

The Soulard Restorationist

Volume IX, Issue III

September 15, 1984

Soulard — Experience It!

Soulard's annual fall house tour scheduled for September 15-16, 1984 will truly be an experience. Tour guests will visit homes and area churches from noon to six p.m. each day. Ticket information is available by calling the Soulard Restoration Group at 771-5563.

John Durnell and Richard Eaton, this year's house tour chairpersons, have planned a royal experience indeed. The homes selected cover every phase of the restoration experience in Soulard. Visitors will visit the before house or shell as well as the finished house. The style of housing varies from simple working man's cottage to large townhouse. From apartment to everyone's favorite — the flounder. Tour guests will experience a variety of interiors as well. From traditional to modern will all be on display.

A few of the tour's highlights will intrigue most anyone to experience Soulard on tour weekend. The apartment of Jean Brockman on South 12th will delight the modern interior enthusiast. Complete with loft bedroom and an enclosed courtyard, the apartment is no end of amazement. The kitchen area is separated by a curved wall from the living and dining areas. Large windows admit lots of sunlight, enough to fill the entire apartment with its fourteen feet ceiling height. One thing tour guests will be sure

to note is Jean's full size hand carved carousel rocking horse. The designing architect will be on hand to answer questions on tour weekend.

If traditional is the thing to make one happy on tour weekend, there is just the thing. Several of the homes featured had all of their architectural interior integrity still intact. The owners decided to maintain them in the historic manner. Darlene and Skip Gatermann's home features a matching living room and dining room. Both rooms have all of the woodwork including picture rails, pocket doors and window molding. These have been done in several paint colors as Victorians would have had them. Beautiful old family portraits and other family memorabilia adorn the walls. The Junger & Key home on Victor Street is another home done in the traditional sense. Again all of the fine old woodwork remains. Even the floors have been painted in Victorian style. Other tidbits of enticement to come to the tour include a beautiful kitchen done in the modern style with delightful pink cabinets. Another home features a fish pond in the garden area behind the house. One home features art work done by American and European artists as well as some done by the owner. There is only one way to enjoy all of this in Soulard — Experience It!

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1845 So. 9th St. 2333 So. 12th St. 1821 So. 9th St.

10th Annual House Tour

September 15/16

Tickets \$4.00 in advance, \$5.00 tour days.

For ticket information, write

P.O. Box 13312 Soulard Station St. Louis, Mo. 63157.

or call 314/ 771-5563.

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ARBOR DAY Tree Planting

by Jay Gibbs

On Saturday, April 28, the Souldard Beautification Committee planted 35 streetside trees throughout Souldard. Arbor Day came three weeks late to Souldard this year, but the sun finally came out and the nursery delivered the trees. We dropped them in their pre-dug holes, added sand, soil, water and T.L.C., and as a result the new Souldard residents are greening up. Despite the sweat and sunburn, a good time was had through it all, and the faint "pop" of beer tabs accompanied the "chink" of shovel-meeting clay.

We'd like to thank those who helped: Rich Eaton and John Durnell for their truck and labor; Bob Printz for his virtuoso planting techniques; and Clark Rowley, who procured our sand, and who received our memorial Arbor Day award — he enjoyed his McDonald's Popoids

Happy Meal very much, thank you.

We should also thank ourselves, the "Tree Committee", Linda Hoffman, Marsha Wilson, Jay Gibbs, Anne Meszko, and our noble leader, Anne Lewis. Hear those cheers? Anne and Anne should also be congratulated for the excellent price that SRG got, and the quality of trees they picked.

By the way, you proud new parents, water your kids once a week if momma nature doesn't and fertilize your trees their second year in the ground. Staking new trees helps guard against accidental bumps or vandalism. Again, water your trees during the hot summer or they WILL NOT survive. SRG will have another tree planting this Fall. Let the Tree Committee know if you want a tree then. Enjoy those trees!

From the Mayor's Desk

by Vincent C. Schoemehl, Jr.

The City of St. Louis in cooperation with the Barnes Hospital Burn Center Support Group is establishing an "Alarms For Life" program to install smoke alarms in City residences. The alarm distribution and installation is part of the on-going Operation SafeStreet program instituted last fall.

