

December 1995



Reflections

Save Our Heritage Organisation

National Trust and 'Christmas in April' alliance to advance housing rehabilitation

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has announced that it has established a partnership with the Christmas in April, a volunteer group specializing in housing rehabilitation, much of it done in historic neighborhoods.

A letter from National Trust president Richard Moe notes that the missions of the two organizations pursue the same goals and encounter similar challenges. "Just as the National Trust is the leader of the national preservation movement, Christmas in April is the leading volunteer organization in housing rehabilitation in America," Moe says. It is hoped that this partnership will help support the work of historic preservation groups and enhance their outreach with community groups.

The national office of Christmas in April provides assistance and supports to 155 affiliates in 44 states. In 1995, 130,000 volunteers rehabilitated 4,000 houses, many in historic neighborhoods, in 380 cities and towns. San Diego is listed as a participating city.

Low-income, elderly helped

According to Christmas in April figures, some five and a half million low-income homeowners in America are elderly, and the vast majority are women. Over one-third live alone, and 43% spend over 40% of their income on housing expenditures.

Twenty-two percent of all Americans are shelter poor, meaning they cannot afford basic minimum necessities after paying housing costs.

Therein lies the paradox: they have a home but cannot afford to maintain it. With volunteers eager to help, Christmas in April fills a desperate need, revitalizing neighborhoods as well as rehabilitating houses. For more information, contact Patty Johnson, President of Christmas in April, 1225 Eye Street, NW, Suite 601, Washington, DC 20005. ■

SDHS Institute of History Call for papers

The San Diego Historical Society's Institute of History is making its annual call for manuscripts on subjects of historical significance. Articles pertaining to California, the Southwest and Baja California are considered when they involve events or individuals influencing the history of San Diego. Winners will be announced on Apr. 27, 1996. The deadline for submittal of papers is Feb. 23, 1996. For information, call Sally West at the Society, 232-6203.



Paul Johnson Photograph
Another melting adobe in the back country near Warner Springs. Above is a remnant stage stop for the Southern Overland Route (circa 1860). SOHO will soon publish its annual list of the county's 10 most endangered historic sites.

President's Report

Vonn Marie May

Many events have taken place since our last newsletter. I will touch on just a few of them.

I would like to dedicate this issue of *Reflections* to the memory of Bruce Kamerling who passed away in October. The loss is felt by many but the magnitude of loss is my emphasis.

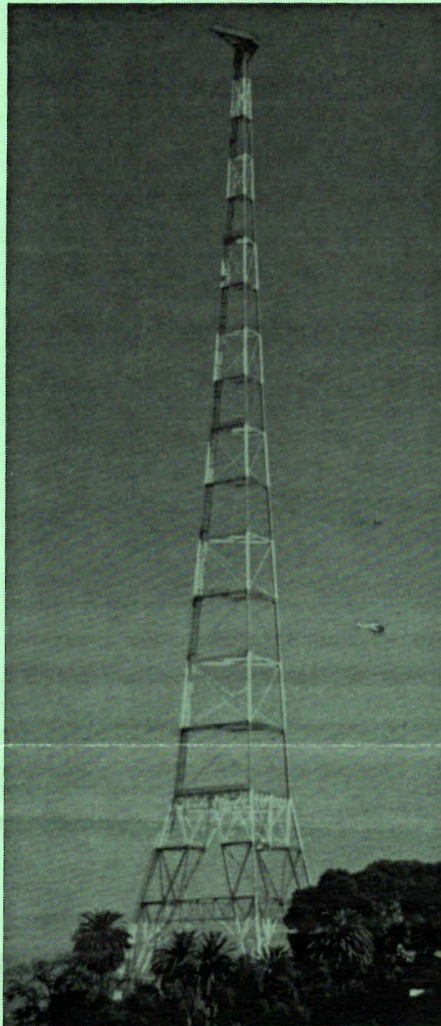
As curator, collector, author, artist, historian and other disciplines, a great vacuum follows now that this aesthetic soul, who had an unusually far reach, is out of our midst.

A memorial service was held at the Marston House under the Oaks, as Bruce had requested, and hosted about 200 hundred people; family, friends and associates. Words and emotions were shared that wove a consistent image of Bruce's effect on our lives both personally and professionally. Words cannot express how much he will be missed.



Bruce Kamerling
SOHO President - 1976

Photo from a publication of the San Diego Historical Society.



Vonn Marie May Photograph

Shown above is one of the 600+ feet tall radio towers shortly before it was dynamited from its foundation on Nov. 11th.

As you have probably seen and heard the Chollas Heights Radio Towers are now truly....'history.' Driven by modern housing needs the Navy identified the historic site as one that must have rows of dwelling units. SOHO participated in the process of mitigation for the loss of significant features and came to a compromise with the Navy, the National Advisory Council,

the State Historic Preservation Office and the local planning group to preserve parts of the site and assemble them in an historic district that interprets this valuable technological history.

