



The Soulard Renaissance

"The Neighborhood Magazine of Historic Soulard"

VOL. XVIII — ISSUE 1

Celebrating the Renaissance of Soulard

MARDI GRAS 1993

"A Renaissance of Fantasie"



February
12-23rd
1993

Soulard
Hotline
781-7272

**SEE RELATED ARTICLES
AND
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
ON PAGES 3-7**

Soulard Mardi Gras Follows Long Legacy

by Jay Gibbs

Welcome to Soulard Mardi Gras! The Soulard neighborhood invites all who are young, or young at heart, to celebrate "A Renaissance of Fantasie" for the 12 days leading up to Mardi Gras, literally "Fat Tuesday" in French.

This is the 14th year the Soulard neighborhood has celebrated Mardi Gras, but our mid-winter carnival of bizarre costumes, delicious food, and painted art cars has roots far older than most people realize. It's an interesting (and painless, I promise) history of ritual and festival, so grab another drink and contemplate, if you're physically able, the legacy of Mardi Gras.

This festival time of ours had its origins in the pre-history of Western Civilization, when pagans and barbarians celebrated the time around the winter solstice. These celebrations commemorated the death and rebirth of nature, fertility and prosperity, and involved feasting and sometimes ritualistic animal and human sacrifices. (Hey, they weren't called barbarians for nothing.)

By the time of the Roman Empire, this festival, tamed a little by Roman law, was named Saturnalia. It featured feasts of food and libation: from this culture descended our "wassailing" tradition of winter revelry. As with some of the earlier pagan festivals, Saturnalia featured the choosing of a mock monarch to rule over the festivities. The social order was hilariously turned upside down as a servant or slave was chosen to be "king," often by his discovering a fava bean or a gold coin in his piece of cake. Does that sound familiar?

(continued on page 3)



NOTES from the BRICK HOUSE

by Sedg Mead

This is my first column as the new President of the Soulard Restoration Group (SRG). Although I am a long-term resident of Soulard, arriving here in 1975, I have not recently been active in the SRG. I was active in the early years of the group, and served as President for one year in the mid-1970s. How different the group is today than even a few years ago, much less the 1970s!

First of all, the number of members has continued to increase—now numbering almost 200. At recent meetings there have been almost 100 people in attendance. While it is always sad to see old friends leave Soulard for whatever reason, the newcomers often bring a new enthusiasm that is vital to our neighborhood.

The leadership of the SRG has changed dramatically over the years, as well. Under the strong leadership of Richard Eaton over the last two years, much has been accomplished. Richard gave a very good summary of these accomplishments in his *Notes* in the Holiday Parlor Tour 1992 issue.

In addition to Richard's leadership, the Board, Officers, and Chairpersons have been the core leadership of our group. We will miss those people stepping down—Jeanne Weber, formerly Vice President, who was involved in everything and will still be working on the newspaper; Chuck Coker, who was instrumental in helping the Membership Committee achieve new heights; and Carlis Dawson, who put *The Renaissance* on an even keel.

I welcome the new Board members—Mary Lipic, who will be the liaison for membership; Steve Botts, who will be the liaison for fundraising; and Jay Gibbs, who takes over as Editor of *The Renaissance*.

The new Board and Officers have discussed their objectives for 1993:

1. Develop a plan to complete the Information Center and a fundraising campaign to provide the funds. Out-going President Richard Eaton has expressed a special interest in this area and I plan to appoint a special committee to take responsibility.
2. Continue the successful publication of *The Renaissance*.
3. Have two successful house tours. The Fall House Tour will be a time when the National Trust for Historic Preservation is having its annual meeting in St. Louis. This will provide the basis for a unique fall house tour.
4. Continue the strong work of Bob Kraiberg and his associates on the Crime Prevention Committee.

All these objectives serve the overall goal of making Soulard an attractive place for residents and small businesses.

Soulard Restoration Group

Do you love living in Soulard?
Would you like to meet more of your neighbors?
... then membership in the
SOULARD RESTORATION GROUP
is for you!

The group consists of homeowners, renters and local businesses. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month in the school hall at Trinity Lutheran Church, 8th & Soulard, at 7:30 p.m.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

by Jay Gibbs

In what has become a yearly tradition in this space, let me introduce myself as your new editor of *The Soulard Renaissance*. I have been involved in Soulard and Soulard Restoration Group goings-on for over 10 years, have been renovating my house since 1983, and have resided here since 1985. I have been writing articles for this paper, as of this issue, for nine years.

I was co-editor of this publication back in 1985. My co-editor and I changed the *Restorationist*, as it was then named, from an 8-12 page local newsletter to a more comprehensive, larger, and more outreaching (to the rest of the metro area) newspaper. We introduced the colored ink front covers, business and restaurant reviews, and several other columns and features which you still see herein today. In those days of yore before computerized desktop publishing, we did much more of the production work by hand; we editors also sold all the ads, and sometimes, miraculously, our issues made a small profit!

It is a different world now, I have found. I want to thank Richard Hansen, Production Manager, Jeanne Weber, Ad Manager, and Carlis Dawson, my predecessor, for teaching me "the system" now used to create this publication.

Some things about being editor have not changed, however: the scores of phone calls, the pleading entreaties for more article submissions, the promised articles which never materialize, the missed deadlines.... When dealing with an all-volunteer staff, such stuff happens, but so do excellent articles, sharp photographs, and pleasant flashes of brilliance. My thanks go to all of

you who have helped get this issue done. Wow, four more to go!

Here's a tip o' the cap to Carlis Dawson. In my opinion he has not received enough credit for all he accomplished as editor. The issues hit the streets on a regular schedule, they were more colorful, both literally and figuratively, and perhaps most of all, those pages clearly reflected Carlis' relentlessly upbeat outlook. He set up a staff chart, and even chose (sort of) his successor. He really motivated people—what a tough act to follow! Thanks, Carlis.

What about 1993? This is the first of five issues we plan to publish this year; each issue will coincide with, and feature, a major Soulard event. I hope to retain Carlis' upbeat tone ("It's peppy," says one of my neighbors) and simultaneously add more pieces about the history and architecture of Soulard, and articles examining relevant neighborhood issues. My goal is to promote Soulard to the outside world and to give us Souldarians substantive and entertaining reading at the same time.

So, here comes the perennial editor's appeal: please submit articles, photographs, letters to the editor, anything except your resignation! You are part of this wonderfully diverse, new/old neighborhood; your participation will make the *Renaissance* a better "product." In fine SRG tradition, if you suggest something be written, don't be surprised if you are asked to write it. Get involved; we'll have fun (honest) and you can even see your name in print.

Speaking for the entire staff, we hope you enjoy this issue; let us know what you think. Oh, one final thing: See you at Mardi Gras!!!



The Soulard Renaissance

The Soulard Renaissance has a circulation of 8,000 and is published by the Soulard Restoration Group.

It is distributed to Soulard residents, to Soulard and St. Louis area businesses, and to our advertisers.

Call Jay Gibbs 241-3894 for editorial information. Call Jeanne Weber 771-8428 regarding advertising opportunities, rates and schedules.

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St. Louis, MO 63157

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Soulard Restoration Group

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Mardi Gras Legacy (cont'd from p.1)

Enter the early Christians. Even after they were no longer being fed to the lions, the Christians faced a lot of resistance to their devout new religion. Finding itself unable to separate many heathens from their ancient festival customs, the Church decided to take a different approach.

