

The Soulard Restorationist

Volume VIII Issue III

June 6, 1983

THREE ENTIRE SOULARD BLOCKS TO BE LEVELLED!

Neighborhood Residents Elated.

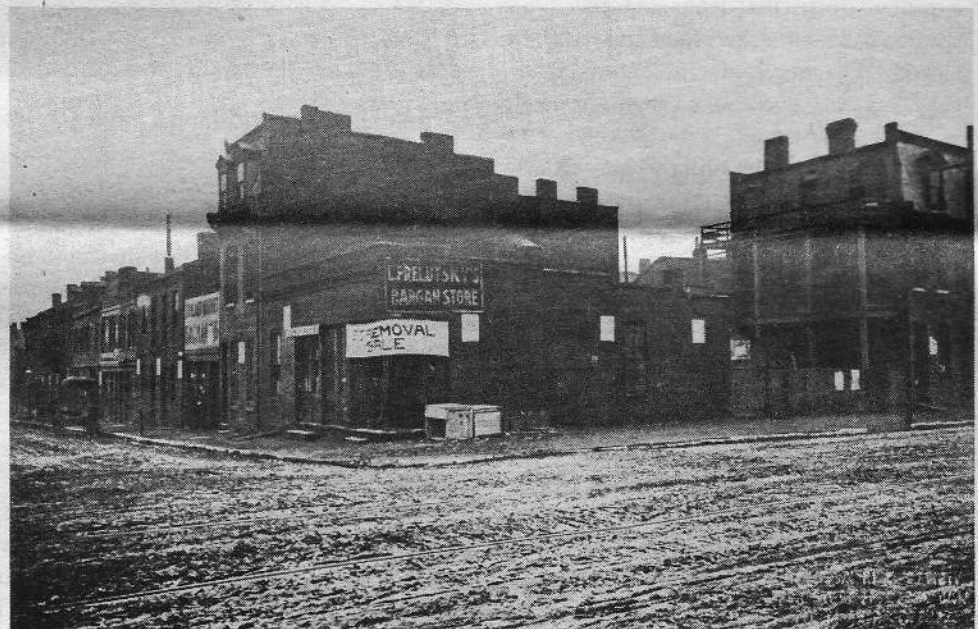
Today, if you read the above headline, you'd probably think the Boy's Club was at it again. Actually, way back in 1907, the residents of Soulard welcomed such news because the massive demolition would result in the creation of Soulard's first neighborhood parks.

By the turn-of-the-century, Soulard wasn't an especially pleasant place to live in. The woman of the house worked all day cooking and cleaning windows that were dusted daily by factory smokestacks and dirt streets. If the wife was lucky, she didn't have to join her husband who worked 14 hours a day in a sweltering factory. The immigrant families' children learned English in neighborhood schools. Soulard's population density of 60-120 people per acre was second only to an area on the northside that was bounded by Cass, Franklin, Jefferson & Broadway. Lyons and Lafayette Parks provided the only "breathing" space for our neighborhood's residents, and both were too inconvenient for weekday use (actually "night" use because of the long working hours). In 1874, St. Louis had the ideal proportion of park area to population, but by 1916 the city had only one-half the acreage it should have had. By 1908, only 7% of the cities park acreage was located east of Jefferson Avenue, even though 48% of the population lived in those smokey districts. The only athletic fields were located in Forest Park and a writer of the time penned these words:

*Plenty of room for dives and dens (glitter and glare of sin).
Plenty of room for prison pens (gather the criminal in);
Plenty of room for jails and courts (willing enough to pay);
But never a chance for the lads to race—no, never a place to play.
Plenty of room for shops and stores (Mammon must have the best);
Plenty of room for the running sores that rot in the city's breast.
Plenty of room for the lures that lead the heart of our youths astray.
But never a cent on playgrounds spent, no never a place to play.
Plenty of room for the schools and halls, plenty of room for art;
Plenty of room for teas and balls, platform, stage and mart.
Proud is the city—she finds a place for many a fad today.
But she's more than blind if she fails to find a place for the boys to play.
Give them a chance for innocent sport, give them a chance for fun
Better a playground than a court and a jail after the harm is done.
Give them a chance—if you stint them now, tomorrow you'll have to pay.
A larger bill for a darker ill—so give them a chance to play. Anon.*

Turnverin athletic societies (one was located at 13th & Arsenal Streets) and a womens organization, the Wednesday Club, provided the political backing for the playground movement in St. Louis. A few years earlier, the 1904 World Fair's "Model Playground" inspired many St. Louisans to improve their neighborhood playgrounds. In 1906, a bond issue for parks was passed. The bond issue created Soulard's first 2 parks. The land (and buildings!) for Soulard Place—now named Soulard Playground—was purchased for \$174,580.00 in 1908. The two block site totaled 1.94 acres. Although the 1907 Civic League's master plan wasn't followed exactly, several

continued on pg. 6



In 1909, condemnation and closeout signs dotted this view of the site for Soulard Place. The brick sidewalks of this intersection (probably the southeast corner of 8th and Julia Streets) were a welcome sight to pedestrians who crossed the dirt streets.

The Soulard Restorationist
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Arbor Day

by Marge Lazorko

Seven-thirty Saturday morning, chilly, threatening to rain. Today is tree-planting day, and I've promised to help in the greening of Soulard.

I roll over, doze off and dream. I'm pointing to an enormous tree rising high above the Soulard Market, its trunk as wide as an Iowa silo, as tall as a New York skyscraper. Its leafy canopy throws shade over Anheuser-Busch and its farthest branches dip into the Mississippi. "I remember when I planted that tree," I am saying to the child by my elbow. "Yessirree, I remember that day well. It was chilly and threatening to rain..."