Under the program, Operation SafeStreet workers will install free smoke alarms upon request to residents within the Operation SafeStreet neighborhoods. The money to purchase the smoke detectors is being raised by the Barnes Hospital Burn Center Support Group. The group is a volunteer organization comprised of burn victims and staff members of Barnes' Intensive Care Burn Unit.

General American Life Insurance Company of St. Louis has made the first contribution, a check for \$8,000, to the Alarms For Life fund.

Much of the nation's loss to fire is preventable, and the smoke detector is the single device with the greatest potential to prevent residential fire deaths. Since the early 1970's, the usage of smoke detectors has risen dramatically, while fire deaths in residential properties has declined by nearly 20% as a result of the increase in smoke detector usage.

For Alarms For Life to be successful, additional contributions are needed. Contributions should be sent to "Alarms For Life," Barnes Hospital Plaza, Missouri 63110.

The smoke alarm installation is part of Project Home Security, one of the five programs which make up Operation SafeStreet. Under Project Home Security, work crews also install deadbolt locks, bar basement windows, install front door peep holes and basement door barricades, and pin first floor windows. The total security package costs \$150.00, but is free for senior citizens or handicapped persons.

The other four components of Operation SafeStreet are: Project Porchlight, where residents are asked to turn on their porchlights from dusk to dawn to discourage crime; Neighborhood Watch, which trains residents to look out for suspicious activities and how to report them to police; Project Quiet Street, where street patterns are changed to add a sense of community and make it easier for residents to identify strangers and suspicious occurrences; and the SafeStreet Newsletter, which establishes a viable communication network with the residents of the target areas and provides for feedback from the community.

For further information on Alarms For Life or Operation SafeStreet, call 622-3444.

CHAMOMILE HAIR RINSE

Boil 1/2 ounce dried chamomile flowers in one pint water for 20 minutes. Allow to cool and use as a final rinse after all shampoo has been rinsed off thoroughly. Leave this rinse to dry on the hair for a beautiful perfume. Natural blond hair will be kept highlighted and lovely.

SUMMER SUN HERB TEA

In a large, clear glass gallon jar filled with tepid water add:

- Seven sprigs of washed, freshly picked spearmint
- Seven sprigs of lemon balm
- A handful of lemon thyme
- Several sprigs of lemon verbena (Optional)
- Three bags Earl Grey tea
- Three bags Constant Comment tea
- Two bags of regular tea

Cover the container and place in the sun until tea is desired strength. Strain off the herbs, remove tea bags, and chill. Sweeten, if desired, with honey or sugar. Serve with fresh mint garnish. (Sun tea is never cloudy!)

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What's on Tap in Pontiac Park?

by Russell Farber

One of the first things a visitor to Soulard notices is the neighborhood's high density. Constructed mainly during the age of the street car, Soulard has few driveways or garages, and homes are built close to one another. Furthermore, as a working class district in the era of industrial expansion, little thought was given to greenspace for recreational use. Today, Soulard has two small parks, Soulard Park, adjacent to the Market, and Pontiac Park, one square block in the neighborhood's center.

Few people know that a brewery once stood on the site of Pontiac Park. About 1850, an immigrant from the German state of Hesse-Darmstadt by the name of William Stumpf established a brewing business at the corner of Ann Avenue and Decatur (9th) Street, now the northeast corner of Pontiac Park.

Next to the names of such "beer barons" as Busch, Lemp and Griesedieck, who achieved fame and status, that of Stumpf is nearly forgotten. His place in St. Louis brewing history is secure, however, as he was the first to establish a brewery in the

Soulard area which would soon be home to as many as twenty breweries, including the forerunner of what is today the world's biggest, Anheuser-Busch.

In 1856, under the name of Stumpf & Lemp, the brewery produced 5,000 barrels of lager beer and nearly as much ale. This modest quantity ranked it fifth among the city's 36 breweries which that year produced 95,000 barrels of lager and more than 200,000 barrels of all types of beer.

Stumpf met with continued success and by 1870 his real estate holdings were valued at \$29,000, a respectable sum for the time. In addition to his family of seven, his household included two domestic servants, a dressmaker and a boarder, a young bank clerk.

At the height of his success, Stumpf elected to expand his business. In the early 1870s he opened a larger brewery several blocks west of the first, at the corner of Shenandoah and Buena Vista (now Lemp). In 1877 he sold this establishment, which then became known as the Thamer Brewing Co. and late the following year became A. (Anton) Griesedieck & Co.

