



The Soulard Renaissance

"The Neighborhood Magazine of Historic Soulard"

VOL. XVIII — ISSUE 5

Celebrating the *Renaissance* of Soulard

WINTER 1993

Though it's not on the Tour, you won't be able to miss it!

The Story Of Soulard's Largest House: THE BROWN/FORSTER/ SCHAEFFER MANSION

by
Jay Gibbs

[Author's note: I am writing (more slowly than I'd like) a book covering the history of the Soulard neighborhood, entitled Soulard Stories: From Immigrants to Rehabbers, The History of An Urban Neighborhood. This article will appear in slightly rewritten form as a chapter in that book, which should be available in late 1994 or early 1995.]

The largest and most opulent of the mansions, the *pièce de resistance* of Soulard architecture, has to be the big empty house on the northwest corner of South 13th and Lami Streets. Vacant for 20 years, its regal yet brooding appearance fires the imagination. Known colloquially as "The Schaeffer Mansion," this romantic and mysterious house is a fantasy of many Soulard rehabbers: "When I win the lottery, I'm going

to fix up and live in that place!" So far, this mansion awaits its savior.

The house was not always so empty. In 1874, a James Taussig sold four hillside lots near the outskirts of the city of St. Louis, which he had recently purchased from the Thomas Allen family, to William Brown for \$3200. Brown, owner of the profitable Pioneer Steam Keg Works, which manufactured oak barrels for the burgeoning breweries in St. Louis, began immediately erecting an impressive new home for himself and his family.

He sited his house on the northern edge of his 100' by 142' plot and built it in an "L" shape (as seen from above) with a hipped ridge roof and with a door and five large windows defining its front facade facing Summer (later S. 13th) Street. The facade also featured an ornate porch running the length of the facade. The interior featured 12-foot



The huge brooding house at 2317 S. 13th Street still awaits its saviour. Oh, the stories its walls could tell!

(The fascinating story of the Schaeffer Mansion continues on page 6)



1993 Soulard Holiday House Tour December 4 and 5

On Saturday, December 4 and Sunday, December 5, the Soulard Restoration Group will hold its annual "Holiday House Tour." Tour hours this year are 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. both days. The later times should allow for the most impressive viewing of the various lighting displays. Soulard residents will act as tour guides and will lead small groups through the tour route, discussing the history of the homes and the Soulard neighborhood in general.

Each home on tour will be decorated for the holidays. Moreover, there will be seasonal goodies, such as hot apple cider, roasted chestnuts, candy canes, gingerbread men, and cookies at each home free of charge. Homeowners will be available to answer questions regarding the history of each home and the area.

Additional tour highlights include a heated motor coach ride through the world famous Anheuser-Busch holiday light display, and Santa Claus will be on hand for complimentary picture-taking in his Soulard workshop. Participants may purchase Soulard souvenirs on tour day. Tour guests are encouraged to dress for the weather and to wear comfortable shoes, as this is primarily a walking tour.

Tickets are \$8.00 in advance or \$10.00 at the door. Advance tickets may be ordered through Metrotix at 534-1111 with no service charges added. For additional information call the Soulard Restoration Group at 621-6226. The tour begins at Jesus Church at the corner of 12th and Victor Streets. Tour proceeds will help the beautification projects of the Soulard community.

The Soulard Restoration Group wishes to thank the Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc., for its continued support of our house tour program.





NOTES from the BRICK HOUSE

by
Sedg Mead

It is a beautiful Indian summer, November day in Souard. I am writing my last "Notes from the Brick House" as Cindy Harrison has been elected the new President. Tommy Phillips has been elected Vice President; Sue Varner, Secretary; Nancy Adams, Treasurer, and Richard Eaton, Bob Kraiberg, and Kathy Siddens to the Board. I believe they will do an excellent job leading the SRG over the next year.

On October 20, the SRG held a special meeting to decide on an option for the Visitor Center. Option #4 was chosen, which provides that the building will be retained, but not fully rehabbed at the present time. The outside will be fixed up, and the grounds will be landscaped into a park. In this way, the site will be an attractive entrance into Souard, and the building will be preserved, if funds can be raised at a later date for a complete rehab.

I want to thank those members of the Board who have retired: Kathy Duckworth, Elaine Wright, Charles Ryburn, Gary Siddens, and Jay Gibbs. They all have done an outstanding job. I want to give a particular thanks to Jay Gibbs and his staff for a tremendous year editing and publishing *The Souard Renaissance*. Thanks also to Gary Siddens and John Durnell for an excellent House Tour. And who were the tremendously overworked leaders at the VP Fair? Charles Ryburn and Cindy Harrison. Finally, thanks to Bob Kraiberg and Kathy Duckworth on the Crime Prevention front.

I want to say to everyone how much I have enjoyed being President of the SRG for the last year. While maybe we weren't flashy, I think it was a solid year of accomplishment. The SRG remains strong both in terms of membership and finances. My wife and I continue to love to live in Souard, where we have so many new and old friends!



The Souard Renaissance

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It is distributed to Souard residents, to Souard 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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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It must be something in the air. In these waning days of autumn, as winter pokes its first cold fingertips into my everyday routine, I experience an overwhelming mood of nostalgia; does this happen to you? Is it something in the chilly wind which mixes falling leaves and snow flurries in the same gust? I always get this way at this time of year, so bear with me as I look back over this year nearly ended.

It's been a good year for Souard. Souard Mardi Gras and Bastille Days went well, and the SRG's House Tours (the two so far) have been great. Souard unfortunately lost three historic buildings to demolition this year, but at least ten times that many have been in the throes of rehab at any given time, and that's not a bad ratio. Our street trees grew like crazy this year, thanks to the soggy spring and summer, and our neighborhood parks and greenspaces have honestly never looked better. A variety of interesting people have moved to Souard this year, and the SRG's Holiday House Tour December 4-5 is looking to be another winner, rounding out the main events of Souard's journey through 1993.

Speaking of the tour, it is the "feature presentation" of this issue of *The Souard Renaissance*, but in addition we have history articles, humor, serious issues, and various nods to the diversity of Souard. It's the same mix I've striven to combine in each issue of this publication all year; hope you enjoy it.

This is my last issue as *Renaissance* editor. I have come to think of this editorship as a little like the role of an orchestral conductor, directing the efforts of many to merge melodiously as a single yet complex chord.

I have appreciated your compliments and suggestions, but as I take my bow, I must in turn acknowledge and thank those, the orchestra, if you will, who have helped me put it together this year.

Thanks first to all the writers and photographers for *The Renaissance*. Without these primary contributors, there would be no newspaper. Thank you to copy-proofreader Nancy and to rough-layout man Richard. Many thanks to our advertising sales force of Jeanne, Mary, and Lynn, whose smooth-running efforts allowed me to concentrate on editorial content. And thanks to Rich at RJM, who transforms a loose pile of articles, ads, and photos into a coherent and attractive publication.

Your *Souard Renaissance* is a volunteer-driven vehicle, and if I might say so, is the best all-volunteer newspaper/magazine in the whole city (RJM does charge, but at less than 50% of the going rate.). So, I salute you all. Thank you so much for making the editing so much smoother.

I am happy to announce that the SRG has found a new victim...er, ahem, volunteer to lead *The Souard Renaissance* in 1994. Please welcome aboard Steve McKenna! Steve and his wife, Lisa, lived right next door to me for four years without my knowing that he is experienced and knowledgeable in publication editing... Gosh, the subject just never came up. You'll get to know him a lot more in the next issue of *The Renaissance*, for now you can read of their transition from renting to home-ownership in Souard elsewhere in this issue.

Well, that's about it...here's where I say a fond farewell as editor to you all. Always remember that Souard, or any neighborhood, is by nature not a corporation or rigid hierarchy, but is rather more of an organic thing; fluid, egalitarian, constantly on the move. As you appreciate and preserve Souard's physical history, also appreciate the funky diversity of her residents. We've got a really great place here; I'm so glad that Souard is my home.

—Jay Gibbs

Souard Restoration Group

Do you love living in Souard?

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 & Souard, at 7:30 p.m.

RENTERS PUT DOWN ROOTS

by Steve McKenna

I suppose it happens to most people sooner or later. After living our whole adult lives as renters, my wife and I decided it was time to find something more permanent.

For four years we lived in a two-story flat on Ninth Street, into which we'd moved about the time of our marriage. We liked living in Souland. We were close to the market, the stadium, and all the restaurants and clubs. Lisa works downtown and has a five-minute commute. I work in the county, so that as I drive to work and home at rush hour, I can laugh at the people driving on the other side of Highway 40 at 15 miles per hour (at best).

So, we began looking around Souland, going on house tours, visiting open houses, and generally trying to get a feel for what was available. We learned about interest rates, closing costs, taxes, and mortgage lender terms like "escrow accounts." (I'm still not totally clear on those, but I have a strong feeling that somebody is making money off them.)

Finally came the time to start looking for real. The landlord was sending letters, asking if we wanted to renew for another year, and we didn't. So, we called a realtor and told him what price range to show us and went around to various listed houses.

