

Please return to Jay Gibbs



# THE SOULARD RENAISSANCE

VOL. XXVI — ISSUE V

Living with History in Soulard - The City

Holiday 2001

## 2001 Holiday Parlor Tour Is Here!

By Carla Gibbs

**S**oulard welcomes visitors to its 26th annual holiday parlor tour on December 1st and 2nd. This year's tour route includes gracious town homes, a cozy carriage house, a mansion atop Soulard's highest point, a lovely new home built to Soulard's exacting historic standards, and a dynamic sculpture studio adapted from a former storefront. With eight properties featured you're sure to get some inspiration for your own remodeling or decorating projects.

As an added feature, the *Soulard Lost* photo exhibit at the Youth Education and Health in Soulard office on 12th Street will be open during the holiday parlor tour. The exhibit features photos of Soulard buildings that were destroyed over time. For history and architecture buffs, this stop is a must-see.

Take in the holiday parlor tour, enjoy lunch or dinner in one of Soulard's many pubs and restaurants and absorb the sights and sounds of the holidays in historic Soulard. Whether you're on the holiday parlor tour for the first time or you're a seasoned regular, we look forward to welcoming you.

### Tour Information

Saturday, December 1 &  
Sunday, December 2

10:30 am—3:00 pm

Tours depart every 15 minutes from the  
Sts. Peter and Paul parish hall at 8th Street  
and Allen Avenue.

Tickets : \$15.00/advance

\$18.00 day of tour

For advance tickets call  
Metrotix at 314/534-1111

For group tickets call 314/621-6226

### Welcome to the 26th Annual Soulard Holiday Parlour Tour



Saturday, December 1st and Sunday, December 2nd  
From 10:30 am to 5 pm

See in advance, \$18 at the door  
For group tickets and tour information call the Soulard Restoration Group at 314-621-6226  
For ticket orders call Metrotix at 314-534-1111

POSTER DESIGN BY KATHY BARKEY



1920s street scene, exact location unknown.  
Note the herringbone brick sidewalk,  
the dirt/gravel unpaved street, and the  
limestone cobble gutter.

Photo courtesy of Swicklasky Photo Collection,  
School Sisters of Notre Dame.

## The Pavement Right Under Our Feet

By Jay Gibbs

**O**ne usually thinks of Soulard's architecture, its historic buildings, when thinking and talking about the neighborhood. Certainly this is understandable, as antique houses are the dominant feature of our historic district. But don't overlook the surrounding context in which the housing stands. Let's take a look at the streets, sidewalks and alleys, which, after all, form the framework of historic Soulard.

Soulard's street grid was laid out over rolling, erstwhile farmland, in sections called "additions," from the late 1830s through the early 1850s. The locations of streets and alleys were quickly marked by surveyor's stakes, so that the

see **Pavement**, page 13

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WHAT'S  
INSIDE?

Mardi Gras Info .....3, 9  
SRG Bike Ride .....4  
The Christmas Eve Tree .....6  
St. Louis Marathon's  
Soulard Spectator Stand.....10  
Kid's Corner .....19

# Notes from the President

by Sue Ames



Our neighbors are sprucing up for the 25th Annual Soulard Holiday Parlour Tour on the December 1st and 2nd. This premiere event organized by the Soulard Restoration Group's Residential Promotion Committee showcases our neighborhood. The tour will once again start at the Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Hall and 7 homeowners will open their doors for a peek inside. The Committee, led by Jim Hamilton and Carla Gibbs, has been hard at work for several months organizing the tour. Besides being lots of fun, it is a great way to meet new neighbors. If you are interested in volunteering for a few hours, please call Jim Price at 621-1928.

The Committee Membership Drive held at the October meeting was a great success. Members got a chance to hear more about committee work and to speak with the Chairman. More than 20 members signed up to work on specific committees. What a great result! If you didn't get a chance to sign up for a committee, we will have the committee sign-up sheets available at our monthly General Membership meetings. Thanks to everyone who helped put the drive together and who signed up for committees.

This fall has been a fantastic time to wonder through the neighborhood seeing the gardens at their peak and both the renovation and new construction work going on. It is great to see Soulard continue to thrive and grow. As we begin to put our gardens to bed for the winter, we will start our planning efforts for Mardi Gras 2002, our next major event. And, as winter settles in, remember to stay involved with the neighborhood. It's a great way to beat those winter blues! Hope to see you at the general membership meetings, held on the first Wednesday of each month. Meetings are at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Hall, 816 Allen Street, 7:30pm.

Happy Holidays!!



## THE SOULARD RENAISSANCE

The Soulard Renaissance has a circulation of 6,300 and is published five times a year by the Soulard Restoration Group. Its aim is to inform, educate and entertain our readers on neighborhood happenings, special events, interesting people and important issues that affect the quality of life in our community. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Soulard Restoration Group. The Renaissance is distributed to Soulard residents, to area businesses and to our advertisers.

The mission of the Soulard Restoration Group is to strive to promote, preserve and enhance the historic character of the Soulard neighborhood, as well as improve the quality of life for all members of the community.