In the fourth century, the Christian establishment chose to place the "official" celebration of Christmas near the pagan's winter solstice. (Most biblical scholars believe Christ's birth was actually in springtime.) Further, some Christians borrowed the old "King Cake" and feasting traditions of Saturnalia and grafted them onto their Twelfth Night, or Epiphany, celebration. (Epiphany, known popularly as the twelfth day of Christmas, is the commemoration of the gospel story of wise men traveling from the east, following a bright star, and of their discovery and recognition of infant Jesus as Saviour.) The Christians thus incorporated and channeled the heathen winter celebrations into the alternately solemn and joyous Advent Season, Christmas Season, Epiphany Season, and Lenten Season.

Over the course of generations, the original pagan motivations for celebration were slowly forgotten and the Christian version took hold:

The Church, in effect, said it would tolerate the party, as long as the festival had the proper Epiphany theme. The secular element of the Epiphany tradition came to be called "Carnival," from the Latin *carne* (flesh) and *vale* (farewell). In this commingling of traditions, one enjoyed the sins of the *carne* for weeks until saying *vale* to them on Shrove Tuesday, where one confessed and was shriven (relieved of the burden) of one's sins in preparation for a period of pensive Lenten fasting and contemplation, beginning on Ash Wednesday.

During the European Middle Ages, the accent was definitely on the *carne* part; the bacchanalian festivities often got outrageously out of hand. Crackdowns by the Church may have had some effect, but the revelrous traditions survived and continued.

It was during the Italian Renaissance that the Carnival season gained another facet. A fad of masquerading at the Twelfth Night fetes caught on and spread across Europe, and soon costumes were an integral part of the whole Epiphany/Carnival tradition.

When the Europeans began immigrating to America, they brought their Epiphany and Carnival celebrations with them. With the advent of the industrial revolution, however, the long season of celebra-



Pigging out at Mardi Gras.

tion came to be looked upon as inefficient, in terms of lost factory production time, and as superstitious. These ancient traditions declined in America, everywhere except in New Orleans, where the French culture's emphasis on the joy of living kept the European Carnival alive.

By the 1700s, "Mardi Gras" was in name the final day of a crescendo of revelry, and by 1840 the now famous parades were first held. Social clubs called "Krewes" were formed to raise funds to host the masquerade balls and organize the parades; these groups are still the backbone of Carnival today.

The French settlers of early St. Louis, from Louisiana themselves, lived in the farming area called Frenchtown just south of the young village. They delighted in fun-loving times, filled with celebration, prompting one 18th century St. Louis settler to write of the French: "They were, beyond doubt, the most happy and contented people that ever lived. They believed in enjoying life. There was a fiddle in every house, and a dance somewhere every night."

Unlike the intact French culture of New Orleans, in St. Louis the French and their customs were diluted and overwhelmed by a flood of American and German immigrants starting in the 1830s. The French name Souldard ("fat under the pig" or "drunkard," depending on who is asked) became one of a few reminders of the genteel, light-hearted farm life which a dense, urban, working-class neighborhood soon engulfed.

Fast forward to 1980. Souldard rehabber, Hilary Clements, who had been hosting private Mardi Gras parties in his Russell Blvd. house for years, knew he was on to something. Each year, his party crowd had grown, now to the point where his house couldn't hold

them all anymore, so he and some neighbors and friends organized a public version of their party. They got many of the neighborhood bar owners interested and even procured a parade permit to march down Russell Blvd.

Thousands of winter-weary revelers showed up for that event and Souldard Mardi Gras was born. Hilary and friends soon formed the "Souldard Mardi Gras Association," and like the krewes of old New Orleans, they organized a parade, a masquerade ball, and food and libation aplenty the following year. The celebrations have grown in length, attendance, and variety every year since.

The Souldard Mardi Gras Association evolved into the present Souldard Business Association (SBA), which organizes not only the Mardi Gras but "Bastille Days" each July. The SBA also coordinates with the other neighborhood groups on issues such as crime prevention, litter control, neighborhood improvements, and other concerns of its membership, year round.

The Souldard Mardi Gras has grown up too; it is now a famous regional festival attracting tens of thousands of merry-makers and national attention. New attractions and a couple of extra days have been added since last year: see the calendar of events for the complete low-down.

So enjoy that beer, the Creole food, the zany costumes, the anything-goes parade ("Beads! Beads! Beads!"), the great music, and the bacchanalian, happy camaraderie. To want to feast, drink, and dance in the dead of winter is not a random urge; packed into the 12 days of "A Renaissance of Fantasie" are the sum of thousands of years of overlapping traditions. The common thread running through all of it can be drawn into a single modern phrase: **HAVE A GOOD TIME!!!**

Re-Elect Alderman Phyllis Young Democrat, 7th Ward



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The 13th Annual Soulard Mardi Gras Ball

The 15th Annual Soulard Mardi Gras Ball to benefit "Shelter the Children" is scheduled for Friday, February 12, at the Franklin Hall in historic Soulard.

The evening fundraiser will begin at 8:00 p.m. with an open bar, dinner and dancing to the sounds of "Fanfare." Attire for the evening is formal or traditional Mardi Gras costume. Festivities conclude at midnight.

The Ball is sponsored by the Soulard Business Association and *The Riverfront Times*. "Shelter the Children" is an organization which provides a stable home environment for homeless and abused young women aged 16 to 21.

Ticket price is \$35 per person, and tables of eight are available.

For tickets and more information, contact Laura Daus at 436-2707, or Joan Thomas at 231-1860.



"TASTE OF SOULARD" EXPANDS TO SATURDAY/SUNDAY ENTREE

Due to its past success, "A Taste of Soulard" will be featured on both days of both weekends, February 13-14 and February 20-21, during Mardi Gras. In previous years, Saturday only events were held at the neighborhood's pubs and restaurants.

Participating establishments will offer a \$10 ticket to allow visitors a sampling of Cajun Creole at five different restaurants, or use all five tickets at one favorite spot. Cajun Creole will be featured throughout the neighborhood.

Historic Soulard, the "French Quarter of St. Louis," enters its 14th year as host of Mardi Gras, a time of masquerades, parties, balls, parades and celebrations of all kinds before the fasting begins. This year's 12-day event culminates on the "day of Mardi Gras," or "Fat Tuesday," the single day of feasting before the traditional Lenten season begins. It is always 46 days before Easter Sunday.

Historic Soulard became the official host of Mardi Gras in St. Louis in 1980 following years of informal celebrations held by resident Hilary Clements. His parties are legendary. The event is sponsored annually by the Soulard Business Association to promote the neighborhood's business and community environment.

PRIZE MONEY, ELAINE VIETS HEADLINE PARADE



The "Maria-Anna" sails through the streets of Soulard.

A first place award of \$1,000 is waiting for the top float in the popular Saturday, February 20 Mardi Gras Parade through the streets of historic Soulard. Elaine Viets, *Post-Dispatch* columnist and Channel 2 TV personality, will serve as Grand Marshal.

Additional prize money of \$850 is targeted for second and third places, and best marching krewe. This year's theme is "A Renaissance

of Fantasie," and judges will review the floats and marching bands based on design, creativity, theme and presentation.

The parade route is the same as last year. The start is at 12th and Lynch Streets, near Anheuser Busch. It proceeds north on 12th Street, then east on Russell Blvd., north on 9th Street, and finally east on Lafayette Avenue to its end at 7th and Lafayette Sts.



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FAT TUESDAY

February 23RD, 1993

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& THE BEDROOM
BLUES BAND

Soulard Mardi Gras Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12
8:00 p.m. to midnight

Mardi Gras Ball
Franklin Hall
Music by "Fanfare"

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16
6:30 p.m.

