

The Soulard Restorationist

VOLUME III ISSUE IX

OCTOBER, 1978

CHRISTMAS PARLOR TOUR

Plans are being made for the Christmas Parlor Tour. The House Tour Committee has selected two possible areas of Soulard where the tour could be held. They are: the area between Menard and 12th Sts. north to Ann and south to Victor and the area between 10th and 7th Sts. south to Allen and north to Lafayette.

The House Tour Committee needs five buildings from either area in order for the tour to be held. The area that volunteers five buildings will be selected. If both areas volunteer five buildings the House Tour Committee will vote to decide which part of Soulard the Parlor Tour will take place.

IF WE DO NOT HAVE VOLUNTEERS BY OCTOBER 20th there is a possibility we may not have a Parlor Tour.

To volunteer call Kathy Dabrowski-Poe at 771-1566 or Skip Gatermann at 771-4191.

WARREN RADFORD

The southwest corner of 12th and Victor Streets is one of the finest in Soulard. The cast iron storefront which houses A-Rad's Confectionary is now a monument of sorts to the man who so carefully cleaned and painted his building. The bright and cheerful corner speaks well of the bright and cheerful man. Mr. Radford was known to many long-time residents as "Sam" and to new neighbors as "Mr. Arad". His death this August is a tremendous loss for his neighbors and family. When he was not perched up on the scaffolding painting, he was sitting on an overturned milk carton by the store ready for a friendly chat. Many of us received sound and

practical advice from a man that few of us knew had done major work on the Planetarium in Forest Park. And probably few of us recognized him in a Shriners' parade, dressed as a clown. People who grew up in Soulard remembered when he opened the side room in the confectionary and showed cartoons on Sunday afternoon. Thanks to individuals like the Radfords, the corner store in Soulard is still a friendly gathering place for neighbors. The warm and generous spirit of Warren Radford is still here and the beautiful corner is a tribute to that spirit.

HOUSE TOUR WRAP-UP

The 1978 Soulard House Tour had an ominous start, but an awesome ending. Heavy rains plagued the area on Saturday until about noon when the sun came out and the people arrived. Over 1500 people attended the tour which was held September 16 and 17.

Many people commented on the friendliness of the neighborhood, the diversity of the houses on tour, and the beautiful backyards. Another topic of discussion among tour visitors was why are there so many kitty cats in Soulard.

The horse and carriage added a special charm to the neighborhood on Sunday. The carriage lady never had to look for business, there was always a line of people ready to go.

One of the highlights of the tour was Leon Jones' home in the St. Agatha section of Soulard. Many comments were heard about his period furniture. Garry Waters chandelier, Mary Sudholt's porch, and the Poe's kitchen were also topics of conversations.

HOUSING REHABILITATION MAY EXCEED NEW CONSTRUCTION, TRADE GROUP SAYS

More dollars may be spent on rehabilitating existing housing than on building new homes by the end of the 1980s, according to a prediction by the National Association of Home Builders.

The trade group, reporting on newly released data, also said, "In 1976 repairs and alterations expenditures were about 60 percent of those of new housing construction. Long-term trend analysis indicates that the gap will narrow over the next several years."

The association called residential alterations and repairs "one of the fastest growing sections of the economy," with the annual rate of dollar increase averaging 11.5 percent since 1970.

The association said expenditures for residential alterations and repairs amounted to \$29 billion in 1976 -- nearly double the \$14.8 billion reported in 1970. The figures include work by contractors and spending for "do-it-yourself" building materials. Two-thirds of the expenditures, or \$18.5 billion, were for single-family units.

There were about 42 million owner-occupied housing units in 1976. The average expenditure per property for maintenance, repairs and improvements was \$450, according to the association, based on Washington, D.C.

MORALITY IN MEDIA OF ST. LOUIS

The entire membership of Morality in Media of St. Louis, a non-profit, non-sectarian organization dedicated to truth, love and taste in public media is invited to show their support by attending a rally at Souard Market, Sunday, October 1. It will be partially sponsored by WEW Radio now operating in their newly renovated studios at 8th & Lafayette Street. The Rally starts at 4:00 P.M. with a free "big band" concert by the Youngsoud", Media Awards at 5:00 P.M. by Morton J. Hill, S.J., founder and national director of Morality in Media. A benefit dinner will follow on the patio of WEW at 6:00 P.M. Proceeds go to operation expenses of St. Louis Morality in Media, and a contribution to national Morality in Media of New York for production of a TV film entitled "Pornography - the Victimless Crime".

