



The Souldard Renaissance

"The Neighborhood Magazine of Historic Souldard"

Volume XIV Issue III



Summer 1989

Souldard Restoration Group Slates '89 Fall House Tour

The Souldard Restoration Group is gearing up for a new and exciting house tour, **"Come Home to Souldard"**. This year's tour features homes in the southwestern part of the neighborhood.

"This year's tour promises to be one of the best ever!" said Richard Hansen, Residential Promotion Committee Co-chairman. *"We are especially excited because many of the homes have never been on tour before."*

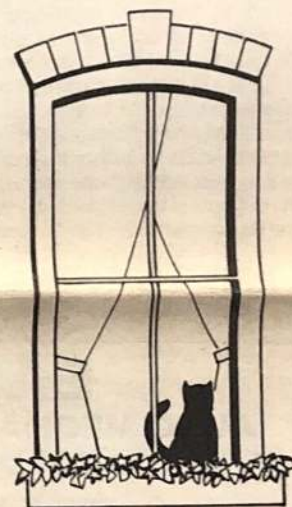
The tour is a walking tour through the neighborhood. It features churches, homes, apartments, and a business.

"We have designed the tour to show off a cross-section of the neighborhood," remarked Cyndi Tompkins, also Co-chairman. *"There is something for everyone-- from large Victorian homes to high-tech apartments; antiques to teak; single family to rowhouses."*

The tour is Saturday and Sunday, September 23

& 24. Tour starts at 10 A.M. on Saturday and 11 A.M. on Sunday. Houses will close at 5 P.M. Buy tickets in advance through the SRG or its members, the Eugene Field House, at any TicketMaster location, or the day of the tour at the starting point, Jesus Church at 12th. & Victor.

Tickets are \$6.00 in advance (\$5.00 for groups of 20 or more). \$7.50 at the door. □



For more information on this year's Fall House Tour, please call the Souldard Restoration Group at 771-5563.

Citicorp Grant Awarded to the SRG

Thanks to the efforts of CC Everly and others, the Souldard Restoration Group

was recently awarded a \$2000 CITICORP URBAN RENAISSANCE GRANT to underwrite the revision of our slide presentation and to purchase metal neighborhood boundary markers.

This was the fifth year that CITICORP offered the grants. The SRG was one

of only 14 recipients out of 50 applicants!

Among other honorees were our neighbors: Arts Council of Lafayette Park and the LaSalle Park Neighborhood Association.

A total of \$25,000 was awarded in grants.

Jan and Pete Grace accepted the grant certificate and check on behalf of the SRG at an awards

luncheon aboard the PRESIDENT excursion vessel on May 30th.

During the presentation, Mrs. Dean Keyes, CITICORP Director, Community Affairs (an Lafayette Square resident) was lavish in her praise of the Souldard neighborhood, both past and present beautification...renovation...and revitalization efforts. □

NEXT
SRG
MEETING
SEPT. 6
TRINITY
LUTHERAN

Notes From the Brick House

By Rod Wright

In some city neighborhoods, you often hear complaints about how difficult it is to sell property. From all recent indications, that's not the case in Souland. From what I can tell, and from what I've heard from Realtors, the real estate market in Souland is "hot." And that's good news.

Of course, there's lots of different factors that contribute to a healthy real estate market in any neighborhood. I'm sure that's true in Souland. But I'm even more sure that a major factor in Souland has been the activities of the SRG Residential Promotion Committee.

During the past two years, Cyndi Tompkins and Richard Hansen have co-chaired this committee (formerly the House Tour Committee). Under their leadership, it has grown beyond coordinating annual house tours to truly marketing our neighborhood. In addition to organizing tremendously successful tours, programs have been designed and implemented for outreach to real estate professionals and corporate relocation managers. In addition, tours have been designed not only to showcase houses in Souland, but also to market the neighborhood.

An example of the extraordinary work of the Residential Promotion Committee

occurred just a few weeks ago with "Souland for Sale". This event brought droves of prospective new home buyers to the neighborhood. Visitors were able to go through many for-sale "open-houses". And they were able to learn about the Souland neighborhood at a hospitality center. It is my understanding that several contracts were written that day.