Krewe Krawl
Corner of Ninth & Russell with
Maps for Pub & Restaurant Tour

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cajun Creole Cook-Off
Soulard Market Auditorium

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Art Show & Sale
Soulard Market Auditorium

9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Antique Show
South Broadway Athletic Club

12:00 noon

Mardi Gras Parade
Anheuser-Busch to Soulard Market

10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Children's Fair
Trinity Lutheran School
8th & Soulard

12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Taste of Soulard
Participating Establishments

12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Taste of Soulard
Participating Establishments

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Micro Beer Taste
Participating Establishments

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Missouri Wine Taste
Soulard Market Hall

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 (Valentine's Day)
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Taste of Soulard
Participating Establishments

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23 — Fat Tuesday "Wild Wheels" Invitational
7:00 p.m.
Anheuser-Busch to Soulard Market

OTHER CARNIVAL WEEK EVENTS:

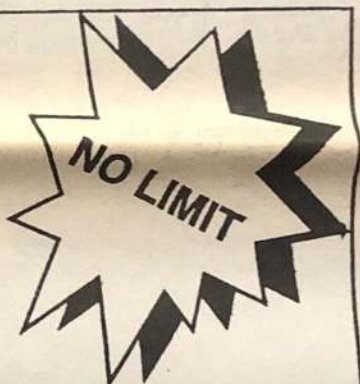
Treasure Hunt for the Gold Doubloon (through Fat Tuesday)
Mardi Gras Masque Contests (Winners selected Feb. 20 for Parade)
Cajun Creole Food Specials at Participating Establishments
St. Louis' Best Live Music

Throughout the 12-day festival, the participating establishments will feature Cajun Creole food specials, bar specials and a variety of live entertainment ranging from cajun, dixieland, jazz, and rhythm and blues. Proceeds from the 1993 Soulard Mardi Gras Festival will benefit the charity, "Shelter the Children." Mardi Gras is sponsored annually by the Soulard Business Association to promote the neighborhood's business and community environment



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NEW HOURS
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Sat 10:00-12:00
Sun 11:00-10:00

CHEFS COMPETE FOR PRIZES & CASH IN CAJUN CREOLE COOK-OFF

Amateur and professional chefs will create their specialties in one of the Mardi Gras' premier events, the Cajun Creole Cook-Off on Saturday, February 13, at the Soulard Market Auditorium.

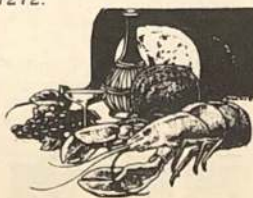
Winning professional and amateur chefs will share cash/prizes valued at over \$2,500, donated by Shady Brook Farms, Abbey's Apron Strings, Kitchen Conservatory, Adam's Mark Hotel, Alton Belle, Soulard Bed & Breakfast and United Missouri Bank. First prize for the professional chef is a trip to Cancun, Mexico.

This fierce and fun competition draws professional chefs and amateurs from such varied fields as insurance executives, attorneys, nurses, artists and retirees. Some of

these chefs have returned annually since the event began in 1983.

Last year's first-place professional winner, Tom French, returns after enjoying his prize of a trip to Jamaica. This year, he will demonstrate another of his prize-winning Cajun Creole recipes, striving to top last year's "Crawfish Sausage and Chicken with Red Pepper Hollandaise."

Judging is based on originality, taste, theme and presentation. Fun begins at 9:00 a.m. and continues until 3:00 p.m. Judging begins at 12:30 p.m. Cook-Off details are available from Kaye Murphy or Barbara Marshall, committee chairpersons, through the Soulard Hotline at 781-7272.



"wild wheels" invitational rewards creativity with \$1,000



A "creative" entry from Soulard Mardi Gras '92.

Fat Tuesday on February 23 will feature the second annual Soulard "Wild Wheels" Invitational to recognize artists for creative work on their automobiles. This "invitational" event will recognize two classes of cars; custom street rods for customized cars of all vintages, and abstract autos open to any auto and its creative look.

Each class will offer \$500 to the top three autos. Johnny Rabbitt

from radio station WIL will serve as Grand Marshal.

"This will be an opportunity to see a very unusual event, and perhaps the only event like it in the USA!" said Jeffrey Lockheed, committee chairperson. Activities will begin at 7:00 p.m. through the heart of Soulard on Fat Tuesday, the traditional closing event of the 12-day Soulard Mardi Gras.



A symbol of our past and our neighborhood — THE CLYDESDALES!!!
p. 6 — The Soulard Renaissance — Mardi Gras 1993

436-0921 MARDI GRAS '93

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PARADE DAY -
BOB CASE ZYDECO TICKLE

FAT TUESDAY - GEYER STREET SHEIKS

ZYDECO HAPPY HOURS ALL WEEK

CHILDREN'S FAIR MAKES SOULARD MARDI GRAS DEBUT

A Children's Fair is being introduced this year to provide an educational and arts & crafts atmosphere for children and their guardians/parents while visiting the neighborhood.

The Saturday, February 13 event is scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Trinity Lutheran School gym, 8th and Souard.

A variety of booths will accommodate and challenge children's talents. By creating flower, float and masque decorations, children will be invited to participate in the March Gras Parade on Saturday, February 20.

The \$3.00 per child or \$5.00 max-



imum per family fee provides all-day craft materials while at the fair. For more information, contact Cindy Dixon, committee chairperson, at 436-2728.

Antique & Art Shows Add Culture to Carnival- "Bigger & Better"

A one-day Antique Show on February 13 has been scheduled to appeal to antique enthusiasts visiting the Souard Mardi Gras.

The South Broadway Athletic Club is the site for the Antique Show, featuring toys, silver, jewelry, paper goods, glass, ceramics, primitives and ethnicings. Saturday hours are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A \$1 donation will be charged with proceeds designated for "Shelter the Children," an organization which provides a home environment for homeless and abused young women. Concessions will be available.

"Last year's Antique Show was a tremendous success, and this year's show is much larger with more vendors from a wider area," said Tom Nieder, chairman. "Many of the show's vendors are really excited about coming back due to the suc-

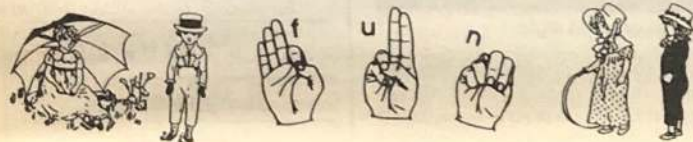
cess of last year's show.

The third Annual Mardi Gras Art Show & Sale is scheduled in the auditorium above St. Louis' Souard Market on Saturday, February 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Artists are encouraged to submit paintings, water colors, photography, pottery, small sculpture and other works. Fine art is preferred rather than crafts. Entry fee is \$20. No commission will be charged on sales.

For applications and information, call Art Show & Sale chairman Frank V. Moskus, 771-2807. Apply early, because space will be limited.

Admission to the show is free. Entertainment will be provided by the Jan Mahannah Mardi Gras Trio. Entrance to the auditorium is at Eighth and Lafayette Streets, near the finish line of the Mardi Gras parade on the same day.



