



The Soulard Restorationist

Volume X Issue IV

Aug. 1, 1985

Magical History Tour is coming!

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall and all the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty together again. Therefore, the king turned his attention to the land of Soulard. There he saw, much to his delight, that all the king's men and women had put the brick and mortar together again. "It's like magic!", exclaimed the king. "Let's have a tour so all can see." Thus was born the Magical History Tour.

The Soulard Restoration Group will have its Eleventh Annual Fall House Tour on September 28 and 29th. Along this year's tour route you will see a dozen houses and gardens which are so unique in design, decor, and history that you'll kick your heels in excitement and wonder never wishing to return home.

With one fell swoop of the magical wand, the people of the land of Soulard will gather together over 200 quilts of all designs, colors, sizes and shapes and place before your eyes one of the largest quilt exhibits featuring artistic talent and historic significance. This quilt exhibit will be at Jesus Church at no additional cost to tour goers. In charge of this quilt exhibit are Nellie Keitel, Roy Hayes, and Delores Phelps.

If you're looking for the rainbow or the yellow brick road, come to the Magical History Tour on Saturday and Sunday, September 28 and 29th between noon and 6 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$4.00 or on the days of the tour for \$5.00. For advance tickets, call 771-5563 or see the coupon on the back page of this issue.

Therefore, if the inhabitants of the land of Soulard pleased the king, don't miss your chance to be charmed and enchanted.

Watch for Merlin the Magician in the big September issue of *Soulard Restorationist* for details of the houses, tour route, and activities of the Magical History Tour.

Richard Eaton



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

Address Correction Requested

NOTES FROM THE BRICK HOUSE

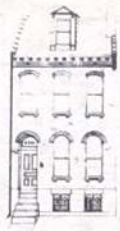
The Summer of '85 was ushered in with a well attended, food laden annual membership picnic and a stunning, come-from-behind win in the annual July 4th softball game against Lafayette Square!! These two social events allowed us to strengthen the comradery and pride that has always made our neighborhood special.

The Summer of '85 was also ushered in by events and issues of a more serious nature, but ones that prove that Soulard is a neighborhood worth working for; to make it an even better place to live.

Soulard now has a much improved neighborhood park; Pontiac Park is not perfect, but with our persistent efforts, we see a cleaner park, repaired playground equipment and posted curfew laws. Through the efforts of Operation Brightside, the future will hopefully bring operating drinking fountains, more park benches and a sprinkler for children to play in.

There are some very positive statistics about our crime situation; for the first 6 months of this year compared with last year, we have double diget *decreases* in burglaries and larceny. Our crime levels are not at zero level, but through continued working with Operation Safestreet, Neighborhood Watch, the police and judicial system, the future will show continued improvement.

by Nancy Farber,
President SRG



Soulard has a very serious situation once again threatening its southern boundary. I want to assure you that we are not overlooking recent history and how we have arrived at the current problem. It doesn't serve us to dwell on the negatives of the past, however, but to give it the respect and deference it deserves and apply what it teaches us to future policy.

It is crucial at this time that we respond quickly and affirmatively, with a fresh and creative approach to these long-standing problems.

I am asking you all to accentuate the positive: we are welcoming more children into our membership; we have more trees and greener, grass covered lots. Just remember: SOULARD IS THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO LIVE!!



Calendar of Events

Aug. 7 SRG General Membership Meeting
Trinity Lutheran 7:30 p.m.
Aug. 19 SRG Board Meeting
Sept. 4 SRG General Membership Meeting
Trinity Lutheran 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 15 Next edition of Restorationist
Sept. 16 SRG Board Meeting

Restorationist Staff

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About The Soulard Restorationist

The Soulard Restorationist, circulation 5,000, is published every two months by the Soulard Restoration Group. It is mailed to SRG members, advertisers and subscribers and is distributed in Soulard and St. Louis area businesses. Call 771-7766 to place ads and subscriptions. Membership information is available from SRG Housing Office (771)5563. Letters to the Editors and articles are appreciated.

...it's coming
to take
you away...

B. Pear Goes To Nursery School

Hello, everyone, I am one of your new residents in Souland. I came with my family (32 of us in all) on April 20, 1985. In the short time we have been here we have met many nice people. Some of those nice people have signed us up for nursery school. Our teacher's name is Keith Thompson and he lives in "Claytown." He is a horticulturist. I don't know what that means and, since I am just starting nursery school, I cannot read yet. So, I cannot look it up in Mr. Webster. Wait, my neighbor, Big B. Pear, says it is a person who grows and cares for plants. Since we are all too young to drive, Mr. Thompson comes down to our homes.

When he came to my house, he got the nice lady who lives in the brick house behind me, and they came with cups in hand. I heard the nice lady ask Mr. Thompson if he wanted more "coffee." He said yes and to get B. Pear a drink, also. Well, since I am only 5½ years old, I did not know what coffee was; but, I do remember that big barrel thing with the hose attached to it that made the big people laugh and smile. I was afraid that coffee was the stuff in the barrel. When the nice lady came out she had the garden hose in one hand and this small pot with black stuff in it. I got the garden hose!

As we all stood there having our drinks, Mr. Thompson was telling the nice lady how to take care of me. I thought she had done a good job; but,

Mr. Thompson said that I needed a hair cut so that my baby roots will grow big and strong and straight. Thanks to the nice lady I made it through my "first hair cut." She held one of my branches so that I would not be afraid as Mr. Thompson carefully trimmed some of my little branches and shaped my bigger ones.

When he got done, he was telling the nice lady that I needed a big drink of water with the garden hose once a week for 6-8 hours, and that all trees at my age want the water when the sun has gone to sleep for the night. She asked if the light from the moon would be a problem? He said No, that it was Mr. Sun that can sometime harm our leaves if we get our drink at lunch time. He was telling her that Mr. Sun helps us grow big and strong, but sometimes in August and September he is so hot that he can burn our new leaves. Mr. Thompson said to watch me very closely. He said if my leaves started to turn brown and wrinkly, (that sounded like old age to me), she should water me two times a week instead of just once.

They talked a little longer and the nice lady told Mr. Thompson that the rest of our family — 30 of them — would be coming from the old country in October to join us in our new established neighborhood. I have not seen cousin R. Birch, Uncle Shademaster, and Aunt Elm since I left in April. That makes me very happy!

