

The Soulard Restorationist

Volume VII Issue VI

December 1, 1982

Christmas Parlor Tour

by Marge Lazorko

Remember when Christmas in St. Louis meant candles flickering in neighborhood windows and chestnuts roasting in open wagons? When the air was rich with the smells of pine wreaths and woodsmoke outdoors, and Christmas breads and cookies indoors? When carolers strolled the sidewalks on Christmas Eve, and neighbors shared glasses of Christmas cheer?

The Soulard Restoration Group remembers. And it invites area residents and visitors to rekindle memories of Christmas past and to enjoy every minute of Christmas present by attending the Seventh Annual Christmas Parlor Tour on Sunday, December 12th from 2 to 6 p.m.

This year's Christmas Parlor Tour features five renovated Soulard houses, an artist's studio, a church, demonstrations of talent by students from the St. Louis Visual and Performing Arts High School, and a special appearance by Mr. S. Claus himself. Guided tours will originate every half-hour at the Jesus Church, Victor Street at S. 12th. Tickets are \$2.50 in advance and \$3.50 on tour day. Children under 12 are admitted free when accompanied by an adult. Advance tickets may be obtained from the Soulard Restoration Group, 1216 Russell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63104.

The five houses featured this year are all in the southern part of Soulard. Nancy Grimshaw and Vicki Renisch's house, 2406 S. 13th St., was originally a farm building that served as a shelter for livestock. Dating back to 1852, it has two walls of stone, a rarity in red-brick Soulard. "It's a simple house," says Nancy. Nevertheless, upon this simple house was bestowed the Tower Grove Beautification Award for the Soulard neighborhood in 1978.

As she does every year, Nancy has brought out her dad's old Christmas

ornaments to decorate the parlor, and she and Vicki have festooned the balcony with greenery. Visitors will have the opportunity to gather around the piano for a Christmas carol or two.

A delightful country kitchen with a decorative fireplace can be seen at Vicki and Gene Moyer's house, 2354 S. 12th St. Built between 1890 and 1895, the house actually has five potentially operable fireplaces, but Gene doesn't plan to spend all his spare time cutting wood.

For the Parlor Tour, Abbey's Apron String gourmet shop has decorated the Moyers' kitchen in holiday style, and visitors are likely to catch the aroma of freshly baked cookies as soon as they set foot on the threshold.

The Moyers moved into the house last July, and renovations are approximately 90 percent complete. This is the only residence on the tour in which the second floor is open to visitors. Several upstairs rooms, including the 15 X 24-foot master bedroom, have just recently been freshly papered.

Another residence on tour is 1214 Victor St., the home of Peter and Leslie Sortino. Built in 1888, it had been vacant for about 20 years when the Sortinos purchased it in December 1979. "There were holes everywhere—in the ceilings, the walls, the roof," recalls Peter. But the handsome walnut staircase survives, and the original trim and mouldings have been carefully restored. Restoration of this house, as of each house on the tour, has been a labor of love, and Peter echoes the sentiments of many other native and transplanted Soulardians when he says, "I've always loved this neighborhood."

The young and the young in heart may be able to watch the AM Flyers circling the Sortinos' Christmas tree. What's Christmas without toy trains?

continued on pg. 2

Christmas at the Market

by Pam Mundy

Christmas at the Soulard Market promises to give area residents as well as all of St. Louis something to get excited about. According to Steven Englehart of Media Magic, the public relations firm for the market, Christmas will be the time to show off "the city's best kept secret."

On December 3rd at 6:00 p.m., Mayor Vincent Schoemehl and other local dignitaries will be on hand for the Lighting Ceremony of the market. The market will be adorned with Christmas lights that will add to the holiday cheer.

Scheduled for the 17th of December is a presentation of baskets of food for the needy families. The baskets will be distributed through a local charitable organization. When happiness seems to be lacking this Christmas because of the number of unemployed people, the farmers from the Soulard Market will be there to make things seem a bit brighter. Their contributions to the basket fund is a lesson of true holiday spirit.

If you have a t-shirt or hat collector on your Christmas list, look no further. The Market has hats and t-shirts with a

continued on pg. 2



Photo by Bill Mundy

Historic District Banners now grace the entrances to Soulard --- see article page 2.