So our healthy real estate market has not happened by chance. There is no question that our neighborhood is now benefiting from Cyndi's and Richard's two years of vision, hard work and innovative ideas. We owe them, and their committee, a great deal of thanks.

Speaking of the Residential Promotion Committee, it's the time of the year when that committee is most busy. Our fall house tour is Sept. 23 and 24. This year's tour promises to be very special.

Lastly, the Membership Committee has been very active all year—and August is the month of our membership picnic. The date is August 27 and the location is Tower Grove Park. You can call the SRG phone number (it's in the book) for details. The picnic is going to be a great way to end the summer. I look forward to seeing everyone.

The Many Benefits of Being an Active SRG Member

As a member of the Souland Restoration Group, you can attend meetings at the Trinity Lutheran Church on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. Each meeting is followed by a social at the home of a fellow member, including food, drinks and good company.

Every month we try to have a special event. Such events include the Mardi Gras parade and festival, Cardinal baseball games, organized bike tours, float trips and picnics. A picnic which includes a Bar-B-Q cook-off contest, live music, a

road rally and treasure hunt is scheduled for **August 27, at Tower Grove Park.**

So if you are looking to get involved with a lively bunch of very nice people who also happen to be committed to making Souland a wonderful place to live, come on and join the Souland Restoration Group today! We would love to have you!

For more information call: **772-7778 or 436-1963.**

Jan Grace

Membership/Special Events Committee Activities Report

The SRG Membership/Special Events Committee sponsored several activities this spring and summer.

In May, the committee held the first annual "Tour of the City" bicycle ride. The group made up of both veterans and novices, followed the route to Grand Ave. and Tower Grove Park, past the Missouri Botanical Garden and through the Holly Hills area past Carondelet Park. The ride ended at Ninth & Russell Restaurant where the cyclists had lunch. We hope that the popularity of this event will grow each year.

The annual **Souland vs. Lafayette Square** softball game was held on Monday, July 4th at Lafayette Park. The game went into extra innings with Souland losing in the 10th inning by a score of 9 to 8. It was a heartwrenching loss and only the third loss to Lafayette Square in the history of the match-up.

Saturday, July 15th was the date of the **Courtois River Float Trip**. The day began with rain, the unusually large group took a chance and drove the one and a half hour trip anyway. The weather cleared up and everyone was able to complete the seven mile canoe ride down the Courtois. Despite the low water level, everyone had a good time!

The big event for August will be a "Sunday in the Park" picnic to be held on **August 27, at Tower Grove Park** from 2 P.M. til 7 P.M. The picnic will include games and a Membership/Special Events Committee "Cook-Out".

If you would like more information on this event or any other Membership/Special Event Committee activity, please contact:

Jan Grace at 436-1963, or
Jeanne C. Weber at 771-8428.



Souland Housing Lists Now Available

Right now we are enjoying the prime time of the year for home hunting. Souland has a variety of single family townhouses, multi-family investment properties, and even a few corner storefronts available for your inspection and purchase.

Start your search by picking up a copy of the latest **Souland For Sale Housing List**, published quarterly by the Souland Restoration Group.

Call **771-5563** for your free copy, and as always, happy house hunting!



Join an SRG Committee and Get Involved

The Souland Renaissance

The Souland Renaissance has a circulation of 6000 copies and is published bi-monthly by the Souland Restoration Group. It is distributed in the Souland area and is delivered door to door in Souland.

Call 771-5563 for more information or to place an ad. Address correspondence to:

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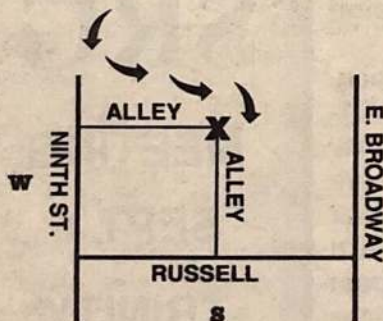
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The Editor's Corner

by Dave Lester Jr.

TOLERANCE: *Sympathy or indulgence for practices and beliefs differing from or conflicting with one's own.*

Tolerance. City life is full of it! Just look out your front window and count how many windows are looking back at you. This is evidence of the reality of tolerance.

