



The Soulard Renaissance

"The Neighborhood Magazine of Historic Soulard"

VOL. XIX — ISSUE 1

Celebrating the *Renaissance* of Soulard

MARDI GRAS 1994

Joyeux Mardi Gras!!!

SOULARD CELEBRATES A MYSTIC CARNIVAL

by Steve McKenna

As we approach Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of Lent, we look ahead to a period of fasting and repentance. Perhaps we might want to have one last fling before we start this solemn period. If we're going to fast, let's have a grand feast. If we're going to be serious and reflective, let's have a celebration. Let's have parties, a parade, dancing. Let's dress up in wild costumes, and maybe do a few more things to be repentant for in Lent. We'll celebrate until midnight on Shrove Tuesday, when Lent begins. And, since we'll be fasting for six weeks, let's use the Latin for "Farewell to meat", *Carni Vale*, and call it Carnival.

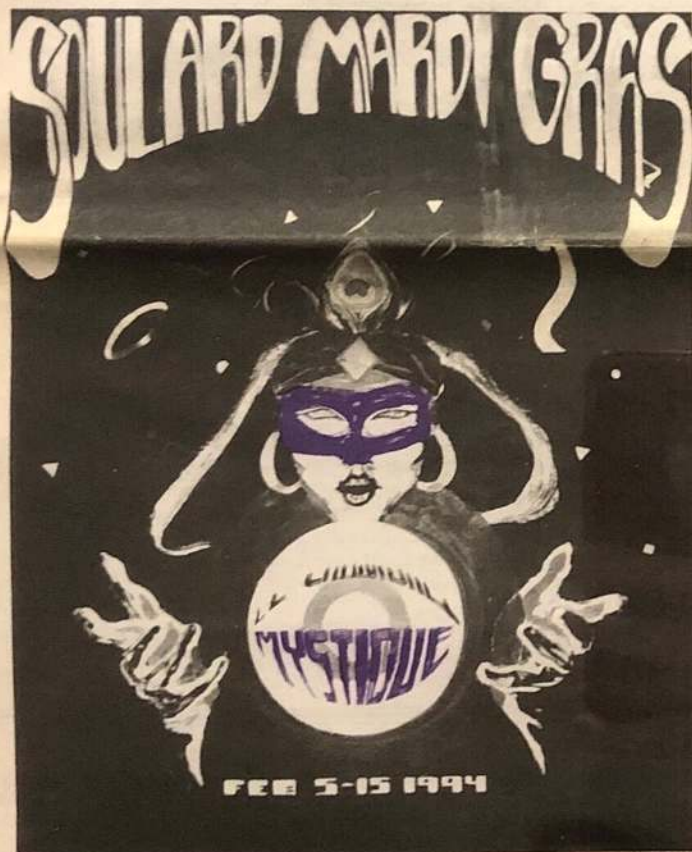
Such is the traditional justification for this period of revelry we call Carnival. The actual truth is somewhat different. The roots of Carnival date back to the Roman Saturnalia and the Greek Cronia, and to even earlier pagan festivals in the ancient Near East. Originally set at mid-winter around the solstice, these festivals celebrated the themes of death and rebirth, as the sun stopped its southward journey and turned back north, the sure sign that Spring would come again. When the early Christian Church found itself unable to combat these traditions, they agreed to live with them if the themes were revamped to accord with Christian beliefs and the Church calendar. One indication, even today, of the celebration's pagan origin is the common appearance of Bacchus, the Roman god of food and wine, as the symbol of Carnival celebrations everywhere.

Today, Carnival is celebrated over most of Europe and Latin America, but in very few places in the United States. The Protestant Reformation viewed Carnival as a symptom of the excesses of the Catholic Church, and discouraged its practice. Thus, Carnival does not tend to exist in the U.S. in areas primarily settled by Protestants or Anglo-Saxons, which is most of our country. (The custom never was popular in the British Islands to any great degree, whether among Catholics or Protestants.) You will find it primarily along the southern Mississippi, especially Louisiana, in areas settled by French Catholics.

There is also a rich history in the Pennsylvania Dutch country, where the immigrants brought many of the traditions from Bavaria. Most of the practices there are of a more pastoral variety, involving special meals and pastries, and family-oriented celebrations. There are special sweet rolls for Shrove Tuesday, and Ash Wednesday is called Pancake Day. A special pastry is prepared for the last person to rise on those two days, who is then subjected to some good-natured ribbing for this dubious honor in an early-rising, farming culture.

The traditional Carnival season usually begins on Twelfthnight, or Epiphany, January Sixth, the official end of the Christmas season. For some reason, in Cologne and the Rhineland, the Fasching season, as they call it there, officially starts on November 11th at 11:11 AM (11/11 11:11). Why? Who knows? But it would sure make for an excessively long party. In France, in order to counter the excesses of the celebration, the revelry was finally confined to only Shrove Tuesday itself, which they called Fat Tuesday, or, in French, *Mardi Gras*. (You were wondering when I was going to get to that, weren't you? Sure. I knew you were.)

(continued on page 3)



1994 Mardi Gras Poster "La Carnivale Mystique"

LOOK INSIDE FOR OTHER FEATURES:

Schedule of Events

"The Further Adventures of an
Amateur Rehabber" RETURNS!

Soulard's own amazing Fire Company 11
Tonca's magic humor in yet another episode
...and much more



NOTES from the BRICK HOUSE

by Cindy Harrison

Now that the Christmas decorations are back in storage and New Year's resolutions have all been made (and some already broken), 1994 is well underway and promises to be a busy year. We have made lots of plans with: resumption of work on the building, neighborhood beautification, welcoming new members to the SRG, continued diligence to stay crime in the neighborhood, new fundraising efforts, the VP Fair ... and of course fun. In order to change these plans into reality, members, future members and friends are all needed. Add to your 1994 resolutions to be active on a committee and join the neighborhood mobile patrol.

Now, on with the fun. Mardi Gras is upon us with activities for everyone. As part of the festivities, plan to join in on the decorating of the float and march in the parade. Future membership activities promise entertainment throughout the year.

With reluctance we will be saying goodbye to members Steve and Sue Botts, who have been transferred to Dallas. Thanks for all of your efforts; you will be missed. Good luck in your new home. I understand that there is a football team there, and they win.



The Souldard Renaissance

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

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

Call Steve McKenna 865-0152 for editorial information. Call Jeanne Weber 771-8428 regarding advertising opportunities, rates and schedules.

Address correspondence to:
The Souldard Renaissance
PO Box 13312
Souldard Station
St. Louis, MO 63157

©1994 Souldard Restoration Group

Editor
Advertising Manager
Assistant Advertising Managers

Writers

Photographers

Proofreader
Production
Printing

Steve McKenna

Jeanne Weber

Mary Lipic

Lisa McKenna

Lynn Scudieri

Doratheia Davis

Carla Gibbs

Jay Gibbs

Cindy Harrison

Mary Hart

Eric Hobson

Steve McKenna

Gary Reed

Alan Richardson

Tonca Yarbrough

Phyllis Young

Charlis Dawson

Jay Gibbs

Steve McKenna

Nancy Adams

RJM—Rich McAfee

Etling Printing Company

LETTER *FROM* THE EDITOR

by Steve McKenna

Welcome to Mardi Gras! To all our visitors, let me welcome you to our neighborhood for our annual celebration. We get more people visiting Souldard for Mardi Gras than the rest of the year put together, or at least it certainly seems that way. I would like to encourage all of you to consider coming back here when things are a little less frenetic. It's still a wonderful place to hang out, and you don't have to stand in line to use an outdoor restroom facility. Believe me, many of us like not only to eat and drink here, but also to live here. Think about it. Come on back down and look around.

To our residents, let's enjoy the party, as we do every year. The Mardi Gras madness is part of the charm of the neighborhood. We still enjoy the celebration, even though we have wall-to-wall people. And remember, this will be over in a few days.

Now that that's out of the way, let me say hello to our residents and visitors. I'm going to try to guide this publication over the coming year. I will need help. This is Souldard's newspaper, and I have no way of knowing what you want to see unless you tell me. I have heard from many people, but would like to hear from more. What do you like? What do you dislike? Would you be interested in contributing ideas or articles? Please? You can contact me at the address or phone number in the box at the bottom of this page. I would like to hear your opinions.

I think we have a good issue for you, in addition to all of the Mardi Gras information. Jay Gibbs' "Confessions of an Amateur Rehabber" column returns in this issue, after a year's absence, with a great article, and a blast from the past: the first one he ever did, ten years ago this month. How much time have you spent on this paper, Jay? Maybe you could have finished your house years ago. We also have a profile from Eric Hobson on the marine units of the St. Louis Fire Department, with an interesting sidebar on the history. I never knew that these boats were based out of Souldard's own Station 11, which I can see from my window as I write this. Regular columnists such as Tonca Yarbrough, Alan Richardson and Alderman Phyllis Young are here, with of course a restaurant review from Carla Gibbs. We also welcome our state representative, Doratheia Davis, to these pages.

