

# The Soulard Restorationist

VOLUME I ISSUE 6

JUNE, 1976

## Agenda

Following is the proposed agenda for the Membership Meeting on Wednesday, July 7, 1976 at 7:30 P.M. at St. Joseph Croation Hall:

1. Presentation of alternate Logos, based on the Flounder House design by Barbara Clark, and final vote by the Membership on the exact design.
2. Critique of House Tour 1976 and initial plans for House Tour, 1977.
3. Report on July 4th baseball game between Soulard and Lafayette Square
4. Presentation of "Adopt a Lot" by Birch Mullins
5. Membership vote on continuation of Newsletter
6. Update on Boys' Club
7. Guest Speaker: Art Knobel from St. Louis Housing Authority.

## Notes from last meeting

According to the treasury report submitted by Mary Sudholt, the House Tour this year was a financial success. Printing costs were higher this year, and the DeMenil House received 50¢ for every person who went through the mansion on a Soulard House Tour ticket, but in spite of expenses totalling approximately \$1000.00, the Group

will net nearly \$2000.00.

The prime topic of concern at the meeting was the activities of the Boys' Club to effect demolition of a group of houses it owns. A reporter from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch was present to record the position taken by the Restoration Group in this regard. The basic principle at state is whether or not Historic Area Legislation will be effective in the Soulard Area. The Soulard Restoration Group is strongly in favor of abiding by the restrictions necessary in historic areas to preserve the qualities that made them historic areas in the first place. This was demonstrated by a motion which carried to support the Board's decision to have an attorney prepare a brief to be sent to the Board of Adjustment that will uphold restrictive demolition in Soulard.

Because of the suspicious activities surrounding the properties owned by the Boys' Club (excessive vandalism and fire outbreaks), it was voted to hire security guards from Wells Fargo to parole the properties. This was a compromise action to boarding the buildings, which would have been illegal.

The Board presented the top five logo designs that had been entered in the logo contest, for the members to vote on. The logo that received an overwhelming number of votes was the half (flounder) house designed by Barbara Clark. Barbara will attend the July meeting with three or four altered designs for the final decision of a logo by the membership.

### RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY INSURANCE

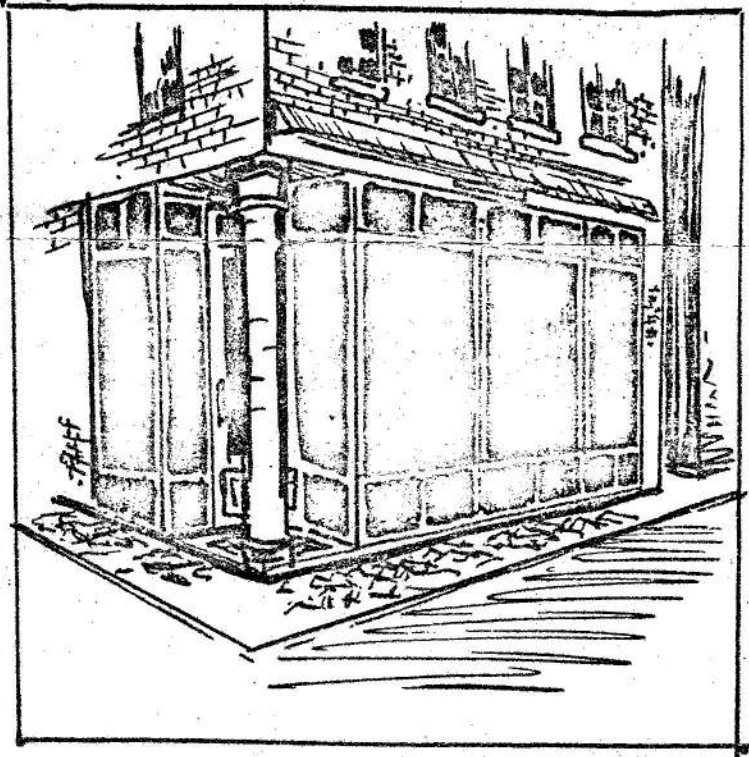
Unknown to many, the Federal government offers crime insurance to cover your household contents. Because of the paperwork involved and low premium commission paid to insurance agents, it can be frustrating to obtain information about this coverage. Residential policies insure against burglary and robbery, including observed theft,

in a single policy, and are available in amounts from \$1000.00 to \$10,000.00. Premiums can be paid semi-annually, if you wish. The deductible is \$75.00 or 5% of the gross amount of any loss, whichever is greater. Premiums are as follows for territory 2, which the Soulard area falls within: \$1000 coverage for \$30.00; \$3000 for \$40.00; \$5000 for \$50.00; \$7000 for \$60.00 and \$10,000 for \$70.00.

