



The Soulard Restorationist

Volume X Issue VI

Dec. 1, 1985

SOULARD HOLIDAY PARLOUR TOUR



The Soulard Holiday Parlor Tour will be held on Sunday, December 8th, between 2 and 6 p.m. Tickets for this tour may be purchased at Jesus Church, 12th and Victor for \$5. In addition to continuous music at Jesus Church, a special art display of glass-blown ornaments and stained glass will be featured. Members of the Soulard Restoration Group will serve as tour guides for this walking tour and they will take you along a route through our historic neighborhood, stopping at five houses with beautifully decorated parlors. Soulard's holiday spirit will be heard in the sounds of carolers, sensed in the aroma of roasted chestnuts and tasted in the homemade cookies, breads, and hot apple cider. The famous Anheuser-Busch Stables on Pestalozzi Street, specially decorated for the holiday season, will be the final stop on this year's tour. For that holiday spirit, come to Soulard, where the past meets the future.

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For more information call (314) 771-5563



Sunday,

December 8, 1985

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

Address Correction Requested

NOTES FROM THE BRICK HOUSE

The new Board of Directors just adjourned its first meeting and all of us agreed that 1986 will indeed be a challenging year for the Board and the SRG.

Fred Andres was appointed to fill the Board vacancy left by Alice Jennings resignation. Welcome aboard, Fred! I want to thank Alice for her commitment over the years to the SRG. Does Dallas have any historic districts, Alice?

The Planning and Budget meeting will be held on Monday evening, December 9th. This meeting is critical in establishing the priority issues to be addressed in the upcoming year as well as formulating our 1986 Budget. All Board members will be receiving a proposed planning outline and budget approximately a week before the meeting. We welcome your input! Please call a Board member or myself with your suggestions or thoughts!

Of great concern to all of us restorationists are the budget cuts of CDA Block Grant funds and the drastic effect on the funding of Heritage and Urban Design Commission. HUDC support dollars are cut by roughly 50 percent, resulting in the laying off of the secretary as well as Rob Killen, staff architect. The two current planners will remain on a part-time basis and Mr. Arnold Montgomery will remain as HUDC Commissioner.

We understand that budgets in many areas are being cut. What is devastating to preservationists is the fact that HUDC is a critical service to Historic Districts as well as neighborhoods fighting for preservation and maintenance of irreplaceable architectural elements. The Historic Districts have never received sufficient services, for example, full time inspectors, so why are further cuts being made?

The Board of Directors will be taking immediate action to express our grave concerns over the consequences of this cut. We will be working with Aldermen Young, Clark and Aboussie as well as write letters to the Mayor and other involved officials. We also will be establishing a network through other neighborhood groups to help support this issue.

We urge all of you, as restorationists and members of the SRG, to help us by writing letters and exploring alternatives to this situation.

Remember, the Holiday Parlour Tour is Sunday, December 8th from 2 until 6 p.m. Join in the fun of this annual festive tour!! Call Richard Eaton at 621-4460 for further information!!

Happy Holidays and the brightest of New Years to all of you!!

Nancy Ray Farber
President

Letter from the EDITOR

It's been a great year for the Souldard neighborhood and for me as the editor of *The Souldard Restorationist*. The paper is manned with writers of high quality, the advertising support is excellent and the distribution is stabilized. And, best of all, the staff that puts the paper together has recently grown by leaps and bounds. As someone who cares very deeply about this publication, I feel confident that it holds a bright future.

Barbara MacRobie, a relative newcomer to the St. Louis area, has agreed to be the new editor effective for the February 1 issue. Barbara and her husband moved to Souldard in August from Hartford, Connecticut.

She is an account executive with the St. Louis office of an international p.r. firm.

Barbara brings with her 12 years of experience in the publication field. She has most recently served as the assistant editor of *Better Health*, a bi-monthly regional consumer health magazine with 110,000 copy circulation. In addition to *Better Health*, she published a weekly newsletter as well. I think we should all be thrilled that Barbara has accepted this responsibility. I feel the paper is in excellent hands and I know the Souldard Restoration Group will support her in assuring the transition to be as smooth as possible.

Mary Jo Warren, Editor

Yes! I want to join the Souldard Restoration Group.

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec. 4 SRG General Membership Meeting Trinity Lutheran Church 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 18 SRG Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve
- Jan. 1 New Year's Day
- Jan. 8 SRG General Membership Meeting Trinity Lutheran Church 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 28 SRG Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Welcome

Jim Appelbaum
Jeanette and Bill Apperson
Georgia Buttrick
Harry Felknor, Jr.
Jim Granone
Helen Groetz
Sally Hamlin
Richard Hanson
Gary Hibdon
Bruce Lasurs
Dr. S.D. Parwatikar
Carol and Bill Wakefield
Ruth and Charlie Weaver

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF THE SOULDARD RESTORATION GROUP

President: Nancy Farber
Vice President: Amy Dawson
Treasurer: Mary Sheridan
Board Member: John Soderberg
Board Member: Kirk Williams
Board Member: Phil Willman
Gratitude is expressed to retiring officers, board members and committee chairpersons for a job well done.

SORTINO APPOINTED TO HERITAGE AND URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE

Former Souldard Restoration Group president, Peter Sortino, has been appointed to a four-year term as member of the City's Heritage and Urban Design Commission. The Commission reviews applications for building and demolition permits within historic districts.

The appointment, announced in early October, answers an obvious need for Commission representation from the near South Side Historic Districts.

"It means," says Sortino, "that Souldard now has a direct input into matters related to local buildings." He intends to bring his experience in developing Souldard's historic code enforcement to his new city-wide responsibility.

Sortino is already well acquainted with Commission activities and has been credited by former acting Commissioner, Rob Killen, with helping greatly to bring a better understanding of key issues to the Commissioners.

As co-chair, with Tom Dobbin, of the SRG's code committee, he initiated the practice of using slide presentations at Commission meetings to clarify proper treatment of such critical elements as windows, rooflines and cornices. The two also developed the technique of photographing elevation drawings for buildings with pending permits and contrasting them with photographs of the existing building, or others in the immediate vicinity.

Sortino was previously elected, in June 1985, to the Board of Directors of the Landmarks Association. Formerly a planner with the Urban Programming Corporation, he is now a free-lance consultant and a technical advisor to the Anheuser-Busch Task Force.

Congratulations, Peter, from all of us!!

About The Souldard Restorationist

The *Souldard Restorationist* circulation is 6,000, and is published every two months by the Souldard Restoration Group. It is mailed to SRG members, advertisers and subscribers and is distributed in Souldard and St. Louis area businesses. Call 771-7766 to place ads and subscriptions. Membership information is available from SRG Housing Offices (771-5563). Letters to the Editor and articles are appreciated.

