

The Soulard Restorationist

VOLUME V ISSUE VII

AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER

ELECTIONS

The Annual Elections are scheduled for November and the following have been appointed to the Nominating Committee: Hilary Clements, Chairman; Frank Dawson; J.R. Key; Kathy Poe; and Phyllis Young. In addition to the President, Vice President, secretary and treasurer, two directors, each for a two year term, will be elected.

The Committee will present a slate at the September and October meetings with opportunity for nominations from the floor. If you have any recommendations or a desire to be a candidate for office, let the Committee know.

DO YOU REMEMBER

Clark Rowley's costume at Hilary Clement's first Halloween Party?

Mary Sudholt playing hop scotch over bodies on 8th Street?

Gary and Debbie Slemmen's front-yard bathtub?

Ed Bushmeyer's Christmas Tree Contest against Judy Johnson?

The old 12th Street Hotel sign?

When Larry Hollenburg last used electric lights?

Celebrating the closing of Maude's?

When Paul Kjorlie took showers in the back yard?

Gene Brunton?

The Langes without termites?

When Ralph and Sandra Allen seriously considered buying the orange and green houses?

EDITOR'S NOTE:

With the Sixth Annual Soulard House Tour rapidly approaching (September 20 & 21, 12:00 to 6:00 both days), the RESTORATIONIST staff thought this article was more than appropriate. Substitute Soulard for Lafayette Square and six for eleven and one week-end in September for two week-ends in June and you've got it!

This is reprinted from the June Lafayette Marquis:

GREAT EXPECTATIONS: The life cycle of "Humongous Housus Tourus

Having a House Tour is like having a baby: things are set in motion nine months ahead, the development goes on behind the scenes, it keeps getting bigger and bigger, and it finally appears only after an intense spasm of labor.

There's one big difference: having a baby is pretty normal. The conception, gestation and birth of a House Tour rival anything in "Ripley's Believe It or Not!"

A baby has two parents. A House Tour has only one, the House Tour Chairman. This individual, driven by a primeval force beyond all understanding, stumbles forward months before the Tour to accept responsibility, glory, and/or shame.

The House Tour Chairman's first move is to select Committee Chairmen, the House Tour's

equivalent of midwives. These people are supposed to make the Tour Chairman more comfortable by heading up efforts such as publicity and special events. They are chosen by entrapment, blackmail, coercion, or election by a show of hands at meetings they deliberately avoided. A few actually volunteer.

After the initial flurry of conception, House Tour and Committee Chairmen settle in for months of development and barely-controlled hysteria.

The head of the House Selection Committee convinces eighteen families that it will be great fun to have 5,000 houseguests next June.

The Publicity Committee writes, stuffs, stamps and mails out announcements of the impending event.

And at least seven other committees arrange for everything from food and clean-up to Porta-Potties and brochures.

By the time the tulips poke their heads through the inner-city soil of Lafayette Square, the stage is set for the blessed occurrence. And enough hair has been yanked from the heads of committees to weave numerous 9 x 12 carpets.

The final days before House Tour are filled with nail-biting tension. Will it be a hit or a miss? Will it look like the other House Tours, or will it be a throwback to the campus riots of the 60's? Will people think it's cute?

At last, in a convulsive episode the first two weekends of June, it arrives. The 11th Annual House Tour, not exactly cuddly but extremely popular, is "oohed" and "aahed" over by several thousand people as House Tour and Commit-

tee Chairmen look on in relieved exhaustion.

And suddenly, it's gone.

But not forever.

For even now, somewhere in the depths of Lafayette Square, a germ is about to be planted. Driven by an unseeing, unknowing force, there is a person restlessly tearing this year's House Tour Brochure into tiny shreds. Soon, there will be a nest.

And in just a few months, next year's House Tour Chairman will emerge wearing a silly grin, to announce the conception of the 12th Annual Lafayette Square House Tour!

Linda M. Underwood

Whether you are purchasing or restoring, contact The Boatmen's National Bank of St. Louis. They will help credit worthy individuals or businesses fulfill their restoration or purchase plans.



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The Theatre Project Company, located in Union Station at 1820 Market Street is the only resident professional theatre company in downtown St. Louis. During the past five years of its existence the Theatre Project Company has been producing quality entertainment at affordable prices.