CHICAGO TO HOST 1978 NATIONAL TRUST MEETING, EXPECTED TO BE BIGGEST EVER

Chicago will serve as laboratoty for the study of urban architecture, preservation, and the built environment as an estimated 2,500 members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation convene for their 32nd annual meeting and preservation conference October 11-15.

The meeting will include several "firsts," among them a series of "future directions" symposia in which Trust members and preservation professionals will review the past, evaluate the present and project the future of the rapidly growing historic preservation movement in the United States; and an exposition of such preservation-related products as building materials, paint, lighting fixtures, alarm systems, floor and wall coverings, reproductions and hardware.

In addition, the meeting will include 32 workshops, general sessions and seminars covering a broad spectrum of preservation issues; 28 tours of Chicago and its environs; and such special events as a cocktail reception and supper at the Field Museum of National History, a convocation and plenary session at the famous Auditorium Theatre and a dinner and lakefront ball at the recently restored Navy Pier.

The National Trust estimates that 2,500 people will register for the meeting, making it the largest ever sponsored by the private, non-profit organization.

A major focus, although not the sole concern, of the conference will be the metropolitan environment. Chicago itself -- its history as a transportation hub, its internationally acclaimed contributions to architecture and its preservation efforts -- will be explored in sessions and tours. Other urban topics to be considered are open spaces and park systems, the preserva-

My family and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your many kind words and wishes during the illness and death of my husband Warren G. Radford better known as "Sam". We will always remember you and be grateful for your friendship.

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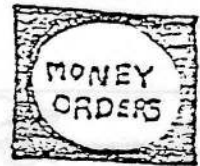
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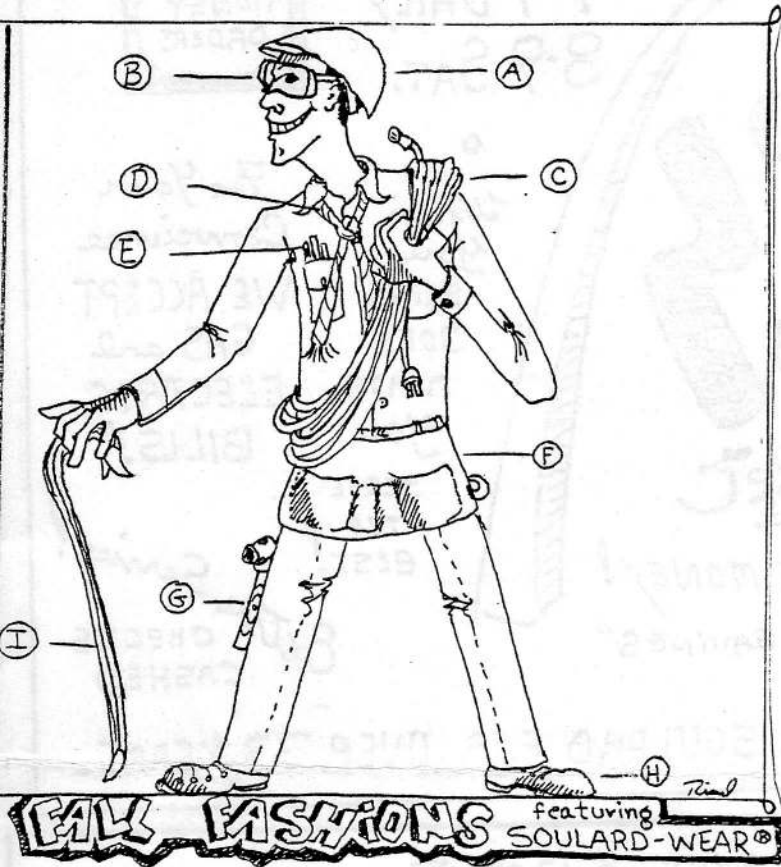
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tion of urban neighborhoods and suburbs, the financing of projects to preserve neighborhood housing and large downtown areas.