Restorationist Staff

Editor: Mary Jo Warren
Production: Sharon Staffel
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Distribution: House Tour Committee
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Photography: Marcia Wilson, Jay Gibbs
Business Manager: Mary Jo Warren



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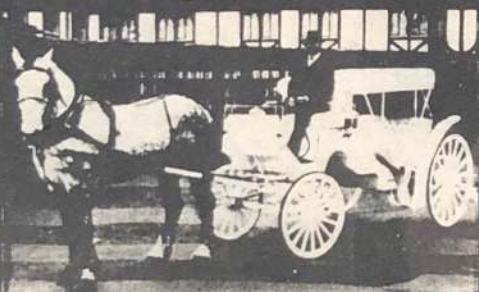
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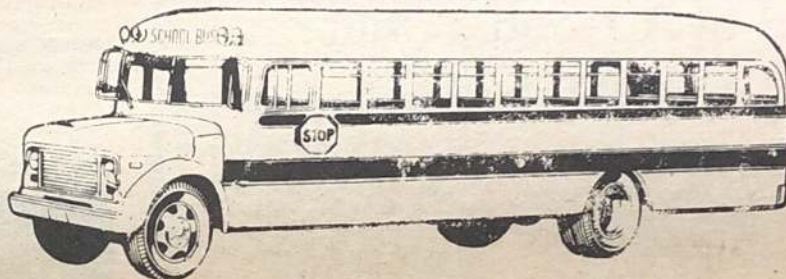
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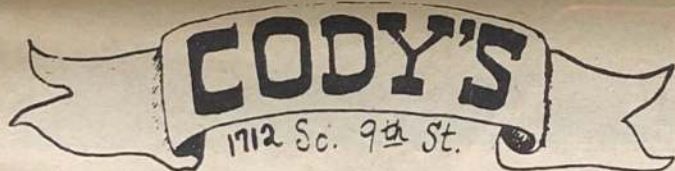
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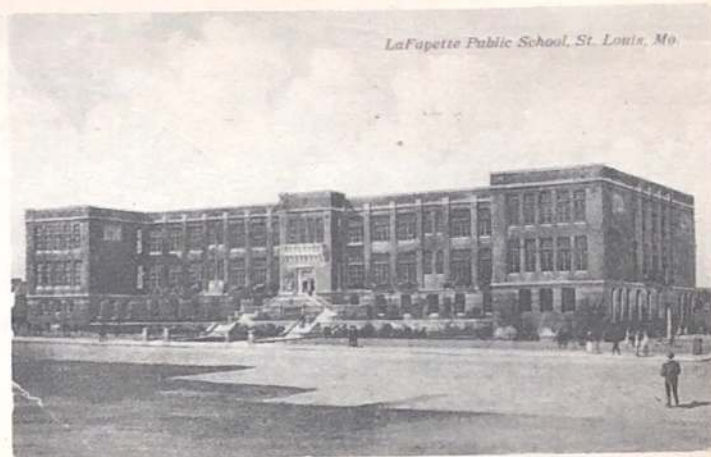
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by Monica

ACROSS FROM SOULARD MARKET



Busch Place, St. Louis c. 1907-1912



Lafayette Public School c. 1910-1912

Having A Good Time, wish you were here.

It is almost expected behavior when one travels to send a post card to the folks back home. More often than not it contains the time tested message of "Having a good time — wish you were here." As with the message, post cards have been around for a long time. In fact, the early years of this century have been termed the "Golden Era of Post Cards" or "The Post Card Era."

The event which stimulated the popularity of the picture post card in the United States was the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. Following this event the craze of sending the picture and collecting swept the country. It reached its peak in the years shortly before World War I. With the coming of the war, the craze died out as many of the finest post cards were manufactured in Germany. Of course, the post card has never completely left the

scene. In fact, the post card business is enjoying a revival today.

In the early years of the picture post card, no proper Victorian home was without them. The picture post card was displayed properly and prominently in the front parlor. Guests were offended when it wasn't available for viewing. Many people joined clubs which were involved in setting up exchanges. Views of the home town were popular especially. Soulard did not escape without many views showing the many wonderful aspects of community life and architecture. The old post cards provide us with a wonderful way to see our neighborhood as those new arrivals from Europe saw it some 80 years ago.

Post cards pictured are from Skip Gatermann's private collection.

by Skip Gatermann



Soulard Market c. 1905-1906

Interior of St. Peter-Paul Church c. 1907-1912



Trinity Lutheran Church and School c. 1907-1912



Proposed New St. Agatha School 1906



More Adventures of an Amateur Rehabber

— Jay Gibbs

The Souldard Fall House Tour again has come and gone, and my house and I survived our second year on tour. Both home and homeowner emerged only slightly frazzled after 5000 visitors walked, tripped, and crawled through dusty halls, cluttered rooms, and creaking stairs. You see, my house was and is far from any semblance of completion, and, except for one room, far from any sign of civilization at all.

With this fact in mind, imagine the contents of those who braved the dim recesses, uneven floors, and open stairways: I counted approximately 2002 repetitions of, "You have alot of work ahead of you."

"Yes I know," oft I replied, "it keeps me out of trouble. Besides, where else could I use all these tools my well-meaning relatives keep buying me?"

The second most popular comment was the question, "How long before you'll be done?"

Such foolish folk. "Done?! What would I do for excitement if I didn't have fiberglass batts to make me itch? If it weren't for that pile of drywall waiting downstairs I'd probably rob liquor stores for weekend laughs. No, I can't afford to be done."

"How much did all this cost?" they asked, 939 times.

"How much did that dress cost?" I retorted right back. "How embarrassing! None of your business! Do the words 'bank loan' mean anything to you?"

"Did you do all this yourself?" was in fourth place.

"Heck, how could I have spent all that money I'm embarrassed about if I'd worked on everything myself? I like to think that lots of contractors' kids will go to college due to my magnanimity."

The most gratifying comments were a conglomeration of, "What a neat house!/How far you've come since last year's tour!/Will you be on tour again?/I admire you for this undertaking."

But before I could sign any autographs somebody else stated, "I think you're crazy to be doing this."

"Oh, hi Dad," said I.

Seriously, being on tour is a lot of fun. I met so many interesting people! I loved one couple who demonstrated their diversity as they entered the gloomy first floor: The husband wanted to discuss the relative advantages of masonry versus frame construction and was just planting himself in my kitchen-to-be when his wife started pulling at his sleeve. She had noted the absence of designer curtains, wall to wall carpet, and antique nick-nacks in my home sweet wreck

and was anxious to continue her search elsewhere. She won the ensuing tug-of-war.

The highlight of my weekend on tour occurred early on hectic Sunday afternoon. An attractive woman approached and asked, "Are you the homeowner? There's someone you should meet downstairs. My mother and my aunt lived in this house years ago."

After a stunned "Huh?" I launched myself down the packed stairs like one of those traffic helicopters flying over Parking Lot 270. With old pictures to prove it, these two sisters indeed lived in my house as children during the World War II era. They hadn't been in the house since that time, and it was something special to watch them walk about, remembering. They deserve thier own article, it's elsewhere in this issue. Their timely appearance was the crowning jewel in a weekend full of gems; I collapsed from exhaustion Sunday night — fortunately the house didn't.

