



The Souldard Renaissance

"The Neighborhood Magazine of Historic Souldard"

VOL. XVIII — ISSUE 3

Celebrating the *Renaissance* of Souldard

SUMMER 1993

Seventh Annual Bastille Days Celebration July 14-18

Historic Souldard, the "French Quarter of St. Louis," will be host to the 7th annual Bastille Festival celebrating the French heritage of Souldard and St. Louis. This year's five-day event will include a Missouri Wine Tasting, an Arts and Crafts Fair, free Jazz/Blues Concert, the Tour de Souldard bicycle race, and a "French Taste of Souldard." *Historic Souldard is the perfect location for celebrating the French heritage of St. Louis. Souldard, for many years known as Frenchtown, is the oldest existing residential neighborhood in St. Louis. Souldard also can claim a legitimate historical link to the original "Bastille Day."*

Bastille Day is the French equivalent of our American Independence Day. On July 14, 1789, French peasants stormed the Bastille, a French fortress/prison where political prisoners of King Louis XVI were being held. The prisoners were freed by the mob, and King Louis soon lost his head in the same guillotine which he had been using to execute his political enemies. After much turmoil, the foundations of the modern democratic political systems of France were begun.

During the civil strife, many of the French aristocracy fled France, lest they too become acquainted with the guillotine. One of these fleeing noblemen was named Antoine Souldard; he traveled to a safe, remote French village called St. Louis and, over a period of years, became one of the principal businessmen and landowners of the young settlement. The neighborhood which now bears his name was part of one of his land holdings; Souldard's Bastille Days Festival thus has a firm basis in history. It's a natural!

See the related article for a full schedule of events. Some of these events merit extra mention here. In the French tradition of a love affair with food, French and Cajun/Creole cuisine is featured throughout the neighborhood restaurants during the Bastille Festival. On Saturday, July 17, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Souldard will present a special "French Taste of Souldard." Participating establishments will offer a \$10 ticket to allow guests a sampling of various French or Cajun/Creole food at five different restaurants, or use all five tickets at one favorite spot.

On the previous day, Friday, July 16, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the Souldard Bastille Committee will host the second annual Bastille Missouri Wine Tasting. The Tasting will take place in a large tent located at Souldard Market Park and will feature wines from up to 12 Missouri wineries.

(continued with Schedule of Events on page 11—center spread)

THERE IS GOING TO BE AN EARTHQUAKE! How Will Souldard Fare?

by Jay Gibbs

You're sitting on your living room couch reading a magazine when you notice a slight vibrating sensation, like a big truck passing near your house. But it doesn't stop, and you hear a rhythmic tink-tink-tink, as glass crystals on the ceiling light fixture tap gently against their mates. You're at 2.0 on the Richter scale.

Instead of stopping like last year, the tapping grows more insistent, and the entire tinkling light fixture begins to sway. There is a low rumble, growing in intensity. Books and glassware begin wobbling off shelves, as the whole house begins barely perceptibly swaying. Cracks pop in a few windows and loose mortar falls to the ground. You're at 4.8 on the Richter scale.

The intensity of both the deep rumbling sound and the shaking sensation increases. Panic sends your heart into your throat as you drop your magazine and run for the creaking front door only a few feet away. Behind and below you, the hot water heater topples with a crash, and water and raw natural gas spew from the snapped-off

pipes. Your tall, massive china cabinet tips over and crashes across the couch you just left. The front door won't open, then it suddenly jerks open by itself, while you try to keep your feet—it's like walking the aisle of a moving, rocking bus. You're at 6.0 on the Richter scale.

The shaking has lasted 30 seconds as you stumble through the doorway, across the sidewalk and into the street. In the most terrifying and humbling moment of your life, the very earth beneath your feet is no longer *terra firma* but is starting to heave and roll like waves on a lake. Window glass shatters in small explosions, and cracks appear in the brick walls of nearby houses. Chimneys topple onto roofs and ground as buildings visibly swing like cartoon caricatures, back and forth. Electrical lines snap free like whips, while light poles and trees are swaying like sailing ship masts in a gale. It's getting hard to stand up as the ground heaves and bounces. It's been 2½ minutes and you're at 7.1 on the Richter scale, like the 1989 Loma Prieta quake in northern California.

(continued on page 18)



The structural cracks are clearly visible on this San Francisco townhouse, damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. How well Souldard's buildings will survive an earthquake depends on a number of factors, not the least of which is how well you prepare for the eventuality.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Summer in Souland finds that the pulse of the neighborhood slows down a bit. As the temperature soars, neighbors, joggers, and rehabbers tend to avoid the middle of the day only to reappear in the cool of the morning and evening. The euphoria of springtime—that rush of personal and civic energy—has hunkered down a bit to wait out the heat.

In the middle of this quiescence, we in Souland will experience a neighborhood-wide burst of energy as the annual Bastille Days Festivals brightens our mid-summer. Where else in the city could this French-based celebration take place but in the old neighborhood once called Frenchtown? See you at the food tables, at the wine tasting, and at the bicycle races! I love these street festivals, for not only do they remind me of the small town of my childhood, but they reassure me that I am part of a real community full of life and variety, as opposed to the average, bland suburb.

That thought brings to mind one of my favorite quotations. George Bernard Shaw wrote, "The reasonable man adapts himself to the world: the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man."

Here in Souland that concept applies on several levels.

It is the men and women who have in some way changed the status quo who are responsible for the rebirth—and lively success—of Souland. In the 1970s it was the residents and urban pioneers who saved Souland from the City's planned industrial expansion. It was the hundreds of rehabbers who saved geriatric old houses from neglect and vandalism. It was—and is—the old house buyers and business owners who bucked the suburb-bound tide and have made this neighborhood a sought-after address. It is those who have donated their time to fix up the parks at Souland Market, at Pontiac Park, at Aboussie Park, at 13th and Lami, and at 9th and Sidney (not to forget all those who have planted street trees over the years) who have greened up a formerly stark Souland. Even those who arrange the house tours and contribute to this newspaper are challenging the inertia of the status quo.

These "unreasonable" folks who don't just go along to get along are Souland's greatest assets. You were Souland's survival and are her future too, and I salute you, every one. All the combined efforts of these thousands have built the community we now enjoy. What a neat place we have here!

—Jay Gibbs

NOTES from the BRICK HOUSE

by
Sedg Mead

The hot days of summer have finally arrived after all the rain we have had this spring. Souland looks greener than ever, thanks to all the rain and the cumulative impact of Souland residents planting everything imaginable over the years. How different than in 1975, when almost no trees shaded any street!

(1) Souland for Sale was very successful, thanks to the work of Gary Siddens, John Durnell, and Richard Eaton, plus many other volunteers. Richard bought a small sun tent for the SRG which we pitched at 9th and Emmet. The tent is available to rent for a nominal cost.

(2) Our neighborhood was awarded \$6,000 by Southwestern Bell to purchase a golf cart and provide operating funds for our neighborhood watch program. Many thanks again to Steve Botts, Bob Kraiberg, Rod Wright, and Hilda Willman for putting together a successful proposal. Also, Bob and Miles Sommer have purchased a golf cart at a very reasonable price, making more money available for operating funds.

(3) The Board has received a presentation from the Committee on the Information and Visitor's Center.

(4) Charles Ryburn and other volunteers are preparing for the SRG booth at the VP Fair over the 4th of July weekend. More volunteers are needed, so please call Charles if you have any time.

(5) I have rented space at Broadway Self Storage for the SRG. Anyone who has SRG stuff in a house or basement who feels it should be saved, please call me, and we will arrange to move it to self-storage.

