

The Soulard Restorationist

Volume VIII Issue I

February 1, 1983

Christmas Parlor Tour

reported by

Kathy Dabrowski-Poe & Alice Jennings

More than 500 people attended the Seventh Annual Christmas Parlor Tour on Sunday, Dec. 12 and were treated to Christmas in the Victorian style.

Tour-goers, who often had to wait in line outside the tour houses, must have been somewhat taken back by the size of the crowd. But roving carolers and bags full of roasted chestnuts (that also served as terrific handwarmers) made the wait in the chilly and crisp air an enjoyable experience. Tour guides had more time to point out some of Soulard's architectural details and talk things over with our visitors.

Visitors arrived early at the Jesus Church to meet their tour guides and share in the hospitality of the church members. People were still coming even as the sun set and imaginative luminaries marked the tour route.

Each and every house was a highlight on this house tour.

Freshly-baked cookies set the scene at the home of Doug Junker and J. R. Key. There was the warmth and charm of Dan and Sherry Compton's, the roasting chestnuts at Peter and Leslie Sortino's, the kitchen decorated by Abbey's Apron String at Gene and Vicki Moyer's, and the in-home concert at the home of Vicki Renisch and Nancy Grimshaw.

The hot coffee and cookies provided at the end of the tour at the studio of Mark Lyman and Anne Meszko gave everyone an opportunity to talk up the neighborhood, and Santa Claus (aka Bob McDonald) kept everyone in a fine spirit.

Speaking of spirits, John and Alice Jennings provided a new meaning to Christmas punch during a party they graciously hosted after the tour ended. John was subsequently crowned Soulard Punch Maker in honor of his exploits with a seemingly innocent-looking glass bowl.

A special award to youngest house

continued on pg. 4

A MILLION YEARS of Soulard History

by Skip Gatermann

Soulard is much more than historic housing, a farmer's market, beautiful churches and scaffolding. A look beneath the surface of the neighborhood will testify to that fact. Soulard is built over many small caves and one large one. This large cave is the most famous — The Cherokee Cave. Many long time St. Louisans still recall its beauty and the pleasurable hours spent there.

The Cherokee cave system is actually comprised of two separate caves — an east cave and a west cave — connected by a man-made tunnel. The caves cover an area which is bordered by Broadway on the east, the Lemp Brewery Complex on the south, Eighteenth Street on the west and Utah Street on the north. Around 1850, both caves were discovered and immediately put to use by Adam Lemp for the lagering of his beer. During the winter, ice was cut from the Mississippi and brought to the west cave where there was a naturally maintained temperature of 35 to 40. Mr. Lemp had a cellar house built over the brewery entrance to the west cave. The Lemp Brewery expanded in 1863. As a result of increasing business, Mr. Lemp frequently entertained guests in the cave and for this purpose built a theatre in it. The Lemps also built a bath fashioned in the style of those used by the ancient Romans. This bath was for the family's personal use. A tunnel from the Lemp mansion at Utah and DeMenil as constructed to allow the family underground access to the bath. This tunnel intersected with the basement of the Chatillon-DeMenil House. This home was built in the late 1840's by noted frontier guide Henri Chatillon.

The east cave or Minnehaha Cave was used by the Cherokee Brewing Company to lager its beer. The beer was called Minnehaha and this cave took its name from it. With the advent of refrigeration around the turn of the century the caves were no longer needed for the aging of beer and for the most part fell into disuse. The cave over the years, however, had another use which would make an environmentalist shudder today. The tenements along Seventh Street had entrances to the cave and used them to flush garbage and sewage through the tunnel. Indian Tunnel was its name and it formed a natural sewer conduit.