Arriving at Pontiac Park a little after nine, I join the group of hardy souls wielding shovels, picks and hole-diggers. The trees, tall slim specimens in corrugated paper pots, stand like soldiers in the bed of a pickup truck. It's damp and cold. The women pull their jackets tight and count the shovels. The men confer, point, organize.

"Okay, you two go with them. You ride in the truck. And you come with us. We'll meet you there. Don't forget the pick." In no time at all, we're ranged along 12th Street, digging holes next to yellow marks blazed on the curb. The earth is wet and heavy, the color of good French mustard.

I have a confession to make: I'm not really here to plant trees. I'm looking for dinosaur bones; shards of Indian pottery and French porcelain; brass bridle bits chewed by horses long dead; peccary fossils; Meriwether Lewis's belt buckle.

Early in my life I decided to be an archeologist. Circumstances have diverted me, temporarily, but a freshly dug hole still attracts like a magnet. I love dumps.

I once spent two steaming summer weeks in a patch of woods near Cape May, New Jersey, unearthing turn-of-the-century ketchup and horseradish jars from an abandoned dump within sound of the surf. Digging with a clam shell (the kind that clams live in), I uncovered sea-green glass bottles incised with the names of long-gone Philadelphia apothecaries. Entangled in the tree roots were ancient motor-car license plates, lacy with rust, intensely blue Vick's Salve jars, tapering light bulbs whose filaments still shivered—and a squirming nest of copperheads.

I have hung around construction sites, hoping for a glimpse of Cornwallis's cannons. I have trekked along beaches after storms, looking for pieces of eight and bottles with messages. I have cracked rocks in Alberta, looking for fish fossils. When everyone else was admiring the sunset over the Grand Canyon, I was looking for arrowheads underfoot.

This obsession has infected my kids, who learned early that the perfect Christmas present for mom was a dirt-encrusted



Frank Dawson and Linda Hoffman use excess bricks to construct a border for a freshly-planted tree.

bottle. On my 29th birthday, Jonathan gave me a brightly crayoned envelope containing three colonial nails. Paul has presented me with gifts of water-worn glass discovered in the mud of a cedar pond in the New Jersey Pine Barrens where a glass factory once stood. Cathy has combed thrift shops for bubbled bottles to line up on the windowsills.

All of them walk with their heads down, and I worry that they'll walk into cars. Paul can differentiate between a cigarette butt and a colonial pipestem at 25 paces. I don't know how useful this skill will be to him during his life, but the kid has a real knack for finding things. Drop a sewing needle on the floor and he'll spot it in a second flat.

My kids are goldmines of historical trivia. All of them know, for example, that the early colonists' shoes were made on a straight last to fit either foot—no right shoe, no left. They've held the curled leather soles in their hands and marveled at the fact. They know that the 18th century tavern-goers smoked tobacco in long-stemmed white clay pipes, breaking off a piece of the stem after each smoke. During a long series of weekend "digs" on a highway construction site in old Philadelphia, we found dozens of pipestem pieces. The ultimate treasure—an intact pipe bowl which still held tobacco—was pried from a deep-cut bank just moments before an avalanche of dirt buried me up to the shoulders. I lost a shoe and broke my glasses, but held onto my prize.

I know what to look for in Philadelphia, and I know where to look, but, being a newcomer to St. Louis, I'm not sure what

lies under its sidewalks. Caves, they tell me. The bones of extinct armadillos, Antebellum beer bottles.

I wonder what's underneath. What's on top is a mystery, too. I still don't dare to venture out of sight of the Arch without a map. I carry two to be safe, fearing to get lost on my way to the laundromat, being swept into a freeway and never again finding my way back to Soulard. But I know Philadelphia by heart.

A voice brings me back to the task at



Yes, it's straight John. A tree adjacent to the Little Flower Nursing Home at 18th and Victor Streets gets the well-trained eye of John Durnell.

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 August 1, 1983. All persons interested in contributing to the newsletter should meet at Pam Mundy's House, 2319 So. 12th, June 22, 1983 at 7:30 p.m. Copy deadline is July 5, 1983 and ad deadline is July 10, 1983.

Restorationist Staff

Editor Catherine Perry

Associate Editor Pam Mundy

Copy Editor Lana Downing

Writers Skip Gattermann, Pam Mundy, Catherine Perry, Marge Lazorko, Paul Kjolrie

Production Patricia Finkelstein

Business Manager Gary Cope

Ad Sales Vicki Renisch, J.R. Key, Phyllis Young, Mark Lyman

Photography Bill Mundy, Bill Poe

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stood out for a while. Some have a virgin quality, arousing hope, and others produce nothing but construction rubble. Some smell like the woods after rain and some simply stink.

Toward the end of the block, the soil takes on the consistency of used chewing gum and is similar in color, viscous and gray. It clings to the shovel even after a sharp rap on the curbstone, and has to be peeled off with a sneaker. I can feel the muscles in my back, and I'm getting a blister on the palm of my hand.

Peering up the street, I see that the next digger is struggling like a Greek to pull what appears to be a snake from a hole, and I investigate. It's a moldy insulated wire, one end firmly implanted in the earth. Two men attack it with pick and shovel. It fights back, snapping and coiling, before giving up and relaxing across the sidewalk. It's tossed into the now-empty truck along with the other debris from the holes: a length of plastic pipe, a rusty shock absorb-

er, several stout roots and enough rocks to build a Ladue barbeque pit. No pipestems, no fossils, not even a horseshoe. Where is the shoebuckle that fell from the foot of Julia Soulard when she was hurrying that day to the market?