Address correspondence to:  
The Soulard Renaissance  
P.O. Box 13312, Soulard Station,  
St. Louis, MO 63157  
or call: (314) 621-6226

Deadline for articles and advertising for the next issue is 10 p.m. January 4, 2001.

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## Letter To the Editors



Sara Graham  
c/o The Soulard Renaissance

October 18, 2001

Dear Sara:

Your article in the fall Renaissance was one of the best articles ever written about Gateway Greening. If our story and mission were as clearly and accurately detailed each time we were in print, we would be in great shape, have dollars rolling in, and hundreds more gardens!

Thank you for helping us to get our word out in such an articulate manner! For your sin of good works, I put you on our mailing list!

Your fan,

Gwenne Hays-Stewart, Executive Director



## Letter From The Editors

Well, another year draws toward a close, and in your hands is Issue 5 of Volume 26 of *The Soulard Renaissance*. Your crack (or cracked?) editors would like to thank all the contributors of articles, photos, artwork, and ideas for your help with translating the work, fun, and history of Soulard into a portable, readable "platform" (oops, techno term. Sorry.)

We'd especially like to give thanks and kudos to some "retiring" staff members. Thanks to advertising salesperson Jennifer Hogan and ad invoicer (enforcer?) Blaine Sisk. Each has performed these behind-the-scenes duties faithfully for the last three years. Thanks, guys. Also, we want to recognize Michelle Worthington who, with her late husband Sam, cheerfully delivered your Renaissance to all the restaurants, bars, and other businesses for the last umpteen years. Thanks to you, Michelle, and belatedly to Sam as well.

We have "hired" new people to do these vital tasks in the new year; more about them next time. What we don't yet have are our own replacements. We stepped into these editorial roles to fill the need for 2001. We are even willing to stay on in 2002, but we need new, assistant (if you will) editors to train and eventually take over the Renaissance leadership. Don't be surprised if we "buttonhole" a number of you in this regard. Creating each Renaissance is a wee bit of work, yes, but very rewarding work, especially for those who love to see real, tangible, lasting results flowing from their efforts. We will help you learn this system so you can enjoy this benefit.

In closing, we hope you enjoy this latest issue, and we'll see you for Volume 27. Happy New Year.

## Home Delivery



Due to multiple requests for home delivery outside the Soulard neighborhood, the staff of *The Soulard Renaissance* has instituted a subscription program for those so interested. Each subscription will run one year (5 issues), and the cost is \$10.00 per annum. The subscriptions will start with the Mardi Gras issue in January/February 2002. If you'd like home delivery of the Renaissance, please send us your name and complete address, accompanied by a check for \$10.00 payable to The Soulard Restoration Group. Our mailing address is:

The Soulard Renaissance  
PO Box 13312 Soulard Station  
St Louis MO 63157

Thanks for your interest in *The Soulard Renaissance* and in Historic Soulard!

# Cajun Cook-off Contest Returns

By Maureen Concannon

On January 19, 2002 at a location currently unknown, Cajun cooks—both amateur/home cooks and professionals—will compete in the return of the ever-popular Cajun Cook-off. Contestants will enter one of three menu categories: entrée, soup/stew, or dessert. Get out your grandmother's recipe cards and your mother's cookbooks so that while you have friends and family visiting during the holidays you can try out some Creole or Cajun dishes on them. Once the dishes are perfect you'll be confident to compete against other inventive cooks.

A group of judges comprised of chefs, owners of restaurants not involved in the competition, wine & spirits representatives, and a person selected by the sponsor will taste each offering and declare a winner from the home cooks and the professionals. In short, what Jerry Berger calls "the foodies" will choose their favorite Cajun dishes.

Schnucks Supermarkets will sponsor the competition and will volunteer a family member or staff person to join in on the judging.

Winners will be photographed with the judges and their prizes—cash and a great basket of goodies for all six winners. We would like to publish the recipes on the Mardi Gras, Inc. Web page along with the photos.

Watch the Web site, to learn the specifics of location and time. You will be able to get an entry form and complete set of rules from the MGI office by January 2. Call 314-621-8878 for more info.

Food and beverages with a similar Creole flair will be available for purchase to people in attendance. A band will provide musical accompaniment for your dining and cooking pleasure. So pull out that iron pot, practice making a roux and dream up a divine edible for the competition.

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# 1st SRG Bike Ride Around St. Louis

By Julie Price

Ed. Note: Each month the Soulard Restoration Group membership committee organizes a social activity for members and friends. This inaugural bike ride was just the newest of these.



First of several refreshment stops!

SEPTEMBER 8, 2001—What a great time! Setting up this bike ride sounded like a great idea, until the time came to actually figure out where to go. Especially since I only dust my bike off once a year, you know, to make sure I still know how to ride. Anyway, I had an idea in mind where we should go, but was it safe? Practical? Accessible? And how long should it take?

