

The Soulard Restorationist

VOLUME X ISSUE XI

MARCH 1981

1981 SOULARD PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

The Soulard Neighborhood Strategy Area will receive \$430,000 in public improvements this year as part of the 1981 federal Community Development Block Grant allocation to the city. The allocation totals \$35 million.

Heading the list of improvements are various street improvements worth \$265,300. The following streets will receive new curbs, walks and trees: Lafayette, 9th Street to alley west of 7th; Menard, Shenandoah to Russell; 13th St., Sidney to Lynch; Ann, 7th to 8th; Victor, 12th to 13th; and Soulard, 7th to 9th, excluding to southside of Soulard from 7th to alley between 7th and 8th.

Street work is to be bid by the city by June, and construction is expected to begin before August. The scope of the work could be modified depending upon final engineer's construction estimates.

Funds also will be used to support a number of neighborhood activities including: legal services to the elderly, in-home services, community schools, community recreation, redevelopment opportunities for women, community arts development, lead paint abatement, rat and dog control, weed control, bulk refuse pickup, the boarding-up or demolition of at least 30 buildings and neighborhood marketing assistance.

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CITY'S FIRST HERITAGE COMMISSIONER

Henry S. Jackson, planning director for the greater Louisville, KY area for the past several years, has begun his new \$28,743 job as St. Louis' first heritage commissioner.

Jackson, 29 will oversee the new 11-member Heritage and Urban Design Commission. Last year, the heritage commission replaced the city's old Landmarks and Urban Design Commission as the body which oversees city historic districts, parks and urban design matters. The new commission was made part of a comprehensive urban design code adopted by the Board of Alderman last February.

The code, the result of a task force appointed by Mayor Jim Conway, also provided for a full-time heritage office with a commissioner and a paid staff. The city has never before had such an office. Jackson assumed his duties Jan. 6, and a staff, consisting of a secretary, building inspector, planner and architect, will be named in the near future.

Despite the provision for a full-time heritage office, the code generated some controversy among preservationists who contended that the new commission, made part of the Department of Public Safety, would lose its independence. Public Safety Director Alphonso Jackson, who has appointing authority over the heritage commissioner, is seen by some as being pro-demolition--a charge that Jackson denies.

Jackson selected his namesake (no relation) from a list of three candidates selected by the commission. Alphonso Jackson said his appointee is "very preservation minded" and he stressed that he played no role in the selection of the final three candidates.

Henry Jackson, a native of Baltimore, received a degree in community planning from the University of Cincinnati College of Design, Architecture and Art in 1974. He also is a landscape architect.

When he applied for the St. Louis job, Jackson was planning director for the Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency, which is similar to the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council.

Jackson has also been involved in numerous urban planning and rehabilitation projects in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky and was a private partner in the rehabilitation of 100-year old townhouses in Cincinnati.

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NOTES FROM THE BRICKHOUSE

The 1981 City House Show will be held at McCormick Place West in Chicago on the week-end of March 27-29. The City House Show is the largest show of its kind with many exhibitors demonstrating a variety of restoration and rehabilitation techniques. This year, over 300 exhibitors may participate in the show. The Souland Restoration Group plans to participate in this year's show to do so, I invite all SRG members to join in the fun. SRG will be joined this year at the City House Show by representatives of Neighborhood Marketing Services (NMS). SRG and NMS will share a booth. We plan to display our new slide show, photo boards and map with the NMS portable photo display and new City Flow Guide. The added advantage is that participants can see all of the other displays.

The plan calls for us to depart St. Louis on the 4:00 pm Amtrak on Friday, March 27, arriving in Chicago at 9:20 pm. Hotel

accommodations will be arranged in early March and doubling up in rooms is encouraged to reduce costs.

Our exhibit will be manned in rotation throughout the day among group members. The train will depart Chicago on Sunday, March 29 at 2:30 pm arriving in St. Louis at 7:50 pm. Round trip on the train is only \$43.50 and if we get a group of 15 or more, the round trip fare is reduced to \$40.60.

