



The Soulard Renaissance

"The Neighborhood Magazine of Historic Soulard"

Volume XIV Issue V



Holiday Parlour Tour 1989

Soulard Opens Its Doors for the *Home for the Holidays Parlour Tour*



The annual Home for the Holidays Parlour tour of historic Soulard homes will be held on Saturday, December 2nd and Sunday, December 3rd.

The guided tour features eight homes and the first tour viewing of the recently restored 100 year old Trinity Lutheran Church. Each home will be decorated for the holidays and the church will display a 20 foot turn-of-the-century nativity scene.



The tour includes strolling carolers, holiday food and drink, and a ride through the Anheuser-Busch lighted brewery with a stop at the Clydesdales' stables. It will showcase the wide variety of housing styles found within the Soulard neighborhood from high-Victorian townhomes to ultra-modern apartments. Tour guides will take tourgoers through the route sharing highlights about each home's history as well as interesting facts about the founding of the neighborhood, its history, and its architecture.



The starting point for the tour is Trinity Lutheran Church at 812 Soulard St., the corner of Soulard and South 8th Sts. Tours will begin at noon each day and the last tour will leave at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7.50 when purchased "at the door," or \$6.00 when purchased in advance at the Eugene Field House and Toy Museum, 634 South Broadway, or by calling the Soulard Restoration Group at 771-5563

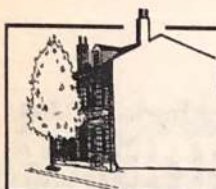
The Next SRG Meeting is at 7:30 PM,
December 6, at Trinity Lutheran Church.



**HOME
FOR THE
HOLIDAYS**

1989
SOULARD
HOLIDAY PARLOUR
TOUR





NOTES FROM THE BRICKHOUSE

This is an honor for me. Not only am I writing my first Note, but also I'm given the opportunity to reflect upon the SRG's accomplishments of the past year in preparation for the goals of the new board of directors for the upcoming year. What a great edition to do this in, the one that announces the Soulard Holiday Parlour Tour.

So much time and effort has gone into this event, and so many will have helped by its conclusion. It will be impossible to say that one person made it all happen. As with the SRG's numerous projects this last year, it is a credit to all our members and neighbors. All have worked unselfishly to make Soulard a better place to live and work. This was the goal of The Neighborhood Association of Soulard last year, and it remains the driving objective of this newly elected board.

The Parlour Tour is but one opportunity for Soulard to tell the rest of the city what a thriving and robust neighborhood we have. To continue telling this story, the Board in its first meeting, began outlining projects it desires to undertake next year. Most of these will be announced after the planning session in December, but one venture that is already being pursued is an active

role in the Soulard Mardi Gras Ball. Stay tuned for more announcements.

To continue these efforts, however, takes the work of many volunteers, and it is your participation that I will seek next year. Annually we commit to additional undertakings. This year will not be different. Fortunately our membership has increased to assume these responsibilities. I have been assured by our Membership Committee that this growth will likewise continue. But along with membership, I urge you to do more.

In beginning my term as President of the Soulard Restoration Group, I implore everyone to please become involved in Soulard. If I don't ask you personally, and I will if I see you, give me a call at 771-9887. If you want to help our neighborhood continue to grow and flourish, I can find something for you to do.

Soulard is more than a place on the map or the name of a market. It's a community made up of many different interests, but with an overriding objective to make it a pleasant place to live, work and play. That's why I moved here, and that's how I want it to continue. Give a little of your time. You will reap the benefits, and the city will be a better place to live.

Doug Everly - President, SRG

SRG Fundraising Report

The GOOD NEWS: Monsanto Fund has given us \$5000 for the position of Executive Director. This will provide a positive note on which to solicit other corporate contributions.

Speaking of contributions; PLEASE, if anyone reading this article has a contact, or suggestion of a contact at a major St. Louis company interested in funding neighborhood organizations, please let us know!

MORE GOOD NEWS: We now have 15 new trash containers - yeh! These are strategically placed throughout the neighborhood at long last.

I apologize for the delay in implementing this program, but when one has to cut through five layers of bureaucratic handling... anyway we hope to initiate a drive to purchase additional "tidy bins".

BAD NEWS: No more money from Southwestern Bell. Soulard lost out to such "innovative" grant projects such as banners, trash cans, benches and street furniture. Stay tuned for more updates on grant decisions.

POSITIVE: The SRG participation in

a recent Halloween Haunted Garden at the Cheshire Inn netted over \$750 for "Shelter the Children" right here in Soulard! It was a creative fun time for those of us involved.

Many thanks to those of you who participated in the activities... or would have had it not rained on Monday.

We are looking to have a fundraising booth at the VP Fair next summer, but more on that later.

The permanent Soulard metal identification sign graphics have finally been agreed on! Therefore, we hope to have the signs in place by February, 1990!

