

The Soulard Restorationist

VOLUME III ISSUE V

JUNE, 1978

STREET MARKET

On June 17 (or June 24 if it rains) the Soulard Restoration Group will hold its first Street Market from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. in the 900 block of Soulard Street between 9th and 10th Streets. A variety of items will be available for purchase including antiques, collectables and numerous crafts.

Artisans will be demonstrating their skills throughout the day. A blacksmith will be working his forge along with an individual demonstrating the use of a spinning wheel.

A food booth will feature barbequed sandwiches, cold drinks and snacks.

A firetruck furnished by WEW Radio will provide free rides for all, weather permitting.

Space is available by calling Skip Gatermann at 771-4191. The price per space is \$10.00, with no charge for Restoration Group members.

Rest room facilities will be provided.

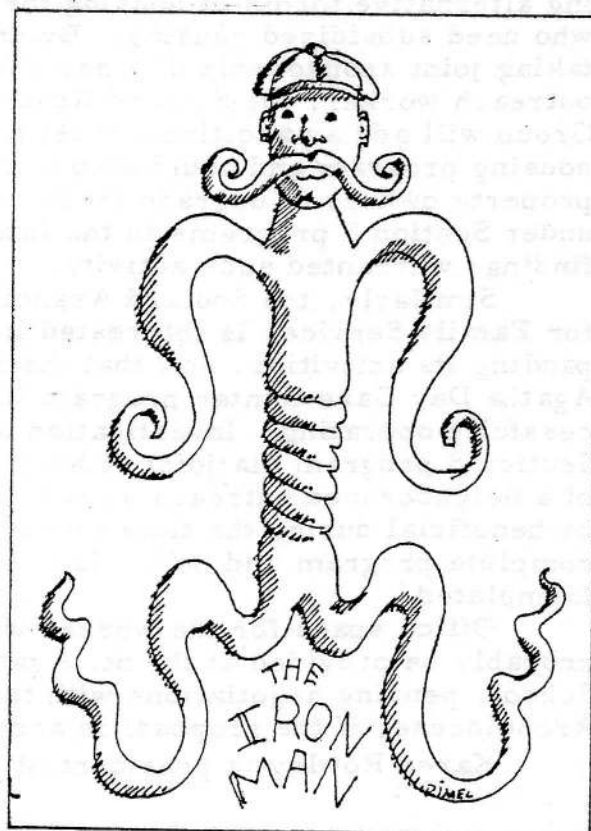
UPDATE ON SECTION 8 AND THE SRG - A PROPOSAL

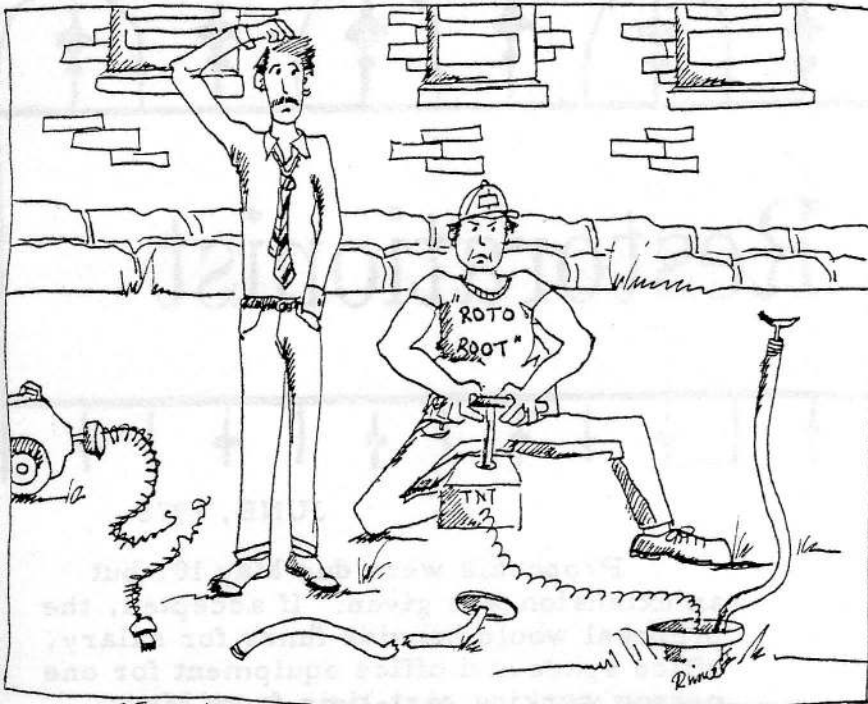
The Soulard Restoration Group and the Soulard Association for Family Services have submitted a joint proposal to sponsor a neighborhood outreach worker. The function of the person hired would be to locate people eligible for Section 8 housing assistance in Soulard and to find property owners interested in participating in Section 8 housing programs.