During the first part of this century the caves were still used by the Lemps to meet their personal needs until the demise of the brewery with the arrival of prohibition. An interesting event happened in 1944 when an application was submitted by The International Shoe Company to the Board of Public Service



Soulard Mardi Gras '83



see pages 6 & 7

to seal off the cave under 13th Street. The shoe company, owners of the the Lemp Brewery Complex, feared their property would be threatened by a proposal to put a nightclub in the old beer garden established by the Lemps. The company was alarmed at the thought of nightclub patrons destroying the old

continued on pg. 9

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Saying THANKS !

by John Jennings, President of the Soulard Restoration Group

Ever wonder why Soulard is the best neighborhood in the city? People make the difference. Here's a few you should know about.

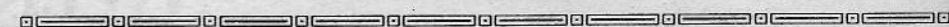
TREE PLANTERS: Bob McDonald, Eric Young, Brian and Lori Samuels, Bob Printz, Vicki Renisch, Peter Sortino, Mark Lyman, Ann Mesko, Gail Waschnaght, Becky and Jeff Jacoby.

PARLOR TOUR OPERATORS: Co-chairs Kathy Dabrowski-Poe and Alice Jennings, tour hosts Sherry & Dan Compton, Vicki & Gene Moyer, J.R. Key & Doug Junker, Vicki Renisch & Nancy Grimshaw, Leslie & Peter Sortino, Mark Lyman & Ann Mesko — plus lots of tour guides and cookie bakers!

STREET RE-NAMERS: Chair Paul Kjorlie, Kathy Barkey, Nancy Grimshaw, Doug Junker, J.R. Key, Skip Gatermann, Jim & Judy Marquis, Dick & Delores Phelps, Mary Sheridan & Vanessa Stellone.

You're appreciated. Your neighborhood says THANKS!

In case you haven't heard, the 1983 Membership Survey told us you considered House Sales, Historic Code Enforcement, Master Planning & Zoning, and Trees as your top priorities. Want to see your name in lights? Don't be anonymous. Get involved in Soulard. It's worth preserving.



Projects and Proposals

by Robert Printz

During the past year the Projects and Proposals Committee has been involved in two projects. Both the banners and the tree project got off the ground, but not without a great deal of red tape and paperwork. The success was not due to any one person but was due to the cooperation of many different people and I would like to thank all of them for making the banners and trees a reality.

The people who deserve the greatest thanks on the banner project are those who made it possible: Centerre Bank and Anheuser-Busch Credit Union. Thank you very much!

More thanks on the banners to: Bill Poe for writing the Centerre Bank proposal; Ed Bushmeyer for help with city hall; Ann Meszko for perseverance and inhaling lead-paint fumes while hand painting the 18 banners; Mark Lyman for helping me install them and for talking to the woman who was convinced we were city workers and could replace a burned-out street light.

Thanks on the tree project to: Kathy Dabrowski-Poe for getting the stickers and buttons produced; J.R. Key for ar-

ranging the kick-off party (and to all the people who attended); Mary Hoekstra and the Block Captains for completing accurate surveys (the Forestry Division was surprised); John and Alice Jennings for their support; and all the people who helped plant the first batch of trees.

Finally a special thanks to Debbie Manning, who gave me the chance to be involved in these projects.

Thanks again everybody and have a great 1983.

PRESS RELEASE 1905 South Grand

The Heritage and Urban Design Commission has accepted the first new City Landmark nomination since the commission was established in February of 1980. The property under consideration by the Board of Aldermen is located at 1905 South Grand. The proposed Landmark is the former Erastus H. Warner residence, constructed between 1888 and 1889. Theodore C. Link, a noted architect, was its designer.

For additional information contact the Heritage and Urban Design Commission office at City Hall, Room 416 or by phone at 622-4099.

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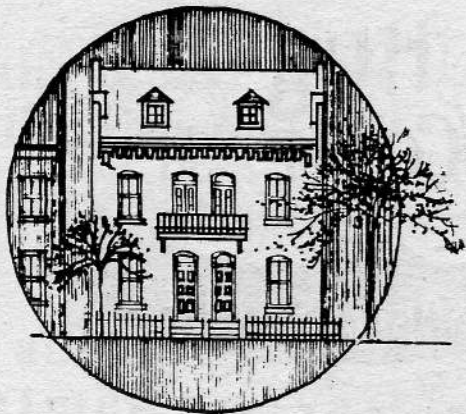
Ad Sales Vicki Renisch, J.R. Key, Phyllis
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(For ads call Gary Cope at home 241-2684 or
work 289-3666)

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 (home 241-2684 or work 289-3666) to place ads and subscriptions. Membership information is available from the SRG Housing Office (771-5563). Letters to the Editors and articles are appreciated.