B. Pear

NO STANDING ROOM ONLY

Robert Printz and Linda Hoffman, as the Operation Brightside Area Commanders, accepted a plaque and the \$100 prize money on behalf of neighborhood volunteers who transformed a one block long herringbone sidewalk at 13th and Russell to its former turn-of-the century splendor.

The Souland Restoration Group, in turn, matched these funds plus \$40.00 to buy four badly needed park benches for Pontiac Park.

It's wonderful to see the neighborhood reap not one, but two benefits from neighborhood involvement. All who were involved deserve a hearty congratulatory pat on the back!

Bob Printz and Linda Hoffman





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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

by Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl, Jr.

Over the years, the provision of quality hospital care has been a chronic problem for the City of St. Louis and a severe drain on its Treasury. Last year the City spent \$43.3 million for hospital and clinic services, a full 1/6th of the City's general revenue budget. Of that amount, only \$21.3 million was reimbursed.

Due primarily to increased competition from private hospitals seeking Medicare and Medicaid patients, the average number of patients at City Hospital had declined from almost 300 in 1980 to about 160 over the last few months.

Lower utilization and rising costs at an inadequate, out-dated facility necessitated finding an alternative to City Hospital. St. Louis County was experiencing similar problems. Last year the City and County began discussions about combining our public hospital operations.

The end result is that the City of St. Louis has entered into an agreement with a newly formed not-for-profit group to provide hospital services to City residents at the former St. Luke's Hospital on Delmar. St. Louis County is considering a similar arrangement. The hospital has been renamed the St. Louis Regional Medical Center. On June 24th, the City of St. Louis began admitting patients at the new hospital.

The move has been well-received by the hospital patients. Whereas City Hospital consisted mostly of dreary wards which were not air-conditioned, the newer St. Louis Regional Medical Center is comprised of air-conditioned semi-private and private rooms. For the first time, City patients will have phones and televisions in their rooms. They will be able to order meals from a menu, rather than all patients, except those on restricted diets, receiving the same meals. Fixtures and equipment are up to date. The focus has shifted from providing basic care to providing quality care.

Best of all, this better care will actually cost less! The new facility is smaller and more energy-efficient than City Hospital. The new arrangement for providing doctors to staff the facility will lower the cost substantially. When St. Louis County becomes part of the St. Louis Regional Medical Center even greater savings will be realized as the purchase cost and overhead expenses will be shared with the County.

In consolidating three hospital operations (City, County and Charter) into one, staff reductions are unnecessary. While this is always an unpleasant task, the City of St. Louis is doing its best to soften the blow. Of the 960 hospital division employees on the city payroll, 600 have received jobs at the new hospital with a salary

at or near their City salary. Wherever possible, job vacancies in other City departments are being filled by laid off hospital division employees. To date, 90 such positions have been filled by former hospital employees. All 278 City employees between ages 62 and 65, including the affected hospital employees, have been offered early retirement with full benefits. This will open up additional jobs within City government for former hospital employees. In addition, the City Personnel Department is working with private businesses to place the rest of the hospital employees.

The St. Louis Regional Medical Center is patterned after the very successful Truman Medical Center in Kansas City. Whereas City Hospital was a decrepit eyesore, the Regional Medical Center will be a pleasant and attractive asset to the community. Our citizens can at last expect — and get — first-rate public hospital service.



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by Monica

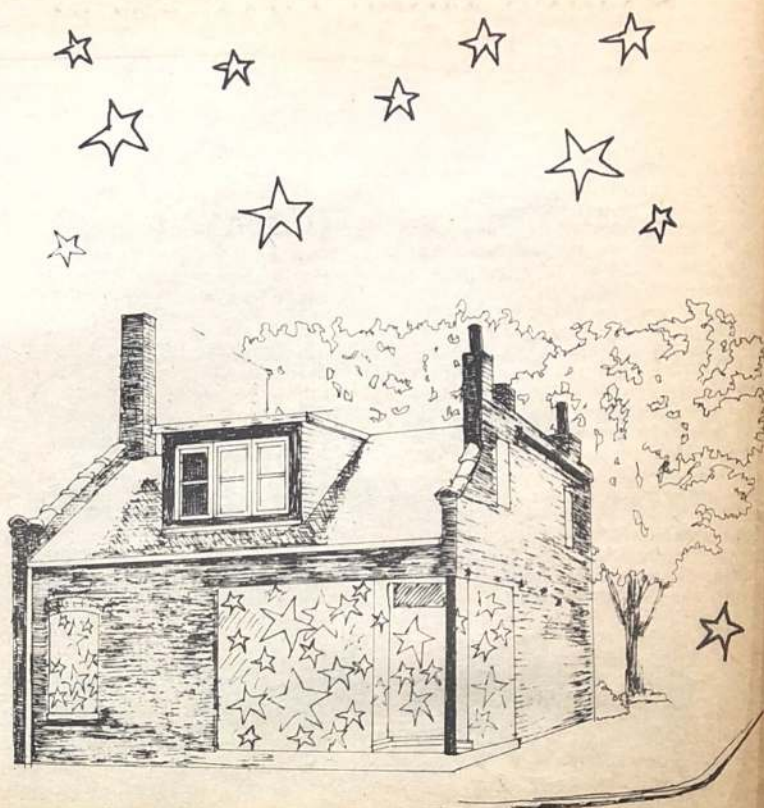
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SAVING MORE THAN FACE: THE HISTORIC KITCHEN

Facing the street most historic homes present a feel for a day long past. It is that feel that brought most of us to the Soulard area we now call home. Maintaining the integrity of the interior is less common and needs to be encouraged. No room is probably used more, enjoyed more and yet less in touch with its past than the kitchen. For reasons that are most likely personal and many, few of these rooms really seem to belong with the rest of the house. Little advice is available for the would-be restorer on the local level for planning a kitchen with an historic feel. Perhaps peer pressure exerts us with a never ending desire to be a little more advanced than the Jones'. Last year's looks in design or appliances is always out; and, every one with a home 20 years old dreams of the new modern kitchen. Proof that we really never have the state of the art for long anyway. So why not take a chance and recreate a warm and friendly room in which daily chores are performed, but in which a touch of the past prevails.