Requirements for this coverage are that each exterior doorway or doorway leading to garage areas, public hallways, terraces, balconies, or other areas affording easy access to the insured premises, should be protected by a door which shall be equipped with a dead lock, using either an interlocking vertical bolt and striker, or a minimum 1/2 inch throw dead bolt, or a minimum 1/2 inch throw self-locking dead latch. All first floor and basement windows, and windows opening onto stairways, fire escapes, porches, terraces, balconies, or other areas affording easy access to the premises shall be equipped with a locking device of any kind.

A large national insurance company who was listed with insurance agents as the local processor for these policies said they were no longer writing them for lack of interest. This turn of events prompted agent Virgil Meister of the Missouri Farm Agency Insurance Company to immediately call Washington D.C. to get accurate information on the availability of this coverage. Anyone wishing further information may call him at 291-2126.

### LANDMARKS' BICENTENNIAL CENTER TO OPEN



Saturday evening, June 5th, marked the dedication of Landmarks' Bicentennial Center at 2000 South 11th Street, with a gala celebration. Mrs. Howard Yerges, President of Landmarks Association, termed the evening thoroughly delightful.

Beginning at the end of June, regular hours will commence. The center will be open on Saturdays from 10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M., Sundays from Noon until 4:00 P.M., and during various hours throughout the week as posted at the center. Also, appointments may be made by calling Landmarks. Upon advance request, walking tours of Soulard will be arranged. Hours will be expanded as more volunteer help is available.

If you are interested in working at the center as a volunteer, call Landmarks at 361-1463. At present the staff is composed of Soulard residents, Landmarks staff and the Junior League of St. Louis.

The center holds many interesting surprises, such as a large wall map of Soulard taken from Compton's and Dry's Pictorial Saint Louis of 1875. A magnificent photographic display of Soulard's people and unique architecture is also on view. Artifacts of the area are displayed on a table in the main room.

An open house is scheduled for Sunday, June 27th, from noon until 4:00 P.M. for Soulard residents. The event promises to be quite exciting. Restoration group members and area residents are urged to attend. Admission to the center is free.

### HEAVY TRASH PICKUP

Beginning August 4, the Refuse Division will conduct a heavy trash pickup every Wednesday. We are asked to follow a few simple rules to co-operate with the department. The trucks will pick up all building or yard refuse, as long as it is in a con-

tainer or bundled, as well as stoves, refrigerators, etc. Keep containers to a maximum of 100 pounds (plaster may be included); bundles cannot exceed six feet.

Each household is limited to three items per week, which are to be placed in the regular refuse collection spots before 6:00 Wednesday morning. (Please remember the three item limit, as service has been discontinued in neighborhoods where residents consistently broke the rule.)

#### DAWN BIKE TOUR

At 6:30 A.M. on Sunday, July 11, 1976, a special bicentennial cycling event aptly named "Dawn's Early Light Bike Tour" will begin at Marquette Recreation Center, 4025 Minnesota Avenue.

The 15 mile tour is expected to take from 2 to 2-1/2 hours. Trucks will follow the cyclists in case of break down, flat tire or other emergencies.

Anyone old enough to handle a two-wheeler is welcome to participate in the tour which will move north on Broadway, passing Busch Brewery, the eastern edge of Soulard, Soulard Market, and then proceed to Market Street and the Civic Center.

The return leg of the journey will follow Grand Avenue, passing the Compton Reservoir and other South St. Louis landmarks. After returning to the recreation center, those completing the tour will be awarded a free swim and a bike decal commemorating the event. The tour is sponsored jointly by the Parks and Recreation Department and American Youth Hostels.

#### Dawn's Early Light Bike Tour

through old Saint Louis



#### UPDATE: BOYS' CLUB APPEALS DECISION; ARSONIST STRIKES AGAIN

On June 7, 1976, the Boys' Club of St. Louis formally appealed the decision of the Landmarks and Urban Design Commission to deny permission to demolish seven buildings on Victor and 10th streets.

The appeal, to be heard by the Board of Adjustment, will probably be presented on June 30th. Leonard Ruzicka, Jr., lawyer for the Soulard Restoration Group, will file a brief defending the decision of Landmarks and Urban Design Commission.

Shortly after midnight, Wednesday, June 9, a fire occurred at 1012 Victor. When the Wells Fargo guard appeared for a regular check at 12:12 A.M., the fire department had already arrived on the scene and had begun extinguishing the third floor blaze.