When I was appointed to edit this paper, I thought I knew a lot about Souldard. The more I talk to people, the more I learn, and the more I find I didn't know. This is a great place to live, but we do need active involvement from our residents. The neighborhood patrol could use help in keeping Souldard safe. We have people working actively on issues such as beautification, and code and zoning. The more people who become involved in these activities, the better neighborhood we will have. We need all of our residents working together.

I am only an amateur newspaper editor. You are Souldard.

Souldard Restoration Group

Do you love living in Souldard?

Would you like to meet more of your neighbors?

... then membership in the

SOULDARD 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 & Souldard, at 7:30 p.m.

Mardi Gras Schedule of Events



February 5-15
Mardi Gras Hotline 781-7272



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cajun Creole Cookoff
Soulard Market Auditorium

10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Children's Art & Craft Fair
Trinity Lutheran School
8th & Soulard

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Taste of Soulard at
Participating Establishments

8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Soulard Mardi Gras Masked Ball
Aggie's on Broadway
(1709 S. Broadway)
Featuring "Ferne Arceneux —
Zydeco/Cajun Band"
Cajun-Creole Buffet

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

1:00 p.m.

Mystic Krewe of Barkus Parade
Pet Parade through Soulard

11:00 a.m.

Taste of Soulard

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Antique Show
Aggie's on Broadway

Monday/Tuesday, February 7-8

7:00 p.m.

Mardi Gras Soft-Tip Dart
Tournament (FIDO)
Social Club (9th & Barton)

Tuesday, February 8

6:00 p.m.

Krewe Krawl

7:00 p.m.

All Star Jam at 1860s
Blues Jam Session at Mike & Min's

Saturday, February 12

11:00 a.m.

10K Run to benefit Literary
Council of Greater St. Louis

1:00 p.m.

Soulard Mardi Gras Parade

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Art Show
Soulard Market Auditorium

Sunday, February 13

Noon to 5:00 p.m.

Micro Beer Taste
Clementine's, McGurk's,
Ninth & Russell, Norton's,
1860s Restaurants, Johnny's

Monday, February 14

6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Wine Taste (12 Missouri Wineries)
Soulard Market Auditorium

Tuesday, February 15

7:00 p.m.

"Fat Tuesday" Parade in Soulard

(continued from page 1)

In Louisiana, when the celebration began to develop into what we know today, they certainly wanted more than one day, but not necessarily the whole season from January sixth. They settled on a reasonable compromise: parades and massive grand balls are held for Twelfthnight, to kick off the Carnival season. Then not much happens until two weekends before Ash Wednesday, when they begin the Mardi Gras season, with its attendant further festivities. All of the activities are organized by the Mystic Krewe, secret societies of men who are always masked and whose identities are allegedly unknown to the people around them.

In Latin America, the most famous celebration has to be the Carnival of Rio de Janeiro. Months of preparation go into the balls and parades. Music is composed for the celebrations, and the best received songs often go on to become top hits, winning fame and fortune for the composers. Thousands are often spent for costumes for the grand ball held for the highest ranks of society at the Municipal Theater. Cutthroat competitions are held for the best costumes and the best parade floats, often with less than ethical tactics employed.

Accusations of sabotage, or bribery of the judges, are not uncommon, and many disputes have even resulted in bloodshed. They take this festival seriously.

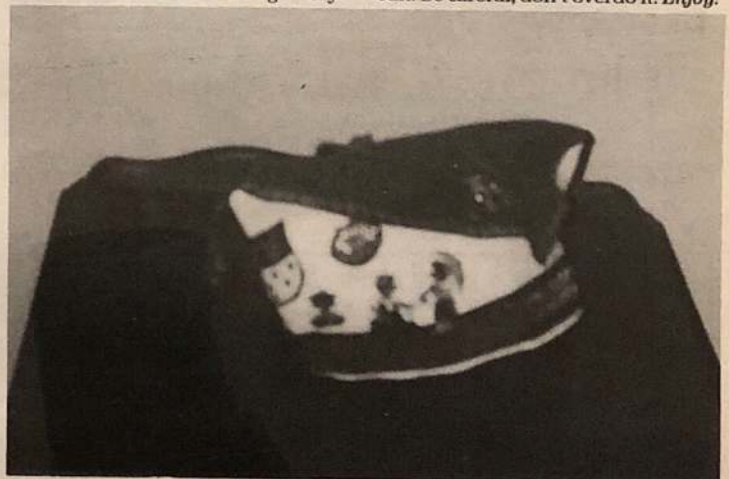
In Germany, the Fasching celebration is very popular in the south, but tends to disappear the further north you go as you move from Catholic to Lutheran regions. The grandest festivities are in Cologne, and for a German to visit Cologne during Fasching is comparable to an American's desire to be in New Orleans for Mardi Gras. According to the traditions, each costume must always include the Fasching hat, a peculiar piece of fashion only worn at this time of the year. In a reversal of the usage elsewhere, the word *Karneval* there refers specifically to the last period before Shrove Tuesday, rather than the entire season from Epiphany.

When I was a child living in Italy, *Carnevale* was a time of grand parades, bright colorful costumes and fireworks. It was the biggest celebration of the year, when costumes were hung even on the statues in the main piazza at the center of town. This was actually quite a bit of work, when you consider that, to clothe a statue, you have to rip out all of the seams and re-sew them onto the statue.

The main elements in most celebrations have a lot in common. Costumes are everywhere, including a long history of men in women's clothing, and vice versa. This goes along with an old Carnival tradition of reversals of roles, both gender and class, where even a peasant may be fortunate enough to be (for a few days) the king of Carnival. Many of the celebrations involve selecting the king by lot. There are always parades, and grand masked balls. Decorations are hung every-

where in bright colors. And it won't surprise you to know that there is usually some amount of food and drink (often more of the latter).

We have all of these for you, and more, at this year's celebration here in Soulard, the theme of which is *Le Carnivale Mystique*, The Mystic Carnival. As you watch the parade, or participate in one of the many other celebrations and events, remember that you are sharing an ancient tradition with people the world over. Have fun. Be careful, don't overdo it. *Enjoy!*



Fasching Hat from Cologne (pin on left reads "Karneval in Köln").

Mardi Gras Goes to the Dogs

The Mystic Krewe of Barkus, led by Her Majesty Scarlett O'Hara Butler, Queen Barkus I, invites all of their friends to join them for a parade through the streets of Souard on Sunday, February 6th at 1PM. Humans may accompany them if they wish.

Get a new leash on life!

Cats are welcome to participate at their own risk. Security will not be provided.

All participants should bring their masters to Clementine's parking lot at Allen & Menard. Humans should bring \$1 for participation. For further information call Gary Reed at Clementine's, 664-7869.



WHAT IS MARDI GRAS WITHOUT A PARADE?

The fifteenth annual Souard Mardi Gras Parade, complete with floats, beads, and people dressed in really silly costumes, will begin at 1PM on Saturday, February 12.

Note the time has changed from previous years.

The best float in the parade will win a \$1,000 grand prize.

The parade will begin at 1PM at the parking lot at the Anheuser-Busch brewery. It will then proceed north on 12th to Russell, east on Russell to 9th, north on 9th to Lafayette, and finally east on Lafayette to Broadway.

The Grand Marshal of the Parade is Miss America 1990, Debbye Turner (Miss Missouri, too).

"Taste of Souard" Returns for 1994

Once again, the ever-popular "Taste of Souard" returns for the opening weekend of Mardi Gras, February 5-6, from 11AM to 5PM. A \$10 ticket allows each participant to sample the cuisine at five different restaurants throughout Souard. As usual, the theme of the food will be Cajun or Creole.



Grand Ball

This year's Grand Ball begins at 8PM on Saturday, February 5th, at Aggie's on Broadway. The ball will benefit the Washington University Comprehensive MS Center.

Ticket Price is \$20 per person, and includes two free drinks, followed by a cash bar, and a Cajun buffet.

Zydeco music will be by Ferst Arceneaux and the Thunders.

421-2131



EDELE & MERTZ HARDWARE

1822 South Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104

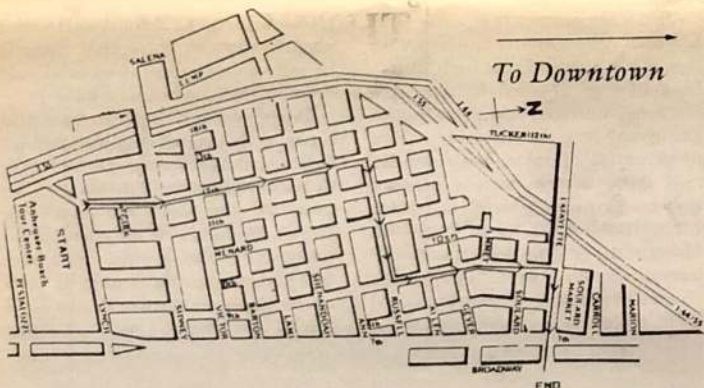
Established 1912

John Edale Ed (Cork) Woelm

*The Renaissance
is happy
to welcome
new advertisers*

David's Design Salon

*Please patronize
our loyal
advertisers.*



Souard Business
Association

Mardi Gras



ALAN RICHARDSON

IN SOUARD ... **REAL ESTATE**
SELLING SOUARD **772-1097**

1839 S. 9th \$148,500

Superbly positioned 3 story impeccably restored. Built in 1850-55, the property had the advantage of a wedge shaped lot, giving the original German owners the luxury of both front and side yards. Gloriously restored historic features include pine floors, pocket doors, antique woodburner, stained glass transoms, master bath, jacuzzi and zoned heating & cooling.

