



The Soulard Restorationist

Volume XI Issue I

Feb. 1, 1986

Reflections of an Editor: Our First 10 Years



by Skip Gattermann

As the first editor of *The Soulard Restorationist*, I've been asked to reflect on the newsletter's first ten years. At first I thought a look back at those years would be boring. Oh, was I wrong! The more I looked back at the old issues, the more intrigued I became with all the turmoil, tribulations and transformations through which the newsletter has gone.

In January, 1976 I chaired the monthly Soulard Restoration Group meeting as acting president at St. Joseph's. My big mouth as per usual got me in trouble. I suggested we have a newsletter and was over-

whelmingly appointed its first editor. Karen Rowley offered to be copy editor. Jamie Lewis volunteered to be the rest of the staff. Oh, yes, Don Bennett jumped in as a typesetter. I thought that was pretty classy, as our first edition was run off on a ditto machine.

From the beginning the newsletter was plagued with problems. SRG as usual was afraid to spend any money, so we had no budget. (However, the bills always got paid.) Nobody wanted to write for it. Most of my reflections, though, are ones which I cherish and show the true spirit of Soulard restorationists.

Larry Hollenberg decided we needed a masthead. He designed

an iron fence masthead which has stuck with the paper in various forms from April, 1976 to the present. Every editor and staff member over the years has made some pretty wonderful contributions. With each passing year, the mechanics of production improved. Some were unique. For a while, a group of special education students at an area school were in charge of production of the newsletter as part of their course of study.

Newsletter committee meetings were sincere efforts, but the results were not always what had been planned for the edition. Quite often an entire edition was written by one person. The early period of the newsletter, with all of its chaos, fairly well paralleled early SRG membership meetings, which were much like barroom brawls in an old western movie. Today's meetings are too sophisticated to entice many "old timers" to come to them. Then, too, the newsletter has grown more sophisticated. I think many "old timers" read it, though.

The biggest and best change for the newsletter came in 1982 under the editorship of Catherine Perry. The newsletter changed to a neighborhood newspaper. Eventually, photographs were added—this had been the dream of all editors before her. Ads became easier to sell and circulation increased.

Bigger and better changes had transformed Soulard, too. The neighborhood began to change in appearance. It became a status symbol to have scaffolding in front of one's house. In fact, some people left scaffolding up the year round. Outsiders coming through the neighborhood thought a lot of work was going on. Actually, the scaffolding hid the fact that nothing was being done. However, it did the trick and convinced people that they should buy houses here so they could have scaffolding, too. Houses

became as easy to sell as ads in the newspaper.

The best aspect of the newspaper over the years has been the writing. It has all been of the highest quality and has always put forth the best Soulard has to offer. The writing informed, entertained, and provoked us over the years. House tours, politics, and controversial issues appeared as important topics in every issue. Humor kept us sane as plaster dust, high heating bills, and Maude's bar were driving us to the brink. How-to-do-it articles helped us to keep the plaster from falling and learn to reduce our heating bills, and told us how to keep busy so we wouldn't notice Maude's bar. Ma Bisco taught us to become gourmets. Dear Abner tried to keep us honest (at times a little too much) until he was arrested and put in jail. Auntie Carol fostered the blooms in our gardens and Tillie the Tattler kept an eye on our stoops.

With all this help from the newspaper, Soulard was becoming an acceptable place to live. With Ma Bisco's gourmet treats to put on the table and Auntie Carol's blooms to add a dash of color to centerpieces, restorationists actually discovered that the dining room was a place to eat and not just to store saw horses, power tools, and plasterboard. Soulard was becoming civilized!

The newspaper kept us knee-deep in controversy. In fact, it stirred up a lot of its own, as all of the editors have kept the paper as a soap box for anyone in the neighborhood who has had something to say. I have always loved controversy, and my fondest memories are those caused by it. Dear Abner caused us the most. He was critical of everything and everyone. Nothing was sacred when the ink flowed from his pen. His columns would arrive on copy editor Bill

10 YEARS, page 2

NOTES FROM THE BRICK HOUSE

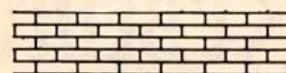


The beginning of another year represents for many of us the excitement of new challenges, and the establishment of (hopefully!) continued commitment to the resolutions we made on New Year's Eve.

I feel the same excitement about our new 1986 Board of Directors and the challenges we established at our December Planning and Budget meeting. In addition to our continued negotiations with Anheuser-Busch and vital working toward the safest neighborhood possible, we outlined as priorities revision of the Historic Code, zoning revision, and immediate attention to establishing community beautification projects, which will benefit the entire neighborhood.

At the January General Membership meeting, the proposed 1986 Budget was approved. This will allow us to move quickly on the Code revision process as well as to develop the financial framework for our 1986 community projects.

We have received some excellent ideas for our neighborhood projects: neighborhood-wide distribution of *The Restorationist*, which would allow the entire community to be aware of what's happening; capital improvements to Pontiac Park, which would include repairs and new equipment; and hiring a park supervisor in order to provide programs and supervision during the summer months. We will, of course, be having a spring tree planting utilizing the balance



of our Centerre grant tree money.

I would like to thank the following people who have volunteered to head committees for 1986:

Kath Hurst and Jan Collins, Membership Committee

Richard Eaton, House Tour Committee

Jay Gibbs, House Sales Committee

Pat Price and Judy Marquis, Friends of Souard program

Russell Farber, Chair, and Peter Sortino, Technical Advisor, Anheuser-Busch Task Force

Judith Johnson and Cecilia Andres, Nominating Committee

Fred Andres, Code Committee

Nat Clark, Beautification Committee

Vicki Renisch, Crime Committee

Judith Johnson, Zoning and Traffic Committee

Barb MacRobie, Editor, *The Souard Restorationist*

If you are interested in working on any of the above committees, please give these folks a call, or get in touch with any Board Member. Let's all help to make 1986 a great year for the SRG!!!

Nancy Ray Farber

President,

Souard Restoration Group

CALENDAR

- Feb. 5 SRG General Membership Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb. 19 SRG Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 22 Washington's Birthday
- Mar. 5 SRG General Membership Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Mar. 19 SRG Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Mar. 30 Easter Sunday
- Apr. 2 SRG General Membership Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m.

Welcome

Welcome to these new members of the Souard Restoration Group:

Susan Ryan & Jacob Haupt
Robert L. Officer
Roy C. Hayes
John Centunyi

Souard Resident Receives Grand Jury Award

For his prompt reporting of a crime in progress and his persistent and courageous actions afterward, longtime Souard resident Steve Meyer has received the distinguished Grand Jury Association Award. The presentation was made at a Third District Police Department ceremony in early December.

Mr. Meyer received the award as a result of witnessing a brick thrown through someone's window and immediately calling the police. He then took the time to go out in a heavy rainstorm and catch a bus in order to give all the information to the Warrant Office. Mr. Meyer had the courage of conviction to testify against a well-known criminal who has a history of harassing the neighborhood.

We all congratulate you, Steve, for your involvement and exemplary behavior. If we had more neighbors like Steve Meyer, Souard would definitely be the safest neighborhood in the City of St. Louis!