As House Tour is a date toward which one aims (with a measure of futility) to finish certain projects and odd jobs, after it passes one needs a new goal for incentive. That new deadline, as all true rehabbers know, is the onslaught of winter weather. With increasing desperation the rehabber races to complete a plethora of urgent projects in the face of ever shorter, colder, wetter, fouler days. With longing heart recalling those beautiful, squandered summer weekends one works with an intensity matched only by that of the college student cramming during final exam week. An element of mystery adds one little catch: This deadline is not fixed in time. Just when will the ground freeze, the snow fly, the flu strike?

It used to be, winter was a time to play in the snow, for days off school, and for feeling cozy in front of TV watching 27 football bowl games. Now winter means cold drafts, killer gas bills, car troubles, and cessation of progress on exterior renovation. Don't forget frozen pipes, common colds, and installing more fiberglass insulation! Well, spring is only about 120 days away, then those windows can be caulked, those gutters finished, that garage built. If I don't emerge in the spring they'll find me, a la the Tinman, forever frozen with a handful of 8-penny nails in one hand, upraised hammer in the other. Here's a toast to wood-burning stoves and electric blankets: stay warm and happy and you'll live to experience the next Souldard Fall House Tour. Keep hammering away!

About the Restorationist

The next Restorationist: Feb. 1, 1986
Copy Deadline: January 15, 1986
Ad Deadline: January 22, 1986
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Authors are reminded to keep copy; manuscripts will not be returned.

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Tradition

by Anne T. Kew

Beginning with Thanksgiving and on through to New Year's Day, tradition gets a real workout. Every year merchants put their holiday wares out for sale earlier than the year before. I swear one store had Halloween masks and plastic mistletoe on sale at the same time. I've noticed though, everyone had their own tradition about how to keep a tradition.

Now you take Alice Marie, our new neighbor, who is young and newly come to the hallowed state of matrimony and suburban living. She announced this year that she was going to have Thanksgiving the way it was on the first bash back in 1622. I try very hard to be patient with the naive, but this one got to me and I said, "For goodness sake Alice Marie, you can't get Indians in St. Louis, and how in the world do you expect your husband, who can't even hit the driveway without going on the grass, to hit a turkey. Besides the season for turkey is in April." Alice Marie is gradually getting away from believing all they say in the brides' books.

My Grandmother was a total traditionalist in so many things. Then in others she did an about face and grabbed the new with great joy. The first time she found "store bought" bread was the last time she ever punched a wad of bread dough. Oh, she still made salt rising bread, simply because nobody could or would bake it. She did fancy baking, of course: angel cake from scratch, and cakes and pies of every known kind and rolls. But no bread.

She tolerated the automobile. She refused to learn to drive and openly admitted to cowardice in its mysteries. Yet in her youth she had trained and taught other gentlewomen to ride sidesaddle on some pretty sprightly thoroughbreds. One of my favorite pictures of her is one in which she is handling a prancing and beautifully spirited bay, in a parade down Main Street. But she wouldn't have handled a car for anything.

She orchestrated our holidays, and in doing so she created memories into which my mind can still wander with much warmth on gloomy days.

She did a good Fourth of July. Homemade peppermint ice cream and fresh lemonade in a picnic atmosphere and the bigger the firecracker, the better she liked it. The family was always about and their being present made her happy and content.

Our Christmases always began about five hours after Thanksgiving dinner, when we all gathered in the living room to let the fat cells grow and do some desultory talking. After announcing that there was more pie if anybody wanted some, Grandmother would say, "I think for Christmas, this year, I'm going to have a theme." Then she would pull me against her and say, "What do you think, dear? How would you like to have a red and gold Christmas?" Since she and I had been best friends since my birth, I

would get right into the swing of things and agree. Then everybody would go home and at Christmas, the house would be festooned in red and gold everything. I really remember only the red and gold one, and the blue and silver one. Silver cord against blue tissue paper was very pretty. Yes, Virginia there was a time when there was no such thing as coordinated wrapping paper.

There was one other theme and it is the one I remember best. Like all the others, it began at Thanksgiving. And here I must digress slightly. All of the adults in my family were expert tellers of tales and stories. They came alive somehow. I think sometimes that's why I feel as if I've lived forever. They talked about the past and the adventures my long dead ancestors had had and somehow it seemed so real I could almost believe that I had been there. So it was not too unusual for me to ask for a story. On this particular day I asked my grandmother to tell me "the way Christmas was when she was a little girl." She began the story and then stopped; her face aglow.

"I won't tell you, I'll show you. When you come at Christmas time, you'll have the same kind of Christmas I had when I was little." She remained adamant about keeping the details a mystery. Four letter words had been invented, yet, so all Grandfather said was, "Oh, pshaw!" Mother looked uneasy. She knew her mother better than I did, and in what she thought was a subtle, casual voice, she asked, "Just what did you have in mind?" There was other murmuring among the rest of the group, but Grandmother just dimpled and asked for the fifth time if somebody didn't want more pie.

I still feel mildly sorry for people who don't "go home" for Christmas. "Going over to Grandma's" is simply not the same as going home. Grandmother's house in my case was, and deep down in a very private way still is, "home." The act of preparing to go was always filled with anticipatory action. Packages were wrapped and boxed and the decision made on which way to get there.

Depending on the length of the holiday and my father's work, we could take either the Mo Pac to Butler, where my grandfather would pick us up at midnight, or the Katy which left earlier in the day and let us off in town. I disliked the latter because it got us home in time for me to be involved with another tradition.

My mother was a speech teacher and an English teacher, and she never got over it. If we took the Katy, we would arrive home in time for me to have to perform in front of the entire Presbyterian congregation who I felt watched to see if I came up to Ethel's standards. The only one I remember in which I ever gave an effective performance was a now-lost poem entitled, "Silver Candles on Christmas Eve." Mother even bought a silver candle for me to carry, but Grand-

mother convinced her that carrying it would be overkill in a mild form. Naturally I always preferred to ride the Mo Pac even if Grandfather did have to make a special trip.

That year we didn't go by Katy. Grandfather brought us home a little after midnight and the great mystery Christmas as about to be revealed. The house was alive with the lights from candles. They were everywhere. They were on every step of the staircase. They flickered from the mantle in the dining room and were flickering brilliantly from the living room. No lights — just candles. From the living room came the crackling from the fire in the great chrome and black masterpiece of a stove.

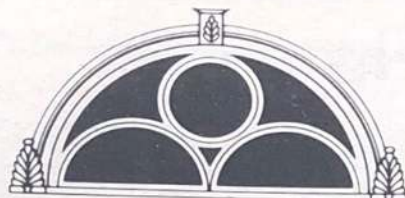
After my grandmother's hug, which amounted to an affectionate envelopment, I went to the arch of the living room. "Now?" I pleaded. "Now," came the answer. There, in its usual place by the bay window, stood the tree which was a sight to behold. A great oak tree stood with its caramel velvet leaves and the entire tree decked in gold and silver balls. No lights. She had put candles on every branch. She had brought down the old snap-on candle holders and they held tiny candles. But they were not lit. Still the tree shimmered and glowed. But I was puzzled.