We looked at rehabs and newer construction. Many of the rehabs we saw included the words, "With a little work this will be really nice." We didn't really want that much work. We were also living next door to a guy who has been rehabbing his house for ten years and expects to be done "very soon."

We landed in a nice nine-year old house, an "infill house" built in the 1980s, with insulation and thermal windows that give us utility bills less than we were paying in our rather drafty flat. We figured with a newer house we wouldn't need to do much after we moved in. *Wrong!!*

The process of actually buying the house was very smooth, compared to the horror stories I've heard from so many people. On closing day they had only lost one document and we had copies of everything.

Once we had moved in, and most of the boxes were unpacked (we still have several unopened in the basement), we began to notice the little things that needed doing.

I had grown up in a rehab house in the Central West End, built in 1905. I spent my childhood scraping paint or helping my folks remove old tile, carpet or wallpaper. Among the most important things I ever learned from Dad is how you can jury-rig any job if the straightforward approach won't work. Once I moved into my own house, I began to learn the value of that education.

Several of the fence slats were warped or broken. I replaced them. The gate was falling apart, and the hinges were falling off. I rebuilt and rehung it. The hedges hadn't been trimmed since spring. We cut them back and ripped out one that was particularly ugly.

As I was working on the fence, I found a buried walkway. I dug up 200 bricks and, not wanting to waste them, dug out and laid in a path from the patio to the back gate. That's when I found out that no land in Souland is really cleared. Under a half-inch of topsoil you will find every rock, broken bottle, brick chunk or other piece of debris from every building that ever stood on that site.

Inside the house, the projects were smaller. There was no phone jack in the living room, so I installed one. I hung a ceiling fan and lamp in the spare bedroom. Wires needed to be restrung. Pictures needed to be hung. The best gift I've ever gotten is a cordless drill and screwdriver my parents gave me for my birthday before we moved in. They said I'd need it. A day doesn't go by that I don't use it for something.

As I write this, we've been in the house for seven weeks. We still are working on various projects, and I often rely on the experience I got as a child.

There's plenty left to do, but we find that when you own the house, it's worth the effort. You can look at something you've done and know that five years down the road, you'll still have the results of your work. That makes all the difference.

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Carla and Eric

Two recent additions to the Souldard neighborhood, Eric Hobson and Carla McDonough, live in the 2300 block of S. 10th St. Although they did not plan to live in Souldard when they moved to St. Louis at the end of the summer from Knoxville, Tennessee, via a brief, 11 month layover in Springfield, Missouri, they are pleased with their choice. "After living in apartments for years while working on our doctoral degrees, we wanted

to shake off some of their frustrations. "We also made an appointment to look at some apartments in the area while we were down this way."

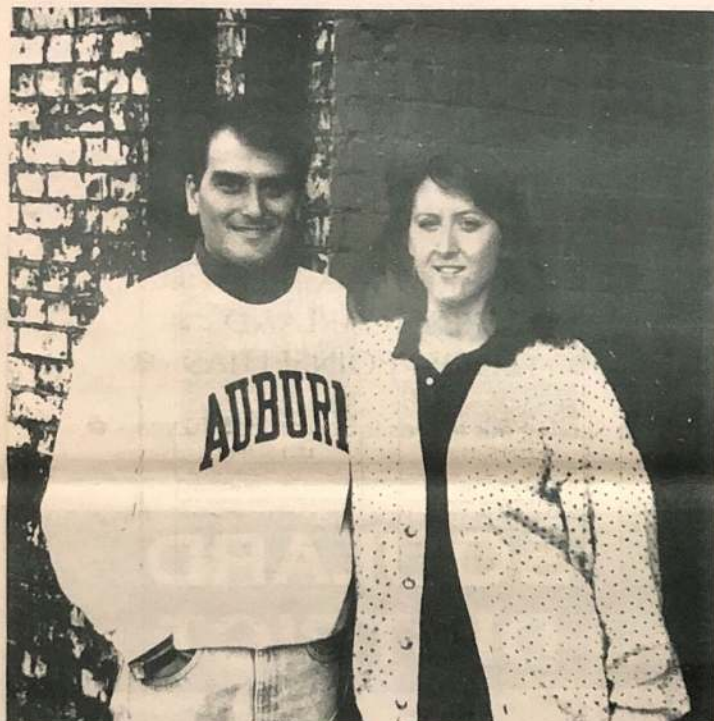
"Our initial attempts to find the Souldard area itself weren't a great success. We ended up driving around the area near the old City Hospital," says Eric. Eric and Carla weren't overly impressed with what they saw. "We checked more than once to see if the car doors

It's nice to walk over to the Market and stop and chat with folk going and coming. I'm beginning to think that Jay Gibbs' claim to be actively working on his house's facade is his excuse to stand out on the weekends and talk to everyone who goes by on the sidewalk."

"Because of my schedule," says Eric, "I've had more of a chance than Carla to participate in activities like the SRG monthly meetings. We both enjoyed helping out at the Fall House Tour, though, and look forward someday in the not-too-distant future, to possibly having a house on the tour." In the mean-

time, Carla and Eric continue to acclimate themselves to Souldard.

As Carla points out, "I'm beginning to know the patterns of people in the neighborhood. It feels right to hear the children start to make noise in the lot across the alley when they get home from school, and a few hours later to see people and their dogs emerge for late afternoon walks." Carla and Eric are still trying to figure out one pattern, however: "Is the smell of hops from the brewery really stronger on the weekends, or are we just imagining that it is?"



to live in a place that wasn't part of the anonymous suburban sprawl. We wanted something that could feel like a home," says Carla.

Finding that place, however, did not come easily. Having no connections in St. Louis, and knowing little about the city in general, Carla and Eric found apartment hunting "a hellacious experience."

"Essentially," says Carla, "we had two days in which to locate and secure a suitable place to live that met our needs for space and location. What we saw were the type of monotonous options to which an apartment agency—an utterly useless service, I might add—directed us: tract complexes, student apartments, four-plexes."

Toward the end of their second day of searching, Carla and Eric, acting on the advice of one of his colleagues at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy, came to Souldard looking for Norton's Cafe. They needed a quiet meal and a chance

were locked." When they finally crossed over into Souldard, however, things began to look up.

"I suppose we were getting a bit desperate by the time we ended up looking at apartments in the neighborhood," says Eric, "but we jumped at the second place we saw. It had space, character, and, most important, easy access to the interstate system." Since their arrival, Carla adds they have discovered many of the other items Souldard offers.

"We quickly discovered Souldard Market—it's become part of our Saturday routine—and the restaurants in the area. We highly recommend Arcelia's and the Saturday afternoon jam session at the 9th and Russell bar."

"An additional surprise," says Eric, "is the openness of the Souldard residents. This is the first place we've lived where we've really been able to meet people in the neighborhood fairly quickly.



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2340 S. 13th

One of the most impressive Victorian restorations we've seen in Souland! Built in 1877, a second full story was added in 1890. Includes custom slate floor (kitchen), restored period cabinetry, refinished pine floors, California closets. \$119,900



2220 S. 11th

Rehabbed in early 1980s, two townhouses have been merged to offer a spacious home including 5 bedrooms, den, family room, eat-in kitchen. A three car garage was erected just months ago. Outside is a good-size private yard. \$145,000



1221 Sidney

3 story home rehabbed approx. 15 years ago. Dramatic Great Room with 2 story atrium and gallery crowned by hand made 8 arm chandelier. Dining room with wet bar and access to deck. Wonderful home for entertaining. \$123,500



2322 S. 9th

Neat as a pin 2 bedroom townhouse with an eye for historic detail. Exposed brick, original trim and doors, wood burning stove, galley kitchen with walk in pantry. Plenty of closets and pretty yard. Off street parking. \$79,900



1417 S. 10th

Four plus bedrooms, 3.5 baths, all superbly presented. Add a finished basement and you have 4 full floors of superbly rehabbed living! \$117,500



1232 Sidney

Great value on a trendy rehab in a nice block! Lots of light and surprising space! Closets galore and all systems updated. \$75,900



2215 Menard

Best 4 bedroom value in Souland! Totally rehabbed by present owners, with all systems updated. Living room with fireplace, original trim, superbly equipped kitchen with mud room off to yard. Covered porch on 2nd floor. Off street parking. \$109,900



1216 Victor

Unique 4 bedroom home in very pretty setting. All systems updated in the 70s with 2 baths. Central air included. Perfect for the city dweller who loves a large yard and wants garage space. 3-car garage at rear, with additional parking for 4 cars! \$114,900



1831 S. 8th

Dynamic rehab of the original Christopher School Hall in final stages of completion. Upbeat, space and light everywhere! Living room opens out to 2 stories, kitchen equipped with original stainless steel commercial sink. Parking at rear off street \$125,000



1205 Sidney

Features 12 foot ceilings, stripped oak and walnut floors. Matching marble fireplaces complement living and dining rooms. Two side porches, wine cellar and three bedrooms with 2.5 baths. You'll love the original historic detail. \$138,000



2318 S. 9th

Outside features 3 levels of decks including roof deck, pretty yard and off street parking. Inside this free standing 3 story there are oak floors, woodburning fireplace, eat in kitchen, 2nd floor laundry, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. It's a great value at \$106,000.



