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MADAME MODJESKA AND HER MANY FRIENDS

In Shakespeare's play, "As You Like It," the heroine, Rosalind, finds refuge in a haven called the Forest of Arden. The forested setting of which Shakespeare wrote was known intimately by Madame Helena Modjeska, a world-renowned Polish actress who often played the role of Rosalind. After a flourishing career throughout Europe and in the midst of one in America, Madame Modjeska found her Forest of Arden in a remote canyon in Orange County. It contained everything described in the play -- "oak trees, running brooks, palms, snakes and even lions." Madame Modjeska however added a new element to her Arden. She commissioned Stanford White to design a large informal country cottage for her home. The "Modjeska House" was finished in 1888, and it stands today in its sylvan, albeit less obscure, setting.

A unique opportunity has arisen in Orange County where the Board of Supervisors has recently approved official negotiations for the purchase of this historic house and its 16 acres of wooded canyonland. The Walker family, owners of the property for 63 years, has offered to sell it (at less than appraised value) for use as a historic park.



The Polish White House In Orange (in black and white)

To convince the Orange County Board of Supervisors that the acquisition was worthwhile -- especially with concern for operation and maintenance costs -- has been a challenging task. How was this accomplished? Largely with the support of previously-unrelated outside groups representing quite diverse interests. This particular preservation cause turned out to be suitable for bringing together a coalition. Groups which might have been only marginally effective separately have been successful together.

Here's why they became involved.

* Stanford White is one of America's foremost architects. The Queen Anne Cottage, highlighted by a proportionately enormous Palladian window, is architecturally outstanding. The home gains historical significance through its association with Madame Modjeska and her husband, Count Bozenta, who brought international glamor to the wilds of Orange County through the visits and performances of such as the Barrymores, Edwin Booth, and other actors. Support has thus come from the County Historical Commission, the local chapter of AIA, historical societies, and individual historians and architects.

* When Modjeska and her group of fellow Polish expatriates failed in their Utopian farm venture in nearby Anaheim, she again turned to the stage and again achieved fame, this time in America. They did accomplish one of their original Utopian goals however, in establishing a refuge of sorts for Polish musicians, literati, etc., such as Paderewski and Sienkiewicz. That the group originally left Poland to escape Russian oppression is a story with potential contemporary political appeal as well. Many Polish-Americans and several organizations have supported the County's efforts to acquire and preserve the home.

* This would be one of the few -- perhaps the only -- historical site in California associated principally with a woman. The County Commission on the Status of Women were hence drawn to the cause and have strongly supported the effort.

* The property consists of 16 acres of heavily wooded canyonland. The mixture of native vegetation and exotic landscaping makes it an ideal nature study area and birding spot. Local Audubon groups saw value in this feature of the proposed historical park and have supported acquisition at public hearings. It also happens to be adjacent to a wildlife sanctuary.

Few people could have anticipated at the beginning, the broad-based support which has arisen for this preservation cause. Perhaps woven in the fabric of other preservation issues around the state are threads that can be tied together and provide the strength of a coalition.

Even at the Modjeska House they keep seeking more support. Preliminary research shows that the swimming pool on the property is the oldest in the County. Perhaps the local Swimming Pool Contractor's Association would lend their support?

STATE CONFERENCE UPDATE

The Monterey Conference delivered an excellent program and some good evening fun for some 300 in attendance. The Foundation owes a large debt of gratitude to the City of Monterey and to the Monterey History and Art Association for the help they provided in putting on the 4-day event. The weather was perfect, speakers were challenging and special events often proved to be amusing.

CORONADO - 1987

Save June 4 - 7, 1987. The Coronado Historical Association made the successful proposal to host next year's conference, to be headquartered at the fabulous Hotel Del Coronado which celebrates its 100th anniversary during the next 12 months.

Program and event planning has begun already and the California Preservation Foundation is very excited by the Coronado prospects. Our next two newsletters will provide more details but mark your calendar now...it's June 4 - 7, 1987, in Coronado.



Washington Watch

TAX CREDITS

Packwood's tax proposal reported in our last issue has passed the Senate and heads for Conference Committee hearings beginning July 14. Historic property rehabilitations would get the 20% tax credit; properties built since 1936 would get 10%.