And what about stops along the way? Well, these were the questions I had going through my mind the night before. I just stuck with the old "let's wing it" attitude, and it worked!

We had 12 Soulardians join us. The group included Julie and Jim Price, Tom Duerbusch, Kathy Barkey, Ed Fink, Brent Doore, Lacy Campbell, Todd Aston, Billy Tomer, Jim Curran, and Lisa Miller on bikes, and Rachel Wipf on the golf cart (she felt left out

not having a bike). We started at the parking lot on 12th and Allen at 1 pm, went south on 12th, left on Lynch, right on Busch Place, and rode up Pestelozzi through Anheuser Busch, waving to the tourists. After such a long ride we all decided it was already time to stop for refreshments. As the picture shows, yes, we are in front of Crabby's on Busch Place and Utah. After we had a special guy at the bar take our picture, we were off. We rode down around the ball

fields and the whole length of the graffiti wall, from Arsenal to Chouteau. It was cool to see so much talent. We did stop once in the break of the flood wall to gaze at the mighty Mississippi River. By the time we had traveled past the arch and up through the Landing, we

decided that we definitely needed a cold drink. So we went to the best place in the Landing to get a COLD drink, Fat Tuesday's. Ahhh, sipping a frozen mixed drink really hit the spot.

Then we were off again, with no route in mind and no turning back. Someone suggested we go to the Missouri Bar and Grill. Great, most of us had

never been there, and once we arrived, we all knew why. Aside from the skunky drafts and the bathroom stench, we had a lovely stop. It was more fun watching Rachel maneuver the golf cart through traffic down Washington Street and driving down the wrong side of the street on Tucker. I don't know, Ed's pop-a-wheely trick gone bad was pretty entertaining. Luckily we all made it safely. After that, we tooled down

Tucker to Spruce, hung a left, toured around Busch Stadium right when a ball game was getting out. Looking ahead we saw our next stop, Paddy O's. And of course they were having their usual "Cardinals won" celebration, with DJs playing outside and in, we were sure to have a fun time, and we did!

By this time it was 6 pm and we were either getting tired, hot, drunk, or all of the above. We one more quick stop at the Shamrock Liquor store to say

howdy to Patrick, who delivers us beverages anywhere we are, even if it is on the street corner in a golf cart! It was then time to head home. All of us commented that we had one hell of a bike ride and we will, for sure, do it again next year.



At another stop, we mingled with Cardinals fans downtown.

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# The Christmas Eve Tree

By Thomas H. Kiske

Author Thomas H. Kiske lived in Souland as a child <sup>over 70</sup> years ago at 11th and Victor Streets. He currently resides in League City, Texas but comes back to visit the neighborhood from time to time. This story previously ran in the December 1997 Renaissance. <sup>Nov 8 DEC - 2001</sup>

St. Joseph's Croatian Catholic Church towered tall and forbidding over the intersection of 12th and Russell in the old neighborhood. It was the highest point in the whole Souland area and from there all the streets sloped steeply downhill to the river. Although there were many other churches in Souland older and more architecturally compelling, because of its position atop the hill and because of its sheer size, St. Joseph's dominated the neighborhood. With the red brick rectory and school buildings connected to



the church stretching along Twelfth, and the huge asphalt-paved playground behind the buildings, St. Joseph's occupied an entire city block.

When the school was built around the turn of the century, it had been decided that a level playground was needed, so fill dirt was hauled in and dumped behind massive rubblestone retaining walls to compensate for the slopes of the terrain. At the east end of the block, the stone walls rose some twenty feet, adding to the monolithic, castle-like presence of St. Joseph's. The only entrance to the playground from the outside world was through a dark, arched porte-cochere on the 12th Street side of the edifice, narrowly scaled for carts and wagons, with closely fitting iron swinging gates kept securely chained and locked, except for deliveries and Sunday services when the playground was made available for parking for the few vehicles small enough to squeeze through.

St. Joseph's seemed built to intimidate and keep people out, away, at a distance. Its fortifications included not only the great stone walls and dark red brick building facades, but also a palpable grimness that seemed part of the structure. As a child growing up a few blocks from St. Joseph's in the 40s and 50s, I remember wondering what went on behind those somber and impenetrable walls, and being certain it was nothing happy.

Except at Christmas.

*continued on next page*



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from previous page

Each year, a few weeks before Christmas, the gates to St. Joe's were thrown wide, the playground was converted into a gigantic Christmas tree lot and the neighborhood was invited in. During this brief season the darkness of the porte-cochere was dispelled by the yellow-orange glow from a wood fire kept constantly burning in a 60-gallon drum just inside the yard to warm the ruddy-faced men in wool coats and gloves and stocking caps who volunteered to stand out in the cold winter air tending the trees. Even the old priests of St. Joe's, normally so stern in their black cassocks and starched white clerical collars, seemed to mellow with the season, chatting amicably with the shoppers. Some were even known to almost smile from time to time, in a manner which for them was positively jovial.