The proposal was submitted to the St. Louis County Housing Assistance Program, 8576 Olive Boulevard, on May 16. The Board of Directors of both organizations approved the submission.

Proposals were due May 10, but an extension was given. If accepted, the proposal would provide funds for salary, office space and office equipment for one person working part-time from May through December 31. Frank R. Bleitz, a candidate for the job, was interviewed prior to completing the grant application. Bletiz has had previous experience working as a staff housing specialist for the Near South Side Coalition of Neighborhood Organizations, primarily in the Soulard area.

The grant proposal explained the functions and objectives of both of the submitting organizations. Since the job





ARE YOU SURE THERE ISN'T ANYTHING ELSE
WE CAN DO?

basically involves surveying the need and availability of Section 8 tenants and units, the boards of directors felt the program offered an opportunity for both organizations to study the question of displacement in Soulard.

The Soulard Restoration Group board is interested in determining the extent of displacement, as well as in studying alternative forms of housing for those who need subsidized housing. By undertaking joint sponsorship of a neighborhood outreach worker, the Soulard Restoration Group will add an additional facet to its housing program and could also work with property owners to upgrade their property under Section 8 programs in the future, if findings warranted such activity.

Similarly, the Soulard Association for Family Services is interested in expanding its activities, now that the St. Agatha Day Care Center program is successfully operating. Investigation of the Section 8 program via joint sponsorship of a neighborhood outreach worker would be beneficial during the time that a more complete program and policy is being formulated.

Office space for the worker would probably be provided at the St. Agatha School, pending negotiations with the Archdiocese, if the proposal is accepted.

Karen Rowley is president of the

Board of Directors of the Soulard Association for Family Services. Charles P. Derleth is president of the Soulard Restoration Group.

Note: This is clearly a new direction for the SRG. It is hoped that members will make a special effort to attend the June 7th meeting to hear more about the proposal and to help decide just what the SRG's role should be in relation to Section 8 housing.

SOULARD HERITAGE WALK

The Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis recently announced an addition to their summer program. On June 21st the Soulard area will be the site of a Summer Lark, a one day program activity for all registered Girl Scouts in the St. Louis Council. The cost for each Lark is minimal and girls sign up on an individual basis.

When asked why Soulard was chosen as a site for a Lark, Mrs. Theresa Loveless, Program Specialist for the Pixie, Brownie, and Junior programs explained, "It was very simple, one of my co-workers lives in the Soulard area and overheard my need for new Larks and suggested Soulard as a possible site. Since Soulard is one of the fastest growing historical communities in the St. Louis area, it sounded like a great idea."

"I consulted with a member of the SRG and he was more than willing to coordinate this Lark."

Thirty girls and five adults have registered for this Lark, according to Mrs. Loveless. Thirty is the maximum number of participants for the Lark. "We are very pleased with the response we have received. The girls who will attend are from various parts of the City and county."

The group will visit WEW radio station, the Market, and will tour several homes. They will also walk extensively throughout the neighborhood.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES - SRG
MEETING May 3, 1978 - 7:40 P.M.
Trinity Lutheran Hall

The Walking Tour will be May 13th. Tour guides are needed. Contact Kathy Poe.

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Marjory Wozniak asked for suggestions from the group to make "The Housing Reference Service" more effective.

Clark Rowley motioned that SRG request that Mayor Conway appoint new representatives to the Landmarks and Urban Design Commission or possibly clarify the status of the current members. Seconded by Hilary Clements and carried.

Charlie Derleth reported on the issues addressed by the Preservation Alliance.

Skip Gatermann announced plans for the Street Fair June 17th (24th rain date). Those interested in renting space contact Skip.

SPRING WALKING TOUR

The Spring Walking Tour was held on Saturday afternoon May 13th. Although it was cold and rainy, approximately sixty people braved the elements and made the walk. Among the visitors to Soulard were women members of a senior citizen's exercise club from North County.

Charles P. Stanley of WEW radio station had the red carpet rolled out. Everyone seemed struck by the hitching post and carriage step on Eighth Street and the brick arch root cellar in the Cope's home.

A special note of thanks goes to all the tour helpers: Ken Kramer, Rich and Pat Finklestein, Joe Mulitsch, Skip Gatermann, Cecelia Cappiello, Paul Kjorlie, William Poe, Ed Busymeyer, Judy and Jim Marquis, Roger Rimel, Sue Jareczek, Gary Cope, Marjory Wozniak, Dolores and Dick Phelps, Mary Johnson, Charlie Derleth and Janice Kelly.

FLORISSANT

In April, a group of Florissant businessmen sold approximately one-half of one block of valuable commercial property in Florissant Old Town to buyers who plan restoration of the area.

Three separate buyers were involved in the \$77,000 purchase of one big lot, two smaller lots and a two-story house at the corner of St. Francois and St. Pierre streets.