10 Years (from page 1)

Poe's doorstep written on everything from toilet tissue to drywall. Abner never identified himself, so the editor took the blame for all his writing. He never gave up. Even while in jail, he had his attorney write for him. This only goes to prove what dedication the writers of this newspaper have had.

Dedication is a word which describes not only the writers on the staff, but the neighborhood people as well. Just thinking back to all the craziness restorationists have had to put up with proves they are dedicated to the neighborhood and their homes. Midnight arson attacks on trash cans, Crazy Mary pleading with the fire department to spare La Villita as it went up in flames, a sow and her piglets being held hostage

in a Souard home only attest to that dedication. The stories are endless and could fill volumes of *The Restorationist*.

I could ramble on and on and bore you with some more reflections, but the best way to appreciate all that the newspaper has done for Souard is to read it. In this issue are a few of the most thought-provoking or craziest articles ever printed in *The Souard Restorationist*. Don't be upset if your favorite doesn't appear here; we just didn't have room to print them all. Besides, if we printed too much of Dear Abner we would have the whole neighborhood up in arms again. And what's worse, we might encourage him to write for us again.

About The Souard Restorationist

The Souard Restorationist has a circulation of 6,000, and is published every two months by the Souard Restoration Group. It is mailed to SRG members, advertisers and subscribers and is distributed in Souard 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: Barbara Alice MacRobie
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Editorial Assistant: Edward R. Fliss
Illustrator: Dave Lester
Contributors: Terry Berger, Lana Downing, Richard Eaton, Nancy Farber, Jim Felling, Darlene Gaternmann, Skip Gaternmann, Jay Gibbs, Larry Hollenberg, Karen Rowley
Photography: Madt Mallinekradt, Jay Gibbs
Business Manager: Mary Jo Warren

Yes! I want to join the Souard 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 SRG member: _____

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ZIP CODE _____

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Souard Station
St. Louis, MO 63157

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



Eileen B. Dailey's "Le Carnaval" was the winning design in the 5th Annual Soulard Mardi Gras Poster Contest.

As is traditional in Soulard, "Fat Tuesday"—Mardi Gras—is being celebrated on Friday and Saturday this year. The seventh annual festivities start up on the evening of February 7 with the Mardi Gras Ball and continue into the small hours of the following night.

The ball is being held at the Youth Education and Health in Soulard facilities at 1921 S. 9th Street. Tickets, which cost \$25 per person, are available at most bars and restaurants in Soulard. Formal attire or costumes are a must for the ball.

Anyone who's able to rise early after the ball can go back to Y.E.H.S. on Saturday morning for the third annual Creole-Cajun Cook-off, running from 8 a.m. until noon. For late sleepers, there's the Taste of Soulard from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fourteen Soulard bars and restaurants are serving samples of their specialties. A group of tickets can be purchased for \$10 at participating Mardi Gras Association members and redeemed for these goodies.

It's at 4 p.m. on Saturday that the most spectacular event of the Mardi Gras gets under way. At that time, 15 to 20 parade floats gather in the Anheuser-Busch parking lot at 11th and Lynch to be judged as best in parade. At 5 p.m., accompanied by several high school bands, the floats set out along 11th, then north on 12th to Russell. The parade progresses east on Russell to 9th, north on 9th to Lafayette, then east to Broadway, where it finishes up. After that, according to Hilary Clements, president of the Soulard Mardi Gras Association, "It's one big party in the area."



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More Adventures of an Amateur Rehabber

Midwinter Shivering Timbers

by Jay Gibbs

As winter approaches its zenith (hopefully soon, let's get this over with) I sit bundled in my third floor room conveying these musings to you. Actually, I shouldn't complain. Winter isn't so bad. With the onset of freezing weather, the roof stopped leaking, the basement stopped flooding, the brick sidewalk stopped shifting, and the damned weeds stopped growing. Also with the cold and snow came the screeching halt of exterior renovation—a relief of sorts, since it ended the incessant hurrying to complete a hundred little tasks demanding yesterday's attention. About 96 of those tasks were finished before winter. As for the rest, tough tootsie-roll. Most importantly, with my downspouts connected now, all precipitation presuming to fall atop my premises becomes the property of the Metropolitan Sewer District rather than a lake in my back yard and/or my basement. This mundane victory overshadows most of the other year-end renovation accomplishments by a long shot. The house creeps toward a state of 20th century civilization by precious inches.

The happiest news of all, oh readers, is the fact that in December I finally sold my much-maligned "baby house." For those who've tuned to this channel lately, the purchase of the "baby house" was the biggest mistake of my rehabber pseudo-career. Funds meant for finishing my residence instead were tied up in a money-losing, slumlordy, sad little flounder house up the street. My renovation efforts were hampered more than a little,

you may be assured. Fortunately, a young couple, Lori and Miles, fell in love with the poor thing, saw possibilities, and after some price negotiation are now the proud new owners of said Souard real estate. They are in the midst of the starting steps of rehabilitation: measuring, planning, reviewing architect fees and job bids, meeting the City of St. Louis regulatory octopus, meeting bank loan officers, et cetera, not necessarily in that order. It brings back memories, and how! Miles and Lori, this plaster-dust-covered Bud's for you!

Now that the aforementioned funds have been liberated from the "baby house," my own home can look forward to speedier progress. Finishing up wiring and plumbing are in progress now, to be followed by massive quantities of insulating, vapor barriering, drywalling, and if all goes as planned (get serious, dreamer), drywall taping and painting in late spring. Can't forget house intercom, burglar/fire alarm, telephone, and TV cable wiring jobs. Getting all these steps in the proper sequence almost requires a computer at times; maybe I should hardwire for that too, before the walls become walls. We'll see.

My friend Jann is Souard Restoration Group's new membership chairperson; she immediately informed me that my house had been volunteered for the February SRG social (that's the monthly post-meeting party for uninitiated souls out there). The lack of finishing touches, the scarcity of furnishings, and the fact that the warmest part of the house registers a balmy 56 degrees did not sway Jann from her



An infamous downspout—connected at last!

decision. It should be fun, though, and the house which survived 8000 pairs of feet during two house tours certainly can weather an SRG social. Remember, gang, bring firewood and legwarmers and we'll have a grand time. Don't be surprised if a 4 x 8 sheet of drywall is placed in your arms upon your entrance.

I recently gained a roommate, or housemate, if you will. Minnie is still becoming accustomed to her new surroundings. She is a born and bred suburban backyard feline, transplanted to the urban indoor environment two weeks ago. Upon her release in the house she allowed a furtive, horrified glance around before darting behind a stack of doors. She wouldn't eat for days, preferring to cower in dusty corners

most of the time. She has adapted, however, and now fearlessly scampers up and down the once harrowing open stairs. She's eating and dutifully using her litterbox, and has picked her favorite hangouts. In the daytime she camps out on a stack of drywall under sunny windows. At night my bed offers comfort. All this goes to prove that even a hardcore suburbanite can love the urban life. All you Ballwin diehards take note—if Minnie can survive the plunge, so can you.