The 150 seat theatre puts you in the midst of the live theatre experience. The company has produced such notable plays as Sexual Per-
versity in Chicago, The Homecoming, Hamlet, Lenny and Little Foxes.

In addition to adult performances, they also hold weekend performances for children and conduct theatre workshops.

The schedule for the 1980-1981 season promises to be an exciting one. The performances are:

Catch-22 by Joseph Heller

The outrageous shenanigans of Yossarian, the wacky World War II hero, who comes to life in Joseph Heller's of his uproarious best selling novel. October 31-November 30.

Treasure Island

The Muny/Student Theatre Project presents the Minneapolis Children's Theatre's acclaimed adaptation of this classic tale of adventure by Robert Louis Stevenson. From the Admiral Benbow Inn by way of the high seas, Young Jim Hawkins and Long John Silver search for treasure on a dangerous and mysterious island.

December 5-December 28.

A New American Play (Subject to the availability of rights) January 2-January 25.

Loose Ends by Michael Weller

A funny and sensitive look at a couple's good and bad times in the 1970's by the author of Moonchildren and the movie, Hair.

or

Lone Star and Bourbon and Laundry by James McClure

Three Texans wax eloquent over six packs and a pink Thunderbird in Lone Star, but their wives get the last word in Bourbon and Laundry, one-acts by a rising young playwright.

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams

This Pulitzer Prize winning play tells the passionate story of Brick, Big Daddy and Maggie the cat and reveals their dreams and desires to be lies and half-truths. January 30-March 1.

A Taste of Honey by Shelagh Delaney

Abandoned by her black lover, befriended by a gay art student and berated by her mother, a young woman discovers how to hold her own in this bitter-sweet British play. March 6-March 29.

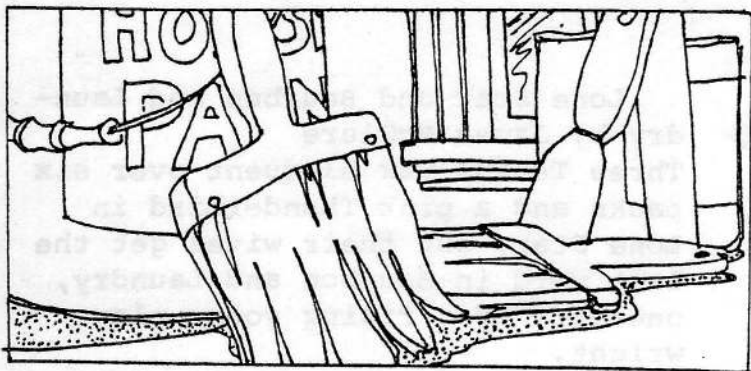
The Tempest by William Shakespeare

Music, dance, mime and poetry join forces to tell an enchanted and wonderful tale of magic and romance. An extraordinarily beautiful look at mankind with some of the most unusual characters in all of literature.

April 3-April 26.

Season subscriptions are available. The cost ranges from \$20 to \$25 for five plays and \$24 to \$29 for six plays. Subscribers receive ticket insurance, ticket exchange privileges, Stagestruck, the Theatre Project Company's new publication which is designed especially for subscribers and tickets to the annual holiday season performance of A Child's Christmas in Wales.

For more information write to: Theatre Project Company, Union Station, 1320 Market St., St. Louis, Mo. 63103 or phone 621-1336.



TECH TALKS

I have found that one of the least frustrating and most pleasant chores any restorationist can undertake is painting. Perhaps it is because painting signifies that one is finally getting something accomplished that will be visible to others.

While painting is low on the frustration index it is not without pitfalls. There are three elements of painting which must be addressed: Technique, equipment, and paint. Technique is obviously the first chance one has to mess up a simple project. Before painting, regardless of the surface, the surface must be adequately prepared. It must be free of dust and dirt. If you are painting new drywall it should have a primer coat first. This primer coat seals the drywall so that it is not inordinately porous and covers up small imperfections. While marketed under several names this sealer is basically Polyvinylacetate (PVA). It can be applied in one or preferably two coats.

Existing non-wood painted surfaces need merely a thorough cleaning before painting unless they need scraping. New wood surfaces should have a similar preparation as new drywall. They should be clean and then given one primer coat; either enamel or latex depending upon the final finish. When you are going to paint window and floor mouldings, etc.

that have under a million coats of old paint and wish not to strip them a good going over with a steel brush will remove the loose paint.