SOULARD NEIGHBORHOOD FLOAT: In co-operation with the Soulard Business Association, we are looking into a joint effort funding for storage/decoration of a permanent float to represent our neighborhood.

There are at least eight major city parades each year. Anyone who would be interested in either working on float design or physical decoration on the float, please let me know as soon as possible.

by Pete Grace

The Soulard Renaissance

"The Neighborhood Magazine of Historic Soulard"

The Soulard Renaissance has a circulation of 6,000 and is published every two months by the Soulard restoration Group. It is distributed in Soulard and St. Louis area businesses and our advertisers.

Call 771-5563 for information and to place ads. Letters to the Editor and articles are appreciated. Copy deadline is one month prior to the date of issue; ads are due 15 days prior. Address correspondence to:

The Soulard Renaissance
P.O. Box 13312
Soulard Station
St. Louis, MO 63157

Editor: Dave Lester, Jr.

Editorial Assistants: Doug Howe

Copy Editor: Dave Lester, Doug Howe, SRG Board

Ad Manager: Doug Howe

Business Manager: Thelma Hemmen

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Contributing Photographers: Jay Gibbs, Dave Lester and Jeanne Weber

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Printing: Nabor News Print Inc.



"Keep your eyes on this one everybody!"

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Editor's Corner

Duties of the Editor of the Soulard Renaissance

The Editor of the Soulard Renaissance, the newspaper of the Soulard Restoration Group, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Soulard Restoration Group (the Board).

The Editor serves as the Editor and Board Member at the pleasure of the Board, which is the publisher of the newspaper. The purpose and function of the Renaissance is to favorably promote the Soulard neighborhood.

The Editor is responsible for writing, editing, printing, and distributing the Soulard Renaissance six times a year during the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November. The editions in September and November will be published approximately two weeks before and in promotion of the ensuing house tour.

The Editor will direct the writing of articles, which may include assignment of topics, editing those articles, and proofreading the final copy.

The Editor will, within requirements which may be occasionally determined by the Board, be responsible for the content and layout of the newspaper and ensure an advertising to news ratio of approximately 40% to 60%.

The Editor is responsible for the sale of advertising and the collection of receipts. The Editor, in consultation with the Board, may appoint an Advertising Manager and Administrative Assistant to perform these duties and it is the duty of the Editor to ensure these requirements are properly fulfilled.

The Board may, at the request of the Editor or upon its own initiative, appoint such other persons as may be necessary to ensure the timely and quality publication and distribution of the newspaper.

The Editor is ultimately responsible for the high quality newspaper publication, its appealing appearance and newsworthy content, as required by the Board, while at the same time ensuring that publication and distribution costs do not exceed the newspaper's annual budget and revenues.

The Editor will report monthly at the regular Board meeting the viewpoints, stories, and timetable of the next issue, as well as other items which may be of interest or concern to the Board.

Editor's Note:

One thing that the above job description failed to mention was that the editor is a voluntary post. A voluntary post that requires approximately two hours per page of finished newspaper. This does not include any ad managerial stuff or distribution. So you can see that the two weeks before print date can get pretty hectic, especially when scheduled articles arrive a few days before print date.

The newsletter is something like a plane flying around, collecting stories and ideas and ads. But two weeks before print date, this airplane has to start making an approach for the runway. Printers and layout people need ample time to prepare for our paper, which is the size of a real newspaper. If we have little or no material, they can do nothing but wait and wonder as they watch our plane nosedive for the end of the runway, begging for their time and attention. They do what they can to accomodate us, but it doesn't work all the time and I don't have the stomach to be a stunt pilot, if you get my drift.

The reason that I do this is to give the neighborhood and its people something in return for what I have received from Soulard. Your articles, and you don't have to be an SRG member to write one, are greatly appreciated by me and our readership as well as your neighbors, usually. So do something for your neighborhood and get articles in at least two weeks in advance of print date. This will help to keep the paper alive and your editor as well.

If you like meeting the business people of the neighborhood and making phone calls, give me a call. The Renaissance is currently scouting for an Advertising Manager after the Mardi Gras Issue. It is of course a voluntary position, but the experience is real. Always wanted to try a little sales but didn't know where to start? Why not learn a little and give a little at the same time. We won't get mad if you quit...we understand!

One last thing. No one returned the questionnaire which ran in the last issue, so I have no statistics to report. Thanks!

Dave Lester Jr. - Editor, The Soulard Renaissance



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Owner

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Saturday 9:30-6:00

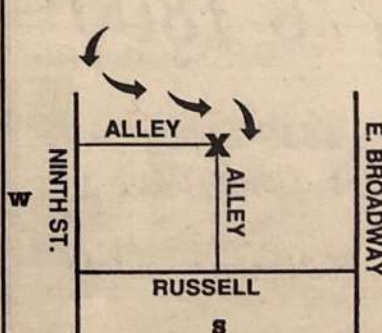
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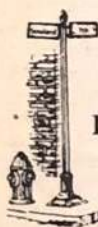


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"Use The Highway Emergency Number to Assist Motorists and Save Lives"

by Ronnie L. White
State Representative
63rd District

"Motorist drives wrong way
on interstate, kills four." I can-
not count the number of times
that I have read tragic headlines
like this one.

