

# The Soulard Restorationist

VOLUME I ISSUE II

NOVEMBER, 1976

## Agenda

Following is a tentative agenda for the membership meeting to be held at 7:30 P. M. on Wednesday, December 1, 1976, at St. Agatha Church (parking in rear off of Utah.)

1. Christmas House Tour
2. Boys' Club Status
3. Report on Missouri Heritage Meeting
4. Report on Membership Committee

## Notes from last meeting

Skip Gatermann presided at the monthly meeting of the Soulard Restoration Group held on November 3, 1976 at St. Agatha's School Auditorium. Skip announced that the Group would donate \$10.00 per month for the meeting facilities at St. Agatha.

He announced that Carol Smith had resigned as chairperson of the membership committee and Jim Felling is now head of that committee.

Skip reported on the activities of the Group during the year. Some of the outstanding highlights were becoming a historic district in November, having a successful house tour in May, going to court against the Boys' Club in July and becoming incorporated that month, having a delightful picnic (continued)



NOTICE: The Soulard Restorationist will not be published during the month of December. The next issue will be mailed in January, 1977. The staff wishes you and yours a Very Merry Christmas and Happiest of New Years.

## MINUTES (continued)

in September and another successful walking house tour in October.

John Ward reported on fund raising. Some ideas suggested by the fund raising committee are:

A dinner in February. An antique auction in the spring. A spring walking tour. A crafts fair on the streets. Contact building suppliers for advertising.

Clark Rowley has applied to the National Trust for a grant and the same proposal will be sent to large firms and other restoration groups to solicit funds.

Other ideas to raise funds were to renovate a house to sell, using student help, and to perform "can shaking" on designated days.

Ruth Day reported on the logo plaques. These are attractively mounted on silver-colored metal and are \$12.45 each. Orders have been placed for 17 and we must have a minimum order of 25 to have them made.

Garry Waters, chairman of the house tour committee, reported that there will be a Christmas tour on December 19. This will be a candle-light parlor tour, with guides and carolers.

Charlie Derleth reported on the large red display signs that are free to members. Anyone who needs a sign for display should contact Charlie.

The following is the result of the election of officers and two board members:

President - Dick Phelps

Vice-President - Guy McClellan

Secretary - Karen Farmer

Treasurer - Sue White

Board Members - Charlie Derleth and Clark Rowley

A presentation of a Soulard Restoration Group logo plaque was made to Skip Gattermann as an expression of gratitude for the outstanding job he did as acting president during 1976.

The meeting adjourned.

## CHRISTMAS TOUR

On Sunday, December 19th from 6:30 - 9:00 P.M. the Soulard Restoration Group will present a special candle lit Christmas Parlor Tour of six homes in the Soulard area. The tour will include piano music, caroling, refreshments, Santa Claus and much more. The homes selected are all within a short radius to make walking a simple task.

The theme of the parlor tour is "Come home to an old fashioned Christmas." Groups of carolers will stroll the route serenading visitors with Christmas songs. In several houses live piano music will fill the air (one home will feature a player piano) and fire places will be ablaze. Christmas trees will be decorated with ornaments from years past. One tree will be a 90-year-old "feather" Christmas tree which is one of only three in the St. Louis area.

Tickets are priced at \$2.00 per person, students \$1.00, children under 12 free when accompanied by their parents. Starting point of the tour will be 2322 South 12th Street where tickets may be purchased. Information regarding this tour can be obtained by calling the Soulard Restoration Group at 771-4191 or 664-9195.

## RESTORATION GROUP RECEIVES NATIONAL TRUST GRANT

During the month of September a proposal was designed and submitted to the National Trust for Historic Preservation by the Soulard Restoration Group, Inc. The National Trust has a Consultant Service Grant Program which is designed to meet the needs of such situations as the Group's litigation with the Boys' Club of St. Louis, Inc.

The National Trust has approved a grant in the sum of \$2,000 to be matched by Group money. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has now joined the growing list of supporters of the group's efforts against the Boys Club. Other

organizations joining in support of our efforts to date are the Lafayette Square Restoration Committee, Inc., The Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., and the Central West End Association. Countless individuals, as concerned preservationists, have also made significant contributions.

#### MORE GOOD NEWS FOR SOULARD PARKS

The Community Development Agency has tentatively allocated \$16,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds (Year III) for use in Soulard Playground during 1977. This amount should adequately allow for construction of playground area No. 2. Tennis courts were also requested by the Soulard Restoration Group, but the tentative amount of funds will be insufficient to build the courts at this time.