EVERYONE—HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



The Souland Renaissance

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2624 S. 11th - \$139,000

2726 S. 13th - \$78,000

2637 S. 12th - \$139,900

2115 Menard - \$115,000

1010 Geyer - \$120,000

820 Ann - \$88,900

1827 S. 9th - \$120,000

1731 S. 11th - \$110,000

2352 S. 10th - \$79,900

2208 S. 9th - \$110,000



1230 S. Sidney

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2208 S. 9th

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2215 Menard

Beautifully positioned freestanding 3-story Victorian with lovely side and rear yards. Quality rehab by present owners with 3+ br., 2.5 ba., superbly equipped kitchen, pretty south facing, covered porch, parking. \$109,000



2352 S. 10th

Look out bargain hunters! Rehabbed 3-story Victorian townhouse with 3br., 2ba., including Full Master Suite, eat-in kitchen, 2nd floor laundry at less than \$80,000 (Owner Broker)



2406 S. 13th

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814 Ann

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906 Geyer

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2115 Menard

\$115,000

Two new investment listings!

1035 Geyer:

5 units, partially rehabbed. Total rents \$1525 per month \$110,000

2020/22 Menard:

4 units partially rehabbed. Renting \$1140 per month \$94,000

In Souland...Selling Souland

THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AT 1808 SOUTH NINTH STREET

by Jay Gibbs

The old church site occupied by Patty Long's Ninth Street Abbey has as long and as varied history as the Souland area itself. A German Presbyterian congregation built the original church on this site circa 1850. It was dedicated as St. Paul's Evangelical Church. The red brick building was smaller than the present structure, and its steeple was centered in the Decatur (Ninth) Street facade.

In May 1896, a tornado tore through St. Louis, and St. Paul's Church did not escape. As the tornado passed, the building literally exploded from the sudden change in air pressure; all that remained standing was the southeast corner of the sanctuary.

The congregation of St. Paul's rebuilt their church—the edifice which you see today—for a cost of \$36,217. The new sanctuary and school were dedicated on Palm Sunday, 1897.

By the early 20th century, however, the German population was gradually moving from Souland to the southwestern neighborhoods of the city. In 1911, the congregation of St. Paul's followed this exodus, moving to a new church in far south St. Louis, leaving the Ninth Street building virtually unused.

Meanwhile, as the Germans were leaving, various other newly-arrived immigrant groups took their place in Souland. One of these groups were the Slovaks, who settled in a cluster in the blocks around Souland Market. (In 1918, the Slovaks and neighboring Czechs formed the new country of Czechoslovakia, which just dissolved in 1992. Before World War I, Slovakia was one of many small nations in the midsection of Europe; frequent political and economic upheavals persuaded many Europeans to emigrate.)



The pre-tornado church on the site was smaller and had a centered steeple. From Compton and Dry's Pictorial Drawings, 1875, the church seen from the rear. Trinity Lutheran Church is on lower right.

The Slovaks worshiped at St. John Nepomuk Church—a Czech parish which remains to this day at 11th and Lafayette Streets—until 1898. In that year the Slovaks were sufficient in number to convince the Archdiocese of the need for a church of their own, and they purchased an old Baptist Church at 12th and Park for that purpose. Finally, they could worship in their own tongue and could practice their own religious customs from the "old country."

But, in the early 1920s their church building stood directly in the path of the city's widening of 12th Street, so the Slovaks purchased and remodeled the old St. Paul's Church on 9th Street. In September 1924, the congregation marched in a huge, festive parade from their doomed old building to the "new" one, dedicating it as Holy Trinity Slovak Catholic Church.

At its peak in the 1920s and 1930s, the parish served over 500 families, and the parochial school at the back of the sanctuary brimmed with young students. During the 1940s, though, Holy Trinity Slovak started to decline as the parishioners began gradually assimilating into the melting pot of American life. The school was closed in 1944, and a fire damaged the sanctuary in 1947. The building was repaired, but the decline accelerated as many parishioners left Souland for the suburbs in the 1950s and 1960s. Membership dropped until fewer than a dozen families remained in 1984. Holy Trinity Slovak was closed that year, and the dwindling parish was ironically reabsorbed by St. John Nepomuk.

The archdiocese stripped the empty church building of its interior furnishings: altar, pews, railings. Even the bells in the steeple were removed—by crane! The desanctified, vacant structure stood forlorn and deteriorating until being purchased and briefly reborn as a combination fitness gym/banquet hall in 1990.

Purchased in 1992 by Patty Long Catering, the old church and school have now been rehabbed and have found renewed life as Patty Long's Ninth Street Abbey.

—THE FACILITY TODAY—

Now, the sanctuary, with its floor level, provides unique dining and banquet space. Restrooms and dressing rooms have been added for additional convenience, and the building is handicapped accessible. The first floor of the former parochial school now houses Patty Long's kitchens, and part of the school's second floor will be opened as an outdoor, terrace eating area. Most of the church building dates



The Slovaks installed this dedication over the front entrance of their "new" church in 1924. Translation, anyone?

from 1896-97, but a portion of the east wall to the right of the altar alcove dates back to the original 1850 church. Left standing after the tornado, the wall was incorporated into the new building by the thrifty St. Paul's Germans. All of the stained glass windows date from 1897, except the large windows above the main front entrance. These windows were extensively repaired after the 1947 fire. The small parking area to the south of the

church was the site of the old convent. The Slovaks razed the no-longer-used structure in 1962. The former rectory to the north of the church was sold separately a few years ago and is now a private home. Patty Long's adaptive reuse of this old church site assures that its 140-year history will continue, now providing nourishment of the palate in a place formerly dedicated to the restoration of the soul.



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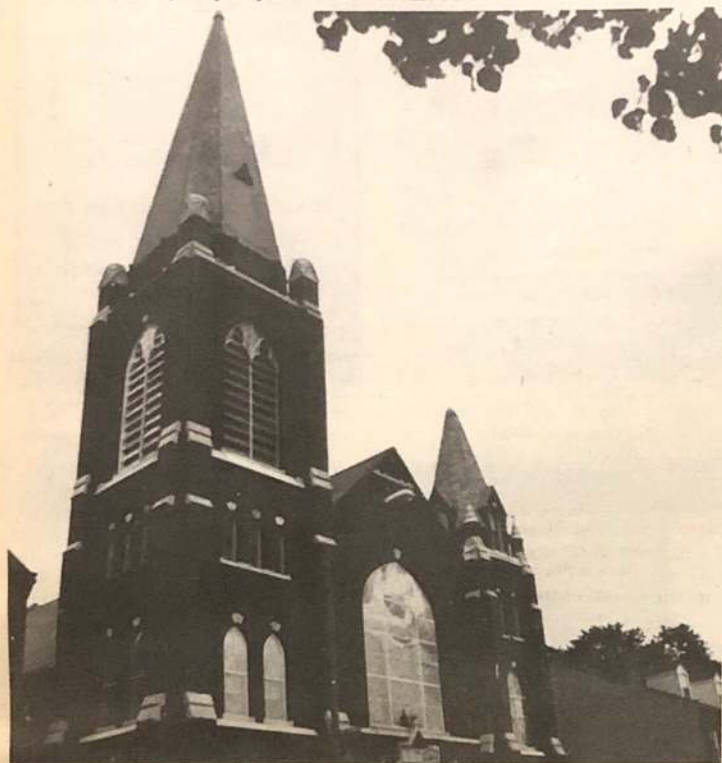
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Restaurant Review — DINNER AT PATTY LONG'S 9th STREET ABBEY — 1808 S. 9th St. — 621-9598



Patty Long's 9th Street Abbey is located in the soaring church building at 1808 S. 9th St.

by Carla Gibbs

The bright soaring space and stained glass will draw you in; the original and elegant cuisine will delight and satisfy your palate; and the wine and seamless service will relax you into an evening of long conversation. This was our recent dinner experience at Patty Long's 9th Street Abbey, the newest and most elegant fine dining establishment in Soulard.