They tell me that 140 trees were planted in two hours. I didn't touch more than ten, but my body is sore. Easing myself into bed, I close my eyes and dream again.

The child is still there, his hand small in mine, and I'm reading to him. We're in front of a display case in a museum, and I read him the card:

"Sacajawea's personal diary, Discovered in the Soulard neighborhood of St. Louis during a tree-planting project in April 1983. The beechbark manuscript was extremely well preserved, having been sealed in the oiled leather pouch, at right. Donated to the Missouri Historical Society by the finder, M. B. Lazorko.

"Yessirree, I remember that day well. It was chilly and threatening to rain..."



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Alderman Martie J. Aboussie takes the microphone to recognize many in the huge crowd that assembled for dedication ceremonies for "Murph" Aboussie Park. To Aboussie's right is Mayor Vince Schoemehl.

Arbor Day in Soulard

Arbor Day in Soulard was a rousing success! One hundred and forty trees (count 'em) planted in less than three hours—more politicians and movers and shakers than you could count at the dedication of Marty "Murph" Aboussie Park—coverage on all three local television stations. Yes, SRG, we've come a long way from the days when no politicians wanted to talk to us, and most people in St. Louis thought Soulard was just a market.

Despite overcast skies and late autumn-like temperatures, more than 40

volunteers showed up to help plant trees. Mark Lyman and Alice Jennings directed crews of 5 to 10 people to attack one street at a time, while trucks came around delivering trees as fast as the holes appeared. On behalf of SRG and everyone else who likes trees—Thanks!!

The next mass shipment of trees will be arriving in early fall, and we'll be calling you again then. Right now, many of those trees are budding. Think how great it will look when all streets have them!

Photo by Bill Poe

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Small Town Museum Takes Look Into Past

by Skip Gatermann

Not too many villages the size of Okawville, Illinois, population 1300, in the entire United States can boast such a notable attraction as the proposed museum as the Frank Schlosser property. It engenders the influence that one family's occupation and life style had upon the flourishing farm hamlet in Southern Illinois at the turn of the century.

With the death last year of the only two daughters of Frank and Sophia Schlosser, the property narrowly averted being sold at public auction. A small group of people, who realizing its potential as a museum for future generations banded together to effect a means of saving the grounds which include a frame house of white clapboard, a commercial laundry, a barn and a harness shop.

Stepping through the doors of any of the four buildings is a step into history. Mr. Schlosser's harness shop (built in 1891) was the family's original home. They lived in a two room apartment above the shop where he crafted his harnesses. The shop has been untouched since Schlosser died in 1941. It is speculated that he died suddenly as his half used package of chewing tobacco and a half of a box of cigars remain on the counter where he left them. The tools of his trade adorn the walls and his work table. Schlosser's leather patterns are still hanging within easy reach of the work area. All of his tools are still sharp and in place for his return to work. Buggy whips, horse nets and other supplies he sold still fill the shelves in the shop display area. The family was very patriotic as several flags were found on the property. The shop still has a forty five star flag.

In 1904, the family moved into the new white clapboard house next to the shop. The house contains all of the family's possessions over several generations, including rare antiques. The piano in the front parlor is tuned and ready for playing. As true Victorians the family's picture post card album is properly displayed on a parlor table to entertain guests. The kitchen of Sophia Schlosser has never changed. Her wood burning kitchen stove is still in working order as are all of the turn of the century kitchen aids. One can almost smell the fragrant delights of homebaked goodies as she would have prepared them.

Behind the house and shop is the commercial laundry. All of the washing ma-

chines, drying and ironing equipment are in working order. The storage room above the laundry holds many wonderful artifacts of a bygone era. Wooden washtubs, a wood burning heating stove and many bottles with raised lettering are there. Even an antique croquet set is awaiting use by the Schlossers on a Sunday afternoon.

To the rear of the property is the family's barn containing a Buick automobile of early vintage. Up in the barn loft stands a complete horse drawn surrey with the fringe on top awaiting removal and repairs.

There have been many visitors during the past few months who have toured the proposed Heritage House and Museum at the weekly Sunday afternoon open houses held from noon until 4:00 p.m. There are also many different and favorable comments from those who see the property. "Their perspectives are as diverse as the many individuals who have toured the property," observed Charles Meier, a museum director. "Most gratifying are the views from the elder citizen, who remembers his youth and is



Heritage House and Museum. Harness Shop. Okawville, Illinois.

familiar with these implements of his day, and that of the youth, who is curious and unfamiliar, but wants to know what it was like to use these strange tools. Somewhere in the middle is the viable commodity needed to sustain this valuable landmark, a generation between young and old, who will have the means and desire to help if the money is to be raised for the preservation of this site."

Meier paused for a moment to reflect as he glanced at the dipping tank in the corner of the harness shop, "There is an

order among all things whether plant or animal, in order to perpetuate the past we must contemplate a high goal of willingness to work and help win the future together."

The Heritage Museum invites the public to attend one of its Sunday afternoon open houses which will be held each Sunday in May. The proposed Heritage House and Museum is on Walnut Street just off Illinois Route 177 in Okawville. Okawville is on Interstate 64, a forty minute drive east of St. Louis.



Photos by Warren Steig

Kitchen with wood-burning cookstove.

NHS Insurance Services

The Neighborhood Housing Services/Insurance Partnership Program is a success! Already many people in the NHS neighborhoods have benefited from the services of an Insurance Coordinator to help them with their insurance needs.