Have you tried to park in front of your home on a Friday or Saturday evening lately? Probably, but you parked a block away and walked, albeit some moaning and groaning, back to your place. Parking is a problem in Souard, but you learn to tolerate it in order to enjoy the good things about the neighborhood.

Are you frustrated because your house looks so good and your next door neighbor's doesn't? Don't worry about it unless it is a Health Department matter. They'll get it together eventually, or the next owner of the house will do the job. Souard is still young in its comeback. You just have to learn to tolerate it a bit longer to enjoy it fully.

You say the family next door is a tad on the strange side. Aren't we all? You may look strange to them also! Most of us are harmless, and we all try to learn to tolerate each other. It's the best way to a stable neighborhood.

Is the music on your block a little loud sometimes? Does the bus rumbling by at 5 A.M. wake you up every morning? Souard is an alive and jumping place in St. Louis, and a lot of people living here like it that way. We all must learn to tolerate a bit more noise than we might.

When you live in the city, you have to put up with lots of little (and occasionally big) annoyances. The neighborhood must have attracted you here for something special, and many of these annoyances are part of the recipe that makes Souard so special

to so many. How many other neighborhoods in St. Louis have hundreds of tourists flying overhead in helicopters everyday? Just another annoyance that you have to learn to tolerate. Personally, I like helicopters.

Some people like the smell from the brewery...and some people don't. I haven't found anyone who likes that oniony, burning tire smell from the east more or less, and that probably shouldn't be tolerated either. Crimes against persons or property shouldn't be tolerated as well. You do have to draw the line somewhere though.

Let's all work together to identify what should and shouldn't be tolerated. With some co-operation, many irritating things can be worked out with some patience and tolerance.

So why don't you just sit down and help your editorially starved editor by sending your opinion or ideas (preferably typed) to:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
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Letters to the Editor

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you for this opportunity to clear up my position (How would you improve Souard), as stated in the last Roving Reporter column.

Rather than a video-liquor store locate here...I would rather have George 'The Laundry Man' sell draft beer and show old Annette Funicello-Franky Avalon movies at his establishment. In effect offering; "DUDS...SUDS...AND DUDS"

Pete Grace

TO THE EDITOR:

Well, the "French Hill Houses" that I wrote about elsewhere in this issue were not miraculously saved. I'm glad the article is running anyway. Perhaps a few people will realize what we have lost while "cleaning up" Souard.

So far in 1989, ten century plus building have been sentenced to the bulldozer blade. I love this neighborhood and I am a wholehearted advocate of its improvement, but I still feel that razing historic houses is not the best way to improve Souard. Easiest way...yes. Best way... No.

I wish I could put into words the dismay and utter sadness that we historic preservation/rehabber types feel when we see one of these old houses fall. Unlike most non-rehabber types, we don't see it as an eyesore removed, but an opportunity lost, and some precious history destroyed forever. It's like watching someone open an antique book and ripping some pages out of it. Part of the story is lost and the value of the book is diminished.

I will close with words borrowed from a fellow Renaissance writer. Perhaps these well written lines will bring a few more people to think about what we are doing and start viewing vacant old houses the way rehabbers see them:

"Rehab is not a factory product; it presents unique challenges, and the constant change requires patience, determination, a little craziness and lots of dedication. The old buildings we have left are all we will ever have. With knowledge, grit and love, even a hopeless shell can be revealed as an irreplaceable treasure."

Jay Gibbs

TO THE EDITOR:

All who love Souard should feel a profound sense of loss over the City's emergency demolition of the "French Row" houses on 10th St. The fact is, however, that for most of the last decade during which Souard's renovation boomed, these structures were owned by the two development companies most associated with that boom. Yet these companies, which renovated many problem properties, found these beyond their capabilities.

The leadership of the SRG, which has strongly opposed many demolitions, took action on behalf of these buildings on at least two occasions. In the mid-1980's, then President Nancy Farber, solicited assistance from Landmark's Director, Carolyn Toft, and other qualified firms to purchase and renovate them.