The project agreed on by all is now in its very preliminary stage. We will continue to be a partner in this process until the dream is realized and the promises are honored. ■

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:

The National Trust for Historic Preservation.

■
The California Preservation Foundation.

■
The San Diego Historical Society

Member Profile...

M. Wayne Donaldson, F.A.I.A.

Being named 1995 Preservationist of the Year by the California Preservation Foundation (CPF) is the latest in a long list of honors to be bestowed on architect M. Wayne Donaldson, a longtime SOHO member and head of the downtown architectural firm which bears his name. Let's take a look at this busy and interesting person who can always find the time to lend a hand to SOHO projects.

Donaldson is recognized as a leader in historic restoration and adaptive reuse of existing structures and his knowledge unites the nineteenth century building methods with the state-of-the-art twentieth century construction technologies.

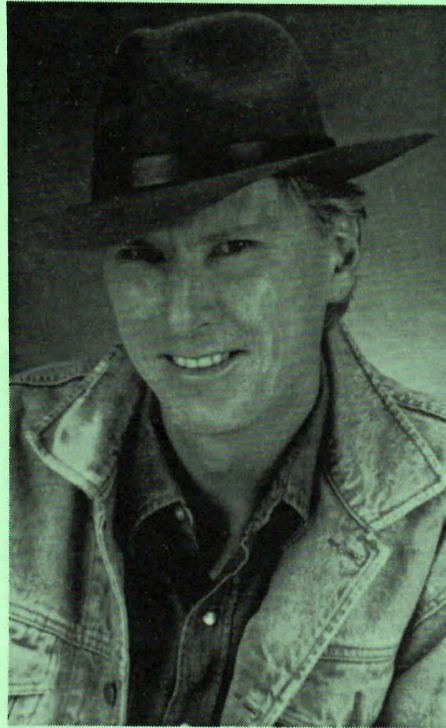
The experience with space age technology, interlaced with his commitment to the preservation of the environment has produced outstanding diverse built structures

...projects receiving national and international acclaim...

such as Earth Force, Poly Pods, Biostructure and Pneu, projects receiving national and international acclaim.

Over the last 17 years, Donaldson has originated several seismic strengthening innovations for historical buildings. Working with the State Office of Historic Preservation and the California Safety Commission, he rewrote archaic building definitions and drafted seismic ordinances. In 1990, CPF acknowledged Donaldson for his statewide leadership in the interpretation of the State Historical Building Code which allowed the rehabilitation of historic buildings for affordable single room occupancy hotels.

In addition to SOHO, Donaldson has been involved with



Milford Wayne Donaldson

many local and national historic preservation organizations including the San Diego Historical Society and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He is past chairman of the Gaslamp Quarter Council, and the advisory board to the Redevelopment Agency. He is currently vice-chair of the State Historic Building Code Board, and past president of CPF.

San Diego area projects

Donaldson's work can be seen and appreciated throughout the County. Projects include the Horton Grand Hotel, San Diego Hardware, Windsor Hotel, The Soap Factory, Aerospace Museum and the House of Hospitality in Balboa Park, Olivenhain Town Hall, Guajome Ranch, Leo Carrillo Ranch,

and the Americanization School in Oceanside.

Donaldson - A personal view

Donaldson was born in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and raised in Oceanside. He and his wife, Nancy Ann, and daughter, Erica Lynn, live in Mission Hills in a 1924 Bungalow. Donaldson is an accomplished pilot and often flies his own airplane on business trips. His longest trips have been to Sacramento and Flagstaff, Arizona.

If not a career in architecture he said he would probably be into restoring classic and warbird aircraft, scuba diving, camping and construction projects.

When asked what sparked his interest in historic preservation and restoration, especially when sometimes it seems so much easier and economical to demolish a structure and start from scratch, Donaldson replied, "Having had the chance to study in Uppsala, Sweden, and remembering walking up marble stairs to classes in a building built back in the thirteenth century...and experiencing the splendor of the spaces where so much history had taken place."

"Demolishing a historic structure is destroying the chronicles of time. No dollar amount can be put on experiencing spaces built by craftsman and techniques long since shelved to the history museums. Buildings are the only visual links to history."

As for his vision of San Diego, Donaldson replied, "the entire City of San Diego is a Historic District and the reconstruction of the San Diego Presidio." ■

Paradise Valley Hospital adds Orchid to its PIP Award

Paradise Valley Hospital's historic Egyptian arch was recently honored as one of the best architectural creations in San Diego County by the Orchids & Onions contest that annually recognizes the best (and worst) in local design projects. The hospital also received the Civic Jewel Award at SOHO's People In Preservation event in May.

The arch, rebuilt in 1994 as part of the hospital's 90th anniversary celebration, was granted an Orchid for its community enhancing and visually appealing design. It is sited on the corner of Eighth Street and Euclid Avenue in National City.

The original arch was built as an entryway to the hospital in the late 1920's, when Egyptian-style architecture was very popular in San Diego. However, it was torn down in 1956 when the access road it served was closed.