1925 S. 9th

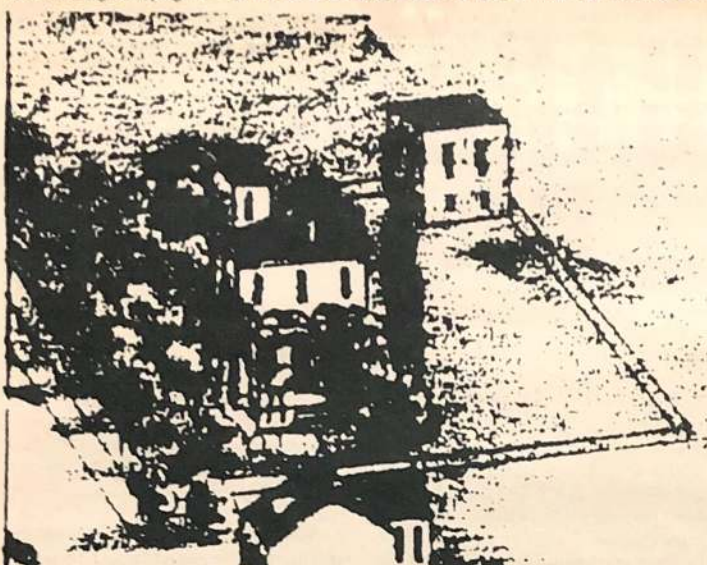
New Orleans style street entrance leads to huge amount of living space. Separate living/dining room, study, large kitchen. Additional den space in the basement, and 2 bedrooms with full bath on second floor. \$104,000

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In Souland... Selling Souland



The house as it appeared in Compton and Dry's Pictorial History drawing in 1875. The house, marked by a number "1" was brand new. Its architecture was radically altered in 1892.

ceilings, front and rear staircases at opposite ends of a center hall, several beautiful marble fireplaces, and other heavy Victorian era trim and fixtures. Before the house was even completed, Mr. Brown purchased two more adjacent lots in early 1875 from the Allen family for \$1,075.

Thus, the estate assumed its present size, with the new house now situated with commodious grounds all around it. Brown soon constructed a carriage house at the northwest corner of his land, and not many years after that, built the

first of what would be many additions to the house by "filling in" the open corner of the "L", making the house a square shape (as seen from above). Interestingly, the address of this house in its early years was 1401 Lami St., before the streets and the addresses along them were renumbered.

The Browns lived in the house together until William died in 1890. His widow, Mary, transferred ownership of the house to his estate, of which she was executor; in February 1892, she sold the entire property to Christian Marquard Forster

and his wife, Catherine, for \$15,000. C.M. Forster, manager of the British syndicate-owned Hyde Park Brewery, was a wealthy man, and he quickly set about altering the house to suit his taste and social station. He hired an architect, whose plans completely transformed the 18-year-old house inside and out.

The whole original third story of the house was torn off, replaced by a tall pyramidal slate roof topped with copper spires. The roof peak was so high that a one-room fourth story, with its own tiny dormer window, resulted. The two street fa-

walls, beautifully hand painted. Combination gas/electric light fixtures were installed in the rooms, taking advantage of the new fad of electricity.

The grounds were also reworked. The land was raised and leveled, held by a limestone retaining wall topped by an ornate wrought iron fence, imported at great expense from Europe. Finally, a new, much larger carriage house was constructed next to the original—the carriage house was larger than some of the nearby homes! The architect very capably combined all these alterations into a coherent and massive Romanesque-style castle; the Forsters owned a home as impressive as any in the Compton Heights subdivision or in the new private places of the West End.

C.M. Forster's name lives on in the initials carved into the carriage stone located near the corner curb of the Lami Street sidewalk. Carriage stones were necessary for heavily-dressed Victorian ladies to step up into horse-drawn carriages with dignity, aplomb, and without publicly exposing any skin.

Sixteen years later, in March 1908, the Forsters sold the mansion they'd created, which by then was architecturally passé, to Frank and Della Lind. Lind made his fortune in the retail grocery business; it was apparently he who built a one-story flat-roofed addition on the rear of the house, completing the major alterations to this day. The Linds lived in the home until 1922, when



The mantel dates from 1874, and the wedding cake-like carved wood confession on top dates from 1892. Through the doorway on the left is a huge built-in mirror in the main hall.

acades of the house were artfully altered, using several architectural styles.

On the front facade, the lacy porch was pulled down and replaced with a smaller but much more massive Romanesque porch. A whole section of front wall was dismantled and a round turret was grafted over the hole. The other front windows were also recast as Romanesque. On the south facade, two columns of bay windows were added to bring more light inside, a nod back to the hybrid Victorian era styles. The wide, bracketed overhang of the roof was an Italianate touch, and the triangular gable on the south elevation is the only significant Eastlake style architecture in Souldard.

Inside, the transformation continued. The floors were overlaid with parquet except the main hallway, which received mosaic tile. Both of the Victorian staircases were ripped out and replaced by one wide, massive extravaganza, replete with paneling, fretwork, lincrusta walls, and crystal light fixtures. The first floor rooms also gained fretwork, ornamental plaster ceilings, and canvas-covered



"The Schaeffer Mansion" as it appeared in 1945, when the Schaeffer family resided there. The house looks pretty much the same today. Note the old-style street light, the workman apparently unloading a truck on the lower left, and the mansard third story (since removed) of the townhouse next door at 2311 S. 13th St.



Massive oak double front doors, protected by another set of oak storm doors. All the glass is intact!



On the 1892 carriage house in the left foreground, one can still faintly see the painted sign "Carl I. Schaeffer Electric Co." The 1875 carriage house, with the porch, is in the background.

they moved elsewhere and began renting out the property. For the next 20 years the house endured as rental apartments; one of those tenants in the mid-1920s was St. Louis' City Jailer, a man by the unlikely name of William Troll.

In 1924, Frank and Della Lind sold (and financed) the house to Stanley and Bella Wania, who lived in part of the house and sublet the remainder. During the depths of the Great Depression, however, the Wanias' financial setbacks forced them to deed the rooming house in 1933 back to its previous owners, Frank and Della Lind. The Linds weathered the Depression, but Frank died in 1939 and ownership was hence inherited via probate court by Della and several nieces and nephews. This clan finally got together and sold the property to Carl and Eulalia Schaeffer for \$7,000 in June 1942.

The Schaeffer family actually had occupied the house since 1935 as tenants of the Linds. The property offered two advantages to the

Schaeffers: First, Carl installed his growing electrical contracting business in the 3,000 square feet of conveniently located carriage houses out back, and second, the 14-room mansion offered adequate living space for the burgeoning family. Eulalia bore 17 children, one of whom died in infancy; the other 16 kids were raised in what became known as the "Schaeffer Mansion." The name has stuck to this day.

To handle such a large family, the Schaeffers had to adopt some "cheaper by the dozen" strategies. According to a 1949 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* article, Carl installed a public address system inside the house, with a different bell signal to summon each child. He installed industrial-size household appliances, and built for the kids a veritable playground in the yard, including a wading pool, playhouse, swing sets, and a walk-in doll house for the girls.

Imagine their large grocery and clothing bills, and imagine the potential chaos as nine girls and seven

boys vied for a few minutes' privacy in the house's four bathrooms in the morning before school and work! Fortunately, Eulalia was good at devising schedules for not only morning bathroom time, but for chores and meals. Despite the large size of the brood, every child had his or her own bed; many of them wore hand-me-downs and washed their own laundry as a matter of course.

During their years in the house, the Schaeffers were good stewards of the residence. They even had all the hand-painted canvas walls and ceilings (roses and vines painted on large panels) professionally restored for the first time since 1892. A 1945 photo shows a neatly kept mansion and park-like yard of grass and tall trees. No doubt the grounds were popular with children in the neighborhood: a green respite from the crowded tenements and brick courtyards nearby.

The Schaeffer family moved to suburban Oakville in the early 1950s. Because of the number of

commercial vehicles going in and out of the grounds daily, Carl feared that his kids or their playmates from the neighborhood would be injured.

The Schaeffers subsequently rented the house to one of their daughters, Joan, and her new husband, Charles Nigh. The Nighs redid the mansion into small apartments, which they rented to interns working at City Hospital. The hospital was an easy seven block walk straight up 13th Street before highway construction plowed through the neighborhood.

Carl later moved his ever-growing electrical business to nearby Sidney Street, until highway construction doomed the site. He moved the business again, to its present site on Jefferson Avenue just south of Gravois.

As the Souldard area's condition spiraled downward, good tenants became progressively more difficult for the Schaeffers to find; some renters even began looting the house of its ornate fixtures. After



The heavy Romanesque porch dates from 1892, as does the turret. Note the different styles of foundation: The smooth foundation dates from 1875; the "rough" sections were overlaid in 1892.