SOULARD DISTRICT

CONTEMPORARY • RENOVATED • RESTORED

1 & 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

C/A, Fireplaces, Monitored Alarm Systems,
24HR Emergency Maintenance, Courtyards,
And MORE

M-F 8:30 to 5:00 by appointment
SAT 10:00 to 3:00 by appointment

773-6300



Managed by:
McCormack Baron Management Services, Inc.
2222 Menard in Souard

McCORMACK BARON



**EULA
BECK**



**RICHARD
LOHMANN**



**JENNIFER
BARTLEY**



**KEVIN
PYSZ**



**KATHY
GERBER**



**JOHN
BARTLEY**



**LINDA
WILLIAMS**



**WAYNE
HUBER**



**BOB
BAUER**



4248 WEST PINE

Worlds Fair Home, one of three, beautiful hardwood floors, original woodwork, decorative mantles, updated systems, and kitchen, deck and two car garage. \$154,900, call Kevin or Mary



1116 S. 18TH. ST.

One of Lafayette Squares finest refurbished victorian homes, living room, formal dining, 3 bedrooms, family room, gourmet kitchen, 2.5 baths, priced at \$108,000 Call Eula or Rich.



2803 TERRACE VIEW

1.5 Story upscale home with two story greatroom with window wall overlooking woods, master bedroom suite, whirl pool, tub, cherry wood cabinets, call Bob. \$218,000



3322 HALLIDAY

Partially rehabbed home buy as is or have developer finish with your choice of colors. 3 Bedrooms 2.5 baths. Hardwood floors & more.

MARDI GRAS

1994



MARY KING

**MARY
King**
AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

RENTALS

#40 Columbus Square
\$750 a month.

1050 A. Carroll
\$675 a month.

2632 A Park Ave.
\$600 a month.



908 RUTGER Assumable loan, 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, hardwood floors, contemporary design, partially finished lower level, nice patio, off street parking \$69,900



2206 SIDNEY New listing, 3 story gut rehab, 2 car garage, zoned heat and a/c, sun porch off master suite, 2.5 baths, bright sun filled kitchen. \$89,500 Call John or Jennifer.

1907 HICKORY New listing, near completed three story Lafayette Square Victorian, two furnaces and two a/c some hardwood floors, ceramic floor in kitchen, master bedroom suite with jacuzzi tub, new two car garage, tall ceilings, just a little more work and this home will be complete. This is a real opportunity. Call Linda. \$117,900.

1913 LYNCH Unique rehab of this contemporary three story home, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, antique walnut staircase, wet bar, central vacuum, patio, two decks, off street parking. Just \$94,900 call Rich or Eula

2215 ARSENAL Fantastic townhome facing Benton Park Lake, formal living room & separate dining room, family room, master suite, plus two additional bedrooms, 2.5 baths, zoned heat and air. \$114,900 call Richard or Eula

4059 MAGNOLIA Excellent neighborhood, just one block long. Spotless home, newer carpet, built-ins, breakfast-nook, beautiful hardwood floors upstairs, walk-in closets, tons of storage, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths for \$85,000 call Kathy

C
A
L
L
7
7
6
*
6
2
7
9



THREE NEW TOWNHOMES IN SOULARD !

Custom total rehab to be done in the coming months. If you always wanted a home in Soulard, now is your chance. We are still in the planning stages so call us today and help with the design of your dream house. These homes will be in the 800 block of Allen with John Durnell as the General Contractor. Each home will have three bedrooms, 2.5 baths, two car garages and lots of pizzazz!! Call Mary King or Linda Williams for further information on these great homes.

724 SHENANDOAH

Historic Soulard, turn this two family back into a two family. Needs work, has newer roof, and tuckpointing. \$24,900

726 SHENANDOAH

Looking to rehab in the Soulard area? One of the few remaining buildings for rehabbers, lots of space for the creative individual and a much sought after four car garage, zoned commercial \$39,900

A WORD FROM PHYLLIS YOUNG ALDERMAN 7th WARD



Nineteen ninety-three was a banner year for housing production in the 7th Ward. Benton Park, Fox Park, McKinley-Fox, and Soulard all have housing corporations that have been very active.

Fox Park leads the way! Twenty-two units of rental housing for low- and moderate-income families have been under construction on the 2600 blocks of Iowa and California by DeSales Mutual Housing Association. Tenants have been selected, and soon the units will be filled with new families. In addition Operation Impact, in conjunction with the housing corporation, just completed 2640 Armand Place, which sold immediately after the "House of the Month" promotion. Plans are underway for renovation of 2634 Armand with 2643 soon to follow. Renovations are also underway for the 2700 and 2800 blocks of Russell. These for-sale units will be available in the spring. Everyone is enjoying the improvements and looking forward to new neighbors.

Rod Wright Cited For Dedication to Soulard

Cited for "Outstanding Service and Dedication to the Soulard Neighborhood", Rod Wright was honored by 7th Ward Alderman Phyllis Young and 9th Ward Alderman Martie Aboussie, on Tuesday, December 21st.

Wright has a long and distinguished record of service to this community, most notably many leadership positions, including presidency of the Soulard Restoration Group.

Wright was honored for service, in particular, to the Soulard Community Housing Corporation, a community based organization affiliated with the city's Operation ConServ, Operation Impact, and the Community Development Agency. He served as president from 1990 to 1993.

At the time of his retirement as

McKinley-Fox Housing Corporation has also been active. You can see the progress underway at 2330-36 Russell. These four-family flats are being converted into four for-sale townhouses. The spacious three-bedroom units are a great improvement over the tiny apartments that comprised the previous units. Be sure to watch for them in the Post-Dispatch's "House of the Month" promotion in the near future. The housing corporation has also started on 2027 Allen, which is being renovated and sold to the tenant.

Soulard's Housing Corporation has also been busy planning for renovations to one of the oldest buildings in the city at 811 Allen. This is a very challenging renovation due to the old construction techniques used in the original building. On the adjacent lots at 813 and 815 Allen, new housing will be constructed. There are pre-qualified buyers waiting for completion of these units. We hope construction will commence in the next month.

Benton Park's corporation has been busy also. There are representatives of the 7th Ward on the housing corporation. However, since there are only a few blocks of the 7th Ward in Benton Park, most of the activity has occurred in the 9th Ward on Lemp Avenue.

The neighborhood housing corporations funded by the city have been very diligent in planning for the renovation of many derelict buildings in the city. These boards are to be commended for all the time and effort involved in bringing these new units on line.

president, he has brought the SCHC to the brink of their most ambitious project ever undertaken, the Allen Avenue Partnership. The partnership will produce two ground-up townhouses and the Trapper cottage as income-eligible owner-occupied homes and three 3-story townhouses as market-rate homes.



Alderman Phyllis Young presents a plaque to Wright.

So what's new for 1994? This year I will fund a loan/grant program through Neighborhood Housing Services. The program will make available low-interest loans or grants up to \$6,000 to low- or moderate-income homeowners for repairs. Federal income guidelines will be used to determine who qualifies for the funding. For example, a family of four would qualify for this loan if its income level did not exceed \$34,950. I believe there is a great need for this type of service, so I have set aside \$100,000 for this purpose.

The legislation will be passed in the next month so that applications can be taken and work could begin in early spring. If you're interested in participating in the program, let me know, and I will contact you as soon as the legislation is passed.

Housing is the priority in the 7th ward. This update should prove that it is. I'm quite proud of all the work being done throughout the ward. Our neighborhoods will be better for us as well as for the new residents!

The FRAMERY



- Custom Picture Framing
- Needlework
- Shadow Boxes

... also Posters,

Prints, & Post Cards

Monday-Friday—10:00-5:30

Saturday—10:00-4:00

(Appointments made upon request)

1208 Russell Blvd.

771-1238

in Historic Soulard

Free Estimates

BILL DYE PLUMBING CO., INC.