Whether it is a drunk driver or a
motorist who has fallen asleep

while driving, these sort of inci-
dents give you such a feeling of
vulnerability. It seems that on the
road, you are at the mercy of the
reckless driver.

In the past there has not been a
whole lot you could do to stop
such a vehicle. However, a new
program approved by legislature
in 1988 and started last Decem-
ber has changed this.

The Highway Emergency Assis-
tance Number, 1-800-525-
5555, is answered by the nearest
highway patrol post or Local Law
Enforcement Agency. The num-
ber is posted on signs distributed
along Missouri's Interstate High-
way system.

The Highway Patrol maintains
the statewide, 24 Hour, toll free
telephone number. Drivers are
asked to report reckless driving,
intoxicated or drugged drivers,
auto accidents, vehicular prob-
lems, or criminal activity.

The Highway Patrol reports that
near Springfield a motorist used
the Emergency Highway Assis-

tance Number to report a driver
traveling the wrong way on Inter-
state 44. Law Enforcement Offi-
cials were able to stop the driver
before any one was injured.

The Highway Patrol has re-
ceived 6,334 calls from all over
the state between December
1988 and June 1989. The High-
way Patrol expects the number
of calls to increase as more and
more people become aware of
the emergency number.

Officials emphasize that the
emergency number is not to be
used to inquire about weather
conditions, and the emergency
service is designed only for the
traveling motorist. Emergencies
at home should be reported to
the "911" emergency number.

I encourage you to memorize
this phone number or write it down
and keep it in your wallet or car. I
also ask that you use it not only
for a personal emergency like a
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thing unusual on the road.

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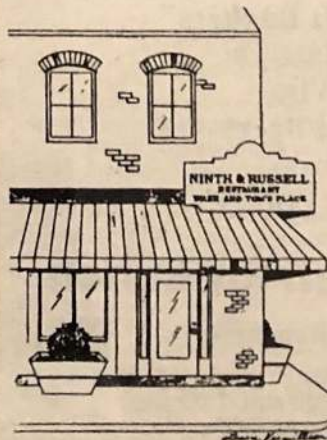
- **Every Tuesday:** Luncheon Steak until 5 p.m.
- Short on time for lunch? Call ahead (773-5565) and we will have your lunch ready (or on the way) when you arrive.
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in Historic Soulard



SOULARD

Christmas seems to make everyone think about home — the love and warmth found there, Soulard is no different. For our Holiday Tour, we, the members of the Soulard Restoration Group, will try to make you feel at home in our homes.

"One Hundred Fifty Years"



Trinity Lutheran Church

One hundred and fifty years ago, Saxon immigrants founded Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown St. Louis. The church flourished and in 1864 moved to its current site. The tornado of 1896 destroyed the major portion of the church and the congregation set about building a new edifice, while retaining as much of the original building as possible.

The church was built in the American Gothic style and provides seating for approximately 1000 worshipers. When one enters from the church vestibule (part of the 1864 structure), the feeling of being in an European cathedral comes to mind. The white and gold carved altar dominates the entire front of the church. The ornately carved pulpit and baptismal font are from the 1864 church. All the woodwork is in the Gothic style.

Recently, the church has undergone a \$400,000 interior restoration process. This is the first time the "new" church has been on tour. The church was entirely rewired, stained glass windows restored, walls repaired, and everything repainted. The work was finished just one year ago this month.

A highlight in the church today is the antique panorama creche. It features dozens of painted figures and expertly crafted backdrops. Today, members of Trinity are on hand to tell you about the manger scene, the church renovation, and church history.

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Saturday — 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Home for the Holidays

Parlour Tour

For today's tour, you will be personally guided through our neighborhood in small groups. The groups will meet every ten minutes or so outside of the church. A tour guide will meet you and walk you to each house and tell you a bit about the neighborhood, its history and its people. Please remember there is no smoking in any of the homes.

At the end of the tour, you may catch one of our buses to the Anheuser-Busch Clydesdale Stables. The buses will run every 10 or 15 minutes. Feel free to get off the bus and catch a later one back to the church. We hope you enjoy the tour as much as we enjoy bringing it to you.

"Mansion Then and Now"



KATHY & BOB

Bob and Kathy purchased their rehabbed home just this past spring, and have been improving it since. Most notably the Mansard roof has been rebuilt and the ornate trim has been painted bringing the facade back to its Victorian splendor.