Buyers of the property include the Florissant Valley Sheltered Workshop, Historic Florissant, Inc., and Jack and Jo Ann Dunn, owners of Jack Dunn's

Ringside Inn, located behind the Sheltered Workshop.

The block is historically significant, according to Mrs. Rosemary Straub Davison, president of Historic Florissant, Inc.

Bounded by St. Francois, St. Ferdinand, St. Catherine and St. Pierre Streets, the area was known in the early 1800s as De Lisle Square.

A large hexagonal building, called the "Round House," stood at the corner of St. Francois and St. Pierre streets. Square dancing took place there each Sunday night, following day-long picnics and family outings held in the DeLisle Square park.

Later, the square was known as Florissant Park, and a dining room, with a pavilion and a saloon, were added to the "Round House."

Today, the narrow two-story brick building, which was once the saloon, is occupied by apartment tenants on the second floor and business offices on the ground floor.

Historic Florissant plans to call the historic building the DeLisle House.

"We'll restore the building and continue its present use," Mrs. Davison said.

The historic organization might eventually sell the DeLisle House to a buyer who would agree with the organization's philosophy of saving and restoring old homes in the city.

Presently, the lone business occupant of the DeLisle House is Donald Bond, St. Louis County representative from the Fourth District. Bond said he plans to move his insurance firm to another location.

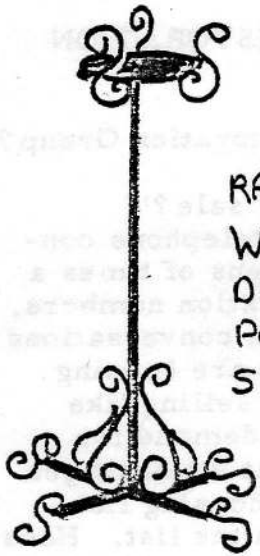
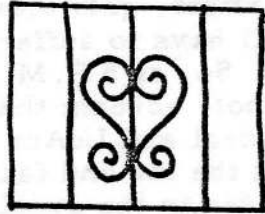
In a related development, Mrs. Davison received a top award in May from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for her work in saving historic homes, a school house, a railroad station, a cemetery and other important landmarks in the Florissant area.

The trust, a congressionally-chartered private organization, announced 18 awards May 9 as a highlight of National Historic Preservation Week.

Mrs. Davison, Florissant city clerk and legislative assistant, has been battling to save local landmarks since 1958.

She was instrumental in saving the 1870 John B. Meyers House and Barn, the 1820 Old St. Ferdinand's Shrine, the Old Cold-water School, the Taille De Noyer, the 1878 Narrow Gauge Railroad Station, the 1850

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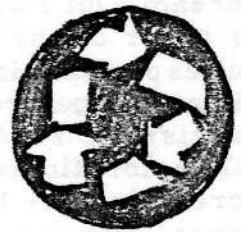
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SCREAM

For months, the RESTORATIONIST staff has been trying to develop a sense of humor.

It has not been easy. After all, your newletter's ever-dedicated staff with hearts of gold and brains of mush normally deals with controversial, socio-economic issues that will make or break Soulard.

Included among those are: the mating habits of cockroaches at 12th and Sidney, the social implications of outhouses in the 19th Century, the benefits of proper behavior at monthly SRG meetings and the redeeming virtues of aluminum siding.

But we broke new ground last month. The scene was the kitchen of your Editor-in-Chief, Garry Waters and around the table gathered newsletter staffers and a 1,000 pound beast that Garry is trying to pass off as a St. Bernard.

We would not think of naming the culprits (LuAnn Rimel and Carol Ray), but two staffers laughingly suggested a July 4 Soulard Roof-Up and Scream-Out Party. No one's laughing now, girls.

Everyone, we're sure, knows exactly what a Soulard Roof-Up and Scream-Out Party is, right? Wrong. In honor of our nation's 202nd birthday, but especially in honor of the roof-top vistas of Soulard, we expect to see at precisely 5 P.M., July 4, rain or shine, all restorationists perched on their roofs, screaming our heads off, chanting a rain dance, running naked, or whatever.

LuAnn seemed to think that roof-

tops are ideal places for communication among restorationists. (LuAnn, like all artists, gets these strange ideas that we all have to suffer with.)

So, at 5 P.M., July 4, scurry to your roof, scream the virtues of Soulard, and Carol and LuAnn will be our special guests at the tar and feathers social to be held later in the evening.

IS THIS THE SOULARD RESTORATION GROUP?

"Hello."

"Is this the Soulard Restoration Group?"

"Yes."

"Do you have houses for sale?"