Gilded fretwork and canvas-covered walls (unfortunately painted over) in the parlor.



The last remaining old light fixture in the house hangs in the second parlor, or music room.

Carl died in 1969, the family put the old mansion up for sale, but could find no takers for what had become a white elephant in a seedy slum. They finally dropped the price low enough, and Craig and Helen Phagley purchased the whole estate for \$5,000 in 1971.

The Phagleys put a new slate roof on the house and began the arduous process of rehabbing 9,000 square feet of house and outbuildings. Craig bought out Helen's interest in 1975 and continued the slow rehab. He rebuilt parts of the stone retaining wall along 13th Street, had the entire wrought iron fence sandblasted, repaired, and painted—one section at a time—and started installing modern wiring and HVAC systems inside. Out back, he rehabbed the old electric business offices as an apartment, where he lived, and converted the larger 1890s carriage house into a recording studio. Apparently Craig had contacts in the music business:

Neighborhood legend has it that the Charlie Daniels Band and other big-name musicians "jammed" in the large, semi-soundproofed garage space during those years.

After 12 years of renovating the behemoth property, Mr. Phagley had had enough, and he sold it to Edward and Stephanie Bydalek for \$165,000 in 1983. Ed bought the property planning to renovate it for commercial office space, renting to architectural and design firms. He got plans and rezoning approved, but his prospective tenants balked and walked, putting the whole project on hold.

Since then the Bydaleks have offered the property for sale, and a steady stream of buyers have taken a look. Some of the other proposals of hopeful buyers for the large old house have included: various Bed and Breakfast ideas; conversion back to a single-family residence (it has only been such for about one-half its years); a banquet/reception

facility; and a couple of private social or professional club ideas. The Bydaleks are also willing to consider joint ventures, using their existing commercial space plans.

As of this writing none of these proposed ventures has worked out financially, due both to the high purchase price and to the estimated costs of purchase and renovation. Total costs of purchase and renovation of the mansion and carriage houses would run \$350,000-\$550,000, depending on how much sweat-equity do-it-yourself work is included in the equation.

A walk through this grand old mansion leaves one's mind spinning with the possibilities, its po-

tential; you'd have to have a heart of stone not to fall under the romantic structure's spell. Although the majority of Soulard's historic houses have already been brought back, this *grand dame* of Soulard architecture still awaits its reclamation. Hopefully, someone with deep pockets—or with that lucky lottery ticket—will arrive on the scene and remove the "faded" from the big house's faded grandeur. Until then, the dusty rooms and darkened hallways can in their muffled silence remember only the long past murmurs of business titans and the laughter of children, the echoes of a more elegant time.



A Thank You Note to the Editor

[The following thank you note was received from Liz Human, Executive Director of PAWS/STL. As you may remember, a story appeared last issue about the organization and its work with persons living with AIDS and HIV+ status.]

PAWS STL

**Pets Are Wonderful Support
For People Living With AIDS • St. Louis**

October 26, 1993

Dear Mr. Gibbs,

Thank you very much for printing the article on PAWS/STL in your Fall 1993 edition. The article was obviously written with a great deal of sincerity and clearly demonstrates our mission.

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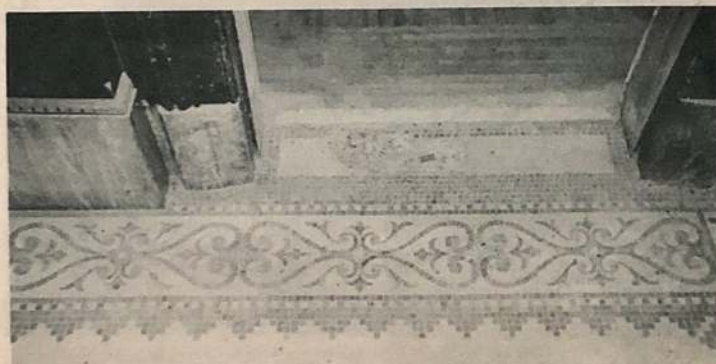
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Close-up of the mosaic tile floor in the main hall.

A WORD FROM PHYLLIS YOUNG ALDERMAN 7th WARD

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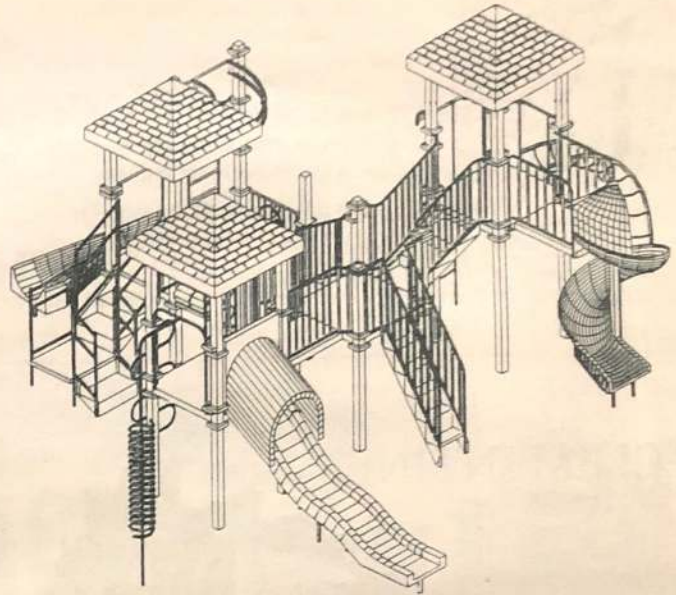
WE'RE OPEN YEAR 'ROUND AND
EASY TO FIND. SOULARD FARMER'S
MARKET IS LOCATED ONE MILE
SOUTH OF BUSCH STADIUM.



It's almost spring! Well, I know it's not really, but it's time to start planning for park improvements. Therefore, I'm calling a meeting of parties interested in both Pontiac and Souard Parks. The meeting will take place on Wednesday evening, December 15. It will be held at Trinity Lutheran school, 8th and Souard at 7:30 p.m.

As I've mentioned before, with the passage of the sales tax for capital improvements, each ward will be allocated a percentage of the sales tax revenues for use in his/her ward. The allocation for 1994 will

be for only one-half a year, because collection starts in January and the fiscal year ends in June. Therefore, it is estimated that the 7th Ward will receive \$88,000. That's not a lot of money when prices for capital improvement are being tallied.



I've made an executive decision to use the first funds for improvements in Pontiac, Fox, and Souard Market Parks. I've asked the Parks Department and the Board of Public Service to come up with some initial designs for improvements and preliminary cost estimates for those parks. These preliminary designs and costs are as follow: Pontiac Park, \$75,180; Fox Park, \$91,000; and Souard Market Park, \$87,000. As you can see, the funds available are short. The only possible good news is that there is a possibility of some matching funds from the state, but there is intense competition for those funds.

I would like to get people together to review the proposals for Pontiac Park's playground and the possibilities for Souard Market Park. If we can get a consensus, we can submit an application for funding. However, we need to get as much as possible done by the end of January. I'm also interested in any information or ideas that you may have regarding other funding sources. As you can tell from the costs, this will not be an easily accomplished goal, so all creative thoughts are needed.

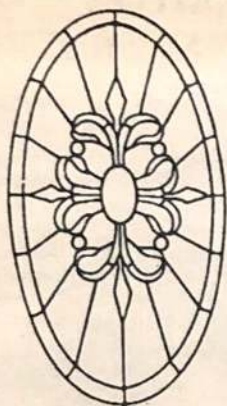
I look forward to your input. Please tell your neighbors who may have an interest in the parks to join us on Wednesday, December 15. If you are unable to attend but want to be contacted for future meetings, please call me at 664-5159. If you get the machine, just leave me a message telling me that you are interested in the Souard parks. Be sure to include your name and address so that I can add you to the mailing list.



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RESTAURANT REVIEW

Breakfast At Soulard's Restaurant

1731 S. 7th St. (at Soulard Street)



by
Carla Gibbs

Soulard's Restaurant is back with a new decor and its famous hearty breakfast. Some months ago, Soulard's suffered a fire, which seriously damaged the rear of the building and caused smoke damage throughout. Reopened in early September, Soulard's interior has taken on a more contemporary feel. Its former dark pub feeling has been replaced with a bright open space featuring white walls, beveled mirrors, and forest green carpet. Some of the our group missed the old wooden booths, but all of us welcomed the return of what is widely regarded as the best breakfast on the near south side.

Soulard's Restaurant offers breakfast six days a week with most entree specials at \$5.00 or under. On our early Saturday visit, the egg casserole was featured: eggs baked fluffily with bacon and onion, and topped with cheddar cheese. Served with biscuits and spicy gravy, the special was delicious and filling.

Other featured platters included various presentations of poached eggs. It takes a practiced hand to poach eggs just right, and ours were all perfect.

One variation was similar to Eggs Benedict, served on an English muffin with cheese and sour cream and with crisp bacon on the side.

If you're familiar with the Slinger, Soulard's offers its excellent rendition of this southside favorite: poached eggs on an English muffin with chili and cheese on top—a real eye opener! All of the platters with eggs are accompanied by potatoes to round out the meal.