If you think you are under-insured, if you are unable to secure insurance, or if you are in the Missouri Placement Facility (Fair Plan), chances are our assistance programs can help you.

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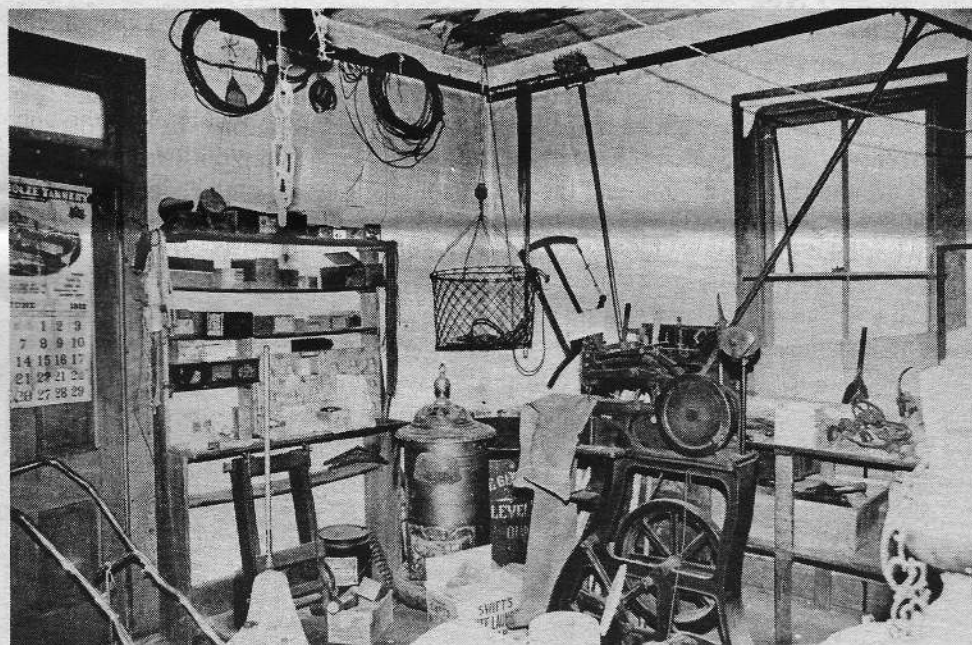


A SOULARD INFORMANCE

Concert Pianist Christopher O'Riley will present a free performance on Wednesday, June 15th at 7:30 PM. The mini-concert will take place at the auditorium at Trinity Lutheran School, 8th and Soulard Streets. Mr. O'Riley is a summer guest of the St. Louis Symphony. He will be playing with the Symphony June 13th through the 26th.

The free concert will last an hour. During this informal performance, the artist will play the piano and talk about his life, career, and music.

This event is sponsored by the Soulard Restoration Group, made possible through the St. Louis Symphony, and underwritten by Xerox Corporation.



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from pg. 1

elements were built. The master plan was done by Henry Wright, who later gained fame with his 1928 design of Radburn, New Jersey—the prototype of many U.S. new towns. Although the “Model Tenement” and police station weren’t built, many of the plan’s features were eventually built in some form, including the Public Bath House (torn down in the 1960’s for the widening of 7th Street), Music Pavilion (built in a different location), Branch Library (built at 7th and Lafayette instead of 8th and Lafayette), and the Gymnasium-Auditorium (included in the 2nd floor of Soulard Market when it was built in 1928).

Due to a lack of funds, only the basement of Soulard Square’s shelter building was

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This 1912 view of Pontiac Square looks to the west towards “French Row.” It appears that the park was developed exactly according to the parks master plan. The sunken playfield is in the left center. Only the concrete steps remain today.

built initially in 1913. The basement included the “comfort stations,” a tool room and a play room. The structure’s second level shelter was probably not added until approximately 1924.

Soulard Place was basically completed in 1911. By 1913, the Park Commissioner complained that the parks “entire eastern section” was in need of resodding, since the children had trampled the original sod “down to the ground.” More shrubs and two “electric arc lights” were added in the same year. The following year the comfort station opened and more attention was paid to the grass. A “pipe-rail” fence was installed around the playground and the Park Commissioner recommended relocating the playground for at least two years to allow the lawns, shrubs and trees to “recuperate” from the “younger element.” In order to understand the difficulty in establishing grass, we must try to picture these 3 “green” blocks in the middle of a congested and smokey tenement district. With up to 120 persons per acre, Soulard parks, at times, must have looked like the Elton John concert at last year’s VP Fair. Industrial smoke and soot also was very heavy in those days. Soulard women *daily* scrubbed their windows and even Shaw’s Garden was losing plants to St. Louis pollution.

The block for Pontiac Square was purchased in 1908 for \$94,956.32. The park’s master plan was drawn by Landscape Architect George E. Kessler. Mr. Kessler did many major projects in the midwest, including the A.A. Busch country home; 1904 Worlds Fair; Sunset Country Club; numerous boulevards in Kansas City and 16 other cities; 18 college campuses; 6 cemeteries and Sedalia’s fairgrounds. Kessler proposed



This 1909 view of Pontiac Square’s site was probably the southwest corner of 9th Street and Ann Avenue. Despite the era’s air pollution, a tree did manage to grow to a healthy size.