I hope we get a large group to attend. It's an opportunity to socialize in a different setting, to see the exhibits and to have a lot of fun. For additional information on City House contact Jim Marquis at 773-4453.

* * *

AND YOU THOUGHT SAVING OLD HOUSES WAS HARD WORK!

At times we get so wrapped up in our neighborhood and our old houses that we think that they are the only things worth saving or are the only things people try to save. Well, this just "ain't" so. The Missouri-Kansas Rail Passenger Coalition has been formed to save another part of American heritage, its passenger trains. The coalition, MOKSRAIL, as it is usually called, is trying to save rail passenger service for the entire state of Kansas and all of northern Missouri. With President Reagan's budget-cutting, Amtrak is slated for drastic cuts which will endanger service to most of the nation, specifically to the areas listed above. Ridership on the trains serving these areas has been steadily on the increase with the rising cost of fuel. The specific train involved is the Southwest Limited which runs daily between Chicago and Los Angeles. Amtrak has recently spent a half billion dollars refurbishing its trains with new equipment. The Southwest Limited (the pre-Amtrak era "Super Chief") has experienced a complete refurbishing. The train is Missouri's only rail passenger link to the Western states and the Pacific

Coast. If these trains are lost their is no form of transportation that can replace them allowing the public to travel so inexpensively and as comfortably. Also, a vanishing part of Americana will be lost.

MOKSRAIL believes that to get more and more people on the trains, and to make them profitable, more frequent train service is needed and the under-utilization of stations must be stopped. The state government believes that rail passenger service is a viable alternative to the private auto. Last year, in an agreement with Amtrak, it picked up the tab for any financial loss on trains that operated between here and Kansas City. In fact, the state has now added two more trains to the schedule because of the increased business and is now thinking of adding another set of trains. Two more stations are to be added in the near future. The trains between St. Louis and Kansas City work, and MOKSRAIL believes the Southwest Limited can work. They are seeking public support through letters to public officials to save these trains. If more MOKSRAIL, P. O. Box 1192, Kansas City, MO 63141.

* * *

MA BISCO RESPONDS TO DEAR ABNER

Dear Abner,

Your response to questions from Julia Childe and a false Ma Bisco shows that you have no apparent understanding of my qualifications. Therefore, I intend to set you straight.

My cooking career began in my childhood when a friend and I made fabulous blackbottom pies from scratch - First we scratched the dirt loose, and then we mixed in a little water and salt. Unfortunately, we lived in the country next to a fast hiway. Since we had a limited advertising budget we weren't able to attract the attention of the motorists in time to allow them to stop. Besides my folks wouldn't let us walk far down the road to put up our signs.

My next lesson was homemade bread. My mother is noted for her freshly baked rolls as was my grandmother before her. Thus, I went into training to carry on the tradition. Unfortunately, I never remember to take the rolls out of the oven at the right time. My

brother sold them to the cement contractor down the block as a new, durable stone product permastone.

I once created a legendary recipe called "I-55 cole-slaw" for a family re-union. Do you know how many heads of cabbage you can shred between here and Arnold? Just think of how much coleslaw all those commuters could make.

Another of my creations was "cheese flambeau." That's a cheese sandwich cooked in the broiler so that the top piece of bread catches fire.

Despite the difficulties I've experienced in the kitchen there have been numerous successes, and my reputation as a cook is growing. Why, I've had mid-night phone calls from a local real estate salesperson requesting a pan of my brownies to go with his cheap wine! Bushwhacked Ed was easily bribed with my cookies. Santa has been known to leave the Reba L for my mulled cider. Now I just follow Julia C's rule: Never admit anything.