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WALL TO WALL BANDS FOR MARDI GRAS

FEB.		
10th	8 pm	NO EXIT BLUES BAND & JAM SESSION
11th	8 pm	SOULARD BLUES BAND
12th	9 pm	ROCKIN' LUCKYS
13th	9 pm	TOMMY BANKHEAD & THE BLUES ELDORADOS
14th	7 pm	L.A. WEST BLUES BAND
16th	7 pm	A SECRET BAND TREAT FOR KREWE CRAWL
17th	8 pm	NO EXIT BLUES BAND & JAM SESSION
18th	8 pm	SOULARD BLUES BAND
19th	9 pm	L.A. WEST BLUES BAND
20th	2 pm	ROCKIN' LUCKYS
	9 pm	TOMMY BANKHEAD & THE BLUES ELDORADOS
21st	7 pm	NO EXIT BLUES BAND
23rd	7 pm	BLACK DOG BLUES BAND

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Neighborhood Fabric

by Jay Gibbs



1834 S. 9th in 1988, before rehab.



1834 S. 9th restored to its original style.

The rowhouse at 1834 S. 9th Street was built in the 1840s at the three-way corner of Decatur (now 9th) Street and Emmet Street. The storefront first floor took full advantage of the location, and an apartment occupied the second floor. A two-story flounder house rear addition, built in the 1860s and separated for fire protection from the front building by an open air porch, contained more apartments. The most intriguing portion of the structure is the vaulted sub-basement, two brick and stone chambers beneath the main basement, accessible by a narrow stone staircase. Such rooms, present under a handful of Souldard buildings, were usually used for the storage or perishable products in the days before refrigeration.

The building was constructed in the Federalist or "Adam" style, pop-

ular before the Civil War. The storefront housed various retail establishments, most notably a long-term tobacconist, who no doubt used the constant temperature and humidity of the sub-basement to full advantage. The last use of the space was as a shoe repair shop, and by the late 1970s the building was a vacant shell which had lost much of its Federalist charm to alterations over the years.

In 1988, William, Emilie, and Robert Brandhorst began the total rehab of the building; it has gradually progressed since. The bulging front wall was straightened and secured. The unusual horizontal stone band atop the storefront was repaired, and new roof decks replaced the crumbling originals. Historically accurate, custom-milled windows and doors have returned the facade to its original appear-

ance, and the dilapidated interior has been completely gut rehabbed. The Brandhorsts plan to soon finish the third floor window dormer and to add shutters to the facade.

1834 S. 9th St. is architecturally one of this writer's favorite Souldard buildings; squint a little and it could be right out of Charles Dickens' story. The three rehabbed apartments are occupied and the two-level storefront (a modern light well "opens up" the basement) is for lease, price negotiable.

"Neighborhood Fabric" seeks to recognize successful transformations of eyesore buildings into attractive and historically accurate neighborhood assets. The rehab of 1834 S. 9th Street certainly qualifies and this structure now stands as one of the best examples of antebellum architecture in Souldard.



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A WORD FROM PHYLLIS YOUNG ALDERMAN, 7th WARD



PONTIAC PARK IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED

If you have spent any time near Pontiac Park in the past, you may have noticed that the trees in the park are looking very old. Many of the trees around the playground have broken branches and don't look very healthy. My concern is that unless new trees are planted immediately, in a few years the children will have little shade on the playground when the days are long and hot! Another concern is that with the trees being so weak, someone might be hurt by falling debris.

I asked Patrick Glennon, the urban forester for the Parks Department, to evaluate the health of these trees. Patrick's conclusion was that a number of the larger trees do need to be replaced. I then met with Patrick, Mary Sheridan of SRG's beautification committee, and Mary Hart from ConServ to discuss the park. Patrick brought along a planting plan for the park that had been prepared long ago by our own Paul Kjolrie when he was an employee of the city. We talked about the asphalt surface that surrounds the trees and its impact on the health of the trees.

At this time, our plan is to have some of the surface removed by the Parks Department. Then, we are applying for a grant from the Small Business Association to match city funds so that new trees and bushes can be planted in the park. New trees will be planted in the park this year.

We'd like to add some color by planting perennials between the cyclone fence and the stone wall. If you'd like to help with this beautification effort, please contact me at 664-5159.

IT'S NEVER TOO COLD TO RECYCLE

by Terry Hoffman

A short but simple reminder...It's never too cold to recycle. Soular Valet Recycling continues to operate throughout the winter months, so don't be shy! If you're already a member, don't forget to leave your recyclables curbside. Next pick-up is Saturday, February 13, at 8:00 a.m. If you're not already a member, become one by calling us at 664-2803. It's fast, simple and nothing but convenient.

For those newcomers, pick-ups are always scheduled for the 2nd Saturday of each month...per the schedule below.

February 13

March 13

April 10

May 8

June 12

July 10

August 14

September 11

October 9

November 13

December 11

Pick-ups start at 8:00 a.m. on the scheduled dates. The following ma-

terials are taken and should be separated and prepared in the following manner:

Aluminum cans...flattened

Corrugated cardboard...flattened. Only material that resembles VVV is accepted. No fiberboard (e.g., cereal boxes, 12-pack cartons, etc.)

Container glass...separated by color

Newsprint...packed in paper or plastic bags

Plastic...flattened with caps removed (soda and milk containers only)

Phone books...February/March and October/November only

For those current members, we need your help! We don't charge a fee for our services, but we do ask that all program participants assist at least twice a year in the monthly pick-ups. (It takes about 2 hours and you don't get dirty.)

Next issue, we'll talk about the success of the program and other simple things you can do to help the environment.

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LA MARGARITA

2101 Menard Street

by Nancy Adams

When my editor assigned this story to me, I warned him of two things. First of all, I happen to LOVE Mexican food. Second, I do not have a very discriminating palate. He gave the story to me anyway.

Fifteen hardy souls braved the ice and snow January 9 to sample the fare at La Margarita, the newest Mexican restaurant in Soulard. It is located at the corner of Russell and Menard in the building which was previously occupied by Adolfo's. Dean, the owner, opened the restaurant only a few months ago.

La Margarita specializes in California-style Mexican food. The decor definitely reflects a southwestern style, with pastel colored tiles covering the arches in the main dining room. Strings of lights add a touch of whimsy. The atmosphere was very cozy, especially so with the snow falling outside.

Most of our group munched on chips and picante sauce while we waited for our dinners. The picante sauce was excellent; it was smooth going down, but it did pack a punch. One of our group ordered the onion rings, and was kind enough to share his basket with all of us. These rings were wonderful! They came to us hot from the fryer and were seasoned with a light vinaigrette dressing. I would highly recommend them.

The majority of our group also consumed the margaritas for which the restaurant is named. Those that drank them liked them: several pitchers were enjoyed.

For an entrée, I ordered the beef fajitas. These fajitas come wrapped in two very large flour tortillas and are served with onions and green peppers. If you like sour cream or cheese on yours, you will have to request them. An order of refried beans is also included with the meal. My fajitas were very spicy, so if you order them be sure you have plenty of water on hand. My only complaint was that my refried beans were on the cool side temperature-wise.

The popular dishes of the evening were the combination plates: your choice of foods depends upon which combination you order. There is a choice of enchiladas, tamales, tacos, and other mainstays, and all combination plates include an apple crisp for dessert. A person near me ordered the "cuatro" and said that the food was spicy, but the spiciness didn't overwhelm the flavors of the dishes themselves. He also commented on the sprinkled cheese melting over the top of the entrée. Other favorites in our group were the Poco Ricardo, the veggie nachos, and the chimichanga.



I also have to commend the service, because it was excellent! Dawn, our waitress, did an outstanding job of making sure we had everything we needed, from chips and picante, to refills, to any little extras. She even let us have separate checks!

Overall, our group's experience was a very positive one of spicy, hearty food, frosty drinks, and attentive service. We gave La Margarita fifteen thumbs-up, and as we exited into the snowstorm, we assured them we'd be back again.

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Feb. 12 & 13—

Day & Night Mardi Gras

LOCAL BOY DOES GOOD

by Paul Kjolrie

Photo by Tom Gatermann

Soulard pioneer rehabber Skip Gatermann will be properly dressed when he takes delivery of his new Harley this fall. Skip won

his \$1,000 duds in a national contest sponsored by *Easyriders* magazine. With Skip is his son Tom on the left and, on the right, Widman's Harley-Davidson co-owner Tom Widman.