Projects under binding contract before March 1, 1986 and completed by January 1, 1987 would be covered by the old rules. Projects in transition would be granted a 19-year depreciation schedule (new rules call for 30-year depreciation), but would only be able to deduct from "full adjustment to basis" (instead of the current one-half rule).

No "improvements" (amendments) were introduced in the Senate to deal with the "passive loss rule". The rule allows limited partners to only claim credits against related income (from the certified project in question or other real estate ventures). Since projects don't often generate income (profit) for some years, the rule could make the credits useless, particularly for participants in syndications. Preservationists are lobbying to get rehab credits exempted from this "passive loss rule".

Another problem is the transition rule. Only those projects completed by January 1, 1987 could claim credits under the old law. Efforts are being made to create "transition relief" to permit projects that started before March 1, 1986 to be eligible for old law treatment.

So far, individual lobbying has succeeded in getting some projects exempted from the proposed transition rules. You should urge anyone involved in a Tax Act project in your town to call members of Congress and ask for similar exemption. If enough people call Congress might be convinced to create a "generic exemption" for all projects.

The House and Senate Conference Committee has one Californian, Pete Stark of Oakland, among its 23 members and he has been reported to have no interest in tax credits. With Preservation Action, we hope to get Stark to realize how important tax credits are to community revitalization efforts. If you wish to help you can call Stark's district office (415/635-1092); "transition reliefs" and exemption from "passive loss rules" are critically important if tax credits for historic rehabilitations are to continue to be effective tools for preservation and community revitalization.

MORE C.P.F. NEWS

For the first time, organized preservation groups from throughout California gathered to discuss mutual goals and objectives with the Foundation. More than 50 groups from Chico to Escondido were invited to a meeting in Monterey immediately following the State Conference and representatives of more than 20 local groups appeared.

We discovered that those groups in attendance (and this is only a portion of our combined strength) represented membership that exceeded 10,000 and had an extended influence range that topped 50,000. We can estimate with some assurance that preservation has an active constituency of over 100,000 people in our state.

A review of ideas and legislation proposed in the Heritage Task Force Report from 1984 revealed that our achievement in Sacramento has been significant, but that a great number of needs remain unmet. The most consistent comment from the assembled group was for incentives that would directly affect property owners. SB 2198, a 10% tax credit for rehabilitation on historic properties was deemed most appropriate.

Everyone agreed that legislation introduced by Senator Milton Marks for the California Preservation Foundation was a good step in that direction, but problems with CEQA and its sometimes non-existent protection for historic properties also loomed large as a priority. Finally, there was strong sentiment that CPF needed support and the response since that meeting has been strong; the following local preservation groups have made new, substantial contributions in the last two months:

Save Our La Verne Environment	\$100
Pasadena Heritage	\$100
San Francisco Heritage	\$100
Gaslamp Quarter Council	\$500
Coronado Heritage Association	\$500
Save Our Heritage Organisation	\$400
Long Beach Heritage Foundation	\$150
Historical Society of Pomona Valley	\$100

Other organizations like the Los Angeles Conservancy and Oakland Heritage made earlier commitments to support CPF at substantial levels on an annual basis, responding to an appeal made on our behalf by Martin Weil of the Los Angeles Conservancy at last year's State Conference.

THANK YOU·THANK YOU

With funding sources more limited than ever before, we are pleased and proud that local preservation groups are helping us meet the challenge and we intend to continue our fight to improve the climate for preservation in California.

Copies of the analysis of Heritage Task Force recommendations and our progress in carrying out those suggested legislative initiatives are still available (write CPF for a copy); and look forward to another gathering of the clan of preservation groups at the 1987 conference.

CRITICAL ISSUES IN SOUTHLAND

San Diego Takes the Plunge

The Mission Beach Plunge (adjacent to the Roller Coaster) is threatened by a project approved on June 23 by the San Diego Council; restaurants and shops are proposed, and while the pool might remain, the extraordinary 1925 plunge building would be demolished.

Belmont Park -- a creation of prominent San Diegan John Spreckels -- lost its casino in 1959 and it took a long, concerted effort by citizens to save the roller coaster from destruction in the 1970s. The Save Mission Beach Park Committee and Save Our Heritage Organisation made a spirited defense of the plunge and vow to continue the battle at the Coastal Commission, by investigating possible legal action and a referendum. Preservationists point out that the \$14 million private development is in complete disregard of "Proposition A" passed by San Diego voters that called for the protection of the public investment in the beach.