In 1885 Griesedieck itself moved on to larger quarters near City Hospital (soon to be renamed the National Brewing Co.) and the earlier brewery became the Miller Brothers Brewing Co. In 1899 it became the Consumers Brewing Co. and in 1911 the Griesedieck Brothers Brewery. Much of the abandoned brewery which is now on the site, and which was most recently operated by Falstaff, dates from the turn of the century.

Stumpf did not go into retirement with the sale of his brewery. As late as 1893, at the age of seventy six, he was listed in *Gould's Commercial Register* as a maltster, providing materials to the larger brewers and engaging in a small amount of actual beer-making, from the original site at 910 Ann Avenue.

It is uncertain what changes the property went through between that year and 1908 when the land began to be cleared for the new city park, but the purchase price for the block and all structures was \$94,000. The park was named for the famous Chief Pontiac, leader of a failed colonial Indian rebellion, on the strength of an unsupported legend that he was killed in the area by Illinois Indians. For his place in St. Louis history, it might have been better named Stumpf Square.

1981 SOULARD HOUSE TOUR REMEMBERED

The currency of friendship, love, true fun and fellowship bought and sold smiles and tears for thousands during the two glorious days of September 26 and 27, 1981 — the Soulard Restoration Group-House Tour.

As a newcomer to the area back then, pressed as many others were into service for this most worthy cause, I want to express how deeply this happening moved me. The hours of preparation and the sacrifices of those whose creative efforts made this event so very special cannot be measured. But in the faces of the eager and excited, who trudged from house to house or mingled in the fun of the crafts fair, was a reflection of care and concern and for me a renewed joy that man's humanity to man is alive and well!

To those of you who gave of yourself, your efforts and gestures toward this most thrilling event are still very much remembered and appreciated by any who look back. As an outsider made quickly to feel at home in Soulard, I can express this without bias. May you know the good of it and be always proud!

Ron LaBard

About The Soulard 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.

(For ads call Gary Cope at home 241-2684 or work 289-3666)

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Census Results Are Finally In

by John Jennings

If conversation around your home seems a little dry lately, perhaps you ought to discuss the 1980 census of Souland. That's right, the 1980 census of the population. At last we can disclose the results of that people count.

Actually, its an interesting tale of the makeup of our neighborhood — even if its already four years old.

According to the census, 3,012 persons lived in Souland on April 1, 1980. It showed that the area is predominately white (97.6%), with the remainder of the population black (1%), and a sprinkling of American Indians, Eskimos, and Pacific Islanders. About 2.5% of Souland's residents are of Spanish origin.

No kids in Souland? Don't believe it. Almost 19% of the population is under 15 years old. And, about an equal number were 65 years and older. Those numbers are about in line with the age distribution of the city of St. Louis as a whole.

If you dread your next birthday, maybe its because the median age in Souland is a youthful 32.5 years.

One of the major national trends over the past ten years has been an increase in the number of households, especially small households. Of the 1,372 households in Souland, 45.9% consisted of one person, and 4.2% had 6 or more persons.

Looking for a spouse or an extra-marital affair? In Souland about 38% of the 1,207 men and 36% of the women were married at the time of the census.

Souland's 641 families with children were headed by a married couple in two-thirds of the cases — and by a female head of household 23% of the time. Unmarried dads make up the rest.

The stories you've heard about the ancestry of the Souland Historic District turn out to be pretty true today. Residents told the census bureau that 409 of them were of German descent, 361 of English ancestry and 109 whose forefathers were from Ireland.

Sadly, of the 515 school-age children in the neighborhood, almost 62% of those 16

and over have dropped out of school. Of the students in grades K-12, about 39% were enrolled in private schools.

The census did not stop here in its quest to catalog Souland, however. It revealed that almost half us drove alone to work, although 22% were members of a car pool.

About one half of the neighborhood lived in a different house five years earlier — evidence that the area is being repopulated by newcomers.

In 1980, about 10% of the neighborhood was out of work. Those lucky enough to have jobs told the people-counters that 343 worked in manufacturing, 233 in professional services, and 218 in retail trade. Just over 10% said they worked for the government.

Perhaps the main indicators of an area's economic well-being are income measures. The median income of households in Souland was \$9,393. For families, the median income jumped to \$15,605, compared to the poverty threshold for a four-person family of \$7,412.