Early this year, in response to a proposal by Jay Gibbs, the SRG once again examined possibilities for rehabbing these buildings for our own office space. Gibbs, who has no proven rehabilitation experience of the type required for these buildings, wished to acquire the properties at 'negligible' cost and rehab them at \$50 per square foot. The SRG Board requested an on-site analysis by David Ashby, an architect specializing in historic properties, and who has recently been appointed to the Heritage Commission. Ashby's report clearly detailed that Gibbs' proposal of \$50 per square foot were well under one-half of David Ashby, an architect specializing in historic properties, and who has recently been appointed to the Heritage Commission. Ashby's report clearly detailed that Gibbs' proposal of \$50 per square foot were well under one-half of what the actual costs would be.

In both recent cases in which the SRG has taken action on behalf of these buildings, the experts agreed. Due to age and neglect, the condition of the buildings had deteriorated to such an extent that their rehabilitation was no longer even a matter of economic viability. There was so little left to rehab that they would have to be disassembled and completely reconstructed as 'Disneyland' replicas. In the meantime, they remained unsecured and extremely unsafe, particularly to children in the area. So let's mourn the loss of these venerable buildings, but let's also look to the day that our grandchildren will struggle to save that which we built to replace them.

SRG Board of Directors

(In response to J. Gibbs letter above)

Your 'Letter to the Editor' is greatly appreciated and we would like to here about anything in the Souard area.

The Flower Lady of Granite City for Iris and Daylilies

For the last two or three years fellow gardening and iris enthusiast, Mary Jo Warren, has been coming back from Granite City, IL with all sorts of outstanding hybrids of iris and a variety of other perennials. When I asked her where she got all these plants, her reply was always, "Why the Flower Lady". So for the last several years the Flower Lady has been somewhat of a mystery to me.

This spring when Mary Jo started coming back with even more great plants, I asked if I might go along and meet the mysterious Flower Lady. So

one sunny day we drove over to Granite to check out this person and her yard that had become somewhat legendary.

Not knowing what to expect, I was astounded by the sight of her yard. The front and back yard are full of iris, daylilies, columbine, oriental poppies and a variety of other plants. All of the beds are separated by a winding path which runs throughout the yard. Some of the beds are raised and have small rock garden plants covering the limestone walls. Others are a mixture of plants.

When we knocked on her back door, we were greeted by the famous Flower Lady of Granite City, Agnes Miller.

She came out with a smile and said, "Hi, how are you today?" We then proceeded to talk for the next hour about her iris while walking through the yard. Agnes pointed out one of the iris she has hybridized and her day lilies that abound also.

When asked about the number of different hybrids that she has, she said "Oh, about 400 iris and 600 daylilies".

Mrs. Miller is the president of the Daylily (Hemocallis) Society of Granite City, and sells her many varieties of plants.



The Flower Lady within her favorite environment, the garden.

One of the primary advantages of buying from Mrs. Miller is that you get to see the color and size of flower you are buying. If you are interested in daylilies or iris, you usually have to buy them from a catalog and hope what comes in the mail is what you ordered, and when it flowers, it is what you had hoped for.

At the Flower Lady's you pick out the flowers you want and she writes down your order. When it is time to transplant them, you go pick them up.

The shorter out of ground time makes for a healthier plant.

While it is too late to pick out any iris, it is not too late for the daylilies. If you don't want any plants, it's fun to just go and look at the myriad of colors and textures in the Flower Lady's garden.

For more information on her services you can reach Mrs. Miller by calling 618-877-2983.

Bob Printz

Chris'

At Soulard

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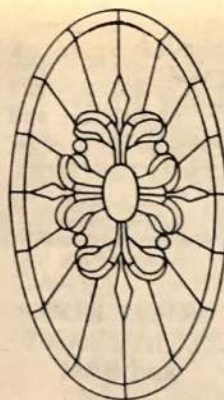
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SOULARD SOUND

by the Roving Reporter

What's your favorite Soulard Summer Activity?



Tim Voss
Editor, Lutheran Church-
Missouri Synod

"Going to the Soulard Market
Bakery for a fresh Ham &
Cheese Croissant."

Lydia Homrighausen
Producer, Concordia
Publishing House

"I've only lived here a few
months, I don't have one yet."



Aaron Ludwig
Neighborhood Cute Kid

"Playing baseball with my
friends at the Soulard Boys'
Club."



Max Burton
Marketing Manager
MADCO Printing

"I like visiting the local eating
and drinking establishments."



Misha and Mikado
"We are Si-ya-me-ease if
you ple-ease"

"Is it summer? We live to
eat, sleep, play, and destroy
furniture."