Speaking of urban life, see you at Souard's Mardi Gras, if I can see straight at all that weekend. Otherwise, contemplate the gas meter's rotation and pray for a cloudy February 2. Stay warm and dry while watching for the crocuses!



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Taste of Souard Participant Barbeque on Mardi Gras Day, Feb. 8

The Soulard Restorationist: Our First 10 Years

La Maison (The House)

"La Maison" was the newspaper's longest-running column and perhaps its most popular. In keeping with Soulard's French heritage, the column bore a French name. Most stories were written by the owners of the individual houses. Judy still lives in the "house on the hill" along with her husband Darrell McDaniel and son Brandon.

Almost all of us are familiar with the house on the hill, Judy Shehan's home at 2219 S. 11th Street. Restoration in Soulard got its start as Judy began to help friends and friends of friends buy homes in the neighborhood. The house on the hill is still unofficial headquarters for prospective buyers and sightseers. As we go through the house, see what's been done and hear about Judy's plans, the rest of us begin to feel our own restoration plans are possible.

Built about 1830 and completed in 1852 by Charles and Margaret LaBeau Creeley, the house was part of Thomas Russell's Crystal Springs Farm. The house and the four lots on either side make up one half acre of rose gardens and shade trees, most unusual in an inner city neighborhood.

The Creeleys, a slaveholding family, were probably Southern sympathizers during the Civil War. It is possible they were involved in storing arms and ammunition in the house, transporting them to the

river via a series of tunnels, and shipping them down the Mississippi to the Confederate army. The Creeley home was heavily mortgaged in 1863; the family disappeared completely from public record in 1867. At that point, the property was sold to the Lippert family, and part of it was still in the Lippert estate in 1972.

When Judy purchased the property in 1969, it was structurally sound, with handmade bricks and massive cyprus timbers intact, but needed massive remodeling. An early example of Greek Revival in St. Louis, the house is beautifully simple, with broad board pine floors and crisp white woodwork. Judy has sanded the floors, restored the woodwork, insulated and wallpapered. She has put on a new roof, rebuilt the side galleries, and rehabilitated the yard. Probably the most impressive project is Judy's kitchen which she built (literally) from the ground up.

Next year's project is to redo the second floor; installing heating

and airconditioning ducts, insulating, and adding all the finishing touches. When Judy began to work on the second floor, she discovered what seemed to be a Voodoo charm between the floor joists in the bathroom. She found alternating rows of chicken bones and corn

and, in the middle, a handmade doll and a domino with seven spots. With typical restoration bravery, Judy shoveled the whole thing out and threw it away. As she says, "Nothing awful has happened yet." We hope it never does.

July, 1976

These two stories are from the first issue of *The Soulard Restorationist*. From the start, the newspaper promoted the history of Soulard. Both of these stories were written by Skip Gatermann, the newspaper's first editor, and are from the "ditto machine era."

Playing Historical Sleuth

Gathering historical data on your house demands a bit of investigation downtown. First stop is the real estate section of the property assessor's office at City Hall. Present your city block number and lot number, and the staff of the assessor's office will give you a list of all previous owners. Most of the records go back to 1885, with some going back as far as the 1860s.

Next stop is the City Archives Office in Room One of City Hall. When you present the same block and lot information, the Archives staff may be able to provide information on the age of the house as well as old floor plans, past real

estate values, cost of past improvements, construction, and other interesting facts.

Final stop will be the history room of the main branch of the public library. With the information obtained at City Hall, Gould's City Directory will reveal what the past owners of your property did for a living. Special plates are also available which list property owners in the years 1883, 1884 and 1905.

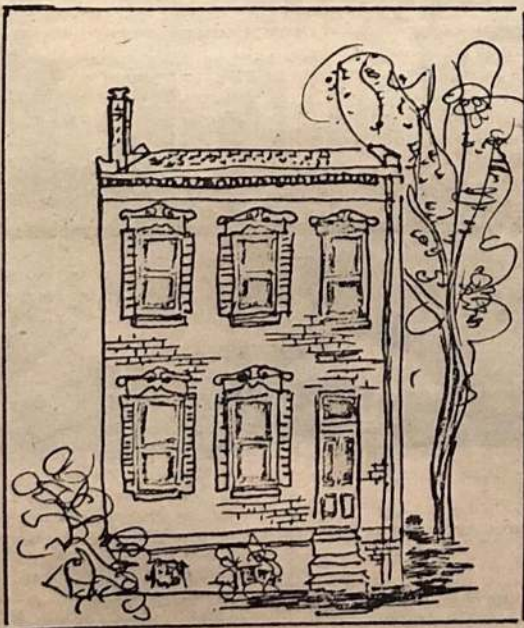
Just remember that old records are sometimes limited or even inaccurate. So don't be disappointed if your search fails to provide all the historical details you'd like to have.

Bits And Pieces Of Soulard History

The Soulard Historic District has a heritage in its street names. Barton Street, named for David Barton, honors the man who wrote Missouri's first state constitution. Named for one of our most famous Missourians, Geyer Avenue reminds us of Henry S. Geyer, author of the first statutes of our state and the distinguished attorney who defended Dred Scott in his suit for freedom. Ann Russell Allen is commemorated by Ann Avenue,

Russell Boulevard and Allen Avenue. Her father once owned all the land in that area. Julia Street bears the name of Julia Cerre Soulard, wife of Antoine Soulard. After the Marquis de Lafayette visited St. Louis in 1825, the city honored the Revolutionary War hero with Lafayette Avenue. Pestalozzi Street, named for the noted Swiss educator, appeared after a small colony of Swiss immigrants settled in the area.

January, 1976



The Soulard Restorationist: Our First 10 Years

Neighborhood Fabric



This column, a regular feature in *The Restorationist*, exists to highlight buildings that would have fallen prey to the bulldozer if it had not been 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.

Before

713-715-717 Barton Avenue

This set of three Victorian townhouses was so severely delapidated that the headache ball seemed the only solution. However, Historic Properties has restored their exterior grandeur and carved spacious apartments from their cavernous interiors.

February 1, 1985



After

The Soulard Restorationist: Our First 10 Years

There has been a produce market at what is now Broadway and Lafayette since 1779. A city landmark, Soulard Market draws shoppers from all over St. Louis for delights like that described in the story below.

Soulard Market: The Cider Is Coming!

by Karen Rowley

Ask a frequenter of Soulard Market which season of the year offers the best shopping and most likely he or she will not hesitate to say, "Summer, of course."

Certainly that is true insofar as quantity and variety of fresh produce is concerned. There is, in fact, a profusion of vegetables and fruits to boggle the eye of the bargain hunter and warm the heart of the vegetarian. For those who like to eat and freeze in quantity, Soulard Market in the season of abundance is a natural mecca.

But for me, there is another time, past the plentiful summer harvest, when the Market offers a product of rarest vintage, the apple cider of autumn. Just try to find a comparable cider in either your corner grocery or multifaceted supermarket.

This is, indeed, a nectar of the gods—pure, sweet, unpasteurized. One sip and you begin to understand what "natural food" is really about. After your first gallon you will be hooked for life and will walk oblivious through the most chilling autumn rain to secure another gallon.