She began to smile as she pulled me toward her. "Now for the story — about my Christmases as a little girl. You know that I was born here in 1869. It was all prairie then. As far as you could see was nothing but prairie grass. Now and then there'd be a little clump of scrub oak. Or trees planted by the old plantation owners. But mostly just prairie and oak trees. When Pa finally allowed us to have a tree, it had to be what he could find. A little scrub oak that held onto its leaves until spring when they'd be pushed off by the buds. We had no lights, you know, so we lit the house with candles." Then, still holding me, she gave my grandfather a nod and he turned on the electric lights on the trees and then that thing was magnificent. Pa never let us light the candles on the tree because of the risk of fire. But we still thought it was beautiful.

I never forgot it. I often wonder if it was as beautiful as I remember. Just as I wonder if the angel cake was as high as it seemed. I wonder if the floors were as cold. There's only one way to conquer a cold room on Christmas morning. You prepare for it. You think about every move you are going to make between the act of your getting out of bed and downstairs to the back of the stove. You've got to decide which place: the living room stove or the kitchen stove or the fireplace in the dining room.

That was the tradition for their time.

It's gone now. All of them are. The house and its staircase is still there. I do not go home very much anymore. But when I do, I do not look at the house. It's sagging for lack of love. It doesn't bother me, really. I learned long ago no house is home. It's the person you run to that stands in the door — that's home. It's tradition. When you went to my grandmother's, you knew it was Somebody's birthday, and she was throwing a party.



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And that's the way it was.

by Jay Gibbs



Joan and Betty, circa 1939.



It's Christmas time in the city, about 1940.

Who doesn't remember doing this?



In the course of renovating an old house every rehabber wishes that the walls could talk. The stories they could tell! But except for an occasional trinket or grocery list that somehow ended up behind the plaster and lath, the walls are mute: one can only guess the history of the house 150, 100, or even 50 years ago. Once in a great while, though, those walls do come alive in the persona of former occupants returning for a visit.

Such was the case with my house during the Fall House Tour. A family entourage of South St. Louis residents made the pilgrimage to Soulard after seeing 'their house' — my house — in a newspaper story covering the House Tour. On that Sunday, the second day of the tour, I was frantically trying to answer 20 questions at once from literally hundreds of enthusiastic tour guests who packed the halls and rooms of my house. During this mob scene a young woman introduced herself and explained that her mother and aunt had once lived when children in my house. Stunned, I rushed down the jammed stairways to meet these former residents. Could they tell me the history of either house or neighborhood; what were things like years ago? It turned out I wasn't disappointed; hearing of the "good old days" from ones who lived it, in my very house, is indescribably better than reading facts or even romantically imagining.

Through the meeting and subsequent conversations Joan and Betty Quinn (maiden surname used here) painted a fascinating pastiche of the Soulard neighborhood of 45 years ago. It is a very different, yet similar, place that we experience today.

The first thing I wanted to know was about living in my house back in the 1930s and 1940s.

"Well, as you know, the house was a two-family flat back then, and the four of us, Father, Mother, my sister, and I moved into the first floor when I was three months old and my sister was three years old. We all slept in one bedroom — there wasn't so much privacy then — and we also had a living room, dining room, kitchen, and a little tiny bathroom. But it didn't seem too crowded to us; if a family with six kids had to live in three rooms, well, that was just the way it was. Grandpa Karatsanyi (the homeowner/landlord) moved downstairs after Grandma died and we all moved upstairs to the larger apartment. Joan and I had our very own rooms! There was a big bathroom on the second floor and we were the first on our block to have a gas hot water boiler: Mom had to light it an hour before it was bathtime, and then turn it off after we were finished so it wouldn't explode. The front room on the third floor was the 'attic'; my sister and I played in there in the daytime, there was no lightbulb there at all. During the War Father rented our third floor bedrooms to war workers.

I never seemed cold to us in the winter: we had two big coal burners, one in the kitchen and the other in the living room. The other rooms were never too cold, except early in the morning before Dad lit the fires he'd laid the night before. We'd all wait until it got warm to get out of bed.

"My parents used to brew, bottle, and store their own beer in the cellar. I remember one time when the beer or the seals weren't done right and they all blew up one by one like guns going off. We kids were afraid of that creepy cellar anyway.

"We girls went with Mother to Soulard Market every Saturday morning; we'd always see our friends there while buying our food. Mother would buy live chickens — it was the only way to assure freshness, and she'd kill, pluck, singe, and clean them in the side yard. I won't forget that smell as long as I live!

"I remember Joan standing on the back porch and yelling to her 'boyfriends' across the alley. And we'd always play in the wash house and the garage in the summertime with our friends. Speaking of the garage, there was a concrete ashpit, well, for ashes, and what garbage you couldn't burn was set out for the garbage man, who when we were young, still drove a horse and buggy. So did the Ragman; he'd slowly drive down the alleys yelling out 'Rags!' We and our friends were allowed to play in the side yard but dared not set foot off the sidewalk in the front yard. Father tended the front flowerbeds when not at work, and saw red if we stepped into the flowers. I have nothing but happy memories of living in this house."

What was the neighborhood of Soulard like for kids growing up at that time?

"My sister and I went to Sts. Peter and Paul School through eighth

grade. Almost all the churches had their own grade schools then. We planted those trees in the side yard; they were given to all the kids at Sts. Peter and Paul School to beautify the neighborhood." (Those silver maple seedlings have grown to tower over my house, providing ample summer shade. What inspiration for tree planting now.) "My mother was a good seamstress so we were guaranteed good parts in school plays and such, because she sewed the best costumes. And, from the time we could walk, Mom had us taking free dance lessons in the upstairs of Soulard (Soulard Market). We also did alot singing and took piano lessons for years.

"In the summertime we kids could swim at the St. Louis Bathhouse, where the Dairy Queen on 7th St. stands now. And there would be a mini-migration on Friday nights and on Sunday afternoons to see the matinees at the Shenandoah Show. It was air-conditioned and we never wanted to leave! On warm summer evenings we kids would be sent to the tavern at 9th and Geyer to purchase a bucket of beer for 25 cents. We didn't drink it, though. In those days we didn't have air conditioning or even electric fans, so we, like everybody, would sit on our front stoop or wander down the street visiting our neighbors, my parents sipping the beer we'd carried. Everybody knew everybody, and though there were so many different nationalities, everyone got along very well. Each different nationality had its own church and schools, but everyone stuck up for each other regardless. If you had to go somewhere, you could ride the streetcars — even 9th St. had a streetcar then — but usually you'd stay close to your home, neighbors, and church. The people were so nice then; sometimes somewhat clannish, but

Grandpa Karatsanyi



Betty Quinn (tallest) and friends mug it up. Circa 1945.



always friendly. Only a few had telephones, so we'd use the telephone in the corner store or tavern. That's how friendly people were.