The house was constructed in sections between 1854 and 1900; the Victorian, front section was built by Philip L. Schneider, owner of the Ozark Mountain Granite Works, whose stone makes up Eads Bridge, City Hall, and the Old Post Office. The oldest part of this property is the 1830's stone carriage house, which was a blacksmith shop at one time.

Kathy and Bob's holiday decor includes a Christmas tree with older glass ornaments and various greenery, all of which will accentuate their home's Victorian grace.

"Two...two...two houses in one!"



GEORGE

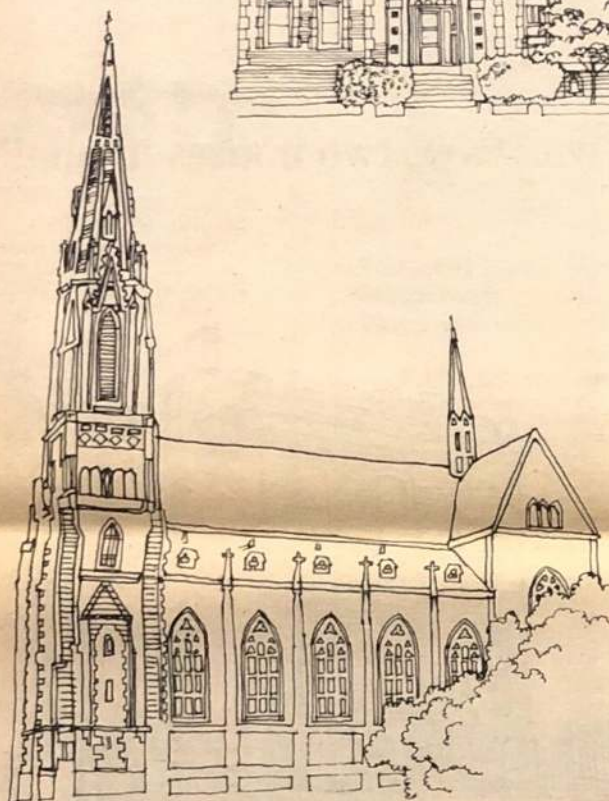
This house like many in Souard was built in sections: the simply styled rear half was built before the Civil War, and fronted on Geyer St. The grander front part of the house was constructed during the Victorian era, and incorporated the original older house as its service wing.

George has been rehabbing this house for the past three years, doing most of the work himself, accomplished "out of pocket". Next year he plans to complete substantial exterior work.

The Victorian part of the house has been restored to its period elegance; the rear portion, which had little architectural value to preserve, has been re-designed with a contemporary flair.

This dichotomy has been carried through George's holiday decorations. The parlour and dining room decors are true to "Victoriana"; and an all white tree is featured in the rear of the house. You'll agree that George's unique house carries off well for living and entertaining.

"Community Minded, Then and Now"



STS. PETER & PAUL Rectory & Church

The collection of buildings that make up the complex of Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church occupies a whole Souard block; the towering spire dominates the Souard skyline. Built in the latter half of the 19th century, the church and the support buildings served a parish of German Catholics which numbered several thousand. After the tornado of 1896 severely damaged the church buildings, the congregation's determination rebuilt them.

As Souard changed, the parish gradually diminished in size; its grade school and high school became defunct.

The huge complex might have eventually been vacated, except for the vision and energy of Fr. Frank Krebs. As well as building renovation and repairs, the revitalizing parish has instituted a number of community services, including spiritual education programs, community hot meals, a mens' winter shelter, a legal clinic and support for Notre Dame elementary school. The Young Catholic Musicians, based at the church, help with the worship services around St. Louis.

The magnificent architecture of the church complex now serves several hundred households, and the number is growing. The church and rectory are open today as evidence of the proud tradition of this community minded parish.

"Traditional Christmas"



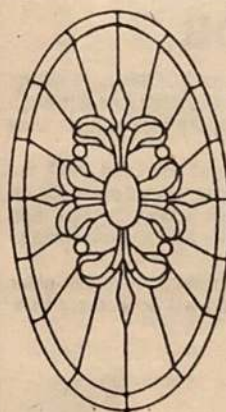
JUDY & RICK

Souard neighbors and friends have been watching Judy and Rick rehab their home for the last several years; the work is now completed. The architectural style is called "Victorian Cottage".

Don't let the petite facade fool you, the interior is actually quite spacious.

The interior renovation is of the Victorian style, hence, the theme of this holiday decor is "Old Fashioned Victorian Christmas". The parlour has a large decorated tree, and smaller trees appear in each of the other rooms; all the trees feature antique reproduction ornaments. A traditional ginger-bread baking scene will be a prop in the kitchen.

Rick and Judy's home is for sale; what better time to show off such a traditional home than now?