Last season there were three stalls which sold cider, two located in the southeast and one in the northeast section. The price per gallon ranged from \$2.25 to \$2.50. Also available in the same price range for those of the sturdiest constitution was the hard cider.

I have seen a real aficionado carry off six or eight gallons of sweet cider at a time in a shopping cart. But a note of warning is in order: only buy the quantity that you can properly refrigerate. Otherwise, the natural fermentation process will gradually turn your luscious cider into unpalatable vinegar.

Therein lies the urgency of the quest: cider season spans only about six to ten weeks in length and when the last ambrosial gallon is gone,

you will have to wait another year to again slake your thirst on the pure product.

In conjunction with the cider, there is also fresh apple butter. On one Saturday during the Fall season, huge cast iron cauldrons will be set up over fires in Soulard Market Park, and a live demonstration of the churning of apple butter will commence.

Sweet cider, you will find, goes with most any meal or snack. But for a special taste treat, try it with a slice of Omar's Shabaaz Bean Pie or with hot home-popped buttered corn made from kernels sold by the pound at a stall which also offers homemade butter, honey and molasses. This country store and Omar's stall are both to be found in the southwest section.

I bid thee drink to the pure apple and enjoy a treat which will delight the most jaded taste buds. Gone from memory will be the imitation lemonades, fictitious milk shakes, and false sugared sodas. Coming soon at Soulard Market: Cider. Enjoy!

September, 1977

Middleton-Moore Antiques

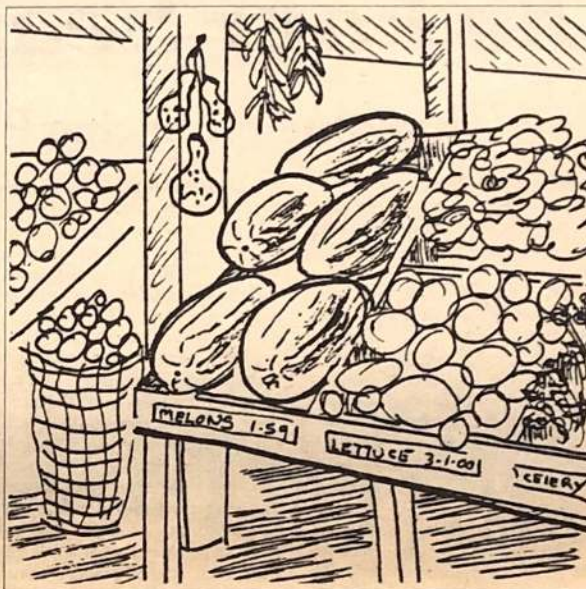
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The Soulard Restorationist: Our First 10 Years

The Four Seasons of Soulard

Some Thoughts on Spring Planting

With everyone looking forward to the first buds of spring, it is time to consider just what it was the early homeowners planted in Soulard. Yard space and light vary a great deal from home to home, making some of the choices for us. In the period our homes were built, many people were more practical than decorative about their yards. Many mixed herbs and flowers such as marigolds, mums, petunias, pansies and all types of bulbs—dahlia, amaryllis, daffodils, narcissis and garlic—into a free-form garden, practical as well as pretty.

Grape vines flourished and provided wines and jellies. Strawberries became attractive ground covers that were also good to eat. The window box also became a

place for raising food and flowers such as herbs, lettuce.

Fruit trees as decoration against the stark brick walls were also to be found. Among the most popular varieties to be espaliered were pear, apple, and peach. Where room permitted, larger trees such as oaks, Norway maples, and bald cypress were planted for shade. The native Missouri dogwood and redbud with their colorful spring flowers were used. Nut trees were also valued for their fall harvest.

The practice of foundation planting so common today was not practiced at the time. The cedar trees so often found in these groupings were used as privacy plantings and wind breaks. Used in the same manner were many varieties of

shrubs. Among the most popular were the wigelia, mock orange, and lilacs.

As a strictly ornamental flower, the rose was certainly the favorite and is still visible today around many of our homes. In the late 1860s the rose was most at home on an attractive trellis. So if you have a touch of spring fever, plan to take it out on your yard, and remember, it takes time, care, water and fertilizer to make your yard the showcase you would like to see. Shouldn't you plan for it now?

March, 1977

Soulard Winter

A man huddles
To the heat
That left him
long ago.
Soulard winter
takes its toll.

February, 1979

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February, 1977

The Soulard Restorationist: Our First 10 Years

Serving Soulard: St. Agatha Church

One of Larry Hollenberg's best ideas in the newspaper's infancy was a series of articles on the history and service of the neighborhood's churches. Since this story was written, a few changes have taken place. Monsignor Bernard Granich is now the pastor of St. Agatha's, and the day care center has moved to larger quarters. The spirit of the parish, however, is still the same.

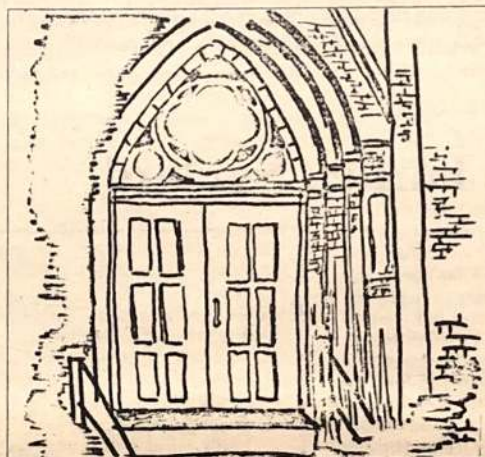
by Larry Hollenberg

The Parish of St. Agatha was founded in 1871, six years after the end of the Civil War. It was the ending of the war that gave impetus to the growth of the city, which in turn caused a need for this new parish, founded by German immigrants. The closest Catholic Church had been St. Peter and Paul, but due to the distance, poor sidewalks, and language differences, the new parish was begun.

In its early days, St. Agatha Church and School provided a haven for German immigrants by

supplying spiritual and educational needs. The early school taught in German exclusively until 1906, when the neighborhood began to change as some residents began moving to new locations in the city and new nationalities moved in.

The present church building dates from April 12, 1885, when the cornerstone was laid. The building is in typical German Gothic, a lofty structure of little exterior ornamentation. The edifice is constructed of red brick with a stone foundation. The front view reveals a single central tower, soaring in height. Tiny spires or finials help to



produce this effect. The entrance is deeply recessed and features a set of three circular windows contained in an arch shape. The main circular window of stained glass represents the Good Shepherd. The two smaller windows contain roses, symbolic of the love of the Good Shepherd for his sheep.

The interior contains woodwork which, delicately carved, predominates the structure, as well as a lofty central aisle supported by columns, a vaulted ceiling, and a communion rail of Corinthian columns evenly spaced with the spaces filled with a dainty pattern of wheat and grapes. The ambo of natural wood is surrounded by finely-colored, well-sculptured statues of the Apostles standing on pedestal bases. Above the altars are paintings on canvas of the Holy Family and the Death of St. Joseph. Stained glass windows around the church depict the life of Christ, and above the latter are scenes from the Old Testament.