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CITY GETS TOUGH ON LANDLORDS OF "NUISANCE" TENANTS

by Mary Hart

The Board of Aldermen recently passed an ordinance declaring property which is repeatedly used for drug dealing a public nuisance. If the owner makes no effort to abate the problem, then sanctions and penalties may be imposed by the city.

Anytime a search warrant is issued and controlled substances are confiscated or an arrest is made, the Director of Operation Safestreet will notify the property owner. The notice shall advise the owners that the property will be declared a public nuisance if there are any additional violations. If a subsequent violation occurs within three years of the initial notice, the Health Commissioner is notified by the Director of Operation Safestreet. The Health Commissioner then notifies both the owner and mortgagors that a public nuisance may exist and that if the nuisance is not abated within 14 days the Director of Public Safety may take action.

If the notified parties fail to provide evidence of substantial abatement of the nuisance at the end of the fourteen (14) days, the Director of Public Safety will hold a public hearing where all interested parties may present testimony. This includes neighbors, tenants, owners, police, and anyone else who might be concerned. The Director of Public Safety may determine whether the violation is a significant, continuous, and unreasonable interference with rights common to all members of the community in general, such as public health, safety, peace, morals, or convenience. If the Director determines that the property is indeed a public nuisance, he/she may order the building or unit closed for a period not to exceed one year.

The results of the hearing will be mailed to the owner and the mortgagor, and any person present at the hearing may request a copy of the Director's order. A copy will also be posted at the premises within 48 hours of the decision.

Five days after the posting of an order, not excluding Saturday and Sunday, the St. Louis Police Department is authorized to enforce the order. The property must be vacated and secured. If the landlord does not secure the property, the city will do so and initiate the appropriate court procedures to recover costs incurred for the closure of the property.

It is important to remember that arrests and other incidents must occur on the property before any sanctions or penalties can be imposed on the owner.

What Are You Doing In Soulard?



"Cub reporter" Judy works the crowd at Mardi Gras.



Concert pianist Dave and wife Karen make beautiful parlor music.



Renaissance former editor Carlis skis cross-country at scenic Soulard Beach.



Neighbors Bob and Georgia shovel her sidewalk.

While a drug related arrest will trigger the process, other nuisance type incidents (peace disturbances, fighting, etc.) must occur on the property also.

This ordinance is an attempt to deal with the property owner who demonstrates no concern for the community. He doesn't screen his tenants or attempt to work with the police and the community to resolve the problems his tenants create for the neighborhood. It provides a threat of a financial burden for the landlord which will hopefully force him to act as a responsible property owner. If everyone is acting responsibly, our neighborhoods should be better places for everyone to live.



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HELPING CROATIA... from Soulard

by Judy Ivery

As I approached them, the pair broke off their conversation in front of the meeting hall at St. Joseph's Croatian Church and spoke to me in English. The woman, tall and friendly, with a genuine grin, introduced herself as Sofija and shook my hand with a firm grip. I asked where the American Croatian Relief Project was holding its meeting, and when she saw my notebook and camera, she guided me to a seat at the front of the room, made sure I had a good view, and a copy of the handouts.

Several of the members were obviously curious about my reasons for being there, so I was asked to introduce myself to the group. Once I had explained my purpose, they were satisfied and pleased to have their relief project covered in our neighborhood newspaper.

The room was stacked from floor to ceiling all along one side with boxes of clothing, coats and shoes. On the wall behind the head table were pictures of the currency, stamps and traditional costume of Croatia, along with maps of the struggling country.

The American Croatian Relief Project has 90 members from all age groups and describes its mission as three-fold. Their most immediate and urgent mission is to provide assistance to Croatia and the Cro-



atian people because of recent events in Croatia. Their next objective is to educate people about the plight of the people of Croatia. Third is to provide a liaison between Croatia and the American people.

Collecting supplies to send to their countrymen seems difficult enough, but shipping overseas to a country in the middle of a war is a complicated task. In the last year the group has collected and delivered \$3,000,000 in supplies—10 40-foot cargo containers filled with food, water, clothing, antiseptics, crutches, incubators, bassinets, hos-

pital beds, bandages, and lab coats. The containers are trucked to Portsmouth-Norfolk, Virginia for loading onto Croatian ships that carry them to Rijeka, Croatia. Once received in Rijeka, it is the responsibility of the Minister of Health or the church receiving the goods to get them to their final destination of Zagreb. Many times it is a hardship, financial and logistical, just to deliver and distribute the goods during the fierce fighting.

The ACRP hopes the next shipment can contain the ambulance for which they have been actively shopping. But, even that purchase

will not be enough. They will have to carefully stock the ambulance and provide a supply of parts, belts and filters, for obtaining these items could be next to impossible in wartime.

Members are very concerned, not only with providing relief supplies, but with educating people about the events in Croatia. One member held up a full-page ad from the *New York Times*, paid for by a Serbian group, that he called "further efforts to confuse" people about what was going on in the country. Others gave reports from telephone conversations with relatives and friends living there about the living conditions, fighting and the people's most critical needs and how best to aid them. There were tips on how best to mail packages to relatives, so that they would be received as fast as possible and with least chance of being damaged, considering conditions. The wife of one member was in Croatia at the time and would no doubt return with many tales of her journey.

The group is planning other fundraisers to continue its humanitarian aid. The group meets at St. Joseph's Croatian Church, 2112 South 12th Street. Contact the church if you would like more information about or make a donation to the American Croatian Relief Project.



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❄️ WINTERTIME ❄️ IS TREE PRUNING TIME

by Ima Mapleleaf

Right now, in the middle of winter, is the best time to prune most species of trees. Properly done, pruning helps trees dramatically, and pruning is especially important for street trees.

Left unpruned, the low branches of street trees can either scratch the paint of cars which rub them or snap off and fall on the vehicle. Worse yet, serious eye or other injury can result when people blunder into unnoticed low branches, usually at night.

Pruning your curbside street tree is not complicated. Dig out your pruning shears or pruning saw (or borrow same from your rehabber neighbor down the block) and approach the tree. Stand next to the tree: Which branches force you to duck or swerve as you walk around the base? Those should probably come off. Note any nearby parked cars: Using them as a size guide, estimate which branches a vehicle would strike, especially a taller van or truck. Those should be removed as well.

Ideally, young street trees should be pruned yearly, and side branches removed a few at a time over a period of years, to avoid shocking the tree. Use common sense; don't cut off all the side branches of a sapling at once so that all that's left is a vertical stick! In an older tree, the goal is to have 10-12 feet of clearance above the pavement, even higher if your tree resides near a bar or an apartment complex, where beer trucks and moving vans operate frequently.

The actual cuts should be made close to the trunk but not flush with it. Cut just outside the "branch collar," which is a visible set of rings, circles, or ridges in the bark around the base of the branch. Leaving the branch collar on the tree will promote much faster "healing." And



As it grows, the side branches of this young ash tree will need removed.

while we're on the subject: Don't bother with pruning paints or any of that chemical company fakery. The wound will "heal," that is, cover itself with callous-like bark just as quickly if the wood is left bare. Make sure the cut is clean and smooth, not ragged or torn, and be careful not to tear up the bark on the trunk or adjacent limbs.

There! That wasn't so bad. Encourage your tree to grow tall, and it will. Your reward is a healthier tree, more wide-spreading shade, and, if you do it right, the beautiful architecture of your old house won't be obscured from view by a bush-like low tree. Put the limbs, cut to six-foot maximum lengths, in your alley; the City will take them with the monthly bulk pick-up.

