

The Soulard Restorationist

VOLUME VI ISSUE VIII

SECOND ANNUAL SRG PICNIC

Saturday, July 11, will long be remembered by some 70-odd SRG members and guests. The side yard of Millard Fillmore's rang with grunts from volleyball players, lip-smacking of culinary aficionados and curses of losing poker players. And in the background there was the frequent sound of pop-tops and twist-off caps.

The potluck dishes which were brought to compliment the marvelous baked ham, included fresh strawberries, mushroom guiche, broccoli casserole, cheese cake, papaya juice and the official candy of the current President of the USA. If you missed the party, you missed a lot of fellowship and fun. Doubt it? Then think on this. People started arriving at 5:00 p.m. and at 1:30 a.m. several were still propped up at the card table.

A special tip of the hat to Jerry Dempsey who allowed us to use the yard at Millard's.

* * *

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

More clout! More participants in SRG program! More friends! More involvement in neighborhood activities! More fun!

These are just a few of the advantages and need for SRG members. And to encourage our members to invite their neighbors to join SRG we are having a Summer Membership Drive. The rules are simple. Just get new members. The SRG member recommending the most new members during the months of July, August, and September will receive a dinner for two. And we mean a dinner for two in an outstanding Soulard restaurant.

Individual membership \$15.00/yr

Household of two membership - \$25.00/yr

Get those members!

AUGUST 1981

THE RESTORATIONIST SHOPPER

Whether you desire to meticulously restore every detail in your home or just wish to embellish it with decorative detail, Creative Ceilings may be just the place for you.

Creative Ceilings is located at 4268 Manchester Avenue in the "old Carps Building", and operated by Faith and Don Radtke. The Radtkes' started at this location approximately six years ago making plaster wares. Due to the restoration movement in the City they became aware of the need of decorative pre-cast plaster work. It has now been one and one-half years ago that Faith and Don abandoned plaster animals and plaques and started making elegant plaster medallions, moulding rosettes, stair, shelf and ceiling brackets. Due to demand from developes of new construction, they now carry a large selection of items in polymer.

Twenty-two different ceiling medallions are currently being produced, and the Radtkes' are always interested in expanding their line or doing custom work.

The medallion sizes run from 11 inches to 38 inches and from the simple to the ornate. The medallion can be used to enhance your chandelier or cover a hole in the ceiling left by the installation of your Casablanca fan, or, if you are creative and daring, an entire ceiling can be covered with medallions.

From experience I can advise you that the medallions are easy to install. Toggle bolts and liquid nails are suggested for installation. The medallions can be pre-cut by Mr. Radtke for easy installation of your light fixture. If Mr. Radtke cannot convince you that you can install them yourself, arrangements can be made for the Radtkes' to do your installation work. The Radtkes' boast that they can make a

thirty-six inch plaster ceiling medallion that weighs only three pounds.

The polymer items come pre-primed white, and weigh one-third the weight of an identical plaster item. The polymer brackets can be used either exteriorly or interiorly.

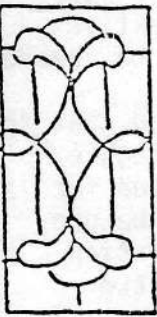
The Rattkes' are not novices in the restoration and decorating business. They have done work for the "old post office", the Shire of St. Joseph, Concordia Seminary, Ralston Purina and the Oxford Condominiums. They also have been featured on "Auble at Large".

One of their new endeavors will be polymer shell niche caps. These niche caps can be used in constructing decorative bookcases and china cabinets.

If you need some ideas on what to do with the beautiful medallions, mouldings, columns, etc., or you would just like to know more about the history of ornate plaster work in the United States look up the September-October 1980, Colonial Homes magazine published by The Hearst Corporation, 959 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10019.

If you haven't already visited Faith and Don at Creative Ceilings, Inc. stop by and see their beautiful work. They are open Monday thru Saturday from 9 to 3, or otherwise by appointment by calling 534-1798. Remember they can do custom work for you, or replicate existing damaged plaster work. They can make your house unlike any house on your block. A poster of their current medallions can be seen in the housing office.

* * *



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SOULARD BEATS LAFAYETTE AGAIN IN SOFTBALL

For the sixth time in the last seven years, Soulard defeated Lafayette Square in the annual July 4th softball game. The coveted Millard Fillmore trophy was retained by Soulard 20-9, but the hitting star was an outfielder playing for Lafayette Square. This unnamed individual hit three opposite field home runs that cleared the trees in right field and rolled to the fence on Park Avenue. The three round-trippers drove in six of the Square's nine runs. Post game discussions discovered that the prodigious hitter lived in Kansas City and was visiting friends in Lafayette Square for the week-end. While this somewhat diminishes the spirit of the game, a "shame on you, Lafayette," might be sufficient. Perhaps a "recruit several more like him to have a prayer," might fit also.