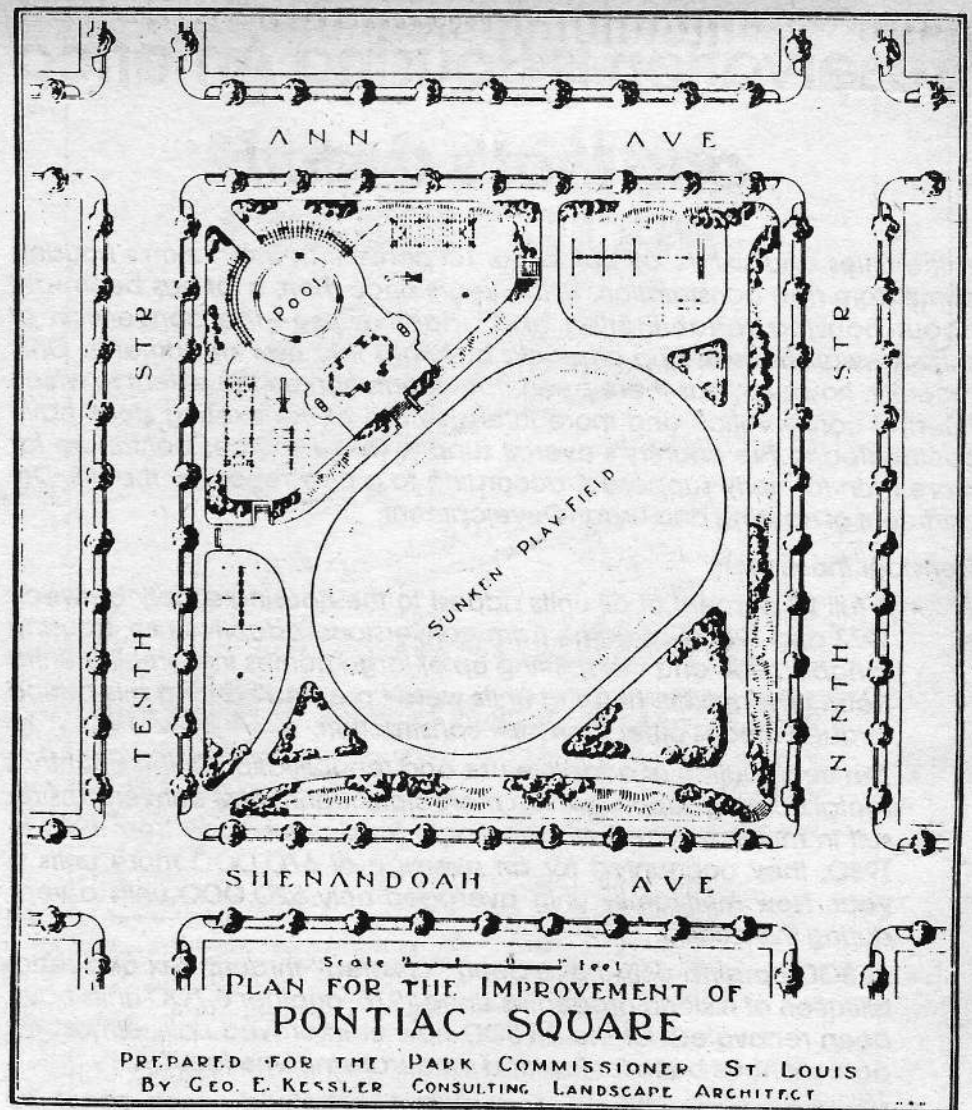
a sunken playfield, playground apparatus, pergolas, a wading pool and a small storage building. A brick comfort station later replaced the wooden storage building. During the winter, the Fire Department would flood the sunken field for ice skating. The circa 1912 photo shows that most, if not all, of Kessler's plan elements were constructed. The park was completed in late 1911. Another pergola was added in 1913. Two electric "arc" lights were installed in the playground and the entire park was reseeded and shrub beds were added. By 1914, the park enjoyed a pleasant mix of older and younger people and a low fence was built on the 9th Street, Ann Avenue and 10th Street sides to protect the lawns and shrubbery. The commissioner complained in 1915 that the park's edges appeared unfinished due to the badly worn curbs.

Soulard's parks were used in a variety of ways by its residents. The city library provided books for the children. It was believed, back then, that cold, fresh air was helpful to children suffering from tuberculosis and other diseases. The sickest children in Soulard went on a brisk fall and winter ride on the Harbor and Wharf Department's Harbor Boat. The playgrounds offered baths (showers) to the children. This was very popular in the days before indoor plumbing.