Whole wheat waffles were crisp and delicious, and pancakes with strawberry compote were also great. The compote was a fresh and lightly sweet accompaniment to the pancakes. Eggs to order and à la carte items are also available; a bottomless cup of coffee is provided free with any breakfast.

For a morning breakfast meeting or a delicious way to fuel up for a busy day, Soulard's has a cheerful atmosphere, prompt service, and reasonable prices...not to mention great food!

Hours for breakfast are 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:00-10:30 a.m. on Saturday. Lunch and dinner are also served Monday through Saturday.

REFLECTIONS OF 1993: SOULARD BEYOND 2000

by Carlis Dawson

Another board term has ended and the new board is seated in the Soulard Restoration Group...New appointments will be made and another year of progress begins. Time has a way of slithering by...and it is perhaps a good time to reflect on what has been going on.

- ✓ Early in the year we set our dreams into action and were able to share in the opening of America center.
- ✓ The published Soulard bicycle path was distributed to several local bicycle groups...and it will be expanded in 1994 to go to the south leg of the Arch and back to Soulard.
- ✓ We negotiated to rent an information booth at Soulard Market, which we share with two other neighborhood groups.
- ✓ We participated in the development of a Soulard Trolley, which ran in the month of June, making eight stops in Soulard and downtown.
- ✓ During the summer we had a horse-drawn carriage service, which will return next spring.
- ✓ We participated in the formation of a sanctioned garden club.

- ✓ We began negotiation of the development of a distinctive recognition monument at a point on the north entry to Soulard.
- ✓ We have an approved design for the New Soulard Walk Tour and the scripting is being updated at this time.
- ✓ We participated in the first ever "Mayor of Soulard" program and raised \$6,081.00 for the Crime Patrol.
- ✓ We participated in the production of the Soulard Neighborhood Video...the only neighborhood to have anything like it. Syncopation in Soulard is sponsored by Coca-Cola and features many families in Soulard, as well as the neighborhood activities like the house tours, Bastille Day and Mardi Gras.
- ✓ We produced the 1994 Soulard Neighborhood Calendar—now on sale.

Soulard Stars Program is in the works and ready to launch in 1994...details in 1994.

We always need new talent and help with our many diverse activities. Why not join us for the next meeting, December 7 at 2346 S. 13th St., 6:00 p.m.

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WORK TO PROCEED ON SOULARD INFORMATION CENTER

Following the October 20 vote concerning the fate of the proposed Soulard Information Center, some work will be done at the site in 1994. Work on the project had been stalled while the Soulard Restoration Group decided whether or not to proceed with the conversion of the old gas station structure into a neighborhood information and visitors' center at 12th Street and Gravois Avenue.

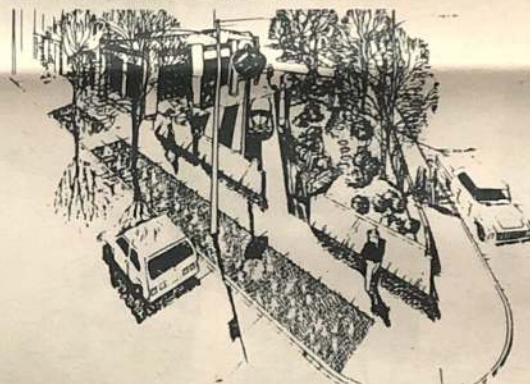
A clear majority vote of SRG members could not be marshalled either to raze the building and create a greenspace park, or to undertake a capital fund drive and com-

plete the project as it was conceived three years ago. The SRG in the end voted to complete various exterior repairs on the Spanish Mission Revival-style structure, to secure the structure, and to create a greenspace park around it. This was considered a compromise option.

Proponents of the Information Center hope to revive the full rehab of the building at a later date. The SRG voted overwhelmingly against selling the site, wishing to maintain control of this highly visible corner of the Soulard neighborhood. Landscaping should proceed in the spring.



A recent view of the Spanish-Mission-Revival-style former gas station, subject of the October 20 special SRG meeting. After a two hour debate, the Group voted to stabilize the structure and create greenspace around it.



A view looking southwest at 12th and Gravois. Soulard-based Landscape Architect—Paul Kjolrie—of Historic Gardens, designed in 1991 a setting that reflects the Information Center's historic past as a service station. Next year's landscaping will likely be simpler—just grass and trees—until further capital funding is accumulated.



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A MONSTER OF A GOOD TIME!

Soulard Babysitting Co-op Halloween Party News

by
Linda Hoffman

The 1993 Soulard Co-op Halloween party was a great success. Kathy Duckworth, Bob Kraiberg and B.J. did a great job planning and hosting the party. There were many "new" families that were discovered in our neighborhood since the last get together; that made it even more enjoyable. Food and drink were overflowing at the Duckworth/Kraiberg mansion.

The little goblins as well as their parents all had their fill. Just when no one could eat another bite, it was announced it was time to trick-or-treat. I think some of the parents were dreading it because it was so cold, but we couldn't let the little spooks down. So it was decided that dragging along a wagon filled with adult beverages would make the cold trek down the creepy streets a little more tolerable. And I think it really did.

The kids didn't notice the cold, because they each had a one track mind...CANDY! A ghastly good time was had by all.

We're planning on having a Christmas get together, so if you are interested in finding out more about the co-op and meeting new families, give Kathy Duckworth a call at 621-3811.



No—they're not prating. Kathy is trying to explain one of her clever games.



Four party-goers contemplating what to do next.

WHAT'S A SOCIAL?

The Missouri State Bingo Commission has numerous rules related to bingo advertising. One restriction is that a bingo hall cannot advertise in publications. To abide by the law but still notify the public of a bingo, the term "social" has evolved to represent bingo.

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We're "Diverse" ... AND

by
Rich McAfee

["From One Man's Queer Perspective" may become an occasional feature in The Souland Renaissance. The column will be open in terms of subject matter. Views underscoring and celebrating plurality in Souland will take priority. Souland is such a work of art because of its different hues and textures. There are many perspectives. What you read below is one example. Assuredly, the views expressed will not always reflect those of The Souland Renaissance staff nor of The Souland Restoration Group.]

In 1976, the words *gay* and *chic* were rarely used in the same sentence. Had I not been "outed" against my will that year, there is a chance I would not have written this column. Suffice it to say that progress—though not enough, I would contend—has occurred between 1976 and 1993 regarding civil rights for lesbians and gay men.

In that earlier—less tolerant—era I was one of the few gay men who would permit media interviews and public appearances as an openly gay person. I had nothing to lose. At that time, the only local support group available was called Midcontinent Life Services Corporation and I was at the very top of the list of its Speakers' Bureau sacrificial lambs. Usually my duties included explaining "what made me gay," "when I realized it," and "wouldn't I admit that the right woman could change my sexual orientation?" These masochistic exercises most often occurred in college classes, invariably named *Abnormal Psychology 201* (a real confidence-booster). Got the picture?

The groups were rarely hostile, sometimes insensitive, but *always* curious. Since I had experience in public speaking, "working the



And here's Harry—kindly opening the gate, so I can get in the way of a foul ball. At least they weren't playing "dodge ball"—I hated that in junior high gym!

room" was extremely important. I found that if I could capture eye contact and, at least, *engage* each individual, people were more willing to open up during Q & A.

Generally, I had a semi-canned speech of about 30 minutes, after which I would subject myself to the class members' questions. So often I wanted to ask one of the male "breeders" at the back of the room if he didn't think finding the right man would "cure" him and "when did he first realize he was heterosexual?" But these were public relations missions, not therapeutic ventures for Rich to vent his anger.

One speaking assignment I will never forget. I was sent to a community college in Illinois. When I arrived, all class members were seated. I began *engaging* them. One woman older than median age sat on the front row. I noticed her tape recorder was running. This woman

plause.

In this class, there was no pregnant pause of silence. Instantly, out of nowhere, the cry was heard, "Right on, brother!" And of all people, it was blurted from my unengageable anathema with the tape recorder. The phrase caught me off guard. After all, "Right on!" was fresh in the sixties, but not heard much in the mid to late seventies. I regrouped and responded, "Uh, did you want to say anything more about that?"

"Yes!" was her strong reply. "I have been sitting here listening to you, and you've struck a chord. I haven't known exactly how to say it, but you've given me the words."

"And..." I waited.

She took a deep breath, opened her eyes, looked me straight in the eye (I fantasized) and with a guttural coming-forth, her voice filled the room with a phrase I'll never forget: "I'm blind, and I'm proud!"

If nothing else good had ever come from any of those speaking engagements, her liberation declaration justified ALL of them.



And the kickball winners show the "ecstasy of victory."

at me, I could not *engage* her. She was the only exception; as a matter of fact, I was getting some positive strokes from virtually everyone else. The reception was, well, warm.

