

25th Anniversary
1969 - 1994

February 1994



Reflections

Save Our Heritage Organisation

Restoration of Gill-designed Church Advances

by Paul Johnson, AIA

The restoration of one of Irving Gill's most significant design works is about to become a reality. The First Church of Christ, Scientist, San Diego, has selected a contractor, Tony Wanket Construction of Vista, and the first signs of construction are expected to begin within 30 days. This marks the beginning of un-masking the beautiful Gill design that was covered over in a 1953 "modernization" remodel.

Fortunately, the 1953 remodel did nothing to disturb the fabric of the original building except for the height reduction and redesign of the bell tower. The exterior dome had at the time of the remodel, been removed several years earlier because of leakage and being blacked out during the war years. These two prominent architectural features will be reconstructed to their full dimensions. Approval for their design was accomplished by a variance request which was heavily supported by the historic communi-

ty as essential to an authentic restoration and to add proper proportions to the building design.

The original window and door openings have been encased in brick and stucco all these years and will once again bring natural light to the auditorium through the redesign of the architectural firm, Bokal, Kelley-Markham. The San Diego Historic Site Board has designated the building a historic landmark. In announcing its decision, the Board characterized the restoration as "a wonderful gift to the City of San Diego."

The Site Board based its designation on the building's age and prominence in San Diego history, its famous designer, Irving Gill, and also on its significance in the designer's career. The 1909 design was the second of three commissions for the Christian Science community. The first design in 1904 is at the corner of 3rd and

(Continued on pg. 3.)

SOHO Calls For People-In-Preservation Nominations

SOHO is now accepting nominations for its 1994 People In Preservation Awards program that will be held during National Preservation Week, 8-14 May.

The PIP Awards recognize exceptional accomplishments in preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and interpretation of our architectural and cultural heritage.

SOHO invites its members and others to participate in the celebration by nominating individuals, businesses and organizations you believe are most deserving of a People In Preservation Award.

A PIP nomination form is included with this newsletter. Additional forms can be obtained by calling SOHO at 297-9327.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is 31 March 1994.

President's Column

December 6, 1993, Senlis Cottage

By Robert Broms

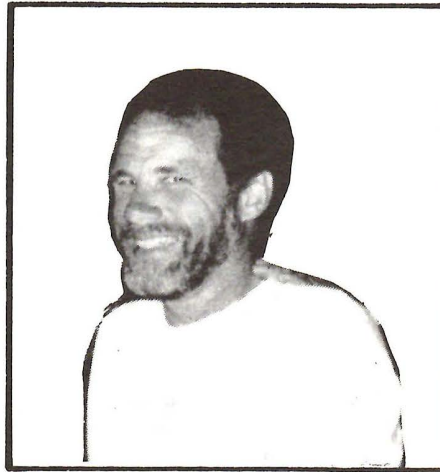
I am sitting here, in SOHO's home, hoping to get at the heart of matters. This small building, formerly a modest residence, has seen many changes. Not the least of these, of course, was its own relocation to Heritage Park. But it is within the unchanging identity of this structure that I find my clue.

The rooms wherein I sit retain their original proportions. I imagine that in listening closely to the silence they might return to me the laughter of holidays past. Other parts of the cottage are so extensively altered as perhaps to have lost their echoes. Yet the thing as a whole retains its integrity, establishes a continuing presence.

Such continuity of identity in the present is our anchor in the flux of history. Our understanding of our world, our very selves, is predicated upon this evidence of those times which have gone before us. Objects, buildings, places each provide an individual perspective on all the changes that have occurred since they came into being. These instantaneous points of view give us a sense of scale as we gaze back down the corridor of years.

In a species notorious for its hunger for the future, whence arises the impulse to save the past? Does it come from a merely pragmatic desire to avoid mistakes, self-preservation in the narrowest sense? Or is there a wider reason?