Soulard won the game with singles and walks. Our only home run came from Rex Bridges (2018 S. 11th.), plus a triple from Steve Boyer (2341 S. 12th St.). Four runs batted in went to Mike Button (1808 S. 10th St.), and the winning pitcher was Dale Bruning, (1804 S. 9th St.).

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.



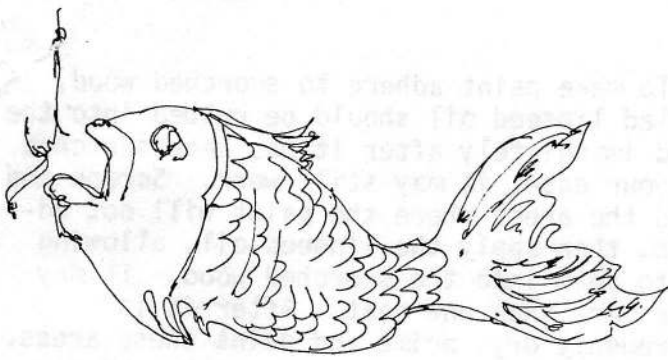
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THE FLOUNDER HOUSE MYTHS (Namely big fish stories)

Collected by Terry Berger

1. The obvious - it's-shaped-like-a-flounder story.

Flounder fish have steep sides not unlike the pitched roof of the flounder house, so stretch your imagination.

2. The wall-eyed-fish story.

A wall-eyed fish is supposed to have eyes on only one side of its head. The flounder house has at least one "blind" wall, therefore... (But look up wall-eyed in the dictionary.)

3. The cost-efficiency story.

Flounder houses lack complicated roof rafters. They would have been simpler to build and cheaper.

4. The something-to-lean-on story.

Flounders were built against another building for support. Would you believe they had no weight-bearing wall on that side?

5. The 19th Century-solar-design story.

The flounder was built for weather protection. In most houses, the tall side faced north or west and the roof sloped toward the south or east.

6. The tax-assessor-must-have-been-an-idiot story.

A classic! Flounders were built to fool the assessor into thinking the house was only half finished. (Half a house, half the taxes.)

7. The screwed-up-blueprint story.

The story is that the builder worked from a design for a duplex which got torn so he was only able to construct half a duplex.

8. The in-law story.

Another classic! Flounders were said to be separate houses built for troublesome in-laws. In fact, some people called them in-law houses.

9. The tight-mortgage-market story.

A story with which many restorationists can identify. The builder ran out of money half-way through and couldn't get more financing.

10. The nosey-neighbors story.

Since windows in flounders usually face blank walls (if there is an adjoining flounder), the design affords real privacy. The occupants next door couldn't pry into your business.

11. Luanne Rimel's Tall Tale (Tail).

Smoked Mississippi River flounder was a St. Louis delicacy - traditionally cured in The Flounder House Attic. Come on, Luanne, Mississippi River flounder?

12. The best-guess-so-far story.

Soulard was constructed before indoor plumbing. Flounder house roofs allowed rainwater to drain into a single gutter and then into one downspout which emptied into a cistern (or rain barrel). The cistern provided the household water supply.

13. The corollary-to-the-best-guess-yet story.

St. Louis building code required that each property capture run-off water within its own property lines.

* * *

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LARKING IN SOULARD

The Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis once again conducted a Summer Lark in the Soulard Historic District. Summer Larks are one day program events for individual girls who have an interest in the program offered.

The lark, entitled "From Market to Table," was held on Saturday, June 27. The program began at Trinity Lutheran Church where twenty Junior and Cadette Girl Scouts (ages 9-14) received a brief history of the Soulard neighborhood and the Market. From there the girls hiked to the Market to purchase peaches for peach butter and assorted vegetables for a salad luncheon.

After the Market tour the girls returned to the church where they proceeded to peel sixty pounds of peaches for the peach butter and prepare a salad for lunch. The day ended with everyone sampling the "goodies" they helped to make.

The purpose of the program was to acquaint the girls with Soulard Market and to teach them basic food preparation and canning skills.

The Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis is the largest Girl Scout Council in the United States serving over 50,000 girls in 12 counties and the City of St. Louis. Individuals interested in becoming involved in the Girl Scout program should call the Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis at 241-1270.