Los Angeles

Just as many of us were heading off for the Monterey Conference, an arsonist tried to destroy the L.A. Central Library...a preservation project very dear to so many of us.

While losses were extensive -- the smoke alone indicated a major disaster -- and much of the collection suffered some damage, the building and its mural remain relatively untouched. The efforts of L.A. firement were heroic and have been praised by all (the Monterey Conference assembled passed a resolution to that effect) and the City is still committed to the restoration so a potential terrible loss is only a setback. We are often not so fortunate.



CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

1986-87 OFFICERS ELECTED

Last year's Foundation officers remain in place during the 1986/87 fiscal year. Re-elected at our June board meeting in Hollywood were:

GeeGee Platt -- President
Hisashi Bill Sugaya -- Vice President
Christy McAvoy -- Secretary
Nancy Latimer -- Treasurer

These officers and Past-President Jim Stickels make up the Foundation's Executive Committee.

Committee work is open to any member of the Foundation. If you wish to help in any way -- with legislation, fund raising, membership development, event planning -- please call the Foundation office. We can use you.

MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES

Newly elected Trustees bring expertise in archaeology, architecture, construction, energy, housing, planning and preservation to the board. We are pleased and proud to welcome:

Milford Wayne Donaldson (San Diego) -- Wayne is president of his own firms, Architect Milford Wayne Donaldson, A.I.A., and Sixteen Penny Construction. He is a board member of the Gaslamp Quarter Council, Save Our Heritage Organisation, the Mayor's Task Force on Seismic Retrofit, Save Our Neon, and is the Vice Chairman of the Historical Sites Board in San Diego. He has taught at Cal Poly and Southwestern College, maintains an active interest in the training of architecture students, and is curriculum advisor at San Diego State. He is listed in Who's Who in California and is a new member of the State Historical Resources Commission.

Dave Fredrickson (Berkeley) -- Dave has served three times as President of the Society for California Archaeology and is a member of the California Heritage Data Management Advisory Committee, the Standards and Certification Committee of the California Committee for the Promotion of History and is on the editorial board of the Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology. He has served as Chairman of the Anthropology Department at Sonoma State and as Coordinator of the Northwest Information Center/California Archaeological Inventory for 11 years. Dave has published over forty professional papers and made innumerable national and regional presentations. He most recently spent 3 years coordinating the "Prehistoric Element" of the State Historic Preservation Plan, the intent being to create an integrated inter-disciplinary approach to cultural resource management.

David Shelton (Santa Barbara) -- David has been active in the historic preservation field for the past ten years. He is currently a Partner with Alexandra Cole in the consulting firm, Preservation Planning Associates. Coupling a background in the Arts and experiences in the Trades and project planning, he pursued advanced training in historic preservation at the University of Vermont, returning in 1984 to establish his own firm. David works with local preservation groups -- the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation and Santa Barbara Heritage -- and is an active board member of Homes for People, a self-help housing organization assisting low and moderate income people in Santa Barbara.

Warren Williams (Sacramento) -- Warren is currently with the Spink Architectural Group, a planning, architecture and engineering firm in Sacramento. He has architectural degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and USC, and a Construction Management Certificate from UC Davis. He worked as Assistant Energy Coordinator in the Los Angeles Mayor's Office and was Energy Coordinator/Environment Officer for the city of Davis. He has taught planning, coordinated workshops for the California Energy Commission and served as Northern California Chair for the Association of Energy Officials.

Please feel free to contact CPF board members in your area if you need ideas or help. As representatives of the Foundation they expect local preservationists to make use of their knowledge, experience and contacts.

"PRESERVATIONISTS OF THE YEAR"

Pasadena Heritage Director Claire Bogaard was presented with the California Preservation Foundation's "Preservationist of the Year" award at the Eleventh Annual State Preservation Conference in Monterey. Claire shared the honor with former National Trust attorney Nancy Shanahan who is on a "trek" in Nepal. Previous recipients include Senators Milton Marks (San Francisco), John Garamendi (Walnut Grove) and former SHPO Knox Mellon.

Last year's honoree, Assemblyman Sam Farr (Monterey) made the presentation at the CPF Awards Dinner Saturday night, May 3, praising both 1986 winners for their contributions to the California Heritage Task Force and he put special emphasis on the importance of local political support for any and all state level initiatives such as the Task Force.