The Christmas trees were arranged in long rows, leaning against unpainted wooden racks built for the purpose. In the years after World War II, most of the Christmas trees at St. Joe's sold for one dollar. At a corner of the lot was a Special Section reserved for trees judged to be superior in fullness and appearance, priced at an outrageous \$1.25. Three days before Christmas, when all responsible families had already bought their tree, the prices began to

come down. Late afternoon on Christmas Eve the markdowns occurred hourly. I could always tell the state of my family's finances for the year by the lateness of the hour my father summoned us together for the trek up to St. Joe's. I know that it could not have always been so, but in my mind, it is always a snowy evening as we walk to the tree lot. Sound of bells and caroling are in the air and it is easy, as we pass through the gates and enter the Victorian porte-cochere, to imagine Bob Cratchit peering out from a window, or Tiny Tim perched wide-eyed and expectant on the stone doorstep.

Neighbors we have not seen since the onset of winter drove us all indoors are happy to be out and they greet us boisterously with the ebullient cheer of the season. Even at this late hour, the lot still has a good selection of trees. Pine boughs are strewn about; the scent is almost intoxicating.

My father pulls a tree from one of the racks and my mother scrutinizes it carefully. It must be turned and rotated, examined from every perspective. The first tree never passes the test, nor the second, nor the third. We troop from row to row as my mother's exquisitely sensitive arboreal eye rejects one tree after another, ignoring my father's growing impatience. At length, often after two or three circuits of the entire lot, our search uncovers just the right

tree, somehow overlooked by all the tree seekers who preceded us through the yard. We haul the tree back to the blazing barrel and my father negotiates a price with the man in charge as my mother and I gaze wistfully at the Special Section, wondering what a \$1.25 tree must be like and how it would feel to have the luxury of shopping for such a tree long before Christmas.

But our tree is a fine one. The man ties up the branches with twine, throwing in the extra pine boughs my father won with his negotiating skills. A peaceful, contented joy seems to fill the air with the snowflakes as we drag the tree home through the hushed, snow-covered streets. We don't speak much. My mother is thinking of how she will decorate the tree and arrange the extra boughs to compensate for the deficiencies only she perceives. My father's thoughts are of a hot turkey dinner with potato salad and cranberry sauce and perhaps, in view of the holidays, a nip of whiskey to ward off the winter chill. We reach our front door and stumble in with the tree, laughing and glad for the brightness and warmth of our living room. I just know that it is Christmas, when nothing is plain or ordinary, when even old St. Joe's becomes cheerful, and when a marked-down Christmas Eve tree brings our family close beyond words.

I want it to last forever.



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## From State Representative Maida Coleman

During the last legislative session, the Missouri General Assembly passed an initiative to pay tribute to the more than 123,000 WWII veterans still living in Missouri. The initiative authorizes medals and certificates for Missouri WWII veterans. In addition, those veterans who served on the June 6, 1944 D-Day invasion of Europe will also receive a replica of the 50th anniversary "Jubilee of Liberty" medals issued by France in 1944.

To be eligible for the medallion, and certificate, a veteran must have been living in Missouri on August 28, 2000, having served in a U.S. military force between December 7, 1941 and September 30, 1945. Applicants must have honorably separated or discharged from military service.

Applications are available at Missouri Veterans Commission office, Veterans of Foreign War buildings, on the Missouri National Guard web site at or by calling 573-638-9983.

Information needed for the application form include an address, serial number, branch of service, rank, unit, dates of World War II service and date landed in Normandy, if applicable. A copy of Record of Discharge or Separation from Service of Department of Defense Form 214 is also required. **Please do not submit original documents.** The application deadline is January 1, 2002.



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## House Decorating Contest Returns to Mardi Gras Celebration

By Maureen Concannon

The House Decorating contest returns to Soulard during Carnivale season in 2002. Buildings will compete in four categories:

- Single Family Homes
- Individual Apartment
- Multiple unit buildings in which all apartments are decorated
- Commercial buildings

Janet and Russ French are the chairpersons of the event and were instrumental in obtaining underwriting from Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Judges will view "contestants" on the afternoon of January 26, so have your Victorian lady, simple cottage or modern townhouse all dressed up. Winners will be announced that evening and prizes will be delivered that night or on Sunday, January 27, 2002.

Winners will be awarded a specially designed Mardi Gras flag with the logos of Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Mardi Gras, Inc. adorning its stripes plus a collection of goodies from local merchants. The flags are meant to be reminiscent of the Rex flag hung by the Kings of Carnival in New Orleans. Winners will be able to hang the flags until Ash Wednesday and every year thereafter during carnival season.

To participate in the Decorating Contest please fill in the form below and mail or fax it to the Mardi Gras Inc. office. For questions call 314-621-8878 or consult the web site: [www.mardigrasinc.com](http://www.mardigrasinc.com)

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And here they come! The St. Louis Marathon passed through Soulard early morning Sunday, October 21st. The 12th Street hill was mile 6 of the 26 mile run.