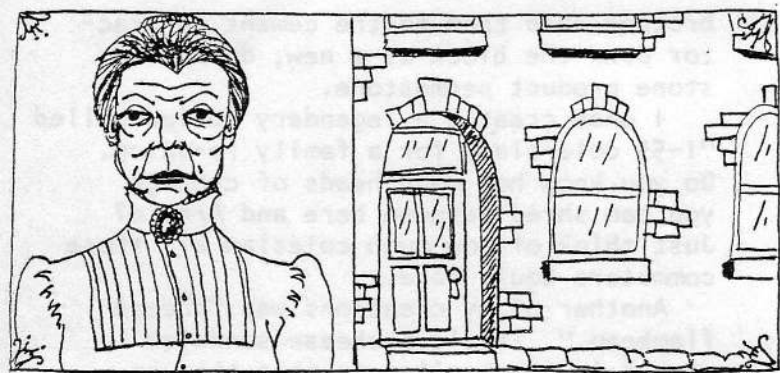
Now, Abner, maybe you'll have a better understanding of my expertise. But I must include my favorite recipe: Eat dinner out!

* * *

NEW BUSINESS MANAGER ON NEWSLETTER STAFF

The Restorationist has a new business manager. Paul Houghland has accepted the position. He feels that many of the functions of the membership committee will help make the job of business manager a bit easier. Ad copy as per the task of the manager more accurate, efficient and easier. Ad copy will only be accepted for a minimum of six months at a time. No one time ads will be accepted. If you know of someone wanting to take out an ad in the newsletter have them call Paul at 436-4474. All ads must be given to Paul or they will not be included in the newsletter.

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The RESTORATIONIST is pleased to present a new author, Ms. Ann Sidney Brickstreet, who has composed what she calls "an endless saga in a modern setting." Ms. Brickstreet's work will be presented in installment from beginning in this issue. The author has resided quietly in Soulard for several years; this is her first saga.

GREAT GRANDMOTHER'S REVENGE by Ann Sidney
Brickstreet

When Moldavia Dubrovka inherited her Great Grandmother Dubravka's three story brick house on South Seventeenth Street, she knew that the old woman had never forgiven her for going to art school. Great Grandmother Moldavia (the first) had managed to die peacefully last year, at home, in her own bedroom, in spite of her family's efforts. Attended by her life-long friend and neighbor, Ethelde Grunsche, and surrounded by her five cats, Great Grandmother had slipped away without much fuss; no doubt smiling to herself, thought Moldavia (the fourth), in full knowledge that this last wish could not be resisted.

Great Grandmother (never granny or nana) had first been appalled when Moldavia the fourth had decided to become "Davia." At least I didn't end it with the "i", thought Davia, or, worse yet, become "Moldi." Later, when Davia was the first of the Dubravkas to have a chance at college, Great Grandmother had been outraged at her choice. Clearly it must have been the namesake business, Davia decided. Great Grandmother had not complained when her great grandson, Davia's brother, had chosen Julliard. Or perhaps it was his skill on the violin that had softened her Slavic heart. Even when Antonin had become "Tony," Great Grandmother had held back the icy stares she reserved for her great granddaughter.

Davia consoled herself with the novelty of the situation. How many people her age even remembered a great grandmother? When Great Grandmother, at 15, had had her first baby, the house had been new. Selling, Davia decided, was out of the question. She would move in. At least she would be half-way between New York and Los Angeles. And her family wouldn't bother her much. They were afraid to come to the old neighborhood.

Davia's optimism was interrupted by the telephone. Ten minutes later she knew her thoughts had been moving in the right direction. She was furious! How dare he, she fumed. "Spark" Dowley, realtor, could take his five thousand dollars and wallpaper his bathroom with them! No place for a single girl. Perfect for a rooming house, indeed. Davia grabbed the old keys, stomped across her parent's suburban zoysia and headed her yellow van east.

TO BE CONTINUED.