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"Christmas with a Past"



CINDY & JOHN

This home, formerly a "two-flat" apartment building, is still known by Souldard old-timers as the "Scrubwoman's House", where an old woman washed clothes for people on the front porch. The house was completely rehabbed for Cindy and John three years ago, and they have recently redecorated the interior to better match their heirloom antiques. The prominent portrait hanging in the parlour is that of Cindy's Great-Great-Grandfather, and the antique furniture is from his estate.

Their Christmas with a Past includes greenery, bows, and features real candles on the tree, a rarity in this twinkle-light age. Other Victorian holiday touches complete the mood.

"Small-Scale Christmas"



MARY BETH

Smaller spaces can also show off the Holiday Spirit. Mary Beth shows us how in her Mead-McClellan apartment over a traditional storefront. First, she uses a non-traditional Christmas. Her little fig tree has served this purpose for several years.

Mary Beth also prefers using colors other than the traditional red and green which she says "is not my style." So the hall decorations of wrapped packages are in "her" colors--pastels. Much of the house follows a theme of pine greenery with dried babies breath and hand tied white ribbons. This is carried out on the window sills and banister railings.

Be sure to notice the kitchen displaying antiques Czechoslovakian china and creche from her grandmothers. Mary Beth loves the eclectic variety of her Christmas decorations.

Felling



Pottery

"The 1989 Holiday Show"
recent works
In stoneware and porcelain
by Kathy Felling
December 2 and 3
12:00-5:00 p.m.

664-4297

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ADOLFO'S NEW MEXICO KITCHEN *Genuine New Mexico Kitchen*

Featuring the finest Red and Green Chile directly from New Mexico. Come enjoy authentic food and delicious Margaritas.

Some American Dishes Available

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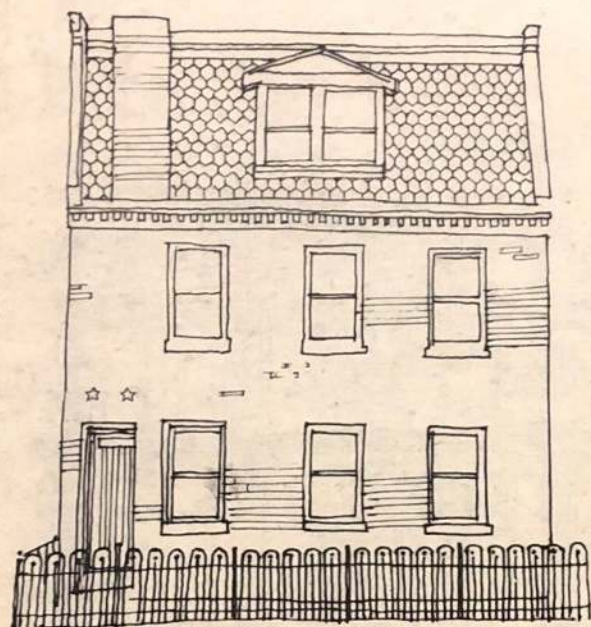
Close to Downtown Hotels . . . in Historic Souldard

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"From Shell To Showplace"



TIM & TINA

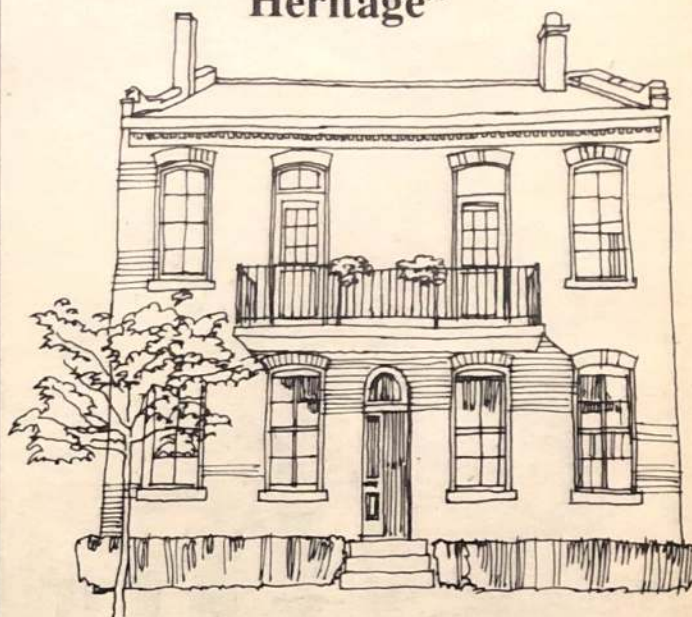
Originally, Tim and Tina's home was a two-story antebellum flounder house; the house dramatically increased in size with the addition of a rear wing and mansarded third story in the 1890's. No fewer than four apartment flats occupied the space within. Despite its stout construction, by the mid 1980's the house was reduced by neglect to a vacant hulk.

Laclede Partnership performed this miraculous transformation from shell to showplace. The rear addition was rebuilt, the floors were leveled, the basement was dug out, and much brickwork was done to tie the various sections tightly together.