The Abbey is owned and operated by Joan and Wayne Long, who are perhaps still best known for their Patty Long Cafe in Lafayette Square. Having made a name for themselves in St. Louis as extraordinary restaurateurs and caterers, their small operation needed room to grow. A vacant church building in Soulard provided the needed space; and, with a lot of TLC, the Longs have turned this unique facility into a comfortably elegant restaurant. [See related article for the history of this fascinating building.]

During our visit to the Abbey, our group of nine sampled a variety of selections from the imaginative dinner menu. An appetizer of mushroom strudel featured wild mushrooms in phyllo dough with a beautiful presentation. This was the favorite at our table. A delicious almond crusted brie was presented with a wonderful contrast of tastes and textures; crisp toast and soft fried brie with the sweet/spicy flavor of accompanying cranberry jalapeño chutney.

Our entrée selections included both specials and items from the menu. Specials we tried included a baked snapper presented with two light sweet sauces as well as asparagus and spiced rice. The pasta of the day was linguini in a spicy sauce with a hint of curry and anise. One diner thought this dish was highly spicy, while another found the spice to be subtle. Both agreed that it was a surprising and tasty combination. Shrimp Alexander featured large shrimp wrapped in basil and baked, then served with asparagus, chutney and orange/ginger sauce

on the side. All of these specials featured beautiful presentation and wonderful choices of complementary sauces and side dishes.

From the regular menu, the beef tenderloin served in an onion compote with gorgonzola was the favorite. It was cooked to the diner's preference and served with champagne potatoes—that's potatoes cut to look like mushrooms, not potatoes with mushrooms. The pan seared gulf shrimp from the menu was cooked with a combination of tomato, jalapeño and mushrooms but was not as distinctly flavorful as the Shrimp Alexander. Cornbread stuffed breast of chicken was served with a cajun spiced Andouille cream sauce that brought out the flavor of the dish. Quite delicious.

From the dessert tray we sampled a rich and fresh carrot cake, chocolate dipped strawberries with whipped cream, and a chilled coconut roulade. All of the desserts were delicious, but at the end of a big meal on a hot summer's day, I'd recommend the strawberries or the roulade as a light treat to end a wonderful meal.

To give credit where it is due, I must add that our server, Dave, was one of the most gracious and unobtrusive waiters I have encountered in St. Louis. He saw to every detail of our dinner with efficiency, assisted by attentive buspersons.

Patty Long's 9th Street Abbey is also praiseworthy for its varied weekday lunch menu and its weekend Emporium table brunch (a combination of buffet and ordering from the menu). The menus for these meals are quite different; separate reviews would be the only way to do justice to each of these dining experiences. Whether you visit the Abbey for brunch, lunch or dinner, reservations are highly recommended. The restaurant fills quickly and is often reserved for private parties in the evening. Free valet parking is provided. The accompanying photo details hours of operation.

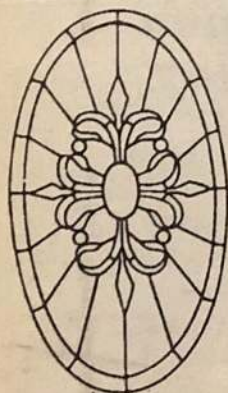


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The Abbey's hours of operation include dinner Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, preempted occasionally by banquets and private receptions. Call 621-9598.

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Soulard Trolley Takes Maiden Voyage

The Historic Soulard Neighborhood is proud to bring back to St. Louis and Soulard a new version of a grand old transportation service for the St. Louis visitor. The Soulard Trolley took its official maiden voyage June 10, 1993, starting a trolley service from downtown St. Louis to Historic Soulard. The trolley runs every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 4:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The christening was Thursday, June 10, at 4:00 p.m. in front of Soulard Market (8th and Lafayette). Several officials as well as residents were on hand: Mike McMillan of the Mayor's Office; Phyllis Young, 7th Ward Alderman; and Sandra Zak, Soulard Market Master. All were cordially welcomed to the event by Master of Ceremonies, Greg Gelzinnis.

A short presentation and ribbon-cutting took place at the Market. With Laura Daus, President of the Soulard Business Association leading the way, the revelers enjoyed the voyage, complete with a dixieland band on board—they had also performed at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. What a pleasant and unique experience to travel the streets of St. Louis with a live dixieland band on board! You could see people's heads snap and smiles break out as they saw this colorful cheer wagon go by.

During the trip, the topic of exercise emerged. Noting that two pas-



Laura Daus, President of the Soulard Business Association cuts the ribbon before the Soulard Trolley's maiden voyage.

sengers—Lynn and Bob Scudieri were celebrating their 26th wedding anniversary, someone immediately broke out several bottles of Champagne and the 4-ounce curl exercises began. What an historic celebration!

The Soulard Trolley will make eight stops in downtown St. Louis and seven stops in Soulard on an hourly basis. Trolley riders will purchase all-day trolley passes for \$5 each, which will also entitle them to discounts and special services at Soulard businesses.



The Soulard Trolley stopped at the Market.



Maiden voyage passengers included Phyllis Young, Lynn and Bob Scudieri (before their 4-ounce anniversary curls) and Pat and Carol Norton.

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TO
SOULARD

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Holiday Inn on 4th Street
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SOULARD STOPS

7th & Lafayette
7th & Soulard
9th & Soulard
9th & Geyer
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SOULARD MARKET... UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

by Tonca Yarbrough

History was made once again in Souard when Sandra Zak became Market Master of Souard's Farmer's Market in November of last year. She is the first female to hold that position. A native of St. Louis and frequent visitor to the Market, Sandra sometimes had had thoughts of, "If I were the manager here I would...." Now, opportunities and challenges abound as Souard steams toward the twenty-first century.

In the short term, Sandra seeks to add variety to the foods offered and to provide a forum for consumer awareness. Organically grown produce is now available with a selection of ethnic items in the offering. Specialists from the Missouri Extension Services will hold seminars in June, July and August on the preparation and preservation of fruits, berries and vegetables. The classes are open to the public and one need not be a gardener to attend.

A new logo has been created for the Market, soon to be familiar on publicity and promotions. The building is scheduled to be painted in the fall.

Under the auspices of the City's Department of Public Utilities, Sandra Zak and a staff of four maintenance workers are charged with the daily operation of the Market—confronting merchant issues and ensuring customer satisfaction. The grounds and recreational facilities are part of the Parks Department, with which the staff works closely.

Sandra's visions for the future include an "international" wing, where shoppers will buy ingredients and get instructions for preparation of empanadas, jerk chicken, baklava and other ethnic favorites.



She sees the Market as a neighborhood gathering place, with band concerts and box suppers, where the folks from Menard Street vie with the Eighth Street crowd for recognition.

Aware that Souard residents have a somewhat "proprietary" interest in the Market, Sandra welcomes comments and suggestions. Or, just stop by the office to say, "HELLO..." or wave as she dashes between live chickens and cucumbers.