Specializing in:

Renovation and Restoration Sewer and Water Repairs

776-1800

1819 Lynch
St. Louis, Mo.

... in Historic Soulard



**CELEBRATE THE
MARDI GRAS
SEASON
SOULARD MARKET
STYLE!**

**COMPLETE
CAJUN & CREOLE
COOKING SUPPLIES:**

SHRIMP

SEASONINGS

OKRA

HOT SAUCES

CHICORY COFFEE

CRAWFISH

TOMATOES

SAUSAGE

PEPPERS

CHICKEN

PASTRIES

& PACKAGED MIXES FOR:

GUMBO

DURTY RICE

ETOUFFEE

RED BEANS & RICE

JAMBALAYA

BLACKENED SEASONINGS

CAJUN FISH FRY MIX

**AND, OF COURSE,
THE FRESHEST PRODUCE
IN TOWN!**



**LOCATED AT SEVENTH AND
LAFAYETTE STREETS
TEL (314) 622-4180**

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

ENGINE COMPANY 11: SOULARD'S ONE-OF-A-KIND FIREFIGHTERS

by Eric Hobson

In an area as old as Soulard, with buildings in various levels of repair, fire protection is important. Faulty wiring and hundred year old wood can combine quickly with disastrous, even deadly, consequences. The thought of even one Soulard home or business burning is not to be relished. Ensuring that such conflagrations do not happen, or, if they do, that damage is minimal, is the job of Engine Company 11, at 7th and Shenandoah, within minutes of every address in Soulard.

Staffed by three six-member teams of firefighters, Company 11 protects an area extending from Chouteau to Arsenal, and from the Mississippi to Jefferson. With Soulard as the heart of its jurisdiction, this is our firehouse, and the men who make up its three teams are worth meeting.

At least four members of one crew are in or around the firehouse at all times. Whether sitting in the "joker stand" (the watch room), checking and maintaining equipment, training, cooking, reading, sleeping, or watching the community's comings and goings, the members of Company 11 can have any piece of equipment in service within seconds of a call. The firehouse is home to two trucks, a 1987 Pierce Aerial Pumper, with a fifty-foot ladder unit, and a foam truck, used for fires and spills involving fuel or hazardous chemicals.

These trucks are not what makes our firehouse unique, however. Within the station are housed the bulk of Fire Department Marine units: Marine units 2, 3 and 4. Responding to over two hundred calls in the past year, this facet of the station's responsibilities sets it apart from every other station in the city or region.

While the ground units respond most often to calls within a two-mile radius, the marine units respond to calls along approximately fifty miles of the Mississippi River. On a recent visit to the station, Captain Steve Kotraba of C-shift told us that he and his colleagues are responsible for responding to all calls on the Mississippi from Lock and Dam #26 on the North to Herculaneum on the South. They also work the lower end of the Missouri. When they are needed further, they go. "We've been as far away as Portage De Sioux to help," says Kotraba. Frequently they work closely with the Coast Guard in rescue operations.

Our firefighters rank among the best marine units on the Mississippi River. Kotraba credits the high regard the company enjoys to quali-



ty equipment, superb training, smart crews, and, most importantly, the full support the teams receive from the upper-level members of the St. Louis Fire Department. He specifically credits the great degree of support from Battalion Chief Paul Brown and Chief Milton Svetanics, who recognize that St. Louis needs a strong ability to avert disaster on the river.

The three boats stored at the 7th Street station are designed to fill specific, overlapping service roles. Marine units 2 and 3 are small craft designed primarily to work in the city's ponds and lakes and in low-lying flood areas, including the River Des Peres and the numerous creeks and streams that empty into the Mississippi River. These craft specialize as emergency response craft, not fire fighting units. Fire fighting is one of the jobs of marine unit 4, the newest member of the fleet. This craft is a twenty-one-foot boat donated to the city by Union Electric, and is equipped with a 250 gallon-per-minute pump. These three craft will be joined during the coming year by a thirty-two-foot boat, to be equipped with a 500 gallon-per-minute pump, recently acquired from the Coast Guard with help from Representative Richard Gephardt.

The crews housed in this station are some of the most highly trained in the city. To fulfill their roles as land- and water-based firefighters, they have to be. As part of their training, they initially worked on the water four hours a day, receiving instruction in water-based fire fighting and rescue, including scuba and hard-hat diving training. Kotraba considers the training of Company 11 to be comparable to that of the paramedics and hazardous materials teams.

This year's flood put their training to the test. Among their various

activities, they responded to the washout along the downtown floodwall, retrieved propane tanks and other hazardous debris from the river, rescued people who had waited too long in their homes before trying to leave, and helped catch the Burger King barge when it broke away from its moorings and careened down the river on a ride that stopped only after it lost its top level in a mismatched tangle with a bridge. The divers brought in by Phillips Petroleum to deal with the now-famous propane tanks worked out of Station 11.

All members of these crews volunteered for the ground/marine assignment. While many St. Louis Fire Department veterans wanted nothing to do with the river, a few genuine river rats jumped at the chance to face the challenges that Old Man River poses for firefighters and rescue teams. The boating experience of some of the crew members, combined with the intense training they continue to receive, makes for "river-smart" firefighters.

Although the crews are young (many of the firefighters were handpicked from the ranks of students at the academy) these firefighters are smart and well-seasoned. Last year's flood helped build these characteristics. During the flood, marine units 2, 3, and 4 were on the water full-time, ferrying rescue teams, utilities workers, and stranded families. They corralled renegade propane tanks, dislodged caskets, chemical barrels, and other hazardous and toxic materials that rode to St. Louis on the swollen river. Many members of these crews worked extended shifts, getting to rest only when colleagues from other stations with boating experience volunteered to spell them. Even then, Kotraba points out that many of Company

11's crew would show up at the river or at sandbagging sites, committed to serving wherever they could. For most of this period, the crew of Company 11 had all the overtime they could handle, and in addition firefighters from conventional fire crews were brought in to man the station and the trucks to free the crew for river action.

The flood was a dangerous time for the marine crews. Occasionally members of the community complained because from their riverside vantage point it appeared that the crew were not active enough. "When we're out there, were it," explains Kotraba. "We have to be prepared for all possibilities, even a retreat." What appears as inaction from the shore, however, is careful assessment of the situations in which these teams find themselves. The river currents, especially in flood stage, are treacherous, and any diver in the muddy waters of the Mississippi is working blind. The last thing they want to do is to have to rescue a teammate who became too reckless. More than anything else, the crews are guided by an operational procedure succinctly stated as "You can't over commit yourself. The river doesn't forgive mistakes or attempted heroes."

Company 11's future looks to be busy. With the addition of the new boat sometime in the spring, the marine units will move to a site at the foot of Chouteau where a barge-based permanent station will be constructed which will reduce their response time. At that time, a conventional fire crew will be brought in to take over Station 11. This relocation is needed because the river is extremely busy, and will get busier.

There is a lot of barge traffic carrying a wide variety of materials, often hazardous, that must be monitored and assisted when needed. There is also a lot of pleasure traffic on the river, especially boats going from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. Riverboat gambling necessitates an increased presence on the river. As more gambling boats ply the Mississippi's waters, Company 11 will be called upon to transport emergency cases from the boats to land-based medical units, to pull inebriated gamblers from the river, and, possibly, to fight fires on board the casinos.

From the outside, Fire Station 11 is easy to pass without a glance or a second thought. However, this place is a hub of activity, much of it vital to Soulard and the city. Given the diversity of talent and services these men offer, it seems fitting that they are located in the heart of Soulard.

[The author wishes to thank Capt. Kotraba and the men of C-shift for their help in compiling this story.]

The White Cloud: A Name from History

by Eric Hobson

Sitting on its trailer in Station 11, the twenty-one foot *White Cloud* gleams red with lines that suggest power and agility. The newest boat in the St. Louis Fire Department's marine fleet, this is a boat designed to save lives and fight fires on or near the water. It is not named for a brand of toilet paper. Although *White Cloud* may seem an odd name for a red fireboat, it is a name with a long history for St. Louis and its Fire Department. The first owner of that name became the catalyst for the city's long-standing commitment to fire protection.

May 5, 1849 dawned typical in St. Louis. The waterfront bustled as twenty-three packetboats, stern-wheelers from all along the Mississippi, were docked along the St. Louis wharfs loading and unloading the goods that helped make the city a prosperous center of commerce. At some point a fire broke out on the *White Cloud*, the smallest and the least loaded of all the packets on the river.

Because the riverboats were constructed of wood, fire was a serious threat to commerce and lives. Adding to the potential for disaster was the pragmatic docking procedure of stacking boats several deep along the limited space on the riverbank. Acting quickly, dock crews used the fire protection procedure of the day. They cut the *White Cloud* from its moorings and pushed it into the current where it could burn to the waterline, safely isolated from the other heavily-laden packets.

The current did not cooperate. The *White Cloud*, now burning out of control, moved back into the midst of the other boats. The fire spread quickly. Then the wind picked up out of the East and hot embers were sent raining down on the city's waterfront.

The fire moved quickly into the warehouses along the river. Eventually, the fire would consume a fifteen square block area: five blocks along the river, and three blocks west. Miraculously, the fire itself only claimed four or five lives, although some believe unsanitary conditions from the fire contributed to the terrible cholera epidemic later in the summer. Of the deaths attributed directly to the fire, however, none was more sensational than that of Captain Targee, a volunteer firefighter leading the efforts that day.