The Soulard Restorationist
Box 13312 Soulard Station
St. Louis, Mo. 63157

Address Correction Requested

Soulard Historic District BANNERS

by Kathy Dabrowski-Poe

In case you haven't noticed, the Soulard Historic District now has banners. Installed the Friday before the Fall House Tour, the banners grace all prominent entrances to the neighborhood announcing to visitors that they are now entering Soulard.

The banners were designed and constructed by Mark Lyman and Anne Meszko under the direction of Bob Printz, Chairman of the Soulard Restoration Group's Proposal Committee.

The project was funded by Center Bank's Neighborhood Assistance Grant program. The concept behind the banners was to have something, either banners or historic district markers, that would highlight the entrances to the neighborhood. The SRG opted for banners similar to those in LaSalle Park.

Bob Printz worked with the various city departments to secure permission to erect the banners. Mark Lyman and Anne Meszko handled all the production details of the project including the actual construction of the banners. On Friday, September 24th, Bob and Mark installed the banners, using a "cherry picker" on loan from the street department.

So if you haven't noticed, go out and take a look. They give a happy welcome to all who enter Soulard.

About the Restorationist

The Soulard Restorationist, circulation 3,000 is published every two months by the Soulard Restoration Group. It is mailed to SRG members, advertisers and subscribers and is distributed in Soulard area businesses. Call Business Manager Gary Cope (241-2684) to place ads and subscriptions. Membership information if available from the SRG Housing Office (621-8740). Letters to the Editors and articles are appreciated.

Deadline

Our February 1, 1983 issue will focus on Soulard's Mardi Gras celebration. All persons interested in contributing to the newsletter should meet at Tammany Hall on December 14, 1982 at 7:30 p.m. Copy deadline is January 5, 1983 and ad deadline is January 15, 1983.

Parlor Tour, from pg. 1

Another treat: there'll be chestnuts roasting on an open fire in the back yard. Chances are that garlands will wind their way up the old walnut bannister this year, and there may be a sprig of mistletoe hidden somewhere overhead.

"What's our house like? It's comfortable and warm, and it's easy to live in," says Doug Junker. He and Merlyn Key Jr. bought the French Empire style house at 1217 Victor St. in 1980. Built in 1892, it was originally the parsonage of the Marvin Methodist Church at 12th and Sidney St.

Doug and Merlyn have replaced the original coal-burning fireplaces with gas logs, and have added an Eastlake marble fireplace to the living room. Visitors will note that the pine floors are painted, as was the custom when the house was new.

"We've tried to maintain the integrity of the house during renovations," says Doug, "but visitors should know, I think, that we in Soulard are not living in the past. None of these rooms is a museum. Every one is highly functional, and quite suitable to the modern lifestyle."

Dan and Sherry Compton's house at 2421 S. 13th St. is known as a "side-winder," entered at the side, with a winding staircase beyond the entryway. Highlights of the house are a country kitchen with a charming 1920's style breakfast nook, built where the old sun-porch used to be. An exposed brick wall and country-print wallpaper set off the Comptons' furnishings, which include a handsome Hoosier cabinet.

Refreshments will be served at the 1113 Victor St. studio of ceramic artists Mark Lyman and Anne Meszko. Mark, a teacher in the Fine Arts Department of Washington University, exhibited in Italy last year, and Anne's work is represented in a show currently touring the country.

Although renovations of their studio have been occupying most of their time these days, Anne and Mark hope to have some of their pottery available for sale during the tour. Visitors may also see their potter's wheel and new electric kiln.

And who knows? If you peek up the chimney, you may spot a round little man in a red suit, waiting to make a grand entrance.

Letter from the Glasshouse

by Debbie Manning, Past President of the Soulard Restoration Group

As I gathered up the past months minutes of membership and Board meetings and Restorationists, I began to reflect over the past year.

The year started with the "high" from the '81 Fall House Tour carrying us into the Christmas Tour and the largest turnout we've ever had come out to see the snow-covered charm of Soulard. The beauty of winter almost lost its charm as St. Louis' record snowfall threatened to cancel the start of a great new tradition — Mardi Gras Soulard style.

Spring came and we walked amidst the history of Soulard and summer approached.

We regrouped and asked ourselves "how are we doing?" and watched 'Trees for Soulard' take root. The campaign for state rep mirrored the summer heat and the victory carried us into fall.