Wells Fargo called a Board Member of the Restoration Group at 12:30 A.M. to report the incident and to affirm that the fire had been brought under control. Arson was the suspected cause and an investigation was scheduled.

## New Faces

We welcome Elliot and Lou Ann Zirkle to the ranks of homeowners in Soulard. The Zirkles have moved into their home at 2348 11th Street after 10 months of renting while they looked at houses. Elliot describes the house as "federal in front and flounder in the back." and hopes (in one summer) to tear down and rebuild the chimney, put in a new electric panel, tuckpoint, and scrape and paint windows, while Lou Ann paints the kitchen.

Elliot is a sociology major at Webster College, and is working this summer as the Assistant Director of the Summer Youth Employment Program, South Side Coalition. Lou Ann is an R.N. at Cardinal Glennon Hospital, goes to school at St. Louis University working toward a nursing degree, and studies flute.

#### ANOTHER NEW FACE

Dwight Cross won't go far when he moves into his home next month. 1216 Lynch is next door to the house in which he was raised. For the past five years, Dwight has been working on his house, learning as he goes along, and has reached the stage where each job accomplished actually shows. Dwight is a fireman, and his work schedule



allows several days a week of concentrated work on the house. Dwight is especially interested in meeting people and comparing notes on restoration techniques.

## LAFAYETTE SQUARE VS. SOULARD

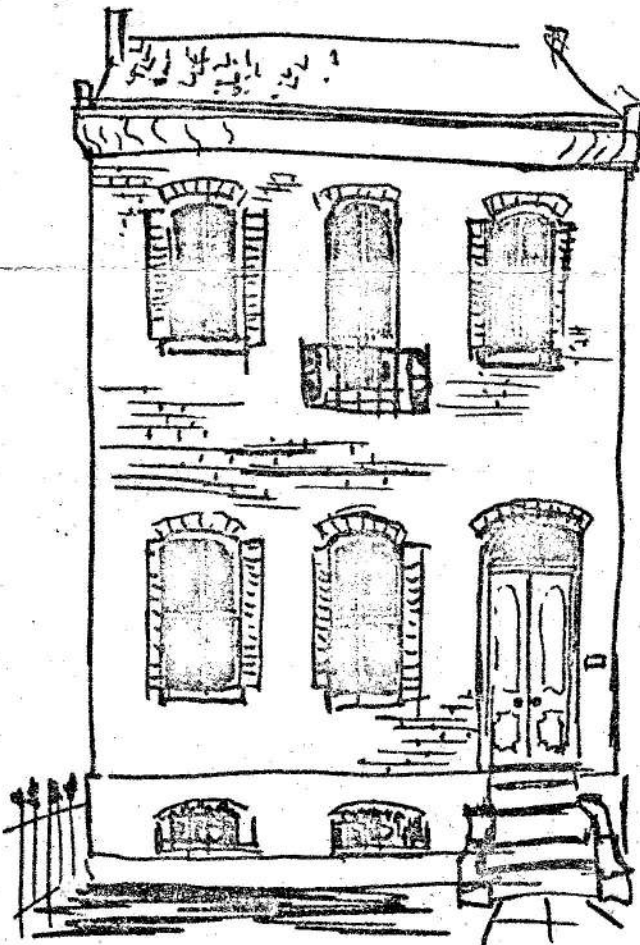
The Lafayette Square Restoration Committee formally challenged the Soulard Restoration Group to a softball game on July 4th. In what appears to be a set up, we are invited to play on their diamond, by their rules and are given free beer and soda as an inducement to show up. Under these conditions we should know better, but we have accepted and will at least be there to drink their beer.

Soulard practice sessions will be held every Wednesday at Pontiac Park at 6:00 P.M. The coaching staff is headed by Jerry Dempsey, who has also functioned as chief scout for the team.

The "Big Game" is scheduled for 3:00 P.M. on Sunday, July 4th at Lafayette Park. To accommodate the thousands of fans expected, please arrive early. Everyone is invited to attend. Even if you don't like softball, how can you pass up free beer?

# La Maison

by Garry Waters



If an old house could speak, what are some of the tales it could tell? The house at 2359 South 13th Street might tell of Mrs. Virginia Roberts, widow of Issaca Roberts, selling lots 11 and 12 of Roberts' Subdivision on July 7, 1873 to a Mr. James Webster, contractor. Mr. Webster built 2359 in approximately 4 months and placed it on the market for \$1800.00. Mr. John H. Mueller (carriage maker), purchased the two lots plus house and moved his seven member family into the then 8 room structure.

