

April 1996



# Reflections

Save Our Heritage Organisation

## Architect Ferris Elevated to Fellow Status

Longtime SOHO member is only San Diegan honored in 1996

The national American Institute of Architects recently announced that Robert D. Ferris has been elevated to Fellow status in the institute. This move reflects peer recognition of high professional standards and a consistent commitment to excellence, a well deserved honor for Ferris, who has been a practicing architect in San Diego since 1950.

In 1960, he formed the firm of Robert D. Ferris, Architect Inc. to specialize in educational facilities, museums, churches, and historic restoration. Many of San Diego county's major and dominant structures bear his professional signature as a historic preservation and restoration specialist. They include Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, Temple Beth Israel in Heritage Park, Rancho Guajome, the adobe structure in Vista, Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside, and the Old Post Office Building in El Centro.

Ferris has been a SOHO member since 1971. Over the years, he inspected and monitored the buildings in which SOHO has facade easement contractual agreements. He also is a member of the San Diego Historical Society, the National Trust for Preservation, Society of Architectural Historians, Construction Specifications Institute, the California State Historic Resources Commission, and the Association for Preservation Technology.

In 1995, Ferris' architectural firm was reincorporated as Ferris, Johnson & Perkins, Inc. This change reflects the addition of architects Paul Johnson and William Perkins as principals in the business. □

## U.S. Grant Hotel is Site for 1996 PIP Awards

A downtown landmark, the U.S. Grant Hotel, has been selected as the site for the 1996 People In Preservation (PIP) Awards ceremony, SOHO's annual event that honors individuals and projects for achieving excellence in historic preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation.

PIP takes place Wednesday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m. An announcement with reservation information is enclosed.

Over the years, the PIP Awards have become one of the premiere events of National Preservation Week, and many local prominent individuals and organizations have been saluted.

Awardees will be selected from a variety of nominations received from throughout the region. A 5-member panel headed by Angeles Leira, principal planner with the City of San Diego, will make the finals selections. □

## SOHO Plans Armed Forces Day Program

Historic Fort Rosecrans and the continuum of coastal defenses found on site will be the focus of an Armed Forces Day program being planned by SOHO in cooperation with the military group, NRaD/Point Loma Subbase, and funded in part by a Legacy Grant from the National Trust For Historic Preservation.

This is the second year in a row that SOHO has received support from the National Trust to conduct a program which highlights San Diego's rich military heritage.

Set for Saturday, May 18, the daylong program begins with a series of morning lectures. After a box lunch, a tour of some 20 significant sites is scheduled including access into some of the historic gun batteries and other restricted facilities.

The morning lectures will be held in the newly restored Argonaut's Hall (circa 1910). Scheduled to participate are Howard Overton, a reknown military historian; Meredith Vezina, publisher of *Traditions*, a military heritage magazine; and Robert Broms, former SOHO president who will speak on naval radio communications, a subject he researched extensively during SOHO's involvement with the Chollas Heights radio towers. See enclosed flyer for details or call SOHO at 297-9327. □

See Member Questionnaire Inside

## President's Message

Vonn Marie May

The City Council Committee of Land Use has recommended approval of the draft preservation ordinance as per the recommendations of the City Manager. We have a preliminary victory for the process! Let's see what happens when the full Council deliberates on it, keep your fingers crossed.

Conversely, the County is succeeding in the removal of historic and cultural resources from it's Resources Protection Ordinance (RPO). In a twist of logic the County Planning Commission voted recently for the deletion and will heretofore default to CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) for distant protection. In a clear abdication of home rule and land use jurisdiction California's first county, where California began, sees no need in protecting it's own patrimony. Now that's leadership!

So, in sum, praise goes to the City and shame is forwarded to the County. However, both situations are not 'done deals'. Write, phone, personally visit your publicly paid, elected officials and enlighten them. Believe me they are visited regularly by those who benefit from any roll backs on protection.

□

Preservation Week is coming up and as usual SOHO has many things planned. Read further in *REFLECTIONS* about some of the great events we have planned!

□

## Dave Odell Remembered

Now a personal reflection on the loss of one of San Diego's true advocates for historical preservation and all Quality of Life issues....Dave Odell. Dave passed away 27 March 1996. His services were held on 6 April at the Martin Johnson Cottage at Scripps Institute in his beloved La

Jolla. Cottage T-29, as it is referred to institutionally, is a quintessential turn of the century La Jolla bungalow built on the bluff overlooking Scripps pier and the Pacific. The setting was more than appropriate it was inspirational.