Fall came and saw the passing of the old to the new as the Restorationist was reborn in time to kick off another successful Fall House Tour, one with arts and craft booths, a fashion show, and a slide show that captured what Soulard is to all of us.

As the season of term concludes, how do I begin to thank all who made it such a great year. The list would fill the entire issue and still not say it adequately. Perhaps thanks aren't necessary because you, like I, could not but do it. Or perhaps, like the slide show, you'll feel what I'm trying to say.

When it's all said and done, it has been a fun year and a positive one; may the upcoming year be all that and more.

"Our Best Year Ever"

by John Jennings, President of the Soulard Restoration Group

This could be our best year ever.

St. Louis is on the verge of a massive re-birth and Soulard can be the neighborhood that leads the way. Look what's ahead for the city. St. Louis Centre is underway (a shopping mall at last!). Union Station is back on the track. Over \$1 billion of new construction going up downtown. The Fox entertains again. An underground rail system is being talked about. The Old Post Office regains its old splendor.

It all tells me that soon St. Louis will be discovered again. A rough diamond that begins to shine like Baltimore, Boston and Pittsburgh.

Will it rub off on Soulard? Not automatically. But it can. That's where SRG --- and you --- can make a big difference.

We're on the way. House tours bring thousands of new visitors to Soulard each year. A stylish, revised newsletter keeps us in touch. Public relations efforts put us on the map. Beginning this year, new trees are moving in. New streets, sidewalks and banners mark Soulard as alive again.

I'm proud of those things and the people that make them happen. We should all be proud of our organizational aims --- the preservation and development of our historic district --- because we're preserving history for others to see, too.

This year, let's keep doing the things we do best. Provided, of course, you want to do them. But let's keep an eye on the possibilities. What possibilities?

1. Developing a master plan for the Soulard district including the strengthening of our historic code. Zoning needs to be more specific, more consistent with our long range community priorities.

2. Encouraging a mix of housing --- rental, commercial and owner occupied. New tax incentives and lowered interest rates are helping move the first category. We need to work on encouraging the other types, too.

3. Parks and greenspace. As the neighborhood becomes more populous again, density will increase. We need to start planning now for low maintenance parks... maybe someday a recreational center for Soulard.

To do these things or others, we need imagination and involvement. We need you. Get involved with SRG. If you haven't, send in your membership survey. Tell me what you think. We'll all be better off.

And let's have fun along the way. Be proud of Soulard. It's worth preserving.

Market, from pg. 1

rendition of the market on them for sale. T-shirts are \$5.00, hats are \$5.00. Proceeds go towards promotion of the market. And don't worry about those last minute shopping trips - the market will be open on Christmas Eve. Make it a point to stop at the market to pick up goodies for the holiday season.

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NEW ARRIVALS

By Clark Rowley

Pat & Joe Sanders

It was almost a photo finish, but Pat and Joe Sanders won. The race concerned whether Laclede Partnership would finish rehabbing their house at 2322 South Ninth Street, or whether the baby would be born first.

Well, the Sanders closed on October 15, and Benjamin Thomas Sanders weighing in at 7 pounds, 11 ounces, arrived on October 24. Close and a cigar folks.

Moving to Souland from a rental in the Shaw area, Pat and Joe can trace their roots back to Souland, where Joe's parents grew up. His mother used to walk to school at Saints Peter and Paul, having lived on Allen.

Before he was born, Joe's parents left the area, and Joe did not hear much of early family history in Souland. In fact, he had to rediscover the neighborhood. His first contact was through friends who had rented a WEW apartment. He visited them and was very impressed. Later, he realized that Ed Bushmeyer was in the neighborhood. He knew Ed from college. Also, Joe and Pat attended a number of neighborhood festivals and events, gradually becoming more and more comfortable with the area.

When they got around to contem-

plating purchasing a house, they were attracted by the potential of custom rehabbing a home to their specifications. They had looked at "This New House" in LaSalle Park, but they liked the idea of the totally redone, older building.

"When we were considering our options, the home we now own presented a really good opportunity at an excellent price," Joe comments. The Laclede Partnership project allowed them to have all new systems in a quality house in an excellent location. Pat's father, Robert Shott, acted as quality control supervisor during the job, dropping in almost daily to inspect progress and see how the details were doing. "He gave Laclede Partnership a clean bill of health," Joe comments.