"In the early 1940s, of course, World War II began. The War didn't seem far away at all, either. Newsreels and radio reports reminded us constantly, and we did without things, such as sweets, for a long time. Our father was drafted and served for a time. Every family who had a son or father away at war hung a blue star in the front window; if that person died in the line of duty, it was a silver star. St. Louis, because of its many defense plants, was considered a likely bombing target, and when the air raid sirens would sound, a blackout was instituted city-wide: window shades were drawn, lights extinguished, and all was black inside and out. I remember the ceaseless searchlights in the sky at night, because there was no radar yet, and I remember my mother getting mad at

Irene's soda fountain.)

"The neighborhood, even in the late 1940s, was still quite 'Scrubby Dutch'. Mother never made us wash or scrub our front stoop, she did it herself and told us that she didn't want us to suffer the way she did when made to scrub steps as a child. All the households scrubbed their steps — and everything else too. Those curb stones were white! The neighborhood itself was clean. Most of the people were renters, but everyone kept things neat. Most landlords lived right in the buildings with the tenants, that helped, too. You know, it's hard to believe with so many people living in those houses that it didn't seem crowded. We watched out for each other, kept things nice, and even a small apartment of 3 or 4 rooms was enough for most families. Families grew up and grew old together. It was a good neighborhood, you would have really liked it."

"I remember washing these windows!" Joan tells Betty.



my father for lighting a cigarette during a blackout while huddled in the living room in pitch blackness. There were metal drives: a lot of houses lost their iron balconies and fences during the War. When the War ended Soulard about went nuts: people ran screaming, dancing, and banging pots together in the streets. We knew that at last good times would return.

"My sister and I attended McKinley High School because our family could not afford Notre Dame, where most of our friends went. It was hard to get used to the new school; it was so big! We hated going there. Still, as teenagers we saw a lot of our old friends. We attended the dances of 'Teentown' socials at St. Joseph's Croatian Church, complete with lots of chaperones to make certain we behaved. And in the late 1940s Irene's Confectionary was the place to be: 'The Corner' was our hangout." (In 1985 The Movie Shop at 9th and Soulard Sts. uses the corner storefront once occupied by

So, I wondered, how did the neighborhood fall so far? What happened to Soulard?

"After the Second World War ended, prosperity returned. There were more than enough jobs, it seemed, and people actually had money to spare. They started building houses in the suburbs, and it was again possible to buy a car, so families who'd rented all their lives started to think about owning their very own home for the first time. Our friends, our neighbors, started leaving Soulard, and the city, behind. A lot of the old homeowners sold out too. The houses were so old, some didn't even have plumbing, and most of the older people decided it was easier to buy a brand new house than to keep repairing the old one. So gradually, the neighborhood changed. As the former residents left, country people from Southern Missouri started to move in. By the 1950s Soulard wasn't a place to be proud to have come from anymore. When I got married in 1953, I left Soulard



A stunned Jay Gibbs looks at pictures of his home from nearly 50 years ago.

myself," Betty explained. "In the years after we left things got worse and worse. We'd still come to Soulard Market. We also did a lot of singing and took piano lessons for years. would not be torn down, so many of our friend's houses were. Then Joan saw an article covering the House Tour this year with your house mentioned. We had to come see it: we were so glad someone was fixing up 'our house' and then letting us see it again."

As Joan and Betty walked about the yard of my house, their house, their eyes sparkled with the pleasant memories of another time. I could only imagine the mental time-warp they were feeling. Here they were, with married children of their own, treading the same sidewalk where they tap-danced, roller skated, and learned to ride a bicycle.

"So much has changed," Joan sighed, just a bit sadly.

"It seems so small now," Betty gestured around the side yard, shaded by a maple she once planted.

The grape arbor, washhouse, garage, old wood fence, awnings, back porch, ashpit, and marble pedestal sink are gone. So are the coal burners, water boiler, and the adjacent Doctor's house. Grandpa Karatsonyi, St. Peter and Paul School, and free dance lessons at Soulard Market have also passed on. Even the floor plan of 'their house' is now only a memory.

"But the house is still here," Joan added.

"Yes," agreed Betty, gazing at the facade, "that's the way it was."

Mom, Joan and Betty pause in front of the house they called home for well over a decade.



Neighborhood Fabric



2348 S. 12th Street: Imagine the surprise the woman waiting for a bus at 5:30 one morning in 1982 experienced: To see roughly one-third of the building across the street fall away! Imagine the surprise of the people living in the house!

Built prior to 1875 as a single family house with a center hall and staircase, this building was modified in the early 1900s to a four-family dwelling. At that time the center hall was removed and four staircases were inserted leading to each unit. (Note: The rear windows conform to the original landings of the stairs.)

Series, Inc. rebuilt this house as a three-family. The center hall portion became kitchens and existing windows were converted to doors. This allowed level changes within the units and mezzanine bathroom between the third floor kitchen and roof. The finished product looks remarkably original, plus allowing for a courtyard and off-street parking. Incidentally, this building can be seen on the Holiday Parlour Tour, December 8th from 2 p.m.-6 p.m. Call 771-5563 for further details.



Storefront at 2328 So. 9th Street: This is located at the corner of 9th and Lami Streets. As you can see from the photo taken in 1984, the windows had been altered as well as the brick work during the not too distant past. Notice the iron column on the south side of the building and how the structure appears to lean in on itself.

The first task to be tackled by BSB Redevelopment was to remove the brick on the facade to begin the process of bringing the facade back into plumb. This was done simultaneously with rebuilding the back wall.



Neighborhood Fabric



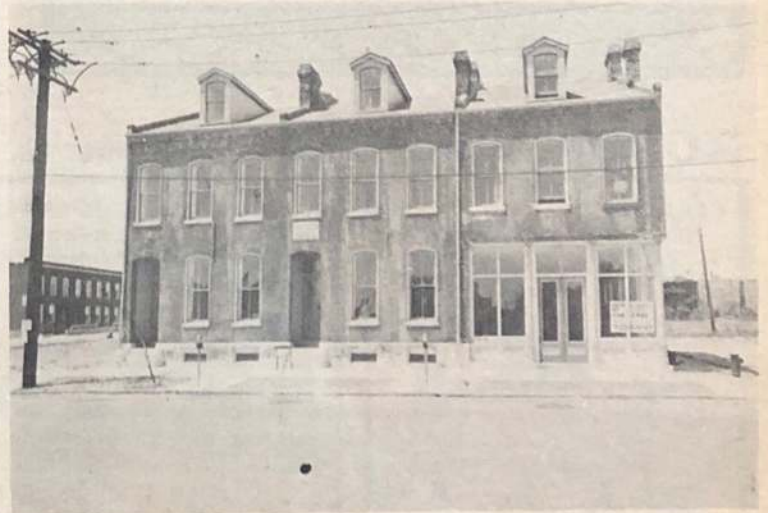
801 Allen Avenue: This building, originally a storefront, is across from St. Peter and Paul Church at the corner of 8th Street and Allen Avenue. Before BSB Redevelopment began this building and the alley houses behind it both had been left abandoned and boarded up for some years.