FALL FASHION IN SOULARD

This year it's "The Lean Look" for fashion with a "Menswear" account. What could be more appropriate for a restorationist? Hats are back. Women are wearing ties. And the walking stick is very in. By examining our illustration, you, too, can achieve the style of the season. (A) The close fitting, functional hard hat. Perfect for removing a ceiling. (B) Goggles have replaced the aviator look in glasses. (C) Extension cords for the over-the-shoulder casualness this season. Orange or yellow will do just fine. (D) Knotted rope is just the right bit of whimsy for a tie. (E) A pocket full of pencils adds just the right bulk to your pocket. (F) A carpenter's apron will show the world that you're serious about this restoration business. Be sure to have a casual variety of nails and screws in the compartments. For special occasions, hook on a tape measure. (G) Be sure your slacks have a hammer loop and

always carry your oldest hammer. A shiny new hammer is a dead giveaway -- people might think you're a Lafayette Square lawyer in disguise. (H) Work boots, naturally. On hot days, be sure you wear unmatched tube socks with different color stripes and roll up your pants. Ancient tennis shoes will do just as well. (I) Your walking stick? A crow bar, of course. With such a walking stick you can walk right in to a corner bar and order a root beer to go.

NEW OFFICE BUILDINGS USE 72 PERCENT MORE ENERGY THAN OLD ONES, STUDY FINDS.

Post-war office buildings use 72 percent more energy than pre-1914 office buildings, according to a new study released by the federal Department of Energy.

The report reveals that while buildings erected prior to World War I consume an average of 65,000 British Thermal Units per square foot annually, those built after 1946 average 112,000 BTUs. A BTU is the energy required to increase the temperature of a pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit.

The study, released by the Tishman Research Corp. and Syska & Hennessy, said the newer buildings were overheated, overcooled and overlighted. The researchers studied 1,037 office buildings in New York City for three years. The buildings had a total of 250 million square feet of space and were studied for energy consumption patterns in relation to occupancy, utilization and weather.

The new buildings' centralized control systems do not allow for selective cuts in energy when buildings are vacant or underutilized, the researchers found.

NEW 10-CENT POSTCARD SALUTES PRESERVED CINCINNATI MUSIC HALL

A new 10-cent postal card, the second in a series of historic preservation cards, is now available.

The card depicts the Cincinnati Music Hall, which this year celebrated its 100th anniversary and recently underwent a \$10.5 million renovation and restoration. The sprawling Romanesque building continues to be used for concerts, dance and other performing arts events.

First day ceremonies for the card were held in Cincinnati in conjunction with a concert by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in May. The rate for postcards was recently raised from nine to 10 cents. The first preservation postcard, worth nine cents, featured Galveston, Texas.

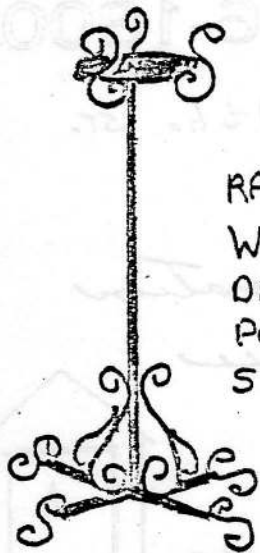
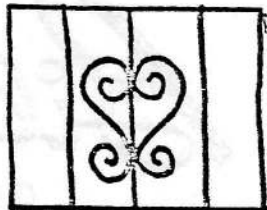
* * * *

Eric Boyer and Tim Dempsey recently participated in the Boy's Club of St. Louis annual track meet. Eric, competing with 6 - 7 year olds, won first place in the 25 yard dash, first place in the long jump, second place in the 50 yard dash and second place in the 100 yard dash. Tim, competing with 8 - 10 year olds, won first place in the 50 yard dash, first place in the 100 yard dash, second place in the 440 yard dash and third place in the long jump.