Let's look at time. Not the time of the physicist or the philosopher, for the moment, but the time of the human family, history, the stuff of the calendar. Today, in the Christian calendar, is the feast of Nicholas of Bari. Throughout Orthodox Christendom and the Slavic world, this is the annual day of gifts. Soon we begin Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. A while more and American Christians will exchange gifts, some on Christmas Eve, others on Christmas Day. Those of Hispanic heritage may actually retain the spirit



throughout the Twelve Days to the Epiphany.

In each of these, I am sketching quickly, only from my own experience, what I know of the ensuing "moon." The key observation is that each ethnic group follows a different tradition, is, in fact, defined by that tradition. Group activity is group identity. The sense of tradition is certainly the property of no one group. Nor is it the exclusive possession of those individuals given to the indulgence of nostalgia.

Tradition is living heritage. It is the annual pattern of each group's historical identity. At the Jewish feast called the Seder, a very important question is asked: "What is different about this day?" Thus begins the ceremonial retelling of one of the defining episodes of Jewish history. And for every people, that particular difference of one part of time gives structure and meaning to their identity. Traditions are repeated to maintain that identity, just as an individual will return to a particular place, a favorite building, to re-new their sense of self.

That same need to orient a group's place in the universe by the use of traditions is satisfied by the preservation of cultural resources or architectural treasures, the Declaration of Independence or Independence Hall. In the ever-changing landscape between the quantum of the physicist and the eternity of the philosopher, the Senlis Cottages are the touchstones of our common identity.

SOHO...celebrating

25 years of preservation services
in San Diego county.

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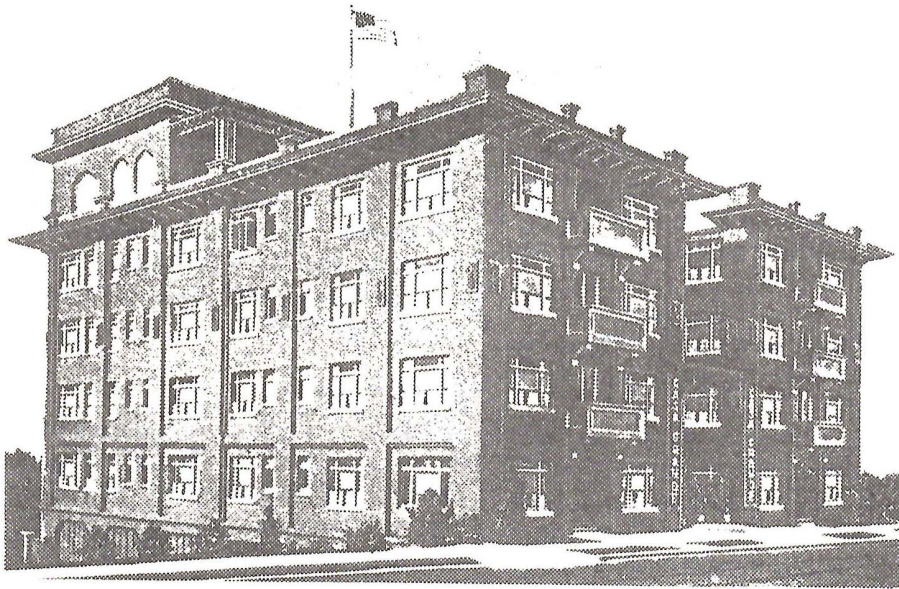
SOHO, a nonprofit corporation
dedicated to preservation of historic
and cultural resources, is a member of:

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



Volunteers Needed

Do you have a few hours a week that you can give to SOHO? Volunteers are needed in the office to answer the telephone, greet visitors, and perhaps, do light clerical work. If you interested, please call the office at 297-9327.



Do you recognize the grand-looking building in this circa-1923 rendering? The 5-story brick structure contains 58 apartment units and construction was completed in 1915. Still don't know? Well, it's the Casa Grande Apartments located at 1751 University Avenue in San Diego. The building is now owned by SOHO members Bob Grinchuk and Reuel Olin who occupy one of the two top floor suites. Check it out the next time you are in the neighborhood.

