active in local politics for some 25 years, Juliette Mondot, an artist, homemaker and community activist, and Rosann Muller, arts administrator who has served on the North Park Community Planning Group.

Swarens delivered a brisk message and conducted the procedural matters lead-

ing to approval of the slate as recommended by the nominating committee and endorsed by the board at a meeting earlier in the month. He also expressed thanks to Bruce Coons, James Guthrie and Charles Sykes whose terms as directors have expired, and to Kathleen Flanigan who earlier had resigned as a director.

The meeting was held in the warm setting of the Gaslamp Room and an adjoining outdoor area high atop the hotel. The guests enjoyed champagne and hors d'oeuvres and a spectacular 360-degree view of downtown and the horizon.

A highlight of the evening was the ceremonial passing of the SOHO Lady Award from the current holder, Robin Webster, to Suzanne and Bill Lawrence. They were recognized for their exemplary efforts on behalf of the organization.

Another feature was an informative slide presentation and tour of the hotel by M. Wayne Donaldson, SOHO member and architect during restoration of the building.



Preservation Incentives Offered

In September, SOHO representatives attended a workshop entitled, "What's In It For You?," held in the historic village of Claremont, north-east of Los Angeles.

While addressing the preservation incentives available in many communities, the focus of this California Preservation Foundation-sponsored workshop was the Mills Act.

The Mills Act is a state law that enables owners of historic properties to pay substantially lower property taxes in exchange for long-term preservation commitments. The actual savings are determined by standardized calculations by the Assessor's Office, and the counties bear the brunt of revenue losses.

According to information received at the workshop, only seven contracts have been enacted statewide. These contracts have been applied to large and valuable properties where tax ramifications merit individual contract processing.

But the greatest value of the Mills Act may be its application in revitalization of older neighborhoods inhabited by people of modest income: here the actual loss to counties could be far less than the value of the incentive provided.

For more information, drop by the SOHO office and take a look at the informative Mills Act manual, "What's In It For You?"



Reflections

*Celebrating 21 years
of active preservation
in San Diego County*

Board of Directors

President

David Swarens

Vice President

Suzanne Lawrence

Secretary

Charles Reilly

Treasurer

Melinda W. Tomes

Nancy Ajemian

Corey Jon Braun

Rick Garbini

Kathleen Kelley-Markham

Angeles Leira

Ann MacCullough

Anna Major

Edward Millican

Juliette Mondot

Rosann Muller

Robin Webster

Executive Director

Al Alferos

Reflections is published by:

Save Our Heritage Organisation
P.O. Box 3571
San Diego, CA 92163
(619) 297-9327

A non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of cultural resources, SOHO is a member of

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

Reflections

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm back!!

My thanks to the membership and board that provided me with resources and support in my first year as president of SOHO. I'm looking forward to working with a "new board" that represents a continuing expansion (and not a loss of old friends) for SOHO as we move ahead.

The wave of the future in historic preservation is increasingly swelled by a balance of preservation restrictions and incentives.

The city of Santa Ana offers revolving funds, restoration grants and mortgage programs for historic sites and districts. In Riverside, C.D.B.G.'s (Community Development Block Grants) have been applied to preserving individual homes and joined in public private partnerships to encourage projects such as the \$50 million dollar restoration of the landmark Mission Inn. Even the city of San Diego is apparently pursuing a new Mills Act contract under the state law which allows substantial property tax relief for owners of properties listed on historic registers.

For such programs to succeed they need the support of enlightened decision makers. In his August 2, 1990 column in the Los Angeles Times, writer Dirk Sutro suggests that the handling of El Cortez Hotel and The Clayton House designations offer a "city council in dire need of a history lesson" a "chance to redeem itself" after several years of activity that recently prompted National Trust president J. Jackson Walter to spotlight San Diego as a city where "preservation policy" has led to the destruction of resources.