Claire is well known for her long-time leadership in the preservation movement, as Founder and now Director of Pasadena Heritage and as a Trust Advisor. But the Blacker House effort was most impressive. We have never seen a single individual move so fast and so effectively to create a national outcry against the insensitive actions directed at a local historic property.

Nancy, as Regional Counsel for the Trust's San Francisco Office until this last January, was key participant in developing Heritage Task Force recommendations and continued the commitment by drafting legislation, both last year's AB 2104 and AB 1785, for example. She advised Stanford's revised Historic Preservation in California handbook in the early 80's and has assisted ably in the battle to save the Orinda Theatre and develop the preservation-positive Downtown Plan for San Francisco. Nancy, for five years, was the attorney we could call for help.

A joint award was unprecedented but both Claire and Nancy were deserving and this was the right time to honor them both, together.

PLEASE NOTE

The Eighth General Assembly of ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, will meet in Washington D.C. in 1987 in conjunction with the National Trust's 41st Conference. A "call for papers" has gone out and abstracts are due by August 1 of this year; topics to be covered are conservation/preservation of monuments, sites and districts, preservation techniques and training, site management, and the resource and its relationship to context.

For more information contact: Mrs. Terry B. Morton, U.S./ICOMOS, 1600 H Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20006, (202) 673-4093.

CALIFORNIA NEWS

ANOTHER ALAMEDA SUCCESS STORY

The "Alameda High School Group" was built in 1926 in the center of Alameda and covers the entire 2200-block of Central Avenue. It is located near the Alameda City Hall, the Carnegie Library and several other historic buildings adjacent to a main shopping district of Alameda.



The complex was designed by architect Carl Werner, its facade encompassing about 900 feet of architectural magnificence with an Ionic portico and a colonnade of ten massive Corinthian columns. It is considered one of the most beautiful structures in California and consists of 198,338 square feet.

There are five buildings in the Group, constructed entirely of reinforced concrete and connected by open colonnades. The historic main building, auditorium, gymnasium and the east wing were built in 1926.

In 1975 the buildings were examined for compliance with the Field Act standards. After extensive review, it was finally determined that the main building, auditorium and the east wing did not meet the standards for earthquake safety, and the three buildings were slated for demolition.

A new school was built and funds were allowed by the State of California for the demolition of the old buildings. The decision for demolition was not readily accepted by many concerned citizens and after much discussion and a vote of the people the buildings were "saved". To retain this structure, it was deemed necessary that the buildings be "bought back" by those desiring to save them. The price was \$1.00 per square foot plus interest; i.e., \$150,000 and interest.

Historic Alameda High School was officially placed on the National Register in 1977, and in 1979 a group of 15 Alamedans established the Historic Alameda High School Foundation, Inc., as a non-profit organization. Since that time the Foundation has restored, renovated and maintained this complex, leasing the buildings from Alameda Unified School District (the owner) for \$1.00 a year for 20 years.

This group of volunteers has raised funds from rentals, donations, memberships in the Foundation, dinners, raffles, bequests, etc., so that repairs could be made in order to make the classrooms and auditorium rentable. At the present time one can appreciate what has been done by a tour showing the re-roofing, repairs to the outside concrete, replacement of windows, painting of the inside, wiring, and many other repairs which have made the building very desirable for business and professional people.

It is occupied by the Alameda Unified School District administrative offices, the Alameda Historical Museum, United Cable TV, several offices of real estate agents, engineers, architects, attorneys, artists, jewelers, dance schools, United Philipinos of Alameda, employment agencies, special classes and the like. The 2,068-seat auditorium is rented for programs for all segments of the community to enjoy, and last year over 22,600 persons attended functions in this big facility.

The Foundation has raised the \$160,000 for the "buy-back" of the building but will continue a program of marketing and managing to reach additional goals. These include: installing an elevator, upgrading and modernizing electrical and audio systems in the auditorium, and the installation of seismic joints to bring the auditorium up to Field Act standards for earthquake safety so that students may again be allowed to use the auditorium. It's an amazing local effort and a great "success story".

S.P.A.C.E.S.

