

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR MARCH 3 MEETING

The proposed agenda for the upcoming meeting of the Soulard Restoration Group at 7:30 P.M. at St. Joseph Croation Hall includes an election to fill two vacant Board slots, an announcement of Standing Committee appointments and a discussion of the possibility of the creation of a traffic committee.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4TH MEETING

(Condensed by Ruth Day from notes taken by Mary Johnson)

The following highlights are from the last Restoration Group meeting:

Birch Mullins, Chairman of the By-laws Committee reported on the procedures utilized in formulating a final draft of the By-laws and distributed copies to all members in Good Standing. A written vote was taken resulting in a clear majority approving. The By-laws are therefore in effect and incorporation will be sought.

Skip Gatermann reported on the initial newsletter and requested more input from the membership.

John Sudholt reported on the progress of the House Tour Committee. Birch Mullins has secured the cooperation of several churches in planning dinners on the day of the house tour. Final selection of houses for the tour will be made shortly based on safety, architectural variety and size. Peggy and Guy McClellan have volunteered to plan publicity for the Tour. Sheila Stuckwish is directing the crafts fair which will possibly be held in Pontiac Park under a Ralston Purina tent.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding L.R.A. property in Soulard. The February 1 housing list contains many new L.R.A. listings recently obtained by Skip and Birch. There will be an attempt made to review prices with the L.R.A. assessor so that realistic pricing will assure numerous sales of these properties.

Sedg Mead announced that Restoration Group funds have been moved to First National Bank because that lending institution has made more mortgages available in Soulard than any other.

ROACH PROPOSES LRA CHANGES

In the December, 1975, issue of "The Neighborhood Housing Information Center Newsletter," John Roach proposes several changes for the L.R.A.

One proposal would lower purchase prices of homes L.R.A. sells and increase emphasis on the ability of purchasers to rehabilitate their property.

Recent indicators from the L.R.A. point toward more in depth cooperation with strong neighborhood organizations.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT LENDS AN EAR

Measures are underway to landscape the east side of I-55 between Lynch and Russell. A recent meeting with the State Highway Department representatives, Mr. Garrett and Mr. Borgschulte, lend new hope for the screening of the area. Skip Gatermann, Vice President of the Soulard Restoration Group, and Bill Busch attended the afternoon session.

Though funds are not presently available, both state officials displayed keen interest in our proposal and reassured us that such a funding was plausible. Of noteworthy interest from the meeting was the fact that screening such an area does not cut down on the pollution and noise levels, but rather serves to psychologically oppress the noise and serve one's aesthetics.

Paul Kjorlie and Bill Busch have been asked to draw up the proposals and submit them to Skip Gatermann for final approval before they reach the

desk of the highway department. It is our sincere hope that the tremendous effort on the highway department's behalf will be the beginning of the greening of Souland.

STOKLEY LABELS FOR RED WAGONS

Labels from cans of Stokley foods are being collected to acquire red wagons for the proposed St. Agatha Day Care Center sponsored by the Souland Association for Family Services, Inc. Labels should be sent or given to Judy Shehan at 2219 South 11th Street.

NEW FACES IN SOULARD

Garry L. Waters recently purchased a 14 room townhouse at 2359 S. 13th Street. Garry is an assistant principal in the Hazelwood School District. While serving some years ago as a Colonel's Aide in the Army, Garry traveled extensively throughout Europe, informally studying architecture and art. Victoriana became his special interest. He hopes to include ideas garnered from his travels in the restoration of his home. It was in fact Souland's European flavor which attracted Garry to this area.

Garry's plans for exterior restoration include replacing the missing front cornice, iron balcony and iron fence. Interior plans include restoration of a vaulted wine cellar. Garry is a new member of our group and is also a member of the newsletter committee.

Richard Pointer is the proud owner and resident of what is popularly referred to as the Lemp Mansion at 3322 De Menil Place. Richard, who works in the real estate field and counts the acquisition of Victorian furniture his avocation, had an abiding interest in the unusual structure for many years before it came on the market. It had been converted into a boarding house with many false partitions slicing up the more than 15 huge rooms.

It was during the dismantling of one of these walls in the drawing room that Richard discovered a hidden treasure in the form of a frescoed ceiling. Careful restoration of this ceiling is one of his present projects.

Future projects include restoration of the open elevator which stood in the main hall instead of a customary main staircase and the intricate iron porch which once faced De Menil Place.

LITERATURE

Of interest to all people of Souland is a recently published book by the Community Development Commission entitled Souland Restoration Plan. The book contains 44 pages and has many excellent photographs of the Souland Historic District. The book contains seven maps showing present and future plans for the district. Historic relevance and objectives have a separate section where they are explained carefully. The existing conditions are dealt with rather extensively. No restorationist's library would be complete without a copy of this most excellent book. Copies are available from the Community Plan Commission.