The City of St. Louis is presently preparing a request for 14 million dollars in Federal Public Works Funding. Both Pontiac Square and Soulard Playground have been included on the list of parks that would receive funding in 1977. Long awaited improvements to Pontiac Square would include landscaping and sidewalk repair. The tentative amount of \$10,000 would be provided for Pontiac Square. Most exciting is the provision of \$47,000 for construction of a decorative plaza (by closing 8th Street) in Soulard Playground. Approval of these funds by the Federal government should be realized in January, 1977. The New Year could be a very exciting one for park development in Soulard!

#### MISSOURI HERITAGE TRUST MEETS

The first annual membership meeting of the Missouri Heritage Trust, Inc. was held in Columbia, Missouri on the University of Missouri Campus, November 14, 1976. The trust was formed just a few months ago with the overall purpose of bringing together preservation efforts over the entire state. Dr. Osmond Overby, President of the Trust, feels that preservation efforts in Missouri stand a better chance of succeeding if the efforts of all preservation groups are united.

Reports on preservation legislation were heard as well as reports on some state government preservation programs now in effect. At one point reports were given by various preservation groups from across the state. Such places as Kansas City, Boone County and Dade County were among those presenting reports. Dr. Overby asked Skip Gatermann, the Soulard Restoration Group's representative, to address the meeting regarding the efforts of the group to encourage restoration in Soulard and our litigation with the Boys' Club.

After dinner the group split up and met in various workshops. One topic which was stressed throughout the day was the need for a state register of historic places.

Interested preservationists may join the Missouri Heritage Trust, Inc. by sending their tax deductible \$10 dues to:

The Missouri Heritage Trust, Inc., Box 895, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101.

The Soulard Restoration Group is a member of the Missouri Heritage Trust.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

TO REPORT A CRIME .... OR TO ASK FOR IMMEDIATE OR EMERGENCY POLICE ASSISTANCE, the number to call is 231-1212.

Under a new telephone centrex system, this number will no longer handle calls for routine inquiries, administrative business, etc.

No calls can be transferred from this emergency number to administrative offices or districts.

Consult your TELEPHONE DIRECTORY for administrative or district numbers.

To get directory assistance for police administrative offices, call 444-5555.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The St. Louis Police Department.



## RESTORATION OF HYDE PARK BEGINS

On the evening of October 27th Skip and Darlene Gatermann at the invitation of the Hyde Park Restoration Group attended one of their twice monthly business meetings. An exciting exchange of ideas and information took place. The Gatermanns learned many facts about the restoration and history of the area. Hyde Park is an area of north St. Louis which incorporates the 19th century towns of Bremen and North St. Louis.

It is a neighborhood composed largely of post Civil War rowhouses interspersed with large townhouses of various styles. Carol Lockert, President of the Hyde Park Restoration Group, is encouraged by recent media coverage of the area and a growing response to their newspaper ads.

The group's plans for the future include working toward historic district legislation, setting up group by-laws (using other restoration organizations' by-laws as working models) and becoming incorporated as a not for profit organization. At present the Community Development Agency is considering the overall restoration design for Hyde Park. We wish the Hyde Park Restorationists the best of luck in their efforts as they join the ever growing community of restorationists in the metropolitan area.

## EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SOULARD ARCHITECTURE

Everything you wanted to know about Soulard architecture was the theme of the October 24th walking tour held by the Soulard Restoration Group, Inc. The weather on that particular day was very threatening, with falling temperatures. The weather conditions, however, did not stop an eager crowd of preservation enthusiasts from taking the tour.

Tours began at noon and left every few minutes until four o'clock. Darlene Gatermann, our ticket seller, reported that the ticket sales were steady and that our total raised by the tour was \$300.

The homes of Shelly Phillips, Dick and Dolores Phelps, Hilary Clements and Ruth Day provided tour guests with an "inside" look at restoration progress in Soulard. The main portion of the tour, however, was devoted to informing our guests about the exterior construction details which make Soulard a very architecturally important community.

Such specifics as Baltimore roof lines, brick patterns, alley houses, and many others were defined and described by our guides, Garry Waters, Gary Cope, Cecelia Cappiello, Dave Lewis, and Skip Gatermann.

Stan Stovall of KSD-TV interviewed Skip Gatermann about Soulard's resurgence. The T.V. coverage was tremendous, for it brought a considerable response from the St. Louis Community. Many people called to ask about future tours, Soulard's progress, and mainly to secure housing lists. The walking tour and its response certainly demonstrates the rapid and successful restoration effort taking place in the historic district.