The Reverend Edward J. Clohesy is the ninth pastor of St. Agatha, serving since 1963. In an article written in 1971 for the St. Louis Review for the 100th anniversary of the church, he stated, "With the passage of time, St. Agatha Parish has been subjected to social and cultural changes. Accordingly, her role in the community has altered somewhat. While 100 years ago her school accepted only children of German ancestry and members of the Catholic Church, today its doors are open to all nations and non-Catholics are welcome. The parish is more needed than ever. She is

ready to fulfill her destiny in the years to come."

Regrettably, four years ago, St. Agatha School, like many other parochial schools in the area, was closed and a consolidated school was located in an adjacent parish. The school building is not, however, vacant. The large second floor auditorium still serves as a meeting hall for weekly parish activities. The basement houses St. Agatha Headstart, a federally sponsored program, which operates from September through May, serving over 40 children ages three through five years.

The main floor is the new home for St. Agatha Day Care Center, operated by the Soulard Association for Family Services, Inc. At capacity, it will serve the families of 90 children, operating on a year round basis.

Father Clohesy wished to see this fine school building once again serve children of the Soulard-St. Agatha neighborhood and was enthusiastic in his approval of the new community programs which are operating there.

He has always been actively involved in maintaining the health and vitality of the St. Agatha neighborhood and continues to be concerned about the future—to assure that the parish fulfills her destiny in serving the changing needs of the community.

July, 1976

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The Soulard Restorationist: Our First 10 Years

A Trivial Soulard Quiz

In keeping with the general slant of the newspaper, the staff has often tried to involve the readers in history. Even if you answer all these Soulard trivia questions right, though, don't raise your hopes of getting one of the cookbooks—they were a complete "sellout" success.

How well do you know Soulard? Below is a series of questions to give you an opportunity to display your knowledge. Send your answers to "Soulard Trivia," P.O. Box 13312, Soulard Station, St. Louis, MO 63157. Earliest postmarked entry with all of the correct answers wins a copy of *Recipes From Historic Soulard*. All entries must be received by July 11, 1978. In the event no one gets all of the answers correct, the earliest postmarked entry with the most correct answers wins.

1. Identify the person for whom Soulard Market was named.
2. Name the country from which the famous doctor came who had the townhouse built at 2322 S. 12th St.
3. What is the original name for 12th St.?
4. What year did WEW radio start?
5. The first Catholic High School in St. Louis was started in Soulard. Name the Soulard church which ran it.
6. What famous St. Louis grocery chain was started in Soulard?
7. What was the name of the original business established in the building which now houses Joe's Supermarket on S. 12th?
8. What is the style of architecture of the Third District Police Station at 12th & Lynch Streets?
9. What business was located originally on the sight of the Mexican-American Hat Factory at 12th and Russell?
10. What famous American, involved in national politics, lived at one time on Barton Street?
11. What does the word "Soulard" mean in English?
12. The bells of Sts. Peter and Paul Church have names. What are they?
13. Francis Parkman, author of *The Oregon Trail*, had a guide whose home still stands in Soulard. Which home is it?

July, 1978

THE WINNERS IN SOULARD ARE...

Neal and Susan Jareczek won the Soulard trivia contest in our July issue. For their efforts they have won a copy of *Recipes From Historic Soulard*. The answers to the 13 questions are listed below.

1. Gustav Soulard.
2. Austria.
3. Hamtramck Street.
4. 1921.
5. SS. Peter and Paul.
6. Bettendorf's (now Schnucks).
7. American Theatre (Movies).
8. Art Deco.
9. Allen Market.
10. U.S. Grant.
11. Fat under the pig.
12. Saint Francis de Sales, Peter and Paul, John, Mary and Joseph.
13. DeMenil Mansion.

September, 1978



December, 1983 and February, 1984

Where is it?

This regular feature draws attention to the many eccentric details that help make Soulard a special place. This horse lives on the warehouse on Menard between Barton and Victor.

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The Soulard Restorationist: Our First 10 Years

The Saga of "Dear Abner"



"Dear Abner" was our most controversial columnist for two reasons: the truth often hurts, and Abner went for the jugular. Many of his letters targeted easily identifiable individuals, such as the crazed neighbor in "Gutterless." Abner never did reveal his identity. From October, 1978 to September, 1981, he terrorized all of Soulard.

Dear Abner,

What do I do when my neighbor climbs out her 3rd story dormer at 5:30 a.m. to clean out her gutters. She begins laughing hysterically when she finds such objects as wine bottles and beer cans among the debris. Her laughter is quite obnoxious at this hour of the morning. What am I to do?

Gutterless to tell Her

Dear Gutterless,

Try throwing your wine bottles and beer cans elsewhere.

Dear Abner,

On my house's south wall between my 2nd and 3rd floor, its midriff bulge is showing. What do you suggest?

*Signed,
Jane Russell*

Dear Jane,

I suggest you introduce your midriff bulge to a full-figured mansard.

October, 1978

Dear Abner,

My son is learning to count in school. He uses Soulard street names to do so. However, my wife and I are having trouble convincing him that the number which follows 10 is not Menard. What can I do to solve his counting problem?

Pierre Menard III

Dear Pierre,

I suggest you return to your plastering or other restoration activities as modern math is obviously too difficult for the average adult mind.

P.S. Should you solve the dilemma on your own, please inform me why 18 comes after 13.

Dear Abner,

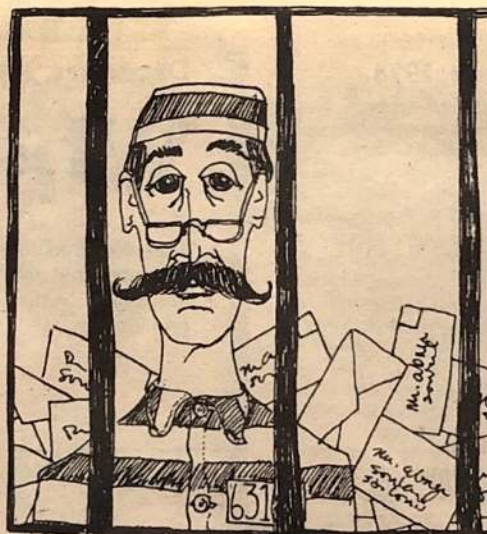
I just moved into my house on 12th Street. In the process of restoration I'm ruining all of my clothes. What can I do?

In Rags

Dear Rags,

I've got your problem all sewn up. Join a nudist restoration group.

January, 1979



May, 1980

Dear Readers of Dear Abner,

Recently Abner was asked to "reveal" himself to the people of Soulard. He did so. He opened his trench coat and "revealed" himself to Soulard. Unfortunately, the only person to see him in Soulard was a third district officer who promptly arrested Abner on charges of indecent exposure. In jail Abner was allowed one phone call to his attorney. As his lawyer, I am not at liberty to divulge my client's identity. However, Abner asked me to explain to you that he is not allowed pen and paper in his cell and will not be able to answer your cards and letters this month. Please be patient. Abner will be released and will be writing to you soon. I'm sure the court will dismiss the charge against Abner when the Judge discovers Abner has nothing to "reveal."