A LEGEND

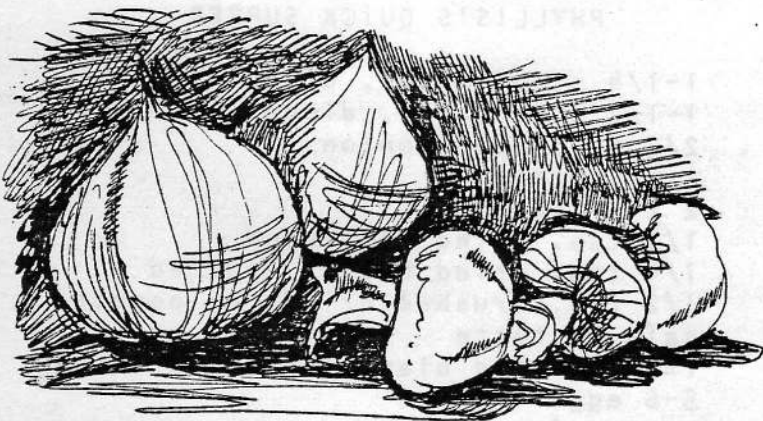
A Nobleman once was riding along a road and saw a very old man digging in his garden. Beside the old man lay a sapling ready to be planed. The Nobleman stopped to watch, calling out to the old man, "What kind of tree are you planting?" The old man wiped his brow and said, "This is a fig tree." "A fig tree!", cried the Nobelman. "Why? May I ask how old you are?" "I am ninety years old", replied the old man. "You are ninety years old and you plant a tree that will take years to bear fruit?" "Why not?" asked the old man. Then he leaned on his shovel and added, "Tell me, did you eat figs when you were a boy?" Certainly. Why? "Who planted the trees from which those gifts were picked?" The Nobelman hesitated, "I don't know", he said.

"You see, sir, our forefathers planted trees for us to enjoy, and I am doing the same for those who come after me. How else can I replay my debt to those who lived before me?" (end)

Being the membership recorder, I have access to the pages of all past and present members of the SRG. As far as I can tell, there were thirteen charter members in 1974, ten of which are still active.

I would like to thank Bertha & Dave Dempsey, Cecelia Cappiello, Laurel & Don Bennett, Karen & Clark Rowley, Hilary Clements, Mary & Joe Johnson, Larry Giles, Judy Shehan and John Sudholt for "planting the sapling" of restoration. But let us not rest on our laurels, for just like the old man in the legend, we have a responsibility to those individuals of the mid-nineteenth century who so wisely built these buildings for generations to follow. Even though no one can anticipate the future, anyone can plan for tomorrow.

* * *



THE KITCHENS OF SOULARD by Ma Bisco

In January one of the questions asked was - Do you remember when Phyllis Young wasn't involved in everything in Soulard? Having known Phyllis since that time I decided to stop by for a visit recently.

Last year at the this time Phyllis and Jim were holding up the kitchen and bedroom of their house since the rest wasn't finished. This summer they finally moved into the rest of second floor although like everyone in Soulard there are many finishing touches they plan to add.

The kitchen in the Young's house was originally in the rear of the house which meant that guests went through the bedroom and past the bathroom on the way there. Since making the bed and picking up clothes are not first priorities in their household the Young's decided to reverse the kitchen and bedroom. This also made the dining room much more convenient.

Phyllis and Jim lived in the downstairs apartment of their house for two years prior to moving upstairs. So, when considering the kitchen design, Phyllis knew that the existing space was too large to be convenient if she wrapped the cabinets around the existing walls of the room. She also wanted to include an informal dining area. Since they'd live on second floor with laundry facilities in the basement before coming to Soulard, both wanted those facilities in the kitchen. Another item to be included was a pantry since the old one downstairs had been essential. Both Jim and Phyllis wanted a contemporary, cheerful kitchen.

Working with an architect, plans were drawn for a U-shaped work area. Wall hung cabinets lined one leg of the U, while a soffit with lighting cams sheds direct light over the other leg. This leg serves as an island for serving the adjoining breakfast area. At the open end of the U are the pantry and refrigerator, and opposite the breakfast area is the laundry closet. A doorway directly into the hallway separates the laundry from the refrigerator and pantry and makes grocery carrying easier. On both sides of the door above the closets are open storage areas originally intended for plants and other decorative items. However, the Youngs are presently considering enclosing them to provide more storage. Phyllis related that cabinet selection was relatively simple for Jim and Her. However, she had a verbal battle with a friend over whether modern cabinets should go into an old house. Her friend contended that

dark wooden cabinets were more in keeping with the style of the house. Phyllis countered that since the kitchen was in the center of the house and got little sunlight dark cabinets would make a depressing kitchen. She admitted to me that she remembers cleaning her mom's wooden cabinets and didn't want to do anything like that again.