Many people came to pay their respects to this man and reflected on the accomplishments of his life. Dave was a strident and dependable force of conscience in the community, many times doing the 'homework' for decision makers who had limited outreach and counter ideologies. His significant presence and attention to detail both were awesome.

How many times was he in the audience listening to the recycled rhetoric and the 'foolishness' that occurs in political debate? How many times did he come prepared with a preferred alternative, or a better approach, or a solution that no one had yet presented?

His family has formed the David Anicker Odell Memorial Fund P.O. Box 725, La Jolla, CA 92038. The proceeds will be given to the community of La Jolla to protect, restore and enhance the natural setting, scenic quality, and the public's enjoyment of the Children's Pool and Seal Rocks. It will emphasize education and continue Ellen Browning Scripps' vision to provide a special place for children.

It is clear we have lost a one-man monitoring device that will be near impossible to replace. □

## City of San Diego Preservation Ordinance Update

On Mar. 20, the Land Use and Housing Committee acted to move new proposed historical resources regulations forward as an element of the citywide zoning code update. Councilman Harry Mathis, chair of the committee, stating his concern that there be adequate review to determine historicity (of resources) led committee members to unanimous support of the Planning Department and City Manager's recommendations on all issues.

A group from the council-designated Preservation Ordinance Review Committee (PORC) objected to the content and process of the hearing and requested that its model ordinance be the basis of discussion, but Mathis' committee felt that it was appropriate to move forward with the PORC, historical site board, and planning commission proposals before it. The Land Use and Housing Committee also strongly supported the effort to develop a citywide survey of historic resources.

## Save Our Heritage Organisation

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A non-profit corporation  
dedicated to preservation of historic  
and cultural resources. Member of:

The National Trust for Historic  
Preservation.

■  
The California Preservation Foundation.

■  
The San Diego Historical Society



Save Our Heritage Organisation

*You are Cordially Invited to SOHO's Annual*  
**People In Preservation (PIP) Awards Reception**

**Wednesday, May 15, 1996  
6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

**in the Crystal Room of the  
Historic U.S. Grant Hotel  
326 Broadway  
San Diego CA 92101**

\* \* \*

**Libations & No Host Bar 6:30 p.m.**

\* \* \*

**Awards Ceremony 7:00 p.m.**

\* \* \*

**\$30 per person (parking not included)**

**For more information, Call SOHO at 297-9327. To make your reservation,  
please complete the following form and mail it with your check to:  
SOHO, P.O. Box 3571, San Diego CA 92163**

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I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for PIP @ \$30 per person. Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_



**Armed Forces Day**  
at  
**Historic Fort Rosecrans**

**Tour & Lecture**

**Saturday, May 18, 1996**  
**10am-3pm**

**Tour:**

A rare opportunity to view some of the San Diego's most important military history. Among the highlights will be access to historic batteries and other restricted facilities along with the newly restored Argonaut Hall (circa 1910) on the Point Loma Subase.

**Lecture:**

A comprehensive view of the military's role in San Diego, featuring nationally renown military history expert, **Howard B. Overton**. Featured speakers include **Meredith Vezina**, publisher and editor of Traditions military heritage magazine and **Robert Broms**, preservation advocate on the history of Naval Communications in San Diego.

**Cost: \$20**  
(Includes Lunch)

**FOR RESERVATIONS CALL**  
**SOHO: 297-9327**

**Special Note:** Space is Limited! Due to security reasons we must have your reservation no later than Thursday, May 16. No walk-ups will be accepted and please, no children under 10 years of age. Details of the lecture and tour will be provided upon your RSVP.

**Armed Forces Day at Historic Fort Rosecrans is a National Preservation Week Event**  
sponsored in part by:

**The National Trust for Historic Preservation**  
**Save Our Heritage Organisation**  
**Point Loma Subase and NRaD**



Save Our Heritage Organisation

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## SOHO Membership Questionnaire

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Optional)

Member comments and opinions are important in planning SOHO events and activities, and in addressing local preservation related issues. You can help by taking a few minutes to fill in the following questionnaire. When complete, mail it to: SOHO, P.O. Box 3571, San Diego CA 92163.  
*Thank you!*

1. Are you a current member of SOHO?.....how long?
2. Have you participated in SOHO events in the last year?.....which ones?
3. What has been your most favorable experience with SOHO?
4. What has been your least favorable experience with SOHO?
5. Do you feel SOHO is implementing it's mission to educate the public on preservation issues?
6. What issues would you concentrate on if you were a board member of SOHO?
7. Do you receive *REFLECTIONS* the SOHO newsletter regularly?
8. Do you read all or most of the newsletter?
9. Do you feel the articles are informative?
10. What would you do differently if you were the *REFLECTIONS* editor?
11. How would you teach other members of the general public about the need for an historic preservation advocacy group?
12. What do you say to people when they dismiss history and preservation issues?
13. What would you like to see SOHO become involved with in the near future?