*Sincerely,
Ima Shyster
Attorney-at-Law*

Dear Readers,

It is with mixed emotions that I announce that I will be joining the staff of the nationally syndicated *Preservation Blues*. With my very first letter in *The Restorationist* I was picked up for publication by the well-known journal. It seems that notoriety by the

Glad Bag Man has again catapulted me to the attention of the national press and I can no longer resist the understandably attractive offer from same. However, feel free to contact me in my new position with any problem you may incur (and believe me you are going to have some problems

as long as you live in Soulard) and I will try to address them. For, dear readers, it is you who have made me what I am today!

Abner

September, 1981



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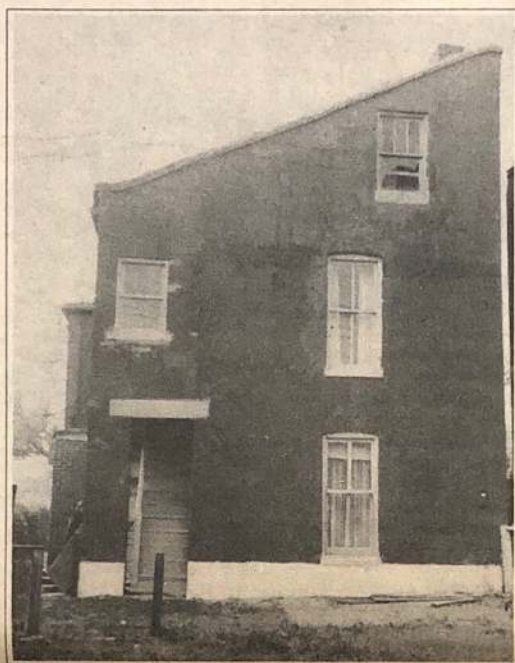
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In Historic Soulard

The Soulard Restorationist: Our First 10 Years



The Flounder House Myths

A flounder house is one that is shaped like the Soulard Restoration Group plaques found on many of our homes. It is the "official" logo of the SRG.

collected by Terry Berger

1. The obvious—it's-shaped-like-a-flounder. Flounder fish have steep sides not unlike the pitched roof of the flounder house, so stretch your imagination.
2. The wall-eyed-fish story. A wall-eyed fish is supposed to have eyes on only one side of its head. The flounder house has at least one "blind" wall, therefore... (But look up wall-eyed in the dictionary.)
3. The cost-efficiency story. Flounder houses lack complicated roof rafters. They would have been simpler to build and cheaper.
4. The something-to-lean-on story. Flounders were built against another building for support. Would you believe they had no weight-bearing wall on that side?
5. The 19th Century-solar-design story. The flounder was built for weather protection. In most houses, the tall side faced north or west and the roof sloped toward the south or east.
6. The tax-assessor-must-have-been-an-idiot story. A classic! Flounders were built to fool the assessor into thinking the house was only half finished. (Half a house, half the taxes.)
7. The screwed-up-blueprint story. The story is that the builder worked from a design for a duplex which got torn so he was only able to construct half a duplex.

8. The in-law story. Another classic! Flounders were said to be separate houses built for troublesome in-laws. In fact, some people called them in-law houses.
9. The tight-mortgage-market story. A story with which many restorationists can identify. The builder ran out of money half-way through and couldn't get more financing.
10. The nosy-neighbors story. Since windows in flounders usually face blank walls (if there is an adjoining flounder), the design affords real privacy. The occupants next door couldn't pry into your business.
11. Luanne Rimel's Tall Tale (Tail). Smoked Mississippi River flounder was a St. Louis delicacy—traditionally cured in The Flounder House Attic. Come on, Luanne, Mississippi River flounder?
12. The best-guess-so-far story. Soulard was constructed before indoor plumbing. Flounder house roofs allowed rainwater to drain into a single gutter and then into one downspout which emptied into a cistern (or rain barrel). The cistern provided the household water supply.
13. The corollary-to-the-best-guess-yet story. St. Louis building code required that each property capture run-off water within its own property lines.

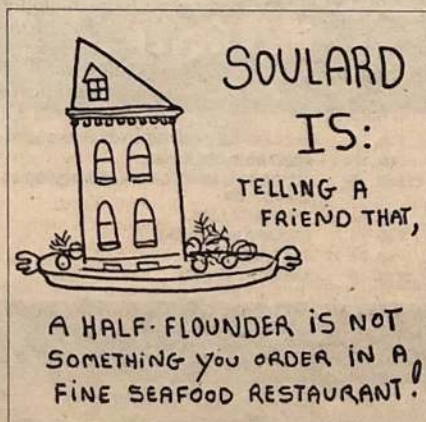
August, 1981

DID YOU KNOW?

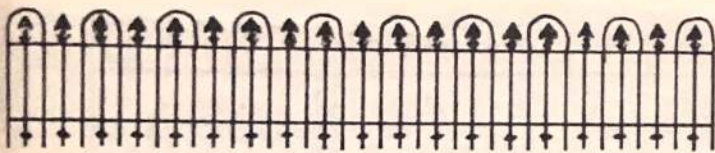
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April, 1977



Letter to the Editor: Historic District Standards

The newspaper has always served as an open forum for neighborhood residents. Anyone can submit his or her viewpoint.

Dear Editor:

Late last year, when the Aldermen passed the Historic District Bill, some two years and more of continuous effort ended. To quote Ray Leisure, Alderman 7th Ward, "The people got what they wanted." Now that we got it, what do we do with it?

Obviously the best thing to do when you see some piece of construction which either doesn't have a permit or which you think is not in keeping with Historic District Standards is just to call the Building Inspector's office at 453-4671—and they will take care of the rest.

Not Quite.

As a group which shares a desire to restore the physical and social rejuvenation of the neighborhood, we are obligated to each other. We must work it out among ourselves first. An ounce of prevention is worth more than five

bureaucrats' salaries any time. Discuss all your plans for exterior and interior work with your neighbors and friends. The exchange of information allows us to exercise our collective concept of the developed neighborhood. Outside input provides useful knowledge and problem solving techniques, in design, materials, and method.

Not all situations escape prevention. If you have your doubts concerning a project under way, express them. Talk to your neighbor first. He may allay your fears. If dealt with openly, without accusation, aggressiveness or defensiveness, i.e. adult to adult, an available alternative can be reached for little inconvenience or a can of paint. A neighbor who will not talk or listen is no neighbor.

The building department, chance, and lack of knowledge are sorry alternatives to effective dialogue. Without your voice to affect your neighborhood, to paraphrase Mr. Leisure, you will get what you ask for.

Jim Felling

September, 1976

The Spirit of Soulard

There is an ironic twist to this story. Both of the buildings it refers to were demolished in 1985. It is evident that the spirit of Soulard must continue to prevent such calamities from happening in the future.

"Could you help me carry this to the truck?"

"With this many people helping, it won't take long at all."

"We should do this again in the fall and clean out the basements."