My canned conclusion included likening the statements of pride heard in the African-American community, i.e. "I'm Black and I'm proud," with those in the gay community—"I'm gay, and I'm proud." I'm proud not *because* I'm gay (that's a given over which I had no control). The dramatic end to my speech was, then, "I can join my black brothers and sisters in their chants, except I can say, 'I'm gay, and I'm proud!'" I had enough "suthen preachah" left in me that my histrionics were usually good for a nice, long pregnant pause, before polite—if not enthusiastic—ap-

Now then—why does this story appear *here*, and *what* does it have to do with living in Souland? My friends, it has everything to do with Souland.

Diversity breeds tolerance, and tolerance is a good trait for a community to have. I've heard it said from our county brothers and sisters, "You all are so different...so well-rounded...so *je ne sais qua...* well, so *interesting*."

We are a diverse community. What an understatement! Our Souland neighbors run the gamut in lifestyles, orientations, priorities, interests, racial and ethnic backgrounds, political affiliations, and yes, even levels of tolerance. We have yuppies. We have dumpster divers. As SNL's Stuart Smalley pleads, "And that's OOOOO—KAAAAAY." At least it *seems* to be O.K.



A motley afternoon crew at The Front Page. Can you pick out Miss Greater St. Louis and Brenda Leigh? Different strokes for different cowpokes in Souland.

We're Proud!



Jim and his trusty steed rake the alleys for "someone else's treasure."

in Soulard. Lesbians and gay men can sense welcome here. More are moving here. I was so proud to see Mary King's ads in a recent gay-oriented publication. Actually, we make pretty good neighbors! Perhaps Queer Nation's chant, "We're

here; we're queer; get used to it," may never need to be chanted here!

Lest I be called "Pollyanna"—as detestable to me as being called "Mary" by my gay brothers—there has been some disturbing in-fighting in the past. Who can forget that horrible Valentines Day massacre and the ensuing strife redefining historic standards?

I'm thankful that Soulard has survived the schisms that have threatened it as a social community, much the same as it survived indiscriminate development that threatened it as a physical community in the sixties. Cases in point: *The Soulard Renaissance* published by the SRG is now distributed in a bastion of the SNIA—The Hi-Way Bar; Jay Gibbs—among many others—has done much to bridge the social chasms, because he knows diversity and heterogeneity are positive attributes not to be hidden but flaunted. Organizations that were rivals and acted in nasty ways to one another have joined in non-controversial community-benefiting projects. Someone who never thought his name would be printed in these pages (at least



Carolyn and her "pickup" full of goodies. Her grandson, Justin (the world's youngest pool pro from an earlier issue) and her mother Eva will find something in there to their liking.



No—not in Ballwin...It's hunky Soulardian, Larry.

positively) saw his newly renovated house deservedly praised; and amid many other examples, this column is allowed to wriggle its way into *The Soulard Renaissance*.

Look at the pictures on these pages.

(continued on next page 16)



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Diversity = SOULARD +

Look at them again! They are completely unrelated—except—they are visual examples of our diversity. Virtually everywhere I turn the examples are there! The entire picture-taking spree took all of 20 minutes. I didn't have to renew my passport and voyage to Ballwin to pho-

tograph someone raking leaves. I didn't have to search at all to find Harry who happily opened the gate so that I could photograph him and his friends in their kickball game. I didn't venture to the Central West End to find a gay bar and its happy afternoon devotees. Eliu and Julia



Julia and Eliu Gonzalez inside Glez Auto Repair. You should see some of his work!



Tony and Lady on one of at least three of their daily jaunts. I asked Tony where they were going. "Wherever Lady wants to go," is his reply.

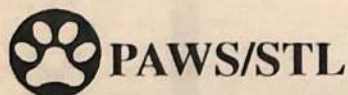
Gonzalez were happy to take a break from their auto repair business—GLEZ, just back of the

Soulard Information Center (or whatever it's going to be). And to think, Eliu Gonzalez was nearly denied a business license because his auto repair shop might become an eyesore.

We are DIVERSE, AND we are PROUD. This uniqueness of Soulard is envied by other more homogeneous communities. We live in a neighborhood in which homogeneity does not precede communality. "Sameness" does not precede fellowship. We are heterogeneous, AND we feel good about it. What a borough we are!

May the rising tide of openness, cultural relativism, pluralism, and just feeling good about our differences be our holiday gift to ourselves. So—Happy Holidays! And, if your calendar doesn't show December with any holidays in it, that's OOOO-KAAAA, too.

If you have a queer perspective to share, let me know. Call me at 773-5651; we'll collaborate and make everyone nervous. They're from Soulard! They'll get over it!



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Neighborhood Fabric

by Jay Gibbs

Usually this column features before- and after-rehab pictures of buildings composing Soulard's dramatic streetscapes. But this month, we're doing something a little different by going around the corner to take a peak at alleyhouses, those

buildings with their main facades facing alleys.

Historically speaking, the *raison d'être* for alleyhouses was economic. After the typical European immigrant had finally purchased an empty lot in 19th century St.

Louis (the land frequently cost almost as much as the buildings to be built upon it), he was not exactly flush with cash, and therefore was not in a position to build much of a structure right away. He would want both to live on his new prop-

buildings, with two or even three residential structures jammed onto each lot. Old census records tell us that Soulard once housed 60,000 people, 15 times as many warm bodies as today!!! Soulard's remaining alleyhouses are a physical reminder of that density, a density incredible by today's living standards, but a reality less than a century ago.

The buildings at 910 Rear and 912 Rear Russell Blvd. are good examples of the alleyhouse phenome-



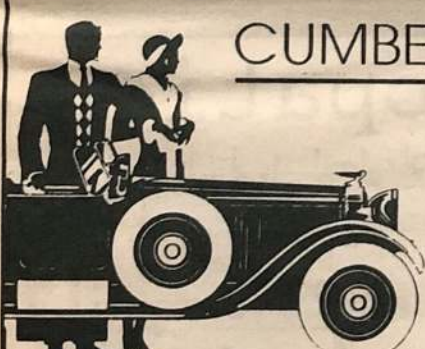
The alleyhouses at 910 Rear and 912 Rear Russell Blvd., as work was beginning.



The same pair with rehab work well underway. 910 Rear Russell needed a brand new roof system.



The finished alley rowhouses (as well as their street-fronting counterparts) are fully occupied again.



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erty (and stop paying rent to someone else) and to collect rent on his new property (by renting rooms to the hordes of new immigrants arriving daily). On the other hand, he would not want to waste his precious small slice of street frontage on a cheap, quickly-put-up tenement (all he could afford in the short run).

The answer to these limitations was to build a relatively inexpensive, staid structure, facing the alley, first. Later, after collecting rents and saving his dimes, the immigrant could build a larger, second structure facing the street, embellished with fancier brick, woodwork, windows, cornices, rooflines, and other trendy features to display his good taste. An open courtyard separated the front and rear buildings.

The homely alleyhouses were usually kept thereafter as income property, but in general were considered less desirable places to live than streehouses. There were once so many alley houses that alleys were considered secondary streets, but as their soft brick and other inexpensive materials aged over the decades, many alleyhouses were unceremoniously removed, while others were used and abused until they were on the verge of collapse. For these reasons today's Soulard boasts only about one-fourth of the alleyhouses it once had.

A glance at the 1875 *Compton and Dry* drawing of St. Louis shows a Soulard neighborhood thick with

non. These two alley rowhouses were built simultaneously (and thereby more cheaply) and share a firewall and chimneys. They are mirror images of each other except that 910R is about six inches lower than 912R, reflecting the sloping land. The two buildings on the fronts of these lots, at 910-912 Russell, were built slightly later and are much fancier, twin freestanding townhouses, featuring mansard roofs and other Second Empire-style embellishment. All four buildings on this double-lot were occupied rental properties until just a few years ago, and hence were not in too-bad shape.

All four buildings were rehabbed in the spring and summer of this year by BSB Development. The two front townhouses were completely sound, but the two alley rowhouses, especially 910 Rear Russell Blvd., required some structural work. The four buildings originally housed a total of eight apartment flats. After rehab, the complex holds just four units: one luxury townhouse apartment in each building, here again reflecting the lower-density living standard expectations of Soulardians today.

This alleyhouse story ends happily. All four buildings on this double lot were saved: four less shells, four more rehabbed, occupied structures with historically accurate exteriors. Kudos to BSB Development for yet another successful Soulard transformation.

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Trinity Lutheran Installs New Pastor

Trinity Lutheran Church installed Rev. David B. Marth as its new pastor November 14, 1993 during a special afternoon service.

Rev. Marth comes to Trinity after serving in public relations and development for the Lutheran Altenheim Society (1990-1993) and Concordia Seminary (1985-1989). He served as a parish pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Phoenix, Arizona from 1973-1982 and as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Jackson, Michigan from 1982-1985.

Rev. Marth is a native of Wausau, Wisconsin. He attended Concordia College, St. Paul, Minnesota, and

Concordia Senior College, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, from which he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1969. He graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, with a Master of Divinity degree in 1973.

Rev. Marth married Mary Patten of Thief River Falls, Minnesota in 1969. They have three children: Jennifer, 21; Melissa, 18; and Benjamin, 17.