## 2-Day Conference to Address Closure of Naval Training Center

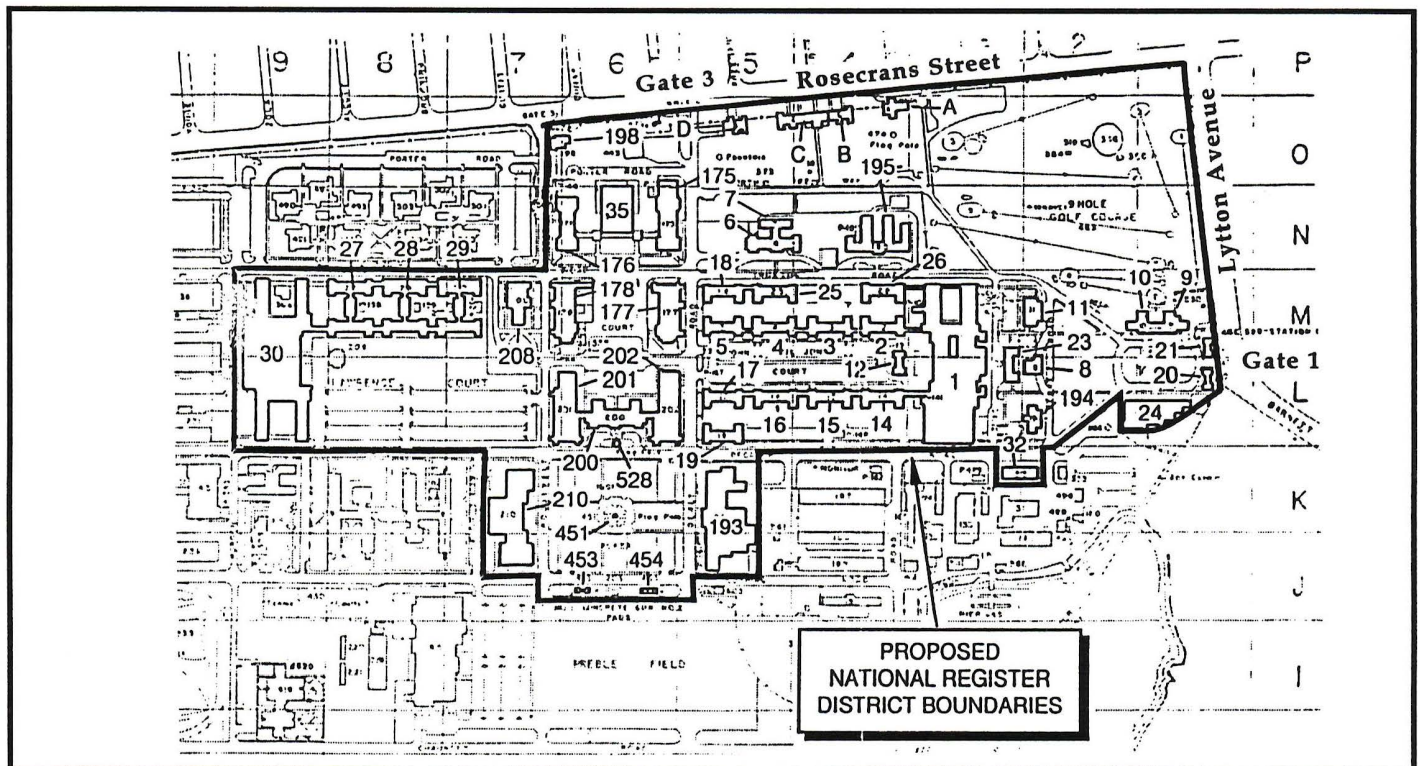
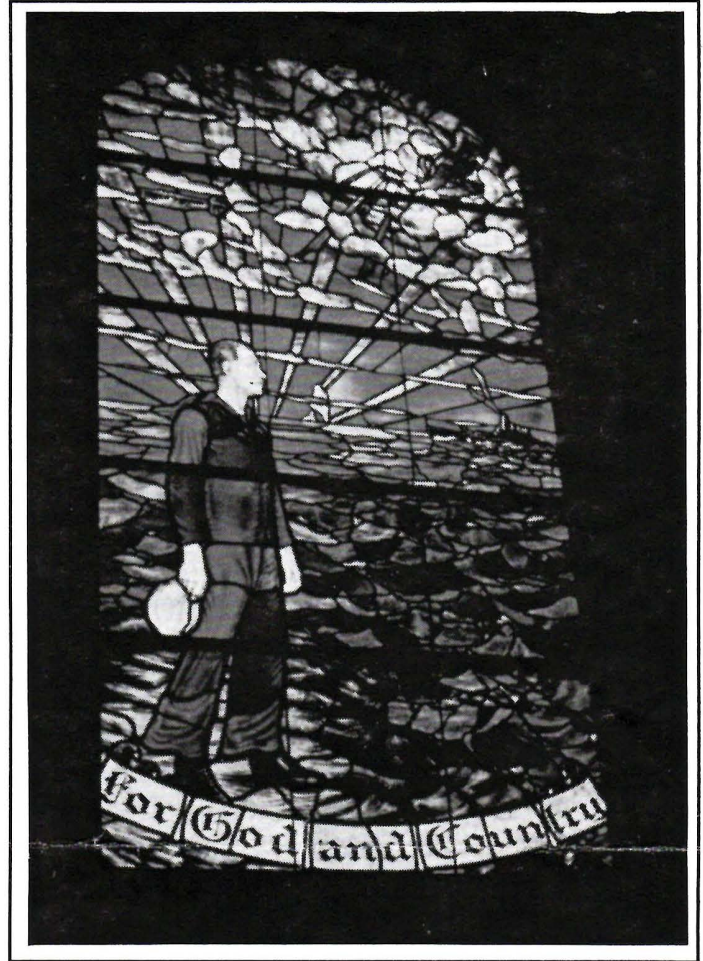
The challenges and opportunities of redeveloping historic properties at California military base closure sites will be discussed at the Naval Training Center on May 16-17, by a panel of experts from throughout the state.