At this point in the reconstruction process, the facade had been cleared of all nonoriginal glass block windows, etc. in preparation for a restoration to the original appearance of the building at the time of its construction. This was done in compliance with the Heritage Commission and existant Standards for the Souland area.

The finished product one year later stands ready to face yet another hundred years. it houses three 2-bedroom market value apartments. Note the duplication of the original decorative brick columns and attention to details of the facade. The last bit of detailing yet to come is a copper finial to be placed atop the turret. This would bring the building full circle from its construction date in the 1880's to its present reutilization in 1985.

1615-1619 S. 9th Street: Located across from Souland Market Plaza (west) these adjoining buildings were originally 2 townhouses and a commercial building with two apartments above. Completed this year by Series, Inc. this building was rehabbed as six units plus a storefront.

The first floor, one bedroom apartments feature a curved wall in the living room area. The attic space was utilized to create townhouses on the second and third with entrances in the rear. Next visit to Souland Market, look across the street to the west and see another fine example of Souland where the past meets the future.





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Remember When...

by John H. Soderberg

The increasing number of babies born to Souland parents over the last several years is, to those who study such matters, a positive indication of a healthy, growing neighborhood. Noting this development, I was reminded of the advances of modern medicine whereby today's woman in labor is whisked off to a hospital to be attended by a large staff, with the new mother usually returning home two or three days later.

Knowing that childbirth was not always handled in this manner, I thought it might be of some interest to note the differences between today's practices and those of a turn-of-the-century Souland mother-to-be. And there were differences, indeed. The most significant being that 90 percent of the babies born at that time were born at home with only a midwife in attendance.

Research turns up some fascinating statistics about midwives: In 1895, St. Louis was home to three midwifery colleges:

The Missouri College of Midwifery and Lying-In Institute;

The Dr. Carpentier College of Midwifery;

The St. Louis College of Midwifery — which offered a five-month course of instruction in both English and German. Its founder, Dr. A.A. Henske also published a monthly journal titled *American Midwife*.

There were 303 midwives in St. Louis with approximately 15 percent of them (43) in Souland. Additionally, for reasons perhaps related to the original location of the old St. Luke's Hospital at 13th and Lami (see Feb. '85 *Restorationist*), the area encompassing a several block radius of 12th Street and Lami became somewhat of a medical enclave. Clustered in that area were five doctors, including Dr. Arzt at 12th and Lami as well as seven

midwives, including Anna Backer at 1229 Lami and Anna Burger at 2300 So. 12th Street.

Three significant factors contributed to the use of midwives. The first and most important was economic. The average physician's delivery fee in 1900 was \$15.00 to \$25.00 whereas a midwife charged about \$8.00 for her services, which included assisting the actual birth and caring for mother and child afterwards.

Secondly, Souland was a community of European immigrants who tended to prefer midwives since that was the Old Country tradition. European midwives were usually well trained and held respected positions in their communities. Additionally, they spoke the language, whereas some male doctors might not be able to communicate in anything but English.

A third factor was that immigrant families employed midwives because there was a "strong sense of shame associated with permitting a man to attend a woman in confinement."

After World War I, the use of midwives declined rapidly in the United States. A number of reasons for the decline can be identified. Among them were reduced cultural ties to European traditions, a surplus of physicians, as well as increased earning power among the labor force. The decline in midwife use in Souland was as dramatic as elsewhere. By 1948, St. Louis listed only 28 midwives with just one in Souland — a Mrs. Isabella C. Kling at 2309 So. 12th Street. Today there are none.

While the circumstances surrounding the birth of today's children may be different, they still share in, and are part of, the customs and traditions of the neighborhood. Souland has endured and will always endure through its people — young and old.



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House of the Month

by Nancy Ray Farber

The Souland Restoration Group hosted Neighborhood Marketing Services' "House of the Month" program on Sunday afternoon, September 8th. The two houses on tour were Vicki Renisch and Nancy Grimshaw's house at 826 Ann and Sheri and Dan Compton's house at 2208-10 So. 9th Street.

Though the temperature that day was an uncomfortably hot 95 degrees, Neighborhood Marketing Services was quite pleased with an attendance of about 175 visitors (of course, the SRG offered plenty of ice-cold lemonade to cool off the guests!).

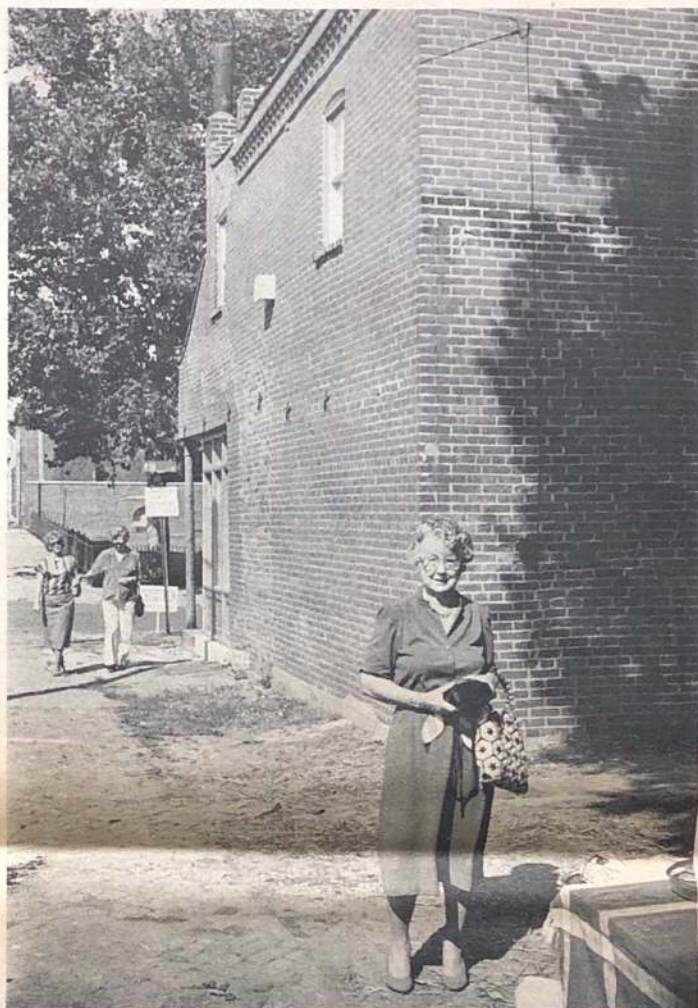
We did have some visitors of particular note on that hot afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bolfig, who just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, saw an article about the House of the Month and, after reading the addresses, just had to come back to the "old neighborhood." The reason they wanted to return to Souland was because they had lived in the Compton's house 50 years ago! Before that, Mr. Bolfig had lived with his parents as a child in Vicki and Nancy's house! The Bolfigs were so excited about seeing their old homestead open to the public, that they brought their son (who was an infant then), daughter-in-law and grandchildren with them. Mr. Bolfig even found old photos taken

in front of Nancy and Vicki's house and was very pleased about sharing them with all of us! (Yes, folks, the original streetlights were quite lovely!)