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Join Souard Market and the Missouri Extension Services this summer to learn how to savor fresh, ripe and flavorful foods year round instead of resorting to commercially-canned and prepared foods during the winter months. Once a month—July 24 and August 8—seminars taught by the specialists from the Extension Service will provide the latest information on freezing, canning and dehydration techniques to ensure the quickest, easiest and safest way to preserve a bountiful harvest.

Eating more fresh fruits and vegetables is becoming more of a health priority to many St. Louisans. No longer does one have to have a backyard garden to ensure quality or freshness, because Souard Market has area farm-grown regular and organic produce readily available. Purchasing fruits and produce during the summer also promises the best value for your dollar, because everything is in abundance. With a small amount of time and number of supplies, healthier eating habits can be guaranteed year round. The remaining two seminars are as follows.

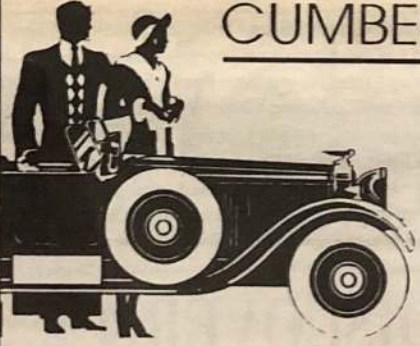
CANNING TOMATOES

Taste the rewards of a pantry full of homegrown and canned tomatoes. Food and Nutrition Specialists Cynthia Fauser and Lois Laster will reveal how safely and hygienically to "can" tomatoes using both the water bath and pressure canner methods. They also have a new recipe to share, "Tomatoes with Zucchini." This class will take place on Saturday, July 24 at 10:00 a.m. in the Lafayette Pavilion at Souard Market (7th and Lafayette Streets).



DRYING FRUITS, VEGETABLES, HERBS AND JERKY

Homemade apple snacks, fruit leathers, jerky and vegetable soup mixes are easy to create once you know the simple applications. Learn how to dry your favorite foods at home on Saturday, August 28, 10:00 a.m. in the Lafayette Pavilion. For more information about either seminar, contact Sandra Zak, Market Master, Souard Market, 622-4180.



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The Mystery Of Pontiac Park

by Carlis Dawson

One of the mysteries that I puzzled over when I moved to Soulard was, "Why a Pontiac Park?" An old French neighborhood surely would not name a recreation spot after a car, would it? Of course, this sort of made me feel good when I realized I was young enough to associate Pontiac with a hood ornament and not a real person.

On a casual trip to the Missouri Historical Society Library, I happened on to a book on the return shelf about Old Chief Pontiac. Before seeing the title, I had never really associated Pontiac with a human being, much less an old chief. Fascinating, I found...and I would like to share with you some of the treasures of my catch that day.

True—the French came here from both the North and the South. Popular thoughts tell us that Napoleon was the French connection to St. Louis through New Orleans. However, Marquette, LaSalle, and Joliet lead a march out of Old Quebec long before the First French Consul, and this northern influence continued to make contributions in those formative years of the 1730s.

This was an exciting time in which to live. Ottawa Indians, lead by Chief Pontiac, befriended such

early settlers as Colonel Chouteau, Monsieur de St. Ange Bellerive—a Canadian—to ward off common enemies. In one direct quote Pontiac says, "My father, for a long time I and my warriors have determined to give you our hand, and to smoke together our pipe of peace—recalling to each other all the campaigns that we have made together against the savages, and those dogs of English." The Iroquois, Arkansas, Illinois, Miamis, and the Ottawa Indians were powerful allies against the Chiquachas and the British in the 1736 campaigns.

Glamorous was the early life of Pontiac. He was recognized as a leader of the most powerful sort, so close were his relations to Montcalm that he was presented a full uniform of the King's French Colonial Army. That uniform was the particular pride of the Indian chief, and it fittingly became his shroud when, as an old man, he was assassinated at Cahokia by a younger jealous renegade in 1769. He was laid to rest by a band of Frenchmen. Military honors were accorded the dead chief. The governor of the province, General Louis de Bellerive had official charge of the interment. It is believed he was buried near Broadway and Market in the south part of St. Louis.



Tablet to Pontiac, placed in Southern Hotel by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Daughters of the American Revolution placed a finely designed bronze plaque in the corridor of the Southern Hotel, beneath which was buried the man who played such a vital role in the development of St. Louis.

O.K.—now you know the man—how did we get the park? In 1876, over 100 years after the death of Pontiac, the area we now know as Pontiac Park was filled with good housing stock. Witness to this is the *Compton & Dry* sketch.

Fortunately for us, St. Louis grew up with the concept of mixing nature and recreation with housing. City fathers have long felt the city environment would be incomplete without the rest and breathing space provided by the numerous parks. Hence, in 1908 the City Parks Department created our Pontiac Park purchasing the land for ap-

proximately \$94,000. As mentioned, this was a rich housing stock (see photo) and densely populated. Now, it is a treasured resource of 1.9 acres with a playground, fountain, beautiful trees, landscaping, and ball fields.

Now—I think this is a story—how an Ottawa chief associated with French officers on the lower St. Lawrence, found his last resting place on the shore of another great river, with a commemorative park dedicated to him so long ago that no one knows how or why we have a park in his name. It is not only fitting and proper that a place of friendship and fun be dedicated to a man like Pontiac, but it is good to remember him when you pass by—and remember all the spirits of the braves who helped win for us this place we now call home.

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Neighborhood Fabric

by Jay Gibbs



The generously sized townhouse at the corner of S. 12th Street and Ann Avenue was built during the 1880s; in fact, many, if not most, of 12th Street's houses were constructed during that decade.

This townhouse and its large corner yard served originally as a single family home, but like many of the larger homes in Soulard, it was chopped into apartments sometime after the turn of the century. And, like



many Soulard apartment houses, the accumulated years of wear and tear caught up with it. It eventually became a vacant shell.

BSB Development gut-rehabbed the building during the winter of 1991-92, the interior rendered as two large and luxurious apartments. The house has been returned to its original grandeur; this corner of 12th Street has been brought back to life.

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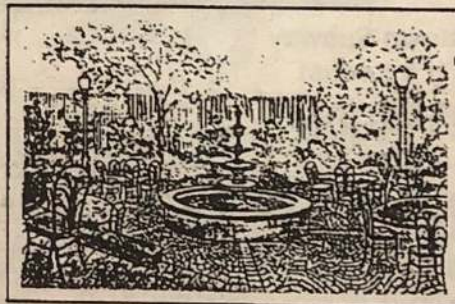
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(continued from page 1)

Tickets for the Tasting are \$10 each, which includes: tasting of the various wines from the wineries; a souvenir wine glass; sampling of cheeses, meats and other Missouri Agri-Products; and live music by "Hot Club Canary." Tickets will be available at various Soulard establishments or can be purchased the evening of the event.

The Missouri Wine Tasting is a fitting addition to the Bastille Festival because of the Missouri connection to French wines. In the 1800s, when a disease attacked the grapevines in France and almost wiped out the wine industry, the hardy grapevines from Missouri were taken to France to help reestablish their vineyards.

Perhaps the best known—and most exciting—Soulard Bastille Days event is the final one. Over \$1500 in cash and many other prizes will be awarded in the 7th Annual Tour de Soulard Criterium Bicycle Races. The first race will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 18, at the corner of 9th Street and Lafayette. The race course is a challenging, 1.0 mile, "J" shaped course through Historic Soulard.