Baldasare Forestiere spent years with wheelbarrow and pick carving a labyrinth of rooms and tunnels under 5½ acres of Fresno. Simon Rodia with the simplest of tools constructed the Watts Towers, fashioned of concrete, metal, bits of seashells, tiles, broken glass and other castoffs over the course of 33 years. W.T. Ratchiffe carved buffalos, snakes and skulls into rock while engineering a monument known as Desert View Tower.

In 1977 a group of citizens gained the attention of Knox Mellon and the State Office of Historic Preservation and searched for ways to save a phenomenon that the three examples above reflect. Through the work of Dr. Mellon and preservationists Aaron Gallup, Rob Selway, Sandy Elder and others, the concept of a statewide historic district was developed and accepted. Ten sites were submitted to the National Register. Three years and two keepers later, Desert View Tower was accepted to the Register (Watts Towers and Forestiere's Underground Gardens having been accepted in 1977). The work done in California has been used as a precedent by other states to bring acknowledgement to their own sites. The sites submitted to the Register are now California Landmarks and new sites are being added.

In 1978 SPACES, the acronym for Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments, was formed to identify and preserve "handmade personal spaces generally made of society's discards, developed organically, motivated by personal satisfaction and of individual vision... and of monumental scale" which they called "contemporary folk art environments". The non-profit organization based in Los Angeles estimates there are at least 300 large-scale environments scattered throughout the U.S. and 40 plus in California. SPACES acts as an advocate for the artists and the sites, maintains an archive on the sites and attempts to initiate interest groups to protect their local environments. There are now seven sites on the National Register of Historic Places and other states are in the process of submitting others.

At SPACES, there is a great sense of urgency concerning the work of preservation that still needs to be done. Many folk art environments are fragile; creeping urban development, neglect and vandalism endanger the sites. Most of the artists are approaching old age.

Ideally, each site needs a group of concerned citizens. Public involvement is essential. If you can be available for occasional short consultations in your field of expertise, know of possible "undiscovered" sites, want to join SPACES, or need advice or information concerning preservation of these unusual places, or simply want more information, please write: SPACES, 1804 North Van Ness, Los Angeles, CA 90028 (213/463-1629).

PRESERVATION EDUCATION

HISTORY DAY in SACRAMENTO

C.P.F. participated in "History Day" for the first time this year. The event is sponsored annually by the Constitutional Rights Foundation and is part of a national competition. The California Historical Society and State Department of Education were 1986 Co-sponsors and also participated in the two-day program in Sacramento on May 19 and 20.

Local school districts are asked to encourage students to develop projects related to various historic themes; this year's theme was "conflict and compromise". Local competition in Junior and Senior High School comes in categories which include written papers, displays, performances and media presentations. Winners selected locally then go to Sacramento for History Day and compete statewide. State winners eventually go on to Washington D.C. for further award possibilities.

C.P.F. joined into History Day activities with the help of board member Nadine Hata who served as a judge in the Los Angeles area competition the last several years. Contest criteria, of course, stress history and not historic preservation, but the Foundation felt there was a good chance some student projects, particularly those treating community history subjects, would deal with preservation issues. And the judges - GeeGee Platt, Robin Date1 and John Merritt -- discovered this hunch was well founded.

The range of projects was enormous and the quality and number and technical skills students demonstrated was often amazing. C.P.F. judges were looking for work that recognized the values vested in the built environment, mainly, and awarded prizes (and cash) to winners in both Junior and Senior High School.

Gerardo Alvarez (Senior Division) created a visual display that documented the ethnic history and diversity of Boyle Heights, one of L.A.'s special neighborhoods, showing that historic buildings still define the special sense of place. Alvarez, who attends Roosevelt H.S., was imaginative in his research techniques and showed great determination in discovering original source materials in order to document the physical and demographic changes that have taken place in Boyle Heights.

Five girls from Katherine Burke School in San Francisco; Anne Bransten, Katherine Chuang, Aquila Clark, Libby Colton and Cate Schley, were winners in the Junior Division, for their presentation "Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island".

The poetry taken from the walls of the vintage structures on Angel Island and beautifully displayed and recited during the performance truly proved that the experiences of one generation can be translated to and through a later generation, that the young can understand and speak through the voices of the past.

Because there were more good projects than we expected, the judges also awarded certificates of recognition to:

Ann Travis (Senior Media) "Pioneer Trails from Etna Mills to Rough and Ready", from Etna Union High School, a presentation that featured historic buildings.