By working with the room rather than redoing it in an unrelated way to its past, some concessions are necessary. Most of these turn out to be pluses in the end. Due to the modern obsession with endless counter space many a home has lost the cheery light from ripped out windows. Replacing those rows of cabinets and counters may seem radical; but, alternatives do exist. A well-planned pantry filled with practical shelves to hold those pots, pans and other bulky items frees the wall space and makes organizing easy. Tall elegant glass door cupboards over the sink and work area provide a place to show your finer kitchen wears. Perhaps a colorful shelf line with scalloped trim to set them off. If you are fortunate enough to have a large space, a free standing antique cabinet will fit the scheme perfectly and provide more immediate space. Most old kitchens of our era had wainscoting around the room to protect the walls; behind the sink and work space it was taller. When painted a warm color and blended

with the window openings it creates a colorful wrap around effect and eliminates the need for ceramic or terrazzo wall coverings.

Slate and marble were the norm for sink and work areas and could still be used. However, a number of persons have used oak flooring which makes a serviceable work top and blends nicely with the room. Later kitchens had either curtain or wooded doors beneath. If your room is large, the kitchen table can also play a part in breadmaking or other activities that need extra room. The floor was almost certainly painted but a few were stained in our era. Over the original sink was a small decorative shelf to hold necessary items in days past. It was probably the only wall storage in the olden days. If you can find one or have the original, it still looks right at home over the sink, between the top and the cupboard.

In some restorations the refrigerator is hidden in a large pantry; but, that is fairly unhandy, so a space will need to be provided. When it comes to cooking, a built-in range would work but usually seems out of place in its surroundings. The range of old was always prominent in the room and still can be. It is the center of activity. Some firms are recreating the old wood range with electric burners. And some, like Monarch and Elmira, are making combination electric and wood or gas and wood ranges in both antique and contemporary styles. That gives you an excuse to use the flue which exists in all our homes, not to mention the extra warmth in winter the wood side gives. If you are more conventional, many a fine gas or electric range of high quality is sitting unwanted in many a modernized home. In both function and style of ranges such as these are hard to beat and are nearly free.

Choose a happy wall paper, shutters or curtains and perhaps an historic light fixture and you will be ready to enjoy endless hours of satisfaction, not to mention the compliments from your friends who will flock to your homey atmosphere.

by Larry Hollenberg

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*S.B. is Samuel Beckett

John A. Griffin, a native of Tipperary, Ireland, is an undergraduate student at St. Louis University where he is studying English and Philosophy. John lives in St. Louis and works in Soulard.

ABSENCES

In my own small world of painting I have learned that emergence and immersion are simultaneous; that one implies the other and that the state or matrix within which they occur apparently dissolves the sense of time, producing a characteristic ambiguous stillness...

Louis Le Brocquy.

Decorator of absences, painter of presences.
Where ghosts emerge, not knowing
where to stop or where to begin.
The canvas is the day; the only space

Between thin dream and the next.
And where a presence is, a void
Is also screaming, where a face laughs
Or frowns, the face is blank.

Here is a silence with nothing
Before or after: a return
of subtle intent, a mirage
like a biography of innuendo.

And that amorphous face,
like a foot, quivers into shape
Quivers, until it gluts
the blue expanse between nothing.

And then are we left with the stare,
not knowing the half reality
between the void and the head.
Only the faint slip between - separator

John A. Griffin.



BUSINESS REVIEWS

SOULARD SCOOP

If you didn't take advantage of National Ice Cream Month last month and gorge yourself on this all American favorite, don't despair. It looks like this is going to be a hot summer. And, if you don't already know, I have a hot tip for you. Soulard now has its own Ice Cream Parlour located across from Historic Soulard Market.

Bill King, the manager, would be more than happy to serve you sundaes, malts, floats, ice cream sodas made with the ice cream (all French, no Brand X here) of your choice. Along with these delectable combinations, the traditional cone and soft drink are available. Bill features a special flavor of the month to add spice to your day, in addition to the 17 flavors routinely features. August's featured ice cream is "Cookies and

Cream." This is a combination of French vanilla ice cream and Oreo cookies — a Cookie Monster's dream. Be sure to take your Cookie Monster in for a dip.

The location is 718 Lafayette. The east wall features the mural "Old and New" dedicated in 1979. Soulard Scoop is open seven days a week from 11:00 to 10:00 p.m. Visit them and let your imagination run wild. How does a sundae made with peanut butter fudge, Spumoni, Heavenly Hash and Praline and Creme chased with a cherry coke sound to you? And, since it's in your own neighborhood, you can walk — if you still can after that combination. For the faint of heart, you'll be glad to know they do serve vanilla.

Mary Jo Warren

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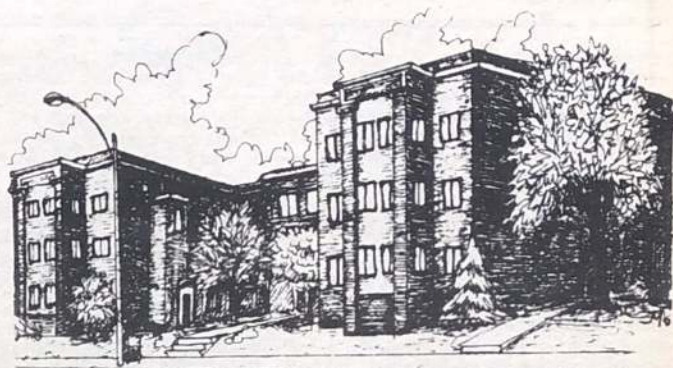
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ANTIQUES FOR EVERYONE

About two months ago *Antiques For Everyone* quietly opened in a renovated Series storefront at Soulard and Ninth Streets. Owners Charles Horton and Don Cuvo migrated here from the Central West End to open their store near Soulard Market. White walls, large windows, track lighting above and black tile below provide an understated backdrop for their merchandise, which consists of unusual yet usable antique and collectable furniture and accessories. Dominant are the Empire, Art Nouveau, and Art Deco styles, found in the forms of drop-leaf tables, buffets, chests, vanities, table and chair sets, and in bronze and art glass accessories. Also for sale are original prints by Currier and Ives and reproductions of Erte and Louis Icart prints. The binding theme of this wide assortment is the idea of usable things that double as great investments. The store has complete bedroom and dining room suites, and owners Charles and Don hope that shoppers contemplating the purchase of new furnishing explore the possibility of

these utilitarian antiques instead. The prices range from \$10 to \$1000, something for every budget to love. But at *Antiques For Everyone* they do more than sell: Charles and Don have an appraisal service, a finder service, a consignment service, and a gift service coming soon.