Sponsored by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the State Historic Preservation Office, the meeting begins with an afternoon walking tour of the NTC national historic district on Thursday, May 16. On Friday, May 17, speakers and panel discussions will address such topics as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and how it relates to military base reuse, tax incentives, reuse of historic structures, special building codes for historic properties, and environmental impact statements.

SOHO is a co-sponsor of the event along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the U.S. Navy, the National Association of Installation Developers, the League of California Cities, and the California Environment Trust.

The drawing below shows the proposed boundaries for the NTC National Historic District. The photograph at right (courtesy of Vonn Marie May) show one of the stained glass windows in the NTC chapel.

A \$50 registration fee includes conference materials, morning coffee, lunch, and cocktails at the pre-conference tour and reception. For more information, call Dara Wheeler in Sacramento at (916) 322-3170. □



## MEMBER NEWS

New SOHO members include:

**Pamela Bensoussan of Bonita**  
**Barbara McKirnan of Coronado**  
**Paradise Valley Hospital in National City**  
and from San Diego:  
**Connie and Pete di Girolamo**  
**Jim and Jan Elko**  
**Traci Hagan**  
**Kathryn Harris**  
**Frank Hervey, Jr.**  
**Beverly Muir**  
**Bonnie Poppe**

SOHO also welcomes back Edward "Ned" Paynter.

### Membership Milestones

#### 20 Years

**Karen Ledterman**

\*

#### 10 Years

**Jacqueline Williams**

\*

#### 5 Years

**Paul Johnson, AIA**

**Tom Mullaney**

**Douglas Scott**

## Mystery of Long View Road Solved

Remember in the last issue of Reflections, we asked if anyone knew why "Long View Road" was stamped in a Mission Hills street we know as Sunset Road? Well, leave it to historical consultant Alex Bevil to come up with the answer, and it is an interesting one

It seems that in 1925, a real estate developer, John F. Forward, commissioned D.A. Loeberstein to survey and plot some 4.7 acres of blocks 535 and 548 of the Old Town Addition into a separate subdivision. Situated on a high promontory overlooking Old Town, the subdivision was named "Longview Manor" for its spectacular unrestricted "long view" out beyond Mt. Soledad and Point Loma to the far horizon. Besides offering a long view, this short road was strategically important to the development of Mission Hills during the 1920's. Connecting the western terminus of Sunset Boulevard with the eastern terminus of Juan Street, Long View Road afforded direct automobile access to the western portions of Mission Hills from highway connections at Old Town below.

There are four surviving "Longview Road" curb stamps along Sunset Road. They were impressed in wet concrete by W.E. Ash, a local concrete mason, between June-September 1925. They might well be considered "ghost signs" that helped to delineate one of the forgotten real estate developments that has helped to make up the modern community of Mission Hills.

Bevil specializes in house histories, historical and architectural property evaluation, and historic site designation. Call him at 569-1486.

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