## The Soulard Spectator Station; What Happened?

By Rene Sommers

Perhaps I was a little optimistic in hoping that fifteen or twenty people would show up to cheer on the St. Louis Marathon runners passing through our fair neighborhood. After all, trying to lure people from their warm, cozy beds at 7:00 AM with only the promise of free donuts and coffee was asking a lot. This particular morning also coincided with a particularly successful street festival the evening before. So, of course even ten dozen FREE Krispy Kremes couldn't compete with that... right?

**WRONG!!!!** Imagine the marathon participants' pleasant surprise when they saw approximately fifty exuberant Soulard residents making noise, cheering, and dancing to the tunes in the street at such an early hour! Would you believe we actually ran out of donuts?

When helping out at the finish line, I was approached by several runners. (Yes, my Cat in the Hat costume made me somewhat recognizable.) They were very enthusiastic about our neighborhood. "You guys really helped me make it up that big hill," said one runner. "Those people did a great job," quoted another. One young woman commented, "It made such a difference. It was so motivating!"

In addition to the many spirited neighbors who came to celebrate, I would like to give a big thanks to John McGuire of McGurk's who donated cups as well as the electricity and space to play some pretty upbeat music. The sound system was generously provided by John Lehnhoff of St. Charles. Phyllis Young was also there to lend some enthusiasm. My only question now is who's bringin' the Bloody Marys next year???



The Soulard spectators gathered at McGurk's to urge on the participants.

Some spinal problems  
take years to develop.



(And so do all chiropractors.)

It takes at least six years of college level study to become a Doctor of Chiropractic. They complete the same amount of course work in anatomy and physiology as most medical doctors. And all chiropractors must pass rigorous exams to be state licensed before they can open a practice. ♦ If this level of education surprises you, you've probably never been to a chiropractor.

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# Christmases to Remember

*Church traditions make the season even more special*

By Donna Mulder

Traditions of the Christmas season live on in the hearts of young and old alike.

There are the joys and tribulations of decorating the sanctuary for Christmas. The peacefulness of special Advent services that help us prepare to celebrate the Savior's birth. And the children's Christmas Eve program that tells the special story of the Christ child.

Finally, there's the special candle-light Christmas Eve service that concludes with "Silent Night."

Lutheran churches across the country have a variety of traditions that celebrate the Christmas season. While some are steeped in the rich histories of their congregations, others have become rich just by the message they bring. One of these Christmas traditions can be found at Trinity Lutheran Church in Souland.

In 1911, three members of the decorating committee at Trinity Lutheran Church decided they wanted more than just the usual tree and its trimmings for Christmas.

So they created "The Panorama," a large diorama featuring the scene of Bethlehem, the surrounding hills and the stable in which Mary and Joseph found shelter.

"It's a daylight scene, but with the use of special lighting, they made it look like a night sky with stars twinkling," says Dennis Rathert, Trinity's archivist and historian, of the scenic representation. "The filament for the Christmas star was imported from Germany."

From the beginning, 40 figurines, including the Holy Family, shepherds and wise men, filled out the scene as a choir sang appropriate Christmas carols telling the story of the promised Savior. As the carols were sung, the lighting was turned up or dimmed at appropriate times, including the star of Bethlehem which would light up the darkened church.

**"The church was completely dark," says Wurtz.**

**"It would light up the entire church and was the most beautiful thing for the children to see. We just waited for that moment."**

"You almost had to be a chemist at the time to do the lighting," says Rathert. "They would immerse carbon rods into a saline solution. The voltage would increase or decrease based on how much carbon came into contact with the salt solution."

Ninety years later, the diorama still is used in two services—Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve—to tell the Christmas story. The method of lighting has changed and figurines have been repaired, but the program of songs and Scriptures remains the same.

Longtime Trinity member Elvera Wurtz remembers vividly the excitement she felt as a child when the Christmas star would light up.

"The church was completely dark," says Wurtz. "It would light up the entire church and was the most beautiful thing for the children to see. We just waited for that moment."

She still waits.

"It's something that never gets old," she says.

From *Correspondent*, November/December 2001. Reprinted by permission of Aid Association for Lutherans, Appleton, WI.

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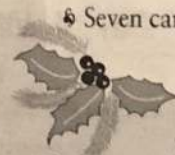
## NEXT ISSUE: MARDI GRAS 2002



**Get all the lowdown on the biggest party  
of the year in St. Louis. Schedules & music  
listings, where to get the best beads, and of  
course, which streets will be closed. Check out  
the next Renaissance after January 16, 2002,  
and see you at Soulard Mardi Gras!**

## For the twelve days of Christmas your friends may give to you:

- Twelve "thanks for the gift" cards
- Six bundles of boughs...
- Eleven packs of flower seeds
- Five angels praying
- Ten amaryllis bulbs
- Four Mardi Gras tiles\*
- Nine pots and soil
- Three poinsettias
- Eight ornaments made by hand
- Two wreaths for the doors;
- Seven candles floating
- and a Christmas tree for the front parlour...



