



Save Our Heritage
Organisation

April 1997

Reflections

SOHO IS THE OLDEST
CONTINUALLY OPERATING HISTORIC
PRESERVATION ORGANIZATION IN CALIFORNIA.

S E R V I N G S A N D I E G O C O U N T Y S I N C E 1 9 6 9

Ticket to Paradise: People In Preservation Awards to be held in the Balboa Theatre on May 15!

**THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO TOUR
THE BALBOA AND HELP SOHO
AT THE SAME TIME.**

LAST MONTH WE ENCOURAGED YOU TO NOMINATE YOUR CHOICE FOR a SOHO People in Preservation award, and so many of you did! Good job! PIP recognizes exceptional accomplishment in preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and interpretation of our architectural and cultural heritage, and our panel of judges is busy reviewing all nominations. This year's judging panel includes a great group of volunteers: SOHO Board Member and past winner of Preservationist of the Year Bruce Coons; architect and planner Angeles Leira; Ralph Inzunza, Chief of Staff, Councilmember Juan Vargas' Office; former SOHO president and San Diego Historic Site Board Member Vonn Marie May; Planning commissioner Verna Quinn; and former C-3 President Don Wood. About a dozen PIP awards will be awarded on May 15, and we anticipate a wonderful event, not only due to the great company but also because of the great location.

To make things interesting, the People In Preservation awards will be held in the **HISTORIC, RARELY OPEN BALBOA THEATRE**. We've told you about this city-owned landmark before, and our timing couldn't be better -- the Balboa Theatre Foundation, with the assistance of Vonn Marie May, has recently gotten the Balboa listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (The National Register Plaque unveiling was on March 28, and guest speakers included May, Lynne Heidel, chair of the Horton Plaza Theatres Committee, and Councilman Byron Wear. Other supporters who attended were State Assemblymember Denise Moreno Ducheny and County Supervisor Ron Roberts,

THIS MONTH IN REFLECTIONS -- OUR CUP RUNNETH OVER WITH EVENTS!

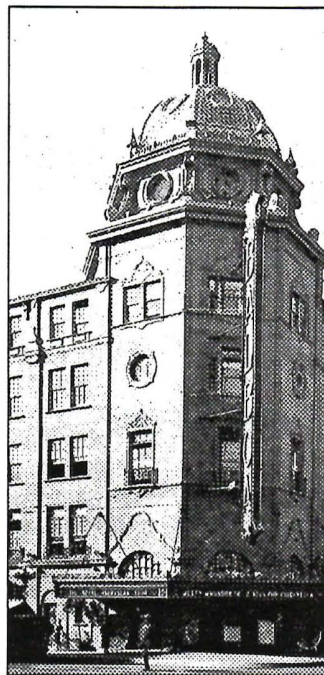
SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS OF THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

PEOPLE IN PRESERVATION AWARDS	PAGE 1
SOHO WORKSHOP SERIES	PAGE 3
SOHO Train Tour To LA	Page 9
SOHO Board of Directors Nomination	Page 7

as well as Ralph Inzunza of Juan Vargas' office and Jennifer Bilson from Dede Alpert's office. Congratulations, Balboa! Let's hope all the good vibes at the unveiling and the great TV coverage brings restoration dollars to your future.

In such a fabulous location, this year's PIP awards are sure to be memorable. *Members, take this chance to tour the Balboa and help SOHO raise money at the same time.* The doors will open at 6:30 P.M. to allow plenty of time for Balboa Theatre Foundation docents to provide you with a guided tour and explain the history of the theatre between 6:30 and 7:45 (arrive at your leisure). There will be delicious munchies and a no-host bar, and the awards presentation will get underway at 8:00 P.M. Having the PIP Awards is the annual major commitment on SOHO's part, but we're happy to announce that costs are only \$25 per person, thanks in part to the sponsorship of the Ocean Beach Antique Dealers. Thank you sponsors!

What could be better than celebrating National Preservation Week by networking with your fellow history lovers, enjoying the rare opportunity of touring this incredible San Diego landmark, and honoring San Diego's preservationists, all at the same time? Call SOHO for reservations. Your ticket to paradise begins with supporting organizations like SOHO that work to preserve gems like the Balboa Theatre, as well as supporting the good deeds of other preservationists. See you on May 15th! ●



Now's the time to see the magnificent Balboa Theatre and help SOHO raise money to fund our work!

SOHO is a non-profit organization and your donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. If you or your company would like to be a sponsor of the People In Preservation Awards, please call for details. Call SOHO now at 619-297-9327 for reservations.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

D A V I D S W A R E N S

WELCOME TO MAIN STREET! ON THURSDAY, MARCH 13, Mayor Susan Golding announced that the City of San Diego would become a "Main Streets" city, the first large city in the West to do so.

While this initiative may not put us in competition for "the happiest place on earth," it should add meaningful focus to efforts to revitalize older business districts and the neighborhoods which surround and depend on them.

Started by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Main Streets is a response to the "mall of America," and a recognition that historic resources require human involvement and investment to preserve their integrity and maintain their significance.

Originally intended for the small towns with a Main Street USA feel, like that memorialized by the familiar and ceremonial entry to the Magic Kingdom, the program uses the restoration, preservation, and promotion of the unique character of these historic town centers as the basis for economic renewal. SOHO was proud to provide staffing for the two day California Preservation Foundation, *Guiding Design on Main Street* Conference.

Unlike Disneyland with its forced perspective 3/4 scale, San Diego's Main Street should be life size, available and applied in all our older corridors of activity. With a growing network of neighborhood service centers, and in a city with one of the best and most active Mills Act historic preservation incentive programs, anything less would be a disappointment.

May brings us National Historic Preservation Week, and with it our annual People In Preservation Awards. Every year we are lucky and challenged to choose a few of the best recent preservation and restoration projects to highlight. Not an Orchids and Onions type effort, this is our time to celebrate our communities achievement (we mourn the losses and the mistakes in private). So join us in the festivities, explore a historic resource, and enjoy the historic places which assume new life through our friends' endeavors.