## SOULARD OR IS IT NEW MEXICO?

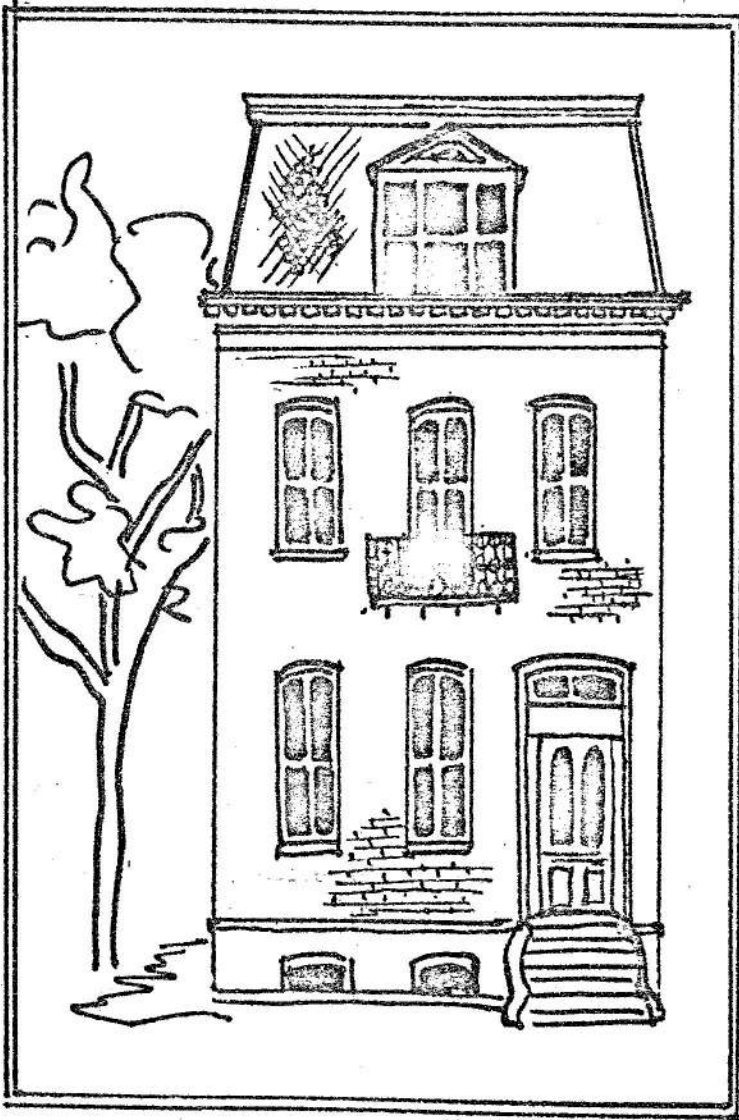
When the Christmas Parlor Tour takes place in Soulard on December 19th a lot of old traditions will be revived. Among those will be caroling, chestnuts roasting on the open fire, a feather tree and maybe even Jack Frost will nip at a few noses. However, one tradition which will be seen that evening is not a native to Soulard or St. Louis, but is most commonly seen in New Mexico.

The tradition is the burning of luminarias. The luminarias are lanterns made of brown paper bags, sand and votive candles. These beautiful lights are displayed at the edges of sidewalks, driveways and on rooftops. The original use of luminarias were to light the path for the Baby Jesus to the homes of the people. Our luminarias will be used to light the way to tour homes on December 19th. We also intend to use a derivative of the luminarias by substituting the paperbags for glass. Even if Jack Frost is nipping at noses on December 19th, the luminarias will provide a warm invitation to our tour guests that evening.

## WINTER IN SOULARD IS:

Weatherstripping.  
Wearing your coat in the living room.  
Swearing that you will have storm windows next winter.  
Finding out if your fireplace works.  
Wanting a ten foot Christmas tree.  
Hoping that Santa Claus brings you some new guttering.  
Feeling a bond with people who celebrated Christmas here a hundred years ago.

# La Maison



I am not sure why knowing the history of our house, 2337 S. 13th Street, is important to me. It seems to be partly a need to establish even a superficial connection with those who have worked together, though separately, for the past one hundred and three years to create our home.

When Caesar Bumiller built the house in 1873, it resembled the other two homes built in Robert's subdivision at that time. In 1873, John and Louis Appell made the first move toward changing the character of the property by adding lots one and two of the subdivision to the house.