Souland's 2,208 housing units make up 1.1% of the city's housing stock. About one-third of our housing is owner-occupied, the rest are renters. There were 834 vacant housing units as recently as 1980. Only one-third of the units had air-conditioning.

A few final facts: almost half the renters had moved into their units in the last 15 months. Homes in Souland have a median value of about 69% of the city as a whole, and as many as one quarter of us lacked a telephone when the census was tallied.

What does it all mean? You be the judge — but it's more than handy facts for a game of trivial pursuit. It tells us a little more about the small town in the city called Souland. It says a lot about the way we are today, and by reading between the lines, can show us the work that is needed as restorationists to make Souland a better place to live, meet and keep friends, and to raise a family.

(Source: US Census Bureau, Neighborhood Statistics Program).



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Advice from the

BOTANICAL GARDEN

Steven A. Frowine,
Public Horticulture Specialist
Missouri Botanical Garden



Hot, dry days of summer can be devastating to plants in your garden. Try following these guidelines to help your plants beat the heat.

1. MULCH TO CONSERVE WATER. A mulch is anything which covers the ground around plants and between rows. Mulching conserves moisture in the soil by reducing the rate of evaporation. Mulch also greatly reduces the presence of weeds, which compete with your plants for precious water and nutrients.

Many organic materials may be used as mulches. You may try a 3 or 4 inch layer of grass clippings (let the grass dry a bit before applying to the garden), straw, partially decomposed leaves or compost. A layer of several sheets of newspaper works effectively if weighted down with a top layer of soil or other materials.

Plastic mulch also works well, is easy to use, and is reusable for several seasons. Plastic mulch, when applied in the spring, keeps the soil warmer and gives summer crops, like tomatoes and peppers, a faster start.

2. USE SHADE TO ADVANTAGE. Moisture evaporates more slowly in shaded soil than in sun. Leafy vegetables such as cabbage, lettuce, spinach, and Swiss chard do well in partial (not complete) shade — that is, areas which receive full sun for only part of the day. Basil, mint, parsley, and tarragon are a few herbs that thrive in partial shade. Fruiting vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers and vine crops need full sun for satisfactory production.

3. SPACE PLANTS CLOSELY. Space plants and rows so that the maturing

plants just overlap. This will shade the ground to reduce moisture loss and weed competition. If you use a mechanical cultivator, you may need to switch to hand cultivation in the narrower rows.

4. HARVEST YOUNG. Pick your vegetables when they are at their prime; don't let them over-ripen. Picking reduces the moisture requirements of the plants and encourages continued production.

5. WEED REGULARLY. Weeds compete with vegetable crops for every drop of water and often the stronger, deep-rooted weeds win the competition! Remove the weeds as soon as they show themselves in your garden.

6. WATER DEEPLY, NOT OFTEN. Water in the early morning. Use special soil-soaking hoses which allow water to drop slowly into the ground, and place the hoses quite close to your plants. Or set your garden hose, nozzle removed, directly on the ground to irrigate one part of your garden at a time. Let the water run slowly for as long as necessary to soak deeply into the soil. A deep soaking is needed only every 10 to 14 days, unless your plants show signs of wilting from insufficient moisture. Remember that oscillating-type lawn sprinklers, if used, throw water where you may not need it and allow more evaporation than other watering methods.

7. PROVIDE WINDBREAKS. Strong or constant winds speed evaporation. If your garden is fairly small, it may be possible to set up a temporary windbreak using fencing materials or cast-off construction materials. Just be sure windbreaks do not shade plants that need full sun.

Friends of Soulard

We would like to welcome our new Friends of Soulard.

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Friends of Soulard consists of individuals who are not Soulard residents, but who are interested in her well being. Membership entitles "Friends" to a subscription to the Soulard Restorationist and to an invitation to an exclusive

reception and preview of the Fall House Tour. Persons wanting to join the program can do so easily. Just clip and mail the coupon below. Your dues are tax deductible.

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- ☐ **YES.** I would like to become a member of the Friends of Soulard.
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More Adventures of an Amateur Rehabber

by Jay Gibbs

Hello! You may remember my search for Soulard's caves beneath my basement. In case you missed that story, let me assure you that the only caves found were in my head — for undertaking the search at all. However, there are a few who swear of the cave's existence: maybe I'll go rent a solar pinger or something.