* * *

RESTORATION ADVICE prepared by the staff of Technical Preservation Services, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

A couple of years ago I removed the paint from our porch railing with a propane torch. I scorched the wood in several places, and now the paint won't adhere to the scorched wood. What can I do?

Howard Miller
Ames, Iowa

Propane torches (which heat to about 3500°F) should never be used to remove paint from wood because there is danger of fire, it is difficult not to scorch the wood, and the high temperature can vaporize lead paints, making them toxic. Other methods are safer and just as effective.

To make paint adhere to scorched wood, boiled linseed oil should be rubbed into the wood immediately after it has been scorched. In your case, it may still work. Scrape and sand the areas where the paint will not adhere, then apply the linseed oil, allowing it to soak into the scorched wood. It may take more than one coat. After it is thoroughly dry, prime and paint these areas.

Underneath some fairly shabby linoleum in my kitchen is a handsome hardwood floor. What is the easiest way to take up the old linoleum?

Ralph Linker
Olney, MD

Starting in a corner of the kitchen pry up the edge of the linoleum with a chisel and gently chip through the adhesive beneath the tile. The sticky substance that remains on the floor can be softened with a solvent such as turpentine or mineral spirits and then scraped off by hand with a putty knife or wide scraper. Although this will probably be a long and physically exhausting process it is preferable to sanding off the glue with a power sander because the glue coats the sanding disk so quickly that you spend more time changing the sandpaper than actually removing the glue. (For detailed information about floor refinishing, see "Refinishing Old Wood Floors," The Old House Journal, Vol. II, No. 12 December 1974, p. 1, 5-7 and "Selecting the Best Floor Finishes," The Old House Journal, Vol. III, No. 1, January 1975, p. 5-7).

Anne E. Grimmer

The interior plaster walls of our house are painted with calcimine. What is calcimine paint, and how do we paint it?

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hall
Darien, Conn.

Calcimine paint was developed in this country in the 19th century as a white-wash substitute. It contains a glue size called casein and acted as a bonding agent and a base for pigment. This led to the development of many different colors that appeared in 19th- and early 20th-century houses.

When contemporary oil-based paint is applied over calcimine paint, the new paint reacts chemically with the casein, causing the calcimine paint

to separate from the surface. Therefore calcimine must be removed with a solution of vinegar or ammonia diluted in water before new paint is applied. Wiping the surface with this solution can also be used as a test to determine if a wall has been painted with calcimine: if so, paint will come off on the rag. "Parakal," a commercially manufactured paint, can be applied directly over calcimines without surface cleaning.

Frederec Ellsworth Kleyale

The exterior paint on my 1920 house is covered with mold or mildew.

Should I sand it off before repainting?

D.K. Gunn

Ellicott City, MD

Using the following solution, scrub with a medium hard brush until the growth is bleached white: 3 oz. trisodium phosphate; 1 oz. detergent; 1 qt. 5% hypochlorite bleach; and 3 qts. warm water. Wash the solution away with a garden hose, allow the surface to dry thoroughly and then sand by hand and paint. Since moisture probably caused the mildew or mold, you should locate and eliminate its source so that such growth will not recur and potentially lead to more serious problems.

During my restoration of a 1907 house here, I replaced aluminum flashing, gutters and downspouts with copper to match original material. Is there a safe way to dull the shiny copper finish to match the original gutters?

F.L. Freeman
Scituate, MA

Finish all the exposed copper with a coat of boiled linseed oil, which will mellow the copper to a cherry brown "statuary finish." This technique does not etch the copper and is described in detail in Copper Roofings: Information for Architects and Roofing Contractors by the Copper and Brass Research Association, New York (1925).

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alleyways are for the trash and "Abner" must have felt at home with his last article which reeked of its usual poor taste and sick humor.

My suggestion would be to have Abner bagged for pick-up -- except where does one get a bag big enough to hold all that B-S?

The Glad Bag Man

* * *

CITY HOME GUIDE AVAILABLE

NEIGHBORHOOD MARKETING SERVICE HAS PUBLISHED the "City Home Guide" for people interested in buying or renting in the city. The guide is very practical and is a useful resource for the potential city resident. The guide is complete with a Neighborhood directory, map, apartment directory, developers directory, realtors directory and glossary. The document is also an important one to have for current city residents, especially those who frequently work with organizations or as individuals to lure people into buying a home in the city. The guide will enable one to become an instant "expert" in assisting a future city resident. To obtain a copy call Neighborhood Marketing Services at 241-9630.