The physical mechanics of painting begin and end with two words, care and patience. If you are careful and patient you will be able to do a job that anyone could be proud of. If you are not, hire someone to do it. One point that should be mentioned is that in painting exterior surfaces you should not paint them on a very hot day in direct sunlight. Always try to stay in the shade about two hours behind the sun's passage. Failure to do this will result in blistering and peeling. (The way the summer is going I am not painting until next year.)

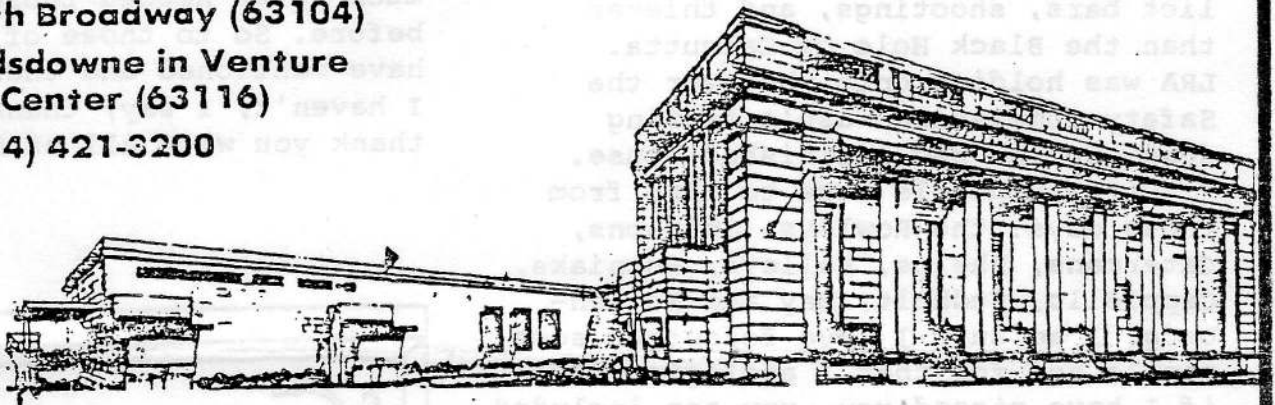
The other two elements of painting which will make or break your paint job, equipment and paint, can be covered very succinctly. Buy the best!!! If you buy the best paint you can afford you will never have to worry about irregularities caused by the paint. Good paint will cover more area in less time with better and longer lasting results than cheap junk. No good paint that bleeds through in two weeks. As far as equipment goes I defer to Walter Pott, a Souldard resident for numerous years and former painting contractor, who has said to me that regardless of the care one takes or the paint one uses if you don't have good equipment you won't get a good paint job. Personally speaking, I have found that a \$15 paintbrush will perform about ten thousand times better than a cheap one. Take it from experience folks.

So here is good luck to you! Use good paint, good equipment, take your time, be careful, and you can't miss!

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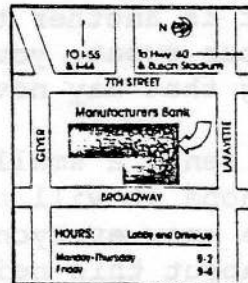
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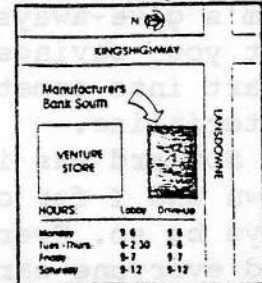
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REFLECTION

by Jim Mazdra

I don't often indulge in reverie (it reminds me of my past), but I have been sitting here thinking about what Soulard was like when my wife and I first bought our shell four years ago. It was late August, it was hot, and everyone thought we were fools for buying a completely gutted shell for \$2,000 (How is that for ancient history?).

The baseball Cardinals were doing so-so, the foot ball Cardinals were revving up for another great season and Soulard had more derelict bars, shootings, and thieves than the Black Hole of Calcutta. LRA was holding onto whatever the Safety Commission wasn't tearing down. No one had a finished house.