While the Bolfigs were relating stories of the old Souland days, Mrs. Viola Haser, nee Gerstenberg, walked out of the Grimshaw/Renisch residence and informed us that she had lived in that house prior to Mr. Bolfig! "We lived in this house from 1911 to 1917," Mrs. Haser told us. "Back in those days, this house (Nancy and Vicki's) was a grocery store and barber shop."

Mrs. Haser graduated from Lafayette School in 1919. "Back in those days," she said, "the boys and girls had separate playgrounds. There were mandatory showers once a week and the shower maids would check you to make sure you took your shower!"

We contemporary Soulandians love to show off our neighborhood to newcomers, but I find it even more thrilling to meet former Soulandians returning to their old neighborhood. Listening to their stories and sharing their memories reinforces our wonderful neighborhood heritage. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Bolfig and Mrs. Haser, for visiting us ... our "welcome home" will always be there for you.



Mrs. Viola Haser, currently resides in Warson Woods. In 1911, she lived at 826 Ann Ave.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bolfig, former Soulandians, at the corner of 9th and Ann.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bolfig, Nancy Grimshaw and Vicki Renisch standing outside 826 Ann Avenue home.

Photos by Tony Lazorka

Left Over Magic

Is left over magic possible? Yes. Merlin paid us a visit in September. His magic again will appear in our 1985 Holiday Parlor Tour. We have discovered and are going to use and decorate a tree that is so unique that it will have to be seen to be believed. We actually have an invisible tree.

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or*

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all year 'round.*

*It does require one thing:
A little imagination.*

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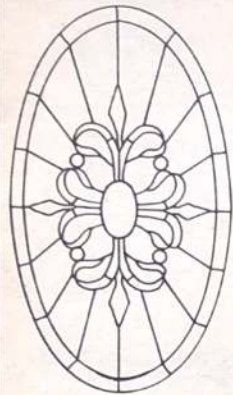
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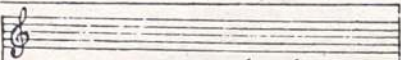
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In the Historic District of Soulard



Jefferson Memorial Expansion

Calendar of Events

December 3-30
**GREAT AMERICAN INDIAN
LEADERS**

Encyclopaedia Britannica created this exhibit of 12 life-size figures representing well known Indian leaders. Presented in the exhibit are prominent spiritual leaders, military chiefs, statesmen and scholars such as Cochise, Pontiac, and Sacagawea. The exhibit shows the vast diversities of cultural and geographical regions and spans four centuries of American history.

Special Exhibits Gallery beneath the Arch. 9:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

December 8-31
A WORLD OF CHRISTMAS

This display of 16 live trees represents various ethnic holiday traditions. Decorated by member groups of the International Folklore Federation, the colorfully trimmed trees bring a festive spirit to all who view them.

Old Courthouse West Galleries.
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.

December 10
HARP AND FLUTE DUO

Betsy Feldman, flute, and Ayako Watanabe, harp, have been working together as a duo on and off since 1972. In addition to their specializations in classical, symphonic, and contemporary chamber music, Ms. Feldman and Ms. Watanabe also play at weddings, receptions, dinners, and in concerts. They were cited by Jerry Berger of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* for providing "heavenly holiday music" last Christmas at Anthony's Restaurant.

Old Courthouse Second Floor East Courtroom. Noon to 1:00 p.m.

December 12
TRIO CON BRIO

This trio of musicians performs a variety of music ranging from early Baroque to contemporary Top 40.

Flute, oboe, English horn, alto sax, bassoon and electric keyboard are combined to create a truly unique and appealing sound. The group is made up of Elsie Parker on flute, clarinet and saxophone; Jan Parkes on oboe and English horn; and Donita Bauer on keyboard and bassoon.

Old Courthouse Second Floor East Courtroom. Noon to 1:00 p.m.

December 17
LACLEDE STRING QUARTET

The Quartet is "dedicated to bringing the finest in chamber music to audiences in such diverse settings as libraries, galleries, museums, restored historic buildings, and concert halls of varying sizes. Sallie Coffman plays violin; Wendy Lea plays violin; Andrienne Gamel plays viola; and Beverly Field plays cello. The Laclede String Quartet is currently in residence at Fontbonne College.

Old Courthouse Second Floor East Courtroom. Noon to 1:00 p.m.

December 19
**A PERFECT FIFTH WOODWIND
QUINTET**

"A Perfect Fifth" has been performing in St. Louis since June, 1981. The Quintet has given concerts recently at the St. Louis Art Museum, the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis Community College, Washington University, and Christ Church Cathedral. They have been featured on KETC-TV "St. Louis Skyline" and on KFUV-FM "Music from Christ Church." The members of the group are Ann Dolan, Jan Parkes, Elsie Parker, Nancy Schick and Renee Barcafer-Martin.

Old Courthouse Second Floor East Courtroom. Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Cookies and punch will be provided. Bring your lunch to the concerts. All events are sponsored by the National Park Service and Jefferson National Expansion Historical Association.

Fall House Tour



Most of the house tour committee resting after the Pre Tour Gala. Photo at the Cottrell home.



Dining in an elegant setting. This is the Sortino home.



Pre Tour Gala: The food was sumptuous and delicious! Photo at the Soderberg home.

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12704 Old Tesson Ferry **\$77,000**
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1832 Lafayette **\$75,900**
Partially rehabbed Lafayette Square town house.

2037 Sidney **\$75,000**
Completely renovated 3 plus bedroom, spacious yard, large kitchen.

904 Rutger **\$74,900**
New construction replica townhouse in LaSalle Park 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath.

2776 Clager **\$64,900**
Three bedroom south county home on nicely wooded lot.

1420 Mississippi **\$55,000**
Partial rehab with commanding view of Lafayette Park.

1435 Missouri **\$49,900**
Architecturally superior partial rehab with four floors facing Lafayette Park.

2020 Ann A **\$48,900**
Updated 3 bedroom south side.

4032 Con **\$43,500**
Nice three bedroom and Oakhill area.

2850 Acco **\$35,900**
Partially rehabbed house in Compton Hill Historic District.

302 South C **\$36,900**
One bedroom condominium.

1200-02 MacKay **\$38,000**
Multi unit shell in Lafayette Square.

1716 Waverly No. 2C **\$32,000**
Spacious condo in Lafayette Square. Tremendous bargain!

1309-11 Dohlman **\$28,000**
Multi-unit shell in developing area. Potential ITC project.

1223-25 Dohlman **\$28,000**
Multi-unit shell in developing area. Potential ITC project.

2601-03 Warren **\$26,500**
Commercial storefront on mall with apartments above.

1717 Lafayette **\$17,200**
Shell zoned commercial. Potential ITC project.

1640 Carroll **\$15,500**
Desirable shell in developing area. Potential ITC project.

2000 Oregon **\$7,200**
Three bedroom two-story rowhouse shell. Potential ITC project.

Pre-Gala/House Tour



The Magical History Tour, Sept. 28 and 29: Horsedrawn carriages as well as buses transported tour-goers from house to house.