In addition, the owners are planning educational seminars on various antique topics. For information about any of these services call 241-6760. Store hours are generally evenings on weekdays and days Saturday and Sunday. Call the above number for an appointment if regular hours don't meet your needs. *Antiques For Everyone* at 1800 South Ninth definitely lives up to its slogan "Classic Furniture For Modern Living" and is a welcome addition to the ongoing refurbishment of the shopping area around Soulard Market. Never high-brow or condescending, always friendly and informative, the store Charles and Don have created is well under way and deserves your attention. See you at the yellow and black sign!

by Jay Gibbs

Remember When

JAN. 1, 1961

by John Soderberg

During its long history, Souard has experienced good times and bad; moments of success and of failure; periods of health and vitality and then times of decay and deterioration. Its darkest period was that time following World War II and Korea when the working and middle class home owners headed for the suburbs; leaving behind decaying buildings, declining city services and increasing crime rates. Many of the remaining families had to struggle as best they could in this otherwise hostile environment.

On January 1, 1961, tragedy struck one such family, when 13-year-old Barbara Jean Black of Allen Street was murdered, one block from her home. The *St. Louis Post Dispatch* of January 3, 1961 gave this account:

"Detectives were conducting an exhaustive search today for the killer of 13-year-old Barbara Jean Black, whose strangled and beaten body was found yesterday in a truck parking lot ... on Russell Blvd."

"The girl ... was last seen alive late Sunday afternoon at the Apache Theater on So. Broadway, which she had attended with two other 13-year-old girls. The others left after the double feature, but Barbara Jean said she wanted to 'see a little bit more' of the show — Mrs. Black ... joined with relatives and neighbors in a search when Barbara Jean had failed to return home by dark. The mother reported her missing to police about 10:30 p.m. Sunday ... Her body was

found about 8:30 a.m. yesterday ... She was lying on her back underneath the van of a large tractor-trailer on the lot about a block from her home ... Dr. Martin Glaser, Coroner's physician said she had been dead 12 to 15 hours when found. There was no evidence of rape ... Barbara Jean was an eighth grade pupil at Trinity Lutheran School ... Funeral services for Barbara Jean will be Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church with burial in New St. Marcus Cemetery."

Although the crime remains unsolved to this day, the public outcry and indignation over this terrible murder was such that the deplorable situation in the neighborhood could no longer be ignored.

The subsequent rescue and revitalization of Souard was accomplished by courageous individuals, dedicated groups, economic and social circumstances and by progressive government policies and programs. But perhaps more importantly it was accomplished by the little people. People like Barbara Jean, whose tragic death may have been the catalyst that finally moved people to action.

If she were alive today, she would quite possibly have a daughter of her own who would now be about the same age as Barbara Jean was when she died. But think of the difference these 24 years have made for a young girl growing up in Souard — the difference between growing up with

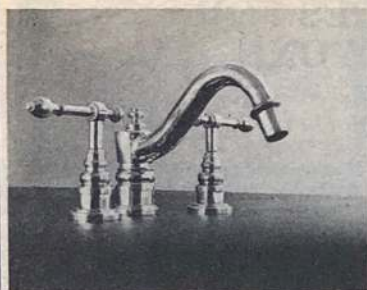
fear, crime and substandard housing; to today's well maintained parks, safe streets, vastly improved housing and a Girls Club.

Souard, throughout its long colorful history has had its share of successes and failures. It has had prominent civic leaders and military heroes, as well as its everyday people; all contributing to make Souard the fine place it is today. Nobody's contribu-

tion or sacrifice was greater than Barbara Jean's. Out of the tragedy of her death has come the exciting new neighborhood we now enjoy. We owe it to her to see that our neighborhood continues to be a place where youngsters can play, grow up safely, and dream the dreams of youth. Souard's vibrant spirit is indeed a tribute and living monument to Barbara Jean Black.



Barbara Jean Black



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On Friday, July 12, five girls from the Girls Club of Souland went to Forest Park to get our pictures taken and to meet a famous football player, O.J. Anderson. There were a lot of people there, and we played football. There were movie cameras taking our picture. Then we ate lunch at Forest Park Community College. We got our pictures taken with O.J. Anderson. We had a lot of fun.

The filming session was sponsored by the United Way, and the promotional film clips will be shown during televised Cardinal Football games this season.

by April & Ginny
Girls Club Reporters

The Girls Club of Souland has received a gift of \$5,000 from the Cabot Corporation for the purchase of a copying machine.

The Girls Club, located at 900 Shenandoah Avenue, offers daily programs and activities for girls ages 6-18. The copying machine will be used extensively in the Club's many programs and will enable the agency to produce quarterly newsletters.

All girls are eligible to join the Girls Club which is a United Way member agency. Member dues are \$3.00 per year and allow girls to participate in the Club's Summer Program. The Club is currently open Monday through Friday, 9:00-5:00.

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Neighborhood Fabric

The function of this column is to highlight buildings that would have fallen prey to the bulldozer if it were not for the intervention of either individuals or developers. This

philosophy of preserving the quality, history and craftsmanship of the past is shared by all parties that have joined in the battle to save Soulard.

Re: Julia's Missing Children April, 1985

"Buried in their own basement."