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\*2002 tile available by Christmas (series runs from 1999 to 2002)

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# Pavement, from page one

landowners could get down to the lucrative business of selling individual building lots to the burgeoning immigrant population. As the immigrants built their houses, the young city of St. Louis was charged with improving the public rights-of-way (streets, sidewalks, and alleys).

As you can imagine, the city had a difficult time keeping up with the pace of its expansion. Beneath the streets and alleys, sewer, gas, and water service piping had to be installed. Remember, those miles of trenches were hand-dug! After the holes were refilled, stone curbing, separating street from sidewalk, was laboriously installed. Then came the demand for paving.

## STREETS AND ALLEYS

Initially and problematically all the streets in young St. Louis were plain dirt. In dry weather, these surfaces were a source of acrid, irritating dust. In wet weather, every street and intersection became a "morass of sucking mud," bogging down commerce. Hard pavement became a necessity for the growing city.

Principal streets were paved first, usually with granite cobblestones, mined in southern Missouri and shipped by rail to St. Louis. Granite was a long-wearing paving material but its weight and shipping costs precluded it from use everywhere.

One can still see pink or blue granite cobblestones protruding here and there through pavement downtown; and Laclede's Landing is the best place to see exposed cobblestone streets. Closer by Soulard, go to the 1700 block of South Broadway to see the half-

*continued on next page*



Here's an uncovered original section of granite cobblestone paving, which forms a little-used park in the South Broadway shopping area. This was the 400 block of Soulard Street (originally Lafayette Avenue).

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from previous page  
block long park formed from what  
was the 400 block of Soulard Street,  
east of Broadway.

Limestone cobblestones were  
used mainly to pave alleys. This materi-  
al was available locally, hence was  
less expensive to mine and ship, but  
the softer limestone did not wear  
nearly as well as granite. A few lime-  
stone alleys still exist today, but in  
Soulaud most were plowed up and  
replaced with concrete in the 1970s.  
A surviving limestone alley can be



Old brick paving at 13th and Russell, briefly exposed during repaving.  
Intersections were paved on the diagonal for best wear.



Here's the last exposed limestone cobble alley in the  
neighborhood. Go to the 2000 block of South 13th  
Street; this short stretch runs from 13th to Gravois,  
adjacent to a small greenspace park. This is what many  
European streets still look like.

viewed west of 13th street, between Allen and  
Russell.

Starting in the 1870's heavy, hard-fired bricks  
called "pavers" were perfected, and soon these  
pavers became the material of choice for both street  
and alley paving. The bricks were superior not only  
because of the short shipping distance from local  
manufacturers but, in addition their identical sizing  
made for tight, durable paving. Some Soulaud streets  
which were so paved include 9th Street, Geyer  
Avenue, Russell Boulevard, and 12th Street.

No brick streets are still exposed in Soulaud; the  
last ones were paved with asphalt in the 1970s.  
Elsewhere in the city is a scattering of surviving brick  
streets such as Stansbury Street, east of the 3700  
block of South Broadway. The low rumble of a car or  
bike ride on such a surface is an experience in tactile  
nostalgia — try it!

Many of Soulaud's brick  
alleys survive today, albeit with  
increasing concrete and asphalt  
patching. A couple of alleys  
have been carefully repaired  
with brick by preservationists:  
see the alley running south  
from the 900 block of Lami  
Street, for example.

Though most alleys in the  
city eventually received hard  
pavement, many of the lesser  
streets, for instance, Emmet  
Street, 11th Street, Lami Street,  
and Barton Street, were never  
paved until comparatively

recently. Before that, these local traffic streets con-  
sisted of crushed gravel mixed with the original dirt,  
with three foot wide gutters on both edges made of  
limestone cobbles (see the photo on page one).

Property owners on these streets were charged a  
fee each summer for city trucks to water sprinkle the  
gravel/dirt, to keep the dust down. When the last of  
these streets were paved by mid 20th century, it must  
have seemed like a quantum leap forward for those  
beleaguered residents!



Carefully relaid herringbone pattern sidewalk in the  
900 block of Lami Street. As times goes on, the old  
herringbone sidewalks are increasingly rare.

### SIDEWALKS

Red brick laid in herringbone pattern was the  
ubiquitous sidewalk pavement of 19th century St.  
Louis. These sidewalks served well but tended to  
develop lumps and valleys over time, and if not main-  
tained, quickly disappeared under weed growth.  
Though many such walks have survived until today,  
their number is dwindling steadily, replaced by other

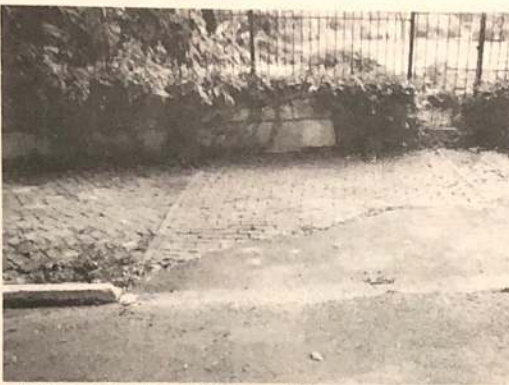
materials. Some individual home-  
owners have carefully restored  
their herringbone sidewalks; in  
other spots the original brick  
sidewalks still exist undisturbed  
under a cover of weeds.