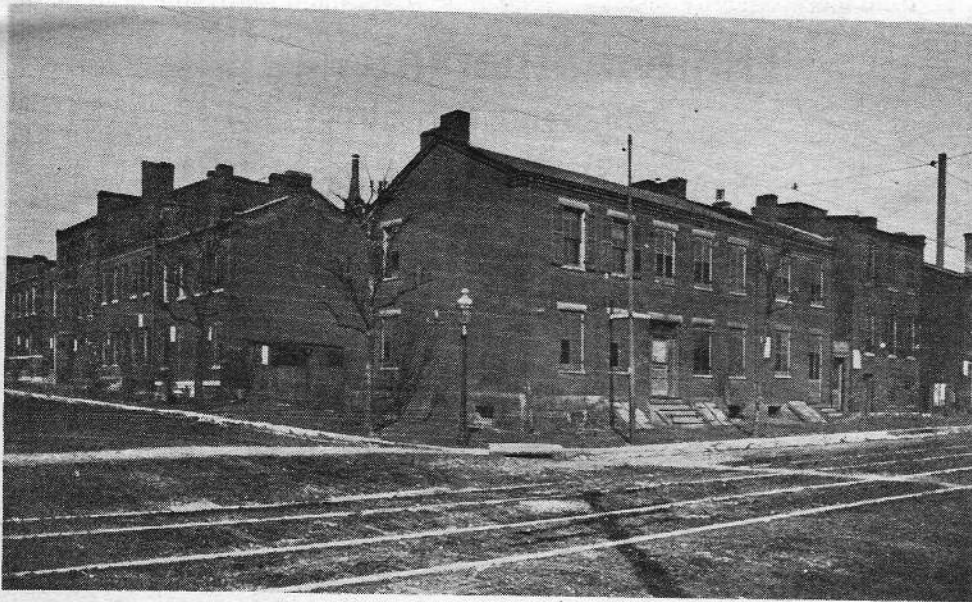
The storyteller was a popular person in those days before cable-TV and HBO. The popularity of our playgrounds required that they be staffed until 9 P.M. and even during the winter. City playground workers, through the use of registration cards, discovered many illegally employed children and they then reported this to law enforcement agencies. In 1916, horse-drawn wagons brought moving picture shows to night-time crowds of 3,000 people in our parks, but opposition from theatre owners later ended this practice. Garden plots may have been made available in Pontiac and Soulard Parks to children. These plots flourished in even smokey districts like Soulard. The children took the plants home in the winter and replanted them in the plots in the spring. In 1910, chains were found to be more "economical" for swings than ropes. For those children fortunate enough to afford it, a trip to Fairgrounds or Mullanphy Pool was a delightful experience. Swimsuits could be rented for 5¢ and towels with soap for 1¢, but swimming was free. Fairgrounds 5-acre pool was the world's largest municipal pool, and the lifeguards averaged 16 rescues a day.

In the days before indoor plumbing, the Public Bath House at 7th and Soulard (now Lafayette) was popular with Soulard residents. The building had a men's and women's side and swimming was also allowed in the pool. Lemp Park (now Cherokee Park) was originally created by the Lemp Brewery for use by its workers. The park was acquired by the city in 1924 for \$90,000. The land for Lyon Park was donated to the city in 1868.

Little was done to Soulard Parks in the intervening decades until nearly 70 years later. In 1976, the Soulard Restoration Group requested Community Development Block Grant Funds for an ambitious revitalization of Soulard's two parks. Over a 4



The 1911 plan for Pontiac Square. The designer was the prolific landscape architect, George Kessler.



The site for Soulard Place had many homes on it, as this February, 1909 photo attests. This view is probably the northwest corner of 8th and Lafayette (then Soulard Street). The street car tracks were unearthed a few years ago during the construction of the brick plaza.

year period, over \$144,000 was spent in Soulard Playground. The project included tree planting, bandstand renovation, new playground equipment and the closing of 8th Street for the construction of phase 1 of the brick plaza. Many of the parks improvements could not have been accomplished if not for the labor furnished by the Park Department's limited work force. Today, such labor could not possibly be provided. Pontiac Square received its improvements later over a 2-year period beginning in 1978. The park received \$120,000 in federal funds that allowed for a new playground area, trees, a spray pool and plain concrete sidewalk repairs and resetting of the granite curbs. Soulard's latest park, Martie 'Murph' Aboussie, Sr., Park, was completed in the spring of 1981. The \$48,000 Victorian-style park was completed under the \$60,000 budget. The passive park was built on a vacant triangular piece of

ground that was left-over from the construction of Interstate Highway 55. The park owes its existence to 13th Street's "Possum" Campbell and John Wyatt. Alderman Martie Aboussie (Murph's son) provided the political muscle to acquire funding for the park. The park, which was designed by this writer, was dedicated on April 9, 1983.

Soulard's parks have played an important role in the recreational history of St. Louis and the United States. Hopefully, the historic district's resurgence will provide the impetus for many more decades of enjoyment by Soulard residents. After all, we restorationists are going to need our "own" park bench in a few decades. Mine will be the one in Aboussie Park that overlooks the highway. I'll want to watch the poor as they commute home to Arnold and Ballwin!

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In the fifties and sixties, all but about 10 percent of the nation's housing came from new construction. In the years since then, a lot has been said about housing rehabilitation and adaptive use—the conversion of schools, warehouses, and other old buildings into new apartments. Only recently, however, has there been documentation on the extent to which housing conservation and more intensive use of the existing stock have contributed to the country's overall supply. These sources contribute far more than formerly supposed, according to a new report by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Consider these facts:

- A full 28 percent of all units added to the housing supply between 1973 and 1980 has come from conversions: adaptive use, housing rehabilitation and the splitting up of large homes into smaller units. Nearly five million housing units were "created" during this period through means other than new construction.
- The contribution of adaptive use and rehabilitation to the country's rental housing supply is even more significant. Most conversions result in multifamily rather than single family units, and from 1973 to 1980, they accounted for an average of 670,000 more units a year. New multifamily units averaged only 520,000 units a year during this period.
- 21,800 housing units have been "created" through tax and rehabilitation of historic properties since 1976; another 6,700 units have been renovated. Of the 28,500 new or improved units almost 40 percent have been for low and moderate income families.
- Housing preservation and rehabilitation helped house about 30 percent of the extra 16 million households that were formed between 1970 and 1980.
- Thirty-one percent of the nation's housing stock, about 26.7 million units, is in structures built before 1940. Approximately 24 million households, or about 65 million people, live in pre-1940 housing.
- In 1960, expenditures on existing housing accounted for only 20 percent of the nation's total housing expenditures. Americans spent \$46.4 billion on home improvements during 1981 while the value of new housing construction came to about \$50 million, according to the National Association of Realtors. This rose to 33 percent in 1970, and to 42 percent by 1980.

The price of not preserving is high.