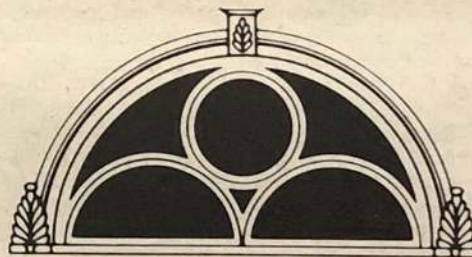


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"The Plaintive Whispers of History Call to Us"

(A Commentary by Jay Gibbs on the demolition of the 'French Row Houses')

In the midst of our booming, mostly rehabilitated historic neighborhood stood some old houses dating from St. Louis' early days.

Today well over 150 years after they were built, the three French Creole cottages at 2211-13-15 are in the midst of imminent destruction.

Though the cold hard facts of economics call for the demolition of these badly dilapidated structures, the plaintive cries of History whisper for their miraculous redemption by the hands of some preservation-minded savior.

One cannot fault or blame those who call for these open and hazardous wrecks to be razed. These buildings cannot be economically renovated by a for profit developer, and as any rehabber can see in a moment the state of decay within. But that quiet cry of History won't go away. What is it saying?

HISTORY

St. Louis was founded in February 1764 by a small group of French settlers, who chose the site for its height above the Mississippi River. Due to its strategic geographic location, the settlement prospered as more and more pioneers, mostly French in those early years, swelled the outpost.

After Thomas Jefferson arranged the Louisiana Purchase in 1804, the little town of St. Louis grew by leaps and bounds. Settlers of various nationalities and ethnic backgrounds arrived in increasing numbers.

By the mid 19th century, the French influence and culture in St. Louis had been overwhelmed by waves of other European immigrants, but some vestiges of French influence remained. Souard Market, Souard's neighborhood name, and those little cottages on So. Tenth St. are such remnants of those earlier times.

UP ON A HILL

The houses overlooked Pontiac Square Park on a low rise or hill. This is consistent with the preferences of pioneer settlers. A hilltop location assured added protection from unfriendly outsiders, guaranteed excellent drainage, and provided access to elusive breezes during the sultry summers.

These houses were built long before any of the now surrounding buildings, when the immediate area was forest, meadow and farm. Behind this little hill flowed a small spring or creek, still visible in Compton & Dry.

There's one more wrinkle to this hill location. It is entirely possible that this little hill is in fact the remnants of an Indian mound. Personally, this writer scoffed too at first, but let's examine a few facts.

First, St. Louis was once known as "Mound City" because of its hundreds of Indian mounds scattered throughout what is now Downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Most of these mounds were leveled to accommodate buildings and farm land, but if some early settlers had decided to take advantage of such a mound, built upon it, and their houses had survived to this day, then the mound beneath would also still exist in the midst of the city.

Second, come and look for yourself at the topography around these French houses. Surrounding the mini hill is a nearly flat plain, sloping gently from the river to the ridge that became what is now So. 18th St. In the midst of this gentle slope is our relatively prominent little hill, perhaps 50-70 feet in diameter and roughly 15 feet taller than the surrounding terrain. The hill was certainly taller before the French settler flattened the top for construction.

The bare clay soil under the crumbling front porches of the two front houses has a strange consistency. It's packed down and yet is soft enough to easily dislodge, unlike virgin clay.

Again come see for yourself!

Is this whole Indian mound contention way out on a limb? Perhaps, but at the very least, the possibility should be explored and documented by a qualified archaeologist or historian.

THE HOUSES

The three houses, two in front and one in the rear, were undeniably French in origin. (A grouping of four more French houses at 2219 So. Tenth is adjacent to the three in question. This other group is also in danger of demolition also.) Roofs slope uninterrupted over verandas, and entry is accessed there in all three cases. The roof slope are relatively flat in com-

parison to later construction.

The house at 2211-13 So. Tenth was a two room brick cottage and bears a strong resemblance to 2219 So. Tenth, with two front doors, two front windows, and an attic stairway. In this attic the floor planks are 24" wide, over an inch thick, and up to 20' long. Imagine the old growth trees that these boards must have come from!