The above four lines of telephone conversation are repeated dozens of times a week at our housing information numbers. Lately, the number of these conversations is on the increase. And so are housing sales. Soulard houses are selling like never before. In fact, the demand for housing is so incredible that we can't get the houses needed to fill a housing list. They sell before they reach the list. Houses have come up for sale and have sold within hours of the notice of sale. One house almost sold sight unseen!

We get calls for all types of houses from all kinds of places. California, Illinois, and suburban St. Louis. With this demand the housing sales committee has had to enlist new members. Susan and Neal Jareczek and Phyllis Young have joined the committee and have found that it's a lot of work, but it is much needed and can be very interesting and rewarding. Even with our new help on the committee, we still cannot get the job done without the membership's help.

What can a member do? Well, for

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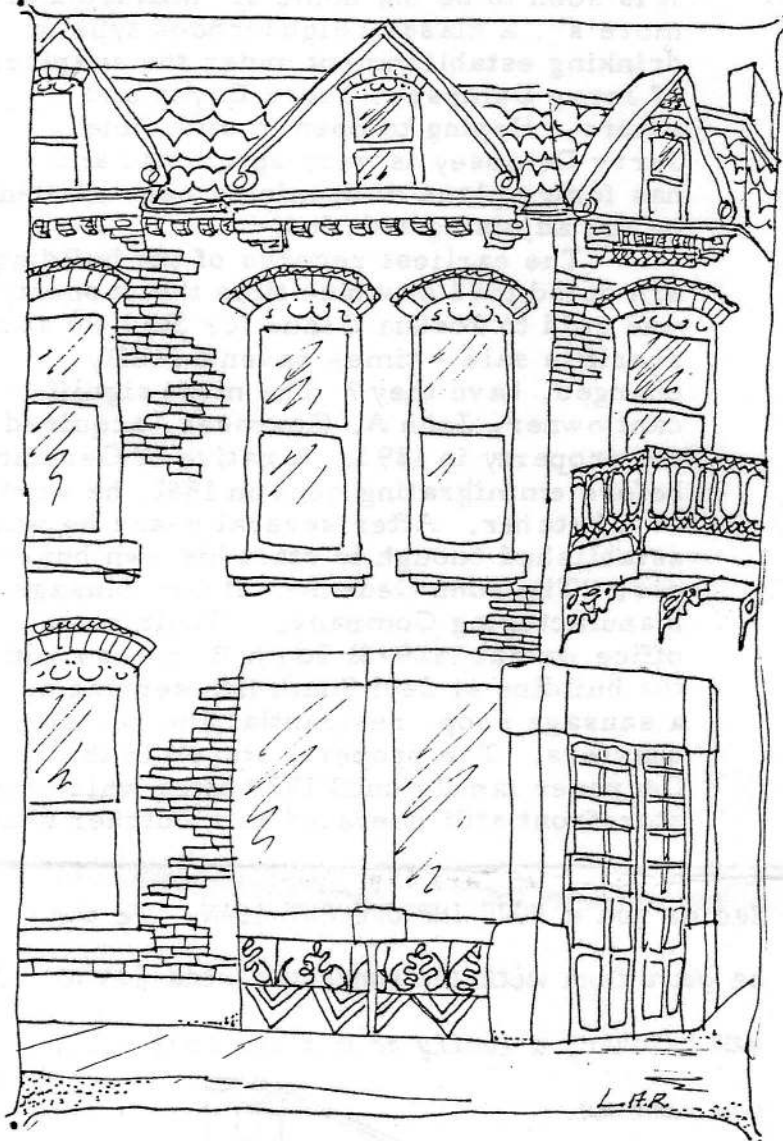
starters he can locate any houses which might be for sale in his block. After all, he knows his block better than a housing sales committee member. Also, he can direct potential buyers he sees in the neighborhood to a housing sales staff member. Before bringing the buyer to the staff member, however, he should show the buyer a little of Soulard. Perhaps his own home and answer any question he might have. This helps build his interest and makes him feel more at home in Soulard. After this is done, he is ready for a housing list. Remember, do your part in helping to sell houses and you're helping to save a neighborhood rich in heritage - as well as your own home.

100 YEARS AGO

"The notorious Florence Smith, who has been... a nuisance to the city for several years was convicted of grand larceny yesterday in the criminal court and sentenced to two years in the penitentiary. Florence is a man who, except when under arrest, persists in wearing female attire."

St. Louis Daily Times, June 7, 1878

LA MAISON



Nearly every corner in Soulard has a storefront of some sort; this commercial and residential mix was the attracting factor when Jeff Hicks and Dennis Young purchased the three story building on the corner of 11th and Barton in April of 1977. The building offered a lot of potential for both interesting commercial use and living space. Since both Dennis and Jeff have degrees in architecture, the planning process was not difficult. Dennis is employed by William B. Itter and Jeff is a partner in Frisco Developments Company doing rehab work in Lafayette Square.