Starting in the 1890s some  
property owners opted to  
replace their brick sidewalks  
with an early form of concrete  
called "Granitoid." This was con-  
crete with (usually) pink granite  
gravel, which gave a rosy color  
to the finished surface. There  
are a few century-old granitoid  
sidewalks still in use in Soulaud.

In the late 1970s about 1/5 of  
continued on next page



Close up of a granitoid sidewalk in the 1100  
block of Lami Street. As the concrete wears  
down, the pink granite gravel shows more and  
more. Many concrete finishers installed small  
brass plaques in their work; this company has  
long since disappeared.



**Urban archeology:** this paver driveway goes no where today, but obviously there was once a carriagehouse here. There are many such ghost driveways in the neighborhood, like this one in the 1100 block of Lami.



Soulard is "where the past meets the future," so an old SRG advertising slogan went. At Geyer and Menard a crumbling remnant of herringbone sidewalk almost meets its modern replacement.



The basket weave pattern is not particularly historic, but after two decades, these late 1970s sidewalks nicely complement Soulard's old architecture. If Federal UDAG grant money had not dried up, all of Soulard's sidewalks would have resembled this one in the 1800 block of S. 8th Street.

from previous page

Soulard's sidewalks were replaced by brand new red brick laid in a basket weave pattern. The city used Federal grant money for this program, but the dollars dried up before the whole neighborhood could be so treated. The City does not offer this type of sidewalk any more.

Today, the usual sidewalk material of choice is "exposed aggregate" concrete. It's relatively cheap, it lasts well, it looks nice, and it meets historic code requirements. Its appearance is supposed to mimic that of concrete which has weathered for many years. The city uses this finish for its "50-50" sidewalk funding program.

All in all, streets, alleys, sidewalks and pavement are things we never think about much at all, unless there's a pothole! But without this physical "framework," old neighborhoods like Soulard couldn't have been built. So the next time you're out for a walk, look for signs of the pavement history of Soulard: you'll be surprised how much still exists to be seen!

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## community church



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## Christmas in Soulard – 2002

### The Christmas Touch – Making Spiritual Connections During the Holiday Season

With all of the shopping, parties, and other activities you have during the holiday season, Do you find yourself feeling a little bit empty on the inside. Come joint us and take some time to renew your spirit during the holiday season as we re-visit the Christmas Story and see how it applies to our lives today. We will be celebrating Advent each Sunday Morning at 11 a.m and celebrate Christmas Eve with a special service on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.

### Advent Schedules and Themes

December 2<sup>nd</sup> - 11 a.m.

Touching Your Neighbors with the Love of Christmas

December 9<sup>th</sup> – 11 a.m.

Receiving the Blessings of God by Blessings Others

December 16<sup>th</sup> ~ 11 a.m.

Touching your Family with the Love of Christmas

December 23<sup>rd</sup> – 11 a.m.

Receiving the Touch of God at Christmas

December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve – 6 p.m.

Candlelight Service  
Worshiping Christ at Christmas

2420 S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street (at the Corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Victor)

Phone 314-776-2478

Website: [www.soulardcommunitychurch.com](http://www.soulardcommunitychurch.com)



**November**

**2001**

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i>          | <i>Tue</i>                     | <i>Wed</i>                     | <i>Thu</i>                               | <i>Fri</i>                     | <i>Sat</i>                     |
|------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b><br>CLOSED | <b>20</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30 | <b>21</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30 | <b>22</b><br>THANKS-<br>GIVING<br>CLOSED | <b>23</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30 | <b>24</b><br>OPEN<br>6 TO 5:30 |