STOOP SNOOP

A new column will begin next month in The RESTORATIONST. It will be called "Stoop Snoop" and will be a tongue-in-cheek gossip column. To submit items for publication write to "Stoop Snoop", c/o Soulard Restoration Group, Box 13312, Soulard Station, St. Louis, Mo. 63157. All items must be received by the 12th of the month.

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A TOKEN OF SOULARD SOCIETY

At times it is hard to predict from just what source one is likely to discover a bit more of Soulard's unique and varied history. In the August, 1978 edition of the Missouri Journal of Numismatics, the official publication of the Missouri Numismatics Society, a piece of Soulard's past was presented. The Journal reports the recent finding of a token which was issued by the German Theater Society in denominations of 5¢, 10¢, 25¢ and 50¢. The reason for this issue is unknown at present. The report goes on to say that Deutscher Theater Verein, as it was known, made its home in Soulard from about 1908 to about 1938 when its headquarters moved to the German House. The brass round token pictured in the Journal was a five cent denomination. SRG thanks goes to Missouri Numismatic Society President, Michael Pfefferkorn for sharing this information with us.

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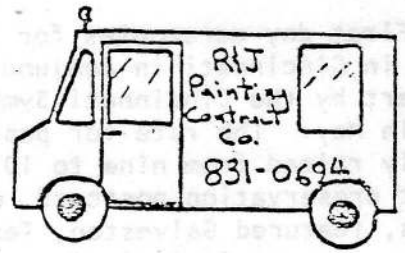
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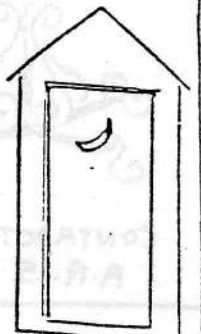
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SLICE OF LIFE: 1904

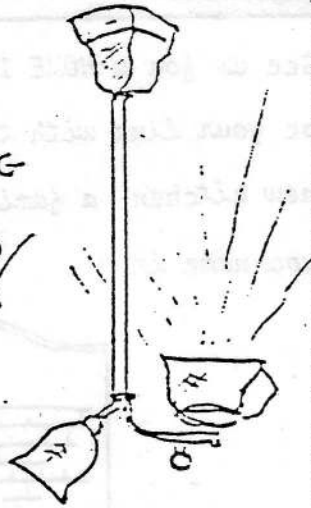
If a family lived near one of the big markets, the fun of going on one of the food shopping expeditions was a thing to be remembered. Biddle Market, Soulard Market, the Union Market, and Commission Row were all intensely interesting, especially at canning time or as the holidays approached. But there was nothing like the neighborhood grocery store and meat market. The proprietor knew his customers and their likes and dislikes. He knew the children and was eager to keep their patronage by offering them a piece of hard candy or a slice of sausage. The joy of reaching down into the pickle barrel was often the climax to the visit. There was a great deal of satisfaction in watching the grocer scoop out the rich yellow butter from the tub and pile it high on a tray, and in listening to the whir of the coffee grinder as it ground the fresh beans. Sometimes you bought whole coffee beans to be used later in the home grinder. Sometimes green coffee beans were roasted at home. The grocer and the butcher at the turn of the

century were an integral part of family life. Foods were not packaged for general consumption. You bought your dime's worth of sugar or a quarter's worth of butter and your purchase was weighed and wrapped for you.

Wood and coal stoves were still in use. Boys and girls were given household chores such as cleaning lamp chimneys, bringing in coal, taking out ashes, and many more odd jobs, which helped to make them feel that they were responsible members of the family. Monday was wash day. At the turn of the century, wash day was a toilsome job. It was necessary to settle the water before any washing could be done. Most women still used a wash board and ironing was done with flat irons. After March, 1904, the fresh clean sheets hung out on the lines to dry were whiter, for clarification of water made for happier wash days.

Saturday night was bath night. Usually a wash tub was partly filled with water heated on the stove in a kettle. There was no plug to pull to let out the water when you finished bathing.