* * *

Anheuser Busch is ONE BLOCK
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HARDWARE

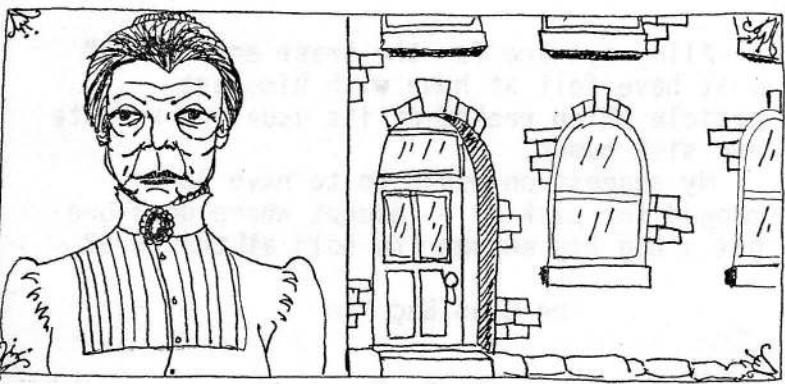
on BEAUTIFUL S. SEVENTH BLVD.

(2707)

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PARKING ALL OVER ! HARDWARE ?

WE'VE GOT IT!



GREAT GRANDMOTHER'S REVENGE by Ann Sidney Brickstreet

Synopsis: David Dubrovka has spent the first afternoon in her inherited house. She has discovered, to her surprise, that she loves the old house, but her encounters with the neighbors and the neighborhood itself have made her almost regret her decision to spend the night.

Chapter Five --

Wearing her bib overalls again, Davia returned Great Grandmother's clothes to their proper places. She undid her pompadour and braided her dark hair in a single braid. Before going back downstairs she walked into the other bedroom. It was furnished with a narrow iron bed, a wardrobe full of coats and a walnut dresser which contained clean linens and towels. The room was lighted by a single bulb, hanging under its glass shade from a heavy brass chain. She opened the windows in both bedrooms and went downstairs.

In the kitchen she opened the tuna and dipped it out of the can with the corn chips. She ate half the contents and put the rest in the refrigerator. Then she ate half the yogurt and decided to save the rest for breakfast. She returned to the parlor and moved the curtains just enough to see the street. The urchins were still playing in the dirt, but a small group of older people was sitting on the stoop, drinking beer. Other children were cruising by on old, stripped-down bicycles. Davia decided that she wasn't ready to sit out on her stoop to be evaluated by her neighbors.

She guessed it was about eight-thirty and wondered what she would do for the rest of the evening. Then she remembered the back porch door and realized she hadn't even thought of the backyard.

The porch had small glass windows and tongue and groove walls. The door was heavy and she had trouble with the lock. When she finally wrenched the door open, the back wall trembled. The yard was wonderful! An old lilac bush still had a few lavender flowers in bloom. A mock-orange bush was a fragrant, white profusion under the old streetlight in the alley. Along each side of the yard were perennial borders blooming against a crooked wire and wood fence. Davia was enchanted. Visits to Great Grandmother had seldom included the backyard. Here was another refuge from urban blight - and suburbia, too, she thought. The moment was ruined by the sound of a car squealing away from the front of the house. Davia turned back toward the house, and, in the same moment, froze in utter panic. The dark figure of an old woman in a long dress was silouetted in the open doorway. The figure raised a fist and shouted, "Get out!" in Great Grandmother's unmistakable accents. The door was slammed shut and Davia was locked out, her keys in the parlor.

To be continued.



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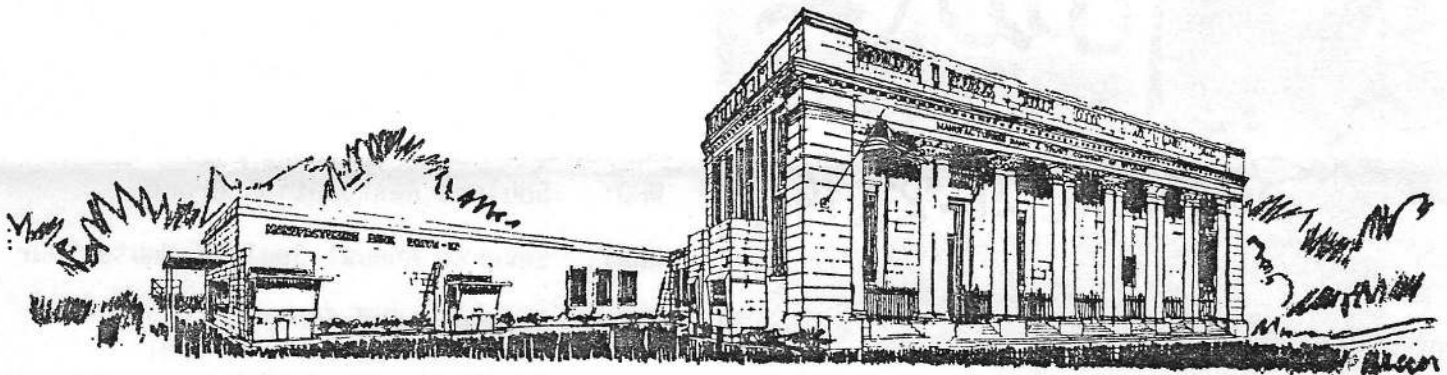