Yeah, it's cold, but 20 or 30 minutes work once every winter will pay off for a generation to come.

Help beautify Soulard—get pruning!



This properly pruned elm tree allows plenty of clearance above the truck beneath.

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p. 14 — The Soulard Renaissance — Mardi Gras 1993

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WHO CLEANS UP WHEN THE PARTY'S OVER?

by Tonca Yarbrough

Before most of us are awake or have had that second cup of coffee on Saturday or Sunday, men from Sts. Peter and Paul Homeless Shelter are hard at work cleaning up Souland. The unique and model program for weekend trash pick-up began with good neighbors with good ideas coming together with solutions for common concerns.

Two years ago, Bob Kraiberg, representing the SRG Crime Committee, approached shelter director Tom Burnham with a mutually beneficial proposition to tackle the neighborhood's litter problem employing residents of Sts. Peter and Paul. An "angel" in the form of Lohr Distributing Company, exclusive distributors of Anheuser-Busch products in St. Louis, donated materials and funds to begin the program. Others in the neighborhood, seeing the merits of such an endeavor, joined in, and within six months it was off and running.

It was a win/win undertaking, and for Tom Burnham an "opportunity for the shelter to become more than a benign presence in the neighborhood."

Under the direction of Souland resident Bob Kircher, work details of four or five men work from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. every Saturday in the area north of Russell. On Sunday they attack the south side. More men are scheduled following Mardi Gras, Bastille Days, St. Patrick's Day and other special events.

While Lohr Distributing, ever supporting of Souland celebrations, is the major contributor to the program; others may participate for a nominal, tax-deductible donation, with painless automatic deductions through their banks. For more information about the weekend clean-up program, call Bob Kraiberg at 621-3811. Contributors to the clean-up program:

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Norton's Cafe
Schusters Bar & Grill
Souland Restoration Group
Tucker's Place
Tim and Judy's

A Victorian Christmas Excursion Into Souland

by Bill Gwaltney

A group of costumed holiday travelers came from the past to be a part of a new Christmas tradition, reliving the spirit of Christmas and winter travel as it would have been experienced by middle class Americans in 1876.

Dr. T. Lindsay Baker has spent much of his life in the past. When the tall, bespectacled Texan is not teaching as Professor of History and Museum Studies at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, he is conducting "Living History" programs for various state and museums.

"A colleague of mine and I started the Victorian Christmas Week five years ago, and it seems to grow in popularity each year," Dr. Baker said. "You just have no idea how refreshing it is to experience Christmas and being on *Holiday* in the manner of our forefathers," Dr. Baker continued. "It is a wonderful opportunity to escape the commercialism and madness of Christmas in the 20th century."

The group is made up of museum curators, history professors and living history buffs from across

the country and spends the Christmas holiday much as did their Victorian counterparts. They stay at Victorian bed and breakfast hotels, take period meals, and even entertain themselves with games and other "entertainments" from 1876.

St. Louis provides a perfect chance to experience the past and look into the future, say members of the group. The construction of much of the city after the Great St. Louis Fire made it possible for St. Louis to have entire neighborhoods that still retain much of the charm from the Victorian era.

Souland, The Mercantile Library, the Bellfontaine Cemetery, Laclede's Landing, bowling 1876 style, and tasting the curious foods of immigrants to St. Louis' ethnic neighborhoods were all part of this year's excursion into the past.

The group visited over a dozen Victorian museums, historic sites, homes and eating places during their stay in Souland.

"We look forward to celebrating the New Year," says Dr. Baker. "I am sure that 1877 will bring happiness and prosperity to us all!"



1876 Victorian Holiday travelers enjoy a Christmas excursion into Souland and the past.

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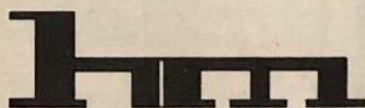
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Deep Winter In Soulard



by Jay Gibbs

Photos by Judy Ivery and Jay Gibbs

Perhaps at no other time does Soulard look so beautiful as during and just after a winter's snow. Like white cake frosting, the snow beautifully contrasts Soulard's red brick architecture and at the same time it smooths the rough edges. Even crumbling, vacant building shells take on an artistic, romantic ruins air in the snow. Somewhere between Currier and Ives and childhood memories lies a deeply ingrained, emotive image of winter in the old days and the inviting sight of home, beckoning cozily across a snow-softened landscape. Soulard wearing winter white summons these almost instinctual feelings oh so well.



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... in Historic Soulard

SOULARD BEYOND 2000 MEETING WITH SUCCESS

by Carlis Dawson

The Souland Beyond 2000 Committee met January 12 at 9th and Russell and the following reports were made.

A member of the committee has been elected as Secretary of the Souland Business Association. This election should allow the committee to work more closely with residents and business people to reach our common good for the neighborhood.

The Souland Restoration Group has provided for \$500 in the 1993 budget to fund this committee, and in addition, they will pay the fee for the St. Louis Visitors and Convention Bureau membership.

Fred Douglas of Bi-State Bus reports the Christmas Lights tour was a tremendous success...1300 people visited the heart of Souland on the Light tour. Lights for next year's contest are ordered and plans are underway to promote an even bigger program for next year with competition for best lights display, etc. More to come...Thanks for the help Kathy, Max, Fred, and Carlis.

A group from the National Park Service recently visited Souland to Celebrate an 1876 Week. They were attracted to our neighborhood as it is the largest collection of 1870s houses in our nation. They dressed in period costumes and traveled about the neighborhood in a carriage. They dined in luxury at the 1860s Cafe and posed for photos in front of the sleigh in the dining area. Bill Gwaltney, director of an

eight state area for the Parks Service, commented, "Wonderful area... We will be back to see future developments," and he encouraged us business owners and residents to keep up the good historical development theme.

New Market Master Sandra Zak (pictured) was introduced. She presented her focus for the Market development at this time. She expressed a desire to bring back a true farmers market, clean up and fix up the present facilities and to expand the types of food available. We pledged to assist her with ideas and support in her plans. She answered questions and entertained ideas that we shared with her about our wants for the Market. Ms. Zak may be reached at 622-4180.

Steve Sommers reported on the Souland Bicycle Trail which will expand in the spring... St. Patrick's Day the Trail Net organization will be opening the north leg of the path, which will eventually link with Souland. Souland already opened their loop on October 18, 1992. On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, the Souland trail will be expanded to go to the Poplar Street leg of the Arch and back to the Souland loop taking advantage of the Trail Net opening to the north. Thanks, Steve, for a great success... More details from Souland Beyond 2000....



MEET YOUR NEW SOULARD NEIGHBORS—

John & Gina Loudon



by Gary Siddens

Souland's newest homeowners are John and Gina Loudon, who recently purchased a duplex at 2209 Menard. I ran into the couple at the Holiday Parlor Tour. Kathy and I knew John from our undergraduate days at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. It wasn't such a shock to see them on tour, but I was very pleasantly surprised to hear we are neighbors.

John and Gina rent the first floor of their home to a wonderful tenant and they live on the second floor. Their long-term goal is to convert the property to a single family; however, Gina made it very clear that they do not intend to force their wonderful tenant out at any time.

The Loudons have been married for two years, a time that can best be described as nomadic, having lived in Columbia, Jefferson City, Ballwin, and the Central West End. The couple found West County was not their cup of tea. They did like the CWE, but felt it lacked the sense of community we enjoy in Souland.

This is John and Gina's first home; they have learned a lot in the process of buying it, however. During their house hunt, they originally focused on the CWE and Compton Heights. They worked with a Clayton-based agent who swayed them away from Souland, because he felt that Souland was too far from St. Louis University, where Gina attends graduate school. They came as close as closing day on two properties, before they started to look into Souland. Enter Alan Richardson.