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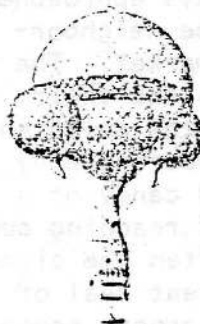
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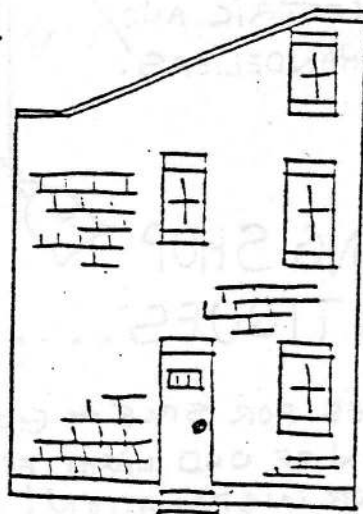
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LETTERS TO DEAR ABNER

Dear Abner,

What do I do when my neighbor climbs out her 3rd story dormer at 5:30 a.m. to clean out her gutters. She begins laughing hysterically when she finds such objects as wine bottles and beer cans among the debris. Her laughter is quite obnoxious at this hour of the morning. What am I to do?

Gutterless to tell Her

Dear Gutterless,

Try throwing your wine bottles and beer cans elsewhere.

Dear Abner,

On my house's south wall between my 2nd and 3rd floor, its midriff bulge is showing. What do you suggest?

Signed,

Jane Russell

Dear Jane,

I suggest you introduce your midriff bulge to a full-figured mansard.

Dear Abner,

What can I do? The foundation of my house is crumbling every time a Carondelet bus goes by.

Signed,

Foundation that's not going my way

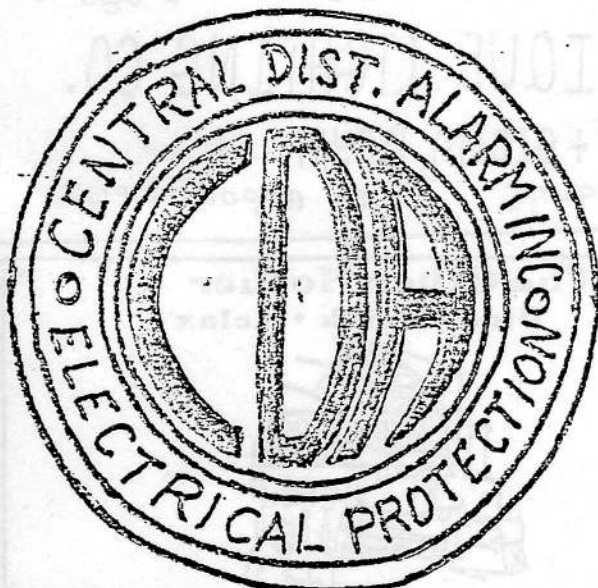
Dear Foundation,

Your fears appear to be predicated upon an unstable premise. Everyone knows that Soulard houses have stood for 100 years and will stand for 100 more. On the other hand, you could take the bus and leave the crumbling to us.

* * *

Starting soon you will be able to address your own Restoration questions to Dear Abner. Watch for details in the next issue of the Soulard Restorationist.

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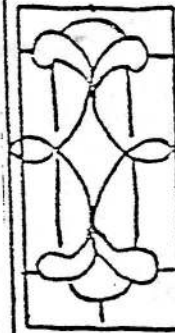
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IT'S HALLOWEEN - DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR GHOSTS ARE? by Victoria Barton Souldard

Tap. Tap. Tap. Rattle. Rattle. Rattle. Is that my loose window? Creak. Creak. Did I let the cat in? Did you sleep well your first night in your ninety year old house? Does the coming of Halloween make you want to spend the night somewhere else? Would you like to put your imagination at ease? It's the season for Ouija Boards and Seances. What a grand excuse for an unusual party! Halloween falls on a Tuesday this year, but you can be sure that the spirits will be getting ready over the weekend. A perfect time to communicate with the spirit in your house. Just follow my advice that weekend and by October 31st you will be prepared to deal with whatever comes out of the woodwork.