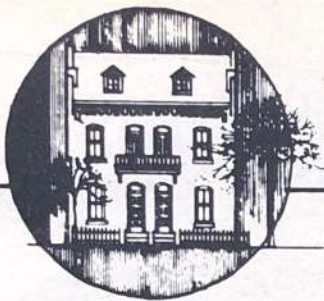


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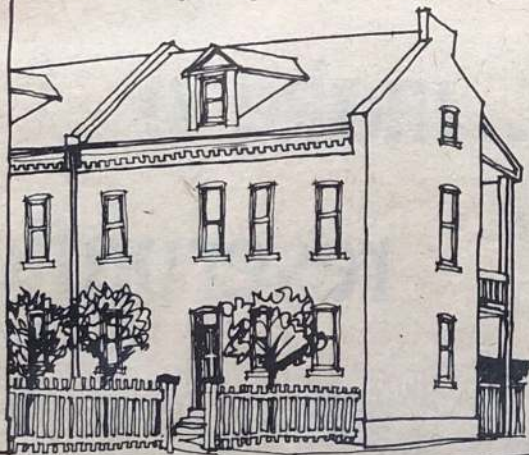
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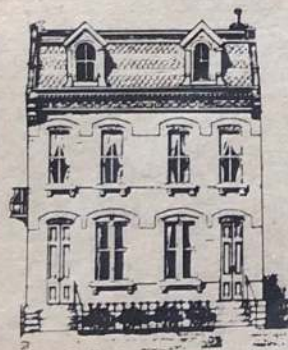
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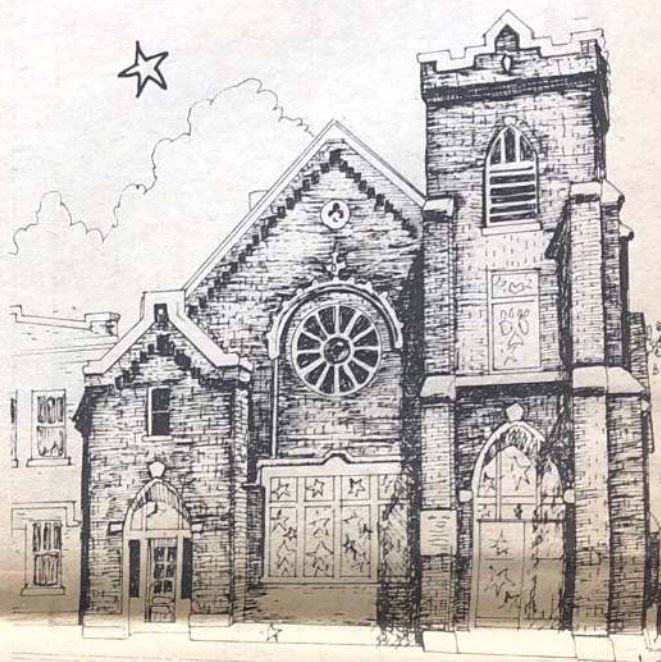
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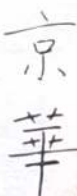
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Lafayette Park Preschool has announced several openings in its 2-3 and 3-5 year old classes for the fall. The preschool operates in the Lafayette Park United Methodist Church at 2300 Lafayette Avenue in the Lafayette Square Historic District.

The Lafayette Park Preschool is a neighborhood cooperative preschool in which parents assist a certified teacher.

Instructional emphasis for the younger class (ages 2-3) is on cooperative play, social skills and educational games and activities. Older students (3 1/2 to prekindergarten) combine basic reading and math skills with regularly scheduled trips to the Barr Branch Library as well as other field trips. Facilities include a fully carpeted play area, a wide variety of educational materials and toys and a gym.

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Drop-In Bridge

A new series of bridge lessons will begin the second week in September at Gardenville Community Center, 6651 Gravois. "Bridge III" which concentrates on the play of the cards, will begin Tuesday, September 10 at 7 p.m. "Bridge I" for beginners and those who want to review the basics, will be a noontime class on Thursdays, starting September 12. Both classes meet for six consecutive weeks, and cost only \$15. Come alone or bring a partner, and join the fun! Free parking is available adjacent to the building at Gravois and Kingshighway. For additional information call Gardenville Community Center at 352-1350.

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A Closer Look at History

Russell Farber

At street level, there's nothing exceptional about the old brick building. Its green-painted iron storefront houses a neighborhood tavern indistinguishable from hundreds of others in the city. A large sign above the entrance, and smaller neon ones peering through the wire mesh protecting the front windows, give assurance that, although Anheuser-Busch's corporate headquarters have advanced to but two blocks away, Pabst Blue Ribbon remains the specialty of the house. Nowadays it's known as the Cat's Meow, but in an earlier time it was Nick's Bar and before that, Vince's Bar.

If one should step back, however, and grant the attention that should be to a building entering its second century, the craftsmanship and creativity that went into this one, standing at the southeast corner of the intersection of Eleventh and Sidney Streets, becomes apparent, and the distinctiveness of its construction undeniable.

Perhaps an observer will notice beneath the second story windows on the Eleventh Street facade, and the first story windows on the adjoining townhouse, intricately carved panels unusual in Soudard architecture. Perhaps her eyes will note the similar floral band which, like a huge souvenir bracelet, links the arched tops of the window, or the exceptionally elaborate brick cornice. Maybe it will be the colorful tile inlaid on the dormer facades or the peculiar designs on the dormer pediments, featuring a Saturnian banded sphere, which will capture his attention.

Perhaps they will note none of these features yet still turn away positive of the building's nature for their eyes will have fallen on that special detail which has puzzled countless previous observers. Two stories above the Cat's Meow, crowning the red brick cornice like some stone tiara, bright white against the grey slate mansard, is an ornate construction, roughly triangular in shape, bordered with raised scrollwork. Topped by a winged finial, the building's inaugural date, 1885, reads proudly across the broad base. Its midsection consists of a circle and, incorporated within that circle, one six pointed star inside another: the Star of David, centuries-old emblem of the Jewish faith.

What was this site used for that it should have inspired such a prominent expression of Jewish presence? Neighborhood rumors have hinted at the obvious: a kosher butcher in the storefront, a synagogue above, or both. These uses, however, imply the existence of a community to be served and this location is far removed from what there was of a southside Jewish neighborhood.

Many Jews were among the thousands of Bohemian immigrants who settled in the La Salle Park and north Soudard Soudard areas, causing it to be known as Bohemian Hill. According to the history of the early

Jewish community written by Isador Bush, the first notable Jewish family in St. Louis was that of Eliezer Block, an immigrant from Bohemia, who practiced law in the 1820s. Bush, who resided at 1311 South 13th, was raised in Prague and was one of the City's leading citizens. Only five years after arriving in the United States he became president of People's Bank in 1853, a position he resigned to join the Union Army. After the War, he held a position with the United States Treasury in Washington, D.C., but returned to St. Louis to become general freight agent for Thomas Allen's Iron Mountain Railroad.

Bush maintained internationally famous vineyards at Bushberg, Missouri, and in 1869, organized the Isador Bush Wine and Liquor Company. A member of the City Council, School Board, Vice President and life member of the Missouri Historical Society, Bush was a nationally known philanthropist who sat on the boards of the major charitable organizations of the day.