Gary Black (Senior Project) "Early American Homes", also from Etna Union High School, a display of finely done historic house models.

Ryan Perry (Junior Media) "Modern Conflict in Our Backyard", from Yreka Union Elementary, which explored the detrimental impacts of power lines on a historic rural environment.

Tom and Jason Blankinship (Junior Media) "Searching for an Alternate Route", from Jefferson Intermediate in San Gabriel, an astonishingly good video presentation on L.A.'s transportation history.

Each student has also been given a complimentary C.P.F. membership.

History Day was a rewarding experience for C.P.F. and we plan on participating again next year; we will also be proposing a special category for historic preservation be created next year in order to better focus student attention to our special interest.

The most pleasant aspect of History Day, however, was seeing the enthusiasm and talent of the students from all over California. And, without direction from us, many students showed high awareness that historic/cultural resources play important roles in their own personal lives and in that of their communities.

NEW PUBLICATIONS:

When your childhood first comes back to haunt you, it's a shock...but that time is here in architecture and two books bring it home in all its ambivalence.

Googie: Fifties Coffee Shop Architecture by Alan Hess (Chronicle Books, \$12.95) is new and to the point. Hess argues that the "Googie Style" successfully educated the American populace to the tenets of modernism in architecture and did so painlessly (tastefully?). Hess documents the growth and spread of the style, its influence and demise, takes shortcuts through McDonalds and Las-Vegas and stresses that a whole decade of taste (cultural artifacts lining every commercial strip in the country) is disappearing without much objection from the architectural community.

Exterior Decoration: Hollywood's Inside-Out House by John Chase (Hennessey & Ingalls, \$19.95) appeared in 1982 and got little notice outside a small group of friends, I fear. Chase, like Hess, is one of the bright new stars of architectural history, and his book studied the renovation phenomenon in West L.A. to establish some trends, influence and cultural reflections.

Both books are terrific reading because they are innovative, well written, full of challenging observations and, to some of us, they deal with structures and streets we saw being built.

Both authors ask us to look at buildings we may have avoided taking seriously...and may hate. But it's our culture and we have yet to deal with it in terms beyond beach blanket and chrome "spinners" nostalgia. The books are provocative and may be most interesting because John and Alan are investigating cultural phenomena and don't seem to be entirely sure how they feel.

Roadside architecture is a hot topic and sometimes treated flippantly. We featured Hess and Chase as speakers at the Monterey Conference in the "Preservation Frontiers" session. Their slides and comments were both serious and hilarious; you've seen the slides, now read the books.

This newsletter was produced by John Merritt with the assistance of Dick Price. Contributors were Marlene Bradjic, Wayne Donaldson, Nancy Latimer, Nellie Longworth, Ina Ratto, Seymour Rosen and Rob Selway.

**Next Newsletter Deadline -
September 26**

Sacramento

MAIN STREET CITIES CHOSEN

The California Department of Commerce has announced the selection of five demonstration cities to participate in the first year of California Main Street, a program designed to promote downtown revitalization in communities with populations of 50,000 or less.

The designees are: Fort Bragg, pop. 5,600; Petaluma, pop. 37,000; Sonoma, pop. 4,000; Porterville, pop. 24,000; and Vista, pop. 44,000.

Each city will participate in a comprehensive 3-year program involving technical assistance and training for city government, business organizations, merchants and property owners -- all focussing on breathing new life into the community's central business district. Assistance in design and rehabilitation will be provided by an architect hired through the State Office of Historic Preservation.

The department received 29 applications in this year's competition for participation in the Main Street program. The field was narrowed to nine communities. In addition to the five designees, finalists included the cities of Livermore, Merced, Suisun City and Grass Valley.

The state will select five cities each year for three years to serve as demonstration projects. The City of Santa Paula, designated a Main Street City a year ago under a contract with the National Trust, is also now a part of the state program.

NEW STATE HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSIONERS

The State Office of Historic Preservation announced the appointments of four new members of the State Historical Resources Commission. Taking office at the July 31 - August 1 meeting in Sacramento, the new Commissioners are:

- Ms. Karana Hattersly-Drayton (Petaluma), representing folklife interests,
- Dr. David S. Whitley (Santa Monica), prehistoric archaeology,
- Mrs. Patricia Cologne (Rancho Santa Fe) representing the public, and
- Mr. Milford Wayne Donaldson (San Diego), architecture.