## SOULARD MARKET HOLIDAY HOURS

**December**

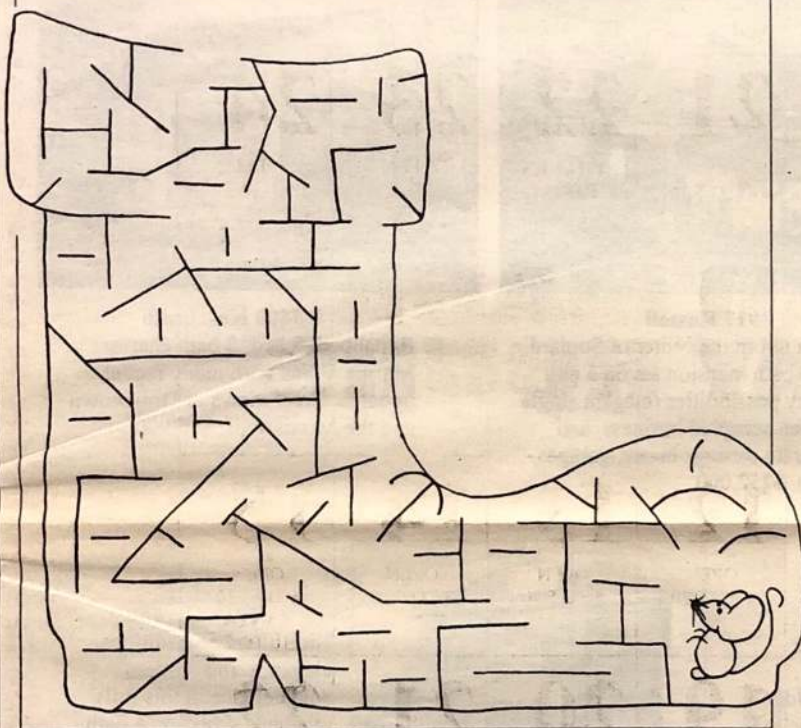
|                                                               |                                |                                  |                                |                                |                                |                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>9</b><br>CLOSED                                            | <b>10</b><br>CLOSED            | <b>11</b><br>CLOSED              | <b>12</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30 | <b>13</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30 | <b>14</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30 | <b>15</b><br>OPEN<br>6 TO 5:30<br>SANTA<br>10 TO 2 |
| <b>16</b><br>CLOSED<br>SOME OUTSIDE<br>VENDORS MAY<br>BE OPEN | <b>17</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30 | <b>18</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30   | <b>19</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30 | <b>20</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30 | <b>21</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30 | <b>22</b><br>OPEN<br>6 TO 5:30<br>SANTA<br>10 TO 2 |
| <b>23</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 4                                   | <b>24</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 4    | <b>25</b><br>CHRISTMAS<br>CLOSED | <b>26</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30 | <b>27</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30 | <b>28</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30 | <b>29</b><br>OPEN<br>6 TO 5:30                     |
| <b>30</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 4                                   | <b>31</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 4    | <b>1</b><br>NEW YEARS<br>CLOSED  | <b>2</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30  | <b>3</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30  | <b>4</b><br>OPEN<br>8 TO 5:30  | <b>5</b><br>OPEN<br>6 TO 5:30                      |

*Note: The weeks specifically enumerated in this calendar just revert to the normal Market schedule.*

# THE KIDS' CORNER

## Christmas Maze

A Curious Christmas Mouse is Stuck in Santa's Boot!



## The Curious Christmas Mouse

To a kingdom called Soulard as they often hear say,  
"Once upon a time,"  
came a fine Christmas Day.

The kingdom was happy  
and rejoiced with great cheer,  
'twas the season of giving,  
"Hallelujah! Christmas is near!"

The mouses, too,  
were filled with much glee,  
as they scooped up the crumbs  
and scampered 'round the tree.

One curious little mouse sat late on the eve  
one eye on the chimney, one eye on the tree  
to see for himself, so he could believe,  
that a person called Santa really could be.

A noise on the rooftop!  
A great puff of soot!  
A sack full of toys!  
Then came Santa's foot!

One curious little mouse shivered under the tree.  
Santa is really real, and he is really here,  
Will he leave if he sees me?  
The mouse thought with much fear.

Santa reached in his sack  
finding just the right toys,  
dolls horns and toy trains,  
for these girls and boys.

The mouse knew they'd be pleased,  
but he smiled with delight  
as Santa patted his head  
then went off in the night.

## Reindeer Tree Ornaments

Decorate your Christmas tree this year with your very own reindeer!  
It's easy and fun to do using things you probably already have.

**What You Need:**

3 popsicle sticks or twigs about the same length  
Glue  
Red and black construction paper  
String

**What To Do:**

Glue two popsicle sticks or twigs together to form a "V" shape. Glue the third stick across the middle of the "V". Cut one red and two black circles of construction paper about the size of a dime. Glue the red on the tip of the "V" for the reindeer nose. The two black circles are the eyes. Glue them on both legs of the "V" just below the third stick on the side toward the nose (the area above the third stick is the antlers). Use a piece of string to make a hanger. Hang your reindeer on your Christmas tree.

**Other Ideas:** Use paints or glitter to add more decoration to your reindeer. Or maybe a bow or some ribbon. See if you can find another place to hang your reindeer. Mine hang from the lights in the kitchen every Christmas.

## Word Search Christmas

Stockings  
Fruitcake  
Santa  
Green  
Candy  
Canes  
Yuletide  
Elves  
Tree  
Red  
Noel  
Tinsel

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**917 Russell**

Nestled on a hill in the center of Soulard, this 5 bed, 4 bath mansion set on 5 city lots has many possibilities (elegant single family, owner-occupied business, and more). Separate carriage house, garages, outbuildings. \$252,000



**3800 Kosciusko**

Rehabbed, 3 bed, 2 bath charmer in Marine Villas with many recent updates. Great views of Downtown and the Mississippi. \$86,900



**1523 S 10th # 202**

Attractive updated 2 bed, 2 bath condo in sought after Turnverein. Across footbridge from Soulard Market, close to highways and Downtown. \$79,900



**2014 Oregon**

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