With a growing family, Mr. Mueller decided in 1882, to attach 6 additional rooms to the rear of the house for the enlarging line of Muellers. The house served the family well until 1893 when Mr. Mueller passed away and a Mr. Oliver J. Miller (relative) purchased it for \$2200.00.

Not until 1925 was the building divided into a two family flat, occupying that status until 1944, when the edifice was subdivided into 12 apartments (1 basement, 4 first floor, 5 second floor and 2 third floor). Weekly rents in 1950 ranged from \$7.00 for a one room to \$11.50 for two rooms on the third floor.

From 1944 through 1975, 2359 was bruised, busted and battered. The once proud home was delt the ignominious title of "multi-family rooming house." On January 27, 1976, the present owner signed his name to the property deed and the partitions started to fall. The house is once again being transformed into a single-family structure with the added amenities of adequate light fixtures and modern plumbing.

Yes, if this old house could put her thoughts into words, a tale as colorful and robust as the

development of Soulard itself would certainly ensue.

(La Maison meaning in French "The House" will be a continuing feature of the Restorationist. We invite the membership to share interesting historical facts and/or unique architectural details of their homes. Please submit copy, 200 to 500 words, typed, double-spaced, if possible, to Karen Rowley by the 15th of the month.)

## THE VICTORIAN DELTIOLOGIST

by Skip Gatermann

(Final part of a two part series)

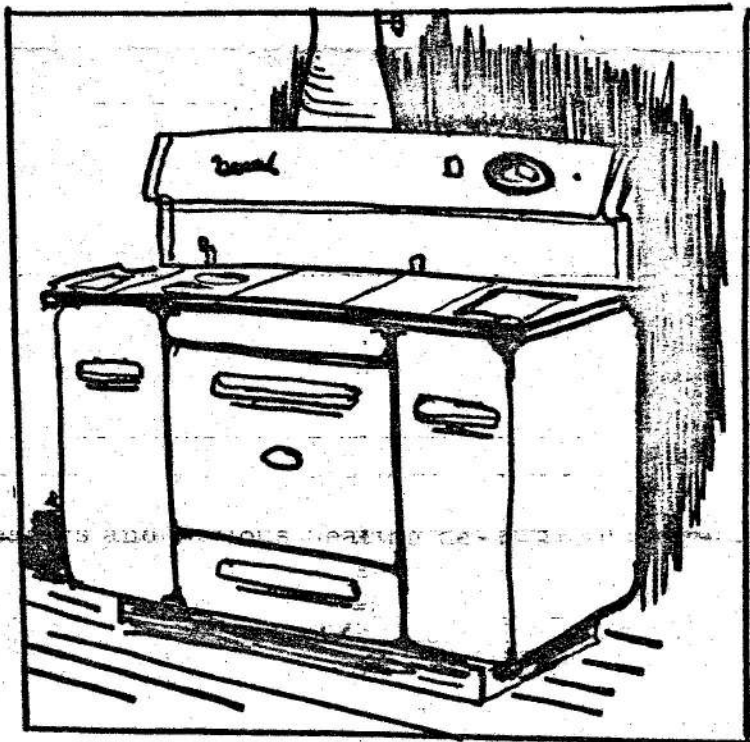
Many people have wondered how a picture postcard from the turn of the century could display a color photograph before the invention of color photography. The explanation is simple -- it's not a photograph. To achieve a color picture a lot of work had to be done. First, a black and white photograph was taken. From this a line drawing was made and all the spaces between the lines were numbered. A list of the numbers was made and the color of each area was listed. At the printer's plant an artist was employed to shade in the areas with the proper color. The final product wasn't always realistic, but this did not matter to the Victorian card buyer.

Postcards also carried the work of many famous artists. Perhaps the most famous of these artists is Charles M. Russell, the great painter of western Americana. Certain companies also became known for their faithful reproductions of the scenes involved. Their cards demand higher premiums even today. Some of the most popular subject matters of the times were cowboys, main streets, railroad depots, and presidents.

Local cards that command the best prices today are those of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Just prior to World War One, the card craze reached fever pitch, even to the point where marriage proposals were being made by postcard! World War I marked the death blow to the postcard. A large portion of the cards had been printed in Germany. This fact alone cut off a major card source. The advent of the greeting card, also, killed the postcard business.

## CARE AND FEEDING OF A WOOD RANGE

by Larry Hollenberg



Cutting and fitting stove pipes on a warm summer evening might seem out of place to some. But as the final pieces were fitted snugly together, the kitchen once again acquired a long missing, and quite indispensable component.