Last summer was spent converting the second floor into a comfortable and spacious living space. The third floor is currently used for storage. Future possibilities for these floors call for a two story townhouse and two one-bedroom apartments.

Currently the first floor is undergoing a transformation. Originally divided

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into a storefront and shotgun apartment, it is soon to be the home of "Millard Fillmore's", a classy neighborhood type of drinking establishment under the auspices of Jerry Dempsey, Jerry Boyer and others. Hoping to open in mid-June, Jerry Dempsey is very optimistic and has future plans of opening a beer garden on the adjoining side lot.

The earliest records of the building are dated 1888 at which time the property was sold to Joshua Crane for \$180.00 at a sheriff's sale - times haven't really changed, have they? The most significant owner, John A. Geurnner, acquired the property in 1893. A native of Germany before emigrating here in 1881, he worked as a butcher. After several years he was established enough to start his own business, "The John Geurnner Steam Sausage Manufacturing Company." Their main office was at 1429-31 South Broadway with the building at 2401 South 11th serving as a sausage shop, residential and rental quarters. The property stayed in the Geurnner family until 1929 after which the storefront still operated as a butcher shop

and meat store until the early 1950's. Most recently the storefront had been the home of "The Reba L. Lounge" which is moving to its new location at 10th and Lami.

THE KITCHENS OF SOULARD

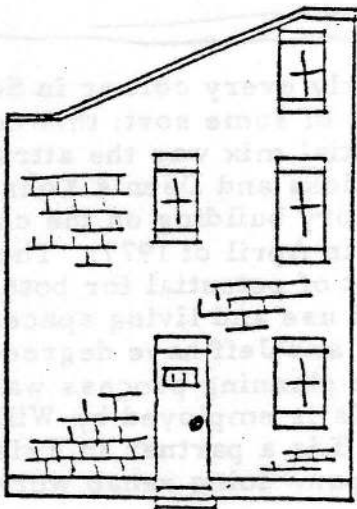
By David & Marjory Wozniak

This month we visit the kitchen of John and Jan Kelly, at the corner of 10th and Victor. The Kelly house is that sole survivor of the 1950's style urban renewal program perpetrated by the Boy's Club. Depending on your outlook, you might say that they live in the midst of urban desolation, or that they have a very large yard.

Confirmed bargain hunters and auction goers that they are, Jan's kitchen cabinets and counter tops were purchased at an estate sale, at great savings. Further stretching the inflated dollar, John did the installation himself aided, of course, by the traditional kibitzing of friends and neighbors.

The avocado cabinets, metal for durability, are arranged in an efficient

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2220 CHEROKEE 8-4 MON.-SAT.

U-shaped pattern. One bowl of the double porcelain sink is extra deep. Jan finds this quite convenient for bathing her miniature poodles, Mister and Sheba. The built-in dishwasher features a butcher block top, much utilized in the preparation of Jan's famous Piea.

Between the formica counter tops and the overhead cabinets, John has installed cork tiles, useful to the busy restorationist for posting notices and recipes, and hanging utensils. Open shelves for plants have been installed at each end of the upper cabinets and across the windows, creating a veritable greenhouse.

Jan calls herself a reluctant cook; cooking only as a last resort. She does have help in the kitchen, her teenage daughter, Robin, who loves to cook. Jan's very demanding job as office manager for a large furniture store, coupled with the demands of remodeling, leave her with very little free time. Consequently, she and Robin concentrate on quick dishes. Here is a quick dessert dish they both love, and so do we.

GOOEY BUTTER CAKE

Batter:

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 egg
- 1 stick melted butter

Mix together and spread into a 13 x 9 ungreased pan.

Filling:

- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1 box powdered sugar (reserve one tsp. for top)

Mix well and pour over the batter. Sprinkle one tsp. of powdered sugar over the top. Bake at 350° for 35 min. Allow to cool; topping will settle as it cools.

NOTES FROM A SOGGY BASEMENT II

Now that Spring is in full flower restorationists are appearing like so many well-cultivated dandelions. Scaffolding springs up, tuckpointers are pointing, door and windows are agleam with fresh paint and faces unseen since last fall peer through eyes moist from fresh fallen plaster. Meanwhile, my

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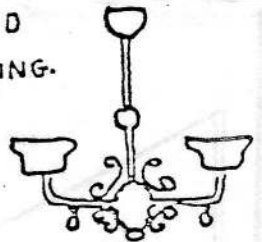
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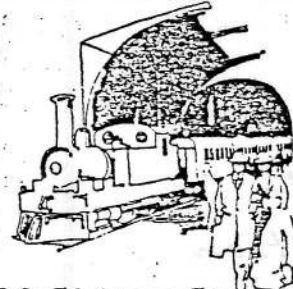
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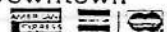
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basement remains unfinished. All of my pleading, cajoling and outright bribery of last year failed to pay off. In fact, if I am going to be totally candid, the situation has deteriorated. My basement is no longer soggy. It is floating.