After my basement digging adventure, I had a concrete floor poured in the basement. Things looked great as furnace and central air unit were installed there; looked great until it rained and my basement became as the hold of the Titanic, threatening my new furnace with ruin. I had to bail out that basement numerous times last winter and spring, including during the 1983 Soulard Christmas Parlor Tour.

Between basement bailouts, I decided (with the help of a nasty city safety department letter) to tear down the disgusting, rotting, crumbling wood garages behind the house. However, in true Roadrunner cartoon fashion, while I was dismantling part of the old roof, the entire structure collapsed under me without warning. There's no way to describe the feeling of walking on air — I guess you have to be there. I finally touched down on that fleshy portion of my anatomy between back and thighs amid crashing wood and billowing dust. As the air cleared, I sat there wondering why I wasn't killed or something, then spent five minutes looking for my

crowbar, which I had flung from flailing arms. After I finished the job, my haulers told me they would have torn it down as they loaded it for no extra charge. Thanks for telling me sooner guys.

Gutting an old house is a treat, or at least a rite of passage in Soulard. I spent six, 10-12 hour days ripping plaster and lath from the walls and ceilings of eleven rooms. The mouth grit, the hacking cough, the fatigue — oh what joys of rehabbing. Gutting has its rewards, however — I found an old diary, an old baseball card, two hidden cubbyholes sans valuables, and several other little treasures, all of which will be on display during house tour.

Speaking of the house tour, it's just around the corner. As of this writing, it's a month away, and my house is on the tour. Right now the back wall is torn down, plumbing is nonexistent, and there is a hole in the roof where a chimney was until we tried to fix it. New stairways lie unassembled, and as a result the third floor is accessible only by ladder. And I just found out that I need a new sewer line and a new water supply pipe. Yes, folks, my house is the one on tour with exposed joists, broken windows, and two hundred pounds of plaster dust. All is not lost however: I'm still working at it, and a veteran Soulard resident just initiated me into another Southside tradition: Ted Drewes. And I thought concrete was for caveless basement floors. See you on tour!

A CLASSIC VICTORIAN POTPOURRI

- 1/3 cup dried lemon verbena leaves, crushed
- 1 cup dried lavender leaves and blossoms
- 1/3 cup finely crushed dried rose geranium leaves
- 1 tablespoon crushed or ground orris root

Pack the mixture in a closed container to mellow for about six weeks, shaking or stirring with a wooden spoon occasionally. Tuck into small muslin bags and tie with a dusky velvet ribbon or add whole dried blossoms and/or flower petals for color when the scent is established and display in small baskets or bowls.

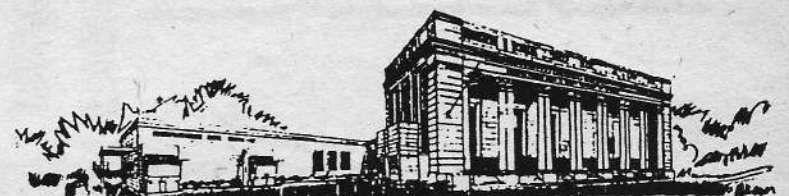


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The Olympic torch passed through Soulard this summer.



SOULARD RUN THROUGH HISTORY

Date: Sunday, Sept. 16, 1984

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Race starts and finishes in the park adjacent to Soulard Market (Lafayette and Broadway)

Course: Route follows course of 1984 House Tour. The slightly hilly course will take you past 19th century homes being restored for 20th century use. (4 miles)

Entry Fee: \$6.00 from Sept. 8 through 15 at 3 p.m.

Race Packets: Race materials may be picked up Sept. 15th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Soulard Restoration Housing Office at 1216 Russell Ave. Race packets may also be picked up Sept. 16th from 7:30-8:30 a.m. immediately before the race in the park adjacent to the Soulard Market.

Make checks payable and mail to: Soulard Restoration Group
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This Form may be duplicated. Only one entry on each form. NO RACE DAY ENTRIES AND NO REFUNDS.

Release: In consideration of the acceptance of my entry, I for myself, my executors, administrators, and assignees do hereby release and discharge Gateway Athletics, Soulard Restoration Group, Road Runners Club of America, St. Louis City, and other sponsors from all claims or damages, actions whatsoever in any manner or growing out of my participating in said athletic event. I attest and verify that, I have full knowledge of the risks involved in this event and I am physically fit and sufficiently trained to participate in this event.