The Ouija Board. For this type of communication, you must have three close friends. Two of you can work the board and one can be the official observer. A larger group is perfectly permissible as long as all are "kindred spirits." Two individuals must balance the board between them on their knees. Then they must place only their fingertips on the pointer. Both must concentrate and open their minds to the spirits. They must ask for a spirit to identify itself. Speak slowly, gently, and softly. If you have a spirit, the pointer will begin to spell out its name on the board. Do not be disappointed if only a name appears. Many of these ghosts have been ignored for years and are suspicious. Be careful not to insult the ghost. Flippancy is not tolerated. The pointer will stop when the spirit is tired. Just let it know you would like to speak to it again some time. Two other people may like to try. Say something like "We have talked to Agatha, is there anyone else here?" Bear in mind that Agatha may know where the silver spoons were hidden in the attic.

The Seance. This method requires a table. Ideally this must be an antique, but a card table covered with an antique tablecloth will work. All the participants must be serious - one cynic will destroy the mood. Turn off the electric lights. Candles or kerosene lamps will create a welcome glow. Join hands around the table and invite a spirit to speak. Most will prefer the "tap" method. Once the ghost taps, you say something like, "Tap once if you are male, twice if you are female." Some will tap their



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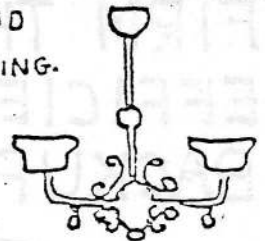
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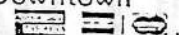


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age. Any member of the group may ask a question. During the seance, the spirit may find a particular friend to whom it will be especially friendly. Once again you must be patient and polite. A very powerful spirit may lift the table. Occasionally the ghost will speak through a participant. Be prepared for almost anything.

Anyone interested in communicating with ghosts may contact the author in care of this newsletter. Ghosts often feel ignored and unappreciated in these modern times. You may need someone to talk to on those lonely winter nights.



As the cold weather moves in this month, Auntie Carol's column will wither and fade with your garden. There are, however, several things you can do to prepare your garden for the winter. Pull up any dead plants and start a new compost pile. Spread your old compost pile on the remainder of your garden. If gardening turned out to be an enjoyable pastime, you might consider buying bulbs for next spring. Tulips, crocuses (croci?), daffodils, hyacinths, etc., should be planted in the fall. The tricky part is remembering where you planted them. Pick the last of your green tomatoes and find a recipe for green tomato pie or friend green tomatoes. Harvest the last of your herbs. Their fragrance in February will remind you that the ground was once soft. Let some of your green peppers turn red - then you will know what is meant by sweet peppers. Subscribe to a magazine like Organic Gardening and you will receive at least a dozen seed catalogs in late January that more than compensate for the price of the subscription. And just you wait - Auntie Carol will tempt you in November with advice on all kinds of exotic houseplants.

BOOK REVIEW

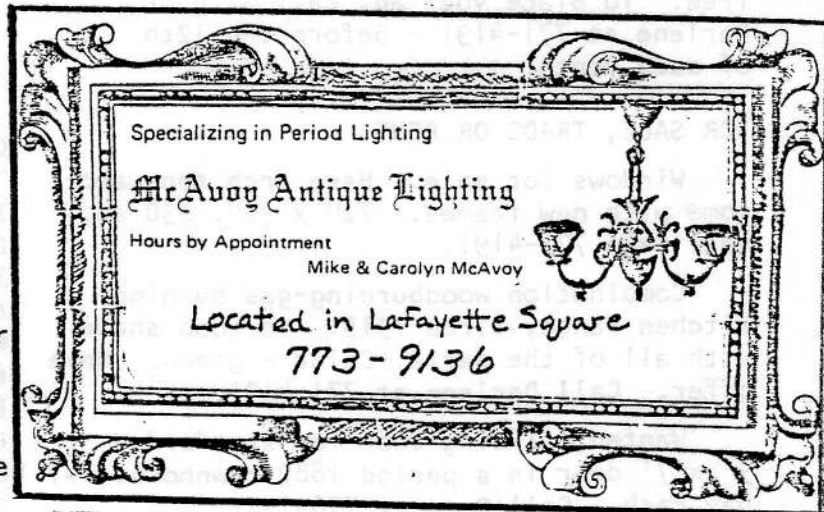
Economic Benefits of Preserving Old Buildings published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 740-748 Johnson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, cloth back \$9.00, paper \$6.00.