Their home, which is half of what had been a four-family dwelling, has two bedrooms, a bath and a half, and the third floor, which is only roughed in, provides space for expansion with another bedroom and a half bath. There is a deck off Benjamin's room. A masonry add-on to the rear of the original house gives Benjamin a large closet for toy storage. It also creates a large pantry for the kitchen. The second floor is carpeted, while the first floor boasts new oak floors in the living and dining rooms.

Joe works at Barnes Hospital, while Pat is employed at Smith-Kline Clinical Laboratories. They have been married eight years, and this is their first home.

They have not met too many Souland people since moving in because of

Benjamin's birth and the general chaos associated with moving. They plan to change that as soon as they get settled in and Benjamin gets his act together.

Pam & Bill Mundy

Every cloud has a silver lining, according to theory. The concept seems to work in the case of Bill and Pam Mundy. Their introduction to Souland was during the great blizzard of 1982, when they were trying to move into an apartment on South Eighth Street. Things got better, and they are now owners and occupants of 2319 South 12th Street. Seven months of apartment living was enough to convince them Souland offered excellent housing opportunities, although snow can be troublesome.

Bill is an engineer with Pershing-Ohio Co., a manufacturer of couplings for oil well drilling equipment. Pam has a degree in English and creative writing, and she hopes to utilize her talents in those fields in the newsletter.

She also has a green thumb, and spends considerable time with her plant collection, which includes orchids, exotic cacti and other things green.

In fact, a palm tree is about to take up residence in their new home, and a project for the future is to create an office-greenhouse-deck area in the back of their house. In the meantime, the couple is concentrating on unpacking, a consider-

able undertaking, since many of their belongings have been in storage since their arrival back in the St. Louis area.

Like many Souland residents, the Mundy's have purchased their first home. They have been married since August, 1981. Pam, originally from Indiana, has had formal training in horticulture, thanks to a stint at Purdue University, and she may be of assistance in developing a super tree to help make Souland green again.

They are enjoying the friendliness of the people in Souland, and they invite plant people and others to drop by and say hello. Welcome our latest apartment dwellers turned homeowners.



Newly Elected SRG Officers

President - John Jennings
Vice President - Phyllis Young
Secretary - Kathy Dabrowski-Poe
Treasurer - Mary Sheridan
Board Members - Gary Cope
Mark Lyman
Peter Sortino
Amy Dawson
Vicki Renisch



Saturday, February 12, 3:30PM The Mardi Gras Parade Float Contest

Dozens of colorful floats will be judged prior to the Big Parade. Budweiser has contributed the prizes. 1st Place: \$1,000
2nd Place: \$ 500
3rd Place: \$ 250



For Information and a Float Contest Application Form Write:
Soulard Mardi Gras Association, Inc.
1017 Russell Blvd.
St. Louis, Mo. 63104
Or call: 421-3125

Saturday, February 12, 5:00PM The Soulard Mardi Gras '83 Big Parade

This annual tradition in Souland is fast becoming the talk of the town. Last year thousands of people came to Souland to join in the fun. All 3 TV news teams covered the event. It's a gigantic party for anyone who wants to come. Enter a Float or just join in the Spirit of Mardi Gras.

The Rex and Comos of the Mardi Gras Parade will be chosen from the guests. The price is a bargain: \$50.00 per Couple, but it's first come, first served, and there is a limit of 200 couples, so hurry and fill out the application now.

Mardi Gras '83 Ball Tickets Request Form
Please send me _____ tickets at \$50.00 per couple for the Fabulous Soulard Mardi Gras '83 Ball Friday, February 11, 1983. Enclosed in my check.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Send this request quickly to: Soulard Mardi Gras Association, Inc.
1017 Russell Blvd.
Saint Louis, Mo. 63104

You are cordially invited
to the

Soulard Mardi Gras Ball

Friday 8:00 p.m. February 11, 1983
1547 S. Broadway, St. Louis, MO

Dinner Menu

Daube Glace
Choctaw Creole Chicken
Deep fried Fingerling Catfish Fillets & Hush Puppies
Red Beans & Rice
Creole String Beans
Garden Patch Salad & Spicy French Dressing
Crescent City Salad served on Red Cabbage Cup
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Pralines
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The Restorationist SHOPPER

by Suzanne Connelly

If you like Victorian furniture, but feel you cannot afford to purchase fine antiques, or fear their age may make them too fragile for daily use, you might be interested in Zollinger Furniture Company.