Certain people come to mind from those days: the Rowleys, Johnsons, Gatermans, Phelps, Kelleys, Wozniaks, Cappiello, Sudholt, Day and Hollenberg. I am sure I have forgotten some people and for that I apologize. Even if I have missed you, you are included in my thoughts. The reason I remember all these people is that they cared. They cared about Soulard. That is not to say that they always got along but they did care about the neighborhood and were the true urban pioneers. Without them and others I have either forgotten to mention or never know, this neighborhood would be nothing but block upon block of weeds.

It is one thing to build something using all the various forms of Uncle Sam's give-aways. It is another to put your savings, your sweat, your heart into something that may never materialize.

Soulard was in a sense a small town and I for one hope it will always be so. Everyone know everyone and everyone cared about this neighborhood with every ounce of caring that they had. Some of these people moved on, such is life, but those

that remain still care just as they did four and five years before we came to this haven from suburban plastic.

I remember going to the bank, looking, almost begging for a loan and hearing a loan officer say, "That neighborhood is starting to grow again." I felt proud even though I was nothing but a novitiate. That feeling of pride is something we need to continue, indeed reinforce. This neighborhood needs those who come behind us just as much as we needed those who came before. So to those of you I have mentioned and those of you I haven't, I say, thank you, thank you with all of my heart.



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NOTES FROM A SOGGY BASEMENT

by Edgar Pendergast

I'm tired. I mean it, I'm really tired. Did Hemingway write when it was 105 degrees? No!! Did Shakespeare write when it was this hot? No! Did Homer? No! Did Faulkner? No! Did Ernest Bickerson? (You thought I was obscure) Hell No!

Do you want to know how hot it has been? I'll tell you how hot it has been! It has been so hot that my BASEMENT is dry!

Oh God! Please make it rain! I promise I will buy a new sump pump. I promise I will never complain again. "Sure," you say. "So what," you say. "Who cares," you say. I care! I care so much that I am desperate for snow, for ice, for sleet and freezing rain!! That is how desperate I am.

I called my mother. Can you believe I called my mother? "Mom," I said, "What to do?" "Dig." That's what she said, dig. "Mom I said, "I dig! I dig Bach. I dig gin. I dig bridge. I dig halter tops." Boy do I dig halter tops. "Dig," she said. "Mom," I said. "Dig," she said. "Aw Mom!" I said. "Dig," she said. I dug. I hung up.

HOW DOES IT END?

Here's a game for you to play. Do you know the proper ending for the names of Soulard streets? You must play this game completely from memory without the use of maps or street guides.

Which streets are avenues?

Which streets are places?

Which streets are lanes?

Which streets have no endings?

(Answers and scoring elsewhere in this issue.)



VICTORIA BARTON SOULARD's EMPORIUM
of GARDENING ADVICE

What to do with your garden in August:

1. On cool mornings, sit in it and drink something refreshing.
2. Give it a long, deep soak.
3. After the long, deep soak, weed it - the wet ground gives up the weeds without the least struggle.
4. Pinch off faded blossoms to encourage more blooming.
5. Better yet, pick lots of bouquets.
6. Hope with all your might that the heat will not damage your vegetables.
7. Mulch your plants to keep in moisture and help prevent weeds.
8. Do not go into the garden wearing a floral scent - the bees will try and pollinate you!
9. On cool evenings, sit in it and drink something relaxing.

BLOCK WATCH

Manning's lot deweeded on 10th.

Mazdra's air conditioner out the front window (tacky).

Shell at 1863 S. 10th going for \$22,000!!!!!!!!

Guess who ain't going back to the Pod noMore?

ST AGATHA DAY CARE CENTER

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St. Agatha Day Care Center offers a comprehensive program of child care for ages two through six which includes a full day Kindergarten curriculum. Experienced, trained teachers structure the day to provide a variety of activities and learning experiences that are genuinely meaningful to the young child. The Center provides an essential service to the working parent with its full day program of child care available five days per week.

St. Agath's child centered program fosters the spontaneous joy of learning and the natural curiosity and discovery process which is a part of every child's interaction with the world around him.

Weekly field trips extend the educational experience beyond the classroom walls into the surrounding St. Louis community. An indoor gross motor skills room provides an environment where children have the freedom to develop and express themselves through physical play. This brightly lit, colorful room contains a specially designed and constructed multi-level wooden structure for active play.

Parent participation is very important to St. Agatha Day Care Center. All parents are expected to contribute some of their time, skills, ideas or other resources to the Center in order to assure a successful program.