The cabinet's the Young's selected are white formica with almond countertops. Phyllis wanted the white for the light effect and for the flexibility of changing kitchen colors without concern for clashing with the cabinets. The handles are shiny, brass U-shaped ones. Phyllis favorite features about the cabinets are the ball-bearing drawer glides. She most likely will demonstrate this feature to any visitor. She also likes the adjustable shelving. Recently white ceramic tile was installed beneath the wall cabinets and above the stove.

For floor covering Phyllis selected a beige and brown pebble-like solarian for its easy care features and its neutrality. She also remembered tears when the counter-top was installed, and she thought it didn't match the floor. Now she can't figure out any difference.

Together the Young's spent many days painting the walls white. They never realized how many corners the kitchen had until they did this. Meanwhile, Jim was complaining that he'd rather be in the woods. He was missing the fall colors. Phyllis says she was ready to paint him fall colors before they were finished!

The wall next to the breakfast area is the original plaster and was not in good shape. Having taken an "Old House" course at Meramec, Phyllis remembered the instructor saying that "wallpaper covers a multitude of sins." Therefore, she covered that sinful wall with a bright orange wallpaper which has a pattern of baskets over it. After living in the kitchen she's decided to use that pattern on the wall above the cabinets as well to break the solid white there. She's also considering a display of baskets above the stove and counter. Beige levelors cover the windows.

Both Phyllis and Jim enjoy cooking when they have time, and their kitchen has worked well for their joint efforts. In addition, the center counter has been known to serve as a potting table. Phyllis related that a friend dropped by unexpectedly a few weeks ago. She was preparing dinner and had a roast waiting to go into the oven. She was in the midst of mixing batter for a cake, and the salad fixings were draining in the sink - the picture of Suzy Homemaker. Her friend was quite impressed and picked up a plast bag containg a warm brown colored mixture. As she sniffed, she asked Phyllis waht kind of spice was in the bag. Phyllis had to tell her that the "spice" was potting soil left over from potting the amaryllis bulbs. If the friend had stayed for dinner she would also have been impressed by the candlelight that Jim insisted upon, since the roast wasn't done enough to suit him.

Since quick suppers are the most common in the Young household, Phyllis provided this one for potato and zucchini omelets.