John and Johanna Busch Schmedtje most fully developed the potential of the house. Having leased the house from 1886 to 1891 for \$35.00 a month, John bought the house with its stable and outhouses for \$7,000. Probably one of the first changes made was in the roof. The peaked roof depicted in the Compton Heights survey was changed to Mansard styling. This not only changed the facade of the house, but created a full third story, differentiated from the earlier downstairs by the later styled molding and floor boards running the width, rather than the length of the house. The Schmedtje's also capitalized on the surrounding yard by adding a tiled, north porch and a second floor sunporch with a southern exposure. The art glass of

this porch is repeated in an enclosed back porch added to the western side of the house. On the interior of the house, was added a curved back stairway with a walnut bannister complementing the continuous three floor front staircase. According to a neighbor, there was also a two story birdhouse for doves, pigeons and tumblers in the yard in front of the carriage house. We hope to learn more exact details about these modifications from a daughter of the couple who now lives near here.

In 1948, when Johanna Busch Schmedtje died, the daughter sold the home. The next twenty-eight years allowed eleven legal transactions and several illegal ones,

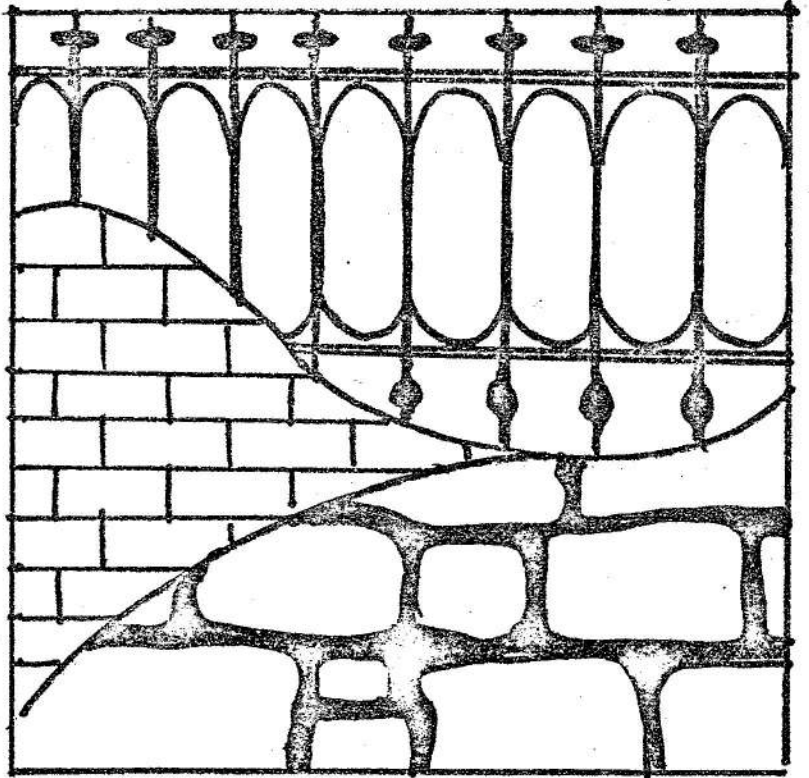
with only one family, the Capsticks, making even minor changes in the house.

Beside feeling connected to earlier occupants through enjoyment of their work, I have had a sense of contact through discovery of a 6-1/2' wide and 15-1/2' deep cistern previously concealed by weeds. Among the ashes filling the cistern, we found close to two hundred glass, china and leather objects. Our favorite bottles include several small pharmacy bottles with the embossed label, "Alfred C. Whittman, pharmacist, Menard and Barton Street". Happily, there is a great variety of bottles. The only bottles found in quantity were for Listerine.

### SOULARD FENCES

Fences have been part of Soulard since the beginning of the area to separate and protect the people living here. The word "fence" is derived from the Latin "defendo", meaning to defend. It could mean any kind of construction for the purpose of enclosing an area for defense; such as a wall, ditch or railing. In America crude fences were first used as a protection against wandering cattle and hogs. Each household had to provide and maintain its own fence.

The typical structure of Soulard had an iron fence in the front and a wooden fence in the rear. The iron fence was basically for beautification of the building, to enhance and enrich it from the street. The wood fence in the rear had a more basic purpose, that of protecting the yard from the traffic and noise of the alley.