Bulk Mailing Note:

*Some of you have called SOHO because your **Reflections** has arrived after events have passed. Reflections is mailed in the first few days of the month published. Because we are a non-profit organization and our newsletter is growing each month, we cannot afford first class postage. With bulk mail there can be post office delay, and we're sorry too if the news doesn't reach you in a timely manner. Please call the SOHO events hotline at 297-9327 to hear the latest updates on SOHO activities. Also, If you move, you need to drop SOHO a change of address. Bulk mail will not be forwarded to you, and we don't want to lose touch.*

Reminder: SOHO to cosponsor 22nd Annual California Preservation Conference in Pasadena May 29- June 1

THE 22ND ANNUAL CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION CONFERENCE, "Preservation Comes Home," will be held in Pasadena on May 29, 30, 31 and June 1, 1997. The conference features educational sessions focusing on neighborhood conservation, architectural history, economic development and technical issues in preservation; a half-day computer users workshop; and adaptive-reuse workshop; day-long session on downtown revitalization, featuring Old Pasadena; tours and receptions; gala dinner and live auction. Those interested in historic preservation, planning, development and neighborhoods will find the conference rewarding.

The 1997 conference site is the DoubleTree Hotel in Pasadena's historic Civic Center, adjacent to Old Pasadena. Jointly sponsored by the California Preservation Foundation, the City of Pasadena and Pasadena Heritage, the conference is cosponsored by the California Office of Historic Preservation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. SOHO and other Southern California preservation groups will be involved as participating organization.

For more information, call California Preservation Foundation at 510-763-0972 or visit the conference website at <http://www.jspub.com/~jsp/preserve/cpfconf.html>.

Interested in attending and sharing a hotel suite? SOHO is interested in getting a group together to share expenses. Call the office at 619-297-9327 for more info. ●

Fort Rosecrans Historic District News

LAST MONTH WE TOLD YOU how the Fort Rosecrans Officers Row historic district faced demolition. You lit up the phones to our representatives! Thank you! Word is that the Navy's plans now include renovation instead of demolition. At press time, we are awaiting confirmation of this information from the Navy. A site visit is planned for April 11 with the State Historic Preservation Office and SOHO. Check the upcoming June Reflections for further details on this important story. ●

Our Littlest Preservationist: SOHO Welcomes Delpha Cordelia Hanson

SOHO CONGRATULATIONS GO to board members Ingrid Helton and Erik Hanson. Their daughter Delpha arrived on Valentine's Day weighing 9 pounds 3 ounces.

Delpha started her foray into historic preservation by attending the First Church of Christ, Scientist Irving Gill tour with her proud parents on March 1. (The fact that Delpha slept through the event is no reflection on the quality of SOHO's presentations!) ●

SAVE OUR HERITAGE ORGANISATION

Chairman

William Lawrence

President

David Swarens

Vice President

Paul Johnson, AIA

Treasurer

Robert Grinchuk

Secretary

Bonnie Poppe

Directors

Maria Castillo-Curry
Dr. Ronald Converse
Bruce Coons
Elizabeth Courtier
Abdul Farrah
Erik Hanson
Ingrid Helton
Ronald May
Jeffrey Shorn, AIA
Louise Torio

Executive Director/ Membership

Al Alferos

Reflections Staff

Louise Torio
Steve Veach

Reflections is
published by SOHO
P.O. Box 3571
San Diego, CA 92163

Office located in
Heritage Park
2470 Heritage Park Row
San Diego, CA 92110
619-297-9327

They're back! SOHO Workshops Let You Ask The Experts

ERIK HANSON

DID THE VICTORIANS INVENT NAVAJO WHITE? Is green a good color for a bungalow roof? What colors do I paint my house?

SOHO brings you the answers to these and dozens of other questions in the first of our 1997 Workshop Series: Paint & Color For Historic Buildings.

On Saturday, April 19 at 10:00 A.M. we will meet at a newly purchased 1914 Craftsman-style home with three of SOHO's

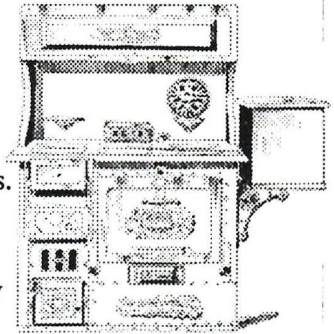


most persistent colorists: Bruce Coons, Erik Hanson, and Paul Johnson, AIA. We'll pick at that boring non-original white paint and get down to the real colors. Then we'll show you how to match them. You'll learn how easy it is to remove "cottage cheese" ceilings and where on a building the colors change.

In this two hour workshop, the focus is on San Diego's traditional types of housing: Victorian; Arts & Crafts; and Spanish Revival. SOHO will display actual period color sample charts, helpful books on the subject, and give you some reading material to take home.

Cost is \$10 for SOHO members, \$15 for non-members. Make your reservation now by calling SOHO at 297-9327 (leave us a message with how many reservations in your party, and if all are members). We'll get back to you with your confirmation and site address. Space is limited, so be sure to call by April 17 (listen to the SOHO info line in case this Workshop sells out quickly).

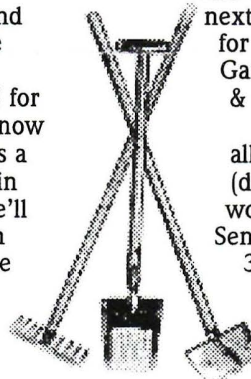
Several other often-requested topics will be covered in our Workshop Series. Do you have a kitchen or bathroom you just don't know how to restore to let



you to live in the home of yesterday with the comfort of today? Then join us May 24 for the Kitchen & Bath Workshop. This workshop will also be on-site, with discussion about what's worth keeping and what's best replacing. Call SOHO by May 22 to register. Costs are the same as for the Paint & Color Workshop.

The third workshop in the series will be Historic Gardens. Go the distance -- restore your gardens too! Don't let something be "not quite right" with the landscaping around your home. This workshop will also be held on site within San Diego, and the date in June will be confirmed in the next *Reflections*. Costs are the same for the Kitchen & Bath and Historic Gardens Workshops as for the Paint & Color workshop.