The next Restorationist will be published April 1, 1983. All persons interested in contributing to the newsletter should meet at Tammany Hall on February 9, 1983 at 7:30 p.m. Copy deadline is March 5, 1983, and ad deadline is March 10, 1983.

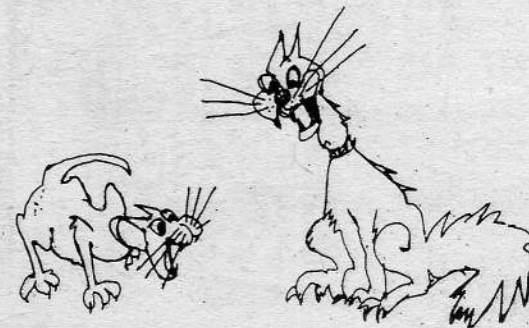


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(Or, What Tillie won't tell, Kitty will!)

CHRISTMASTIME IN SOULARD...

THE PARTY CIRCUIT. This season was especially bountiful in Souard Christmas parties. The first followed the Christmas Parlor Tour at the home of SRG President *John Jennings* and his lovely wife, *Alice*. The party was given for everyone who helped on the tour. John served a knock-out punch that left everyone breathless—and as near as anyone can remember, the food was great, too.

Sherry Compton, who recently got a big promotion at her job, treated everyone at the party with the news that she and HUBBA-HUBBA hubbie *Dan* (D.C. Construction) are expecting their firstborn in late July. That was especially good news to *Vicki Renisch*, who confessed to Sherry she was afraid it would arrive on Election Day in August. Vicki's already got the tot's voter registration card partially completed.

AND, speaking of expected arrivals, it was a long, hot summer on North 8th, and *Frank* and *Amy Dawson* are looking forward to their bundle of joy...the newest racquetball player in Souard. Rumor has it Asti Spumante is a marvelous aphrodisiac...right, Frank?

Some of us had to spend Christmas away as *Bill* and *Kathy Poe* did. They Christmased in New England with Kathy's brother and his family. They also spent a few days doing New York City, shopping and enjoying the town. In case you heard the wrong version of the story, it was Kathy's nephew, Stephen, who was roller skating down Fifth Avenue...not Kathy. Kathy refuses to roller skate anywhere except political fund raisers. Little Stephen was kept roller skateless as Kathy and Bill browsed in the *Laura Ashley Shop* just opened by the firm of the same name in London specializing in Victorian wallpapers. The Poes are looking for a chic pattern that will fit their much photographed kitchen.

Speaking of chic, did you see the December issue of *St. Louis Magazine*? *Ralph* and *Sandra Allen's* dining room

was featured as one of the most beautiful in the city—and it is that! Cute 'n cuddly Teddy bears guarded each place setting in the sumptuous surroundings. Exotic flowers graced the table as only the Allens can do them. Sandra's still deciding on the guest list, though...you have to like bear meat.

IN WITH THE NEW, OUT WITH THE... Well, with the New Year we gain some new neighbors and lose others. It's just been announced that *John Perokovich* and *Randy Bridwell* of Lion House fame have sold the old castle and will be moving out of Souard forever. Every effort was made to keep the boys here, but they just couldn't find a place big enough. (Can you believe it?) They'll be moving into their new "swankienda" apartment in the sincere Central West End. Living in the same building with all those other Little Foxes from the theatre of the same name, John says he'll enjoy his view of North City from the 11th floor.