The Preliminary Research Report Souland Neighborhood Historic District done by Heritage/St. Louis is again available in reprint. These reprints are like the original except that they do not contain the map or cover displaying a drawing of the Souland Market. Copies are available at cost from Heritage/St. Louis or from Clark Rowley at 2322 S. 12th Street. This document is very good in that it provides a wealth of information on Souland's history and growth.

A 20% discount on subscriptions to The Old-House Journal is available through Croyder-Irvin Realty. Send a check for \$9.60 payable to Croyder-Irvin Realty and mail to Croyder-Irvin Realty-Realtors

Canalier Building, Suite 301
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Bethesda, Maryland 20034

Ref.: The Color Dictionary of Flowers and Plants, by Roy Hay and Patrick M. Synge. Pub. The Royal Horticultural Society and Brooklyn Botanical Society.

Please send questions/comments about plants to Bill Busch, 1856 S. 9th St., St. Louis, Mo. 63104.

PLAYING HISTORICAL SLEUTH

Gathering historical data on your house demands a bit of investigation downtown. First stop is the real estate section of the property assessor's office at City Hall. Present your city block number and lot number and the staff of the assessor's office will give you a list of all previous owners. Most of the records go back to 1885, with some going back as far as the 1860's.

Next stop is the City Archives Office in room one of City Hall. By presenting the same block and lot information, the Archives staff may be able to provide information on the age of the house as well as old floor plans, past real estate values, cost of past improvements, construction information and other interesting facts.

Final stop will be the history room of the main branch of the public library. With the information obtained at City Hall, Gould's City Directory will reveal what the past owners of your property did for a living. Special plates are also available which list property owners in the years 1883, 1884 and 1905.

Just remember that old records are sometimes limited or even inaccurate so don't be disappointed if your search fails to provide all the historical details you'd like to have.

BITS AND PIECES OF SOULARD HISTORY

The Soulard Historic District has a heritage in its street names, such as Barton Street, named for David Barton, honors the man who wrote Missouri's first state constitution. Named for one of our most famous Missourians, Geyer Avenue reminds us of Henry S. Geyer, author of the first statutes of our state and the distinguished attorney who defended Dred Scott in his suit for freedom. Ann Russell Allen is commemorated by Ann Avenue, Russell Boulevard and Allen Avenue. Her father once owned all the land in that area. Julia Street bears the name of Julia Cerre Soulard, wife of Antoine Soulard. After the Marquis de Lafayette visited St. Louis in 1825, the city honored the Revolutionary War hero with Lafayette Avenue. Pestalozzi Street, named for the noted Swiss educator, appeared after a small colony of Swiss immigrants settled in the area.

HOW TO CARE FOR SPRING FLOWERING BULBS

Soon we'll be rewarded with the first signs of Spring, flowering trees and fall planted bulbs. The trees need little care at present, though established trees may be mulched about mid-March through April, depending on the arrival of warm weather. Slow release fertilizers are recommended, though expensive; for the organic gardner manures will perform favorably. Aeration of the soil with a sharp garden spade, performed with care, is advisable during this procedure.

Fall planted bulbs which include crocus, daffodil, narcissus, tulip, dutch iris and related genera, need very low maintenance and are recommended for this region as conditions here are most favorable to a magnificent spring display.

Crocus will announce the first days of warm weather, followed by tulips and the jonquil family. Once the flowers have faded and the blooms have faded, cut the stems to please your aesthetics and allow the remaining foliage to begin withering before you trim them off. Allowing the leaves to remain provides food for the next flower.

Most of these bulbs will need to be unearthed every two years, (most

botanical gardens dig up annually) checked for age, condition of bulb, feasibility of another season, or discarded for fresh bulbs. The main exception to this rule are the daffodils, they should be allowed to naturalize. Allowing daffodils to remain undisturbed in grassy areas will often cause these bulbs to multiply and rebloom for years to come. Have a warm Spring.

BICENTENNIAL TREES FOR SOULARD

The Missouri Conservation Department is commemorating our nation's 200th birthday with a 13+1 tree program. The Soulard Restoration Group is to receive a package of these trees as part of the program. The trees will arrive in April and distribution and allocation will be decided at that time. The trees are of various types including flowering varieties. The "13" stands for the original 13 states and the "1" for Missouri.

ADLETS

Classified ad rates: \$1.00 up to the first ten words. Each additional word is 10¢. Ads are due on the first Wednesday of each month. Call Skip at 771-4191 for ad placement.

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