Trinity Church will conduct mid-week Advent services on Wednesdays at 12:15 pm and 7:00 pm. Regular worship services are held at 5:00 pm Saturdays and 10:15 am Sundays. All are very welcome to attend.



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"Syncopation in Soulard" is a new neighborhood video—a video which features where we live and celebrate our heritage. Did you ever wish you could take Soulard home to show the folks what a great place this is to live? Now you can! Mardi Gras, Bastille, and House Tours in eight fun-filled minutes. There is enough room on the end of the videotape to place a personal greeting...**GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT!**

As The Cookies Crumble

by Tonca Yarbrough

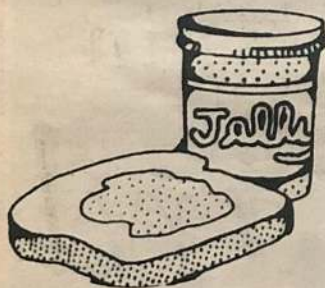
June Cleaver did it while wearing high-heels and pearls and never broke a sweat. Famous Amos does it with a smile and makes millions. Elves proudly do it in a hollow tree. I succumbed to peer pressure and did it for the first time since 1978 in my Twelfth Street kitchen.

All I had said to my friend Jerry was, "No, I don't think December 20th is too late for a Christmas Cookie exchange."

After all, it couldn't pertain to me. On December 20, my Christmas shopping list is still in the think-about stage. I don't have a tree, wreath, or a single card in the mail. More important, I did not know what a cookie exchange was. I had no reason to believe I'd be included on the guest list. We're that kind of friends. Besides, that was the day of Charles and Tommy's open house.

A few days later when the invitation arrived in the mail I RSVP'd immediately. I learned a Cookie Exchange occurs when x-number of women bring x-dozen cookies to a central location where they then sample one another's creations, swap recipes and take home a few of each kind.

"Can they be store-bought?" I asked. Globe Drug sells some fine-looking butter cookies in an attractive reusable tin.



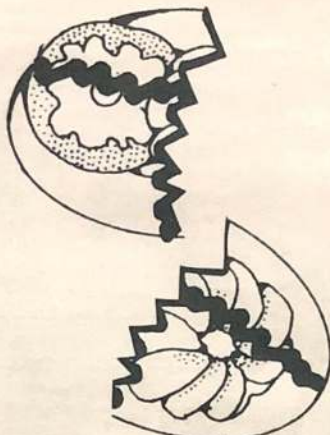
NOT!

"Unacceptable," I was told.

I pled my case. "I haven't baked a cookie in fifteen years. I don't know if my oven works. I don't own cookie pans...er...sheets. I don't need this stress."

Neither reason nor whining worked. "See you on the 20th." She hung up.

I deal with the every day challenges of city-life. I can do this, I told myself, while scouring the yel-



lowed pages of my cookbooks as well as the current magazines and newspapers to resolve the first of several weighty decisions in this process. Finally, I settled for the recipe on a package of Andes Mints: Andes Chocolate Chunk Cookies.

The unfamiliar recesses of my pantry revealed flour with which I had shared four addresses, and some brown sugar that could not have been broken up with a hammer. I considered running over it with the car. Baking soda, having absorbed refrigerator odors for four years, was also unusable. Besides, when you're starting out on shaky footing, it seems you ought to go for the best ingredients.

I clipped the cookie recipe to my usual bi-weekly shopping list of orange juice, toilet paper and panty-hose and headed out on my mission.

You cannot simply buy two teaspoons of vanilla, one-half cup granulated sugar or three-quarters cup light brown sugar. I hadn't owned eggs or butter since I learned to spell cholesterol. With two cookie sheets the bill came to \$27.98, without the attractive reusable tin.

Cooking was left behind in my PS or pre-Soulard days. Cooking is not like riding a bicycle. It doesn't come back easily. And even when I *did* cook, baking was not my long suit. Everything is so subjective. For example, "Beat butter until light." As light as what? And just what is *coarsely* chopped? The mints were to be "coarsely chopped." The nuts in a package labeled "Chopped Walnuts" ranged from thumb-sized to practically powder.

Further, the ingredients never come out even. Some consumer group needs to put pressure on these companies to adjust recipes for those of us who are domestically impaired. It called for six ounces, or

36 pieces, of Andes Mints. The package contains 28 pieces. The walnuts came in a two-cup package, when you only need one and a half cups. You must buy two packages of mints and you wind up with 20 mints and a half a cup of nuts left over. You could triple the recipe, but you'd be four mints short, and mess up the proportions.

Baking day was gray and gloomy and not conducive to the long Saturday walks I enjoy taking around the neighborhood. I dusted the oven, then measured, mixed, beat and stirred. It was going well. I could do this. The aromatic by-product of warming sugars, mint and chocolate filled the apartment.

I packaged the finished products in a holiday gift box, cleaned up the mess, and stored the cookie sheets in the oven, knowing they would not be disturbed for at least another year.

The following day, when I arrived at the cookie exchange, the dining room table was already full, and it was easy to surreptitiously wedge my offering between tiny frosted Christmas trees and a platter of crescents laced with pow-



dered sugar. With the pressure off I enjoyed the party and left with enough goodies to ensure sugar shock through January.

When I got to Charles and Tommy's, a true Soulard holiday celebration was well underway. After exchanging greetings and hugs, and petting the dog, I was steered toward the confection-laden table where my stomach sort of churned.

"No thanks," I said. "I think I'll just have a beer."

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WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING IN Soulard?

by Carlis Dawson

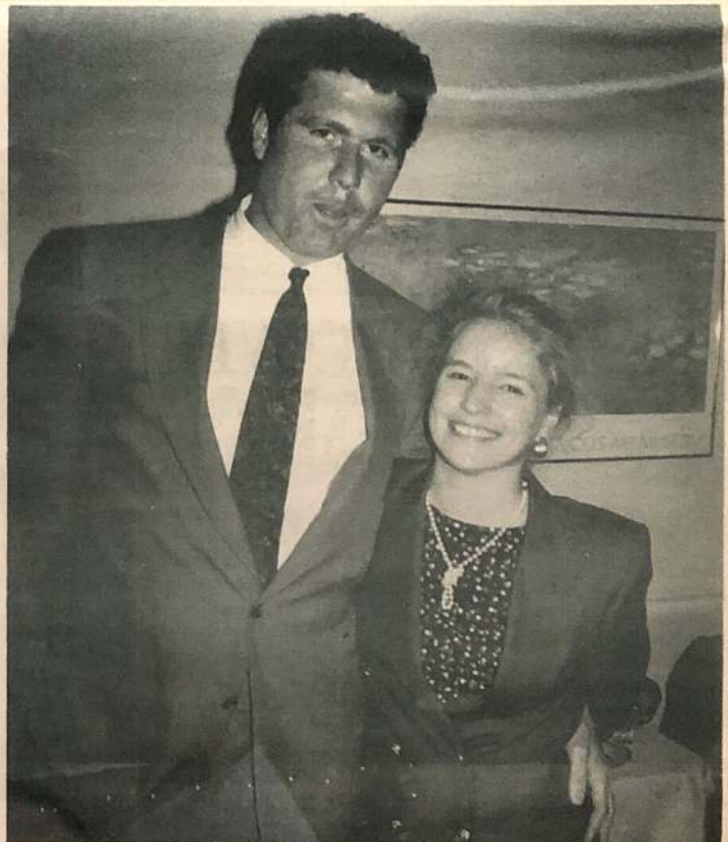


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THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI— SOULARD'S FIRST INTERSTATE

by
Carlis Dawson

Time is a river that flows with an irresistible flow toward tomorrow and the future. Sometimes we can gain knowledge when we look back at the horizon of the sunsets past to gain an awareness in the present. I hope this article will enlighten you and inspire us all to preserve the rich heritage where we are.

but the need for a boat that could successfully go upriver was essential. The keelboat, with its rounded bottom and skillful robust pole men, allowed early cargo to go upstream. Some keelboats were equipped with sails to aid in navigation. Sometimes ropes were used by the crew to pull it along from the bank...but the river with its unusual currents, snags and sandbars made

maneuver in and out of the narrow spots on the Mississippi.

Not long after this time, the cotton gin made an entry, and the river was filled with packets loaded with cotton for the mills virtually all over the world. Passengers soon took to the waters, and by 1838 the trip from New Orleans to St. Louis was reduced to about six days.

Rivertown boys who lived in Souard knew the boats by the sound of their whistles. It was peer approval that made boys practice imitating the sounds of the boats, and well accepted by the 1880s was the one who could do the most accurate shrieks. By 1885, in many cities the boats were restrained from using the whistles within one-half mile of the city, because of so many incidents of scared horses and mules bolting, running away with their loads. Can you picture in your mind how those unique sounds must have been, as hundreds of vessels passed Souard daily? Each boat usually had one to five tubes of different sizes to produce a single sound or chord when the steam rushed through.