CALL THE BARBER OF SEVILLE! Squint real hard and you can see a faint light on the second floor of 2407 S. 13th. Does this mean our Soldier of Fortune, *Carl Bedell*, has returned home from the wars in Kansas City? We hope so. We also have it from an incredible source that the Welcome Wagon will be arriving soon.

Well, that's HERE, KITTY KITTY for this issue folks. Neighbors and friends are our best resources for these juicy tidbits. If nothing is happening in your neighborhood, get out there and STIR IT UP! If you dare to be naughty, send your newsy items to HKK c/o THE RESTORATIONIST...then read it in the next issue!



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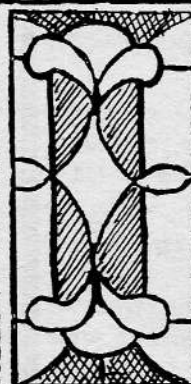


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Parlor Tour, from pg. 1

tour worker went to three-month-old Tommy Marquis whose very presence spoke for the future of Soulard and who, we're sure, doesn't know he's been selected as house tour chairman in the year 2004.

Students from St. Joseph's Croation Church were joined in song by the aspiring vocal cords of Ed Bushmeyer, Louise Tonkovich, Liz Reinus, Michael and Michelle David, and others. And the Visual and Performing Arts High

School really put on a show at Vicki and Nancy's.

Special thanks are in order for all who baked cookies, acted as tour guides, helped in homes, opened their homes for tour, roasted chestnuts and for all those who contributed in any way they could. Thanks also to Bill Poe, who wrote the press release and the fine tour guide script, and to Abbey's Apron String.

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Ma Bisco

Vicki & Gene Moyer's Kitchen

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Some people volunteer to be on house tours because they want to set a deadline for a project, but Vicki and Gene Moyer had their house finished—so why be on tour? Abbey's Apron Strings came along with the perfect incentive. Abbey had decorated the kitchen! A visit on house tour day didn't allow me a close enough view so I returned for this column—but no excuse is needed for visiting the Moyers' home—they're friendly!!

When the building was purchased the present kitchen was isolated at the back of the house. A rotten, termite-eaten dumb-waiter to the basement indicated that the room originally had been used as a family dining room or the winter kitchen. The wall that isolated what is now the kitchen was torn down to provide accessibility to the rear staircase and the formal dining room. Vicki has noticed that this openness encourages people to move easily throughout the first floor rather than crowding into the kitchen when she's entertaining.

Vicki used a U-shaped kitchen design for her work center. She selected dark oak cabinets with white porcelain knobs. Sparkling white appliances contrast magnificently with the richness of the wooden cabinets. Above the formica-topped work center a large wrought iron pot rack hangs from its copper chains, providing storage within easy reach. A

butcher block table beside the refrigerator offers another work surface but also adds a decorative touch to the room with a blue and white bowl full of baby's breath on its bottom shelf. A blue and white patterned no-wax floor provides the complimentary color for the kitchen.

Picking up on the blue and white theme, Vicki purchased from the Apron String a blue baker's rack where cookbooks and storage crocks for Duff's food reside. Another find was a blue and white breakfast table and chairs. Abbey had a perfect wicker etagere which provides storage for bar items, canisters, salad bowls, and other often needed but bulky items.

A focal point of the room is the exposed brick of an old fireplace and flue. As typical of many Soulard houses, the firebox was meant for burning coal so presently Vicki fills the space with a basket of eucalyptus. Another attractive feature is the french doors that open onto the rear deck. Along the walls and above the cabinets a variety of pictures, brass accessories, and wicker items adorn the room.

A highly prized aspect of this kitchen is a window over the sink and another window overlooking the back entry. Perky white valances provide decoration but don't block the natural light.

A favorite saying of Ma Bisco's household is "Pray for Taste" and this Soulard Kitchen has it.

Ma Bisco.