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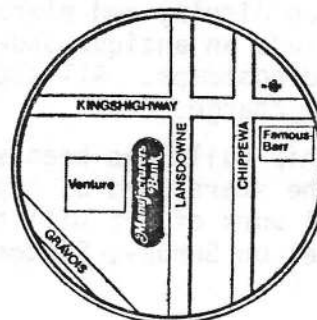


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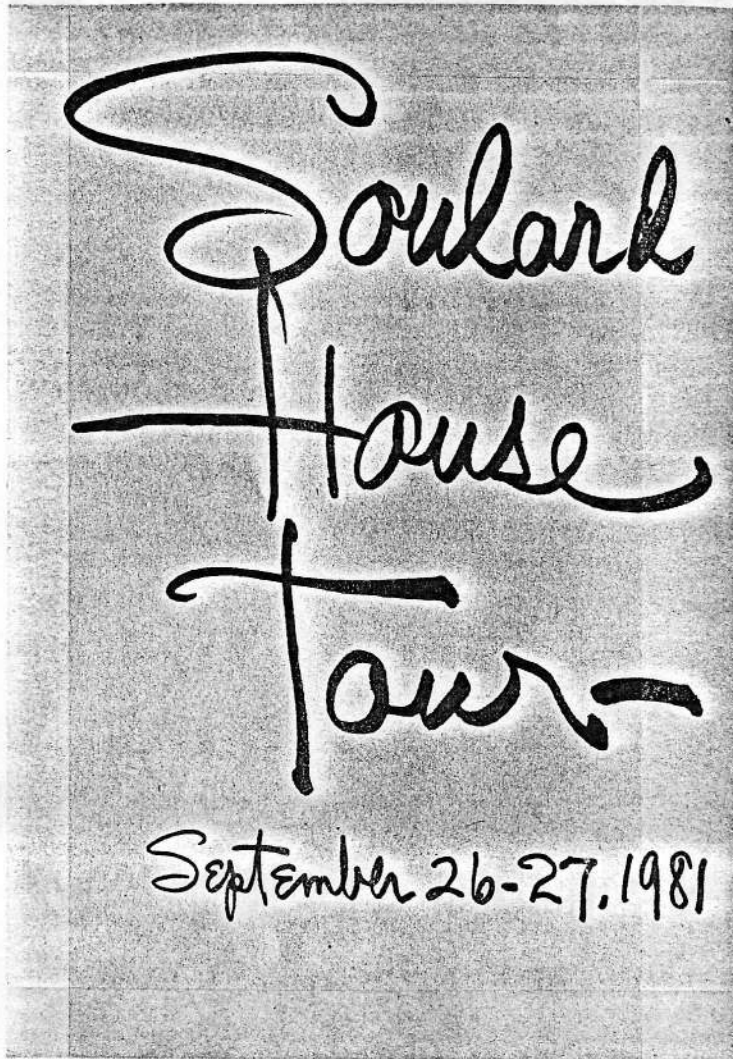


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P R E S S R E L E A S E



WHO: Souland Restoration Group

WHAT: Seventh Annual Souland House Tour

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday
September 26 and 27, 1981
12:00 Noon to 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: As one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city of St. Louis, Souland is a Federal Historic District located just five minutes from central downtown. Over 100 years old, this charming district is chock full of pleasant shops, homes, and restaurants.

WHY: The Seventh Annual Souland House Tour will present eighteen homes, two churches, and the famous Anheuser-Busch stables. Houses will vary in size, completion of work, and extent of renovation. A back-to-the-city movement is stirring many metropolitan areas. This trend is bringing revival of inner city neighborhoods like Souland.

Pontiac Park will be the location for a great outdoor festival where original arts and crafts will be on display and vintage automobiles will line the Park. Other activities will include an antique show and sale, quilt demonstration, live entertainment, and period costumes. All activities in Pontiac Park are for your enjoyment and are free of charge.

