



May 1995

Reflections

Save Our Heritage Organisation

SOHO Receives Governors Award

Congratulations SOHO members

The governor's office in Sacramento recently announced that SOHO had been selected as one of fourteen groups statewide to receive the prestigious 1995 Governor's Historic Preservation Award. Governor Pete Wilson commended the groups for "their special efforts to help protect our state's heritage and for projects that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to excellence in historic preservation." The awards were scheduled to be presented May 1, on the steps of the State Capitol. SOHO president Vonn Marie May

planned to represent SOHO at the ceremony. (More on this in the next newsletter.)

SOHO is being recognized for its efforts in taking the lead in the repair and restoration of the historic St. Francis Chapel in Warner Springs Ranch. The project consisted of repairing the roof adjacent to the bell tower, making new adobe blocks, excavating the entire interior bell tower, and concreting from ground level to the top of the structure.

The Governor's Historic Preservation Awards are presented annually

under the sponsorship of the State Office of Historic Preservation to organizations whose contribution demonstrate outstanding commitment to excellence. The purpose of the awards program is to increase public awareness of historic preservation; promote excellence in historic preservation; recognize organizations that have made significant contributions to the advancement of historic preservation and have demonstrated exceptional commitment and achievement in the stewardship of historic properties; and recognize projects of excellent quality.

Appeal Heard on Cobb Lawsuit

On April 19, a panel of three justices heard the arguments on SOHO's appeal of its lawsuit against the City of San Diego over the city's handling of the Gaslamp Quarter property known as the T.M. Cobb building.

Presenting arguments on behalf of SOHO were, SOHO's attorney William Adams and attorneys from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the California Preservation Foundation and the State Attorney General's Office.

A decision on this important preservation project is expected sometime within the next 60 to 90 days.



The Attorneys

President's Message
Vonn Marie May

As we begin our observance of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, we now have the opportunity to put San Diego's military contributions in full context and appreciation.

Consider this: 1942 -- the West Coast -- months, if not weeks, after Pearl Harbor the U.S. is fully mobilized and inspired to right the wrong of that infamous day. Funding from Washington flowed like a 100 year flood event into the City and we were at optimum output and challenge; Balboa Park converted to a medical facility and was renamed Camp Kidd for the fallen Admiral. Naval Training center trained newcomers at its most accelerated rate. Military housing mushroomed throughout the City. San Diego more than responded to the call, we transformed ourselves into a wartime city of the first order.

From personal family stories I have always imagined the war effort to be one of great vitality and unity. A unique time that can only happen under extreme circumstances. My parents were both in the military, my mother was a Captain in the Navy Nurse Corps stationed at Balboa Park, and my father was a Marine in the Carlson's Raiders wounded in the Pacific and recovered at Balboa. (My aunt was also in the Marine Corps and my uncle was in the Air Force)

So now a half century later with the dust settled a new age military has emerged and we face restructuring from quite a different mission. World War II is now are recent history yet we are still generationally connected and feel the relevance from lessons learned that affect today's decisions. This city rallied in full measure and we should be awed and proud. We should also preserve this history for the succeeding generations to "walk-through" with the same amazement thereby maintaining that connection.

SOHO, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Department of defense through the Legacy program present Preservation Week 1995 for your enjoyment and reflection.

SOHO
 Save Our Heritage Organisation

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SOHO, a non-profit 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

Memorandum of Agreement Concludes Chollas Heights Debate

After a year of meetings and often intense negotiations involving the U.S. Navy, the Federal Preservation Advisory Council, the state Office of Historic Preservation, the Eastern Area Planning Committee (a community advisory group) and SOHO, the parties signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that defined the future of the Navy-owned Chollas Heights Radio Transmitting Facility. The terms of the MOA call for dismantling of the landmark three radio towers, long a familiar sight in the area.

The MOA also provides for the interpretation of the site's unique history as a link in the first system from which meaningful radio signals could be available worldwide. Still, the loss of the 600-foot tall towers will seriously impact the significance of the historic district and the SOHO board of directors spent a lot of time discussing the matter before deciding to affix its signature to the MOA.

Developed around the time of the first World War, the Chollas Heights facility, which has only recently become assessible to non-security personnel, consists of, in addition to the towers located behind the Grove Shopping Center, a central transmitter building in the Mission Revival mode, utilitarian buildings associated with maintenance and technology, and bungalow style residential buildings including a barracks.

Under the terms of the MOA, Building "1", the transmitter building, will be restored, and will include a museum, interpreting the site, its history and technology. The museum will be open to the general public.

All utilitarian and support buildings will be demolished following documentation. Residential buildings will be reviewed for feasibility of rehabilitation as housing units in a relocated clustered core "historic district." Historic landscaping will be retained in this area. (Introduced and invasive plant species will be removed on the rest of the site.)

Finally, the radio towers will be removed. The Navy's concerns over maintenance and liability were obstacles which proved to be too much to overcome during the year of discussions. SOHO suggested that these structures, if they must be lost, be interpreted in their monumentality. So one tower base, to its first horizontal section, will be retained in situ, and other components including the triatic array will be retained, incorporated and interpreted in the development.

While the integrity of this most significant site will be compromised by the development of Navy housing here, SOHO's involvement has insured that some important element of identity and memory will remain for future generations.

Robert Broms, a member of SOHO's preservation action committee, added immeasurably to the credibility of our organization with his advocacy, research and communication as SOHO's principle representative in MOA negotiations.

By David Swarens

Attendees Applaud Housing Conference

Within the friendly confines of the Common Room at the Mission Brewery, some 70 participants at a March 31 conference on affordable housing received valuable strategic information from experts, exchanged information on the local housing situation and, when appropriate, engaged in a lively give-and-take

training, and reality, session.