VICKI'S SPINACH QUICHE

- | | |
|--|--|
| Pet Ritz deep dish pie shell | 1 T. salt |
| 2 T. butter or margarine | ½ T. Worcestershire sauce |
| 3 T. onion, finely chopped | ½ T. White pepper |
| 1 pkg. 10 frozen chopped spinach, cooked and drained | ¼ T. Marjoram leaves |
| 1 C., 4 oz. Swiss Cheese, shredded | ¼ T. Basil |
| ¼ C. grated parmesan | Dash Nutmeg (optional) |
| 1 T. flour | ¼ C. Chopped mushrooms, fresh (optional) |
| 1½ C. light cream | 3 strips bacon, cooked and crumbled (optional) |
| 3 eggs, slightly beaten | |

Preheat oven to 450°. Bake crust on preheated cookie sheet, 6 minutes. Remove crust from oven and reduce heat to 375°.

Saute onions in butter until translucent. Mix together onions, spinach, cheeses, flour. Place in bottom of pie shell. Combine cream, eggs, worchestershire, salt and seasonings. Blend well. Pour over spinach mixture. Bake on preheated cookie sheet until knife comes out clean (40-45 minutes).

Cool 5-10 minutes and serve.



Soulard Mardi Gras '83

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Soulard Mardi Gras

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5:00 P.M.

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Masks off to Hillary Clements, the Board of Directors of the Mardi Gras Association, Inc. and BUDWEISER for making the 1983 Mardi Gras possible.

*The World Famous
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on parade.*



*The Soulard Restoration
Group "Past, Present
and Future" Float. Winner
of the 1982 Theme Award.*

Mardi Gras photos by Theresa Lavin

*The Marching Mizzou Band
moving down 12th Street.*



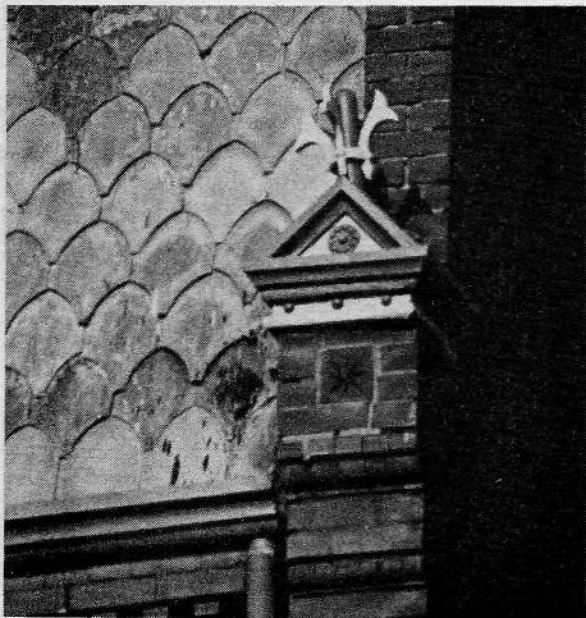


Photo by Bill Mundy

Anyone know where this is?

Send us your guess — your name might appear in the next issue.

Our last issue "Where is it?" picture was too easy. Those who sent in their guesses were all correct. The gate in question belongs to Skip and Darlene Gatermann. Its location is 2310 S. 12th Street. It has been in Gerard, Illinois being repaired. For all of you who sent in your responses here is the grand prize — your names in print!

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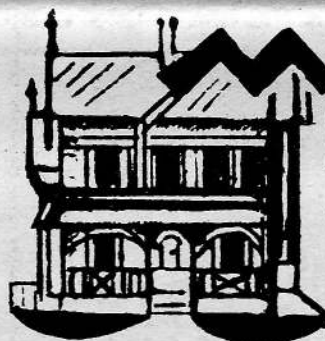
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Millard Fillmore Athletic Club FOOTBALL WINNER

The Millard Fillmore Athletic Club, 1706 South 9th Street, took first place in the Sigel Community School Senior Men's Touch Football League with a 7-0 record.

The nineteen man roster for M.F.A.C. features thirteen residents of zip codes 63104 or 63118. Soulard residents or property owners are Steve Boyer, Rex Bridges, Mike Button, Steve Button, Gary Clements, Dennis Lustick, Gene Manning, John Ward, and Rick Zacker.