Signature _____ Date _____
(Parent's signature if under 18 years of age)

Soulard Swim Club Organizes

by John Jennings

South-side residents may face their last red-hot summer in 1984, according to organizers of the Soulard Bath & Tennis Club. If current plans materialize on schedule, a new king-sized swimming pool will open in the Soulard Historic District in early Spring, 1985.

The new club is being organized by a committee of neighborhood residents who believe the area is ready for first-class recreational facilities. According to chairperson Debbie Hanson, "It's time the area of Soulard had a chance to enjoy some of the same amenities as the county. After all, living in the city shouldn't mean not getting in a little swimming in the summer."

Plans for the swim club call for construction of a 30 by 60 foot rectangular pool surrounded by decking as well as a 10 by 20 foot wading pool. The complex is also proposed to include an on-premise bathhouse and storage building — along with appropriate fencing and landscaping. "The recreational center can easily accommodate the number of planned memberships," says Hanson.

Final plans for the pool are subject to approval by the city's Heritage and Urban Design Commission since the new complex will be constructed in the Soulard Historic District.

Organizers point to many advantages for residents who become charter members. First, is the opportunity to obtain membership at a reduced rate.

The first 100 memberships, for example, are being offered at the bargain rate of only \$200 per person. After the initial 100, rates graduate up in price to a maximum of \$300 per person. "The idea," explains Hanson, "is to provide an incentive for those who get on the bandwagon early."

Very attractive rates are also offered for family memberships that include swimming privileges for families with children, as well.

Organizers have already sold about 10% of the memberships on a word-of-mouth basis. The club has been incorporated with the State of Missouri as a not-for-profit corporation.

The Club is limited to 400 memberships and is fully transferable. That's an advantage to residents who may leave the southside area or who may want to sell their share in the club at a later date. In fact, says Hanson, it may make a resident's property easier to sell if they can include a swim club membership in the price of their home. Although it's not assured, of course, the club membership could increase in value over time, especially if one joins during the introductory period.

The club will be professionally managed with club members only care being deciding what day of the week to swim. Best of all, the club is located in the neighborhood, members will receive maximum enjoyment because the pool will be so accessible. A yearly maintenance fee will be charged to members to keep the pool in tip-top shape, too.

Guest privileges will be included so that members can bring their friends or relatives at reasonable times as well.

"Lots of people have said this kind of thing can't happen in Soulard. But those are the people that said house tours won't be successful, either," counters Hanson. "We're out to prove them wrong — even if we get the last laugh on a beach towel by the Pool!"

The club's organizers know, however, that the real key to success is rounding up members. But it's not limiting itself just to the bounds of the Soulard district. Anyone, from any nearby neighborhood can be a member. The group expects employees from the surrounding businesses in the area to be interested, too. A cool swim is great exercise after work.

Beyond the pool itself, the group plans a second expansion phase. After a successful pool club is created, organizers want to add a tennis court, and perhaps construct a cover for the swimming pool to permit its year 'round use.

Now's the time to join, says Hanson. "We're only asking that prospective members sign a pledge card, and put as little as \$25 in cash down upon signing up. Only as construction begins is the remainder of the pledge due. The remaining pledge can even be financed on VISA or MasterCard."

To get more information, or to join simply call one of the individuals below:

Rob McDonald 664-7774

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J.R. Key 773-3811

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NAME(S) _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: ☐ Individual (\$15) ☐ Family (\$25) Two voting members
☐ Senior Citizen (\$1) Name of sponsoring SRG member: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP CODE _____

Cut along dotted line and mail with your check to:

Soulard Restoration Group
PO Box 13312
Soulard Station
St. Louis, MO 63157

Make checks payable to The Soulard Restoration Group. Remember, your dues are tax deductible.

Journal of a Restorationist

by Pam Mundy

Summer is the time for sun, fun and weeds. I can handle the sun and fun with pleasure, but weeds . . . forget it!

I have spent many hours removing bark chips in my front garden (because I found them unattractive) only to find out that they create a barrier for weeds looking to establish residence. If the sun can't get through to the soil the weeds are smothered and I give a big cheer. Besides the weed problem, now that my garden is growing, it seems to need watering every day. Upon browsing through my gardening library, I found that I had done a double whammie when I removed that bark. That bark was mulch. Mulch serves as a solar blanket for the soil. It will absorb the heat of the sun, allowing the soil to stay cool. Mulch also reduces the rate of evaporation, which means you don't have to water as often. I have better things to do than stand with a hose in my hand looking at all those weeds I have to pull out. Another benefit I found through my research was that mulch acts as an insulator during the winter. Perhaps I wouldn't spend so much money on replacing bedding plants.