You may register for one or all of the workshops at this time (don't leave a chance that your workshop will be booked up early). Send your check to SOHO, P.O. Box 3571, San Diego, CA 92163. Talk to the experts now, before you renovate wrong. ●



SOHO is a co-sponsor of "Cultural Resources and CEQA: Your Responsibility" on May 16

THE CEQA AND CULTURAL Resources Workshop will be held on Friday, May 16, from 8:30 to 4:30.

Topics will include

- What is a Cultural Resource?
- Cultural Resources as a part of the Planning Process
- Cultural Resources, Law & Advocacy
- What is an Adverse Effect?
- Creative Mitigation Techniques

The location will be the Water Utilities District Conference Center, 5510 Kiowa Drive, San Diego.

Speakers include Diane Kane, Ph. D., Architectural and Historical Resources,

and Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, among others. This event is sponsored by SOHO, California Preservation Foundation, American Planning Association, City of San Diego, and the Association of Environmental Professionals.

Cost is \$35 for members of SOHO, CPF, APA, AEP and San Diego City Staff, or \$45 for non-members. Student cost is \$25. For information and registration, call Diane Kane at 619-459-9490. ●

San Diego Streetcars Designated by San Diego Historical Site Board

ALEX BEVIL

ON JANUARY 23, THE SAN DIEGO HISTORICAL SITE BOARD DESIGNATED three former San Diego Electric Railway Class 1 trolley car bodies as historic structures. Built in late 1911, the cars were part of a larger order of 24 cars built specifically for San Diego by the world-famous St. Louis Car Company. Known as "San Diego Cars," San Diego Electric Railway's master car builder Abel A. Butterworth designed them in the company's shops on Kettner Boulevard. Not only did he design the cars, he oversaw their construction at the St. Louis facility.

The cars were some of the last all-wood-bodied trolley cars built by the St. Louis Car Company (all subsequent cars would use steel frames). The San Diego cars featured several unique design features. Each was divided into two sections: one open, one closed, separated by a central entrance/exit vestibule. As the cars came to a stop, retractable steps extended down from the central vestibule to street level. As passengers entered the cars, a conductor at the top of the steps collected their fares. Known as the "Pay-As-You-Enter system," it was first introduced on a center-entrance car in the United States on the San Diego Class 1 cars. Unfortunately, in adapting the cars to a single-person operation, the center entries were enclosed in 1924. The cars could now be entered and exited from twin doors on either end.

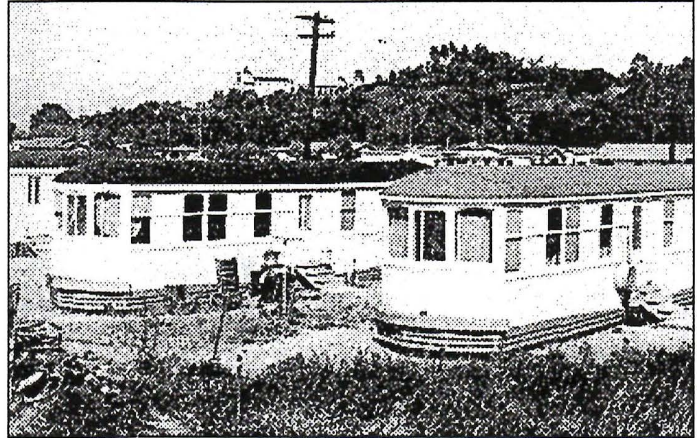
Introduced on the Fifth Avenue Line in June 1912, the cars ran throughout San Diego's extensive network of trolley lines. The Class 1 cars were an important factor in transporting thousands of visitors to the upcoming 1915 Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park. More important, they provided safe, quick and convenient transportation throughout downtown San Diego and its outlying "streetcar" suburbs.

While "modernized" in 1924, the cars were all sold as surplus property around 1937-1939. Many were converted into "trolley bungalow courts" to fill the desperate need for housing in pre-World War II San Diego. After the war most of the trolley bungalow courts were demolished to make way for newer developments. In addition, hundreds of operating trolleys were destroyed in 1949 when they were replaced by buses.

In 1993, members of the San Diego Electric Railway Association found three Class 1 cars, numbers 126, 128 and 138, combined into a single-family home in El Cajon. Efforts to buy the cars were unsuccessful. In jeopardy of being

destroyed, in 1995 Christian T. Chaffee, an antique collector and art dealer, purchased them outright and moved them to his home in University Heights. Although altered considerably to adapt to life as a single-family home, Chaffee attributes their conversion as an important part of their preservation. The former owner had covered them with vinyl siding and drywall, preserving much of the cars' original cherry wood interiors and ash tongue-and-groove siding.

The cars' designation by the San Diego Historical Society was not without some controversy. City staff, while admitting that the cars were historic, was unwilling to support designation. They felt that because the cars were not homes, with parcel numbers assigned to them, they could not be designated.



Trolley cars converted to homes. Photo: San Diego Historical Society.

It was brought to the staff's attention that according to the guidelines set forth by both city ordinance and the National Register of Historic Places, a property does not need to be associated with a parcel number to be historic. Happily, the Site Board agreed with these facts and unanimously designated the three car bodies for the rare historical artifacts that they are.

Chaffee is currently seeking to designate the car bodies as historic structures on the National Register of Historic Places. He also plans to fully restore the cars so that they could again run through San Diego's historic neighborhoods. The Metropolitan Transportation Development Board and the San Diego Trolley have both showed an interest in operating a vintage trolley line in San Diego. When restored, these three cars could be an important element in the realization of that line. If not for Chaffee's singular effort to preserve them, these important links to San Diego's past would be lost forever. ●

Is Relief in Sight? Historic Homeowners Tax Credits Bill Introduced

ON MARCH 19 THE HISTORIC HOMEOWNERS Tax Credits bill was introduced (H.R. 1134). This bill, if approved, would allow owners of historic homes a 20% credit on qualified rehabilitation costs against a homeowner's federal income tax liability. The cap on this would be \$50,000. This credit would be available to homeowners regardless of income, but the home must be used as the tax-

payer's principal residence. Important note: to qualify, the home must be listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places or on a state or local historic register, or be a contributing property to a national, state, or local historic district.