The spirit of Soulard is alive and well. July 23rd was the date and the scene was the two buildings owned by the SRG at 2302-2304

Menard. Many members of the SRG were on hand with rakes, shovels, brooms, weed killer, gloves and a willing spirit to help with the clean-up of the buildings. Despite the intense heat of the day, a party atmosphere prevailed. Short work was made of the weeds, and garbage disappeared into trucks as neighbors in the area looked on. Jerry Dempsey was momentarily buried under plastic bags, but the error was discovered in time and he was rescued before being taken to the city dump. Lemonade helped ease the thirst. The job was finished in the afternoon.

The spirit of Soulard is cooperation, working together and sharing.

September, 1977



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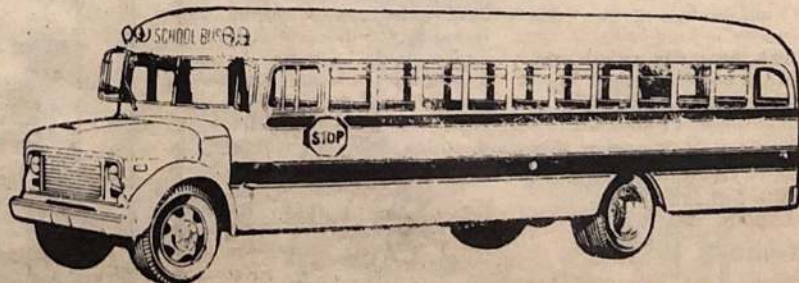
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Lana's Fruit Pizza

This sweet treat is for those occasions when you'd like to use your dining table to eat on (instead of to store plasterboard and power tools). It's from Lana Downing, intrepid copy editor of *The Restorationist*.

1 pkg. slice & bake sugar cookies for crust.

Slice and place on 14" pizza pan, pressing together edges to form a solid crust. Bake according to package directions and cool.

Whip the following ingredients and spread on cooled crust.

8-oz. pkg. cream cheese

1/3 C. sugar
1/2 tsp. vanilla

Crust and cream cheese topping can be refrigerated and the fruit toppings added just before serving. Fruit toppings I use are: fresh strawberries, kiwi fruit, mandarin oranges, pineapple (canned or fresh), bananas, cherry pie filling. How you arrange them is the "creative" part. After placing all fruit on top of filling, brush on glaze with pastry brush.

GLAZE: 1/3 C. each peach preserves, apricot preserves and orange marmalade

2 Tblsp. water.

June 1, 1985

What is Soulard?

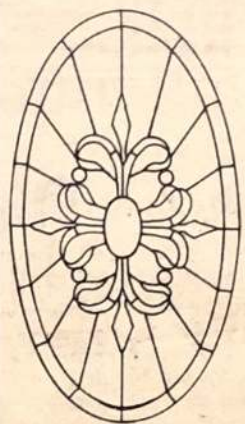
Children often have a way of looking at things that adults never can. Actually, answer number seven is the right one. In French, Soulard means "fat under the pig"—or as we know it, bacon.

The following responses are from a fifth grade class who were asked "What is Soulard?"

1. A very famous place in St. Louis.

April, 1979

2. A Soulard is a thing that comes from the solar system.
3. A chemical.
4. Soulard is the eclipse of the sun.
5. A city or state.
6. A food.
7. A kind of fat.
8. Meat.
9. The fat on a pig.
10. Something to eat like a meat.
11. It's an animal.
12. I think it is coal.
13. A person.
14. It is a city.



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The Soulard Restorationist: Our First 10 Years

Household Tips for the 19th Century Home

Taking care of an old house is, as restorationists know, a never-ending battle. It was for the original inhabitants, too.

by Amy Dawson

My Aunt Etta passed away at the age of 93 several years ago. For a major part of her life, she was in domestic service in prominent St. Louis homes. In going through her things, I found a wealth of books and notes on handy how-to's, some of which are very applicable to homes with features of the 19th century and especially to the restoration-in-progress home. Anyway, I thought it would be fun to share some of these tips with fellow restorationists, so here goes. The following tips are taken from a book called *Household Hand Book* published by the Rumford Chemical Works in 1859. One got the book by

August 3, 1983

mailing in 10 cards from Rumford Baking Powder one pound cans.

To Clean Cut Glass: A soft brush is necessary. In drying it, a good plan is to pack it in plenty of fine sawdust, as this will absorb the moisture where the cloth cannot reach. Sawdust and chamois leather used as polishers after cut glass has been thoroughly washed in soapsuds, will make it glisten and sparkle.

To Clean Rusty and Blackened Knives: Use a half a raw potato dipped in brick dust. This will also clean any rusty metal. And you thought that brick dust was just a nuisance!

To Clean Copper and Brass: If copper or brass is very dirty, put some fresh salt on a plate, dip into it a cut lemon and rub on metal. The strong acid will remove the worst stain.



May, 1978

Soulard Has It All From A to Z

Perhaps nowhere has Soulard's unique quality been better summed up than in this spin-off of a City of St. Louis publicity campaign.

With all the publicity about St. Louis having it all from A to Z, Darlene Gatermann decided to find out how well Soulard compared to the city as a whole. She found that Soulard does pretty well. See if you don't agree.

- A - Antique shops
- B - Balconies
- C - Carriage steps
- D - DeMenil Mansion
- E - Ethnic heritage
- F - Farmer's Market

- G - Gothic churches
- H - Half (flounder) houses
- I - Ice house
- J - Jackpot of architecture
- K - Kaleidoscopic neighborhood
- L - Lemp Mansion
- M - Mansard roofs
- N - New people
- O - Old alley houses
- P - Pontiac Square
- Q - Quaint storefronts
- R - Restorationists
- S - St. Agatha
- T - Townhouses
- U - Underground caves
- V - Victorian homes
- W - Wrought iron fences
- X - X-citing future
- Y - You
- Z - Zip codes 63104 and 63118

April, 1976

New Townhouses in Historic Soulard

810-20 Ann Avenue
Innovative Energy Saving Construction

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SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63104

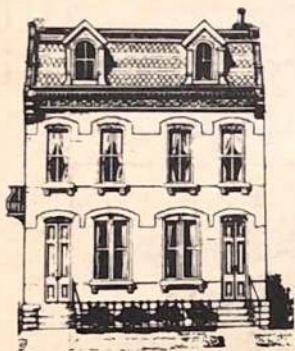
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Editor's Note

Throughout this section, many stories—and all the drawings—have no bylines or signatures. In the early days of the *The Restorationist*, much material was anonymous. So if any writers out there recognize their work, our thanks for the contributions, then and now!

Speaking of thanks, heartfelt gratitude goes to Skip Gatermann, archivist and editor emeritus, without whose talents and sense of humor this 10th anniversary issue would not have been possible.



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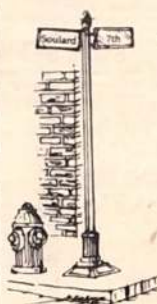
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Roy Haynes creating the Invisible Christmas Tree of art glass at Jesus Church.