According to some early writers on house building, the fence was considered an important architectural feature. One writer states, "No residence can be properly protected, or regarded as complete without fencing." In "The Architect or Practical House Carpenter," published in 1844, one page is devoted to fence designs. The author states: "On this page are three designs for fences, suitable for the enclosure of a city residence, which may be made of wood, when iron is not to be obtained, or when expense is to be avoided. Mouldings do not form any part of the composition of these designs. Their construction is bold and simple, and will, if well executed, produce a more pleasing effect than if the top rail and base were composed of small, trifling mouldings; and is the means of saving considerable expense."

"It is not supposed that the size of these examples will suit all situations which require the size of front fences to be varied; as, for instance, when the house is very large, and located on an elevated piece of ground, and at a distance from the street; in this case, the fence should be of the largest dimensions. But if the house be small and so situated as to have a fence near it, the fence ought then to be small and low, so that it may not appear as a principal in the structure."

### SOULARD AND THE FLICKS

Did you know that the present Joe's Supermarket on South 12th Street was once a movie theatre? The building was originally constructed as the American Theatre.



# New Faces

## THE ADAMSONS

Gary Adamson became enchanted with the European architectural flavor and élan of Soulard ten years ago when he rented a cold water flat on Ann Avenue near Pontiac Park.

For five years his Soulard studio served as a focal point for his avocation - painting - while he sadly observed the downward spiral of Soulard's buildings and social fabric. There were doubts in his mind at that time as to whether Soulard would survive.

Now all doubts have been erased and he is an enthusiastic optimist about the future of the neighborhood. Gary and his wife Millicent are purchasing a former four-family Land Reutilization Authority property at 1927-1929 South 9th Street. They plan in a two year stretch to convert the shell into a comfortable single family home for themselves and their teenage son. The older children have already gone out on their own.

Millicent's special interest is the landscaping of their property, and she has already redone the sidewalk, planted a tree and shrubs, and has taken out a garden permit on a nearby lot.

For the most part the building will be restored as closely as possible on the exterior, with the exception of the addition of a small dormer on the back. The interior is somewhat smaller than most four-family structures, in that it has four, two-room (instead of three-room) units, totaling eight rooms. Part of the second floor will become a painting studio for Gary, who is by profession a graphics designer.

The Adamsons did not find their property through the Soulard Restoration Group. They went directly to the L.R.A. when they decided that the future of Soulard was to be theirs, too. They joined our group as a result of out litigation with the Boys' Club. Gary feels very strongly that the principle at stake is well worth whatever hard work and sacrifice it demands. As he says: "At the very least, it will make other predators think twice before they attempt to destroy part of Soulard's architectural heritage."

### ELEGANCE FOR JUST \$12.45!!!

The handsome Soulard Restoration Group logo plaques are now available for just \$12.45. The plaque, designed by logo contest winner Barbara Clark, carries the half Flounder house shape typical in Soulard. A window enhanced by leafy tree branches is part of the design. The plaques are mounted on heavy silver-colored metal, with holes drilled for easy mounting. They are guaranteed to be weather proof. Get your plaque now by completing the form below.

To: Ruth Day  
1225 Lami St.  
St. Louis, Mo. 63104

I want to order \_\_\_\_\_ Soulard Restoration Group plaque(s) at \$12.45 each.

Enclosed is \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

DID YOU KNOW? -- That Soulard had a population of 8,000 foreign born or foreign stock (individuals born of foreign or mixed parentage) in 1930. By 1970, this figure had dropped to 800. (Figures do not include St. Agatha.)