Zollinger's is a multi-service furniture store located at 4821 Fairview in St. Louis. The two-story yellow brick building with glass block windows is situated on a short industrial street just east of 3400 South Kingshighway. When you enter the building you first go to the office and state your interest. Zollinger's builds and refinishes and upholsters antique furniture reproductions. They also make custom draperies for residential and commercial buildings.

The second floor is the show room for Victorian furniture. All of the furniture is special ordered, and the customer chooses the upholstery fabric. Prices may seem high, but they are competitive with fine furniture in a quality furniture store.

I was impressed with their conservative approach in the furniture refinishing and upholstery departments. I was shown a leather covered chair and a

fabric covered sofa. My tour guide, Mr. Tom Junker, pointed out that the pillow seats on the sofa and the chair were worn, but the entire piece did not need to be upholstered. They were going to take the fabric from the back of the furniture and reconstruct new seat covers out of it. The back of the leather chair would be replaced with a synthetic leather, and the back of the sofa would be replaced with coordinating fabric.

In the furniture refinishing department there were several men working on antique furniture. All of the furniture is hand stripped. I was shown a beautiful antique buffet with large glass pulls and a burled finish that was once used in a butler's pantry. They would treat the exterior finish, and rework the drawers so they could be opened and closed with ease.

If you are an early riser, you'll like the fact that you can begin shopping at Zollinger's at 8 A.M. Monday through Friday. Saturday hours begin at 10 A.M. In addition to furniture on display, they also have catalogs for you to browse through. Major credit cards are accepted and thirty-day credit is available.

At the oldest bank west of the Mississippi, we understand what preserving the proud heritage of old St. Louis is all about. Contact The Boatmen's National Bank of St. Louis when your restoration plans are ready. We lend money to credit worthy persons.



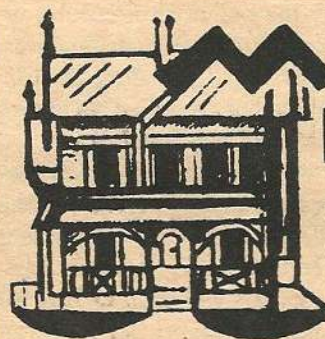
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Heritage and Urban Design Commission Meeting

Thursday, October 28, 1982

Residential

8. 1202 Sidney, Applicant - Ed Smith

Plan - Erect Concrete Block Fence - 44" high.

The SRG Code Committee disapproved of this application as this is on the visible street side and does not meet the Historic Legislation Guidelines. The Urban Design Commission did not approve this concrete block fence, or wall.

22. 1826 S. 8th Street, Applicant - Roy Zingrich

Plan - Interior and exterior alterations to mixed-use, 3-story masonry building. Mr. Zingrich planned to have offices on the first floor of this structure with living quarters above. The exterior is to be restored to its original design. This was approved by the Urban Design Commission, with the blessings of the SRG Code Committee.

Commercial

25. 1836 S. 10th Street, Applicant - Simon Sign Co.

Plan - Erect 5 ft. high x 4 ft. wide projecting sign. This is a replacement beer sign on a tavern and there are no objections raised by the SRG Code Committee. This was approved by the Urban Design Commission.

Preliminary Review

14. 2718-36 S. 9th, Applicant - Anheuser-Busch Co.

Plan - Demolition of 2718-36 S. 9th and construction of parking lot per plans. This particular corner has no significance historically and in fact is part of a mish/mash that Anheuser-Busch is cleaning and straightening up around the proposed parking lot. There is good screening of this lot from the street and the plan as submitted follows all Historic District Guidelines. The SRG Code Committee has no objections and the Urban Design Commission has approved the preliminary review as submitted.

Minors

These are items approved by the Urban Design Commission without discussion. The SRG Code Committee has no objections to any of these items and we are listing them here purely for your edification.

2401 S. 13th Street, Applicant - L. E. Mallinckrodt

Repair and restore wood cornice. Action: Approved, subject to submission to Heritage Staff of 4 sets of color samples. (Work in progress.)

2211 S. 11th Street, Applicant - Bone Construction Co.

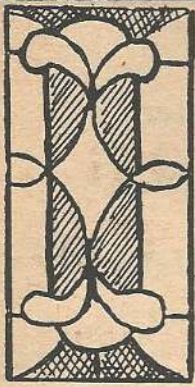
Plan: Interior and exterior alterations. The Urban Design Commission approves subject to Heritage Staff submission of 4 sets of color and finish selections.