Tammany Hall tied for second place with a record of 5-2.

Bill

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Anniversary
in Soulard

February 14th

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Pam

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Photo by Pam Mundy

NEWS FLASH - 12th Street Trees are here!

Dance at South Broadway A.C.

The Millard Fillmore Athletic Club, 1706 S. 9th Street, will have a dance, Saturday night April 2nd, at the South Broadway A.C. Admission is \$15.00 per couple which includes beer, set-ups, snacks and attendance prizes. Music will be furnished by Mike Thomas and The Travlin Band.

Soulard History

from pg. 1

brewery. The nightclub proposal never came to realization.

A local pharmaceutical manufacturer in 1945 acquired the caves with a vision to make them one of St. Louis' top cultural and tourist attractions. This was no easy task for Mr. Lee Hess, but he was a man with a vision he considered worthwhile and he had a lot of determination to back up his dream. His original idea had been to use it as a nightclub as had been proposed in 1944. But the later half of the 1940's gave Mr. Hess the time to build upon that concept and make it into one of the most unique experiences the City of St. Louis or any other American city had ever seen—a mile and a quarter long trip into a million years of history under a city.

Nest issue—opening of the cave to the public.

Neighborhood Housing Services Insurance Coordinator

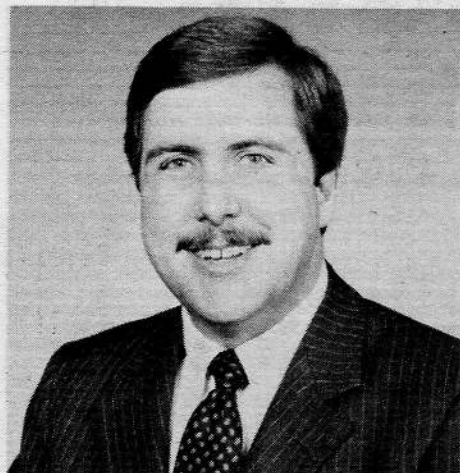
Why do I need property insurance? How do I find a good company or agent? How much insurance should I buy? Can Neighborhood Housing Services help me with my claim? These are just a few questions people ask when considering insurance coverage. If you live in the Soulard neighborhood, there is someone in our office who can answer these and any other insurance related questions. If you want this service, call Vicki Moyer, the Insurance Coordinator, at 865-3050 or 381-6625. She will be happy to assist you.

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FLASHBACK

February, 1982

Dear God,

Thank you for letting it rain! I would have like for it to have rained "cats and dogs," but the drizzle slowly did the job.

I guess you heard about the "cabin fever" in St. Louis?, well I never had it. I liked being indoors, being lazy, and to be honest it was stressful to deal with the outside elements.

As You know, it started snowing the evening of January thirteenth, 1982. It snowed and snowed and snowed. On that particular evening I did not park in front of my home, instead I parked the car headed downhill in front of a vacant lot. For the next several days I didn't exert any energy in digging my car out.

While I was being passive my neighbors were being active. They were busy digging out their cars, making trenches with the help of a snow plow and designing creative signs.

I looked out my window one morning and found the parking space in front of my home barricaded with a trash can and boards, as a matter of fact trash can barricades were going up all over, and my two trash cans were missing.

That evening I know I had to dig out. I think someone wanted my choice downhill parking space and I received assistance in digging out my car's snow

grave. It only cost \$15.00, and it seemed a good investment at the time. I thought digging out was my worst problem, but once I got my car rolling my problems began.

The trash can brigade was now in full force. The next evening when I came sliding home and exhausted from driving, I was confronted with signs. "If you didn't dig, you don't park," "I dig, I park," "If you didn't shovel, don't park," and "Please Don't Park." I felt defensive. It is true that I didn't dig, but I did pay. If someone had not already taken my trash cans I would have considered making a sign saying, "I paid, keep your car away!", but alas, there wasn't a clear spot on which to stake a claim.