The couple had frequented Souland's restaurants and bars, but they hadn't looked closely at what the neighborhood had to offer in terms of residential opportunities until Alan got involved. What they discovered isn't news to most of us: great purchasing power and an incredible sense of community.

The move has been a wonderful experience for John and Gina. From what I can tell, they are Souland's newest cheerleaders. On behalf of the SRG, welcome to the neighborhood!!



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SECRETARY'S CORNER

by Susan A. Varner

SRG Monthly Membership Meeting—November 4, 1992:

I. Secretary's Report stands as read.
II. Treasurer's Report stands as read.
III. The Board of Directors' Report was corrected to indicate "...no appeal on properties..." under the Code & Zoning Report.

IV. Committee Reports:

Crime Prevention—Bob Kraiberg reported on the upcoming fundraiser, to be held Sunday, November 15 from 4-8 p.m. at Patty Long's 9th Street Abbey, which includes drinks, food and four bands from the area. The profits go to the off-duty police patrol, which aided in a significant reduction in crime in the Souldard area in the past months. Tickets are \$20 and will also be available at the door. \$10,000 was raised at last year's event.

Residential Promotion—Gary Siddens announced the Holiday Parlor Tour will be December 12-13. Volunteers are needed. A sign-up sheet was circulated. Hours will be 3-7 p.m. to emphasize the Christmas lighting. Carolers are needed. Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$8 at the door. The tour will feature the two blocks of Menard between Russell and Shenandoah Streets. Anheuser-Busch has again donated \$20,000 to pay for the house tour program.

Code & Zoning—Fred Andres reported on interaction between the SRG and the Heritage and Urban Design Commission. Fred will send stamped, self-addressed envelopes to ensure that a copy of the agenda of each HUDC meeting is received by Code & Zoning. Kate Shea has requested that those with concerns on code and zoning matters call her at 622-3400.

V. Election of SRG officers and board members—Nominating Committee Chairman Cindy Harrison explained the voting procedure by paper ballot. Chuck Coker called the names of eligible members who picked up their ballots.

VI. Tom Villa, President of the Board of Aldermen, spoke on that afternoon's Airport Commission meeting. He also spoke on the progress being made toward the new all-purpose sports and convention center, and mentioned some other developments in the downtown area and riverfront. A question and answer period followed.

VII. St. Louis Science Center presentation and slide show, by Don Williams and Kelly Litzinger. The problem of overuse and damage to the facility was presented to the group. Following the slide presentation, a written survey was distributed which asked for suggestions to solve the overuse and damage problem.

VIII. Richard Eaton gave retiring President's remarks, with credit given to committee chairs, officers, board members and other members whose efforts in promoting the neighborhood were of great benefit to Souldard. The enactment of the new historic code was mentioned as a major achievement in the past two years, as well as the prevention of the establishment of a prison in the area; other accomplishments and projects in progress were also mentioned.

IX. Old Business—The revote on the bylaws has been postponed until after consultation with outside experts on

parliamentary procedure and further review by the Board of Directors. The motion to postpone the revote was passed unanimously.

X. New Business—Alderman Phyllis Young announced that the new Marker Master for Souldard Market is Sandra Zak. Election results: Cindy Harrison reported the following: President, Sedg Mead; Vice President, Elaine Wright; Secretary, Susan Varner; Treasurer, Nancy Adams; Directors: Steve Botts and Mary Lipic. Richard Eaton announced that the new officers would be installed at the social, to be held at Elaine and Rob Wright's. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.

Board of Directors meeting, November 18, 1992—The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. at Kathy Duckworth's house. Attending were Elaine Wright, Richard Eaton, Charles Ryburn, Mary Lipic, Gary Siddens, Nancy Adams, Kathy Duckworth, Jeanne Weber, Chuck Coker, Sedg Mead and Steve Botts.

Committee Reports:

Membership/Special Events—Chuck Coker gave his final report on the status of the committee projects, including a copy of the budget for the committee as approved by the board.

Beautification—Richard Eaton reported that Mary Sheridan was willing, with the approval of the board, to continue as committee chairman. He also reported on some future planting plans of the committee.

Renaissance—Jeanne Weber reported that the latest issue was at the press. She offered to continue as advertising manager. Her assistants will be Lynn Scuderi and Mary Lipic. Increasing advertising rates and monitoring distribution of issues in the suburbs were discussed. Many board members agreed that Carlis Dawson had done an excellent job as editor. Cost cutting methods in publishing were discussed for the upcoming year. The issue was debated regarding the focus of *The Renaissance* in the future—whether the issues should be event-oriented or whether the publication should contain general neighborhood information and promotion. The nomination of Jay Gibbs as editor was considered. A motion on the appointment was made by Charles Ryburn, "We offer the position of *Renaissance* editor to Jay Gibbs, making clear that there will be specific guidelines set by the board that he will be expected to follow." The motion passed 8-1.

Crime Prevention—Kathy Duckworth reported \$5,286 has come in from the November fundraiser.

Residential Promotion—Gary Siddens reported that more houses are needed for the Christmas House Tour. Details of the tour were discussed, mainly the acquisition of more homes for the tour.

Code and Zoning—Elaine Wright reported on Adapt, a for-profit corporation created to assist mentally ill people. Most of their clientele is referred to them through the St. Louis State Mental Health Department. They currently have offices at 9th & Souldard. Their main facility is at 12th & Geyer, where they serve 70 patients presently. The department wants to expand their facilities to a warehouse space in the 1300 block of Geyer. The Code and Zoning Committee opposed this proposal, as they felt the facility would be detrimental

to a residential area. Alderman Phyllis Young will be consulted on this matter.

Ways and Means—Charles Ryburn announced that he would be the board liaison for the VP Fair booth this 4th of July weekend.

Fundraising—Charles reported that a chairman was needed for the coming year.

Community Outreach—Jeanne Weber expressed concern that more communication is needed with the Souldard Business Association.

Residential Promotion—Susan Varner was recommended to be the liaison, since she was not at the meeting and knew how to spell *liaison*. Steve Botts was considered to be a better choice, with Susan as assistant. The positions are still being considered.

Beautification Committee—Richard Eaton agreed to be liaison. The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

General Membership Meeting, December 1992—

I. Welcome and introductions—The meeting was called to order at 7:49 p.m. by President Sedg Mead. 64 people were present, including 3 guests. Steve Roberts, St. Louis mayoral candidate, was introduced and gave a brief talk, followed by a question and answer period with the membership. Roberts announced the date and time of a reception to be held in his behalf, December 5, from 4-6 p.m. at 1728 S. 8th. Bob Kraiberg gave a special Crime Prevention Committee presentation, in which he reported that the Committee's fundraiser, held on November 15, had raised nearly \$6,000, bringing the total of the last two fundraisers to \$18,000. Bob also introduced five police officers from the area, who answered questions from the membership on neighborhood safety. They stressed calling the police promptly to report disturbances. The Drug Hotline telephone number is 621-4333, to report crimes suspected of being drug related.

II. The Secretary's Report was approved as read.

III. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

IV. The November Board of Directors' report will be distributed at the January membership meeting.

V. Committee Reports

Residential Promotion—Gary Siddens gave a Christmas House Tour update. The December 6 *Post-Dispatch* will carry a large promotional article on the tour in the real estate section. He asked members to take posters for display and tour tickets for sale. The post-tour party will be on Sunday, December 13, at the Duckworth-Kraiberg home. A tree-trimming party will be held at the tour information center (11th & Ann) on Friday, December 11, at 7 p.m. Jeanne Weber reported that volunteers are still needed—tour guides for both days and carolers for Sunday.