1869 S. 10th Street, Applicant - Ken Baker

Construct 4 ft. x 42 ft. brick and iron wall on east and north property lines and pave yard in brick. Approved, subject to submission of revised drawing showing scale elevation of wall and iron work and detailed iron rail design. Also, approved was the installation of iodized storm windows at 2012 S. 13th Street, also known as 1231 Allen Market Lane to complete as has been in progress over several years. There was also approval of brown coated aluminum windows and doors for 1236 Sidney and 1714 S. 8th.

Anyone wishing to make any alterations or having any questions with regard to necessary permits, please feel free to call the Souldard Restoration Group Office and the Code Committee will get back in touch with you.

By Dick Phelps, Code Committee Representative



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Tillie the Tattler

If you haven't seen the finishing touches being put on 2348 S. 12th Street, make sure and do so. This building was on the demolition hit list for three years that it remained standing after its other half fell down. Hats off the Jeff Hicks and Collins-Herman for a superb job!

Rick Young is also in line for compliments. The building just east of 12th Street on Victor was described for months on the housing list as "nice location, no front wall." It is now tastefully restored on all four sides and ready for occupancy.

You'd think restoring a house and keeping up with Paul would be enough to keep anyone busy. Not Jane Houghland. For months she has been seen running the streets of Souldard in preparation for the St. Louis Marathon run November 7th. She made it; running 26.2 miles in just over four hours. Congratulations, Jane, for a remarkable feat.

Tony and Barbara Bufalo returned from visiting their children in Arizona just in time for Barbara to tend to her weekly visit at the Little Flower Nursing

Home on South 18th Street. The residents there look forward to her coming each week to cut and style their hair. A beautician, Barbara is one whose many kindnesses make her a special person in Souldard.

I had a neat experience Saturday; it made it all worthwhile - well almost. Four students in Social Work who were preparing a community survey in Souldard as a class project, came to the neighborhood and I chaperoned them. One of the students, John, is from Taiwan. He has been in the United States for five years attending Washington University. On the spontaneous mini-tour the group received, Larry Hollenberg graciously opened his house and later on Mary Sudholt invited us in. At Mary's, the group had still another unplanned, unexpected treat; Mary's delicious banana nut bread. As John was standing in the kitchen, after having said practically nothing the entire tour, he said "This is like I thought all of America would be." How lucky we are.



Photo by Bill Mundy

Anyone know where this gate is? Or better still — where it has been?
Send us your guess — your name might appear in the next issue.

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The kitchen of John Durnell and Richard Eaton is designed for ease in preparation and clean-up while allowing for visiting with friends at the same time. John and Richard appreciate the style of high-tech but realize that it sometimes projects a cold image, so they have modified it somewhat by using butcher blocks and exposed brick to add the image of natural warmth.

The kitchen serves as the entryway to John and Richard's home, and I would guess that visitors find it pleasant that they rarely venture any further into the house. Just inside the door a row of stools on your left beckon you to sit down at a long butcher block counter while Richard pours the coffee. Or, if you prefer, you may sit at the small wood-topped dining table adjacent to the window. You will still be able to watch the work in the U-shaped workspace.

Many of the items you see here come from the closed kitchen of a Kresge store. These include the stove, the butcher block topped preparation table, the pot rack, and the double bowl stainless steel sink and counter. In their own basement John and Richard found another stainless sink with a drain tray. They have found great uses for all these items.

The colors of black and gray predominate in this kitchen and work beautifully. John uses a Southbend commercial stove when cooking. With the butcher block topped preparation table on one side and the stainless steel counter and sinks on the other, the work area is complete. Sleek black formica cabinets provide storage under the counter and above on the wall. Stainless steel U-shaped handles accent their contemporary lines. To your right the countertop and sink found in the basement are combined with the dishwasher and another base cabinet to provide a clean-up space out of the cook's way.

To match the appliances with the cabinets was not at all difficult. They picked the appliances up from the store

and drove them to an auto body shop in Belleville. The shop had recently done an excellent job on painting Richard's car. There the appliances were painted "Chrysler black". Iacocca would be proud!

