

Benicia Fights to "Save the Lido"

Once again the citizens of Benicia are rallying 'round to support restoration and preservation of the town's most important historic waterfront structure, Jurgensen's Old Corner Saloon, commonly called The Lido. Together with the SP Depot (built in 1897 in Banta, California and moved to Benicia in 1902) and the Jurgensen House (Queen Anne, circa 1902), the Saloon completes an authentic historical unit of structures in an area now called the Historic Triangle. It is believed that the buildings are eligible for the National Register based on the site's continuous use for boarding, tavern and food establishments adjacent to the Transcontinental Railway Line and a major shipping line. In 1850 it was the first West Coast depot of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. Unfortunately all three City-owned buildings have been sadly neglected with the Saloon being the most deteriorated. It is this specific site which operated continuously as a saloon and boarding house from 1856 until 1979 and has been vacant since 1981.

The vacant structures were easy targets for vandals, but by far the most damage was perpetrated by the City itself when the Municipal Marina development grading began in 1978 with an inadequate soils and hydrology study. The grade of the surrounding land was raised substantially, leaving Jurgensen's Saloon and House standing in water year 'round, in contrast to previous sporadic flooding. Even the old S.P. Depot which did not previously flood now has water standing under it. And in 1982 the newly-arrived Fire Chief was allowed to use the saloon structure for fire-fighting practice with high pressure hoses, breaking all of the windows and completely watersoaking the interior.

In 1984, encouraged by the election of pro-preservation Mayor Marilyn O'Rourke, (see page 7)



Jurgensen's Old Corner Saloon (The Lido), ca. 1900. Photo: Benicia Historical Society



Palo Alto - Stanford Host Annual Confab.. Super Conference XIII.

In a 1988 northern California "livability poll" Palo Alto ranked first and Stanford schools rank first in the nation on a regular basis. The Thirteenth Annual State Preservation Conference, May 19-22, 1988, takes place in one of America's top communities and we plan to have a conference that measures up to these standards. And we are proud that, for the first time, the conference has spawned a private non-profit preservation group, Palo Alto-Stanford Heritage, our local cosponsor.

The conference will make full use of both the town and the gown, and you will have many opportunities to see and sense the spirit which has made this place. Friday's program (May 20) will take place in and around downtown Palo Alto; Saturday we are on campus.

The Opening Reception, Thursday evening (May 19) will take place at the Stanford owned "Hoover House"...yes, the former home of President Herbert Hoover. Friday's sessions will focus on preservation planning and politics, economics and downtown design and will be in and around Palo Alto's business and civic center. On Saturday we move to the campus of Stanford University for sessions in restored classrooms covering preservation education, technical and legal preservation concerns, archaeology and computers; Saturday night's gala is scheduled for outdoors, in the Quad. Tours on Sunday and throughout the conference will highlight the historic sites, gardens, vintage neighborhoods and scenic cultural landscapes in Palo Alto and surrounding communities on the Peninsula.

Once again, the California Preservation Foundation is delighted to have a host of Cosponsors for the State Conference. The Society for California Archaeology and Association for Preservation Technology and California Main Street Program are participating for the second year in a row; and our traditional partners, the National Trust and State Office of Historic Preservation will join us, as has been the case since 1976 when the first conference was held a few miles away, at Filoli.

Program speakers we can announce at this time are Judith Lynch, author of A Gift to the Streets, Blair and Helaine Kaplan Prentice, creators of Rehab Right and Retrofit Right, John Miller, founder of the California Theatre Historians, and Claire Bogaard, Pasadena's unelected mayor.

(Story continues -- next page)

Conference News (continued)

State Conference XIII will be fun, enlightening and well worth your time. Palo Alto and Stanford will surprise you with the richness of its natural and cultural legacy and the friendliness of its citizens. If you liked Coronado, you will love Palo Alto; hope to see you there.



Lou Henry Hoover house, now the residence of Stanford University's president, was designed by Mrs. Herbert Hoover in collaboration with A.B. Clark, a Stanford art professor, and his son, Birge Clark. Stanford will open the home for a reception during the 13th Annual California Preservation Conference, May 19-22, 1988.

THERE'S A ROLE FOR YOU, TOO

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Initial publicity has been mailed and registration material should be ready by March. While CPF members receive all mailings, you might want to pass the word, contact others, and let us know of your interest in attending early. Everyone who calls the Palo Alto-Stanford Heritage local planning committee (415)326-4123 can be assured they will receive the registration packet.

DESIGN AWARDS presented to winners of a juried competition is an annual "special event" at the conference. CPF board member Warren Williams is coordinator of this event and inquiries about the program, criteria and process -- as well as requests for entry forms and the program brochure -- should be directed to Warren at (916)925-5550.

THREE-MINUTE SUCCESS STORIES, the uproarious opportunity any conference goer has to tell about a local preservation success or battle while racing the clock, will delight attendees once more in Palo Alto. Individuals or organizations interested should contact CPF board member Steve Spiller at (714)792-2111. As a side note, Judith Lynch initiated this idea at the San Jose conference in 1978 and will have her first chance to see what's become of her "baby" in Palo Alto.