Renaissance/Community Outreach—Carlis Dawson reported that a Bi-State bus tour, which begins at Laclede's Landing, will travel through Souldard to the Anheuser-Busch Brewery and then return to the Landing. The tour is on Saturdays and Sundays from 6-10 p.m. through December 20. The bicycle tour will continue, with more information in March. The latest issue of *The Renaissance* is now on the street. Carlis gave statistics on average cost per issue and total number of papers pub-

lished. Carlis received applause from the membership as editor during the past year.

Code and Zoning—Cecelia Andres reported on some issues that had recently surfaced, including McGurk's intent to construct an air door at its entrance on Russell Street. The Code and Zoning Committee does not approve of this construction, since it will be an appendage to the structure and will extend onto a city sidewalk. Jay Gibbs will attend the Heritage and Urban Design Commission meeting December 3 to express the opinion of the Committee. The landscaping plans of the parking lot under construction at 12th and Allen were also discussed.

Beautification—Phyllis Young reported in Mary Sheridan's absence. Flower bulbs will be planted at Pontiac Park on December 5. Phyllis expressed her concern over the condition of the trees at Pontiac Park, and the likelihood of the survival of new trees planted there. She will investigate a "planting plan" for the park which she has heard mentioned but has not yet seen. Alan Richardson asked about the possibility of eliminating the basketball court for at least part of the year. Phyllis proposed a meeting with the neighborhood children to ask their opinions on what is needed to make the park more useful to them, including more playground equipment and more use of the softball diamond. One of the young neighborhood residents who was present expressed her fear and concern over conditions in the park and said she felt very uncomfortable going there with the children she babysits. Several members expressed concern over possible drug activity in the park conducted under the guise of playing basketball.

Membership/Special Events—Chuck Coker announced his retirement and introduced the new board liaison, Mary Lipic, who then complimented Chuck on his organizational skills and said she felt very comfortable beginning her term with the record-keeping he had implemented. She asked for volunteers for the monthly socials.

VI. Old Business—None.

VII. New Business—Suzanne Cowan announced a Children's Fair in conjunction with Mardi Gras on February 13 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Anheuser-Busch. The cost is \$5 per child and \$5 per family. Ideas and volunteers are needed. Call Suzanne at 771-1670 or Cynthia Dixon at 436-2728. Participating children will be able to ride on one of the Mardi Gras floats the following week. Hilda Willman asked everyone attending the monthly socials to contribute generously to help the hosts, as the events can be very expensive for them. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m. The social was held at Cindy Harrison's home.

SRG Board Meeting, December 21, 1992—(submitted by Charles Ryburn)

The December meeting of the SRG board took place at the home of Sedg Mead. President Mead called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. This was the annual budget meeting. Other issues that were discussed in the meeting are as follows: Elaine Wright made mention of the South Side Coalition. Richard Eaton said he was planning on attending an upcoming meeting of the South Side Coalition and would report back to the board as to SRG involvement.

Residential Promotion will take into consideration the fact that the National Trust for Historic Preservation will hold its annual meeting in St. Louis during Fall House Tour time. Gary Siddens and John Durnell will make special arrange-

ments to show the Trust representatives the best Souland has to offer.

Jay Gibbs will analyze the cost and cost savings ideas associated with *The Renaissance* and report back to the board with his findings. The board decided to take the existing plans for the Information Center and get estimates from various contractors as to what it will cost to finish the building.

SRG Monthly Membership meeting, January 6, 1993—

I. Welcome and introductions—The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by President Sedg Mead. 63 people were present, including 9 guests.

II. The Secretary's Report was approved.

III. The Treasurer's Report was approved. Nancy Adams reported a projected \$1,000 profit from the Christmas House Tour.

IV. Board of Director's Report was approved. Nancy Adams presented the budget for 1993 as approved by the Board. Sedg reported that the check to the SRG from Anheuser-Busch for \$20,000 (to cover Residential Promotion expenses) had been received. A question and answer period followed, with greater detail on the '93 budget being explained by Nancy as delineated in the printed budget report, which had been distributed to the membership as they entered. The budget was approved by voice vote. Susan Varner thanked Charles Ryburn for taking the minutes at the December board meeting and for typing them. She also thanked John Durnell for the loan of his typewriter for the last several months.

V. Committee Reports

Residential Promotion—Gary Siddens reported that 750 tickets had been sold for the Christmas House

Tour. He thanked all participants for making the tour a success, with special appreciation to the residents who volunteered to put their homes on tour just a few weeks before it occurred. Gary announced that he and John Durnell would be co-chairmen for Residential Promotion in 1993.

Membership/Special Events—Mary Lipic announced that the updated membership list would be available in February. She asked for volunteers to participate in the Mardi Gras parade, which will take place on February 20. She also reported that SRG metal house plaques are available for \$25 with a pre-order.

Crime Prevention—Bob Kralberg reported on the success of prosecuting known neighborhood crime perpetrators, resulting in a reduction of crime in Souland. He then introduced some police officers who work in the district. He also emphasized the major role of the Off-Duty Police Patrol in achieving the goal of crime reduction in the area, and thanked the volunteers in the Mobile Patrol.

Beautification—Richard Eaton reported for chairman Mary Sheridan, that daffodil bulbs were planted at the Souland Market Park Plaza and the results would be seen in the spring. He announced plans to create another garden on 9th Street near Preservation Hall. Alderman Phyllis Young reported on improvement plans for Pontiac Park, which includes the planting of new trees.

Community Outreach—Carlis Dawson reported that the next meeting would be held at 9th and Russell Restaurant, January 12, at 6 p.m. He emphasized the importance of a strong connection with the Souland Business Association. Plans for the Souland loop of the bicycle trail are in progress. More will be reported on this in March.

The Renaissance—New editor Jay Gibbs announced that there would be five issues of the publication in 1993, scheduled to promote various neighborhood events. The deadline for articles for the next edition is January 18, with the advertising deadline January 22. The publication should be on the

streets by February 5.

Code and Zoning—Fred Andres reported on McGurk's Restaurant's plans to expand the as yet unfinished parking lot at 12th and Allen Streets.

Ways and Means—Board liaison Charles Ryburn asked for a committee chairman and promoted the main event, the VP Fair booth. He promoted some new ideas, including a shuttle or carpool service for volunteer workers, thus alleviating past problems with parking.

VI. Old Business—Reintroduction of Mary Hart, Conserv officer for the area.

VII. New Business—None.

Political Candidates' Forum—Alderman Phyllis Young and candidate for City Comptroller, Jim Shrewsbury presented their views and answered questions from the membership.

At 9:35 p.m. the meeting was adjourned. The social was held at the home of Sedg Mead and Catherine Perry.



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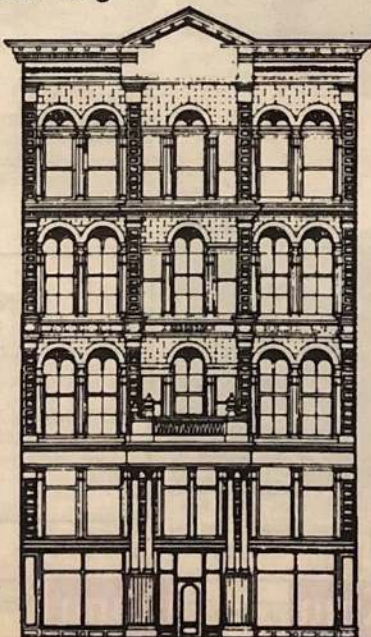
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