Over the winter, during the course of our many well beloved snowfalls, the basement slowly accumulated more water; inch by inch, or if you are metrically inclined millimeter by millimeter. First it was tippy-toe deep, then ankle deep, then knee deep, then, well, you get the idea. The end result being that I no longer can call my basement merely soggy. It shall henceforth be known as "Lake Soulard." The only consistent suggestion as to what to do about it has come from my wife, Lori, who has both repeatedly and emphatically told me to go jump in it.

Not all goes that bad. My dormers are slowly rising from my new roof and the inside of the shell has been cleaned out, again. Strange how dirt and debris seem to accumulate out of nowhere. Overnight it seems that what had been a few chunks of wood has become several well splintered

boards eight feet long; a few grains of plaster dust have become the urban version of a sandstorm. If I didn't know better I might think that some neighbor of mine was using my shell for a dumpster. They wouldn't do that. Would they?

At least I don't have to worry about rats or mice. Two cats of that well known pedigree known as "alley" have taken up residence on my third floor. One is black - I don't know what that portends for my luck - and the other is a hodgepodge best described as "Heinz 57." We have what might be called an amicable relationship. I tolerate their presence and they ignore mine; until the dust starts whirling that is. Then they disappear for cleaner climes.

Other residents that I have are an extremely loyal pair of pigeons. They won't leave for anything. Their main activity seems to be cooing and bespeckling my back porch. Lately the cooing and bespeckling have increased in intensity so that I think I may have become a grandfather by proxy.

Periodically my banker comes by to check on what progress has been made.

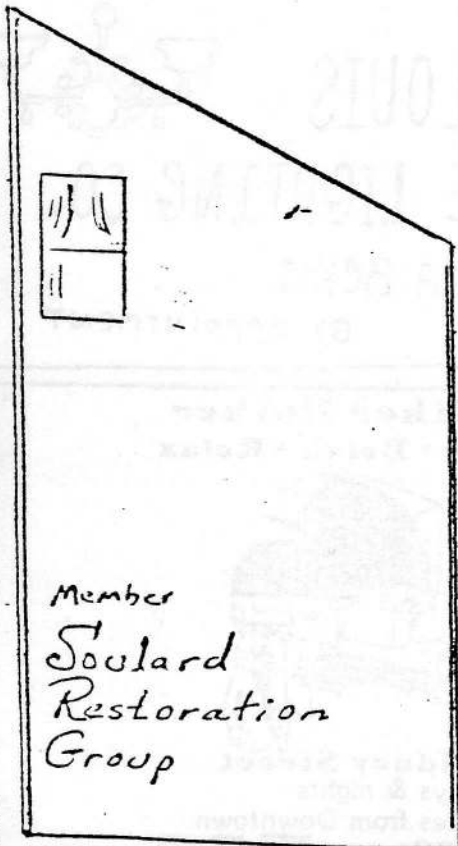
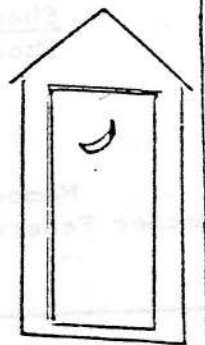
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He walks around shaking his head and I dodge his footsteps, shaking my head. He never says anything, just walks around, shakes his head, and leaves. Bankers are puzzling people.

I had better stop as I am starting to meander and heaven forbid that I do that. I don't ask for your help. I don't need it. I need God's help. Well, Thoreau had his Walden pond so I might as well go downstairs and contemplate the rippling tides of Lake Soulard.

BOOK SALES UP

One indicator of the national upsurge of interest in recycling old buildings is the steadily rising sales of preservation-related books published by the Preservation Press of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. During 1977 some 30,000 copies of the Press's 50 titles were sold through the Preservation Bookshop, requiring reprintings of a half dozen of the most popular publications.

Among the reprinted Preservation Press books is the first major publication to document the economic benefits of re-

habilitating old buildings for new uses. Economic Benefits of Preserving Old Buildings has just been reissued with a new cover and a new clothbound edition (\$9); the paperback edition is \$6. The 168 page illustrated book presents rehabilitation cost figures and case histories on the recycling of scores of old buildings and neighborhoods. Topics covered include municipal action to encourage private investment in preservation, continuing the use of sound buildings and adapting them to new uses, preservation costs, government and private financing programs and preserved buildings as profitable real estate.