What kind of light do you use in a kitchen like this? They have effectively chosen downlights over the clean-up area and suspended track lighting in the work area. Directly over the preparation table two industrial lights hang from the pot rack amidst pots, pans and miscellaneous tools. These lights provide good direct light for working but warm, diffuse light for conversation. East and west windows allow sunlight to filter through the silver Levelors in this functional kitchen.

John and Richard selected a beautiful gray 12" x 12" quarry tile with a patina glaze for the flooring in this room. John got it down just in time for the house tour! Its glazed finish fits into the easy care features of the kitchen.

Accents in the kitchen are bright and colorful. Highlighting the clean-up area is a huge 1947 Dr. Pepper sign from the old Belleville bottling plant. On the soft gray wall around the room hang posters of food that reinforce the idea that this is the kitchen. Near the stove a clock built by Richard's dad times those recipes to the minute. In a white display cubicle over the door the muted colors of two ballerina-ware pitchers provide the clue that this dinnerware may be a collection. The men are gradually acquiring pieces of the dinnerware since they have found that the variety of colors blend with and accent beautifully the predominant colors of the kitchen.

Where did they get the inspiration for using these colors? You'll have to meet Becky, the black and white kitchen cat. Some say it was her idea.

Pretend you're sitting on that stool watching John prepare this recipe.

JOHN'S CHICKEN

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 4 whole chicken breasts | Dijon mustard |
| 4 tomatoes | Flour |
| 1 bunch scallions | Salt and pepper |
| 1 cup sliced mushrooms | |
| 8 oz. olive oil | |
| 1/2 cup sweet vermouth | |
| 4 slices gruyere cheese or mozzarella | |

Debone chicken breasts and flatten by pounding. Spread with Dijon mustard and a slice of cheese for each breast. Roll each one and fasten with a toothpick. Coat with a mixture of flour, salt and pepper. Fry in the olive oil. Drain and set aside while preparing the sauce (approximately 8 minutes).

Blanch (4-8 seconds), peel, de-seed and quartered the tomatoes. Chop the scallions and mushrooms. Combine vermouth, tomatoes, onions and mushrooms in olive oil that was used for frying the chicken. Cook, covered 7-8 minutes. Place chicken on a bed of rice and cover with the sauce made from the tomatoes, mushrooms, onions and olive oil.

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Journal of a Restorationist

by Pam Mundy

Having been in the new old house for a little over three weeks now, I'm beginning to feel the repercussions of what we have done in buying it. The course ahead seems dimly lit with many untimely mishaps blocking our way.

When we first moved in I felt like I was on an adventure. Everything was new to me and I was very excited to get started. The previous owners had left the house in a not quite what we had expected condition. I did the clean up work without much fuss because I was glad the house belonged to us. It is our first house. After the cleaning was done, we decided to begin the process of making it livable. There were dropped ceilings to be taken down, panelling to be removed from the wall, and some ridiculous colors of paint to be covered up. We had planned to have all of this done before our furniture and possessions arrived but I'm sure every Soulard restorationist knows about plans. We had a week to complete the three projects. The ceiling came down first. It made such a difference. The rooms looked so much larger and the previous owners had left us a gift. When they dropped the ceiling they left the original light fixtures hanging. Most of them are in perfect condition. This little surprise excited us and motivated us to go right on to the next project of taking down

the panelling. The panelling had been nailed directly on the plaster with big fat nails. I can't tell you what a joy it was to remove them. There was no use in being nice about it. Even with the greatest care, large chunks of plaster came out with the nails. We tried to keep destruction to a minimum. Even with holes in the walls, the removal of the panelling gave the house a completely different personality. It was looking like it was meant to look.

With the first two projects done we gave ourselves a rest. It turned out to be too long of a rest. We had one weekend to paint the walls a livable color before everything arrived. The weekend passed, nothing was done. We moved our possessions into a house that looked like it had been painted (masterpiece quality of course) by a mad color-blind lush. It was too much for me to handle. I quickly sunk head first into depression. During this period I could not bring myself to look in a box or even find the Q-tips. Nothing got done. I spent a lot of time at the neighbors complaining. Finally I found enough courage to start unpacking. Amazingly I found that when I saw a few familiar things sitting around I began to feel better. One box led to another and after a few days the house began to look like home even with the holes in the wall and the incredible paint.