The resulting spaces, some cozy, some soaring, combine for a spectacular effect. The smashing kitchen area was once a separate apartment unit; the erstwhile outdoor porches now form the entry hall and sleek stairwell.

Tim and Tina have decorated for the holidays in a sort of "minimalist" style: greenery, and a tree decorated with childhood momentos. Otherwise, they are letting their home, furnishings, and art sing their own hosannas.

"European and American Heritage"



CRAIG & STEVE

This house, built as a four-family in the 1860's, was one of the first in Soulard to be gut rehabbed in the early 1970's at the beginning of the neighborhoods rebirth. It is now two townhouses. Craig and Steve have resided in the southern half for the last four years.

Avid gardeners, Steve and Craig's flowers and plantings earn neighborhood raves in the warm months.

Their holiday decor is much more traditional, providing a foil for the relatively contemporary rehabbed space. The "European Tree" features embroidered, glass and wooden ornaments from Hungary. Providing "stateside" balance are the Norman Rockwell Christmas plates on display. The stories of these acquisitions are best told by the owners themselves

ALLEN AVENUE RESTAURANT & BAR

Located at the Corner of 9 th& Allen Ave. in Historic Soulard

**"TRY OUR DELICIOUS DAILY SPECIALS &
HOMEMADE SOUPS & FABULOUS DESSERTS"
LIVE FOLK & BLUES MUSIC EVERYNITE!**

HOURS: Tuesday - Friday 11AM - 10PM

Saturday 12 Noon - 11PM

Bar is Open Nitely 'til 1:30AM

825 ALLEN AVE.

241-2971

Clementines



2001 Menard at Allen

664-7869

"Tour Center" 1800 South 10th



This corner storefront building, built in the mid-19th century, is typical of Soulard and other older St. Louis neighborhoods. Usually, a builder of such a storefront did so to locate his shop or store downstairs. He and his family would live in one of the upstairs apartments, and would rent out any remaining units. Only speculation can fill the store in history...Grocery? Tailor? Dry Goods? Tavern? Toystore?

Today, Jolly Old St. Nicholas is doing an exclusive gig here this weekend, and you can have your picture taken with the jolly old elf.

But that's not all! We've decorated a fabulous Christmas tree with ornaments provided by Soulard residents each wishing you a Merry Christmas.

Finally, back by popular demand, we're giving away lists of for sale housing in Soulard and copies of *The Soulard Renaissance* newspaper. And for modest sums, we'll present you with the official Christmas cards, coffee mugs, and Mardi Gras merchandise of the Soulard Restoration Group.

Wrap up your Holiday Tour with a free trip through the campus of the Anheuser-Busch world headquarters. Many of the historic buildings, and nearly every tree has been outlined with thousands of Christmas lights. A special stop will be made at the Clydesdale Stables, which was originally constructed in 1889 as the private stables for brewer Adolphus Busch's estate.



THE PLACE FOR STEAKS,
SEAFOOD, PIZZA AND BURGERS

Our Kitchen Stays Open
LATE for Dinner
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SOULARD BUSINESS FOCUS

The search for that obscure record or tape at a mall or music warehouse store usually concludes with a stupefied blank stare from the gum-cracking teenage cashier. Not so at Soulard's own 'Music Gallery' at 1801 S. Ninth St. Owner Dennis Cronin-Doyle, with his 13 years of record retail experience, and his assistants Elliott and Tony, can almost

certainly answer any music question clearly and quickly.

"It's a more professional approach," Dennis explained. "It's a throwback to the 'old days' of music retailing where customers got the service of knowledgeable employees, a 'small shop' attitude. Most other stores can't offer this expertise. Our clientele is some-

what older than most stores. — a lot of them know just what they're looking for. But music novices are welcome too, that's what we're here for!" Dennis exclaimed, indicating his employees.

The music selection itself reflects the diversity of the Soulard neighborhood. "There's an 'alternative' flavor in Soulard, and that's why we chose to locate here."

"We stock the stuff that other stores don't offer," Dennis explained. "Seventy-five percent of our music is purchased from smaller distributors and foreign labels." There is an incredible depth of selection housed in this small corner storefront: "We stock seventeen different records instead of seventeen copies of one record." The types of music sold include, but are not limited to, Blues, Rock, Bluegrass, Country, Traditional and Contemporary Folk, Irish and British Isles, New Orleans R&B, Jazz, Cajun, African, Ragtime, and "Roots" music. "It's music you can sink your teeth into!" Dennis summed up.

Music Gallery is a different kind of record store in other ways, too. In addition to a full line of audio accessories, there is an extensive collection of books

and magazines about music, two large racks full. If you like to explore the "roots" of Blues, Folk and Rock, this is the place.

In the back of the store is some open space and an upright piano; here, live acoustic performances are periodically hosted right in the store. Alistair Anderson played a couple of months ago, to a "sellout" crowd of seventy.