All races will be run according to United States Cycling Federation rules. Categories of races will include: Citizen M and F (18-30); Citi-



Enjoy Soulard's al fresco summer celebration!

zen M and F (30+); Juniors (15-18); Masters 35+, Women 1,2,3; Women 4; Senior 4,5; Senior 1,2,3. With exciting, down-to-the-wire finishes, these races are not to be missed!

We hope you can attend Soulard's 7th annual Bastille Days Festival. Though Antoine Soulard could never have envisioned this summertime street celebration, he became the Soulard neighborhood's legitimate link to France's Bastille Day. The proceeds from this 1993 Bastille Festival go to the American Youth Foundation's Leadership Program, so come one down to Soulard for some summertime fun!



Soulard Market Park will be the location of several Bastille Days events.



**"IN THE HEART
OF SOULARD
THE SOUL OF BLUES"**

Soulard Bastille Days

Schedule of Events

The Soulard Bastille Festival Committee has announced the schedule of events for the 1993 Bastille Celebration. This year's festival will run from Wednesday, July 14th to Sunday, July 18th.

Following are the scheduled activities:

Wednesday, July 14—The ceremonial "beheading" of King Louis and Queen Marie Antoinette, and free concert in Soulard Market Park.

Thursday, July 15—Area restaurants and pubs will feature French Cajun/Creole food specials and live music.

Friday, July 16—A "Missouri Wine Tasting" featuring wines from up to twelve award-winning Missouri wineries to be held at Soulard Market Park, and live jazz featuring the music of Hot Club Canary under the tent in the park.

Saturday, July 17—Arts and Crafts Fair in Soulard Market Park, a French Taste of Soulard at participating establishments, free Jazz/Blues Concert at Soulard Market Park, featuring six of St. Louis' best jazz and blues bands.

Sunday, July 18—The 7th Annual "Tour de Soulard" bicycle race through the streets of Soulard. This race is sanctioned by the United States Cycling Federation and offers thousands of dollars in prizes. Also, the annual bartenders' foot-races and a live blues concert in Soulard Market Park.

Throughout the five-day festival, the participating establishments will feature food specials ranging from authentic French to Cajun/Creole, bar specials and a variety of live entertainment.

Proceeds from the 1993 Bastille Festival will help sponsor area youths in the American Youth Foundation's Leadership Program.

The Bastille Festival is sponsored annually by the Soulard Business Association to promote the neighborhood's business and residential environment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL SOULARD 24-HOUR HOTLINE

781-7272

❀ VALETRECYCLINGPAYSOFF ❀

by Terry Hoffman

After over a year of Soulard Valet Recycling, we think it's time to start bragging...because we're proud of several important milestones.

First, over 75 Soulard residents feel strongly enough about recycling to be actively involved in our monthly pick-up program. Even more, many have volunteered their time to help with the pick-ups. They've had the opportunity to meet neighbors, share common concerns about the environment, and see—firsthand—that small recycling contributions from individual households produce large contributions to the recycling process.

Second, your recyclables are adding up. Our monthly haul to the recycling center averages over 2,500 pounds! Since the program began, we've diverted nearly 50,000 pounds from the landfill. Not bad for a volunteer organization.

Third, and most importantly, recycling is paying off...not only for our environment...but for our neighborhood. Witness the completely landscaped vacant lot on Lami (between 12th and 13th Streets). The Soulard Restoration Group (SRG) had begun the process of turning this lot into a vest-pocket park a couple of years ago. Now their efforts have been augmented.

Twenty trees and shrubs were purchased from proceeds earned from our (your) recycling efforts and on June 5, Valet Recycling volunteers spent the entire morning digging (we should have rented jack-hammers to get through the foundation rocks every shovel seemed to uncover); planting (one tulip tree, one plum tree, six forsythia, three weigelia, one althea, three spirea, 3 burning bush, three viburnum, and lots of euonymus); mulching (keeps the weeds down, gives it a nice finished look, and, most importantly, keeps it low-maintenance); watering (satisfying



A plum tree gets a new home.

the thirst of newly-planted trees and shrubs); and, of course, drinking (satisfying the thirst of hot, tired, worn-out volunteers).

Many thanks to those who helped...we couldn't have done it without your dedication and your concern for our environment.

Thanks to Michelle and Tom Easches, Jay Gibbs, Stephen Hale, Petra and Brian Haynes, Linda Hoffman, Craig Jones, Bob Printz, Clark Rowley, Mary Jo Warren, Bob Weber, Bob Williams, Marcia Wilson, Mary Sheridan (for arranging city mulch and matching funds from the SRG), Allens Garden Shop (for providing and delivering our bounty), and to those children who rode the wheelbarrows...because, after all, this really is for them.



Daughter shows father how to water.

If you have questions about the OPERATION of Valet Recycling (e.g., "Is it worth the trouble?" or "Will they really pick up my trash if I leave it on the curb?" or "Do I really have to get up by 8:00 a.m. on a Saturday?"), the answers to all of the above are "YES." However, if you have any concerns about the EFFECTIVENESS of Valet Recycling, all you have to do is drive by the Lami lot and see for yourself.

As Soulard residents, we all benefit from recycling in obvious ways (by reducing landfill volume), but we also benefit in not-so-obvious

ways...by converting yesterday's trash into today's plantings and into tomorrow's landscapes. Landscapes help build human scale and human scale is what differentiates a city neighborhood from city blocks.

Look at what has been accomplished with only 75 Soulard households actively involved in Valet Recycling. Imagine how many vacant lots could be transformed into small gardens or parks if more residents became involved.

Think about it, and call 664-2803 if you want to make a difference.



Spreading mulch and cleaning up—is the beer cold yet?

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Ain't No Place Like This Place . . . Anyplace!

by Rich McAfee

The Hi-Way Bar, at the corner of 13th and Lynch Streets, is one of those places that defies accurate description. Clarence Robison, one of the fixtures at the combination cafe/bar, provided the title to this article. There just "ain't no place like this place anyplace." Whenever I say, "I've gone to the corner," everyone who knows me knows I've gone to the Hi-Way. One time a friend was visiting from Kansas City and asked me to describe this "corner" place. The best description I could come up with was that the Hi-Way Bar lies somewhere between *Cheers* and the *Cantina* from *Star Wars*. It pushes the word *eclectic* to the MAX.



And here's Clarence after announcing, "Ain't no place like this place anyplace."

When I first moved to Soulard, I lived on Lynch within two blocks of the Hi-Way. But until moving into the "money pit" house on 13th Street, I didn't know the little haunt

existed. One evening after an exhausting session of moving I sat down in front of the television. Somehow, the channel had been turned to one of those access channels—you know the type—one that provides rolling, never-ending advertisements. Too tired to reach for the remote control, I just watched. All of a sudden, something caught my eye. There—juxtaposed between Bingo at Boniface and AAAA Plumbing—was The Hi-Way Bar, featuring a special chicken dinner for some unbelievably low price. Furthermore, it was located only three doors south from where I sprawled. Hunger overcame my exhaustion. My convivant, Bud, was in the same shape, so we dragged ourselves to "the corner." We have become fixtures ourselves ever since.

The Hi-Way is owned by Patty and Conard (better known as Possum) Campbell, both of whom have had a love-hate and active relationship with Soulard before and after it was designated as an historic district. Patty, a feisty, smile-inspiring redhead, recalls the rough days when the decaying neighborhood was threatened with demolition. "The headache ball was rollin' through here like Grant through Richmond." [Actually, her original expression was more descriptive and funnier, but she asked me to revise it after she realized that certain words don't look good in print—something about "... through a tin horn."] Both she and Possum remember compatriots straddling rooftops, preventing the swing of that headache ball.