The roof ridge in fact has no roof beam, the slopes being supported by handhewn 4"x 4" joists simply attached in pairs at the apex. The roof decking is composed of rough-sawn irregular planking, some with the bark still attached. Also visible from beneath are beautiful and intact cedar or cypress shake shingles.

Despite appearance, this two room house was in fairly good condition. It had several later additions that weren't in as good a shape. The additions could have been razed, but the front part of the house could have been saved with new additions constructed.

The front house at 2215 So. Tenth was somewhat younger than its neighbor. It is brick, 1 1/2 stories with one front door, two front windows, and a dormer on the roof. Most of the wooden construction has collapsed and this would undoubtedly have been the most difficult to resurrect. Its unusual feature is the erstwhile second floor room entered from an interior stairway.

The alley house at 2215 So. Tenth is the oldest and most intriguing of all. It was a two room flounder house constructed in the manner known as "brique-entre-poteaux", meaning constructed of vertical wood beams with brick infill forming the exterior walls. Amazingly intact cypress siding still partially sheathed these unique walls.

This house was one of the oldest in the entire St. Louis area. Even though it was water damaged, much of it could have

been saved and renovated with compatible materials.

DATES OF CONSTRUCTION

According to an article in the March 1989 issue of Old House Journal, these Creole cottage styles date, in the City of New Orleans, from 1790 to 1840. It stands to reason that these nearly identical examples date from the same era. The front two houses probably date between 1800 and 1840, as do the similar cottages in New Orleans. The real antiquity award, however goes to the rear structure with its "brique-entre-poteaux" construction. The style is a hallmark of "French-Spanish Creoles from Haiti and the Caribbean" and dates to the late 18th century. Had the house survived, it would be nearly 200 years old.

SO WHAT?

Regardless of their exact age, these French Creole cottages are widely accepted as having been the oldest structures in Souard, and some of the oldest in the city. They were sadly crumbling but still standing giving testament to the French roots of St. Louis. It is supremely ironic that in this 225th anniversary year, when St. Louis is mounting all sorts of events celebrating its French beginnings, that these actual archetypal artifacts of that age have been destroyed because no individual or organization had stepped in to save them.

By the year 1989, these buildings had become eyesores and were hazardous "playgrounds" for area children who ran freely through the structures with reckless abandon.

The buildings were decayed and nearby neighbors were anxious to "clean up" their block. These things one can understand, but still one can hear history calling quietly but insistently. It is the same calling that brought rehabbers to Souard in the 1960's and 70's to try to save a whole neighborhood in much the same condition.

Today their collective success is obvious. This once dying neighborhood is now a sought after, renovated, booming, vibrant place to live.

The Souard neighborhood was not leveled for an industrial park as City Hall planners had once advocated. Souard was saved for its residents and future generations to inhabit and enjoy.

By the same token, in my opinion, the French Creole Cottages should never have been razed. They should have been saved, for us, for future generations, and for History's sake.

There are so few of these structures existing anywhere. Our heritage is now much poorer, because these local artifacts of St. Louis' French roots are forever gone. □



These dilapidated French Creole Cottages at 2211-15 So. Tenth were physical artifacts of St. Louis' pioneer days.

What Others Are Saying About Us.

During the month of May, St. Louis hosted the annual convention of the American Institute of Architects. In preparation for this meeting, AIA's official publication, *Architecture* (April 89) featured a fascinating series of articles on today's St. Louis. This is what they said about our very own Souland:

"Souland; An early 19th century subdivision, Souland was home to European immigrants. Once considered one of the most dense communities in the world, it consists predominantly of vernacular federal of Italianate red brick rowhouses. Its mix of single and multi-family housing with corner commercial buildings is charming, yet the long term results of renovation efforts remain unclear."



This "brique-entre-poteaux" flounder house at 2215 Rear So. Tenth St. was one of the oldest structures in St. Louis.



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in Historic Soulard

The Renaissance Is About You!

Have you ever wondered where we get our inspiring and thought provoking articles? Well, believe it or not, most of them come from right within our own neighborhood. You can write one too.

As a newsletter, we owe our life to the Soulard Restoration Group forefathers and their insight into starting a newsletter to spread the good news about life in Soulard. For over 15 years, the newsletter has been coming out on a regular basis and with any luck, it will survive into the 21st Century!