The St. Agatha Parents Association meets regularly to discuss the program, policies, and needs of the Center. Recognizing the tremendous demands placed on parents of young children, the Center provides various learning opportunities such as workshops and lectures by community professionals where parents can gain information and share experiences. High School equivalency (GED) classes are also given at the Center.

The Center is a United Way Agency. Additional sources of funding include Title XX funds from the State of Missouri, U.S. Department of Agriculture food supplements, and fees based upon family income for those who are not eligible for Title XX support.

For more information call 776-6020.

FENCELESS PARK SAGA

In August, 1978, the fence surrounding Lafayette Park was dismantled for restoration and repair. Today, most of the ornate, cast iron fence still lies on the ground.

Many of the posts are being recast, but continued delays have hampered reconstruction. The first 50 posts were shipped from the Tennessee Fabricating Co. and erected in November, 1979, and another 75 arrived a few months later.

Officials recently learned that the fabricating firm no longer has a foundry, and Banner Iron Works of St. Louis now has the contract to provide the remaining 153 posts. About \$200,000 in federal money is being used to pay for the project. It is estimated that it will be two months before the fence is completely installed, but no one is placing bets.



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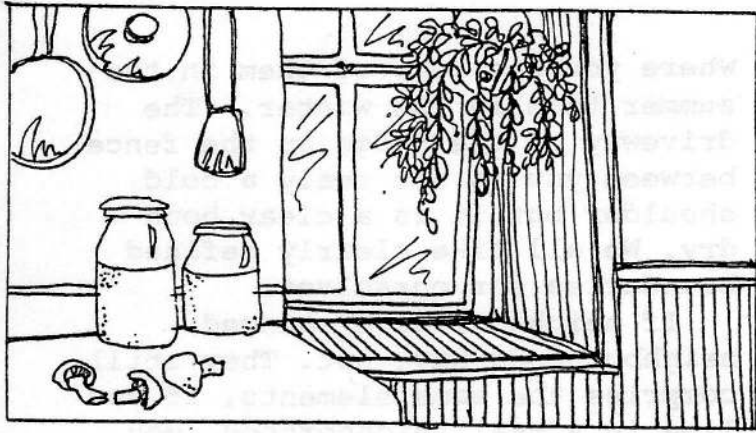
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THE KITCHENS OF SOULARD

by Carol Ray

"The kitchen? But that's my least favorite room!" Nancy Grimshaw had a point - but just a teeny one. She and Vicki Renisch have done a wonderful job creating what might be described as an atmosphere of cozy elegance in their 13th Street home. Vicki and Nancy are two of Soulard's warmest hostesses - witness their stoop on a summer evening - and their kitchen (though it may not be their favorite) is a busy room.

There are two features which make the kitchen special; 54 inch wainscoting on the south side of the kitchen and a wide window seat on the east wall. The wainscoting once adorned the walls of the old Augustinian School. To compliment the window seat, a high window above the wainscoting also has a wide sill. The work was designed by Petie Lucier of the old Renaissance Design Group. It was she who created the window seat - the happy result of a plumber's error. The dark wood cabinets and white fixtures are enhanced by warm yellow walls and a dark terra cotta quarry tile floor. The width of the doorways leading to the kitchen should give the visitor a clue that the kitchen is a conversion of a "back room" which was added to the house in 1919.

Just right for a Sunday brunch is Vicki's recipe for stuffed mushrooms.

1 lb. of mushrooms 3-4T of catsup
1 small jar Cheez Whiz
8 slices of fried bacon
Progresso Bread Crums - Italian or unseasoned

Hollow out the mushrooms, best done by twisting the stems. Chop the stems as saute in one T. of oil. Add crumbled bacon, catsup, cheese and heat thoroughly. Stuff caps of mushrooms and sprinkle breadcrumbs over the top. Place stuffed caps in oven and heat for eight minutes at 425.

HISTORIC DISTRICT UPHELD

The Missouri Court of Appeals has ruled that the city ordinance establishing Lafayette Square as an historic district is constitutional. And the court said the City's Board of Adjustment correctly interpreted the ordinance in denying a demolition permit to the Lafayette Park Baptist Church.