If the homeowner doesn't have sufficient tax liability to use the credit, that homeowner can opt for a mortgage

credit certificate to lower the interest rate. If the historic property is sold within five years, recapture rules will apply.

The House Ways and Means Committee has not yet scheduled hearings on this bill. SOHO will keep you posted on the outcome. ●

News from Mexico: Route 66 Diner Restored in Tijuana

M A R I A C A S T I L L O - C U R R Y

MIGUEL TORRES-HOBBS IS A TRUE PRESERVATIONIST. THE THIRTY-six year old Tijuana resident, who was mostly raised and educated in Chula Vista, has had a long fascination with American automobile material culture. His current collection includes 38 old cars and two diners. Miguel has combined his experience as a car restorer with his skills as a restaurant manager by restoring and operating a 1940 diner he purchased from Wichita, Kansas a year ago.

Miguel's Route 66 Diner is an authentic Art Deco Valentine diner, acquired for \$2,000 but significantly damaged. With the help of a mechanic and a painter, he worked hard to restore it as close to its original state as possible. Miguel has added memorabilia and furniture which fits with the Art Deco interior design.

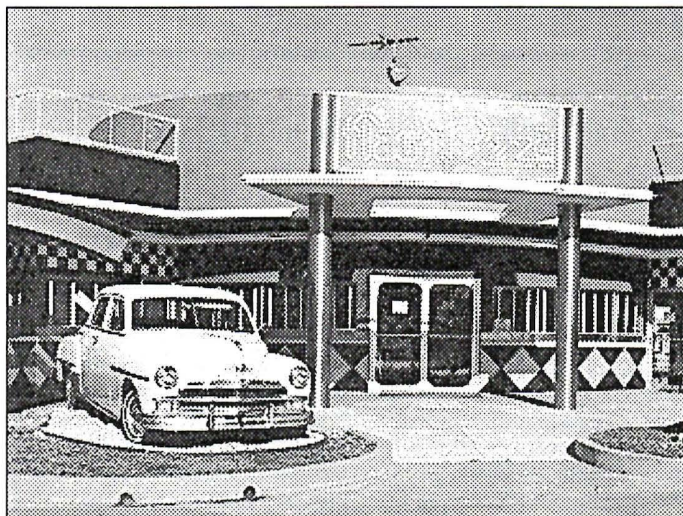
The Route 66 Diner is an eight stall model with a kitchen, a bathroom and an extra room which was part of Valentine's deluxe package. Valentine diners were advertised as "portable steel sandwich shops" and were built in Wichita by the Valentine Manufacturing Company, founded in 1938 by Arthur H. Valentine. The company stopped producing this model during World War II and converted to shipbuilding as part of the war effort. After the war, Valentine resumed production of diners.

Miguel's sensitivity to American culture is the result of his experience living on both sides of the border. His mother was born in Providence, Rhode Island and his father in Jalisco, Mexico. He bought and restored his first old car, a 1930 Ford, when he was just 14 years old. Working in an auto parts business fueled his desire to become an old car dealer. Miguel travels constantly in California and Baja California to get the parts needed for restoring his cars or to buy additional ones. Today he also owns a garage in Tijuana dedicated to restoring vintage cars.

The Route 66 Diner is located adjacent a parking lot on Abelardo Rodriguez Street, in Rio Zone, and is surrounded by modern buildings. On the other side of the street is a modern Googie-revival style restaurant, "Flautipizza," inspired by old American drive-ins. It has two antique cars on its main facade, showing that other entrepreneurs in Tijuana besides Miguel are nostalgic for American automobile culture. Miguel is planning to restore and open another Valentine diner, a 1961 model, that he recently acquired. ●



The Route 66 Diner in Tijuana. Photo: Marie Castillo-Curry.



Flautipizza across from Route 66.

Granger Music Hall Concert Series Begins April 13

THE NATIONAL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES ITS FIFTH chamber music series consisting of four Sunday concerts beginning at 7:00 P.M. at the beautiful Granger Music Hall located at 1615 E. 4th Street, National City. Ralph Granger, a wealthy Colorado mine owner, settled in National City and built Granger Hall next to his home in 1896 because of his love of fine music. Young Irving Gill designed the building, and world-renown musicians would come to National City to

play Granger's spectacular collection of violins. Although the home burned down at the turn of the century, Granger Hall was moved to its present site and refurbished in the 1970s. Go see -- and hear -- why Granger Hall is a delight to audiences today. For more info, call Mary or Steve Karo at 619-660-8184.

The schedule: April 13: Weiss Duo (violin/piano)
April 27: Speltz/Agus Duo (cello/piano)
May 4: The L.A. Chamber Singers Octet
May 18: Just Duet (flute/piano)

Ticket prices are \$10 general admission, \$5 for students & seniors (62+), or \$32 for the series. ●

WE GET LETTERS

Dear *Reflections*:

In my reading the other day, I came across a particularly succinct statement of the case for historic preservation embedded within a context not specifically concerned with standard architectural/historic site preservation as we commonly practice it, namely Edward A. Armstrong's preface to the First Edition of his book The Folklore of Birds, composed in 1956.

Armstrong's discussion centers on the importance of "tradition" as the underpinning of a sane society. The cogency of his words as a distillation of the message of historic preservation jumped out at me and set me to thinking. Often in our reading, however wide-ranging, those of us oriented to things historical happen upon such pithy expressions of an author's conception of the philosophy underlying his or her own and many other fields of endeavor. These statements link the author's work in a single discipline to the reader intellectual currents of global society. We readers find an idea or a formula which illuminates our own areas of concern.

I suggest that *Reflections* devote a regular feature to the publication of apt quotations submitted by the members. Such statements will document the fact that "heritage" and "history" are core concepts within every branch of the tree of human culture, the sap flowing in the veins of civilization. Featuring a continuing mixture of statements from both outside and inside historic preservation can demonstrate the deep intellectual roots of our efforts.

Armstrong's argument is summarized in the following words:

...personal identification with tradition...gives a community strength and has so often been the inspiration of saints, patriots, poets and musicians, as well as...simple folk...Some, to whom in childhood the past was almost like a playmate, feel a duty laid upon them to hint to others what can scarcely be expressed in words...We are all fallible, but each in his generation may strive to prevent beauty and truth out of the past from perishing, not merely unhonoured but unrecognized.