The Souland Friendship Quilt has been sewn by 36 people depicting homes and symbols of Souland. From the stars used as support rods to the soaring eagle of Anheuser-Busch, this colorful work of art will be displayed and given to the lucky holder of the winning ticket on Sunday, September 27.

HOW: Tickets for the House Tour may be purchased through Ticket Master locations at the eleven Famour-Barr Stores; or The Soulard Restoration Group Office, 1216 Russell Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63104, telephone 771-5563.

Ticket prices:

\$3.50 per person before September 20

\$3.00 per person for groups of twenty or more before September 20

\$4.50 per person after September 20

Tickets may be purchased the day of the tour at:

Trinity Lutheran Church, 8th and Soulard; or
Jesus Church, 12th and Victor

* * *

SEPTEMBER HOUSE TOUR UPDATE

If you've seen the Soulard friendship quilt and the Soulard House Tour Poster, you know the creativity and hard work that has already gone into the Fall House Tour. For the tour to really be a success, however, every Soulard resident has to play a part. There will be dozens of things to do, tour guides, house guides, distributing posters, selling tickets, for example. With a total neighborhood effort this will be one of the most well attended and well appreciated tour ever.

For many years we have heard that Soulard is a favorite of tour devotees and the most frequent reason given is the friendliness of the people. You, in short, are why the Tours succeed. During this time in our neighborhood, more than at anytime before, we need everyone's specialness. PLEASE CALL AND OFFER YOUR HELP -- Sandra at 367-4444 or Nancy and Vicki at 771-5087.

NEW MEMBERS ADDED TO NEWSLETTER STAFF

Amy Dawson and Suzanne Connelly have joined the newsletter staff. As a contributing editor Amy will be writing articles on various news items which concern the people and events of the Soulard area. The staff very much appreciates her efforts on the Restorationist in light of the fact that she is SRG's treasurer (a tremendous task in itself.)

Our other new contributing editor is Suzanne Connelly. Each month Suzanne will be writing a new column for the newsletter entitled "The Restorationist Shopper." This new column will deal with businesses which cater to or have something of interest to the restorationists of Soulard. From time to time she will do other articles for us.

Another new column which was added with last month's issue is Soulard Has It From A to Z. Darlene Gatermann will be offering these each month until she exhausts the alphabet or until it exhausts her. If you are interested in a rewarding career in journalist and would like to write for the newsletter contact Skip at 771-4191.

* * *

THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI CONCERT BAND

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SOULARD MARKET PARK

ALL THE KING'S MEN - A political
by: Robin Hood satire

Once upon a time in the fabled kingdom of Nottinghamshire, itself lying beside a mighty river and including the old towne of Nottingham, ruled a tyrant, King James I.

King James was not always thought a tyrant by the townesfolk. When King John laid down his golden staff, the people clamoured for a strong new leader, and Prince Alfonso IV and Prince James both entered the jousting yard to claim the Holy Grail.

Now the people had observed Prince Alfonso's jousting techniques before and found them wanting. The people never forgot the time Alfonso moored a tall ship in the castle moat to have it later destroyed by a brutal storm and then sought a treaty with a notorious family renowned for its fruit stands.

Prince James was a veteran jouster but was considered to be outside the regular Nottingham Jousting Club, headed by Prince Sorky, a renowned inn-keeper.

While Prince Alfonso rode about the kingdom in his jeweled carriage, Prince James strolled the streets with the townespeople and talked of controlling grain prices and bringing the scandal-ridden castle "under new management."

In the end, the people dispatched Prince Alfonso to his dacha near Mary's Plaza and were ready to place the crown on the fair head of Prince James when James drew the crown unto his head with his own hands, swept away the people and promptly withdrew to the castle, never to be seen by the people again except briefly when traveling to the far away kingdoms of the Far East.

King James grew fat and arrogant in his guarded castle and became blind to the hatred of his people. When dashing Prince Vince challenged King James for the staff, the King thought the jousting match would be his and called upon Prince Sorky to hold his armour and brush his steed.

The people were skeptical of the King James-Prince Sorky alliance. Thus, they looked to Prince Vince to guide them to the promised land

of myrrh and honey and to assist them in their efforts to block plans of Prince Sorky to litter their home with kingdom-subsidized thatched huts, deemed not in keeping with the regal masonry of the olde towne.

To this end, the people drew together and spent all of their energies and excess wages to properly equip their young warrior with sword, lance and mace so that he could topple King James from his horse and secure the throne.