The principle southside synagogue was B'nai El which, having been founded in 1852 at Ninth and Lafayette, returned from a downtown hiatus in 1875 to settle at Eleventh and Chouteau. In 1906 B'nai El relocated to Spring and Flad, the site of the current Temple Apartments. The center of the southside Jewish neighborhood was, therefore, approximately a dozen blocks north of the Eleventh and Sidney location, a significant distance in those days.

The primary Jewish neighborhood and its many synagogues had always been on the near northside, particularly around Franklin and Easton Avenues. By the late nineteenth century, as the City grew more populous, the concentration towards this neighborhood became increasingly apparent. From this area the main community has moved steadily westward during the twentieth century, along a line described by Delmar Boulevard.

The early history of the 2600-02 South Eleventh Street doesn't reveal any religious use. In the early 1870s the land on which it stands belonged to John D. Daggett, one of several large property owners in the area. When Daggett died in May 1873, his estate was declared bankrupt and the property sold to satisfy creditors. It changed hands several times in the next 10 years before it was purchased by a young German-born teacher, Frederick Mackensen. He, in turn, sold it ten days later to a man with whom he shared a crowded apartment building at 2844 Columbus (Second) Street, a 59-year-old bricklayer from Hesse-Darmstadt, Henry Debus.

Debus and his son Frederick, also a bricklayer, are certainly responsible for the building's construction. The construction date of 1885 can be documented by other sources. The building does not appear in Hopkin's 1883 *Atlas of the City of St. Louis*, but

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by 1886 tenants can be identified in the City Directory. Furthermore, the intricate masonry work featured on the building's facade strongly suggests that a brickmason was responsible for its design and construction.

The first tenants included the grocery of John Schatz and the residence of Gottlieb W. Kluegel and his new wife, Margaret, Henry Debus' eldest daughter. Kluegel, Missouri-born in 1846 to German immigrants, was president of the Kluegel and Poppitz furniture firm located at 2501 and 2658 South Broadway.

If the Star of David is original to the building, and it would appear to be so, one of these men, Debus, Schatz or Kluegel would have been responsible. None of these names are distinctively Jewish and none appear in the records of the early Jewish community. It is necessary, therefore, to engage in a bit of harmless speculation.

John Schatz would appear to be the least relevant party. He was a tenant and, unlike Kluegel, one with no obvious family connection to Henry Debus, the property owner. Such a costly and one might expect, controversial, decoration as this would not have been placed for the requirements of a tenant.

Schatz apparently made little commitment to the site. His grocery remained only two years before moving, to be replaced by a succession of others: Emil Zeller (1888-89), Bernard Hemmen (1890-94), Caroline Schmidt (1895-99), Frederick Brinker (1900-08), Thomas McMahon (1909-12), Frederick and Catherine



Willen (1913-22), Charles Gleb, Jr. (1923-25), and Stanley and Stephanie Bytnar (1926-59). After vacating the 2600 South Eleventh store, Schatz and nearly all of his early followers, moved to sites further south in St. Louis, the opposite path that a Jewish merchant might be expected to have taken.

Gottlieb Kluegel, on the other hand, may hold the key to the mystery. Although he didn't come to own the property until 1913, long after he have moved from there, it could be surmised that part of Henry Debus' motivation for constructing the building was to offer it to Gottlieb and Margaret as their first home.

A CLOSER LOOK AT HISTORY

The name Gottlieb Kluegel has an element of "Jewishness" associated with it, as do those of his business partners, Gotthilf J. Poppitz and Henry F. Kirchoff. Furthermore, the business they engaged in, retail furniture sales, is one with some Jewish identity and their location on South Broadway is known to have been a center for Jewish businesses. Several, in fact, remain to this day.

Mitigating against any conclusion about Kluegel's faith are two points. No advertisements or other mention of his business are found in turn-of-the-century St. Louis Jewish commemorative publications. As these appear quite comprehensive, more members of this relatively small and cohesive community are likely to have contributed. It's hard to imagine anyone responsible for placing such a prominent religious symbol on a building and perhaps for having religious services there, not being an active community member. Neither does Kluegel's firm appear on the list of businesses served by the major Jewish printing firm in the city.

More troubling still is Kluegel's relationship to Henry Debus. In an era before intermarriage was prevalent, one must reason that if Kluegel was Jewish, so was the Debus family and there isn't even generalized evidence to support this.

Neither the Debus name nor occupation hints at a Jewish identity. While no descendants of Henry Debus have been located, those of a George Henry Debus, a contemporary, who lived a few blocks away at Tenth and Lami have been identified. Edward Debus, who grew up in the Souland neighborhood reports that, to his knowledge, his ancestors, who came from the same area of Germany, were Christians. None of the Debus family's given names suggest a Jewish identity either: wife Phillipine or children Margaret, Frederick and Caroline.

Finally, although like more hard-working immigrant groups, Jews took work where they could find it, the Debus family trade, brickmasonry and construction, is one which at the time had few Jewish practitioners.

Although there are numerous addresses for temples and synagogues in the annual City Directories, none were ever listed at 2600 South Eleventh Street. It was common, however, for apartments above

storefronts to be used for these purposes. Isador Bush reported that the first Jewish prayer meeting in the Mississippi Valley, that for Rosh Hashanah 1836, was held in a rented room above Max's Grocery and Restaurant at Second and Spruce Streets.

Confirmation that religious services were held at 2600 South Eleventh has come from Herman E. Weiss of Sun City, Arizona. Now in his 80s, Mr. Weiss was for many years with the Weiss Manufacturing Co., a footwear producer, on Washington Avenue. He has written that in the 1920s he was associated with South Broadway merchants who used the rooms above the storefront for services. Among the members was Mr. Rosenthal of Rosenthal Shoes.

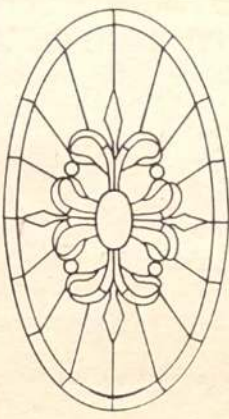
This, therefore, was the purpose behind a synagogue in the area. While there were certainly too few Jewish residents to sustain one, there were a large number of businessmen requiring a convenient location for prayer meetings. Quite possibly they belonged to B'nai El, as well, for Sabbath and family services.