Sincerely,
Robert Broms
[Bob is a past president of SOHO.]

Some additional forward thinking of Edward Armstrong regarding the past:

No community which loses its sense of continuity with the past can be socially and spiritually healthy, nor can institutions be intelligently reformed without a knowledge of their history. Tradition has sometimes become the dead hand of the past on the present but this is not our danger today. Many are so far from overvaluing the past as to be unaware that they belong to any ancient tradition. Technological advance and the new ways of thinking which accompany it menace the good life unless new knowledge is integrated with the old.

The Folklore of Birds, Dover Publications, (c) 1958, 1970, preface.

Reflections replies:

Armstrong seems to be speaking today, not forty years ago. Some profound comments that apply quite well to today.

What say you, readers? Have you any quotes you'd like to share with the SOHO membership? Please submit them to the *Reflections* Editor, P.O. Box 3571, San Diego, CA 92163. We will gladly print the best and most appropriate quotes that relate to historic preservation today.

Kate Sessions to be Honored with Statute in Balboa Park

ON MARCH 4 THE SAN Diego City Council unanimously approved a privately-funded project to place a bronze statute of San Diego horticulturist Kate Sessions in Balboa Park. The six and one-half foot statue was proposed by the Kate Sessions Sculpture Committee and the City Beautiful of San Diego, Inc., and will be located at Balboa Drive and El Prado near the southwest corner of Sefton Plaza.

A fervent advocate of developing the city park, Kate Sessions (1857-1940) became the official "City Gardener" as she began extensive plantings on the scrub brush acreage now known as Balboa Park. Beginning in 1892, under contract with the City of San Diego, she planted more than 100 trees a year in the park and contributed more than 300

trees a year to the beautification of the city, according to San Diego County Historian Mary Ward. Kate's philosophy of landscape design was to incorporate natural elements as much as possible, and the landscaping proposed for the Kate Sessions statute will be consistent with this philosophy.

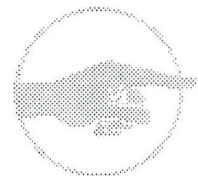
The statue will depict Kate as she is seen in photographs around 1910: long flowing skirt, shirt-waist and hat. It will be paid for with private funds, and over \$60,000 of the estimated \$70,000 cost of the statue has already been donated. If you would like to contribute, please send your check to City Beautiful of San Diego, Inc. ("Kate Sculpture"), P.O. Box 80878, San Diego, CA 92138. City Beautiful is a non-profit organization. ●

SOHO Seeks Nominations to Board of Directors

EACH YEAR SOHO HAS OPENINGS on the Board of Directors. Board members are instrumental in setting goals for the organization for the coming year, creating events that appeal to the membership, and working to make annual SOHO events like the People In Preservation Awards a success. The term is for two years, beginning July 1997, and all interested members are encouraged to apply. Getting involved with issues where we can make a difference in San Diego County can be very rewarding, and SOHO wouldn't have lasted for almost 30 years without people who care. Why not bring

your skills to your favorite cause!

Please fill out the application at right, or call SOHO at 297-9327 if you have questions. Candidates will be called by a member of the Board Committee to discuss details of Board membership. New Board members will be inducted at the SOHO Annual Meeting that's open to all SOHO members. This meeting will be held at a historic (of course!) off-site location to be announced in the next *Reflections* and via a first class mailing to the membership. Even if you're not ready to be a Board member, call us if you'd like to add your talents to a SOHO committee. ●





Save Our Heritage Organisation

NOMINATION FOR SOHO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SOHO IS MAKING ITS ANNUAL CALL TO MEMBERS AND TO THE COMMUNITY-AT-LARGE FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE SOHO BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Any member in good standing may submit his or her own name for consideration. Directors serve a 2-year term. Directors formulate the short and long range goals of the organization, and plan and implement projects that support the mission of SOHO. Nominees must be informed of their nomination and agree to serve their term in full if their name is brought forward on the slate of Officers and Directors. Election of Officers and Directors will take place at the General Meeting in June.

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Current Position or Profession: _____

Why would the nominee be interested in serving on the SOHO Board? _____

Attributes/skills the nominee can bring to SOHO: _____

Has the nominee served on other boards? If so, which ones and for what duration? Did the nominee hold any office?

Please include a resume or personal profile with this nomination. Make copies of this form if you wish to nominate more than one person. **All nominations must reach SOHO no later than June 1, 1997.**

MAIL TO: SOHO, P.O. Box 3571, San Diego, CA 92163

Person making the nomination: _____

Phone number(s) where you may be reached to address questions regarding the nominee: _____

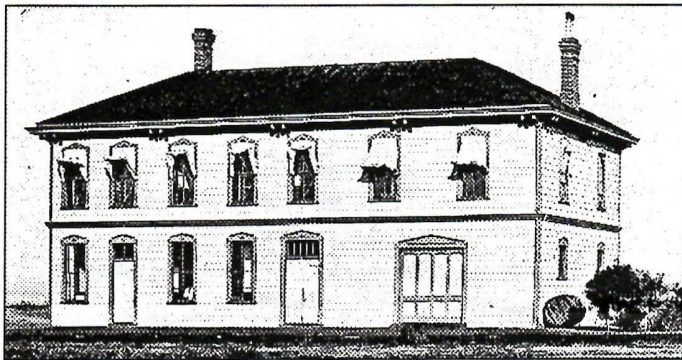
Mail to SOHO, P.O. Box 3571 • San Diego, California 92103 • 619/297-9327

National City's Transcontinental Railroad Terminus Depot Purchased; M. Wayne Donaldson chosen as Restoration Architect

B R U C E C O O N S

THE CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN Station and General Office Building, built in 1882 and located in National City, was purchased with a \$1.4 million ISTE A grant by the City of National City. Included in the ISTE A grant were funds for the restoration of the depot. Restoration is expected to be completed by October 1997, and M. Wayne Donaldson has been

Fe crews building west from Albuquerque, New Mexico under the Atlantic and Pacific charter. The CP/SP tried everything in its considerable power to block the Santa Fe's entry into California, but after many terrific confrontations, legal/corporate battles and maneuvers, the Big Four were finally beaten by the Santa Fe. The final spike



National City depot, circa 1880s. Photo: San Diego Historical Society.

chosen as the restoration architect.