As I said before, I removed the bark

because to me it was just plain ugly. Well, I have found that those bark chips aren't the only kind of mulch to be found. Almost anything can be used as mulch as long as it does these two things: (1) retains moisture in the soil and (2) smothers weeds. I add a third rule to these tried edicts — it must be attractive. A few kinds of mulches I have discovered are old newspapers (preferably not the *Restorationist*), grass clippings, plastic sheets, roofing paper, manure, straw and those awful bark chips. Now all of these meet the requirements of the first two rules but they don't meet my rule. I am searching for the perfect mulch. And, until I find it, I will just have to spend hours removing weeds and watering my flowers and weeds. Hopefully, my quest will end before summer is over and I can get back to sun and fun and the dandelions in the backyard.

P.S. While still on the subject of watering: please don't forget to water the street trees. They really do need the nourishment. Also, if you have a bird bath, don't forget the birds.

Pam Mundy

Register to Vote!

at

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Jefferson & Lafayette

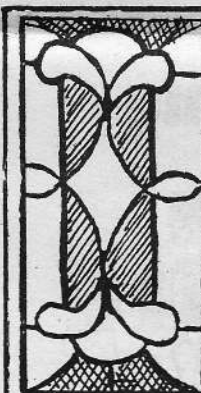
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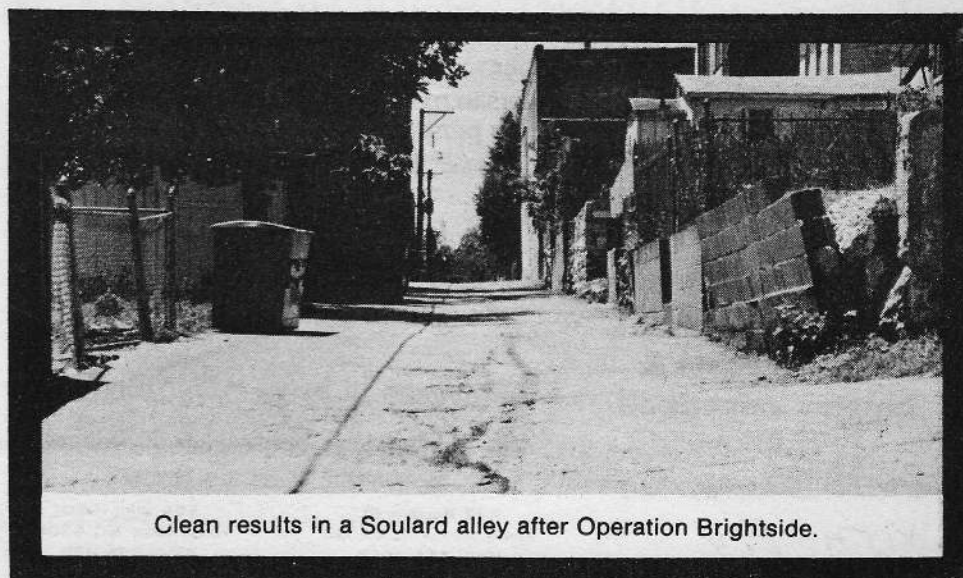


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Where is it? Send your guess to the Restorationist. If your guess is correct, your name will appear in the next issue.



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Masses;
Saturdays: 4:30 p.m. Mass

Trinity Lutheran Church
8th and Soulard
Sundays: 10:15 a.m.;
Saturdays: 5 p.m.

St. Peter & Paul Catholic
Church
8th and Allen
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Mass;
Saturdays: 7:30 p.m. Mass

St. Joseph Croation Church
12th and Russell
Sundays: 7:30 a.m.; 9:30 a.m.
(Croation language); 11 a.m.
Masses; Saturdays 4:30 p.m.

Jesus Church
United Church of Christ
12th and Victor
Sundays: 10:15 a.m.

Tabernacle Baptist Church
12 and Barton
Sundays: 11 a.m., 7 p.m.
Wednesdays 7 p.m. evening
prayer meeting

St. John Nepomuk
12th and Lafayette
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