The 1920s time period referred to by Mr. Weiss would probably have been the last years of use for this site. In 1922 an orthodox congregation, B'nai Zion, began to meet at 301 Souland Street. This synagogue, which remained in operation until 1960, would certainly have had the same membership profile as the Eleventh and Sidney one. Of further significance is that Gottlieb Kluegel finally sold 2600-02 South Eleventh in early 1924.

It is plausible that these two events were related and that Eleventh Street was the original meeting place for B'nai Zion Congregation. Perhaps when the elderly Kluegel, 76 at the time of sale, announced his intention to relinquish the building he had inhabited or owned for nearly 40 years, the congregation moved to Souland Street.

Since 1924, the apartment above the storefront has generally been the home of whoever operated the grocery or tavern below, and its earlier holy use has been covered over by time. What has been written here is a story based on some fact and a great deal of speculation. Generally, that's what passes for truth.





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Dear Aunt Judy

by Judy Shehan

Dear Aunt Judy,

You've been so helpful to me in restoring my home. Tell me, some of my friends, also, have questions. Would you mind writing to them as well? And, if so, how can they reach you?

Love,
Clay

Dear Clay,

Yes, I would be happy to answer any questions. Please have these questions sent to the *Soulard Restorationist*, Box 13312 Soulard Station, St. Louis, Missouri 63157. Aunt Judy is ready to accept all challenging questions. Also, Clay, remember Aunt Judy loves to answer questions about old staircases.

Last letter I promised to help you find a "real plumber." Actually, the same guidelines apply to finding a real carpenter, electrician, HVAC person, etc. A "real" anything is a skilled professional in each specific trade.

If your problem is anything more than changing a faucet washer, don't hire Uncle Al's second cousin who works on the side after one summer's experience with a plumbing company. He probably doesn't have proper trade specific tools to function efficiently even if he has adequate skill. Secondly, only licensed plumbers can obtain the necessary permits and get the job inspected. Such inspections are designed to protect the individual against shoddy workmanship and hazardous installation.

While plumbing may look harmless and not "negatively reinforce" mistakes as quickly as are errors in the electrical system, an improperly installed system will not function properly and can be a health hazard. Lack of proper valves and/or

venting can result in siphoning waste into the water supply system. Lack of a dialectic union connecting dissimilar metal will cause corrosion reducing the volume of water flow. The advent of P.V.C. and other plastics now allows the installation of a primary system that should remain near maintenance free for a lifetime or so. For this reason, most "real plumbers" prefer to replace entire systems with new material rather than tagging onto older systems. That way, as soon as your new bath is decorated, you don't find that a leak has sprung in the old stack right behind the pretty new tiles.

All "real plumbers" are (1) licensed (2) have proper tools (3) will give references (4) will give written estimates (5) and are willing and able to explain why a given system is recommended. Failing any of the above, you have not found a "real plumber," so keep looking. Also, remember the skilled trades are quite specific — plumbers run pipe, electricians run wire, carpenters build walls and set cabinets; so, don't expect your plumber to run the line for your new vanity light.

Clay, I realize all that must sound boring and rather elementary, however, it is truly amazing how often such simple principles are ignored. Also, Clay, you are going to be on your own for a while as Aunt Judy is taking a vacation.

Your Aunt Judy

Yes! I want to join the Soulard Restoration Group.

Here's the information and my check. Let me hear from you as soon as possible.

NAME(S) _____

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

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

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PO Box 13312
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More Adventures of an Amateur Rehabber

— Jay Gibbs

Well, it's August, and though my half-finished house is supposed to be on the Fall House Tour in September, I have been unable to accomplish much rehabbing recently due to lack of funds. Gather 'round, my friends, and I'll weave a tale of woe that lends new credence to the cliché that truth is stranger than fiction.

My story began last October, when in the midst of the feverish rehab of my house, I spied a "For Sale" sign in front of another, smaller house up the street. Now let me explain that during renovations one's head is not always on straight. I mean, thousands of dollars of work gets done before your eyes, and in a matter of weeks your sagging, pathetic wreck starts to resemble the showplace only you and your architect can envision. All you, the owner, have to do is take little slips of paper called lien waivers to your friendly neighborhood bank loan officer. In that rarified state one's values, common sense, and better judgment become distorted or non-existent, as one believes he can fix anything. Such was my mind-state when I purchased the "baby house" (term courtesy of Dear Aunt Judy) last October. My new investment was, and is, in poor condition and incredibly ugly. In my alter-reality I was going to house some homeless tenants for the winter, and eventually be a hero by rehabbing

this runner-up for the homeliest home award.

The former I did, and found out that I am an even more amateur "slumlord" than rehabber. Eight months, \$500 rent owed, 37 tenant fights, and two fires later the baby house is finally vacant again and, happily, undamaged. Unfortunately, I no longer have the seemingly bottomless money pit necessary to rehab my big house, let alone the still ugly, now boarded up baby house. Folks, what I have here is a classic case of economic over-extension, the cause of my lack of progress on either house. I have my baby house for sale, and am hoping some eager, idealistic potential rehabber (like myself) will see past the ugly present into the pretty future. One catch for said adoptive rehabber — my little house will *not* be rental; my bungling over-extension would become all the more futile if the house returned to active life as anything other than an owner-occupied residence. Enough of this nepotism; see my (paid for) ad elsewhere in this issue. Hopefully, I will have happy news next time around. 'Til then, let me caution anyone with stars in his eyes and some bucks in the bank: BE CAREFUL! Don't bite off more than you can chew, the bellyache isn't worth it. Take care and keep hammering.

Old But Proud

I stood on a hill proud and new, a splendid sight for all to view
My floors were polished, my windows were clean,
And the family that built me made my heart sing.
They furnished each room with loving care,
And made curtains and drapes for my windows to wear.
I've seen birth and death, joy and tears
And now that I'm old seems like nobody cares.
But wait — I hear voices saying where do we start
Why it's an amateur rehabber, bless his heart.
He's fixing my roof, my walls, and my floors
Replacing my rotted-out windows and doors.
There's curtains hanging in my windows again
And my next hundred years I'll gladly begin.
For again, I stand proud for all to see
I love my new family as much as they love me.