SOHO Team Inspects Adobe Chapel in Warner Springs

A crew from SOHO recently visited the St. Francis Chapel on Warner Springs Ranch to inspect the condition of the circa-1831 adobe building. It found that the structure is not useable in its present condition and extensive repair and restoration needs to be done including work on the walls and roofing. The crew, led by Vonn Marie May, is hoping to assist in a short term repair project while exploring a long term preservation effort for the building. Those making the trip, in addition to Vonn Marie, included Bruce and Alana Coons, Wayne Donaldson, Janice Fahey, Corey Braun, Kathy Flanigan, Paul Johnson, Bill Adams, and Robert Broms. The photograph below shows the exterior of the building while the photograph to the right shows Bruce Coons inspecting the damaged walls.

(Photographs by Robert Broms)

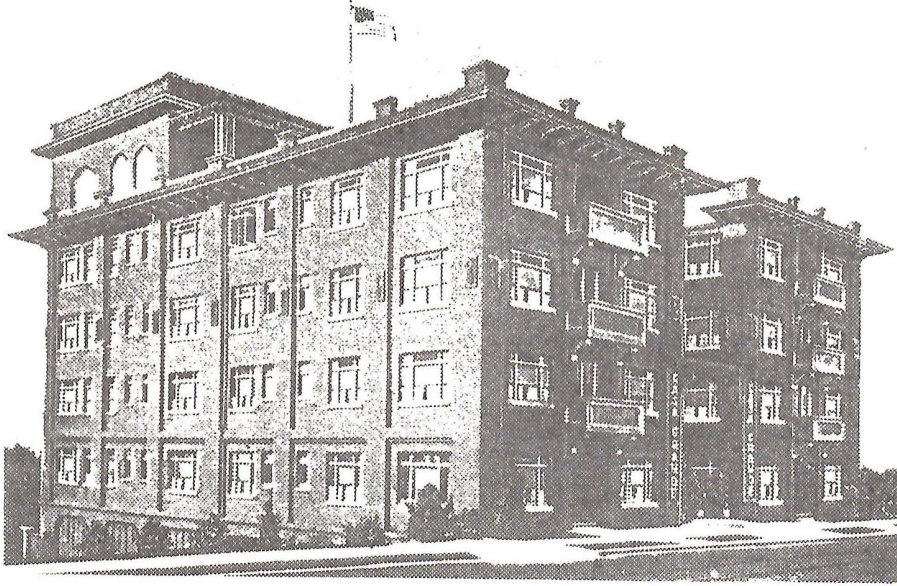


SOHO Awarded Navy Contract

The U.S. Navy has awarded SOHO a \$20,000 contract to establish an archaeological data management system for the artifacts/ecofacts from the Ballast Point archaeological project on the U.S. Naval Submarine Base in Point Loma. The contract is for one year, and is consistent with the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, which requires that archaeological resources be surveyed, analyzed, curated, and stored properly. Ron May will serve as SOHO project manager.

The work plan involves several detailed and technical phases. Responsibilities include: setting up the general analytic catalog to arrange artifacts by function and type; setting up a museum conservation collections management system; searching for curated items; developing a team to oversee the installation of hardware/software and data entry processes; developing a team that will operate the data management system; photographing and video recording artifacts; and developing a policy manual with forms for object tracking.





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Member News



SOHO welcomes the following new members...