- Permanent losses (due to arson, vandalism, neglect and other causes) to the housing stock came to 3,139,000 units between 1974 and 1980. That is, an average of 523,000 units were irretrievably lost each year during that period.
- Temporary but retrievable losses (due to conversions for non-housing uses, deterioration, etc.) were even higher. They amounted to an average of 1,382,000 units each year between 1974 and 1980, or nearly 70 percent of the 1,980,000 new units built annually, on the average, between 1973 and 1980. Fortunately, nearly 50 percent of the 1,382,000 annual temporary losses is recaptured through rehabilitation and the more intensive use of existing stock.

Housing preservation means jobs—when they're needed most.

- When new housing production declines, as during the recent recession, people conserve, renovate, and make better use of the existing housing inventory. Says a HUD report: "...conversions appear to be countercyclical to new production, that is, additions from sources other than new production increase when new production additions decline, and decrease when new additions increase."
- As housing production cycles have become more extreme during the last decade, sometimes resulting in severe unemployment for home builders, the countercyclical of housing rehabilitation, a labor-intensive activity, has become more important.

Special thanks go to Duane T. McGough, Director, Division of Housing and Demographic Analysis, Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD. McGough is the author of "Additions to the Housing Supply by Means of Other than New Construction," published by HUD.

WHEN A HOUSE NEEDS A HELPING HAND™

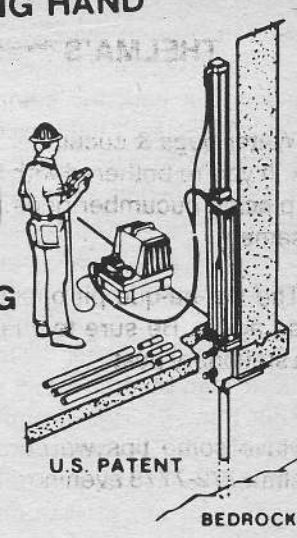


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PRESCHOOL ANNOUNCES PREREGISTRATION

Lafayette Park Preschool at Missouri and Lafayette Avenues is holding pre-registration for its fall classes during June. The school is located in the Lafayette Square Historic District and is open to all children in the St. Louis area between the ages of two and five. The program is a parent co-op and is designed to involve actively the parents in classroom learning. Two different classes are offered. The younger students between the ages of two and three meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from nine o'clock until 11:30. The children do not need to be toilet trained. The class emphasis is on social skills. The youngsters learn to share play and learning materials. A story hour is provided to teach listening skills. The program runs from September through May.

The class for the three to five year old group is held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from nine o'clock to 11:30. Children learn basic skills such as color, number and letter identification. Physical education, arts and crafts classes are a part of this program. Field trips are taken frequently to area educational attractions such as the Dental Health Theatre and Powell Hall Kinder

Concerts. Biweekly trips are taken to the public library for the Story Hour Program. Kindergarten readiness is a primary part of this program. This class is offered from September through May.

Registration will be held during June. The registration fee is \$5.00. For information about the school, registration tuition and specifics call the school's president, Sharon Stockmann at 776-4437.

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STS. PETER AND PAUL LANDMARK

Pam Mundy

Sts. Peter and Paul Church has always been a landmark in Souland. Now, as a result of the hard work of Gary Ballowe and Hank Mueller, Sts. Peter and Paul has another beautiful building to be proud of. The building is at 816 Allen and was vacant for twenty years before Hank and Gary started work on it 5 months ago. It is now known as Sts. Peter and Paul Hall. The hall is a beautiful multi-purpose ballroom/theatre. It is the home of K's Korps, a parish theatre organization, which recently put on the production of "Godspell."

The interior of the hall has imported chandeliers, polished hardwood floors, an unusual two-sided balcony, and a fully operational stage. Everything is of grand scale and makes this reclaimed building a wonderful place to have wed-

ding receptions, banquets, and elegant parties. The building is equipped with a full commercial kitchen which makes catering simple. Gary and Hank manage the hall as Manna Enterprises LTD. It seats 400 people for a banquet and 1000 people for a theatrical production.

An interesting artifact in the grand room is a bust of Benjamin Franklin above the stage. It was placed there in 1874 by the original occupants who were the Franklin Theatre Group.

Sts. Peter and Paul Hall will be a highlight of the fall house tour. It is a place we all can be proud to have in Souland. If you are interested in renting the hall, call Gary Ballowe and Hank Mueller at 776-2843. It truly is a Souland landmark.

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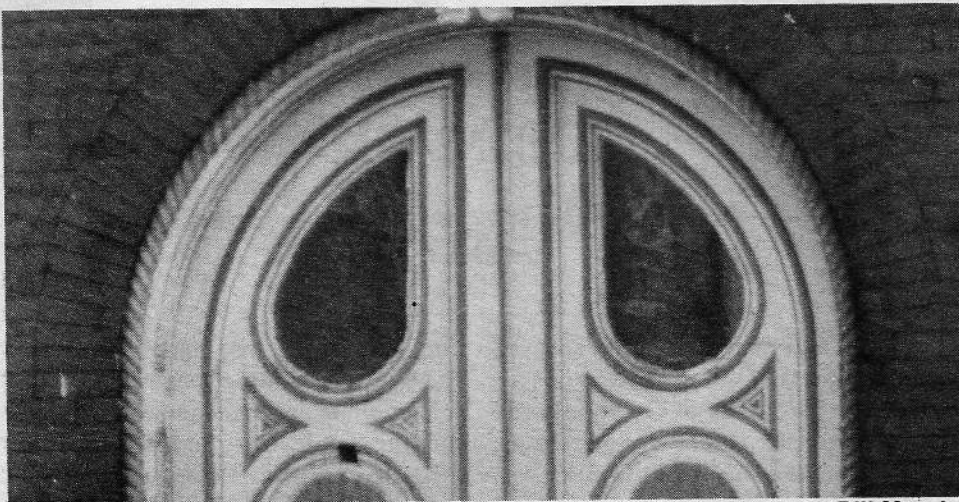


Photo by Bill Mundy

Anyone know where this is?