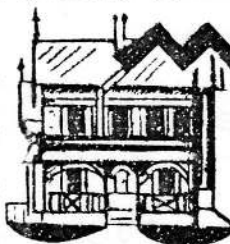
When the jousting was over, Prince Vince stood victorious, and the people were jubilant because they thought their new king would reward their pre-jousting efforts by keeping the huts out of their towne.

But Prince Vince also used his own hands to place the crown unto his head and promptly told the townspeople that henceforth, he was King of All the People, including the hut-makers and their leader, Prince Sorky. The new King said he could not govern effectively without the support of the regular Nottingham Jousting Club and said he endeavored to "dialogue with" all elements of the towne.

It came to pass that court architects found the thatch huts in keeping with the masonry characteristics of the olde towne, and King Vince refused to stand in the way of their erection.

The people finally realized they had been duped by King Vince and that, in their pre-jousting work for their comely Prince, they had been nothing more than court jesters for all the king's men.

The End



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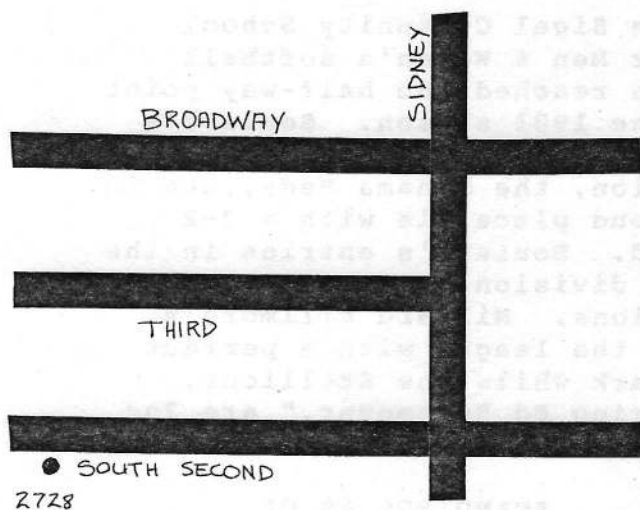
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IN HISTORIC SOULARD

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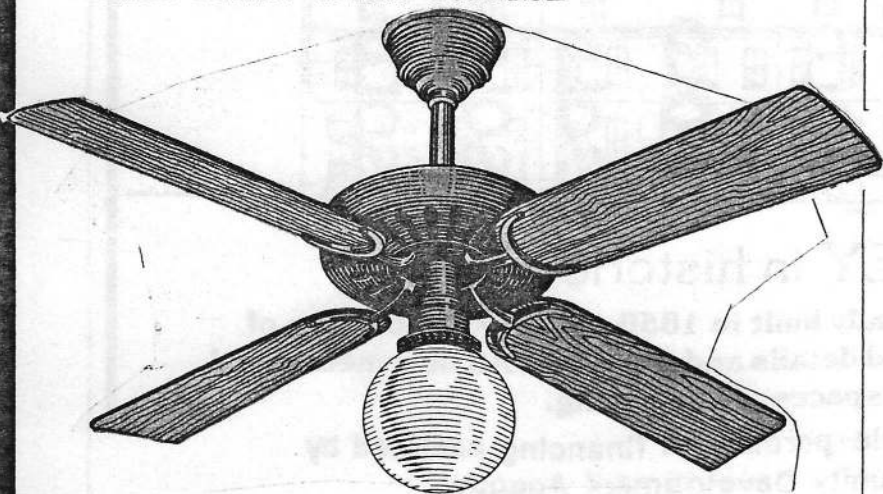
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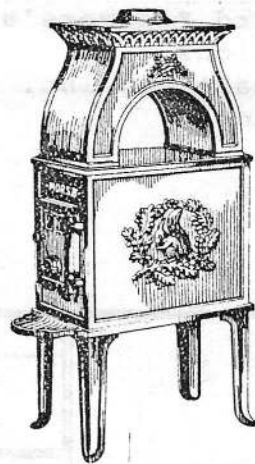


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SOFTBALL LEAGUE REACHES MID-SEASON

The Sigel Community School Senior Men & Women's softball league reached the half-way point for the 1981 season. Soulard's representative in the women's division, the Panama Reds, are in a second place tie with a 3-2 record. Soulard's entries in the men's division are in the top two positions. Millard Fillmore's leads the league with a perfect 7-0 mark while the Stallions, "starring Ed Bushmeyer," are 2nd at 4-3.