The firefighting equipment of the day was fairly useless fighting the central fire, with their lack of pressure and low water output. Against the buildings that were burning that day, the most effective



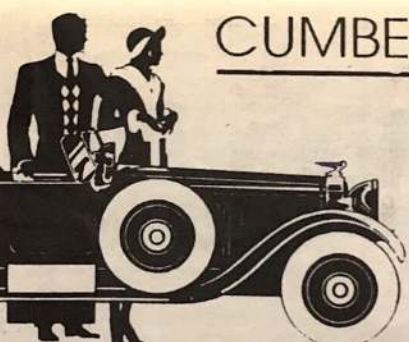
The *White Cloud* driving down Leonore K. Sullivan Blvd. during last summer's flood.
—Photo courtesy of the Saint Louis Fire Department

tactic was demolition. Barrels of gunpowder were placed inside buildings just outside the fire and detonated to destroy the building, creating an empty buffer that the fire could not jump over. Captain Targee was in charge of this operation. On one trip into a building on the edge of the fire zone, the plug in the barrel Targee was carrying apparently came out, leaving a trail of gunpowder following him into the building.

The power ignited. The barrels in the building exploded, leveling the

structure with Targee inside. Fire department mythology maintains that Targee's head was later found on top of a building five block away.

Because of the destruction wreaked on St. Louis by this fire, and of Targee's heroic efforts, the city committed itself to maintaining the absolutely best fire department possible. Thus, it is fitting that when the city acquired marine firefighting technology, the boat was christened *White Cloud* after the catalyst of the Fire Department's continued commitment to excellence.



CUMBERWORTH'S

FINE
FLOWERS
AND
GIFTS

The Finest Flowers and Gifts

WIRE SERVICE

HISTORIC LAFAYETTE SQUARE
1909 Park Ave., St. Louis, MO 63104
314/231-7407

American Express
Mastercard
& VISA

Neighborhood Fabric

by Jay Gibbs

Soulard's housing stock ranges from stately mansions to humble cottages, and 1015 Geyer Avenue qualifies as one of the latter. The building started as a tiny two-room homestead built in the French Creole style — notice the center-of-the-roof chimney in the before-rehab photo—in the 1840's or 1850's.

The small building was enlarged to its full size of five rooms plus attic prior to the Civil war; its simple Federal-style lines and lack of a basement made it an economical home for generations of immi-

grants and renters until fairly modern times.

Unfortunately, damage from fires, vandalism, weather and poorly executed prior remodeling rendered this building not only uninhabitable, but in real danger of literally falling apart. Most people had given up on this shell, and the city ended up seizing the property for unpaid taxes.

Dave and Marge purchased the shell for a nominal sum at a subsequent sheriff's tax sale, and rehab/rebuilding soon began. As they gutted the building it was so

unsound that all that remained salvageable (or even standing!) were the south and east exterior brick walls — talk about starting over!

After new systems were installed, a concrete new floor slab was poured and a new floorplan took shape inside the antique walls. The new roof structure was built of scissor trusses (picture the shape of the blades of a pair of scissors in the all-the-way-open position) allowing cathedral ceilings throughout the interior of the 1300 square foot space.

A contemporary and charming floorplan makes the two-bedroom cottage seem much larger, even with its slightly altered roofline, is faithful to the original building's French Creole/Federalist roots. Here is a fine wedding of antique architecture and new technology, of a new home constructed inside old walls. Yes, even heavily damaged shells can be economically saved when rendered by creative minds and capable hands.

Dave and Marge love their new home, and like Soulard so much that they have purchased and begun rehabbing another ravaged building, a two-family shell at 1111 Allen Avenue. Welcome to the neighborhood, Marge and Dave!



Dilapidated and unwanted, 1015 Geyer Avenue was seized for back taxes by the City.



During rehab by Dave and Marge, the roof, all of the interior, and the back wall were razed. Then a new home was built within the remaining old structure.



1015 Geyer Avenue Shines again as a finished two-bedroom cottage home.



SOULARD DRY CLEANERS

HOURS

Mon.-Fri. 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

2401 S. 11th.
Corner of 11th. and Barton
St. Louis, Mo. 63104
772-1991

Providing The Quality and Service you deserve

Repair & Alteration
Service Available

Seasonal Storage
Wedding Gowns Cleaned & Preserved

CLEMENTINES

2001 Menard
at Allen

664-7869

Happy Mardi Gras!!!



ARCELIA'S

Authentic Mexican Food of Old Mexico



Try Our
MARGARITAS

7:00 am - 9:00 pm — DAILY
Friday & Saturday — Open til 10:30 pm
2501 South 9th at Victor
1 Block West of Broadway (7th) in Soulard
Carry Outs — **776-5900**

Syncopation in Soulard

Available from Mr. Soulard
Carlis Dawson 664-9738

"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!

Community Involvement Needed

by Dorathea Davis
State Representative, 63rd District

No one will ever be able to think of the year 1993 without thinking of the Great Flood and the tragedy it left in its wake. Thousands became homeless. Businesses were destroyed.

Just as memorable were the thousands who came to the aid of friends, neighbors and total strangers. I hope that in 1994 we can garner that spirit of community on a daily basis as we work to make our neighborhoods safer places in which to live.

Not all residents of Souard realize how fortunate we are to have individuals such as Bob Kraiberg, Dave Lewis, Clark Rowley and many others who volunteer their time to protect their neighborhood. They ride with the crime patrol, educate and inform on safety issues, become block captains. Their continued efforts have led to a more tight-knit community. They should be commended for that effort.

Other neighborhoods are not as fortunate. Solutions are being sought on both the city and state levels. Crime and safety have become the number one issue.

As the 1994 legislative session begins, the Missouri House of Representatives will look at several proposals to attempt to reduce crime. These include: stricter gun control legislation, revision of the Juvenile Code, possible boot camp for first time offenders, preventive measures on drugs and alcohol, and increase in the time actually served in prison by violent offenders. These are just a few of the issues that we will address, revise and possibly pass this session.

Meanwhile, there is a great need to reach out to our young people. As parents, business people and concerned citizens, we should expect nothing but the best for our children. There is much lacking in education (Missouri is 49th in the nation), counseling and treatment of substance abuse, recreational facilities and, most importantly, jobs.

As a community, we can become part of the solution, expanding our efforts, becoming a mentor to one child or many. Let us pass on the benefits of the knowledge, creativity and guidance that we were fortunate enough to receive in our youth, but that many of our young people may lack today.

Strategic Plan for the Souard Neighborhood

It's 1994, and with the new year there are big plans ahead for Souard. As part of a neighborhood-wide planning initiative, Aldermen Aboussie and Young and ConServ Officer Mary Hart will work with Souard residents to develop a strategic plan for the neighborhood. The plan will outline goals, objectives and specific tasks in six specific areas of emphasis: Education, Safety, Recreation, Beautification, Marketing, and Housing.

The Strategic Plan for Souard will be developed through six committees, comprised of neighborhood residents, one for each of the subject areas above. Beginning this month, Aldermen Aboussie and Young will appoint residents to serve on these committees. The committees will be small, from five to seven members each. They will meet with the ConServ Officer between three and five times over the next few months to review the development of the Strategic Plan and make appropriate changes as necessary. The key to this approach is that it allows neighborhood residents to set priorities for their neighborhood with the city. The plan is intended to serve as the blue-

print for the future development of Souard.

Once a complete draft of the Strategic Plan has been assembled it will be presented to neighborhood organizations throughout Souard for their input and comments. If you have any questions or comments about the Strategic Plan or the committees being formed please contact Mary Hart at 622-4628 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

—submitted by Mary Hart, ConServ

The Great Grizzly Bear of Souard

1027 Geyer at Menard
231-0444
Serving Lunch

Billy Peek Day & Night Sat., Feb. 12, Mardi Gras
Fan Appreciation Show — Fat Tue., Feb. 15

BILLY PEEK:
Feb. 4, 5, 1, 12, 18, 19
SOULARD BLUES BAND
Feb. 26, 27



**1860's
HARD SHELL
CAFE & BAR**

**1994 MARDI GRAS
February 5-15**

ZYDECO MUSIC **RHYTHM & BLUES**

HURRICANS UNIQUE BEADS
Watch the Parade Sat. Feb. 12
at the corner of 9th & Geyer
Call for our complete Mardi Gras
Entertainment Guide 231-1860
Jagermeister on TAP
1860 S. 9th Street 231-1860
HISTORIC SOULARD

Angelina's

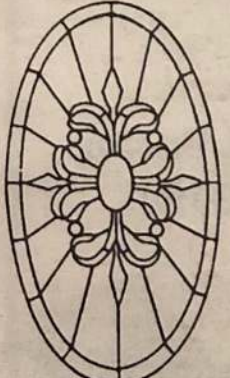


SOULARD DELI

2100 South Ninth
at Russell in
Historic Souard
Real Close to Downtown

Hours:
Mon-Fri 7am-6pm
Sat. 8am-2pm
Closed Sunday
For prompt take-out call
773-1171 or FAX 773-4333

Mardi Gras Specials: Mafulotos — Red Beans & Rice
No Tickets Needed



**MITHRA
GLASSWORKS**

Leaded and Stained Glass Windows
Lamps and Hangings
Original Designs and Reproductions
Now Offering Custom Mirrors,
Tabletops and Mirror Re-Silvering
Complete Line of Hobby Supplies
Classes Forming NOW!