The church has been trying for seven years to obtain the permit to demolish a vacant, rundown double townhouse it owns at 1720-22 Mississippi Avenue. The church wants to construct a parking lot on the site, which is adjacent to the church.

The recent ruling was the second time the Appeals Court has ruled in the dispute. In 1977, the court said the adjustment board must consider the economic feasibility of rehabilitation in deciding whether to approve demolition of historic structures. Two years ago, the church filed suit seeking to have the historic district ordinance declared unconstitutional. The court said the ordinance was, in effect, a zoning ordinance. It said the court cannot interfere in individual demolition cases.

Reprinted from St. Louis Globe Democrat ...

"Being neighborly isn't the same as it used to be"

by Andy Rooney

It seems to me that neighbors are going out of style in America. The friend next door, from whom you borrowed four eggs or a ladder, has moved, and the people in there now are strangers.

Some of the old folklore of neighborliness is impractical or silly, and it may be just as well that our relations with our neighbors are changing. The biblical commandment to "Love Thy Neighbor" was probably a poor translation of what originally must have been "Respect Thy Neighbor." Love can't be called up on order.

Fewer than half the people in the United States live in the same house they lived in five years ago, and there's no reason to love the people who live next door to you just because they happened to wander into a real estate office that listed the place next door to yours. The only thing neighbors have in common to begin with is proximity, and unless something more develops, that isn't reason enough to be best friends. It sometimes happens, naturally, but the chances are very small that your neighbors will be your choice as buddies. Or that you will be theirs, either.

The best relationship with neighbors is one of friendly distance. You say hello, you small-talk if you see them in the yard, you discuss problems as they arise, and you help each other in an emergency. It's the kind of arrangement

where you see more of them in the summer than in the winter. The driveway or the hedge or the fence between you is not really a cold shoulder but it is a clear boundary. We all like clearly defined boundaries for ourselves.

If neighbors have changed, neighborhoods have not. They still comprise the same elements. If you live in a real neighborhood, you can be sure most of the following people will be found there:

One family with more kids than they can take care of.

A dog that gets into garbage cans.

One grand home with a family so rich that they really aren't a part of the neighborhood.

A bad kid who steals or sets fire to things, although no one has ever been able to prove it.

People who leave their Christmas decorations up until March.

A grouchy woman who won't let the kids cut through her back yard.

Someone who doesn't cut his grass more than twice a summer.

Someone who cuts his grass twice a week and one of the times always seems to be Sunday morning at 7:30.

One driveway with a junky-looking pickup truck or trailer that's always sitting there.

A family that never seems to turn off any lights in the house.

A family that never seems to turn any lights on in the house.

A teen-ager who plays the radio too loud in the summer with the windows open.

Someone who leaves his barking dog out until 11:30 most nights.

One mystery couple. They come and go, but hardly anyone ever sees them and no one knows what they do.

A couple that has loud parties all the time with guests that

take an hour to leave once they get outside and start shouting goodbye at each other.

Someone who doesn't pull the shades.

A house with a big maple tree whose owners don't rake the leaves until most of them have blown into someone else's yard.

It is easier to produce nostalgia about a neighborhood than about a community, but a community is probably a better unit. A neighborhood is just a bunch of individuals living in proximity, but a community is a group of people who rise above their individual limitations to get some things done in town.

SOULARD LIONS FESTIVAL A ROARING SUCCESS

Saturday, August 23, 1980 was the first of what we hope will be an annual festival sponsored by The Soulard Lions Club. Led by Grand Marshals Gene Bond and Bob Volz, it offered something for everyone, from good food to painted faces; magic shows to Marquis in flight. The Geyer Street Sheiks (claimed as Soulard's own) were the hit of the bandstand and had the whole area in front of where they were playing filled with Soulard residents and visitors tapping their toes, clapping their hands and even dancing to the beat. Three cheers for a wonderful day! Can't wait til next year.

JESUS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

12th and Victor

Invites you to worship with them on Sunday morning at

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

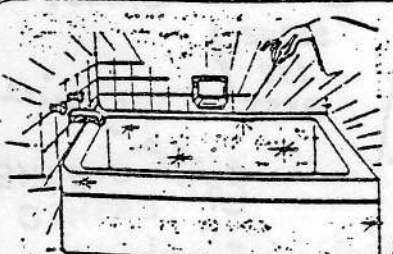
Communion is served the last Sunday of the month.