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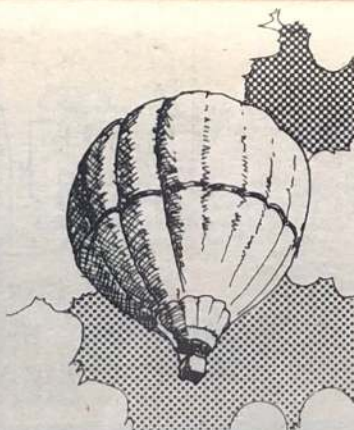
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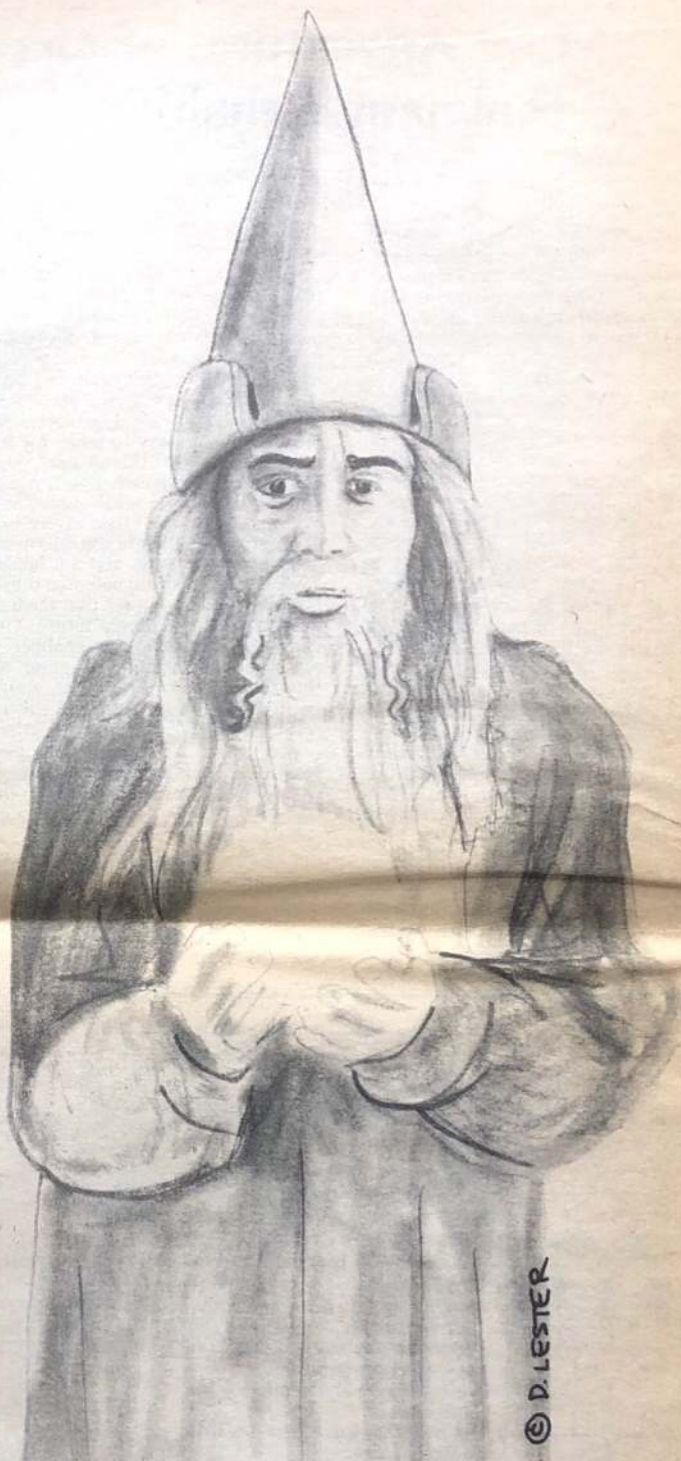


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SOULARD SENIORS

In my experience with the Soulard Senior Center, I met a very charming and caring bunch of people. A lot of work done here is voluntary. Sure they get paid, but to make this place work right for the seniors that use it, they have to put in this extra effort. Right away you can see why they are all so nice, they have to be, or it wouldn't work. One woman who I was around a lot and had the most time to ask questions, was Tammy Eaton. Tammy came to the Soulard community to help people. This center is very much a part of the community. It helps the seniors get food, pay for utility bills, acquire Senior Citizen cards, get to the doctor (they provide transportation), get a hot lunch, weatherize seniors' houses, go shopping, and much more. The staff is very excited about the move they will make to a larger building at the end of the summer. It will add much to their services, because right now they are just plainly too small to add any more services, because right now they are just plainly too small to add any more services. This center is funded by the federal government. The center also holds a few fund raisers and receives private donations.

The staff consists of Barbara Stark (who answered most of my technical questions), Tammy Eaton (mentioned before), Martha Dianopolis, Carol Hatton, Marti Hall, Charles Berkley, Robert Garret and Lyle Parish. Most of the staff live in the Soulard area, which is beneficial because most of the people who need the services and use them are from the Soulard community. The staff work here because they want to help other people. They feel that the Soulard community is like a small town. Everyone seems to know everybody else. This statement is very true. It is obvious when you

help serve their hot lunches. When people come to get their lunches the workers ask them questions, and know if they are on a diet or not and tell them things. It is all a very friendly, warm process.

Much of the Soulard community is being renovated. The buildings' architecture is fantastic, and they look so much nicer after being fixed up. The staff sees this as positive. The negative side, though, is that too many of the large apartments are being bought up and changed into large townhouses. This you might think is good, but when you have a five or six person apartment, and you change it into a two or three person townhouse, you are displacing a lot of seniors. The community is changing but not at any one person's hand. Three or four groups work on fixing up the Soulard community. Youth Education and Health in Soulard (or Y.E.H.S., the service I am doing this story on), Soulard Neighborhood Improvement Assoc. (or S.N.I.A.) and Soulard Restoration Group (or S.R.G.). The people in this community feel very protective about the community. What is felt to be lacking is not being informed of neighborhood possibilities, however they are proud of their seniors center where they can come and communicate. Another important thing for this community is that the people here feel good about what they are doing.

This service is definitely a resource for this closely inter-woven community. Its workers who care for the seniors are very warm towards anyone who needs their help.

It was surely worth my while to work at the center on Thursdays for four hours, and I am glad that I met these people.

by Matthew E. Macias

a 13-year-old
student at Webster College School.

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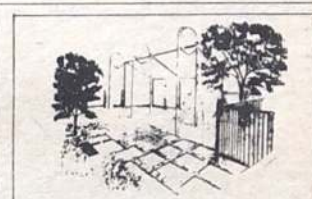
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