Boats, large and small—cotton carriers, excursion packets, local traders and iron-hulled tows pushing barges of coal—steamed up and down the river past the Sidney Street dock at Souard. There, a simple ferry—the Cahokia—shuttled passengers, wagons, and goods back and forth across the Mighty Mississippi.

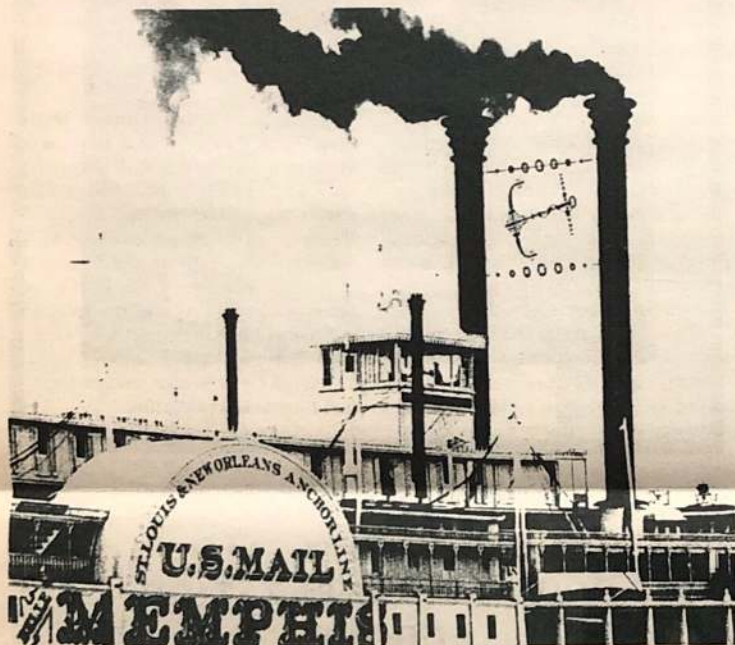
Boats worked in what were called "trades" such as the St. Louis and Memphis trade, in countless combinations between the ports. Small boats working were usually "local traders" or "short trades." What a steamboat carried was a "trip." A large trip of cotton is an example. A boat with a heavy cargo was "flat in the water" or "loaded to the guards," or you could say, "Its guards were dripping water." Sep-

tember 1 was the official opening of the cotton season on the river. Almost every vessel carried a trip of cotton, as it glided through the water with its guards dripping.

It was after the Civil War many of the steamboatmen turned their attention from trips of cotton, sugar, molasses, whiskey, coal, barrels, staves, iron goods, to passenger trips of comfort and luxury. The Anchor Line was a tonic to river trade and travel from the 1870s to 1900. Its prompt and regular stops at landings between St. Louis and New Orleans were the stately standard of the industry. The *City of St. Louis*, was just such a sleek and spacious vessel of the Anchor Line. The company started out as "trade" between St. Louis and Memphis, a Packet Line, but soon grew with other vessels and expanded its "trips" to include mail service. They adopted a huge anchor as their symbol, and most of their vessels were the newer design of side-wheeler. Soon side-wheelers outnumbered stern-wheelers, but their popularity was short-lived, and by the turn of the century most were reduced to the least glamorous duty of a steamboat, which was to push barges up and down the river.

I've often wondered if Otto Brimmer, Lucianna, and their son Henry, the owners of my house at that time, would sit out on the second floor deck in the summer as I often do, and watch these beautiful vessels going up and down the Mississippi? I have heard the calliope of the *Admiral*, *Delta Queen*, and the *President*.

More often, the summer evenings are broken by the sounds of a diesel train in the distance, switching cars for a nearby factory in south Souard. The approach of these two inventions, first the train, then the diesel, swept away in the river of time the romantic part of our history, in which stern-wheelers were king. The river of time has slowed just long enough for us to glimpse into the past; be thankful to be where the past and the future are alive through the efforts of those who are keepers of the treasure found here.



Close-up of The Belle Memphis. The big riverboats were as ornate as the beautiful buildings of the Victorian era.

While recently cross-country skiing on "Souard Beach," I observed a tug pushing a barge of materials up the Mississippi. Known by the Indians as the "father of the waters," it is a river with an irresistible charm and history...and my mind wandered into a wonderful blend of present, past and future.

In 1682, LaSalle traveled nearly the entire length of the Mississippi to its mouth, where he claimed all lands drained by the river for his native France. Thus began a portion of our Souard heritage which can easily be overlooked. The Mississippi was the Interstate of North America for almost 300 years, and it runs on the east boundary of Souard, a very small community which touches the banks of perhaps the most traveled way in all of the Americas.

All travelers—and indeed the entire nation—became more and more dependent on the Mississippi during the late 1700s and well past the 1880s. Flimsy rafts and flat boats allowed passage down river,

the journey a gamble at best. "The keelboatmen were a roughshod breed of hardy men; rude, uneducated, brave, suffering terrific hardships with sailor-like stoicism. They were heavy drinkers, coarse, frolicsome, reckless fighters, foul-wit, profane...yet honest, trustworthy, faithful to promises and duty," according to Mark Twain.

In 1811, the *New Orleans*, a Fulton-designed steamboat with a deep rounded hull, hauled the first commercial load of cotton in the deep south to the city after which it was named. Henry Shreve, who had navigated the Mississippi for years, designed and launched the *Washington*, a flat-bottomed river steamboat 136 feet long, 28 feet wide, two decks high, with pilothouse atop. This vessel, known as a stern-wheeler, reduced the time from New Orleans north to Louisville from six months to 24 days. This was the model for the future, skimming through the swift current using an engine on both sides to



The City of Providence prepares to dock, its gangplank already lowered.

WHAT IS A BED & BREAKFAST?

by Carlis Dawson

"So, what is a Bed and Breakfast?" is a question I am often asked. It is not a new thing. In fact, it is as traditional as Christmas. Remember, Joseph and Mary were not looking for the Marriott 2000 years ago. They were wanting to stay in a man's home (which the English Biblical translations called an Inn), but because they had not phoned reservations ahead, they wound up staying in that day's equivalent of the carriage house. A Bed and Breakfast is a private home, where people are welcomed to stay while traveling away from home, just like Joseph and Mary.

Now, if you've never stayed in a Bed and Breakfast, it is time to wake and smell the coffee. Take the B&B adventure, and chances are, you will like it. A glance at the statistics will tell you that *someone* likes them. There are 300 in Missouri now, yet ten years ago there were not a handful.

The friendliness of most B&B hosts is a key to the growing popularity of this style of lodging. No

impersonal front desk clerk with a computer keyboard; rather, real people, often with a pet, welcome you to their homes and communities. Your B&B hosts want you to have a pleasant visit as much as you do.

I would say 70 percent of my guests are first-timers. Usually, if they have taken the time to seek out a bed and breakfast, they are looking for a little adventure, and something special. I often tell new guests that it is kind of like going to see a great uncle that you haven't seen in a while. You want to be cordial, courteous, friendly, but not too close. A good host or guest is sensitive to the need for people to be alone, or to converse.

I was nervous when I went to my first B&B, so I know that each guest can be a little uneasy, too. I try to put people at ease by writing their names on the guest board on the door, and I give them a special greeting and tour of the house when they first arrive. Good communication is the key to everyone having a pleasant stay.



When you book a reservation, it is important to ask questions. Most B&Bs are no smoking, for the benefit of all guests, and many do not allow pets. Most have a common bath. But when you think about that, remember this is the way it is in most homes with children growing up today—and for sure the way it would be if you went to visit your uncle. Book early...especially if it is on a holiday or special weekend. Request a pamphlet, so you can familiarize yourself with what to expect when you arrive.

The choices are as varied as your taste—everything from rustic to eclectic Victorian are available. There are books on B&Bs, but the industry is growing so fast they are often out of date by the time they

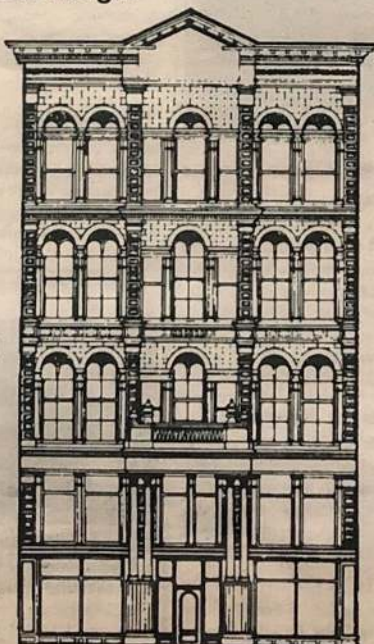
hit the bookstore. The best place to find them is the phone directory. Some cities have reservation services for B&Bs, and most travel agents have a regular listing of the better B&Bs.

Once you have selected your B&B, and asked all the pertinent questions, then book it. Now, sit back and get ready to relax and be pampered. Chances are you will enjoy a refreshing stay with a change of pace that would be easy to grow accustomed to. Don't forget, it is a great way to unwind on a business trip during the week... often less expensive than a regular hotel, and it is like your "home away from home," if only for a few days of fantasy.

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