Piano Lessons

Classical or Popular(chords). Your home or mine(near 12th & Geyer). 13 years experience, including 5 years at CASA.

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Boulevards: Russell & Seventh
Avenues: Allen, Ann, Geyer
Lafayette, Shenandoah,
Withnell

Places: DeMenil

Lanes: Allen Market

No Endings: Broadway

Streets: Barton, Carroll, Cave,
Cherokee, Dolman, 18th,
8th, 11th, Emmet, Julia,
Lami, Lynch, Marion,
Menard, McGirk, 9th,
Sidney, Soulard, 10th,
13th, 12th, Utah, Victor,
Wyoming

Scoring:

- 1-10 correct = you need a map.
- 11-20 correct = you are probably just visiting the area.
- 21-30 correct = you most likely work for the street department.
- 31-36 correct = you cheated and used a map.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

In April, 1955, ways of preserving the old De Menile mansion, 3352 S. 13th Street, were being sought as it was revealed the property was for sale, possibly to make way for a supermarket. Asking price for the mansion, built in 1863 for Dr. Nicholas De Menile, was \$32,500.

GOOD NEWS - A new business is moving into Soulard.

BAD NEWS - It is to occupy the corner of 12th and Allen where we have had our office. We have been provided desk space in the Memo Printing office and our appreciation is extended to Mr. Diamantini for his generosity. But we need a permanent space. Know of a vacant store front?? Or side room??

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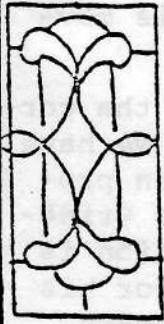
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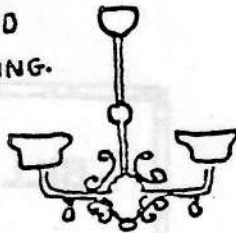
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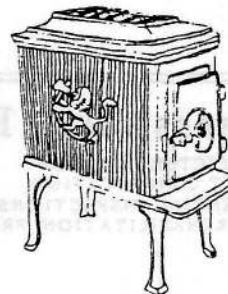
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Sept. 14	Badenfest
Sept. 20	8th Annual Great Forest Park Balloon Race
Sept. 21	Bevo Day
Sept. * 13 & 14	Benton Park Art Exhibit
Oct. 5	Oktoberfest, Marquette Park
Oct. 25 & 26	Shaw Haunted House
Dec. 7	Soulard Christmas Parlor Tour
Dec. 13 & 14	Shaw Neighborhood Christmas Parlor Tour
Dec. 14	Lafayette Square Christmas Parlor Tour

* These dates are approximate. For more information, call NSM.
† Tours available upon request.

MOVING? PLEASE LET US KNOW.

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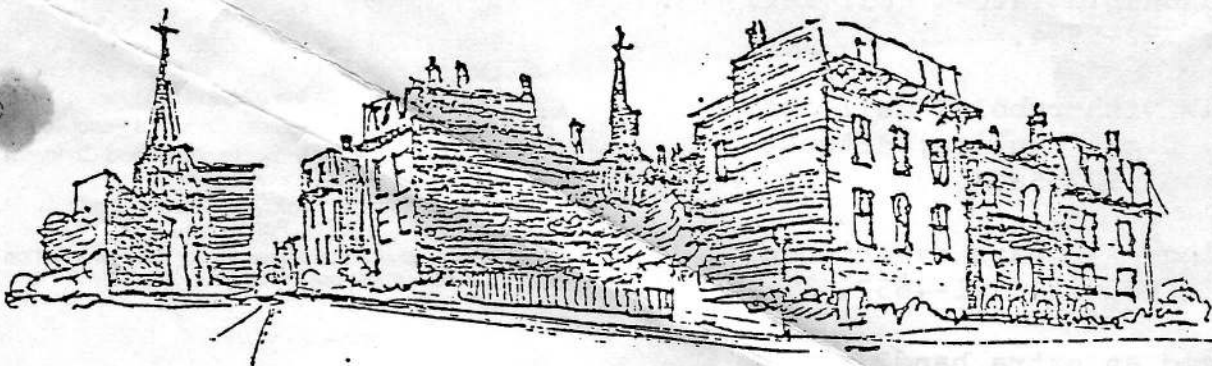
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