# FROM THE RANGE

## SPRINGERLES

Contributed by  
Darlene Gatermann

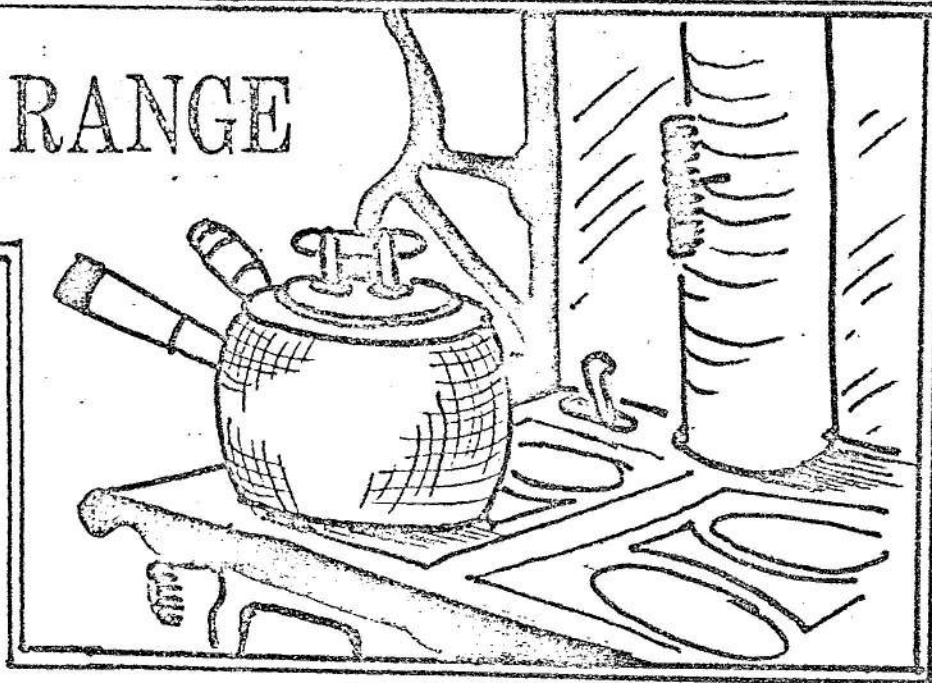
A favorite recipe of mine from my grandmother, Mrs. Della Buescher, is from her kitchen at Christmas.

- 4 eggs
- 1 lb. powdered sugar
- 1-1/4 tsps. anise oil
- 4-1/2 cups cake flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder

Beat eggs. Add sugar and mix. Add anise oil, sifted cake flour and baking sod. Chill one hour. Roll 1/2" thick on floured board. Press on springerle rolling pin. (If you do not have one just skip this last step.)

Leave exposed to air for 3 hours or overnight. Cut apart. (If a springerle rolling pin was used 3 hours ago, just cut dough into cookie size pieces.)

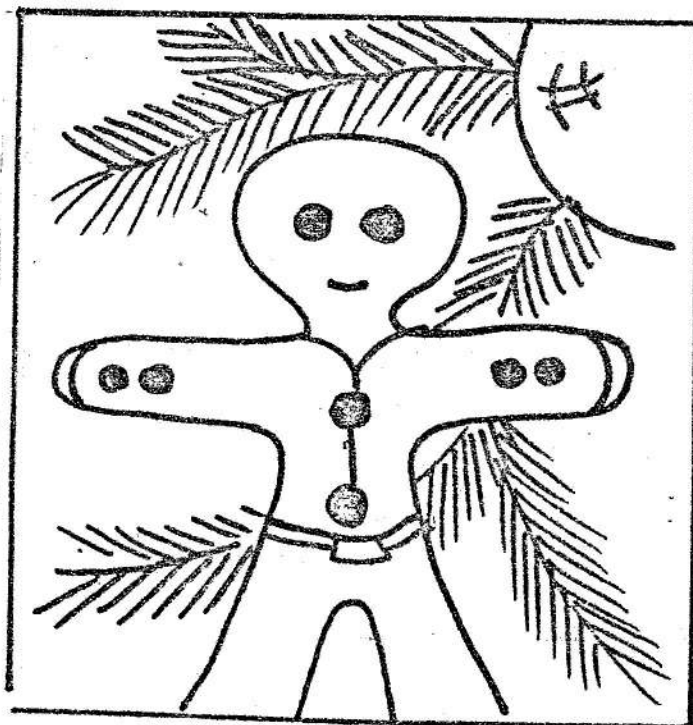
Bake on greased cookie sheet at 325° for 18-20 minutes. (Don't wait for cookies to become golden brown or to turn any darker color, they won't. The longer in the oven, the more dry they become.)



## GINGERBREAD "KIDS"

- 1/3 cup butter
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 beaten egg
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 1 ts. ginger
- 1/2 ts. soda
- 2-1/2 cups sifted all purpose flour
- 1 ts. salt
- 1/2 ts. cinnamon

Cream butter and sugar. Add egg, molasses and sifted dry ingredients. Mix well, then chill slightly. Roll out to 1/4 inch thickness. With floured cutters, cut out desired patterns. Place on greased cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees F. for 8 to 10 minutes on second rack from top. When done, cool and decorate as desired with white frosting made of powdered sugar and cream. Use raisins for eyes, buttons, etc. Makes 8 "kids" or 36 round cookies.





## READER'S CORNER

Following is the second and concluding installment of Mr. Bill Simon's original piece of fiction, "The Unicorn".