When this newsletter began, the neighborhood appeared very much different than it does presently. The people were different too, although many have adapted to the change. For some the change was a bit to fast to keep up with. What had been a poor man's game, became a viable business opportunity for others with more money to risk up front.

Actually, that's not far off from what we envisioned in those days gone by, but **MAN**, it happened overnight! I don't think anyone expected that it could happen like that. Now we have people coming into the neighborhood from all areas of the country. Word about our Historic District is getting out and people are coming in. Let's keep it that way! You can help by helping your newsletter.

We want to know why you came here and what you expect from living in this neighborhood. We

want to know more about you and what you do. We want you to know who your neighbors are too.

You can write a letter to the editor, a short or long story about you or the neighborhood, something historic, something poetic, something fun... We don't care what it is as long as it is about this neighborhood and the people who make it just that. We want you!

Now down to business. We are a volunteer committee. This means that we do this newsletter business on our own time. Our advertising manager, **Doug Howe**, looks for advertisers in search of dollars so we can print articles about you. This means that we must get out reasonably on time to suit their advertising needs. This can be a tricky proposition with no articles on file to choose from.

I know for a fact that there are intelligent, literate people out there with something to say about the Soulard Historic District. All you old timers still out there, you can contribute to your old paper as well.

Get in touch with us **NOW!!!**

THE SOULARD RENAISSANCE

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Neighborhood Fabric

by Jay Gibbs

The "before" photo from the SRG files, shows the condition and appearance of 1841 S. Ninth St. in the mid-1970's, as an abandoned crumbling shell. By the mid 1980's, the middle portion of this house had collapsed inward, bringing new meaning to the phrase "lots of natural light". It appeared that this once proud antebellum home faced a dim future.

Fortunately this is not the case. Purchased and renovated as a 3 luxury apartments by Mead McClellan, the attractive facade of 1841 now adds to an entire rehabbed streetscape and offers physical testament to the "savability" of seemingly hopeless wrecks.

Looking back to the before picture: on the far right, at 1837 S. Ninth St.,



stood the pre-civil War townhouse of Gen. James A. McPherson, who was killed in action in 1864. (McPherson Ave. is named in his honor). Although his former home survived him by more than 115 years, the flounder house was severely damaged by fire and razed by the City of St. Louis in 1983.

Attractive infill housing is planned for the historic site of this famous St. Louisan's former home.

Jay Gibbs



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"In The Soulard Historic District"

Happenings at the Huck Finn Youth Hostel

Though many Souldard residents stumbled across the Souldard neighborhood by accident, our registration book here at the HFYH is silent witness to the many hundreds of visitors who have come to Souldard and to St. Louis on purpose.

During this past spring, we have hosted travelers from New Zealand, England, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, Netherlands, Finland, Australia, Germany, Chile, Wales, Argentina, Mainland China, Canada, France, Brazil, Israel, South Africa, Denmark, Costa Rica, and Scotland. In addition there was a steady flow of people from different areas of the United States.

Most interesting and (and tallest) of our hostellers this past spring was a 24 year old Swede named Jorgen Nilsson, from Stockholm. He had been hitch-hiking around the USA. He stopped in at our Hostel, low on cash, and asked us if we allowed people to stay on "work exchange", whereby hostellers pay for their overnight fees by doing a certain amount of work on and around the hostel. He helped us paint the hostel for three of four days before getting another offer to work at an Irish Pub on St. Patrick's Day.

He was a very widely traveled person having been on most the major continents and hitchhiked through Tibet and China. He had a very good traveler's attitude, very accepting and easy going, patient and positive. We wish all our hostellers were more like Jorgen the Swede.

We have also hosted several groups at the Huck Finn. One was a group of Boy Scouts from Indiana who had to set up their own bunk beds before they could sleep because we had taken all the beds out of the dorm to paint the floor. They enjoyed it.

All groups do not enjoy our hostel. Several Girl Scout troops have left without staying, saying "It was not what we had expected." The Sheraton or Adam's Mark we are not. Don't expect it.

Another group from Laurentian International College in Montreal, Canada, though apprehensive about the Darst-Webbe housing projects on South Tucker, nevertheless enjoyed their two day stay very much.