The depot served as the Santa Fe Railway System's first Pacific Coast Terminus for their transcontinental railroad. This is the only surviving original terminus depot from any of the original five transcontinental railroads, and the depot has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The building figured prominently in the Santa Fe's efforts to finally break the transportation and economic monopoly of California by the Central/Southern Pacific's "Big Four" (Stanford, Huntington, Crocker and Hopkins). The Santa Fe directed their activities in California from these general offices under the name California Southern Railroad. The railroad was built from the depot north and east to meet the Santa

was driven in the Cajon pass on November 9, 1885.

The first transcontinental through train left the National City Station on November 14, 1885. The first train from the East arrived on November 16, 1885. The arrival of these first transcontinental trains touched off a rate war between these two corporate giants as they tried to drive each other out of business. The result was one of the largest land booms in the history of California -- "The Boom of the Eighties."

The depot will be the focus of a railroad museum illustrating this exciting period in the history of the West. An excursion train operating from the depot on the old Coronado Railroad around San Diego Bay is also planned. For more information, call Bruce Coons at 619-424-5011. ●

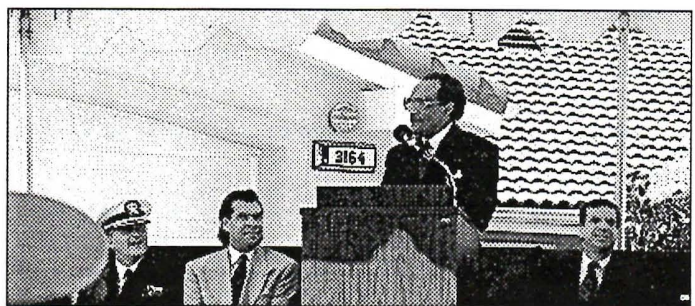
Chollas Heights Military Family Housing Opens on Site of former Naval Radio Transmitting Facility

THE FORMAL RIBBON CUTTING opening the new Chollas Heights Military Family Housing, on the site of the former Naval Radio Transmitting Facility, occurred on January 24. The site is the subject of a 1995 Memorandum of Agreement under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1965, entered into by the Department of the Navy, the California State Historical Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Eastern Area Planning Committee of the City of San Diego, and SOHO. The Chollas facility was a link in the first "super

highway" serving from the World War I period through Operation Desert Storm, and was the site from which news of the attack on Pearl Harbor reached the mainland. Its significance was not generally known until recently due to military security needs. Work is currently being completed on 412 new residential units at the site. Past SOHO presidents Vonn Marie May and Bob Broms attended the opening.

Also scheduled for 1997 is restoration of the Transmitter Building as a housing office, community center and museum. (Bids were due February 4.) Adaptive reuse of four historic residential structures is planned for 1998, which will provide seven more units. Relocation of these structure to the "historic core" was completed in 1996.

When finished, the site will have a peripheral jogging trail with 28 information signs monuments covering the biological and historic background of the facility. Wording for the information signs has been provided to the Navy by Bob Broms of SOHO. ●



San Diego City Councilmember George Stevens at the podium. Also in attendance: Congressman Bob Filner. Photo: Bob Broms.

Dede Alpert invites SOHO Members to April 24 Opening Of New Office

ASSEMBLYMEMBER DED E ALPERT, 78TH DISTRICT, INVITES ALL SOHO members to an open house on April 24 at her new offices in a historic house at 1557 Columbia (corner of Columbia and Cedar). The opening celebration is from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. DeDe Alpert has been a strong supporter of historic preservation causes like the restoration of the Balboa Theatre. Good work! Join SOHO on the 24th to say hello. ●

SOHO to present Historic Rail Excursion and Walking Tour of Downtown LA Landmarks on May 3

ON SATURDAY, MAY 3, SOHO will conduct a rail excursion from San Diego to Los Angeles. The train will leave San Diego's stately Santa Fe Depot at 1050 Kettner Boulevard at 8:40 A.M. and arrive in Los Angeles' famous Union Station at _____ A.M. The tour will continue by subway to Pershing Square, where the tour will continue on foot, visiting a number of notable landmarks. Among these are the Bradbury Building, with its beautiful interior atrium and cast iron elevators, the Neo-Baroque "Million Dollar Theater," the Italian Renaissance-inspired Subway Terminal Building, and the Biltmore Hotel.

The area around Pershing Square also features some of the best examples of Art Deco and Zigzag Moderne

architecture. One of these, the 12-story Title Guarantee Building, with its upper Gothic-inspired flying buttresses, was featured as the haunted skyscraper in *Ghostbusters*. Other notable Art Deco landmarks include the Oviatt Building, with its extensive use of Lalique glass in its store front, and the beautifully asymmetrical Southern California Edison Building.

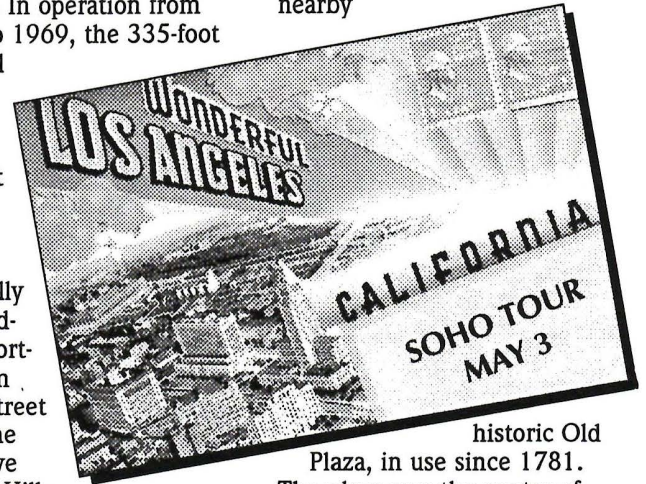
After a well-deserved lunch break, the tour will visit one of the most significant works of the Modern movement, the Los Angeles Public Library. Designed by Bertram G. Goodhue and Carlton M. Winslow between 1922 and 1926, it allegorically combines past, present and future imagery. Borrowed from the past are Assyrian, Egyptian, Roman, Byzantium, and Islamic motifs. The library also features a wide array of art: exterior sculpture by Lee Lawrie, murals by Dean Cornwall and Albert Herter, and frescoes by Charles M. Kassler, Julian Garnsey, and A. W. Parsons. A highly influential design, its stepped rotunda tower was the model for the towering Los Angeles City Hall building nearby.