Even the music racks are different; they were crafted of black wrought iron specifically for the store. All in all, "It's a nicer store—it doesn't look like a mall."

It's quickly obvious that Dennis is thoroughly enjoying his new venture, and judging from the number of paying customers who came through the premises during this interview, the enthusiasm is catching. "We're becoming more known all the time; business is getting better and better," Dennis happily said. "I think this location is really going to pay off in the long run."

If you like recorded music, check out "Music Gallery" at 1801 S. Ninth St. The friendly atmosphere and knowledgeable staff will excite the music connoisseur and set the music novice at ease.

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SOULARD SOUND

by The Roving Reporter

What do you like about the Holiday Season?



**Michael Orlando,
Cosmetologist**

My favorite part of Christmas is being with loved ones and friends to celebrate the coming new year.



**Ron D'Aloia,
Merchandiser**

I cherish all the days off after a busy shopping season.



**Kim Workman,
Nurse**

THE PRESENTS!!! and lots of 'em!! But I'm especially looking forward to my first Christmas in Souard (actually I hear I should say "My first Christmas in Souard Heights").



**Lucy Coble,
Insurance Underwriter**

I have to admit that I'm rather a grinch and really don't like Christmas (but I do like the great presents my husband, John, buys for me).



**Diane Goff,
Hotel Sales Manager**

I like the spirit of friendship that everyone has during the season. It makes all the hustle and bustle worthwhile.



**Doug Howe,
Buyer**

I like the Christmas House Tour and its post-tour party the best. It's a great way to start off the Holiday Season. I hope to see you there.



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HAPPENINGS AT THE HOSTEL

The Huckleberry Finn Youth Hostel at 1904-08 South 12th St., in Souldard is open year round. Our overnight charge is \$9.00 (going up to \$10.00 in 1990). We offer travelers a bed in a dormitory, a hot shower and use of a kitchen and a common room.

Over the last three months we hosted over 1500 visitors from over 31 different countries including Israel, Spain, Mexico, Panama, Guatemala, Mainland China, Thailand, Hungary, Honduras, Yugoslavia, Malaysia, Brazil, and South Africa.

When we were registering with The American Youth Hostel Association in 1976, we were asked what we were planning to call our hostel. I already knew Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn as the true embodiment of a free spirit with a good sense of values and moral integrity. A traveler for the love of travel and of other travelers. Huck was the first hosteler; a person who traveled not to reach any particular destination, but to rejoice in the experience of being on the way to somewhere.

We almost feel that Mark Twain invented Huck Finn so that we could name our Youth Hostel after him. More than ten years after we have opened our doors, the name fits more appropriately now than we ever thought it would ever be in the beginning. It's an honor to us to offer shelter and a helping hand to

travelers in the name of a person like Huck Finn.

We are not the only ones familiar with the famous 'river rats' Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. We experienced the likes of a Japanese "Huck & Tom" this summer ourselves and it is quite a remarkable tale.

Akira Suzuki and Ternaki Kakubun are both school teachers in Japan. Actually, Ternaki owned a small, private English Language School. Akira was bicycling across North America, and had already cycled from California north through the Canadian Rockies and throughout much of the southeast and southwest, but Akira had a mission. He wanted to build a raft and float down the Mississippi from Hannibal to New Orleans. He knew however that he could not do it alone. His dream started to turn into reality when he found his partner, Ternaki, at our Hostel.

They talked strategy and planned the dream for about a week in mid-May and then left for Hannibal. Akira by bike, Ternaki by bus. We shook our heads as they left because we knew of many similar ideas that never materialized for others. Summer is the busy season around here and so we more or less forgot about them and their idea.

Six weeks after they left for Hannibal to build their raft, they reappeared in St. Louis, having floated the distance from

Hannibal by raft.

The duo had constructed their raft from scavenged and donated materials such as picnic tables, old pallets and oil drums. As they were constructing their raft the Hannibal Courier Post printed several articles on their attempt to reach New Orleans by raft. As you can probably guess, all was not smooth sailing.

While stopping for supplies in Alton, IL, someone boarded their raft and stole all of their equipment, lock, stock, and barrel.

Upon passage through Lock & Dam 27 at Granite City, they were encountered by their first open river current of the journey. Assisted by large towboat wakes, the adventurers were swirled round and round leaving them helpless and scared. Eventually a Coast Guard launch rescued them and towed them to a mooring on the Missouri side of the river, next to a MSD sewage outflow. Not a pleasant smell.

When I saw and heard of the adventure to this point, I could only laugh and comment, "Well, you certainly are seeing the worst of St. Louis." Unknown to any of us, the worst was yet to come.