Neither Paula nor Len said a word as they walked up the grand staircase, down the hall. Paula thought of the afternoons she had worked in the yard or on the brick sidewalk, clearing the weeds. And Len had stopped and they had talked for awhile. He was usually unshaven, and wore the same clothes every time she saw him. Just as he always wore a gentle smile in those tired, gin-soaked blue eyes. She knew he lived in one of the few old neighborhood boarding houses that had stayed a boarding house. And she saw in him something more...so much more than he was now. After Jack had left, her talks with Len had become very important. And as time went on, something had grown in her that she had tried unsuccessfully to fight--the intense need for another human being.

Paula took Len's hand as she opened the door to the dressing room, ignoring the flinch he gave at the contact. The evening sun's rays slanted orange through the curtains. She felt him pull back as he saw the four-poster bed through the open connecting door. She turned, searched his face, but couldn't read what was there.

"What's wrong?" she asked.

"Paula...I can't. Don't do this to me!" He turned away, and his eyes fell on the dresser, where something caught his attention. Slowly he walked across the polished wooden floor.

"Len?"

He stopped in front of the dresser, lifted a hand towards the miniature glass animals. The hand stopped short.

"My glass menagerie," Paula said, coming up behind him. "I identify with Laura." She laughed quietly.

The animals rested on a mirror. As he looked down at them, Len's face was broken by giraffes, elephants, and a unicorn.

"I guess it's kind of ridiculous for a twenty-eight year old woman to have a glass menagerie. But I started it when I was a kid." She touched one of the figures. "The unicorn was my first piece. Although it doesn't actually qualify--it's plastic. See the seam?"

The setting sun struck the crystal zoo, splashing rainbows on the wall. Very tenderly, as if the slightest pressure would crush it, Len picked up the transparent unicorn. The top part of its horn had snapped off--apparently long ago, for the edges were smooth. A ray of dying sunlight hit the animal and reflected in Len's eyes.

"What's wrong, Len?" Paula asked worriedly. He had put the unicorn gently back in place, tears rolling down his cheeks. Paula took his hand and was surprised at how hard he squeezed it.

"Karen. My daughter. She had a glass menagerie..." Paula was silent, sensing that Len was ready to let go of something. "She was five. She'd play with these things for hours... She was only five. And Martha was there, too. And the new baby... We hadn't even decided on a name yet. He was only a week old. We were in the car...coming home from the hospital. And some drunk son-of-a-bitch... I couldn't help it. I tried! I really tried!" He looked at Paula, but she was sure he didn't really see her. "There was nothing I could do. They all died.... Oh, God!" he cried, slumping, the tears falling. "Why couldn't I die?"

He lifted his eyes to the ceiling as if he could see something there he despised. "Why leave me here alone?" he cried. "Take me too! Do you hear me, God? Take me too, you merciless son-of-a-bitch! What do you know of mercy? Of kindness? Cutting off the life of an innocent young girl...of a helpless infant? Pick on me! I'm not afraid of you!"

He collapsed into tears. Paula got down beside him on the floor, cradling him in her arms. She let him cry, not making a sound as she gently stroked his

THE UNICORN - Continued

hair. Later, she would hear of Len's drinking, the loss of his job, his attempt at suicide. Later she would understand him so much more.

But right now, she held him hard. One restoration project was behind her. Now she faced another--much more sensitive, delicate. And as she felt Len's tears on her own cheek, as she smelt the liquor on his breath, she felt her determination return. Paula knew she could--and would--make the second restoration as successful as the first.

# THE MARKET PLACE

Members may place ads up to 20 words in length free. To place your ad, please call Skip Gattermann at 771-4191. Before the 15th of each month.

## WANTED, FOR SALE OR TRADE

3 rolls of wallpaper (blue, green and yellow plaid) plastic coated - \$10.00  
Call Lee Street at 994-0081.

Ruby red grapefruit and delicious oranges. Perfect for Christmas. To place order by Dec. 1 call Tom or Karen Farmer at 664-8321, evenings.

Swedish hammered fireplace fixtures, 25-1/2" tall x 3" wide, make offer.  
Call Skip at 771-4191.

Wanted - small coal or wood heating stove, reasonable, call Larry at 664-1637.

Miracord 40C turntable, almost new, needs minor repair, make offer. Call Skip at 771-4191.

## FOR HIRE

Do you need an extra hand? Restoration and repairs of all kinds. Reasonable rates - by the hour or job. Call Don Bennett, 865-3583.

## SERVICES

Babysitting, evenings and weekends, two years experience, reasonable rates. Call Mary Wozniak, 771-0043.