The daylong conference focused on the rehabilitation and adaptive use of historic structures as affordable units in older communities and was the first of three such meetings that the California Preservation Foundation planned to do in the state.

From the post-conference comments heard, attendees were enthusiastic over the possibilities put forth by conference presenters. SOHO was a co-sponsor of the event and wishes to thank Mike Foote of Foote Development Company for donating the use of the facility.

Annual People In Preservation Awards

The historic Grace Lutheran Church is the site of the 1995 SOHO People In Preservation Awards ceremony. The date is May 11, and the program begins at 6:30 P.M. There will be a guided tour of the church, a silent auction and, of course, the presentation of awards. There will be a no-host beer and wine bar; hors d'oeuvres and dessert will be served.

As you may know, the purpose of this long-standing event is to recognize and honor exceptional accomplishment in preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and interpretation of architectural and cultural heritage. Past recipients included individuals, businesses, government officials and community groups who went that "extra mile" on behalf of historic preservation.

This year's awardees, who will be introduced on the evening of the event, have been picked by a panel of experts from PIP nominations received by SOHO from throughout the region. The facilities of the restored church will match well with the evening's program. Grace Lutheran Church is located at 3993 Park Blvd.

As a highlight of SOHO's programs of activities, members are encouraged to attend and participate in the PIP festivities, and even though the deadline has past for making advanced reservations, members can still call the office (297-9327) to inquire about attending. The cost is \$25 per person.

Preservation Week Activities in High Gear

Don't be left out! The final planning is going real well for the exciting schedule of activities that SOHO has put together for Historic Preservation Week. The week is shaping up to be an inspiring and memorable tribute to San Diego's rich military heritage. But because of space limitations our members are reminded to make their plans and reservations early.

You have probably received a copy of SOHO's colorful brochure which contains a listing of events, dates and schedules. Please refer to it for details and get busy with your plans. We don't want you to be left out!

WANTED

A volunteer Recording Secretary to record the monthly meetings of the board of directors and produce written minutes of same. The board normally meets on the third Monday from approximately 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., in Heritage Park

SOHO Membership Application

Membership privileges include the newsletter *Reflections* to keep you informed of preservation issues and activities, as well as special prices for SOHO workshops, tours and related activities and events.

Please call the SOHO office (297-9327) for more information. To apply for 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!

Membership Categories

- \$1000 Lifetime
- 500 Benefactor
- 250 Corporate
- 100 Executive
- 50 Professional
- 25 Individual/Family
- 10 Student

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Yes, please send information on SOHO' Planned Giving Program

I would like to help with: Tours Newsletter Office Membership Workshops Other
You will be contacted regarding your choice(s).

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r**May**

- 6 - Los Angeles Rail Tour**
California Preservation Foundation, quarterly meeting
- 11 - People in Preservation Awards**
- 14-20 Preservation Week**
- Monday**
 Cabrillo National Monument Tour
- Tuesday**
 Panel Discussion and Slide Presentation at the Thornton Theater, San Diego Museum of History. Balboa Park
- Wednesday**
 Naval Air Station - North Island Tour
- Thursday**
 Marine Corps Recruit Depot & Naval Training Station Tour
- Saturday**
 Naval Submarine Base

**CPF Board Meets
in
San Diego**

The California Preservation Foundation (CPF) will hold its quarterly meeting here in San Diego on Saturday, May 6, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All interested members of the local preservation community are welcome to attend this meeting of the Oakland-based historic preservation group. For the location of the meeting, call CPF board member Alexa Luberski-Clausen here locally at 220-5314.

No Host Bar and Dinner Gathering

Following the daylong session, there are plans for the group to gather at 6 p.m. for dinner and beverages at Cabo Cabo Mexican Restaurant in the Gaslamp Quarter. Entrees ranges from \$8.00 to \$13.00. Because of space considerations and the Cinco de Mayo weekend, Alexa has to make advanced arrangements with the restaurant so let her know of your plans a few days before the meeting.

**Auction Items Needed
For PIP**

Over the years, one of the more popular sidelights at SOHO events has been our silent auctions. Many interesting items and artifacts have been made available and it is an excellent way to add to one's collection. To make this a success, we need members to donate items to the auction. Please feel free to contact Ralph Lewin (232-4020) or Erik Hanson (239-6150) if you have anything that may suitable. Remember, donated items are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

**Reception at Mary Ward's
Bungalow**

As a fitting cap to the evening, there will be a coffee-and-dessert reception at 7:30 p.m., at Mary Ward's beautifully restored Emmer Brooke Weaver-designed home, 1824 Sheridan St. in Mission Hills. For this informal get-together, guests are asked to bring a dessert to share with other guests.

Member News

Membership Milestones

**SOHO
Welcomes New Members**

Charles Baker

Steven Connor

Montegna Law Offices

Mark Waldow

Members for 20 years (since 1975)

- * Gloria Eddy
- * Dudley Graham
- * M/M Peter Norton
- * Pat Schaelchlin
- * Mark Tarasuck, AIA
- * Bernis Wall

Member for 15 years (since 1980)

- * Miriam Davis
- * F.N. & Sarah Spiess

Members for 10 years (since 1985)

- * Stephen Boeh
- * Judge David Gill
- * David P. Kuivanen, AIA

Members for 5 years (since 1990)

- * Camille Cowlshaw
- * Annette & Frank Leuver
- * Everett Mehner & Linda Espino
- * Patra Straub
- * Ann Rea Wilde

Thanks for your support



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