**HOURS: 10:00-5:00 Tues.-Fri.
Sat. 9:30-5:00**

865-3877 1304 SIDNEY

Clementine's — Prime Rib...and Much More

by Carla Gibbs

Upon entering Clementine's (at the corner of Menard & Allen) for the first time, I had to do a bit of scouting to find the entrance to the "Oh My Darling" Cafe. Look for the canvas awning to the left when you enter. I passed a serious game of pool in progress and a rowdy dart game; this is definitely a fun environment for drinks. The restaurant is separate from the bar and is much quieter, although we could still plainly hear the strains of old Blondie and Eurythmics tunes from our table. Dark brick walls and candlelit tables make the restaurant interior quite intimate. Decor consists primarily of Mardi Gras memorabilia and a bit of low-key erotica.

Appetizer selections consist of the typical fare in St. Louis: toasted ravioli, chicken wings and the like, ranging from \$2-\$5. The menu fea-

tured a surprising breadth of entrees: from home cooking standards like chicken fried steak, meat loaf, pot pie and sandwiches to more "formal" dishes including crab cakes, broiled scallops, pepper filet with cognac sauce and prime rib.

We had heard from many sources that Clementine's prime rib was terrific and we weren't disappointed. The chef cooked each order exactly to specifications and it was deliciously tender. As with all dinner entrees at Clementine's, the prime rib was served with hot bread, french onion soup, salad and potato. The bread was fantastic, hot and crisp outside and perfectly buttered and seasoned. The soup had hearty slices of onion and good flavor, and salads were made up of a nice variety of fresh greens and veggies. The house oil and raspberry vinaigrette dressing was exceptionally good. Potato choices (fries or baked) were satisfying and done just right.

The herb chicken (\$6.75) was a bit overdone but still had a distinct light flavor that was well received. Grilled smoked pork loin (\$6.75) had a melt-in-your-mouth smoke flavor to recommend it. Veal Parmesan (\$6.95) was tender and flavorful and was served

with a side of pasta. Bacon-wrapped filet mignon (\$7.95) was very tender and done exactly to order. The special of the day was chicken fried steak (\$6.75) served with mustard greens and mashed potatoes. Very tender beef inside crispy fried batter made it delicious and the peppery gravy on the mashed potatoes gave it a flavorful kick. Mustard greens were just right for rounding out the meal. All of our entrees were satisfactory but the beef entrees stood out as excellent. The prime rib (\$7.95/8 oz. or \$9.95/12 oz.) is certainly among the best any of us have tried.

After such a generous meal, few of us had room for dessert. We did try cherry pie and key lime pie, both of which were quite good. The cherry pie would have been even better if it were warmed a bit. Remarkably, our dinner for eight came in under \$90.00 with drinks. For a multi-course meal as generous as is served at Clementine's, it's tough to beat the price.

Clementine's has been a popular Souland neighborhood fixture since the 70's. As the first gay bar in the neighborhood, Clementine's continues to uphold and build on its tradition as a landmark in the area. Lest straight patrons have concerns, be advised that "breeders" are welcome, too.



ADT
Security
Systems

Tommy Phillips
Sales Representative

804 Lebanon Drive
St. Louis, MO 63104
Office Telephone: 314 621-8964
Voice Mail: 314 621-4610
Ext. 139
Home: 314 771-7117

Kites in Souland

Sunday, March 20th
Pontiac Park
1:00 - 3:00 PM

On the first day of Spring, kids under age fifty-five will gather in Pontiac Park for an old fashioned Kity Fly. The event is being sponsored by the local Business and Neighborhood associations, and coordinated by the Souland Beyond 2000 committee.

There will be Coca-Cola, hot dogs, contests, fun and festivity. Don't be late... Call 664-9738 to volunteer to help this fine effort for all the kids in Souland.



GREAT PLACE FOR STEAKS!!!

Recommended by SEDG MEAD

Introducing
Tucker's Place
WEST

14282 Manchester Rd.
227-8062

&

In Historic Souland
2117 S. 12th St.
772-5977

Now Open!

15% discount

Book Nook

Used and Discounted Books

2237 South Grand (4 blocks south of I-44)

772-0606

bring in this ad for a 15% discount



THE
SIDDENS
GROUP, INC.

- ❖ Specializing in employee benefit programs: Managed care, 401(k), life, dental, disability, individual life and health.
- ❖ For a no obligation review of your present plan, call 773-1600.

Real Estate Values & Sales Up in 1993

by Alan Richardson

Last year proved to be the year that Soulard kicked off the last traces of recession, at least as far as the property market was concerned. Records were broken in number of houses sold, average price and even top price. This was in a year when other neighborhoods were still only getting back on their feet as far as house sales were concerned!

Thirty-two houses were closed for a total sale price of \$5,234,050. That comes to an average price of \$161,064, the first time in at least five years that the average price has reached six digits.

In a year when average house prices dropped marginally again in St. Louis City and County, this is an impressive achievement. It's the third straight year the average price in Soulard has increased.

Last year also saw the highest individual sale for a single-family home in the neighborhood, \$255,000. It was also the year that finally saw the Day Care Center on 8th Street sell to buyers who will rehab it as it should be! We wish you the very best, Phil and Hilda, on the ambitious job you're undertaking with John Durnell's assistance.

Have house prices as a whole begun to increase? We did sell three

properties for more than they had been purchased for in 1992, in one case \$9,000 more. In each case, the residents were forced to sell by employment relocations, but did not lose money.

Overall, though, I wouldn't say house prices have moved up much. If anything, they firmed up as values hardened. People got much closer to their asking prices, but part of that may be due to more realistic asking prices. Many properties sold very quickly, some within two weeks, while a few were sold which had been on the market for over two years.

With these excellent results, you should feel comfortable with the value of your Soulard home. But results are only as good as yesterday in what is still a volatile economic climate. So what will we see in 1994?

The first is a fairly safe guess. Because so much property has sold, property inventory is running low, probably the lowest year's start in at least three years. I think it will remain relatively low in 1994, and less houses will sell in total, but the average price will increase yet again.

The average price is already up for 1994 on the houses already under contract, and the relative short-

age of good quality listings may force the beginnings of a turnaround in what has been for almost five years a buyer's market. That would be interesting! Generally speaking, if you are selling, I think you will get your best price in 1994, better than any in the last three years.

The houses that sell fastest are those that are best presented. In Soulard, top dollar goes to either well preserved and restored historic interiors or, alternately, to well finished and designed contemporary gut rehabs.

Things that will hurt your sale price or slow you down are: "color dating" — kitchens, carpets, or interior color schemes that date back to the early 80's or before; do-it-yourself shortcuts like suspended ceilings, plastic plumbing instead of copper, paper hanging over old plaster, or stucco effect to cover old ceilings; lack of light; small rooms; and outdated kitchens and baths.

Pluses are wood floors (tear up those old carpets if you can), open plan designs, yards, wood burning stoves or fireplaces, light or pastel colors, well-restored original trim, exposed brick, nice kitchens, good master baths, and of course garages.

As Soulard continues its improvement, other city neighborhoods are beginning to follow. Are we looking at a swing of the pendulum back from the county to the city? It's certainly happening in Europe, where rundown docklands and inner city areas now command premium prices as new developments, loft style homes, luxury apartments and waterfront homes.

St. Louis has enormous potential with its waterfront, which to my continual mystification — coming from Europe — has never been developed residentially. But, apart from that, there are enough developments going on and slated for downtown to promote something of a revival. The county is also getting further and further west. Highway 40 is becoming more and more of a parking lot, as is I-70, in rush hours. There are plenty of reasons to live in the city.

We are all aware of the rehabbing going on in Soulard. Perhaps the most important outstanding question is: when will we see new single family construction come back in and around downtown? And, will Soulard be the pioneer in 1994?

In the short term, I think we will continue to see a steadily progressive revival in strong city neighborhoods, with a crossover into the weaker areas. But, if there's any move of the pendulum in the year ahead, it will continue to be gradual.



NORTON'S CAFE
808 GEYER • IN SOULARD
436-0828

Party Room and Catering Now Available
Seating by our two fireplaces
Open during House Tours

FEATURING

Creole Sampler ■ Seafood Platter ■ Jambalaya
Raspberry Chicken ■ Cajun Pasta ■ Shrimp Creole
Blackened Catfish

OPEN 7 DAYS FROM 11 A.M.

