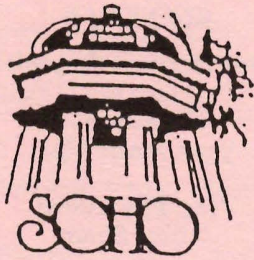


July 1995



Reflections

Save Our Heritage Organisation

1995 PIP Awards

On May 11, SOHO handed out awards in 21 wide-ranging categories at its annual People In Preservation (PIP) function which was held at the historic Grace Lutheran Church in the Uptown District.

Preservationist of the Year was the Sherman Heights Revitalization Team of Carlos Graizbord, David Swarens, Estela Rubalcaba Klink, Angeles Leira, Maria Riveroll, Juan Ulloa, and Al Velasco.

Individuals who were honored included Anne Rizzo for her valiant campaign to keep the Aztec Bowl at San Diego State University from being demolished; and Malcolm "Mickey" Campbell, awarded posthumously the Craftsman Award for his work on behalf of the Lakeside Historical Society. San Diego City Councilman Juan Vargas was saluted for his leadership role in the area of preservation of resources.

Two SOHO board members, Bob Broms and Vonn Marie May, were recognized for their zealous efforts on two SOHO projects. Broms contributed many hours of his own time trying to preserve the landmark radio towers in Chollas Heights while

May spent many weekends organizing and leading work crews to Warner Spring's Ranch to repair and restore a historic adobe chapel. As previously reported, SOHO received the Governor's Award in Historic Preservation for this project.

A complete list of awards and recipients is included inside.

New Board Seated at Annual Meeting

The 1995-96 slate for SOHO board of directors was approved by unanimous vote by members who attended the annual meeting on June 19, at the residence of Don and Karon Covington.

The 12-member board will be headed by Vonn Marie May who was elected to a second term as president. Joining her as board officers are Jeffrey Shorn, the new vice president; Bill Lawrence, returning as treasurer; and Ingrid Helton, returning as secretary.

Returning directors are Stuart Fromson, Paul Johnson, Erik Hanson, Ralph Lewin, Ronald May, and David Swarens.

In addition, members approved the nomination of Robert Grinchuk and Jeff Ramirez as new board members. Grinchuk, who holds a doctorate in American Studies, is a real estate investor. He has been involved with the Uptown Planning Community, the Greater Golden Hills Community

Development Corp., and the Hillcrest Business Assn. Ramirez, a native of San Diego, is a senior producer for KPBS broadcasting and serves on the station's editorial board.

Four members who are leaving the board were acknowledged for their contributions on behalf of preservation. They are Alex Bevil, Bob Broms, Janice Fahey, and Jim Royle.

As always, a highlight of the annual meeting is the ceremonial passing of the "SOHO Lady," the seasoned old table lamp that symbolizes a trophy. It is awarded to the board member who seems to serve on every committee and project, and does so with distinction and without fanfare. Bob Broms, the current holder, picked Ingrid Helton to receive the lamp. By tradition, she must display it openly in her home for the next 12 months.



Watching with interest are (L-R), Maria Castillo, Carol Lindemulder, Ingrid Helton, and Suzanne Lawrence.
Bob Broms photograph

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vonn Marie May

As I enter year two of being president of SOHO I look back over year one and see that we accomplished some pretty great things. Some of those were quite intentional, others emerged and took on lives of their own.

Of the more intentional; our tours from the Education Committee that reprised SOHO's long-history of being tour givers i.e.; La Mesa Train, Los Angeles Library and Mt. Hope Cemetery tours.

Our Preservation Action committee closely monitored issues that directly effect historic resources resulting in SOHO putting its signature to a Memorandum of Agreement with the United States Navy, the National Advisory Council, the State Office of Historic Preservation and the Eastern Area Planning Group for the preservation and interpretation of the Chollas Heights Radio Tower site.

The Resources Committee hosted our 25th Anniversary celebration, People In Preservation Awards banquet, the Annual Meeting and other important social gatherings.

Concerning those great things that snuck up on us: the California Governor's Historic Preservation Award for the partial restoration of St. Francis Chapel at Warner's Ranch (SOHO was nominated by the Pala Indian Tribe). We were one out of twelve statewide.

Another was the National Preservation Week's 50th Anniversary of the end of WWII in which we partnered with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Department of Defense through the 'Legacy' program to host extensive tours of San Diego's military bases. It was our most ambitious tour package in our history.