Various groups such as preservationists, developers, bankers and municipal officials demonstrate the public and private benefits of recycling old buildings. Examples from the East to the West Coast prove the economic feasibility of rehabilitation. This publication presents a broad framework of recycling projects which will undoubtedly surprise a number of readers as to the degree of involvement on a national scale.

BOOK REVIEW

Preservation and Conservation: Principles and Practices, published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 740-748 Johnson Place, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20006, cloth back \$15.00.

An important reference book for technical aspects of restoration which may interest the urban renaissance worker. Various experts discuss preservation philosophy, restoration materials and techniques and maintenance of historic structures. An intriguing section of the book is that devoted to case studies. True life situations are described with solutions being highlighted that may assist the reader in his/her own endeavors.



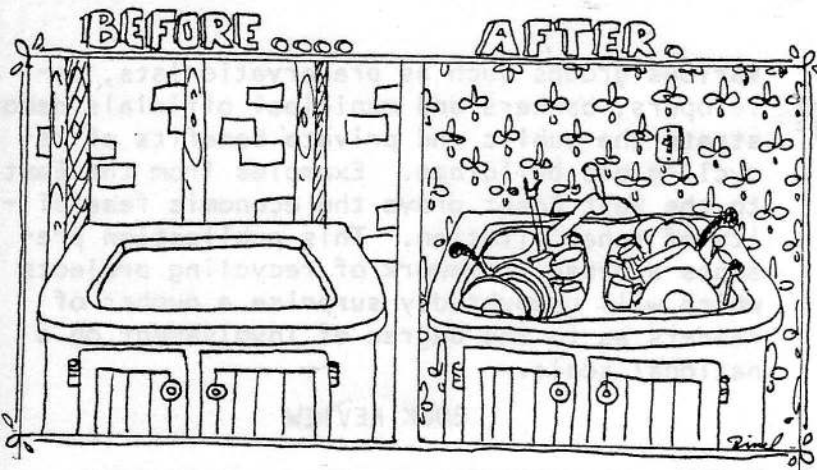
ROSTER UPDATE - NEW MEMBERS

Brad Washburn, 2401 S. 13th
St. Louis, Mo. 63104 - 664-9943

Judy Washburn, 2401 S. 13th
St. Louis, Mo. 63104 - 664-9943

Daniel J. Duffy, 795 S. Spoede
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Nancy Lay, 908 Lami Street
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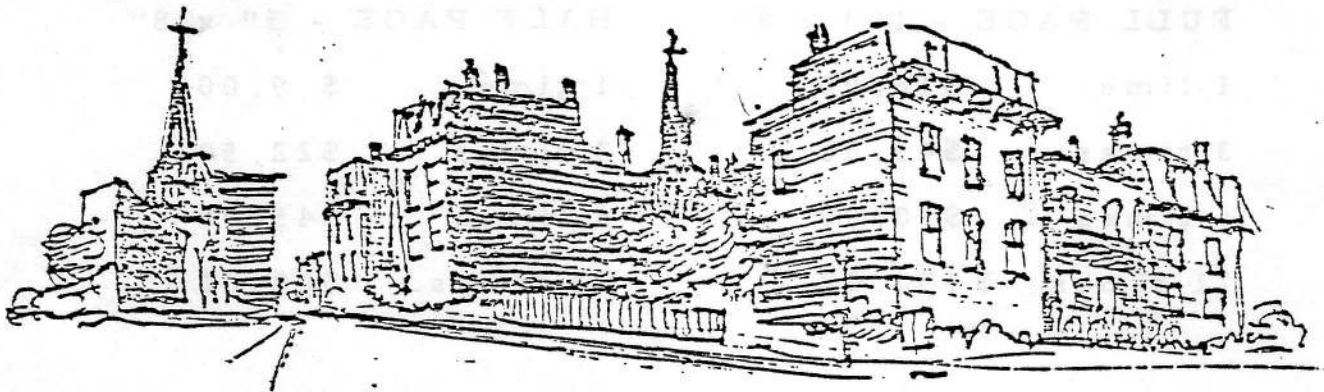
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