Leaving the Commission are immediate past chairmen Dr. James Cahill (Coronado) and our own Bruce Judd (Hercules); the current chairman is Dr. Robert Hoover (San Luis Obispo).

NATIONAL TRUST NEWS

REGIONAL DIRECTOR APPOINTED

A good friend, Kathy Burns, was recently named to fill the vacant Director's position at the Trust's San Francisco Office. Kathy formerly served as Assistant Director in the New England Office and came West in December to help establish the California Main Street Program.

Kathy is a long-term Trust person, knows the organization's capabilities well, and is very sensitive to the needs of a regional constituency. She has advanced degrees in preservation, worked for local government and for the National Register before joining the Trust in 1980 and is a good and smart person to work with. Congratulations, Kathy, and again, welcome to the West.

PRESERVATION ORDINANCE WORKSHOPS

Two workshops are scheduled for California preservation commissions in September -- at Pasadena September 12-13 and at Santa Clara, September 26-27.

Billed as training programs on ordinance and design review administration -- community wide or in historic districts -- the 2-day sessions include a manual and individual consultations with national experts. Intended as a "nuts and bolts" workshop to teach informed decision making, the presentation will also cover tax certification, the National Register and the Certified Local Government program.

The registration fee is \$45 for individuals and registration questions are to be directed to National Trust Headquarters in Washington, D.C. (202/673-4100), but we are sure the Regional Office can help you.

The California Preservation Foundation and California Office of Historic Preservation have joined the City of Pasadena, Pasadena Heritage, City of Santa Clara and Santa Clara University as cooperating organizations in presenting this workshop, originating with the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions and the National Trust.

KANSAS CITY HOSTS 40th ANNUAL MEETING

Registration material is available for this year's National Trust Conference, October 14-19, 1986. The conference, titled "Preservation 20/20: A Focus on the Past and Future", highlights the fact that the National Historic Preservation Act (of 1966) is now twenty years behind us and much has changed.

The program begins with an opening reception on Wednesday evening, October 15, but as in Seattle last year, day-long workshops for statewide organizations and on state-level legislation precede the actual conference.

Registration is \$125 now, but goes up after September 15, so if you're "Going to Kansas City", get your registration material.

SECRETARY'S STANDARDS SLIDE/TAPE AVAILABLE

The Western Regional Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation along with the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service has recently produced a 15-minute slide/tape show on "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation" (which premiered at the Statewide Conference in Monterey). It is now available for purchase (\$50) or rental (\$15). To order, please contact Keith Cook at the National Trust's office at #1 Sutter, 9th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104.

UPDATE ON EASEMENT APPRAISAL FLAP

Over the past two years, The L'Enfant Trust has met with various representatives of the Internal Revenue Service in an effort to reverse the IRS position that easements on properties in the Washington, D.C. area are effectively non-deductible because they enhance the value of the easement property.

The IRS has now advised us that they are adopting an informal policy to allow deductions taken for donations of standard residential easements to The L'Enfant Trust where the appraised value of the easement is in the range of 8% of the property's fair market value.

For donations to The L'Enfant Trust of easements on commercial properties, which generally involve higher valuations and greater variation than residential easements, there is no similar guideline or policy. The IRS has, however, abandoned its "zero-valuation" position and does appear to recognize that easements on commercial properties will give rise to allowable deductions at levels higher than those on residential properties.

From: News From The L'Enfant Trust, Spring, 1986.

Calendar

AASLH Conference - Oakland

"Turning Dreams to Reality" is the theme chosen by the American Association for State and Local History for its 1986 annual meeting, to be held Sept. 30 through Oct. 3 at the Oakland Convention Center.

Conference activities include a San Francisco Bay cruise, tours of Bay Area historic sites and more than 50 sessions on a range of subjects, including professional development and management, collections, interpretation, new technology, public history, exhibit development, marketing and fundraising. Pre-meeting workshops will examine paper conservation, the revision of nomenclature, the peer review process and grant writing. Copies of the preliminary program are available free of charge from the Oakland Museum History Dept., (415) 273-3842.

HERITAGE Lectures - San Francisco

Heritage recently announced a new series of lectures which should attract preservationists from the Bay Area.