One of the highlights of the

tour will be riding the newly reconstructed Angels Flight railway. In operation from 1910 to 1969, the 335-foot inclined funicular was the shortest railway in the U.S. Originally it provided a short-cut from Olive Street up to the exclusive Bunker Hill residential district. The line's two opposed wooden cable cars ran along each other in opposite directions. As a motorized winch pulled one of the cars up the 45 degree incline, the weight of the other car acted as a counterweight. Widened turnouts kept both cars from scraping their sides as they passed each other midway. Angels Flight was dismantled in May of 1969 to make way for a massive redevelopment project. It took 26 years for it to be reinstalled.

The tour will then take the subway back to Union Station. While waiting for the 5:10 P.M. return train for

San Diego, tour participants can wander through the nearby



historic Old Plaza, in use since 1781. The plaza was the center of Los Angeles until Pershing Plaza was laid out in 1866. On the day we're there, the plaza should be alive with festivities celebrating Cinco de Mayo.

Tickets for the tour are \$45 for adults, \$40 for seniors (62 and up) and children under 15. To register, make your check payable to SOHO and send it Attn: LA Train Excursion. P.O. Box 3571, San Diego, CA 92163. Deadline for ticket reservations is April 25. For more information, call tour director Alex Bevil at 619-569-1486. ●

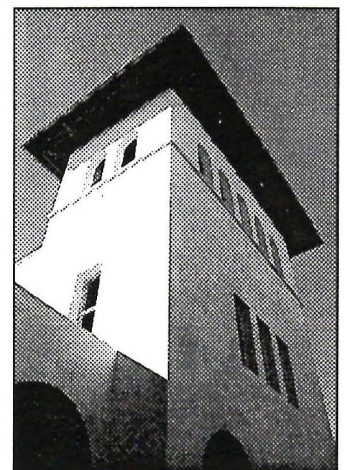
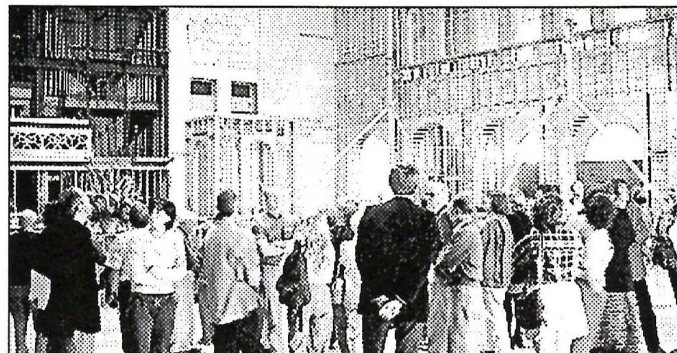
Irving Gill Church Tour A Success

SOHO WISHES TO THANK everyone who made the March 1 tour of the Irving Gill First Church of Christ Scientist such a wonderful event. More than one hundred people turned out to view the restoration of Gill's vision, and over a dozen became new members!

SOHO gives a giant "thank you" to Jim and Kathleen

Kelley-Markham for all their efforts, and to the First Church Congregation who generously donated to SOHO's cause. A shared vision is a powerful bond! ●

Below: Soho members and guests see the chapel restoration in progress.



At top: Jim Kelley-Markham discusses bringing back the Gill design.

Above: the newly reconstructed church tower. Photos: Bob Broms.

Schoolhouse to Celebrate Visit by Father Horton on April 16

ALEX BEVIL AND HIS STUDENTS of San Diego history at the Mason Street Schoolhouse in Old Town invite SOHO members to join them in celebrating the 130th anniversary of the visit of Alonzo Horton, the founder of modern San Diego, to the schoolhouse. The schoolhouse was built in 1865, two years before Horton's visit.

Horton had arrived in Old Town just a few days earlier. On Friday, April 19, 1867, the ever-ambitious town-builder paid a visit to the tiny schoolhouse. Addressing Miss Augusta Barrett's attentive students in the tiny one-room school, Horton summed up his feeling: *"My young friends! It will take young ideas to make your city great. Your old fogies think I am crazy because I plan to build a city...They are short-sighted cynics, who would only look down*

the tips of their sunburned noses." Davis and Grey had tried but failed to relocate the city "downtown" 17 years earlier.

Horton would eventually buy about 960 acres of land in what is now the heart of downtown San Diego. For the next 42 years, he strived to turn San Diego into, as Horton put it, "Heaven on Earth." "It is idle to speculate as to when and how a new San Diego would have been started if Mr. Horton had not undertaken the job...He founded the city of his dreams," said George Marston in 1940.

The fun will begin at the schoolhouse at 6:00 P.M. The class will take the trolley from the Old Town station to the site of David & Gray's abortive New Town, then reboard the trolley for a short ride to the Convention Center/Gaslamp station, the site of Horton's wharf. The class will then toast Father Horton at a nearby bistro. Except for the trolley cost and whatever you wish to spend toasting Horton, the event is free. ●

SOHO WISH LIST

SOMETHING UNIMPORTANT TO YOU COULD BE A LIFESAVER TO US. SOHO is looking for the following:

- a rug or two for our offices at the Senlis Cottage at Heritage Park, Old Town. (What we have now is totally threadbare.)
- a large table that would make a good work table or board meeting table. (What we use now is very small.)
- any architectural elements in decent condition that you'd like to donate to SOHO that could be sold at the L.A.-area flea markets.
- PAPER FOR THE COPIER.