Patty and Possum celebrating their wedding anniversary. (Patty's left hand gently caresses Possum's shoulder. Her right hand wields a very sharp chicken-carving knife which she would not hesitate to insert between his shoulder blades dare he move.)



Justin—the world's youngest pool pro—instructs his dad, Jess and Uncle Bud (the one we're not supposed to talk about) in the finer points of the game.

Well before *The Renaissance* existed, Possum was a member of an *ad hoc* group of neighborhood activists that wrote the first historic code. That document was accepted and survived until the new historic standards recently adopted by the Board of Aldermen replaced it. It's fun to watch Possum's facial expressions when he overhears a band of yuppies debating the color and type of mortar to be used as acceptable tuckpointing material, knowing that there would be few bricks to tuckpoint without his early involvement in the preservation district movement. Rarely does he sit back reticently when such discussions take place. *Outspoken* understates his behavior. Not everyone agrees with Possum—I rarely do—but when it comes down to devotion to Soulard, his motives are clear, clean, and undeniable. He cares.

The building housing the Hi-Way has been a tavern since Prohibition ended. Sometime during the construction of I-55, the name was adopted. The Campbells bought the bar May 11, 1969 and never felt compelled to change the name. Possum claims that they are the last of the original bar owners surviving the transition. Until 1974, only drinks were served. But Patty, who prefers "one chicken-eater to 20 obnoxious drunks any day," developed a simple menu, and it's paid off.

Every year when *The Riverfront Times* conducts its restaurant poll (specifically Best Fried Chicken), I laugh at the results. I've tasted the consistent winner's fried chicken, and believe me, Patty's \$4 dinner—in contrast—makes the winner's taste like the "Colonel's" leftovers on a bad day. Someday, when more *Riverfront Times* readers become addicted to Patty's recipe, the Hi-Way will be declared the winner.

Another big winner is the 1-lb. catfish dinner. No tidbit mystery-fillets here—it's the whole thing ('cept for the head). Whether you choose the rib-eye sandwich or backyard

barbecued pork steak, you'll be back! Now, don't expect a *maitre d'hôtel* to seat you and drape a linen cloth across your lap. Believe me, that'll never happen. But after the "what the hell do you wanna eat tonight?" yell from the kitchen, you're in for a real treat. After licking your fingers, you may want to scratch off a few lottery tickets, mark your Lotto card, or play a friendly game of pool.

Getting back to the Hi-Way's likeness to *Cheers*—have you ever wondered why it caught on as a sitcom? Why, after a day pretending you like your work, would you want to watch people pretending to have a good time? There is no pretending at the Hi-Way. There are, however, several Norms, at least one Cliff, a definite Carla (except she's the boss), an abundance of Woodys—real people who will take time to know your name.

I feel good knowing that there's still someone who cries when she learns a stranger's pet dies—who has probably fed more street people than Larry Rice—who accepts you for who you are—and makes the best damned fried chicken in the world. Her name is Patty. She's real special. The place she runs is the place that's "ain't no place like this place anyplace." Come see her. Say, "Hi!" Strap on the feed bag. Then—"COME BACK, YA HEAR?!"

Patty says,
"Well, hell, if they can't afford four bucks for a half-chicken dinner, they need the money more than I do. So tell 'em if they'll bring one of these coupons in I'll knock off 50¢."

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NEIGHBORS SPRUCE UP ABOUSSIE PARK

On May 16, 25 neighbors in the 2600 and 2700 blocks of S. 13th Street joined forces to spruce up Aboussie Park. They planted 600 flowers, painted the park's sign and iron fencing, pruned the trees, mowed the grass, weeded the flower beds, cleaned up the trash, and spread three dump-truck loads of mulch. Whew! (The plants, paint and mulch were provided by the City.)

Aboussie Park is the city's smallest public park at $\frac{1}{10}$ acre, and has not been given such a thorough clean-up since it was originally dedicated in 1984. Alderman Martie Aboussie hosted a June 13 appreciation picnic in the park for the energetic volunteers. The park, named for his father, was looking rather ragged before the work, but now it is again a beautiful asset to the Souland neighborhood.



Neighbors having "spruced up" Aboussie Park. They intend to keep the park neat and trim from now on.

BINGO! BANGO'S!

by Tonca Yarbrough

Bango's Cafe Espresso isn't easy to spot, but it's worth looking for. Across from Souland Market at 718 Lafayette Avenue, brothers Wayne and Dale Rice have brought a unique eating and drinking experience to the neighborhood.

From their special Crème Iced Coffee to Caffe Latté—from vegetarian black bean chili to gooey butter cups, it's a try-everything menu. More than a coffee shop, more than a vegetarian restaurant, Bango's is a treat. Bagels, croissants, sodas and juices are available for the less adventurous.

One may choose from a selection of gourmet coffees sold by the pound, ounce, or by the bean and ground to specification. A current offering is Costa Rican La Minita. Its production parallels that of a fine wine and it is less expensive than one might think.

While Dale has traveled a great deal, and Wayne has lived out of state for a number of years, both have Souland connections with family and friends.

Wayne Rice was hesitant to tell me how the cafe got its name, but I pried it out of him. When they were trying to decide what to call the place, a song kept going through his mind. "Bingo, bango, bongo—I'm so happy in the jungle, I don't want to go home...."

Could have been worse, I thought. Could have been "mairzy doats and dozey doats..." or "You Light Up My Life," or "Mandy," or

Seating is limited inside, but outdoor service is provided on the patio and carry-outs are available. If you haven't stepped into Bango's yet, it's the perfect stop before or after shopping at Souland Market.



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BLOCK PARTIES!

On August 3, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., each block in Soulard will have its own Block Party. The purpose is to get to know your neighbors and give a "Going Away Party for Crime."

Call your **BLOCK CAPTAIN** or 621-3811 for more details.



South 8th Street residents enjoying their block party last year.

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Tuesday, August 3, 1993
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Sponsored by Operation SafeStreet and The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department

*Sights... Tastes...
& Sounds Of
Boulevard At
America's Center*

The Soulard Restoration Group and the Soulard Business Association teamed up to represent Soulard at the Grand Opening of America's Center, the expanded convention center downtown.

Wandering through the
recreated "streets" of
Soulard, 50,000 people
were presented
with "passports,"
introduced to
a taste of
food and
good music,
and sampled
the great living
of St. Louis'
finest
neighborhood.
Though we
Soulardians
were
obviously
biased,
we thought
Soulard's
"booth"
was the most
creative at
the
grand
opening!



Carlis Dawson in Mardi Gras costume (drag?) promotes the neighborhood in his inimitable style. Soulard's streetscapes were recreated at America's Center.



TALENT IN SOULARD



Local artist Sheryl Walker (shown second from right in the photo above)—featured in this column previously for her portrait painting, is a woman of multiple talents. She is a vocalist in the local band "little 2 much." The band consists of five musicians with many years experience in the local nightclub scene. They present a unique musical repertoire of rock & roll, vintage oldies, r&b, and new-country classics, maintaining consistently strong dance rhythms throughout an evening of music. The other four members of "little 2 much" include Chuck Kiel, guitarist/vocalist; Leigh Busby, vocalist; Dale Stevens, drummer; and Lary Slusser, base guitarist. Call 645-6594 to learn the group's scheduled appearances, or perhaps to employ them in your venue.