Well Lord, until the big drizzle came I drove around and around the neighborhood each evening trying to find an unstaked spot to give my car its evening rest. I want to give a special thanks to Joe's parking lot for giving my car shelter for two nights.

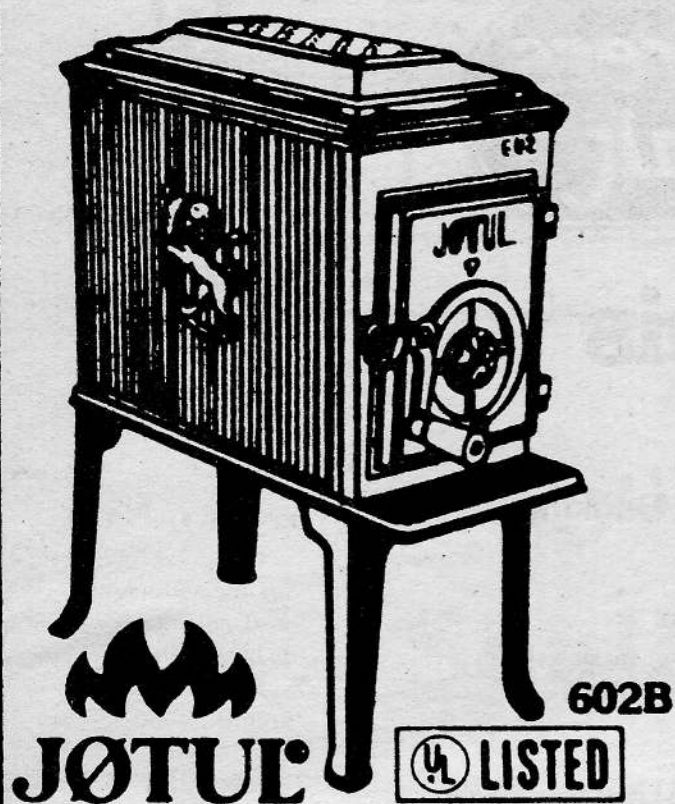
I know, Lord, that into each life a little snow must fall, but I would appreciate a little warning next time so I could have a chance to go to Florida.

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Journal of a Restorationist

by Pam Mundy

You know, living in a house that is in the process of being restored can be quite trying at times. No, no ceilings have dropped on our heads since the last issue of the Restorationist. This installment of the journal doesn't have anything to do with what our houses do to us—it's about what we do to our houses and to ourselves.

A while back, our benefactors gave us a sink. It was a dandy one. It even came with a garbage disposal. Well, being a bit excited over it, Bill drew up plumbing plans to make it fit the existing drain pipe. He visited our favorite hardware store and picked up the necessary supplies. A week later we removed the old sink and put the new one in the hole. Since it wasn't the same style of sink, we had a small problem keeping it from falling through. Finally, by positioning it a certain way, it was stable. It was nearing the midnight hour when the sink found its resting place. It was too late for messing with the pipes so we left it for the night.

The next day I was unable to use the kitchen because the pipes weren't hooked up. The dishes were piled up from the day before and I wasn't about to wash them in the bathroom. Even if the water had been on, I still couldn't have used the kitchen because Bill's tools were all over the floor.

When Bill arrived home, I demanded that he fix the sink. He said a few things about being tired then slowly made his way to the kitchen. He put all the new pipes in place but they didn't fit together like his drawings had. It seems the helpful hardware man had neglected to tell Bill about a specific piece needed for completion. So, he made a dash to the hardware store before it closed. He came back with something. I don't know what it was—I was too made because the sink didn't work. He finally got the pipes to fit and turned the water back on. This should have made me happy but it didn't because Bill had forgotten to get wire and a switch so the garbage disposal could be turned on.

Well, the next morning I made my way to the kitchen for my daily fix of tea. I tripped on the extension cord and stubbed my toe on Bill's hammer! Granted, I wasn't quite awake but the tools shouldn't have been there in the first place.