Mardi Gras Memories

by Tonca Yarbrough

"Dear Grandma,
Hi, how are you? In English class we are doing a writing project. Our teacher told us to write a letter to an elder (ouch!) of ours, asking them to tell us about a memorable experience of a holiday that would never be forgotten. We are taking our replies and turning them into a story. The letter can be about any holiday such as Christmas, Easter, Halloween, etc. Since I am getting a reply from you I have a great chance of getting an A+. (Yes, love, you're in the will.)

Love, Michael Kettler

P.S. Please give the reply of the memory of when you were a little girl."

"Dear Michael,

If Easter meant itchy new clothes and Christmas sometimes fell short of expectations the one holiday that was never disappointing as I was growing up in New Orleans was Mardi Gras..."

Ah, but that was another time and another place. Now I've had a decade of Souldard Mardi Gras Celebrations to garner a myriad of memories, not all of which are appropriate for Michael's paper.

Just when the world seems to have lost its sense of humor along comes the mayhem of the carnival season; a meeting of the minds and mindless; a great equalizer, and a time to let the inner child in all of us come out to play.

THE PARADE. We were perhaps a little too smug, there in our vintage limo, tossing beads and royal

waves to the crowds along the parade route. On the small float we towed, Pops Porter offered his imitable renditions, he and his keyboard among faux blue skies and cirrus clouds. Yes, we were sure to win a prize. Then it happened. Just a block to the judges' stand at Menard and Russell, and the car lost power. We veered to the left, east onto Russell, momentum carrying us over the barricade, sending the crowd scurrying for safety like a scene from "National Lampoon's Animal House".

THE BALL. A brick sitting on my window sill before me bears a brass plaque that reads, "1986, Souldard Mardi Gras Ball, Best Costumed Couple". He was Rhett to my Scarlet. Hoop-skirted and corsetted, I gained new respect for antebellum Southern women. At the end of the evening there was no mystery about "what's under there?".

THE WEATHER. One may be sunburned or frostbitten. We've had it both ways. Being the resourceful people that we are, neither rain nor sleet nor snow ruin the party. When one neighbor hired a Dixieland combo for his patio party and an ice storm forced the festivities indoors the group set up in the dining room. It was an ear-shattering experience, but the band played on.

SOMETHING FOR THE KIDS. Was it far into a "happy-hour" when I volunteered to help out at the Children's Fair? Picture a school gym, a hundred children, and enough raw materials to glue and feather and glitter every Souldard man, woman and child. Feel the terror of this grown-up whose "crafty" days are long-forgotten. See the joy as boys and girls created masks, beads, headbands and treasures ad infinitum. Join the volunteers for "de-briefing".

HURRICANES. It was another fine mess I'd gotten myself into when I hawked beverages at a sidewalk stand. Souldard has adopted this New Orleans concoction of rum and fruit juices as a traditional Mardi Gras drink. Hurricanes were available in plastic cups, attractive souvenir glasses, in my hair, down my blouse and on my shoes. Hurricane mix has the adhesive quality of the glue at the Children's Fair.

THE PEOPLE. It's pirates and princes, neighbors and strangers, big kids and little kids that make the Souldard Mardi Gras special and unique.

"As every writer knows, Michael, there is no story without the characters.

Love,
Grandma"

David's Design Salon



65% stronger,
shinier, healthier looking
HAIR

CAT[™] Hair Care System

A dramatically different hair care system. Powered by patented Taurine technology. To improve hair strength by up to 65%. CAT cleanses, conditions, treats and styles. Gives hair the strength to keep on shining. Ask for it today.



REDKEN

THE POWER BEHIND BEAUTIFUL HAIR
Redken Laboratories, Inc. 1993. All rights reserved.

2233 South Grand
771-9001



restaurant/catering

1808 s. ninth street
in historic souldard
st. louis, mo 63104
314.621-9598
314.621-6329 fax

please call for
reservations
available for
private parties

Focusing on
customer needs.

**MERCANTILE
BANK**
Member FDIC

1731 S. Broadway • 421-3200



**BSB
Development
CO.**

One-, two-, & three-bedroom
garden, townhouses and
alley houses

Rents

\$325 - \$750 /month

2306 South 13th Street • St. Louis, Missouri • 63104

(314) 776-1811

Souldard's

1731 S. 7th • St. Louis, MO 63104 • 314.241-7956

Please visit and enjoy one of our specialties:

Fresh Norwegian
Salmon

w/ Lemon Butter Dill Sauce

Peppered Pork
Tenderloin

w/ Garlic Mayonnaise Sauce

Peppered Beef
Tenderloin Filet

w/ Cognac Sauce

Grilled Chicken Breast

w/ Indian Marmalade

Fresh Sea Scallops

w/ Lemon Butter Garlic Sauce

SOULARD'S UPSTAIRS

Luncheon Reservations
Private Parties • Business Meetings
Breakfast

**Thank you for your business
— we appreciate it!**

Dan & Tim Badock

A Glance Ahead and a Fond Look Back

by Jay Gibbs

I'm baaaaack! I put the "Amateur Rehabber" column on hiatus whilst I was editor of this fine publication, but now that I'm just a writer again, I have more time for the fun stuff. It's good to be back!

For you recent arrivals, this column has humorously chronicled the ups, downs and side trips of turning my hulk of a shell into a rehabbed home. Along the way I discovered the grit of plasterdust, the horrors of airborne fiberglass, the highs of being featured on house tours and the lows of rehabber burnout. As the Grateful Dead sang, "What a long, strange trip it's been!"

The last of these columns I'd written before becoming editor was about "The Wall", the 6-foot tall 62-foot long fence I was laying brick-by-brick myself along our south property line. For those of you waiting with bated breath, I finished up that wall on November 17, 1992 after two years of grueling, obsessive work. Like the rehab of the house and garage, it was a tough go at times, but the result is certainly worth all that effort.

By spring, 1993, my brick-scarred, mortar-eaten hands had healed, and I needed a new PROJECT to sink my finger nubs into. My parents had, coincidentally, started making snide remarks about "the boardwalk", the plywood pieces that have comprised, since mid-1988, the sidewalk between my back door and the alley.

All true rehabbers know how sometimes things meant to be truly temporary become semi-permanent because of chronic budget constraints, or because we rehabbers just GET USED TO these anachronisms, even though they are plainly and painfully evident to everybody else. This syndrome seems indigenous to the rehabber population, like plasterdust cough. Examples include chewing gum wads patching plumbing leaks, bent nails performing as doorknobs, sheet plastic substituting as interior walls...and plywood scrap, along with bricks, rocks and pieces of concrete, functioning as a usable but treacherous walkway. The only problem was, after five years, my sidewalk was beginning to rot!

So I decided to lay a new sidewalk in its place, composed of some of the zillions of bricks I'd scavenged around the neighborhood over the years. But, like every rehab project I've ever touched, before project "X" could be attempted, projects "Y", "Z", "A", "B" and "C" had

to be done first, in true flow chart fashion. This three-day brick sidewalk project ended up taking months!

First I had to bury a permanent wire supplying electricity from the house to the garage; then I had to grade and level the sidewalk site; then I had to dig a trench, build a foundation, and build the 8-inch high edge (more bricklaying, AAAGH!) of the future, raised patio. Then it turned out that I'd graded down too far, so I had to wheelbarrow more fill back into the construction site, and then carry about 118 5-gallon buckets of sand to form the "bed" of the brick sidewalk. Finally I had to haul down, from their tall stacks in the garage, about 1000 sidewalk bricks, a.k.a. "pavers" in rehabber dialect. Laying the bricks themselves was the easy part, and wow, what a difference! I should've done it years ago! And oh, don't cry for the plywood; I cut it up and used it for kindling in our wood stove.

The other major change made in 1993 was that I finally had to trade in my old car. You may have seen me chugging around the neighborhood in my red and white 1981 Ford Mustang I'd nicknamed "Rustbucket", a title that gradually became more and more accurate over the years. Oh, how I abused that car!

I hauled in or on top of Rustbucket: extension ladders; oak porch posts; old doors; rolls of fiberglass; bags of masonry cement; lumber and hardware of every description; and nearly every other object known to rehabberdom. The last thing I tied down to the luggage racks bolted atop Rustbucket's roof was a 250-pound cast-iron balcony railing; the car creaked and squeaked but still faithfully completed the task.

But, its transmission was slipping, its floor was rusting, the batteries were leaking, and the odometer was well onto the far side of 100,000 miles. So it was with genuine sadness that I went car shopping, and finally traded in trusty old Rustbucket.

I bought a 1992 Ford Ranger pickup truck at Don Brown Chevrolet, made famous by that wildly gesturing older gentleman on TV. They treated me right, and as Glen Campbell sang, "I Love My Truck." The dealership said the truck is green, but my friends-who-know-about-such-things assure me the color is "teal". I suspect colors like "teal" are a yuppie conspiracy, but hey I own it, I'm paying for it, so get used to it!