Whew!!! It was a busy year and I especially wish to thank Chairman

Bob Broms and members of the Education Committee, Chairman David Swarens and members of the Preservation Action Committee, Chairwoman Ingrid Helton and members of the Resources Committee, and all of the other board members for their cooperation and support.

Now on to the upcoming year. We plan more wonderful tours that will further illuminate San Diego's architectural, garden, transportation and culture heritage. We also will be having more membership gatherings that help us all to network and grow.

We must also continue to monitor the legislative processes back in Washington and let them know that defunding history and culture will only serve to diminish us all.

I personally would like to see us draw closer to the Arts and Public Schools-communities to demonstrate the continuum of art and culture throughout our history. My sincere wish is to propose a joint project to draw attention to our environmental and cultural history ie: the origins of Old Town as it related to the untamed San Diego River (a blue lighting scheme marking the edges of the river as it snaked behind Cal-Trans and moved south where I-5 is now). And the Dutch Flats site where Lindbergh and Claude Ryan tested the 'Spirit' of St. Louis. I can see a few hundred school children dressed in red outlining the runways just northwest of Barnett. Let's do it!!

As we intentionally chart our course, I'm sure there will be those projects or issues that will present themselves to us and enhance our mission as well.

Please let us know what your thoughts are and join us in bringing light to that which sustains us...our living history.

SOHO

Save Our Heritage Organisation

President
Vonn Marie May

Vice President
Jeffrey Shorn

Treasurer
Bill Lawrence

Secretary
Ingrid Helton

Directors
Stuart Fromson
Robert Grinchuk
Erik Hanson
Paul Johnson
Ralph Lewin
Ronald May
Jeff Ramirez
David Swarens

Executive Director
Al Alferos

Reflections is published:
SOHO
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Office Located in Heritage Park
(619) 297-9327

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

Wanted...Still

SOHO still needs a volunteer recording secretary to take minutes of board meetings and produce a written transcript of these meetings. The board usually meets on the third Monday from approximately 6:00 to 9:30 p.m in Heritage Park. Staff will assist with note taking. If you can help, please call Al Alferos at 297-9327.



A view of the interior courtyard of the newly restored Riverside Mission Inn, site of the 20th annual meeting of the California Preservation Foundation.

Vonn Marie May photograph

20th Annual CPF Conference

The California Preservation Foundation's 20th annual conference was held in May at the Mission Inn in Riverside with good statewide attendance. Several SOHO member were there.

The educational sessions were in four tracks:

- o The Changing Urban Landscape
- o Preservation and Restoration Primer
- o Designation, Protection & Mitigation of Historic Resources
- o Parks, Boulevards, Gardens & Landscapes

My attendance was weighted on the parks and landscape tracks. I attended the related tour that took participants down the very long and generously "tree'd" Victoria Avenue (c.1892) delivering us to the new *California Citrus State Historic Park*, the State Park's latest endeavor in process.

This park incorporates open green

expanses, historic and cultural interpretation, viable living physical resources, private/public partnerships and a public venue for use in large gatherings. It truly responds to the modern needs and uses of a public park while promoting the history of the region with acres of recreated orange groves and pays for itself with a small component of privatization.

In the most noble gesture of 'public' land this park demonstrates a new trend in 'cultural relevance' beyond normal quantitative requirements and maintenance-driven designs.

Also, if you haven't seen the Mission Inn for awhile it has completed its last round of restoration and is open and booming with business.

The City of Riverside has a major asset in this resource as well as the surrounding district, amazingly intact. The arcadian mission revival era of early California is alive and waiting for you to experience!

Vonn Marie May

Wide Range of Tours and Workshops Planned

How about a tour of historic sites in Tijuana... a train trip and tour to Riverside... a local Arts and Crafts home tour... or a workshop on paint analysis for home restorers and do-it-yourselfers?

These are just some of the projects and ideas being discussed by the SOHO education committee for the upcoming months and next year.

A tentative list of activities follows:

September

- Tijuana Tour
- Centre City East Tour

October

- Arts & Crafts Home Tour
- Greenwood Cemetery Tour

November

- Rancho Penasquitos Tour

1996

- Regional Workshop Series
- Rancho Guajome Tour
- Fullerton Train Tour
- Paint Analysis Workshop
- Riverside Train Tour
- San Juan Capistrano Train Trip

What Do You Think?

Again, this is a tentative list subject to changes and adjustments due to weather, interest, etc., and the education committee welcomes member input, comments and suggestions. Call and let us know what you think.