Bill was in big trouble when he got home. I had all day to think about my sore toe and all the trouble the sink had caused me. Due to a rather large argument, the garbage disposal still wasn't working the next day. Also the tools remained where they had been left except for the hammer which had moved about six inches from my collision with it.

I was tired of the health hazard that

the tools presented so I begrudgingly picked them up and put them away. It occurred to me that if I had picked them up that first night, half of my problem wouldn't have grown into an argument. The sink half of my problem could have been prevented by a little communication before the project was started. I thought the whole job would take a couple of hours. Before you laugh, remember I'm a novice restorationist.

When we were painting, I got the job of taping while Bill was at work. He did not explain how he would do it, nor did he ask if I knew how. I taped the only way I knew how. He came home and told me it was totally wrong and would have to be redone. Nevermind how I did it; it took me a long time to do it and I thought I had done it fine. So, I redid it the way he wanted. If we had talked about taping before I started, I would have found that there was a better way than my own method. Because we didn't, a lot of time was wasted and my feelings got hurt.

Now we discuss projects before they are started (well—almost always). Often we find there are potential argument starters we hadn't thought of. By discovering them beforehand, we don't have much to argue about and that makes both of us happy.

So now you ask, "What about the sink?" I'll tell you. Bill made a peace offering of a dozen red roses—I forgot about the sink. But now that I think about it...the garbage disposal still doesn't work.

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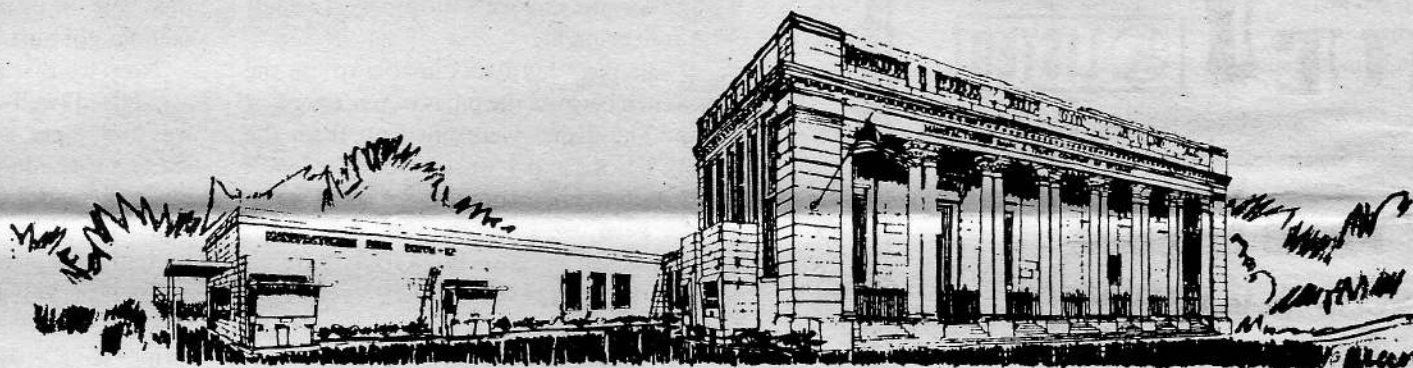


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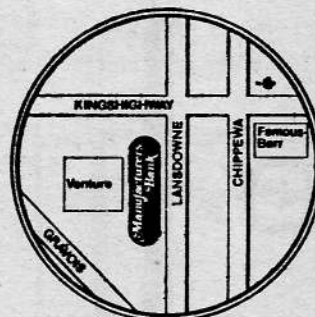


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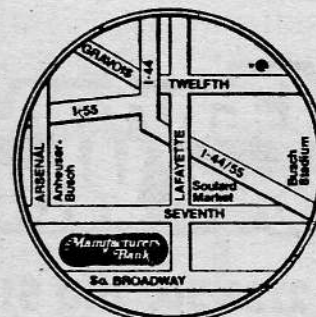
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