Surprisingly, the groups we have the most difficulty with are the Girl Scouts. Quite often groups, with mothers accompanying, will get total-

ly put off by the Darst-Webbe housing area, (and our old building) and decide not to stay. We worry that the Scouts are not teaching useful skills for urban applications.

A school Honor Society group from Iowa had a good time here in mid March.

A 23 year old woman from Communist China was here for three days attending a physics conference downtown. What an interesting person she was. What an unusual open attitude she had. Why can't all hostellers be more like her?

The yen must be strong now against the dollar, because we are seeing far greater numbers of Japanese visitors this year compared to the last several years.

We see an increase in foreign visitors very quickly when the dollar is devalued. A strong dollar means Americans travel more outside the US. A weak dollar means more visitors come here to the US. An abstract concept such as the strength of the US dollar against foreign currencies can dramatically effect our business right here in Souldard.

Also many conventioners are staying with us now that we are in the St.

Louis Visitor's Guide. We have had convention attenders ranging from piano tuners to physicists, to veterinary surgeons, to professional storytellers.....

And, listen to this...train travel is coming back! If our records are any indication, far more hostellers are arriving by train than ever before. What does it all mean?

One last note before "lights out". We will be opening a small store and registration office in the space recently vacated by the Ozark Council of American Youth Hostels at 1908 South 12th Street.

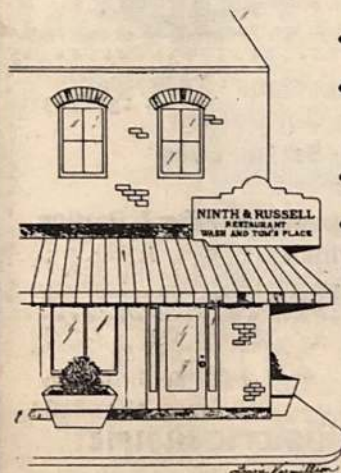
We will be hiring several part-time people at Tom Sawyer wages (remember the fence and the white-wash?), to help us with registration and orientation of hostellers. If you want to meet a lot of interesting, good wholesome people from all over the world, and get paid for it in the bargain, give us a call at 241-0076 or stop by any evening (call first).

Do get in touch with us for any reason. We want to introduce our hostellers to the Souldard Neighborhood and its people. Please help when you can.

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Huck Finn Youth Hostel



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The HISTORY MUSEUM in Forest Park

The History Museum Celebrates 85th Anniversary of the Ice Cream Cone

The History Museum in Forest Park and Pevely Dairy Co. will celebrate the 85th Anniversary of the debut of the ice cream cone at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis.

The **Old Time Ice Cream Social** will take place on **Sunday, September 17** from **2PM to 4PM** on the south lawn of the Jefferson Memorial Building, near the site of the Grand Entrance to the World's Fair.

Pevely Dairy will provide free ice cream cones to all participants, so they can sam-

ple one of the World's Fair's great contributions to popular cuisine.

Participants will also have a chance to learn about other food favorites that debuted at the World's Fair, such as the hot dog and iced tea.

Other festivities will include period music played by a ragtime band and contests for children.

The 1904 World's Fair marked the centennial of the Louisiana Purchase, which

extended U.S. territory throughout the Mississippi Valley and Great Plains. Nearly 20 million people visited the fair, bringing international attention to St. Louis.

The Jefferson Memorial, in Forest Park near Lindell Blvd. and DeBaliviere Ave., is the home of the History Museum operated by the Missouri Historical Society.

It was built in 1913 to honor President Thomas Jefferson, who engineered the Louisiana Purchase.



The Ice Cream Cone celebrates its 85th birthday this year. Photo 1904 (MHS)

Special Events at the History Museum in September

Monday, Sept. 4 9:30AM to 4:45PM

The History Museum is open for Labor Day viewing.

Sunday, Sept. 10 2PM

"Backsliders and Benefactors: A Saint and a Slickster--The People Bishop DuBourg Dealt With in Early St. Louis"

Sunday, Sept. 17 2PM to 4PM

World's Fair Ice Cream Social

Saturday, Sept. 23

Annual Meeting of T.S. Elliot Society

It is inevitable that someday we will all be confronted with death. Only an informed person can make the right decisions under emotional stress.

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