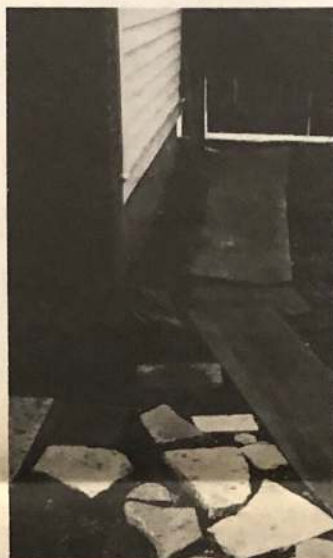
Ironically, since buying the truck I've used it relatively little for haul-

ing, much less so than Rustbucket.

But that's going to change. I think. There's a For Sale sign on the Amateur Rehabber's fondly loved house. My wife and I are not leaving Souland; no, we're purchasing another unrenovated house here in the neighborhood, and it's quite a building to convince us to sell our beloved home (a.k.a. my PROJECT for the last 10 1/2 years). I'll say no more about this here, except please someone buy our beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom rehabbed/restored townhouse so we can go wade in plaster dust again! I need material for more Amateur Rehabber columns!

Finally, as of this month I've been writing for this publication for

ten years, almost one third of my life. Whew! My very first article in the (then) Souland Restorationist appeared in February, 1984; how many of you remember that? In that article, which was the beginning of my "Amateur Rehabber" column (but not yet so named) I described prospecting for caves in my own basement, if you can believe it. Yep, I was (hyuk yuk golly gee) more gullible to the word of hoosiers (uh oh, where's my political correctness today?) back then. I'm feeling so nostalgic, hey, with Editor Steve's permission I'll re-run that ancient text right here, for your (and my) bemusement. So read on, Amateur Rehabber fans, and until next time...see you at Mardi Gras!



My rotting "Boardwalk" plywood sidewalk. What a backyard eyesore!



My new "paver" sidewalk—I knew those old bricks I've been saving all these years would someday be handy!



Souland Manor

Bed & Breakfast

2346 S. 13th Street
St. Louis, MO 63104
314-664-9738



VINCENTS Market

In Historic Souland Since 1903

Butcher Shop
Fresh Produce
Groceries

Old Time
Butcher Shop
Fresh Cut Meats

2400 S. 12th

772-4710

MUSIC NIGHTLY

MOLLY'S MARDI GRAS

PARADE SATURDAY
BOB CASE'S
ST. LOUIE TICKLE
ALL DAY CAJON COOKIN'

FAT TUESDAY
GEYER STREET
SHEIKS 9-1AM

WEDNESDAY
FEB 9-9 BALL TOURNEY 8PM

ZYDECO HAPPY HOURS
M-F 9-11AM M-Th 5-7PM
FRIDAY 4-7 PM

816 GEYER
436-0921




Thar's Caves in them thar Cellars!

by Jay Gibbs from
The Soulard Restorationist, Feb. 1984]

Did you ever dig a hole as a kid, determined to tunnel all the way to the center of the earth or even to China? Remember that euphoric, "I'm gonna do it!" feeling? Now, imagine a grown adult in a dark, dank Soulard basement digging hole after hole in damp, filthy coal cinders. Ridiculous, right?

Right. But I did it folks, no kidding. The object of my search was no less than a cave that allegedly runs right under my house. The former owner assured me that part of the celebrated Soulard cave system was accessible by a manmade vertical tunnel whose covered top was a tantalizing three feet below my earthen basement floor. He even pointed out the exact spot, for my convenience.

"No problem" thought I as I entered the work area, fitted out like an old miner, with shovel, pick, flashlight and determination. The cellar should have qualified as a cave itself, or at least a dungeon. How could any basement possibly be that musty, damp, and disgusting without a cave under it, right? Wrong.

I dug into the cinders with blind gold rush enthusiasm, oblivious to the discomfort of stooping over in the low room. I unearthed broken flower pots, pieces of antique bottles, rusty forgotten pipes, a crusty old spoon, and even some whole, ornamental bricks. But I hit clay.

honest-to-goodness virgin Missouri muck, about two feet down. Soon came a creeping thought that something might be amiss. Did I quit? No! I doggedly dug holes all around the first one, and then some more, until the surface resembled a bomb testing range. There may be a Santa Claus, but no, Virginia, there is no cave entrance under my house. I know because I even drove iron rods into some of the holes as a last ditch effort to find a hollow spot.

My contractor thanked me for helping him dig up the debris in preparation for pouring a cement floor, but my back was not so appreciative. Still, my prospecting yielded a wheelbarrow load of antique trim brick, in addition to the knowledge that one hundred years of coal cinders spread over a floor amounts to quite a bit. This treasury of tailings is now located in my garage, in case anyone cares to view the evidence. Moral of the story: if rehabbing becomes tedious, try digging for caves. You never know what will turn up, and you might even get your name in the paper. Oh, by the way, there is also supposed to be a secret, hidden sub-cellar room under the kitchen. Anyone wanna help me find it?

Next issue: What occurs regularly in this same basement during the rainy season after the concrete floor was poored? Stay tuned for details.

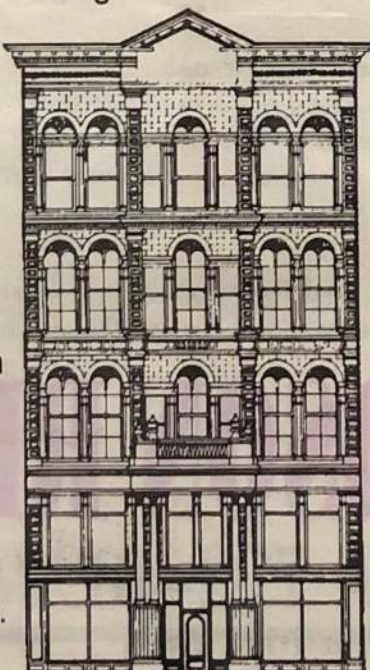
(Reprinted by permission. Yes, we gave ourselves permission to reprint it.—ed.)

PRESERVATION PLAN ON IT

Planning on restoring a house, saving a landmark, reviving your neighborhood?

Gain a wealth of experience and help preserve our historic and architectural heritage. Join the National Trust for Historic Preservation and support preservation efforts in your community.

Write:
 National Trust for
 Historic Preservation
 Department PA
 1785 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20036



Join the SOULARD RESTORATION GROUP

- Be a part of the Neighborhood Association of Historic Soulard
- Have a voice in what happens in YOUR community
- Make new friends

Sign me up as a member of SRG

_____ \$30 Family
 _____ \$18 Individual
 _____ \$12 Non-Voting
 _____ \$1 Senior

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Return to: Soulard Restoration Group
 P.O. Box 13312
 Soulard Station
 St. Louis, MO 63157

(Voting members must live in or own property/business in the Soulard Historic District)

THANK YOU, SOULARD

For Giving Us

A RECORD BREAKING YEAR!

31 Houses in Soulard sold or under contract by us during 1993!.....
3rd Successive year million dollar and multi-million dollar club in Soulard!.....
18 Houses in Soulard SOLD over \$100,000 by us during 1993!.....

Pat, Alex, and myself wanted to say a big "Thank You" for the confidence you've shown in us since we've anchored ourselves here in the neighborhood. You made me "Rookie of the Year" in 1991.
Now, in 1993 you've made us the brightest new brokerage in the city!

2401 S. 13th \$156,000	2220 S. 11th \$145,000	966 Geyer \$139,000	2624 S. 11th \$135,000	810 Ann \$89,000	902 Soulard \$85,000
1017 Lafayette \$89,000	1852 S. 10th \$110,000	2726 S. 13th \$78,500	820 Ann \$92,000	2637 S. 12th \$139,000	2352 S. 10th \$79,900
1827 S. 9th \$125,000	2115 Menard \$115,000	1010 Geyer \$119,000	2208 S. 9th \$110,000	2310 S. 13th \$119,000	814 Ann \$89,000
1230 Sydney \$76,000	720 Lami \$69,900	1109 Lami \$85,000	2406 S. 13th \$129,000	2219 S. 12th \$129,000	2620 S 11th \$110,000
1833 S. 8th \$130,000	2622 S. 13th \$89,900	2340 S. 13th \$119,000	1728 S. 8th \$255,000	1831 S. 8th \$125,000	1232 Sidney \$75,900
2215 Menard \$108,000					

Here's what you said about us!

"Very professional in every respect... They knew Soulard and the city better than any other realtor we'd spoken to... He sold it in less than a week... He priced it right... Great help all the way through to closing... We had listed it with another brokerage. When it expired we placed it with Alan and he sold it in a week!... Alan Richardson Realty: Soulard's Selling Machine!"

To sell your city property in 1994, call Soulard's top brokerage!
To find your dream house - city or county - we know them both! Call us!

ALAN RICHARDSON REALTY

2120 S. 11th • 772-4097

In Soulard... Selling Soulard... In Soulard... Selling Soulard...