Do you want to get high? To rent scaffolding at reasonable rates, call Mike Smith, 771-3556 or 865-2766.

Vat stripping of doors, mantels, other wood products, 26 years experience hand stripping furniture. Call Bob Doelger, The Woodshed, 421-0081, 1042 Geyer.

Repair and manufacture of windows, ornamental woodwork, stripping etc. Call Mike Smith, 3509 Lemp, 771-3556 or 865-2766.

## CONCERNED PRESERVATIONISTS WHO ARE NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Mr. and Mrs. George V. Horne, 166 Riviera Estates, 3199 U.S. Highway 19 North, Clearwater, Florida 33515.

Mrs. Wanda Moore, 2030 Shirley Dr., Florissant, Mo. 63031.

Bill Rostenberg, 626 Estgate Ave., University City, Mo. 63130

## ROSTER UPDATE - NEW MEMBERS

Gary Adamson, 614 Woodard Dr., Kirkwood, Mo. 63122 - Phone 822-4861 or 371-6000.

Thelma Hemmen, 2402 S. 13th St., St. Louis, Mo. 63104 - Phone 772-7778.

Robert McMillen, 2408 S. 13th St., St. Louis, Mo. 63104 - Phone 772-7795.

Doris Stuckwish, 520 S. Harrison, Kirkwood, Mo. 63122 - Phone 821-2028.

## CIRCULATION

Non-members of the Soulard Restoration Group may receive copies of the "Restorationist" by completing the form below.

Please send the monthly Soulard Restorationist Newsletter to my home. Enclosed is \$4.00 in cash for a one year subscription.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

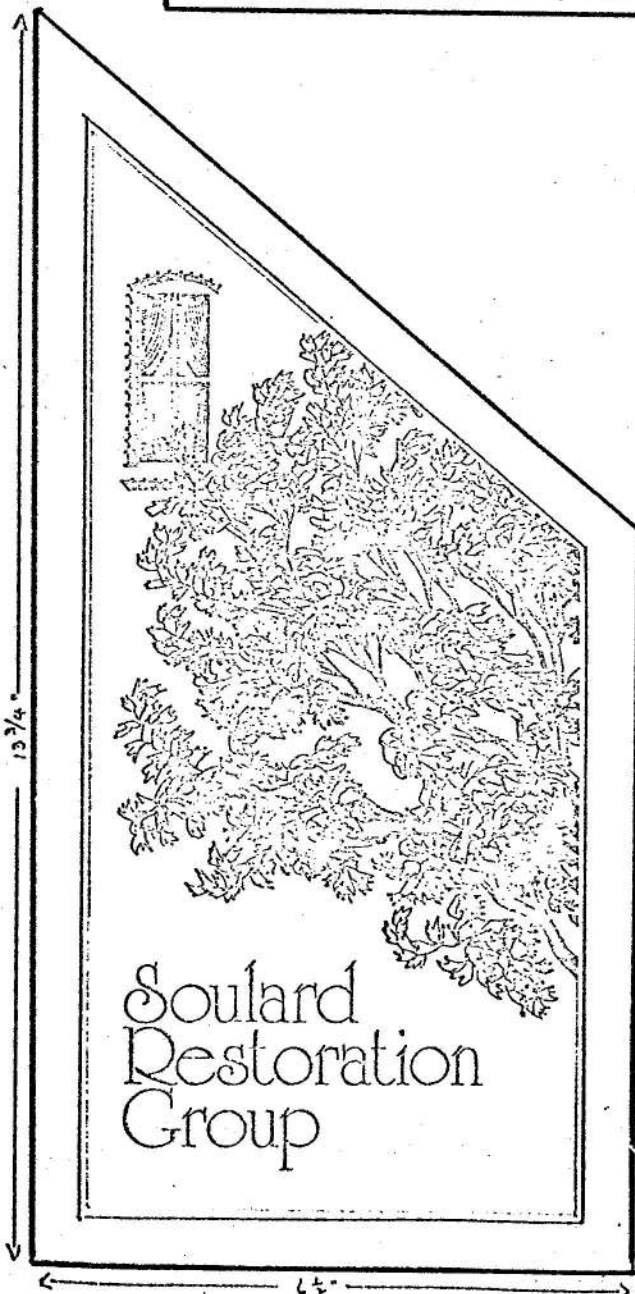
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: The Soulard Restorationist  
Box 13312 - Soulard Station  
St. Louis, Mo. 63157

USE ORDER FORM ON  
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