Other Preservation Press books recently reprinted are:

Built to Last: A Handbook on Recycling Old Buildings, by Gene Bunnell, Massachusetts Department of Community Affairs, 1977 (\$5.95). The Worcester (Mass.) Sunday Telegram concluded that "The book, with its clear text and many excellent photographs, should be of great interest and encouragement to all those people who have the feeling but not the

menu

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Historic Preservation Cartoons, Terry B. Morton, Ed., with an essay by Detroit News Cartoonist Draper Hill, 1975 (\$6.50 cloth, \$4 paper). The book and essay present 95 cartoons that have "nipped and nudged" to keep the wreckers at bay over nearly 150 years.

The Making of a Historic District, Swiss Avenue, Dallas, Tex., by Lyn Dun-savage and Virginia Talkington, 1975 (\$3). The case study is "An encouraging and helpful guide to communities faced with a similar challenge to... protect threatened areas of architectural distinction".

All of these books may be ordered from the Preservation Bookshop, National Trust, 740 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

BOOK REVIEW

How to Buy and Fix Up an Old House compiled and edited by House-Tech System, 125 pages, price \$8.95. Available through

Home-Tech Publications, 7315 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland, 20014.

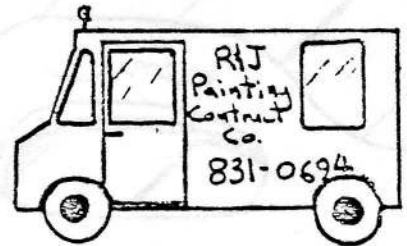
A step-by-step course on how to find and buy an old house, how to pay for it and how to plan, estimate and contract the restoration and renovation. Here are the nuts and bolts of House Restoration and Renovation, told to you by experts in the field. This book shows you how to avoid pitfalls and how to make maximum profits from your investments. It is written in clear, concise layman's terms, and is an invaluable guide on what to expect on a renovation job. Illustrated with budget figures and case studies.

BOOK REVIEW

The Art of Decorative Design by Christopher Dresser, softbound, 288 pages, price \$8.95. Available through "The Old-House Journal, Dept. 7, 199 Berkeley Place, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217.

If you own a house built between 1860 and 1910 and have been looking for original but authentic decorating ideas, you'll find help in "The Art of Decorative Design". This is a reprint edition of a

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book originally published by Christopher Dresser in London in 1862. The reprint contains all of Dresser's original illustrations, including his 14 full-color lithographed plates.

Dresser's designs are basically geometric forms, drawing upon the plant kingdom for inspiration. But rather than merely setting forth a potpourri of patterns, Dresser formulated a closely reasoned set of design principles. You can copy Dresser's designs exactly or adapt them using his principles.

AUNTIE CAROL'S EMPORIUM OF GARDENING ADVICE

Though many residents in urban neighborhoods like to point out that one reason for leaving the suburbs was to avoid mowing the lawn and trimming the hedges, many of us feel a strong urge to see if we can coax some living things to grow between our bricks other than thistles and dandelions. The long hours of working with plaster and lumber produce a need for some kind of relief - a small garden offers a chance to engage in a gentler activity. The following suggestions are based on a theory that a non-traditional garden can provide the owner with every bit as much produce as the traditional rectangle of straight furrows.

If you wish to grow vegetables, pretend they're flowers. Plant them in groups instead of rows. The only thing to worry about is the space necessary between the plants. The tiny tomato plants you can buy at Soulard Market must be placed three feet apart. Stakes should be pushed in at this time, too, in order to avoid root damage later on. By the time July comes

blasting in, four tiny plants will have grown to a jungle that smells like an Italian restaurant. Four plants can produce 60 pounds of tomatoes, so buy realistically unless you like to can or have a large freezer. Green peppers go hand-in-hand (stem-in-stem?) with tomatoes and they need two feet between each plant. Salad making is easy when they are planted in adjoining beds.

Plants that produce vines can be grown in borders along a fence. Cucumbers, zucchini, eggplant, and pumpkin will easily cover 100 feet of fence. The blossoms on these plants are beautiful. They are also edible and can be fried in batter to make a fine accompaniment to eggs for breakfast. Squash vines are active and prolific - tie them up on the fence if you don't want them to engulf your yard (or small children).

Smaller vegetables such as carrots, radishes, etc. make nice beds when mixed together. The variety of foliage is endless and makes harvesting an educational experience. Young beet greens also are a wonderful addition to salads.

In spite of various gloomy predictions, sweet corn can also flourish in small spaces. It should be planted in rows, but four rows will produce plenty of corn. Four rows is also the minimum due to the pollination needed by your corn. Plant two rows as early as possible (when the earth feels truly warm) and two rows two weeks later. This way it doesn't all ripen at once. Corn needs at least three feet between each plant. It grows easily from seed; you must decide whether you will plant

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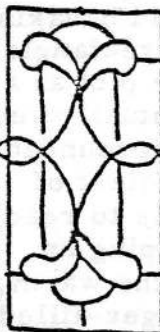
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in rows or hills - both have worked for me. Eating corn five minutes after picking is one of summers finest events. The space and effort needed for sweet corn is well worth the effort. At Halloween you can use the dry stalks to decorate.