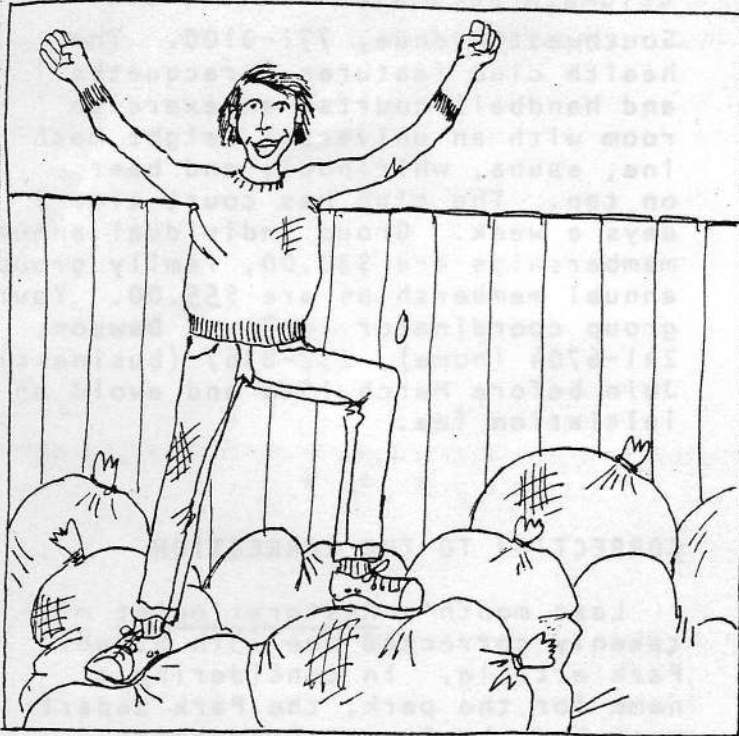
PHYLLIS'S QUICK SUPPER

1-1/4 c. potatoes, diced
 1-1/2 c. zucchini, diced
 2/3 c. chopped onion
 1 T butter
 2 T olive oil
 1/4 tsp. dried dill weed
 1/4 tsp. dried basil, crushed
 1/2 tsp. crushed dried red pepper
 salt to taste
 fresh ground black pepper to taste
 5-6 eggs
 butter for frying
 **garnish
 ** sour cream

Peel or scrub potato and cut it in 1/2" dice. Wash, trim, and finely dice the zucchini. Drop the diced potato into boiling salted water and cook for 5 min. Then drain it and set aside. Cook the quccini in boiling salted water for 3-4 min, drain, and set aside. Heat butter

and olive oil in a medium sized skillet and saute' the onions in it until they start to color. Add the partially cooked vegetables, the dill weed, basil, crushed red pepper, and salt. Cook this mixture over medium heat stirring often, until the potatoes are just tender. Grind in some black pepper in some black pepper and more salt if needed. Make 2 medium sized omelets. When the eggs are almost set, spoon some of the hot vegetables onto one side and fold the other side of the omelet over the filling. Slide the omelets onto warm plates and serve immediately with sour cream. Serves 2.

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TRASH IN THE ALLEYS AND ON THE STREETS

How many times have you come home from work only to be greeted by a pile of the most recent issue of NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS; and how many times have you taken your trash to the alley, only to find a pile of trash from your neighbor's trash bag? Well, have you ever done anything about it????

Many restorationsts complain because the streets are filled with trash, but yet they wait for it to miraculously disappear (or blow into someone else's yard). It doesn't take much time and effort to pick up those NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS from the front of your house and your neighbor's house if he or she is not so inclined. By the same token, it doesn't take much time to pick up the trash in the alley. It may cost you a couple of trash bags, which are a little expensive, but it certainly makes a significant difference.

And while I'm on the subject of trash, how many of you have ever approached the culprits who are littering the alleys? If they are neighbors, all it takes is a friendly knock on the door and a little reminder about trash pick-up in the city. Those of us who have lived in Souldard for a number of years know that trash is picked up twice a week (days vary according to where you live). The trash must either be in plastic trash bags or trash cans. If the bag or can is too heavy for the trashman to pick up it will be left where it is. The trash fairy will not, I repeat, will not pick it up. More likely the neighborhood kids or pets will decide to explore the bag or can's contents and what they don't want your alley and yard will receive. So a friendly reminder to those who love to dump their trash filled boxes behind their fences (where they do not have to look at it) is definitely in order. All you have to do is knock on the door, greet the owner with a smile and act on the assumption that he or she is new to the neighborhood. Explain the trash pick up schedule, the way the trash must be packaged and ask them to please be more considerate of their neighbors. If this doesn't work, then call the Sanitation Department at City Hall and file a complaint. The number is 622-3381. (For information on rubbish collection call 622-4543 - sofa, big boxes, etc.)

One last thing before I come off my soapbox. There are many stray animals living in Soulard. They are more often than not very hungry, especially in the winter. Please don't put your trash out on Friday to be picked up on Monday, because nine times out of ten, the strays will raid your trash bag or can for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. No fun.

A clean Soulard is important to all of us. Let's get with it and do our part.

* * *

ROSTER ADDITIONS:

Robert B. Printz
2317 Menard St. 63104
773-1048

We welcome Robert back to the SRG. He had been a member in 1978. Maybe you can tell us how to get some of the good old members to rejoin.