Remigia Bermudez

Cheryl Clark

Cee Cee Gorman

Donald J. Hartley

John Hartley

Alexandra Luberski-Clausen

Tom Marshall

John Reardon

Alicia Weinert

SOHO salutes the following "long term" members:

Member for 25 years

Virginia Evans

Members for 20 years
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Hamm

Members for 15 years

Louis & Vivian Bangs

Margaret Queen

Crystine Seipel

Members for 10 years

**Coup & Smith Architects of
Calexico**

Mr. & Mrs. J.E. Caffee

Mary Lynn Hyde

Karle Meyer

Members for 5 years

Rosann Muller &

Mark Loveridge

Member Letter to SOHO

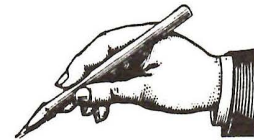
I am writing to commend SOHO for taking a strong stand in favor of preserving the Cobb warehouse in the Gaslamp Quarter.

As a preservationist, I have often been frustrated in the past by the City of San Diego's apparent attitude that historic preservation stifles economic activity. To the contrary, historic preservation fosters economic activity. Proof of this can be found in numerous cities in the eastern U.S., and in Seattle and San Francisco on our own west coast. Heritage and environmental tourism are the waves of the future.

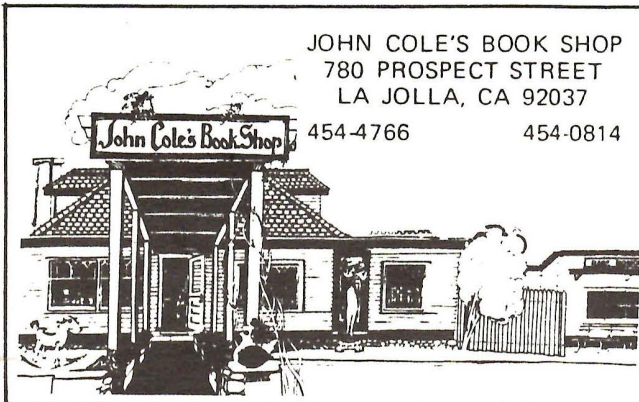
SOHO's action, in my opinion, was long overdue. I hope SOHO can show the City of San Diego that preservation of here historic resources will help lead her from these economic doldrums.

Sincerely,

Doug Scott of Plum Properties




(SOHO welcomes reader views and opinions for publication. For space considerations, keep letter short and to the point.)



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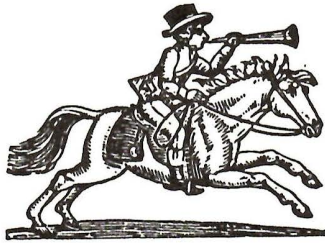
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Preservation Notices



County Seeks Victorian Articles

... County Parks & Rec Dept. is seeking the donation of several articles of Victorian furniture to complete the Bride's and Groom's dressing rooms in the historic Temple Beth Israel in Heritage Park. The tax-deductible donations will enable the County to present museum type viewing rooms to visitors when Temple functions are not scheduled. Needed articles are: Bride's Room: Cheval mirror, Occasional chair, Oriental rug or Victorian design carpeting; Groom's Room: Hall tree, preferably with mirror, Two occasional chairs, Table, Small chest or commode, Bench, Oriental rug or Victorian design carpeting. Contact Mary Ward, County Parks Historian at 291-3576.

Carl D.W. Hays Catalog Available..D. Turpen Books of Mexico & the West has released its first catalog of Western Americana & Mexicana. It features a first installment of the Carl D.W. Hays collection of Western Americana. Hays contributed numerous articles to historical journals and over the years assembled an important collection rich in titles of fur trade, exploration and cartography. To obtain a catalog, write to: Mr. Turpen, P.O. Box 8736, Albuquerque, NM 87198, or call: (505) 268-5323.

Congress of History Seeks Information on Historical Societies ...Nearly 30 years ago, the Congress of History was organized for the purpose of bringing together various people and groups and to share information on their activities, archives, and exhibits. The Congress is planning to publish a guidebook which would list the societies and provide information about them. As a first step, a questionnaire has been distributed to the groups to complete. Contact Karna Webster, president of the Congress Of History, at 463-1029.