Luckily, designation has led El Cortez Hotel owners to reconsider and they now are processing plans for a project that involves restoration of the landmark. The Clayton House, designed by Hazel Wademan, was not so fortunate. It is the first of several that will again face city council review in the coming months.

In the coming (election) year, it is our responsibility to make sure our resources get the review they deserve.

Calendar

Oct. 28	Historic Church Tour 1-3 p.m.	Coronado Historical Assn. 435-7242
Nov. 5	SOHO Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.	Sherman-Gilbert House Heritage Park
Nov. 9 & 10	Annual Convention	Congress of History of San Diego County 276-0520
Nov. 14	County Historic Site Board Meeting, 1:15 p.m.	5201 Ruffin Rd. San Diego
Nov. 28	City Historical Site Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.	12th Floor, City Admin. Bldg., San Diego
Nov. 29	SOHO's Bungalow Lecture 7:00 p.m.	Woman's Club 2557 Third Ave. San Diego

Membership News

Mr. & Mrs. B. Cartwright, members since 1971 who had been residing in Maryland, have moved to North Olmsted, Ohio.

New Members

Gordon Pratt and Lori Jones of La Mesa
Marsha Stout of Carlsbad

Renewals

Member over 20 years

Lee Douglas

Members over 15 years

Mrs. J. Irons Guymond
Frances G. Heilbron

Members over 10 years

Hal & Barbara Hallen
Harold & Katherine Nelson

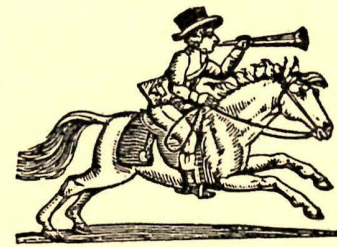
Members over 5 years

David Kuivanen
Mrs. R.P. Middlebrook
Maureen O. Donnell

Members 1 to 5 years

Dorothy Smith Collins
Jeff Gettleman
Vicki Granowitz and
William Lees

SOHO appreciates your support!



UPCOMING...

Historic Church Tour. The Coronado Historical Assn. is sponsoring a walking tour of four historic churches on Sunday, Oct. 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. Call 435-7242 for more information.

Bungalow Lecture. SOHO's Bungalow Lecture is set for Nov. 29, at 7:00 p.m. It will be held in the San Diego Woman's Club, 2557 Third Ave. See enclosed flyer.

SOHO Membership



Application/Renewal

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

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

Please call the SOHO office (297-9327) for more information. To apply for membership or to renew membership, complete the following form and send it and your check to SOHO, P.O. Box 3571, San Diego, CA 92163.

Thank You For Your Support!

New Member Renewal

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Telephone: (H) _____

Telephone: (W) _____

I would like to help with:

- Tours Workshops Membership
 Office Newsletter Other

You will be contacted regarding your choice(s).

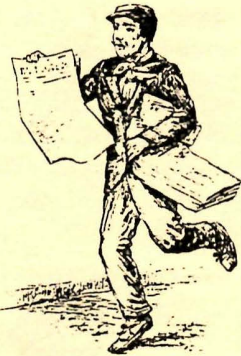
Advertising

Reflections is a monthly publication mailed to over 400 members, public and elected officials, and local and out-of-town preservation groups. Advertisements are accepted. Rates are:

Standard business card — \$35
(\$60 for two consecutive issues.)

2 1/2" x 5" \$50 5" x 5" \$100

Call SOHO (297-9327) for more information.



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Preservation Issues

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News Flash! ... A compromise in the wording of contractual documents will allow for the eventual replacement of grass in the landscaping plans at Horton Plaza Park. The agreement was reached in a meeting held prior to the San Diego City Council session on Oct. 8, at which the council voted to temporarily remove benches and grass in the park in an effort to discourage loitering.

Participating in the meeting were SOHO, Central City Assn., area merchants, city historical site board, City Architect, and City Manager's office.



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