In 1994, Paradise Valley Hospital staff and local historians worked together to recreate the modern-day arch as faithful to the original design as possible. It was built at the same site as the original and even has the same wording as the original: "Paradise Valley Sanitarium." The original arch was made of solid poured concrete: the recreated version is built with a plaster base poured over a wooden frame. ■

List of SOHO Lady recipients - 1969 to present

Following is a list of the SOHO members who have been awarded custody of the SOHO Lady in recognition of their meaningful contributions while serving on the board of directors.



The SOHO Lady

1969 - Peggy & Tom Shepley
 1970 - Miles Parker
 1971 - Nick Fintzelberg
 1972 - Carol Lindemulder
 1973 - Harry Evans
 1974 - Lynn Kaplan
 1975 - Terri Recht
 1976 - Bill Cartwright
 1977 - Cia Barron
 1978 - Rae Berry
 1979 - Tony Ciani
 1980 - Carol Lindemulder
 1981 - Joe Jones
 1982 - Bruce Herms
 1983 - Eleanor & Bill Bolen
 1984 - Judy McCutcheon

1985 - Claire Kaplan
 1986 - David Goldberg
 1987 - (No recipient)
 1988 - Mary Joralmon
 1989 - Robin Webster
 1990 - Suzanne and Bill Lawrence
 1991 - David Swarens
 1992 - Alex Bevil
 1993 - Suzanne Lawrence
 1994 - Robert Broms
 1995 - Ingrid Helton

SOHO welcomes Country Craftsman as new member

SOHO is pleased to welcome the Country Craftsman of San Diego, a Heritage Park neighbor, as a new contributing member.

Judy Peterson is the enthusiastic owner-manager of the business which specializes in handmade furniture and small crafts. The Country Craftsman is located in the Burton House where Peterson commissioned San Diego muralist Dawna Taylor Jones to create a four-wall panoramic rendering of San Diego in the 1920's. It is worth a visit. Peterson also runs a second Craftsman store in Mission Valley.

Holiday Donations to SOHO

Remember, your Holiday donations to SOHO are taxable-deductible to the extent allowable by law.



CALENDAR

Dec. 9 - SOHO's Annual Holiday Party. It begins at 7 p.m. at the home of Carol Lindemulder, 3519 Dove St. in San Diego. Come celebrate the season and decorate Carol's tree. Bring your favorite dish to share. Beverages provided. RSVP 297-9327.

Dec.10-12 - Restoration/On the Move to San Francisco. An exhibition and conference for professionals and owners of historic properties and collections. It happens at the San Francisco Hilton & Towers. Co-sponsored by the Association for Preservation Technology International. For registration information, call (508) 664-8066.

Thru Dec. 17 - Painted Ladies Holiday Home Tours. Enjoy the beauty of the season at some of San Diego's most gracious and historic homes. The tours run Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 17. They begin and end in Heritage Park. Departure time is noon; return at about 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$40 a person and reservations are required with prepayment. For information, call Cris Canning at 272-7424.

Dec. 17 - Hanukkah begins at sundown.

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

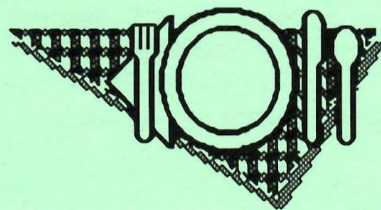
Dec. 31 - New Years Eve

Looking ahead in 1996...

Jan. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7. Aloha Honolulu Tour. Say aloha to the historic sites of Honolulu and Oahu with National Trust Advisor Gerald Takano and Society of Architectural Historians Board President Jeff Samudio as tour guides. For more information, call Jeff Samudio at (213) 962-4585.

Jan. 16 - SOHO Board of Directors' Meeting. 6:30 p.m., in Senliss Cottage in Heritage Park. Members welcome.

* * *



Feb. 4 - SOHO Membership Picnic in Heritage Park. 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. In a casual setting, it's a good time to meet with other members and learn how to get involved with committees and projects. More information to follow.

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 **James and Margaret Moody** of San Diego, **Judy and Henry Peterson** of Carlsbad, and **Chris and Liz Wills** of La Jolla.

Membership Milestones

20 Years

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Seymour

15 Years

Ruth and Herbert Jacobson

10 Years

Kathleen Flanigan

5 Years

David Anderson * **Lorenzo Ardilla**
Suzanne Fitzpatrick * **David and Ann Johns**
Eileen Krusen * **William Manley**

Ed. Note

Making a correction to the last issue of *Reflections*, **David Swarens** has been a SOHO member for 15 years. *Thanks all...*for your longtime support of SOHO.

* * *

Thank you, **Robin Webster**, for donating the following books to SOHO:

The American Mosaic - Preserving a Nation's Heritage.
Edited by Robert E. Stipe and Antoinette J. Lee.

Fallout From the Skeleton's Closet - A Light Look at San Diego's History. By Herbert Lockwood.

These and other reference books are available to members and may be borrowed from the office. Call to make arrangements. ■

SOHO

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