Unlike the suburban home I had left a few short weeks ago, the Soulard home has an abundance of flues. With a love for things a little more demanding, but far more satisfying, I had come to my new home with eyes peeled for round bumps hidden under the wallpaper and plaster as a clue to the whereabouts of flue inlets. In days past, these little openings had seen ranges, water heaters and various heating devices. Enjoying a feeling of self-sufficiency somehow has brought me to a love of heating and cooking devices unconnected to the meters of the utility companies.

My current Monarch range, purchased more for its fantastic construction and operating features

than its by-gone-years charm, has been with me for about two years now. A late model, patterned after changing stove trends, it features modern styling: white porcelain trim, a roomy oven, water reservoir, clock, electric light and appliance receptacle. As I lit it for trial run in its new home, I considered how much cooler summer operation would be in a spacious kitchen with high ceilings and a transom to relieve the heat.



The fire began to dance under the lids and I recalled the fun of baking my grandmother's fruit cake recipe at Christmas; four hours at 275 to 300 degrees, or custard for nearly three hours in a very slow oven. Feats I thought most cooks would think unbearable! And who would believe evenly baked cookies or rolls without turning the baking sheet, all in a wood range?

The secret, I would guess, lies in understanding your range and purchasing the best you can find. Also, your choice of wood will greatly influence the results. A quick fire, without much lasting heat, is desired for morning coffee, eggs and bacon. The scraps probably lying all over your basement from remodeling projects can produce this type of fire. They'll boil water in 5 to 10 minutes and quickly go out.

But for a longer meal (soups, sauces or baking), a good wood split into small pieces is a must. Oak or ash or other hard woods well-dried are perfect. Some cooks also add a few green pieces to their baking fire to keep it steady and burning longer.

Built into all ranges is a damper control to direct the fire either from the fire box to the flue, or for baking around the oven and then out. The damper in the flue pipe above the range also controls the amount of heat held in the range.

By adjusting these regulators and knowing how much wood to add, you can come to a reasonable control of your stove. On the cooking surface, merely moving the utensil from the area of the fire box to the cooler parts over the oven gives you a large cooking area and a wide choice of heats, plus the bonus of true even heat under the pan.

Nothing will frustrate you more than a fire that doesn't catch when lit. Carefully starting your fire by opening all the dampers wide, twisting three pieces of newspaper and laying them in the firebox covered loosely with small dry kindling plus a few larger pieces assures you of a good quick start.

With the price of natural gas these days and the high ceilings in Souldard, even in summer I find my thoughts wandering to those other buried flues just waiting for an Ashley circulating heater I plan to buy soon. Even if I don't use it for my only heat source, the savings in fuel should be considerable. But that's another story, for now I had better start cutting wood.

#### LOCAL RESTORATIONIST ACQUIRES PLANING MILL

Mike Smith, member of the Board of Directors of the Souldard Restoration Group, has announced the acquisition of a planing mill located at 3509 Lemp Avenue. The name of the business will soon be announced. Smith has been involved in architectural woodworking and the repairing of antique furniture as a sideline for many years.

Smith will be operating the mill on a full time basis and will offer a complete line of custom woodworking. He will specialize in the repair and manufacture of doors, windows and ornamental woodwork. The facility will also contain stripping vats. The mill will satisfy every conceivable woodworking need for restoration projects.

Opening day is scheduled for July 1, 1976 and more information may be obtained by calling Mike Smith, 771-3556.

#### BABYSITTING CO-OP

Anyone interested in forming a babysitting co-op?

Benefits - Reliable and dependable parents (people you know).

No cash exchange.

Easy accessibility.

Almost always a sitter available.

If anyone is interested or has any questions regarding such a situation - please call Carol Smith at 771-3556.

#### ADLETS

Classified ad rates: \$1.00 up to the first ten words. Each additional word is 10¢. Ads are due by the 14th of each month. Call Skip for ad placement.

Distributor of all wood cabinets - has stock ready-made cabinets at contractor prices for individuals remodeling older homes - Free estimates and designing - Free delivery. Cabinet Craft - 10566 Page - 428-3265 or 8419 Gravois - 351-9972.

Do you want to get high? To rent scaffolding at reasonable rates call Mike Smith, 771-3556.

Repair and manufacture of windows, ornamental woodwork, stripping, etc. Call Mike Smith, 3509 Lemp, 771-3556.

**ATTENTION:**

Anyone who has an article for the Restorationist or would like to volunteer to work on the newsletter, please check the letterhead for the names and telephone numbers of the committee members. We also welcome questions, suggestions, comments, criticisms or complaints.

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