Home grown vegetables picked and eaten the same day don't need to be seasoned to be palatable, but it is fun to experiment with herbs to add to your salads, etc. Herbs are nature's gift to people in that they prefer poor soil and little care. They are also extremely easy to preserve. Annuals such as dill and basil can be scattered directly from the seed packet in a bed. Parsley seed must be soaked overnight in warm water before planting. They take a long time to sprout; this produced a legend that parsley had to go seven times to the devil before appearing above ground. Thyme, a perennial, is easier. Scatter the seeds over a brick walk and it will creep around for years - you can even walk on it. Thyme blossoms are especially attractive to bees who will in turn pollinate the rest of your plants. The only special care herbs need is a little lime on occasion; a small sprinkling of plaster takes care of this. The legends and culture of herbs is fascinating. Only a few are mentioned here with the hope that you, too, will delve into books on herbs. Our Victorian ancestors were the last group to plant and appreciate them after centuries of tender care. The recent re-discovery of herb culture is exemplified at Shaw's Garden where the gift shop is displaying more than twenty separate books on herbs.

Our cold and rainy spring has given us more time to plant. It is not too late for any of the above mentioned plants to go in. And they don't have to go in at one time. Brick yards offer a special bonus. Simply remove enough brick to make room for the specific plants. Use a long spade to loosen the soil by turning it and breaking the clods. Spading a traditional rectangle is hard, dull work. Working one plot at a time is far less like work. Eventually you will have a series of plantings surrounded by brick walks - just like the fanciest of famous gardens. You will be able to reach the individual plants without stepping on other rows. And you can sit on the warm, dry brick to weed instead of chigger-filled soil. If your yard is not completely bricked, you can simply move the bricks around to

separate the beds. A very attractive border can be made by placing rows of diagonal bricks on end - just dig a small trench with a trowel to hold the bricks. The careful and orderly person can sit down with graph paper and plan his garden. But if you are of the more spontaneous persuasion, just study the seed packets for specifics and dig at will. It is not difficult to rearrange this type of garden the following year. After all, Mother Nature depends on birds, animals, wind and rain to plant her seeds.

One last important point. With the exception of herbs, vegetables need a certain amount of fertilizer. The ideal material is that which can be found in the corner of a barn or feedlot. It is well worth the time and trouble to drive to the country with a shovel and plastic trash bags. The trick is to make sure the material is old and well-rotted. How to tell? It will have almost no odor. The product of the cow is rumored to be superior to that of the horse - I have found no difference. You will need enough to cover each bed with two inches of fertilizer. This must then be worked into the soil. If you decide not to garden the following year, your beds will produce an amazing variety of meadow flowers; your friends will be amazed to see wild flowers growing so abundantly in the city.

The non-traditional garden will give you the option of a minimal amount of grass to grow. I recommend at least one small space for a picnic table. You don't have to sweep crumbs out of grass - just the non-biodegradable materials, corn cobs, and bones. This approach may also be applied to a very tiny garden. Two tomato plants may be enough. At least you will have something to talk to. Buy one basic gardening book, pour yourself a glass of wine and dig in.

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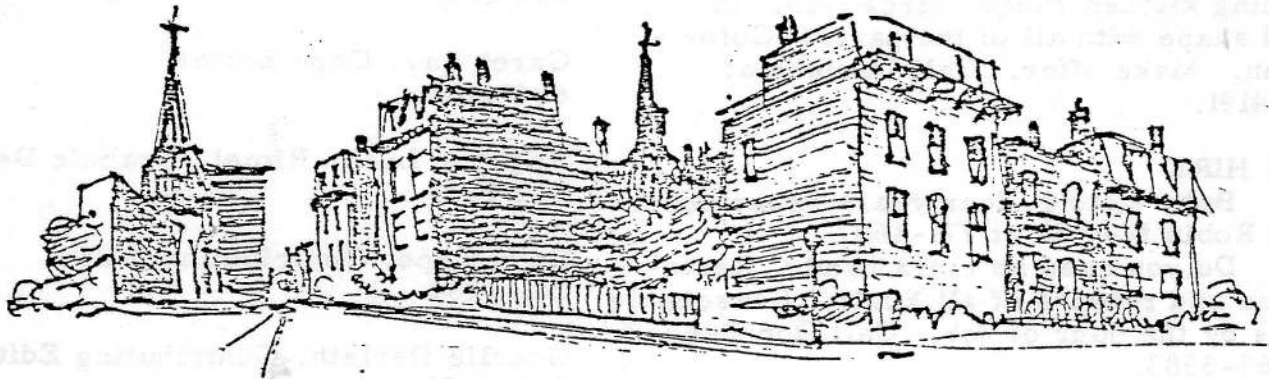
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