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

■■■■■■■■■■ **SUNOCO** ■■■■■■■■■■

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April 5, 1983

Dear Sir,

Rex, the King of the Soulard Mardi Gras 1983, proclaims the picture in the SRG newspaper (April 1, 1983) to be that of the southeast corner of 11th and Shenandoah. Specifically 2300 South 11th.

Handwritten: ~~HERN~~
Ross M. Uchitsky

Here's last issue's picture.



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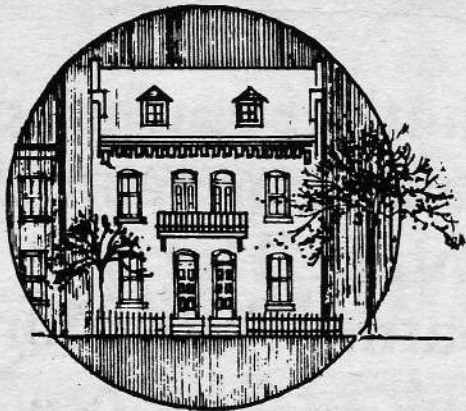
The Honorable Sorkis J. Webbe, Jr.
Committeeman, 7th Ward

The Honorable Sam Louis
Alderman, 7th Ward

The Honorable Shirley Murray
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Journal of a Restorationist

by Pam Mundy

Have you ever seen a house walking down the street? Better yet, have you ever seen a flounder house with legs walking down the street? If you haven't, you should have been at Jack Carney's Super Parade III on May 21st.

The house is the masterpiece of Paul Kjorlie. And believe you me—it is a masterpiece. It has arched windows complete with glass. (well it looks like glass) It has front steps which bit the dust in the garbage truck—I'll explain that later. It even has shingles, rather Schnuck's grocery bags. Paul spent many, many long hours on this work of art and if you don't believe me, ask him.

This work of art made its debut in Carney's parade at Forest Park. The purpose for being there was to promote Soulard and the Fall House Tour. There was a billboard on the side of the house stating that fact. I know it's tacky to put a billboard on the side of your house but this is a special house. The house was transported to the park with class in Mark Lyman's Ford pickup. Anne came along to help show off the house. The rest of us, which adds up to Vicki Renisch, Paul Kjorlie, and myself, were transported by Vicki's green car.

It was indeed a special day. All of us got up at 6:30 A.M. or before to prepare for the big event. We all met at Paul's house to pick up the object of this story. Mark and Paul got to the door with the house but couldn't fit through. Voila! Off comes the door. You know about rusty Soulard hinges. Finally the house fit through and was loaded on the truck. We were off.

Arriving at Forest Park, we took our place in line which was spot 196. That number might sound nice to you, but to us it meant that we were at least three—yes three—miles from the starting point of the parade. A house has a substantial amount of weight to it. Carrying a house three miles is not exactly what I call fun in the sun, but it was cloudy. Luckily, there was a garbage truck a few spots in

front of us. This is my explanation if you started at the beginning of this installment of the journal. Vicki nicely asked the man driving it if he would mind carting our house to the starting point of the parade. The man said he would take it but wouldn't guarantee what it would look like when it got there. We all agreed that the garbage truck should carry the house. Someone had to go with the house and someone else had to carry the "I Leaf Soulard" banner. Paul and I got the honors of the truck and the other three, Mark, Anne, and Vicki, got to carry the banner. Paul and I got the thrill of a lifetime as we took our spots on the truck. Have you ever wondered how much fun it would be to ride on the back of a garbage truck like those men you always see hanging on to handles and standing on the bumpers? Try and imagine me saying this, "It's lots of fun." The truck was clean, however, and didn't smell. Anyway, the only damage to the house was the loss of the front steps. Gee, I wonder if that's what happened to my front steps.

When we arrived at the starting point, we jumped off the truck, retrieved the house, and put it on. Yes, I said put it on. We took our place in the parade and showed all the people there that houses can really walk. And turn circles. And run. They aren't so good at doing figure eights but they're great at bowing at the reviewing stand and walking into TV cameras. The house even grows. Mark and Anne traded off with us awhile.

Everyone loved it and so did we, but Paul and I both have "house elbow." If you missed the parade you'd better be real sorry but you'll get another chance to see it. Rumor has it that it will make a guest appearance in the next Mardi Gras parade so mark your calendars now.

Oh, by the way, as payment for the opportunity to have read this wonderful story, I ask that you put your house on the fall tour. It's only fair you know. One great deed deserves another.

Photo by Bill Mundy



ORIGINAL 1890 LETTERHEAD

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CLOSING PARTY

Saturday, May 28 marked the end of
an era. We said goodbye to a part of our
homes—Tammany Hall. It was a festive
and long night as many Soulandians can
testify. Tammany Hall now has new
owners.

The highlight of the night was a strip-
ping London Bobby. Louise stood on
the bar with him and held his clothes
while he entertained the crowd. He pre-
sented her and Ed with an award of ap-
preciation from all friends of Tammany.
Included with the award was a two-night
stay at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas
and spending money to waste on the
casinos.

Those who frequent Tammany Hall
must feel a part of their heart missing.
We're sorry to see you go but we under-
stand.



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