Because of Coast Guard warnings of dangerous currents for the rest of their journey, Akira and Ternaki decided that they needed an outboard motor retrofitted to their raft. They spent three weeks procuring a motor and a transom to

mount it on. Because of red tape, another week passed while they registered their craft and motor. On returning to the raft to mount the engine, they found that their vessel had vanished! A search of the bank downstream turned up the burnt remains of their once noble raft.

Being very much discouraged by this latest of mishaps, the duo was deciding to call it quits and continuing their separate travels, on dry land.

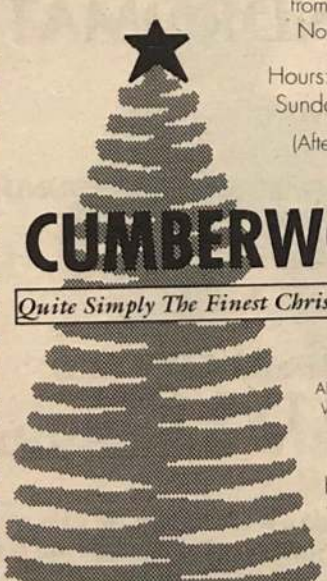
My wife Sheila and I, in an effort to help them, offered them free overnights if they wanted to rebuild. After pondering the idea for a couple of days they decided they would redesign the vessel and try it again.

For under \$200 in materials and a couple of weeks work, their raft made predominately of foam blocks and plywood, was ready to launch. We launched the raft at the Arch in driving rain and said our good-byes. "Sayonara to St. Louis." We'll report back on any further developments concerning this adventure.

So that's it for this issue from the Huck Finn Youth Hostel in Souldard where, "the travelers are strong, the dreams compelling, and the conversations are above average."

by Tom Cochran

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Neighborhood Fabric

by Jay Gibbs

825 Allen Avenue, built well before the turn of the century, was purchased by Soulard resident, Gary Hibdon, in 1974. At that time the badly dilapidated shell was sagging nearly a foot in the middle. The roof sported a 12 foot and ever widening hole and the foundation and brickwork needed serious attention. Additional character was added by the many burn marks produced by homeless living in the vacant building before its purchase.

Doing much of the work himself, Gary has converted this once forsaken shell into a business and a home for himself in Soulard. In 1984, Allen Avenue opened its doors promoting arts and music for neighborhood residents. The interior of the bar boasts a walnut back bar with a "St. Louis" style mahogany rail on the front bar. The windows and wainscoting are walnut finished out with Honduras mahogany base and ceiling mouldings.

Allen Avenue is open 5 Nites a week with Live Blues & Folk artists nightly. Allen Avenue also features a restaurant which is open daily from 10a.m. til 11p.m.

So come on down and see the hard work the Mr. Hibdon has put into his "Soulard Dream."



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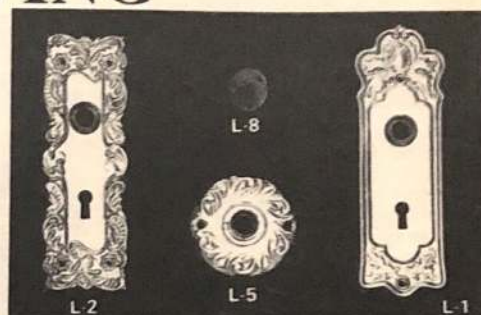
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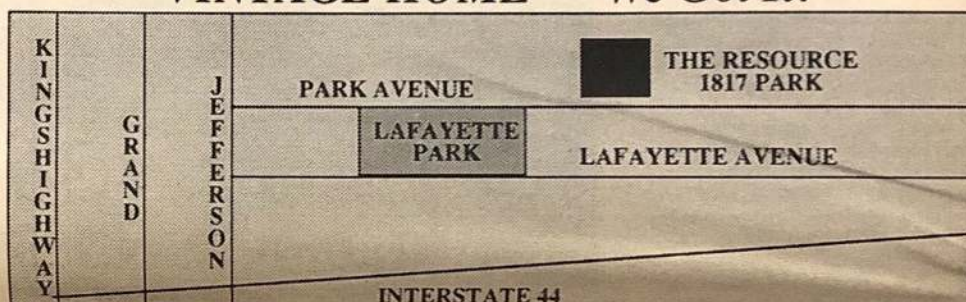
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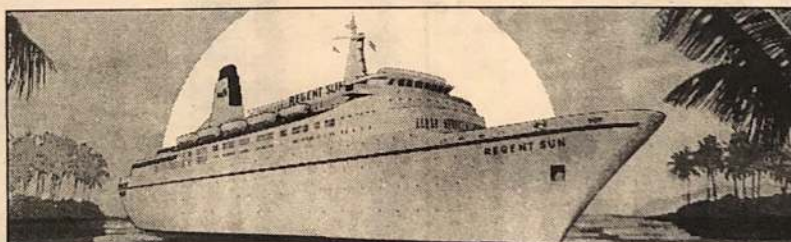
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