* * *

SOULARD'S SOCIETY COLUMN by Tillie Tattler

In Soulard it has never been neat to be on the Dean's list. But now Vicki Moyer is on it and proud of it to boot!

The Great White Way of 13th St. suffered another blow when the Poe's added their beautiful choice of colors to our ever colorful street. Now, about their sidewalk.

Two birthdays were celebrated this month. First Louise Tonkavick was toasted at the Young's delightfully fun party. Then Amy Dawson was obviously surprised at a Millard Fillmore's Deluxe gathering. Amy's only problem was figuring out how to apologize to Frank for two days of silence when she thought he'd completely forgotten.

Skip Gaterman is an inspiration to us all - how good you look Skip, and, believe it or not, we can still see you coming.

And now, from our faithful City Journal reader comes news that "Construction Specifications Institute" (Whatever that is) host a reception for approximately 2,000 people in Soulard Market area on June 22, 1981. Thanks for the warning, Paul.

BULLETIN:

A number of SRG beginner-novice, racquetball enthusiasts have begun a group membership at the Columbia Racquetball Club, 5257 Southwest Avenue, 771-0100. The health club features 8 racquetball and handball courts, an exercise room with an universal weight machine, sauna, whirlpool, and beer on tap. The club has court time 7 days a week. Group individual annual memberships are \$30.00, family group annual memberships are \$55.00. Your group coordinator is Frank Dawson, 241-6704 (home), 232-8367 (business). Join before March 15th and avoid an initiation fee.

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CORRECTION TO THE CORRECTION

Last month's Restorationist mistakenly corrected the 13th Street Park article. In considering a name for the park, the Park Department had the Street Department thoroughly research the name of the street. Thirteenth Street between Carondelet Avenue (Broadway) and Sidney Street was originally named Second Carondelet Avenue. Remember that Thirteenth Street was originally not a through street between Sidney and Victor. On March 27, 1883, City Ordinance No. 12454 renamed several city streets in the area, including 2nd Carondelet Avenue to 13th St.

Paul Kjorlie

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HERITAGE & URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION

January 22, 1981

REHABILITATION PERMITS APPROVED:

2316 S. 12th - Dennis Lang -Roof Deck
 1025-31 Lynch - Barton St. Assoc. -
 Restaurant

DEMOLITION PERMITS DENIED

909-11 Emmett (Jos. Pix Development)
 1727- S. 8th (Charles Stanley)

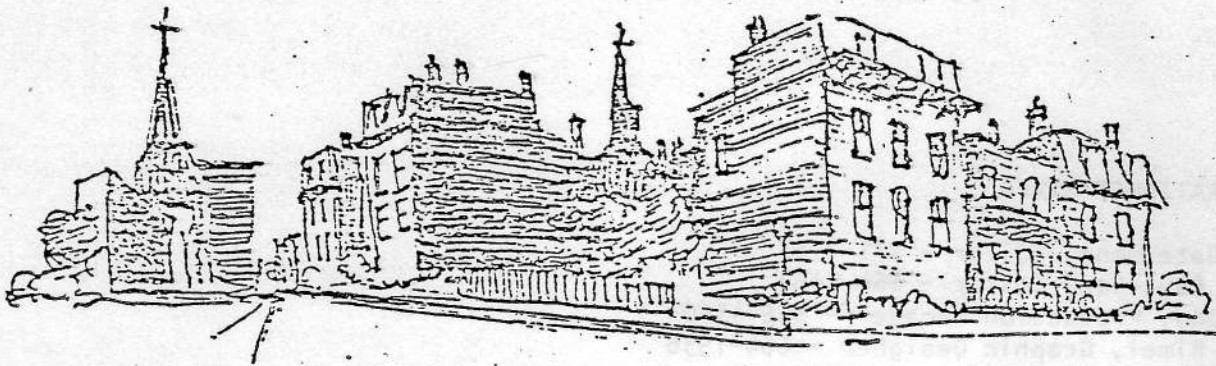
APPEARS DENIED

730 Carroll (North Entrance Canopy
 to Soulard Market)

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HISTORIC SOULARD



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