Simply Divine 
ART STUDIO

**In University Heights
is offering a class in basic
PAINTED FINISHES
for walls and furniture.
The class is held on
Saturdays from 9-11 am.
Cost is \$35.00.
Other days and times can be
scheduled.
Call SOHO member Suzanne
Fitzpatrick at 298-1898.**

A Garden Party at the Marston House

The George White and Anna Gunn Marston House, San Diego's only Craftsman-style house museum, will be hosting a Garden Party on Sunday, **August 6 from noon to 4:00 p.m.** Guests will be treated to a day of nostalgic entertainment, including historic lawn games in the house's 8 acre garden, and a chance to practice Ikebana flower arranging.

Clowns and face painter will be on hand to entertain children, who receive a free balloon with admission. Chet Hood, a drama teacher from the Los Angeles City School District, will lead children through his unique Costume Trunk Show, an activity which allow children to dress in period costumes and then stage a short play.

All guest are encouraged to wear turn-of-the-century clothing to match the style of dress with the style of the house, built in 1906 by William S. Hebbard and Irving J. Gill. Docent tours of the house and a special lecture on its Roycroft furniture will be given throughout the day.

Admission is \$10 per person at the door and refreshments are included in the ticket price. A special advanced ticket price of \$8 per person and \$12 per family will be offered through July 28. Funds raised at this event will benefit restoration projects at the Marston House.

For tickets and information call Lee Davidson at 451-5665. Reservations will be held at the door. The Marston House is operated by the San Diego Historical Society.



Memories of the Los Angeles Train Tour

(above) The newly restored Los Angeles Library. (below) Participants boarding SOHO's 'own' coach at the Santa Fe Depot for the May 6 trip.

Bob Broms photographs





-Preservation Week Pictorial -

Here are some of the sights from SOHO's Preservation Week Tours. (top left) Entrance to the historic chapel at the Naval Training Center. (below left) Stained glass inside the chapel showing the figure of a sailor. (above) A display of a military helicopter at the Naval Air Station at North Island. (below) The Bertran Goodhue Tower at North Island.

Vonn Marie May photographs



Michigan Victorian Features Spiral Stairs

The Story of the Octagon House

Ed. Note. SOHO member Marilyn Crehore sent us a story from the Detroit Free Press about an ambitious restoration project. We share part of it with you.

The restoration of the insides of Macomb County's spectacular Octagon House is about to begin. The \$250,000 job that will turn the eight-sided Victorian home into a museum begins this summer with \$72,000 in repairs to the central spiral staircase - the architectural heart of the house.

The stairs spiral up to the center of the two-story house to the cupola atop the roof. What makes them so unusual is that the center section of the stairs is cantilevered, unsupported by walls or floor.

The spiral is made up of thousands of hand-carved blocks of wood, and workers will take apart the blocks, repair them and put them back together.

The money for the project is being raised by Friends of the Octagon House.

Octagon houses had their heyday in the mid-1800s, when about 3,000 were built across the country, 30 to 50 of them in Michigan. Fewer than 500 remain, most of them private homes.

"It's considered one of the few true American art forms," said a source with the Friends of the Octagon House.

It was built in 1860 by engineer Loren Andrus in a rivalry among four families to build the most unusual home. He won, hands down - but it nearly bankrupted him.

Families - his and others- lived there until 1938, when the house began a strange odyssey, becoming a restaurant, then a Wayne State university student farm, then a working farm. By 1973, the house was in such bad shape it was condemned.

Days before the wrecking ball was due to strike, a couple bought the house. They turned it into a living

museum where for nearly 10 years thousands of schoolchildren and their families came to visit. But in 1984, these owners went bankrupt.

Once again, the house moldered and was vandalized - until a group of residents raised \$185,000 to buy it and board it up. Those buyers became the Friends of the Octagon House.

They restored the red exterior in 1988 and now are turning to the inside. They don't have any idea how long that will take. All they need is money -but say that's not a problem.

As one of the Friends put it, "When people really see something going up, they take more interest in it. The Cathedral at Salisbury in England spends \$12,000 a day, 365 days a year, on maintenance. For 700 years they have been restoring that building...The money is always there."

Planning a Visit to Michigan?

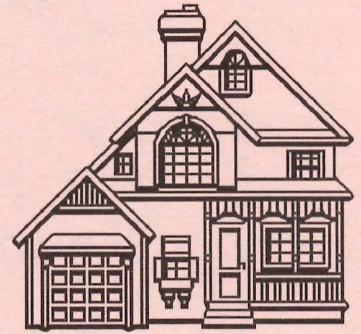
The Octagon House is located at 57500 Van Dyke, in the town of Washington. Anyone who would like to find out more, make a donation or arrange a visit, should contact Friends of the Octagon House, P.O. Box 94118, Washington, Mich. 48094, or call 1-800-781-0084.