STANDINGS AS OF July 9th

WOMEN	W	L
Burkhardts	5	0
Luckies Ladies	3	2
Panama Reds	3	2
Ball Busters	1	4
Hits & Misses	0	4

MEN	W	L
Millard Fillmore's	7	0
Stallions	4	3
Sandcastles, Inc.	3	4
Bulldogs	0	7

* * *

MEMBERSHIPS DUE BY August 31, 1981

Daniel Duffy
Nancy Heinecke
Gene & Debra Manning
Richard Phillips
Paul Piersma
Bill & Kathy Poe

A roster will be made Sept. 1, 1981. Dues must be paid by August 31, 1981, for inclusion on the roster.

NEW MEMBER:

Rick Galloway
2406 S. 13th Street

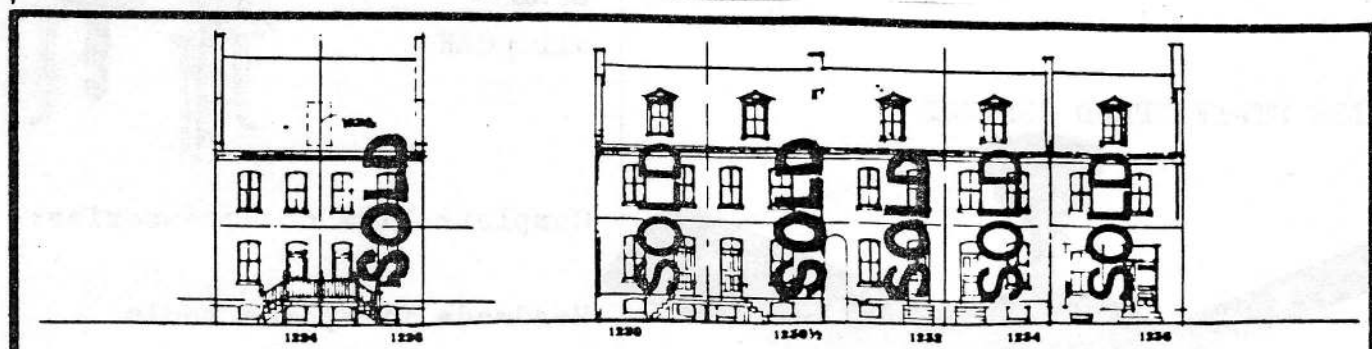
TILLIE TATTLER --

Tillie won't be with you this month. I understand she is attending another meeting -- Heritage I think it's called.

She does have one comment though - Gee, Peter, you sure do give good parties thanks to Leslie.....

See you next month!

* * *



1224-36 SIDNEY in historic Soulard

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WANTED TO RENT:

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All material and ads must be submitted by the 10th of each month. All material must be a part of the body copy.

If possible material should be typed and double spaced. For advertising rates call 771-5563 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Thursday.

For classified advertising, see the Market Place in this issue. All other information may be had by calling 771-4191.

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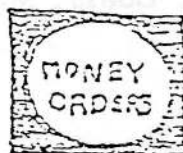
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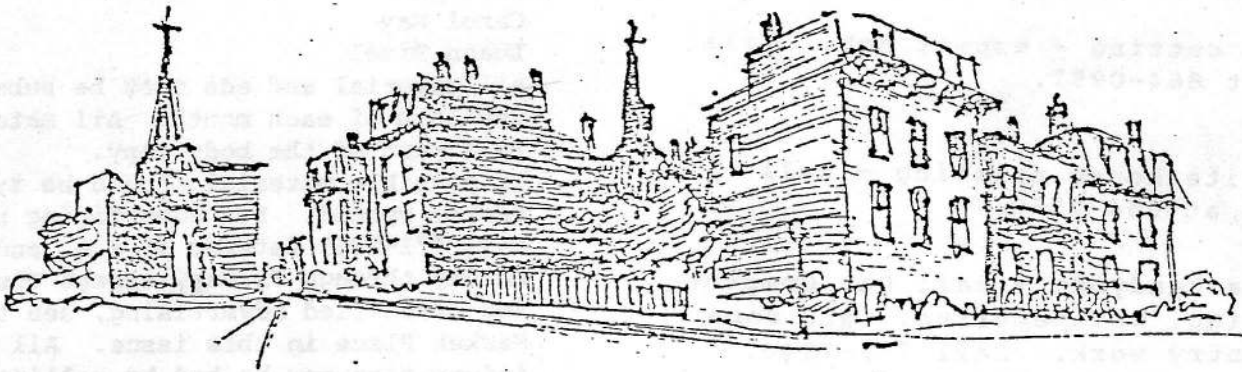
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