The first, on August 5, will feature Dr. Harold Kirker, author of the pioneer work, California's Architectural Frontier and Kevin Starr, noted cultural historian.

On August 12, landscape architect Thomas Brown will discuss "Invasion of the Exotics: Plants and Taste in Bay Area Victorian Gardens".

A series of seven certain-to-be-lively lectures (September through November) by architectural critic/historian Gray Brechin are entitled "Building the City: Architectural and Development History of San Francisco".

For more details, contact Heritage (415/441-3000).

ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY - Santa Cruz

GREENE & GREENE: Architects in the Residential Style is a book and the title of an exhibition of architectural photographs by William Current running through August 22 at the Cooper Street Octagon of the Santa Cruz Historical Society.

Current is one of the country's finest photographers and his book, with Karen Current Sinsheimer, published in 1974, is still considered by many to be the best on the brothers Greene.

August 1 SACRAMENTO - State Historical Resources Commission Meeting; for more information contact Sandy Elder (916/445-8006)

August 1 LOS ANGELES - Public Information Meeting on restoration of L.A. Railway Plaza Substation in El Pueblo Park; for more information contact Jean Bruce Poole (213/680-2525).

Aug. 26-29 MONTEREY - Workshop on Revenue Sources for Historic Sites; for more information contact National Trust (415/974-8420).

Sept. 13-14 PASADENA
Sept. 26-27 SANTA CLARA (Both) Preserving Historic Districts, training programs on Historic Preservation Ordinances in California; for more information contact National Trust (415/974-8420).

Sept. 30 - Oct. 3 OAKLAND -- American Association for State and Local History Annual Meeting; for more information contact the Oakland Museum (415/273-3845).

Oct. 17-19 BAKERSFIELD - California Committee for the Promotion of History Annual Conference with the theme "Managing Cultural Resources"; for more information contact Carola Rupert (805/861-2132).

Oct. 16-17 CHICO - Conference on "Historic Preservation and Economic Revitalization in Rural California", explaining the role of preservation in Governor Deukmejian's "Rural Renaissance" program. Cosponsors are the State Office of Historic Preservation and the Chico Heritage Association; for more information contact the O.H.P. (916/445-8006).

Oct. 14-19 KANSAS CITY - 40th Annual National Preservation Conference; for more information contact the National Trust (415/974-8420).

Nov. 7 OXNARD - State Historical Resources Commission meeting.

June 4 - 7, 1987 CORONADO - 11th Annual State Preservation Conference (watch for more details).

MORE CALIFORNIA NEWS

Redding

Sandy Wood, new CPF member and graphic artist from Redding, has produced an excellent publication, Redding's Historic Architecture: Three Self-Guided Tours. This north-state community has a fine collection of gems -- residential, commercial and public -- and the pamphlet is designed to encourage local citizens to get out and discover the rich legacy that surrounds them.

Sandy Wood's expert pen and ink drawings of more than 30 buildings, some refusing to record insensitive changes, are further incentive to go take a look.

The Tourist and Convention Bureau, realizing the promotion value of the pamphlet, provided funding.

San Francisco

The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage announced the appointment of Mark Ryser as Executive Director.

Mark has a well-known record of involvement in historic preservation. Prior to joining Heritage as Deputy Director in early 1985, he served on the staff of the State Senate for six years. He is a member of the Board of the California Preservation Foundation and holds degrees in urban planning from the University of Washington and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Alameda

The Alameda Main Street produced an attractive poster for Preservation Week this year -- photographs of architectural features throughout the community. But the poster was also part of a contest which received considerable local media coverage.

Anyone could enter the contest by discovering which buildings' details were pictured and getting the property owner to stamp the proper identification. Winners got prizes, building owners probably increased their business -- and could be proud of the buildings -- and Alamedans started to pay more attention to the architectural details that had always been there awaiting discovery and appreciation.

Pasadena

"Pasadena Portrait" is a city centennial project of Pasadena Heritage, a 40-minute video cassette that celebrates the natural and created beauty and heritage of the city. As you might expect, architecture is featured but gardens and natural landscape are emphasized as well. A great idea and a great product, the video is available from Pasadena Heritage (80 West Dayton St., Pasadena 91105) - 818/793-0617. Prices: \$29.95/VHS and \$34.95/Beta. **7**



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