Mural Unveiled in Burton House

A new attraction now awaits visitors to Heritage Park thanks to Judy Peterson, the ambitious owner and operator of the Country Craftsman store in the Burton House. She has completely restored one of the rooms with a mural which covers four walls and the ceiling and depicts scenes of Old San Diego at the turn of the century. The mural was unveiled at ribbon-cutting ceremonies over the Fourth of July weekend.

In appreciation of the furnishings and wares on display, the remodeled space is aptly named the Angel and Wedding Room. The historically comprehensive artwork was done by Dawna Taylor Jones, muralist for the San Diego Historical Society and other local organizations. For store hours, call the Country Craftsman at 294-4600.

**Looking for an
office with historic
details?**



For Sale! Bankers Hill Location.

Zoned for professional/medical.
Great for architects, attorneys,
CPA's, psychologists, dental or
non-profits.

This 2-story residence/office has
wood built-ins, and period moldings,
leaded and beveled glass windows,
and
original light fixtures.

Original 1913 house plans included.

Currently six office spaces, fully
occupied. Could remodel back to
residence. Patio. Large back yard
with alley access to private parking.

Beautifully kept up!

Call Jim Dax at Coldwell Banker

574-5171

California Center for the Arts Museum in Escondido Presents...

Ground Covers, a site-specific
installation by Bay Area landscape
architect Peter Walker, will be on
view in the Museum Sculpture Court
from July 15 through August 25.

Walker will give a lecture on July
15, from 5 to 6 pm. **The lecture
is free and open to the public.
Call 738-4120.**

Preservationist of the Year
Sherman Heights Revitalization
Team

Civic Jewel Award

Paradise Valley Hospital

Community Education Award
Computer Museum of America

Special SOHO Award
San Diego City Councilman
Juan Vargas

Ed Scott
Memorial Award
for Historical Research
Jack Williams
Fred Buchanan

Early California Heritage Award
Vonn Marie May

Miles Parker Artist Award
Balboa Art Conservation Center

Community Spirit Award
Pat Cologne



PIP Winners

Craftsman Award
(awarded posthumously)
Malcolm "Mickey" Campbell

Home Preservation Award
Rurik and Marjorie Kallis

National Legacy Award
U.S. Naval Command
(NCCOSC RDTE DIV)

People in the Trenches Award
Anne Rizzo

Spiritual Award
Grace Lutheran Church

Community Landmark Preservation
Award
Olivenhain Town Council

Community Landmark Restoration
Award
Lakeside Historical Society

Airwaves Award
Robert Broms

Adaptive Reuse Award
Lamb's Players Theatre

All Aboard Award
Old Town Trolley Tours

Civic Service Award
Pacific Beach Woman's Club

Living Treasure Award
Beatrice La Force

Crisscross Award
County of San Diego Parks
and Recreation Department

SPREAD the word!
Cut off the SOHO membership application
and pass it along to a friend, student,
co-worker or anyone else with an
interest in historic preservation.



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).

Member News

SOHO welcomes new members **Marian Burk** of Santee...The **Brotsis Family** of San Leandro... **Marvin Gerst** of Rancho Santa Fe... and **Ernest and Betty Bolderick**...**Joan Campbell**...**Mark Harrison**...**Jack Illes**...**Bud Riley**...and **Stan and Laurel Schwartz**, all of San Diego.



Membership Milestones

20 years

Angela Kasitz
Jack Meek

10 years

Renee Vallely
Steven Sund

5 years

Herb and Amy Burwick

Karen Benjamin, who had been helping SOHO executive director Al Alferos with office operations and the newsletter, and serving as consultant on preservation matters, has returned to her home in Burlington, Vermont where she plans to begin a career which focuses on the preservation of historic resources. Karen recently earned a master of science degree in historic preservation from the University of Connecticut.

*

Congratulations to new Congress of History president **Helen Halmay**.

*

A special thanks to **Carol Lindemulder** for her recent generous cash donation for educational purposes.

*

SOHO welcomes **Ann Bethel** to San Diego. Ann is the new executive director of the San Diego Historical Society and she brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to this longtime friend and ally of SOHO. Most recently she was the director of the Reagan Library and Museum in Simi Valley.



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San Diego, California 92163

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