And if we haven't said it enough, SOHO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your donation is deductible as allowed by law. THANKS! ●

Marston House Arts & Crafts Lecture Series Discusses The California Decorative Style on April 12

HARVEY JONES, SENIOR CURATOR OF PAINTING, OAKLAND MUSEUM, will lecture on the work of Arthur and Lucia Mathews and the decorative style of *The Furniture Shop* of San Francisco, 1890-1920 on Saturday, April 12 from 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. at the Thornton Theatre at the San Diego Historical Society. Included will be an additional presentation on the California *Plein-Air* movement in painting of the period. Cost is \$12 for San Diego Historical Society members or \$15 for non-members. Call 619-280-3579 for reservations and information. ●

Have an event of interest to SOHO's members? Send your press release or information sheet to Reflections Editor, P.O. Box 3571, San Diego, CA 92163.

Join SOHO now. Help preserve what's important.

Membership privileges include the SOHO Reflections Newsletter to keep you informed of preservation issues and events, and special prices for SOHO workshops, tours and related activities. For more info, call SOHO at 619-297-9327.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- \$1000 LIFETIME
- 500 BENEFACTOR
- 250 CORPORATE
- 100 EXECUTIVE
- 50 PROFESSIONAL
- 25 INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY
- 10 STUDENT

SOHO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete this form and send it with your check to SOHO, P.O. Box 3571, San Diego, CA 92163.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (home) _____ (work) _____

SPECIAL INTERESTS (architectural styles, periods, etc.) _____

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL SKILLS OR KNOWLEDGE that other SOHO members would benefit from your sharing with us (in a workshop or seminar)? _____

Are you interested in helping at SOHO events (like tours, membership drives, etc.)?

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH: Tours Newsletter Office
 Membership Workshops Other events.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



THE WIARD RESIDENCE

San Diego Historic Site #188

San Francisco in Bankers Hill! Charming 1898 Victorian located on a quiet street in prestigious and historic Bankers Hill. The property offers three+ bedrooms, two baths, newer white kitchen and original detailing.

Possible live/work situation! Phone me for details!

Offered at \$424,000.

Elizabeth Courtier

Specializing in Architectural and Historic Properties.

1621 West Lewis Street • Mission Hills
San Diego, CA 92103

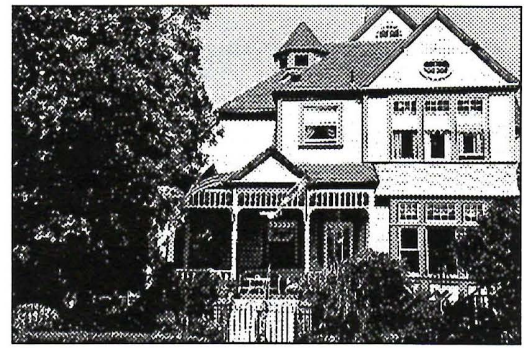
619-297-9904 DIRECT



**HISTORIC
REAL ESTATE**
NATIONAL TRUST FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Expect the best.®



THE GEORGE J. KEATING RESIDENCE

San Diego Historic Site #198
2331 Second Avenue

This 1888 Queen Anne Victorian is located in desirable Bankers Hill and is designated a historic site. It's currently used as a bed & breakfast.

This gorgeous home has original details, four fireplaces, four+ bedrooms, 3 baths, and lush landscaping.

It also has a two story detached guesthouse.

Offered at \$439,000.

Doug Scott

Plum Properties

P.O. Box 33347
San Diego, CA 92163

619-238-6188 DIRECT

PLUM PROPERTIES

**STEVEN VEACH
ILLUSTRATION
&
DESIGN**

Specializing in Gouache Paintings of your Favorite Building
(Historic or Otherwise!).

Paintings done from life or from photos.



657 20th Street

In the Sherman Heights Historic District

San Diego, CA 92102

619-238-4537

Do you have a service or an item for sale that would be of interest to SOHO's members?

Do you want to reach over 600 preservation-minded individuals and groups in Southern California every other month?

Advertise in the SOHO MARKETPLACE!

<u>Ad Size</u>	<u>Donation</u>
Full Page	\$250
Half Page	\$135
Quarter Page	\$ 75
Business Card Size	\$ 35

SOHO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
Donations to SOHO are tax-deductible.

Festival Strings

Special Music for that Special Occasion.
Call us for your next reception, cocktail party, wedding or open house. From duos to large ensembles.

Mary Karo 619-660-8184.

MEMBER NEWS

SOHO welcomes new members *Dianna Davis* of Chula Vista, *Maureen Steiner* of Coronado, *James Schibanoff* of Del Mar, and *Charles Avvampato, Anita Lindberg* and *Shirley von Kalinowski* of La Jolla. From San Diego we welcome *John and Kirk Butler, Helen and Julian Lierandi, Troy Murphree, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Repaci, Tom Roetker, John and Deborah Stall, Kathleen Stoughton, Enid Schwartz, Karen Walter* and the *Church of Christ Scientist, 1st Church.*

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

25 Years

Gardner Marston
Mr. & Mrs. Pitt Warner

15 Years

Bette James

10 Years

Bethel and Ruth Dahl
Charles & Juliet Sykes

5 Years

Judith Bond
Joey Perry

SOHO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| April/May | SOHO Board meetings: 3rd Tues.
Events Committee: 2nd Tues.
Call SOHO for other meetings. |
| April 13- May 18 | Granger Music Hall chamber
music series. Info: 660-8184. |
| April 16 | 130th Anniversary of Horton at
Mason Street School. 569-1486. |
| April 19 | Historic Paint Color Workshop.
Registration: 297-9327. |
| May 3 | SOHO Rail/Walking Tour of L.A.
Reserve by 4/25: 297-9327.
Information: 569-1486. |
| May 15 | People In Preservation Awards,
Balboa Theatre Tours.
Registration: 297-9327. |
| May 16 | CEQA & Cultural Resources
Workshop. Reg.: 459-9490. |
| May 29-June 1 | California Preservation
Conference in Pasadena.
Registration: 510-763-0972. |
| June 1 | SOHO Board of Directors
Nominations due. 297-9327. |

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Diego, CA
PERMIT No. 984

SOHO
Save Our Heritage Organization
P.O. Box 3571
San Diego, CA 92163