The California State Library Foundation writes... that one of the principal missions of the California State Library has been to preserve and protect the state's cultural heritage through the acquisition of book, maps, prints, manuscripts, and ephemera that illuminate every aspect of the state's development. In the Spring, the Library will expand its Sacramento facilities when construction is completed on the Library and Courts Building II.

However, an immediate dilemma is that the state will finance only permanent construction costs in the new building, not furniture and equipment in public service areas such as tables, chairs, and microfilm readers and workstations.

To furnish this new facility, the Library Foundation has inaugurated a Capital Campaign with a goal to raise a minimum of \$2 million by April 15, 1995. Donations in any amount will be greatly appreciated. Contact California State Library Foundation, 1225 8th St., Suite 345, Sacramento CA 95814.

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1994
*People In
Preservation
Awards*

Call for
Nominations

Each year the Save Our Heritage Organisation celebrates the best of preservation by presenting People In Preservation Awards to individuals and organizations whose projects demonstrate outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence in historic preservation.

SOHO pays tribute to its Award recipients and applauds their accomplishments at a special program during National Preservation Week, **8-14 May**.

The People In Preservation Awards recognize exceptional accomplishment in preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and interpretation of our architectural and cultural heritage.

SOHO invites you to participate in the celebration by nominating those individuals and organizations you believe are most deserving of a People In Preservation Award.



**1994 People in Preservation
Nomination Form**

(Please type or print clearly)

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Nomination submitted by: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Reasons for Nomination: _____

Brief Description of Work Achieved: _____

Historical Significance of Nomination: _____

List of Exhibits Presented in Support of the Nomination:

(Please be advised that nomination materials will not be returned.)

Send completed nomination form and exhibits to:

SOHO, P.O. Box 3571, San Diego CA 92163. Nominations must be received by 31 March 1994.

NEWS BULLETIN...

State Commission Votes to Designate Aztec Bowl

At a meeting on 18 February, the State of California Historical Resources Commission sided with preservationists when it voted 6-1 to recommend Aztec Bowl for the National Register of Historical Places. The commission reached its decision after listening to a number of speakers from both sides argue over the significance of the cobblestone and concrete structure located on the campus of San Diego State University. The university adamantly opposes designation and wants to tear down the WPA project that was completed in 1936 and build an arena in its place.

Interestingly, commissioner Patricia Cologne, who lives in San Diego, cast the lone vote against designation.

Ann Rizzo, the SDSU student who has led a 2-year fight to save the bowl, and others insist the structure, because of its WPA-background, its age, the importance of the 1963 visit by President John Kennedy, and other memories, is worthy of preservation. Among those who spoke or were present to support "designation were SOHO president Robert Broms and SOHO members Paul Johnson, Vonnie Marie May, Kathleen Kelley-Markham, M. Wayne Donaldson, and David Swarens. In his remarks, Swarens focused on the bowl being one of the largest WPA (Works Progress Administration) projects in the San Diego area. He described the bowl as a "key component of the original campus core plan, achieving an efficiency if site use based on a sensitive elaboration of natural design by using vernacular and site-related materials."

While the action by the commission is good news to preservationists for now there is still a fight ahead because the university reportedly plans to oppose the recommendation when it is considered at the national level.

SOHO v. City of San Diego, Et Al

As this edition of "Reflections" went to press, SOHO's suit against the City of San Diego and its Redevelopment Agency, concerning the fate of the historical structures at the Southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and K Street, was set for trial Thursday, February 24, at 9:00 a.m., in Department 17 of the Superior Court before Judge Judith L. Haller. The T.M. Cobb Co. and sign shop complex are listed as contributing structures to the Gaslamp Quarter National Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

The remaining buildings, architect W.S. Hebbard's 1894 Clemens warehouse, another 1985 warehouse attributed to Hebbard, and the 1896 First and Last Chance Saloon, were recently cited in the National Trust for Historical Preservation's list of threatened structures.

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