I set up my office in a room with purple paint - it was the only available room. My desk looked like I wanted it to and I was able to get a bit of my paperwork done. It was a haven for two days. On Halloween night we went to Bill's parents' house for a dip in their indoor pool. Little did we know that while we were floating in blue water a small catastrophe was occurring in our new home.

When we arrived back home we doddled downstairs until it was time for bed. I had a few papers that I needed to put on my desk so I went there first. As I started in, "Oh my God" was the only thing I was able to say. There was a nice hole in the ceiling and lots of not so nice dirty black plaster all over my desk. I'm not the kind of person whose desk top is always clear so everything important was on top of my desk looking like a volcano had erupted and was at any moment going to erupt again. We called Skip Gatermann. He came over, checked everything out, and said the house wasn't going to collapse. That was a small comfort to me, I had to clean up the mess. Depression struck again.

I have since cleaned everything off my desk and moved my office to the bedroom. There are no signs of impending plaster drop there. My desk faces the purple room so anytime I choose I can look at the hole in the ceiling. What a consolation. I do look at it quite often though just to refresh my mind of the reality of it all.

We have made some progress on the paint. One room is completed. It had a

lovely mustard brown paint up to where the dropped ceiling had been. Above that point was dark purple paint. We painted over it with an off-white paint that amazingly covers the previous colors. The room is our formal living room and is quite livable now. We go there to retreat from the rest of the house.

The next room to be given the paint treatment is the parlor. Its walls are covered with two shades of blue. One is very dark blue, the other is a mix between turquoise and sea-green blue. I'm hoping that this weekend we'll be able to get that room done so we can start on real restoration projects.

I have found in the short time we've been here that everyone is willing to help with problems. I've never been anywhere that the people have been so friendly. It makes all the problems bearable to know that someone will come if you need them. I'm glad to be a part of Soulard and its friendly people. So, until the next "Restorationist" don't let any ceilings drop on your head.

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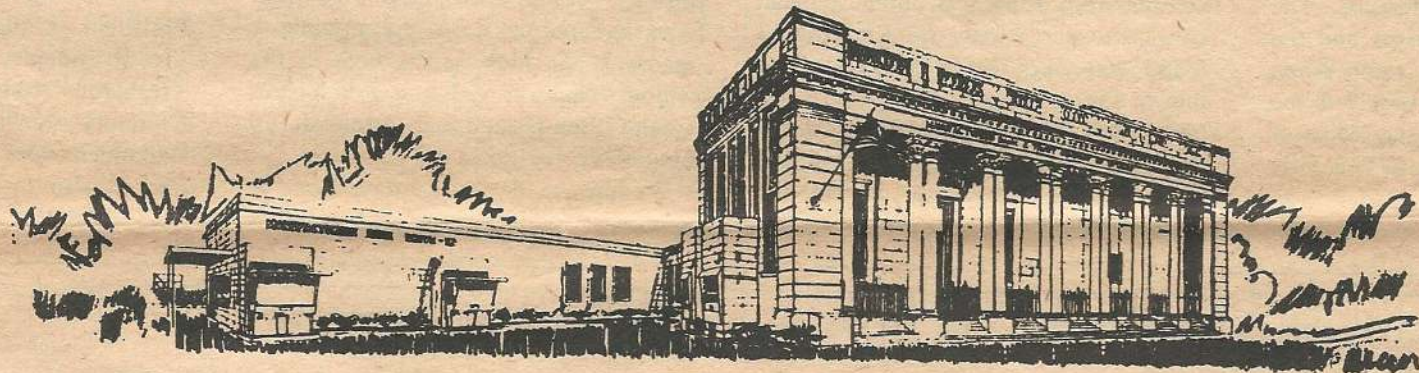


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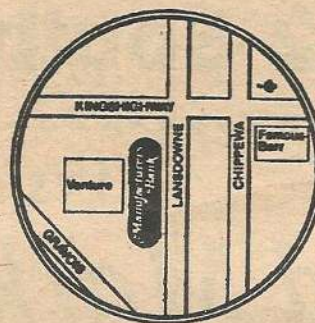


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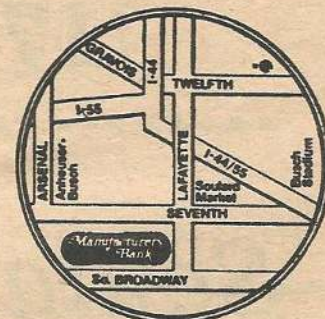
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