Christmas Tour a Delight

The Souard Holiday Parlour Tour was outstanding and extremely pleasurable for those who walked through our historic neighborhood on December 8. Carolers, roasted chestnuts, homemade breads and cookies, hot apple cider, gingerbread men, candy canes, candle-lighting walkways and crafts of all sorts exemplified the Souard holiday spirit.

A special acknowledgement and an appreciative thank-you go to the homeowners for sharing their beautifully decorated homes and warm hospitality. Many tour-goers expressed delight and thought that the decorations and parlours were very original—the most beautifully decorated ever. Therefore, a special thank-you to Carolyn Swindel, Pat Price, Jim and Judy Marquis, Jim Espie, David Moore and Richard Cottrell.

The Invisible Christmas Tree

and art glass display caught many by surprise. This ingenious idea came from Roy Hayes. Roy was assisted by John Durnell and Russell Farber.

Topping off this holiday tour was the trolley ride to the Anheuser-Busch Stables on beautifully decorated Pestalozzi Street to view the famous Clydesdales. The house tour committee appreciated the assistance of Nancy Farber and Anheuser-Busch personnel Robert Tegman, Joe Parisi and Paul Duenwald for this special feature of the tour.

To all those who experienced this holiday tour, the Souard Restoration Group thanks you for taking the time to enjoy the holiday spirit with us and to learn about our historic neighborhood.

Richard Eaton
Chairman, House Tour Committee

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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Smoke Detectors for Sale at City Hall

by Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl

Operation SafeStreet is again offering smoke detectors for sale in the rotunda of City Hall. The cost of the smoke detectors is \$8 each.

Smoke detectors are proven life savers. The sound of an alarm provides an early warning which can mean the difference between life and death. Not only are smoke detectors a good idea, as of February 19th they are the law, under an ordinance approved by the Board of Aldermen earlier this year.

Firefighters are again assisting Operation SafeStreet in selling and installing smoke detectors.

City residents who cannot afford a smoke detector will be given

one free of charge. Proof of address and proof of eligibility, such as a Medicaid or Food Stamp card, are required to qualify for a free detector. We ask all others to pay the modest \$8 fee to protect their homes.

When the new law goes into effect on February 19, 1986, owners who have not installed smoke detectors are liable for fines ranging from \$25 to \$500 or for a jail sentence of up to 90 days or both.

The sale of smoke detectors in the City Hall rotunda will continue as long as the volume of sales warrants it. After that, the smoke detectors will be available in the Operation SafeStreet Office in Room 308 in City Hall.

Get Those Poems in the Mail

Poets who wish to enter the Eugene Field Museum's annual poetry contest must pop their creative efforts in the mailbox in time to catch a postmark of no later than February 16. All entries must arrive at the museum by February 21 to qualify.

The contest will be judged by nationally renowned poets Siv Cedering, William Stafford, and Charles Guenther. Winners will be notified by mail and feted to a gala dinner on May 9. There is a first prize of \$500, a second prize of \$175, and a third prize of \$75.

Poems may be on any theme and in any style. They must, however, fit on one page and not be over 40 lines long. Poems should be unpublished and cannot have won any previous prizes.

The non-profit Eugene Field House Foundation, Inc. operates

the historic birthplace of Eugene Field, the "Children's Poet" whose works include "The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat" and "Little Boy Blue," as the Eugene Field House and Toy Museum. The museum was opened to the public in 1936 and is preparing for its 50th anniversary celebration.

Entry blanks and additional information about the poetry contest may be obtained by writing to the museum at 634 South Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63102, or by calling 314-421-4689.

S. Broadway Sports

The South Broadway Athletic Club, 2301 South 7th at Shenandoah regularly features wrestling and boxing events.

Boxing is at the amateur level, sponsored by the South Side Warriors. Matches display top local boxers plus others from various parts of the United States. Many fighters are represented from the Pan-American games and the Olympic trials.

Professional wrestling is a regular monthly event at S.B.A.C. Wrestling normally has eight matches per night, featuring numerous grapplers such as Jack Attack, "Maniac" Ron Brewer, Jim and Bobby Edwards, "Dumptruck" Dave Perry, Johnny Ramirez, Big Daddy, and Gentle Ben.

There will be wrestling on February 15, March 21, and April 19. Boxing is scheduled for April 18.

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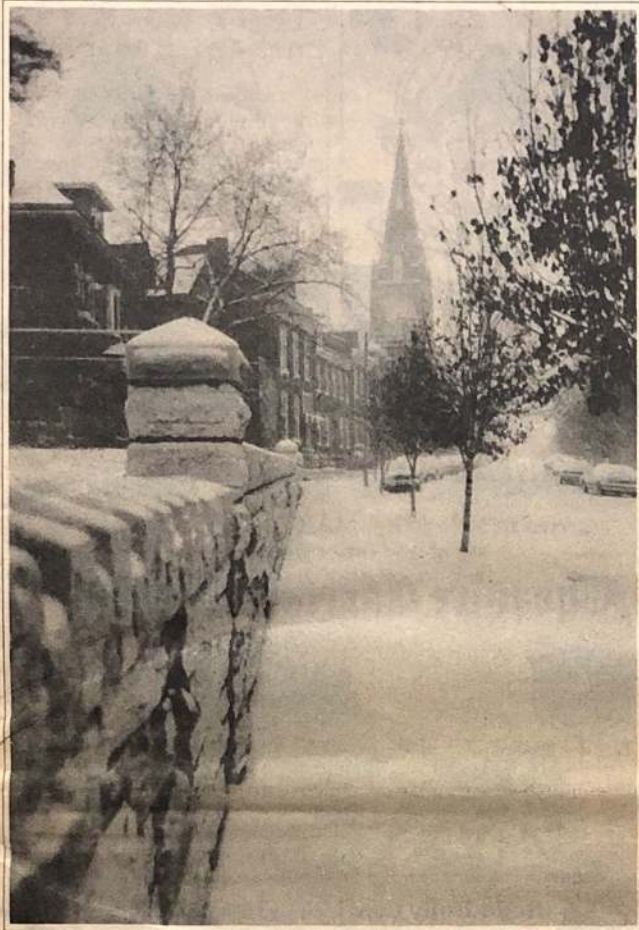
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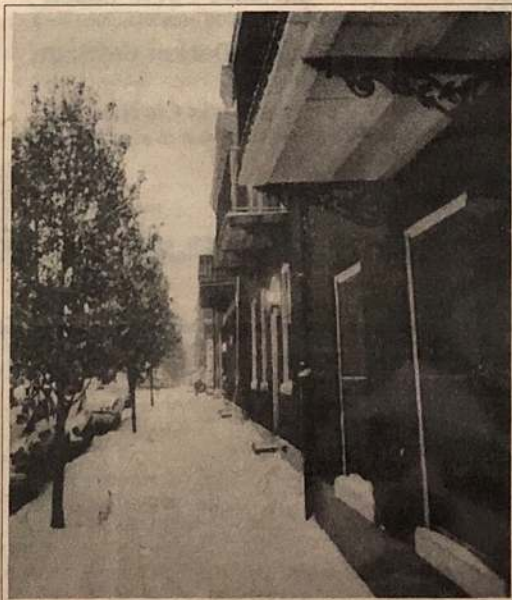
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