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Raspberry Chicken ■ Cajun Pasta ■ Shrimp Creole
Blackened Catfish ■ Beef Burgundy

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Blues Players Pour For Kids

by Judy Ivery

Trainers Restaurant at 10th and Soulard Streets was the site last summer of a fundraiser attended by Tom Nash, trainer of the St. Louis Blues, and three of his players. Nash, defensemen Curt Giles and Brett Hedican, and goalie Guy Hebert gave up their evenings and volunteered to be guest bartenders to benefit The Belle Center.

The Belle Center is located in Dogtown on Tamm Avenue near Clayton Avenue. It was founded in 1984 by Barbara Stewart as a preschool, integrating children with disabilities with normally developing children. The initial focus was on an integrated preschool. Now, many experts believe that integrating children with special needs in a preschool with their normally developing peers will improve all aspects of their development. (Tom Nash chose The Belle Center for the fundraising efforts because a family member has a child attending the school.)

The Belle Center has become a leader in special education with innovative and progressive pro-



The Belle Center, recipient of the fundraiser proceeds.

grams. Their programs include the initial preschool program, a family support program, sibling support group and a parent advocacy training program. Among the classes that are offered are parent-child development classes and joint activities, a lending library, a home-based program with evaluations by a professional team of therapists who prepare Individual Education Plans, day care services, educational consultations for agencies



Brett Hedican, Tom Nash, Guy Hebert.

that wish to include children with disabilities into their activities and Team Evaluations in which children with disabilities are evaluated in a play environment with parents providing input along with physical and developmental therapists.

Many parents of children attending the school attended the fundraiser, and staff members were also on hand, wearing The Belle Center caps. Mike Statter, President of the Board of Directors of The Belle Center, remarked that the school's budget is funded 60% by tuition and the rest by charities or fundraisers. All the tips from the evening and extra donations were given to the Center.

Owners Roseanna Gieselmann and Anne Selman have hosted several fundraisers in the past, including one in September where Cardi-

nals Bob McClure and Bryn Smith raised \$500 for Boys Hope.

Gene Gieselmann, St. Louis Baseball Cardinals trainer and husband of owner Roseanna, made a presentation thanking Tom, Curt, Brett and Guy for helping out on their night off, and put a large picture of Tom on a wall already filled with autographed photos of sports stars.

The bar was packed with hockey fans who ordered their favorite drinks and filled The Belle Center's container with tips. The trainer and players joked with the fans while struggling with the cash register—and took a ribbing with good humor. By the end of the night, the players, fans, employees and parents had filled the tip jar with over \$515 (meeting their self-imposed goal to beat the Cardinal's fundraiser) and everyone had a great time.



Curt Giles and hockey fan "hi-five."

ACADIA CLUB HONORS RETIRING PRESIDENT

Carlis Dawson, retiring President of the Anheuser-Busch Acacia Club, received a commemorative trowel from Dean Bullington, President, as a token for spreading the mortar of good will in the community (see photo). The Acacia Club provides Thanksgiving food baskets for needy people in Soulard. The club works in conjunction with the St. Louis Police Department and local church parishes. Last year, 50 families in Soulard—in addition, these organizations: Shelter the Children, St. Agatha's, and Christ Church Cathedral's Shelter for Women & Children—were served.



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(continued from page 1)

But it gets even worse! You're finally knocked off your feet by the earth's bouncing and shaking, and the walls and roofs of some townhouses loudly collapse. Cracks open in the street pavement as you watch your own house, your proud old renovated house, sway too far and partially collapse into the sideyard. The seismometers have passed 8.0.

Finally, after almost 5 minutes, the shaking and rumbling fade to faint trembles, and then stillness and silence. The smell of sewage mingles with the stronger odor of natural gas. There is the sound of car alarm sirens and the screams and cries of people unseen. The neighborhood is in ruins. Just as you're getting to your feet—numb with shock—a flash of fire and smoke accompanied by a loud **WHUMP!** disturbs the tilted remains of a neighbor's home across the buckled street. Though it's over, the disaster has really just begun.

Could such an earthquake really happen? This description befits the worst possible disaster, and, thankfully, the least likely. In an all-out quake like those which struck the midwest in the winter of 1811-12, no amount of preparation could prevent the pandemic destruction, the amplitude of which would be akin to a nuclear attack. But for the lesser, and far more likely quake, we can prepare.

WHAT IS A QUAKE

AND HOW IS IT MEASURED?

The earth's surface crust is made up of huge miles-thick sections called "plates," which "float" on a molasses-consistency, semi-molten lower crust. The edges of these plates push tightly against each other as the plates slowly move during centuries of time, and the cracks in and the edges of the plates are the weak spots in this motion, called "faults." Massive forces slowly build up along these faults as the plates move, until the accumulated stresses are relieved by sudden slipping, grinding movements at the faults. The shaking of earthquakes is simply the ground motion created by the grinding movements.

In 1935, Charles Richter invented the Richter scale to measure the actual amounts of movement at the faults. An important fact is that the scale is set on a logarithm progression based on 10—that is, each increase of 1 on the scale means a 10 times-as-intense movement: 5.0 is 10 times greater than a 4.0, and 8.00 is 100 times more intense than a 6.0 and 1,000 times more intense than a 5.0, and so forth.

WHAT ABOUT RIGHT HERE IN SOULARD?

In general, while the Richter scale measures actual ground movement, it cannot account for local variations of soil structure and

geology, which can dampen or increase the shaking at specific locations. Also, the faults deep under ground resemble spider webs of large and small cracks. The New Madrid fault is the largest and most infamous in the midwest, but there are several other faults which could wreak havoc on St. Louis. The last strong earthquake in St. Louis occurred on the Wabash Valley fault in November 1968, measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale. Here in Soulard a few chimneys toppled, and at least one rowhouse, at 1033 Allen Avenue, suffered several significant cracks in its walls. (That building has been gut rehabbed since then, with the damaged brick walls dismantled and rebuilt.) So take heart, Soulard has already survived quakes, with only minor damage.

WHAT ARE THE PROBABILITIES OF A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE?

Even though it is impossible to predict exactly when, or where, or how strong a quake will hit, scientists in the field have developed statistical probabilities for future activity.

Small tremors happen relatively often. Activity measuring 1.0 to 1.5 on the Richter scale occurs almost daily along the New Madrid fault. The shaking at around 3.0—the tremors you can feel and talk about around the office the next day—occurs every year or so.

The bigger, rarer quakes have to be predicted. The probability of at least a 6.0 to 6.5 earthquake is estimated at 50% within a decade and 90% within 50 years. The probability of an earthquake of at least 7.6 magnitude is estimated at 10% in the next 10 years and 25% within 50 years. The probability of an all-out earthquake of at least 8.6 in magnitude, similar to the 1811-12 quakes (and to the depiction at the beginning of this article), is estimated at 1% in the next 10 years and 3% within half a century. Clearly what we need to be most concerned about are the higher-probability, moderate to moderately severe quakes. These percentages of probability will slowly rise over time, the longer the faults go without relieving their accumulating stresses.

WILL THE HISTORIC HOUSES IN SOULARD SURVIVE?

The answer to this question depends upon three main factors. The most important and obvious factor is, of course, the intensity of the ground motion, but two other factors also come into play.

The second factor is the type of ground on which the building stands, specifically whether on bedrock, firm soil, or loose soil. Buildings such as the Arch and downtown high-rises are built on bedrock, but most low-rise homes are built on soil. The U.S. Geological

Survey has drawn maps of the St. Louis area, called Mercalli Intensity Maps, which show the relative damage expected during earthquakes of various magnitudes, based on soil type. The worst damage will occur on river flood plains and on other soft soil areas, as loose clay soil undergoes liquefaction and settling. Liquefaction only occurs near bodies of water where the water table is very close to the surface, and Soulard is far enough away from the Mississippi River to avoid this danger. Settling, more of a concern to us, occurs where air pockets and other low density soil areas compact while being disturbed. Houses built over areas such as caves and over low land which was filled in are at significant risk. There are some blocks in Soulard that fit these criteria.