The Magical History Tour began at both Trinity Lutheran (pictured) and Jesus Church. Thousands roamed our neighborhood enjoying part of the city coming back to life. Soulard is where the past meets the present.

(with thanks)

Hilary's

PIANO BAR Sing-Along

Mon. Tues. Thur. Fri. Sat.

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The House Tour Committee thanks most sincerely the following:

The home owners for opening their houses to the public and helping the Soulard Restoration Group.

The houses on the Pre-Tour Party

Skip Gatermann for writing the articles about the house for the tour booklet and the tour route script.

Six Day Antiques, Antiques for Everyone, for lending antiques for the Martin house.

Edele & Mertz Hardware for donating rope and clothes pins used in the quilt exhibit.

Orchard Box Company for donating cardboard used in making the Merlin figure.

Dave Lester for designing this year's poster and stationery.

The Framery for their contribution to the Martin house.

Trinity Lutheran Church and Jesus Church for being the host churches

Sister Star Florist for the fresh floral arrangements in each house.

Windler's Florists for the silk floral arrangement in each house.

Jay Gibb's mother for her art glass workshop display.

SRG members and friends who volunteered as hosts and tour guides, and other help.

A special recognition to those individuals who dressed in period costumes provided primarily by Remember Me Vintage Clothing which added a unique flair to the house tour.

Ozzie Smith for being the honorary chairman.

Cheshire for providing carriages for the Pre-Tour Gala and house tour visitors.

Sharon Staffel for typesetting the house tour booklet and the copy for the stationery and poster.

Brentwood Bank and Alexian Brothers for including us in their computer marquis announcing our tour information.

American Bank, Schmitz' Market and Lamplitters for providing parking or special needs.

The media for spreading the word.

Finally, and by no means, least importantly, we'd like to thank the public for attending our tour and making it the special event it was for all of us and Soulard.

The House Tour Committee

BOYS' CLUB BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	PLACE
	DEC.			
Monday	2	McKendree College J.V.'S	7:30 P.M.	Here
Wednesday	4	Logan College	7:30 P.M.	There
Wednesday	11	East Central College	7:30 P.M.	Here
Thursday	12	Greenville College J.V.'S	5:30 P.M.	There
Wednesday	18	Meramec College	7:30 P.M.	Here
	JAN.			
Saturday	4	Mineral Area College	7:30 P.M.	There
Monday	6	Greenville College J.V.'S	7:30 P.M.	Here
Wednesday	8	Lincoln Trail College	7:30 P.M.	Here
Saturday	11	Rend Lake College	4:30 P.M.	Here
Thursday	16	East Central College	7:30 P.M.	There
Saturday	18	Jefferson College	7:30 P.M.	There
Monday	20	S.I.U. Edwardsville J.V.'S	7:30 P.M.	Here
Thursday	23	Logan College	7:30 P.M.	Here
Monday	27	Washington University J.V.'S	5:30 P.M.	There
	FEB.			
Sunday	2	Lincoln Trail College	2:00 P.M.	There
Thursday	6	Meramec College	7:30 P.M.	There
Wednesday	12	McKendree College J.V.'S	5:30 P.M.	There
Friday	14	S.I.U. Edwardsville J.V.'S	7:30 P.M.	Here
Monday	17	Washington University J.V.'S	7:30 P.M.	Here
Wednesday	19	Jefferson College	7:30 P.M.	Here
Sunday	23	Lindenwood College	2:30 P.M.	Here
		(Benefit Game)		

The Boys' Club of St. Louis varsity basketball team will open their 21 game 1985-86 schedule with a home game Monday, December 2. All home games are played at the Boys' Club, 2524 South Eleventh Street. Admission is free.

South Broadway Athletic Club Seventh and Shenandoah CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 6 Wrestling
Dec. 20 Fish Fry
Dec. 21 Turkey Shoot
Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Dance
Jan. 24 Boxing

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St. Louis, MO 63157

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

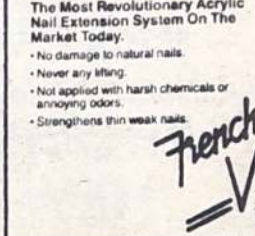


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OPERATION BRIGHTSIDE

"The Operation Brightside Board of Directors has approved a plan for the National Expansion of the Operation Brightside Program," said Robert R. Hermann, Chairman of the Board.

Lucille Green, currently Executive Director of the St. Louis Program, will administer the national program under a licensing agreement and royalties will be paid to St. Louis Operation Brightside, these funds will be used to help support the local program.

Efforts will be made to market the innovative clean-up and beautification concept to other cities. Corporations in the new Operation Brightside cities will be asked to commit funds to initiate the project in their area.

Mr. Hermann stated, "Many communities are aware of the success of the Operation Brightside program. For the last three years, Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. have funded Operation Brightside summer youth employment teams in 19 cities where they have major operations."

"In addition, an Operation Brightside manual, produced by Anheuser-Busch has been requested and distributed to over 600 city and county governments in all 50 states.

Hermann continued, "The amount of interest shown nationally in the Brightside program leads us to believe that a well-organized marketing campaign for National Operation Brightside can be very successful."

The programs of Operation Brightside are: Project Blitz, the massive spring citywide clean up; Project Mainstreet, the summer youth employment program; Project Greenlot, the beautification program on vacant city lots; Project Paperchase, the education program presented to all City school children; Project Flower Shower, the flower planting program that plants over 2 million flowers annually and the Circus Recycling Center, multi-material drop off center designed to pay cash for bundled newspaper, clean glass and aluminum/bi-metal beverage cans. The Circus Recycling Center is located at 1660 South Kingshighway near I-44.

Mrs. Green will assume her new role December 1, 1985. Her successor as Executive Director of St. Louis Operation Brightside will be announced at a later date.

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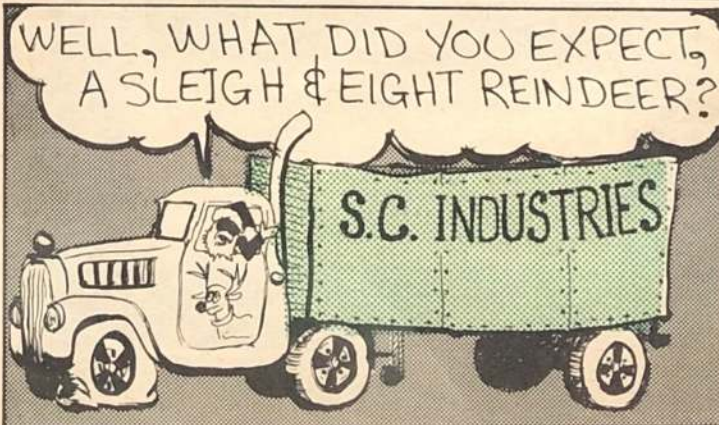
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