Even the firmest soil, however, is problematic in an earthquake. The vibrations of a quake coming through solid rock would feel like a series of sharp quick jolts, while the same movements coming through our clay soil will be more fluid and last longer. It's almost like having a house built in a huge bowl of wiggling gelatin. Even when the bowl is no longer being shaken, the gelatin continues to bounce for a time: Sometimes the mere repetition of moderate shaking is worse than a few, more severe, jolts.

The third factor in determining the danger to Soulard's houses is

the architecture itself. Our old houses were built of brick, "unreinforced masonry" construction, meaning the brick walls actually support the floors and roofs structurally. The wooden rafters and joists rest in pockets in the masonry, and the danger is that while a house is swaying during a quake, the brick walls can separate from, and hence drop, the floors and roofs they support. Loose, unmaintained brick walls can also literally dissolve when shaken hard enough, almost like ice cubes falling out of an ice cube tray. This type of construction is the most vulnerable type of building in earthquakes, "as fragile as sand castles in a hard shaking," according to one writer. Newer, wood framed houses, infill housing for instance, are more structurally flexible, and hence, are more likely to survive.

Beyond this characteristic, the shape, condition, and orientation of your house can be variables. In general, a narrower and taller townhouse is more at risk than, say, a wider, squatter four-family flat.

The orientation—north/south or east/west—of your house could also make a difference. Consider a 20-foot wide, 60-foot long townhouse. If the quake causes the house to sway from side to side, the possibility of collapse is greater than if the swaying is front to back. The direction of the swaying will be determined by house orientation *vis-a-*

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vis seismic wave direction. Frankly, there is not much we can do about that.

The condition of your home is the final issue: tuckpointed, well-maintained walls will hold together much longer than cracked, bulging, dilapidated ones. Homes with metal braces (the familiar "stars") on the exterior walls have an advantage, as do homes which were gut-rehabbed and have new 2" x 4" "fired-out" frame walls on the interior side of the original brick ones. In a quake, this framing could be the crucial difference, holding up the floors and roof even if the brick walls fell away.

There are several ways to retrofit masonry buildings: interior or exterior steel bracing, which is unsightly or unhistoric; addition of layers of reinforced concrete on the exterior, also unhistoric and ugly; and boring vertical holes straight down through the masonry walls and inserting steel rods therein, which is prohibitively expensive. The 2" x 4" firing-out during a gut rehab is the easiest, least expensive, and least disruptive retrofit, and adding the "star" braces helps also.

OMIGOD!

SHOULD I MOVE TO ALASKA?!

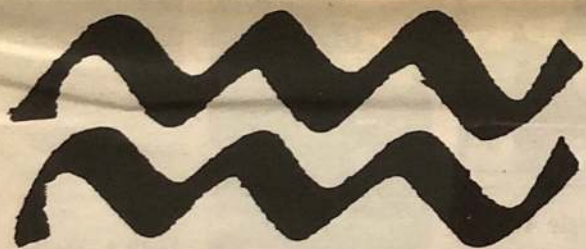
No, don't do that; they have earthquakes up there, too. Despite all this scary information, this is no time to panic. Not only did Souldard survive the 5.5 Wabash Valley

quake in 1968, it survived an (estimated) 6.7 New Madrid shaking back in October 1895. The total destruction depicted at the beginning of this article is extremely unlikely. Much more likely is a moderate quake which leaves most buildings standing, but topples furniture, cuts off electricity, water, and bridges, and tips over home water heaters, starting many fires. Keeping in mind that there may be one to several days when you're on your own, while authorities reestablish services, you can prepare for these contingencies.

Start by buying earthquake insurance, which is fairly inexpensive when added to an existing homeowner's or renter's insurance policy. Don't put it off, **DO IT!**

The other things you can do are: a) keep your home well-maintained—particularly the brickwork; b) secure to the walls your tall, heavy furniture, and particularly your furnace and water heater; and c) prepare an emergency kit, especially first aid supplies and plenty of fresh water. See the sidebar article for more DOs and DON'Ts on earthquakes. If you want more information on the subject, call the City of St. Louis City Emergency Management Agency at 622-3501.

There is going to be an earthquake—no one knows when or how bad. Prepare yourself and your home, and then relax and live your life.



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what to do



before an earthquake

Movement of the ground seldom is the actual cause of death or injury. Most casualties result from partial building collapses, falling objects and debris, like toppling chimneys, falling bricks, ceiling plaster, and light fixtures. Many of these conditions can be prevented by taking a few steps now to prepare.

- ◆ Place heavier objects on lower shelves to prevent breakage and personal injury.
- ◆ Bolt to walls anything that might topple, like top-heavy shelves, appliances, and furniture. Don't hang heavy picture frames or mirrors over the bed. Don't hang plants in heavy pots that could swing free of hooks.
- ◆ Strap your water heater to wall studs with metal plumbing tape to prevent broken pipes and fires.
- ◆ Locate master switches and shutoff valves for all utilities and know how to turn them off. Your local utility company can show you.
- ◆ Keep on hand a flashlight; a portable radio with fresh batteries; a first-aid kit; a fire extinguisher (Class C is designed to use safely on any type of fire, including electrical, grease, and gas); a three-day supply of fresh water, non-perishable, ready-to-eat foods; and an adjustable wrench for turning off gas and water.

during an earthquake

During a major earthquake, you may experience a gentle shaking that becomes violent in a second or two and knocks you off your feet, or you may be jarred first by a violent jolt—as though your house was hit by a truck. A second or two later, you feel the shaking and, as in the first example, it may be impossible to move from one room to another.

- ◆ Stay calm and stay put.
- ◆ If indoors, crouch under a desk or heavy table, or brace yourself in a doorway. Stay away from windows or brick masonry (like fireplaces), bookcases, china cabinets, and mirrors.
- ◆ If outdoors, stand away from buildings, trees, and power lines.
- ◆ If driving, move away from overpasses, stop slowly in a safe area, and stay in your vehicle. Stay off bridges. Listen to the radio.
- ◆ If in a high-rise building, stay in the building, on the same floor. Get under a desk and stay away from outside walls and windows. Do not use the elevator.



after an earthquake

- ◆ Wear sturdy shoes to protect your feet from broken glass.
- ◆ Check for injuries and apply necessary first-aid.
- ◆ Check gas, water, electrical lines, appliances for damage. If you smell gas or see a broken line, shut off the main valve. Do not switch on the gas or electricity again until the power company checks your home. Do not light matches, use any open flames, or turn on electrical switches or appliances until you are certain that there are no gas leaks.
- ◆ Check to see that sewage lines are intact before you use the toilet. Plug bathtub and sink drains to prevent sewage backup.
- ◆ Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline, and other flammable liquids.
- ◆ Check for building damage and potential safety hazards—like cracks around chimneys or foundations.
- ◆ Be prepared for aftershocks, which can further damage weakened structures.
- ◆ Listen to the radio for public safety instructions.
- ◆ Do not use the telephone, except in an emergency.



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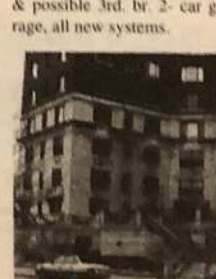
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