PRESERVATION AUCTION has become a feature of the conference in the last two years and is being planned again for Palo Alto. CPF board

member Pamela Seager is soliciting your assistance and especially your cherished antiques, capable services or packaged tours for the auction; both small items and large, romantic weekend packages, design or consulting services, publications or preservation posters are being sought. If you have something you think will draw a bid, please contact Pamela at (213)431-3541; donations benefit the Foundation and are tax-deductible.

AFFINITY GROUP MEETINGS can be held at the conference and we will help you find a place to meet, with the understanding that meetings are not held at times competing with conference programs or events. In the past such meetings have included the State Historic Building Code Board, A.P.T., Heritage Task Force, State Historical Resources Commission, and other preservation-related organizations' boards. For information and assistance in this regard, please call John Merritt at the Foundation office number, (415)527-7808.

The California Preservation Foundation is proud of the ANNUAL STATE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE and feel it is the biggest and best annual get-together of its kind in the country. If you have questions about the program or want more information about the special features listed above, do feel free to call us at (415)527-7808.

WESTERN STATEWIDES MEET IN SAN FRANCISCO

The California Preservation Foundation hosted a three-day fundraising workshop in San Francisco, January 7 through 9. Nine statewide preservation organizations -- from Hawaii and Alaska to Arizona and Utah -- attended the workshop led by a team from Brakeley, John Price Jones Inc., a nationally-known consultant firm headquartered in Newport Beach.

The workshop is a unique western experiment -- funded in part by the National Trust -- to improve the financial stability of nine very different statewide organizations with different levels of sophistication, program activity and geographical circumstances. The January meeting explored fundraising principles; follow-up site visits by the consultants will focus on each organization's goals and will develop specific plans to reach the individual fundraising objectives.

Regional meetings of statewide preservation organizations -- to share experiences, successes and ideas -- began in the West in 1981 and are now duplicated across the country. The chance to meet, commiserate and learn from each other on a regular basis provided the impetus for national meetings (held annually in conjunction with the National Trust Conference) and for the formation of the National Alliance of Statewide Preservation Organizations (NASPO) in 1987; again, the West has taken a lead in defining the goals of NASPO and, CPF's Executive Director, John Merritt, serves on the new group's steering committee.

Meeting and organizing is not done for the sake of meeting and organizing. We hope to improve our capabilities, enlarge our understanding of the people and programs operating outside of California and to better our service to preservationists in California. A secure revenue base makes it all possible.



CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

AN ANNIVERSARY

Each January, when putting out another newsletter, I am reminded of the first, published in January of 1976, and the surprise and excitement we created. I remember Jim Marrin (graphics designer extraordinaire) "laying out the boards", Penny Maines madly typing stories sent from Peggy Lang on the inside activities of the legislature in Sacramento, Judith Lynch's finely written pieces on San Francisco's latest insensitive attack on a major historic landmark, or Bill Padgett's concise reports on SHPO efforts, Bev Bubar reading for typos with various spouses trying to help, children in the way and too much wine clouding our judgement. All of this in a small bungalow in Pasadena, a city which seemed to be in the process of destroying itself in front of my eyes.

Happy Anniversary, California Preservation; while many of those early volunteers have gone on to lead more rational lives, some of us remain, and the preservation movement in California continues to survive and thrive as a result of the energies thousands of individuals have poured into this vital effort. And thank you to each and every one for the time you have devoted to preserving California's unique history and heritage for the present and future generations.

The Editor

AND WE OWE IT TO YOU

1987 proved to be the California Preservation Foundation's most productive year, and the first when we were able to meet our budget projections, limited as they may be. While the Coronado Conference was to play a big part in helping us pay the bills, we were also fortunate to receive substantial program support from the California Main Street Program and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is difficult to express our gratitude, but we are indebted and thankful.

We also found that our members - you - were willing to accept the necessary changes in membership dues and we take this as a solid vote of confidence that the work we do continues to be worthy of your support. Some of you were Stellar Performers in 1987, donating even more than the minimum amount, and we want to honor you by telling everybody in these pages about your willingness to give an extra bit.

Many Thanks To:

CAROL RANDOLPH, BARBARA BRY and SALLY SPIES of La Jolla, THE GASLAMP QUARTER COUNCIL and KATHLEEN KELLEY-MARKHAM in San Diego, MR. and MRS. ROBERT FARIS in Coronado, WILMORE CITY HERITAGE and DOUG OTTO in Long Beach, THE CITY OF REDLANDS, LARRY WINANS in Downey and P.L. WINTNER in Whittier, CLAIRE BOGAARD, LINDA DISHMAN, ROBERT WINTER and VICTOR ILLIG in Pasadena, ROB SELWAY and DIANN MARSH in Santa Ana, MARGARET BACH in Santa Monica, JUDITH RUDOLPH

in Los Angeles THE OLD RIVERSIDE FOUNDATION, CAROLE DOUGHERTY and CAROL POLACHEK in Glendale, ALEX COLE in Santa Barbara, CHRIS BREWER in Bakersfield, RICHARD JENNINGS in Fresno, ELIZABETH and SCOTT MATHIESON in San Jose, DAN and GERRIE PETERSON in Point Richmond, ROBERT ARNESON and SANDRA SHANNONHOUSE in Benicia, JAN STRAND from Sea Ranch, ROBIN DATEL and DENNIS DINGEMANS in Davis, CLARENCE CULLIMORE in Sacramento, RENE and VERONICA DI ROSA in Napa, THE GRASS VALLEY DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION and ROBERTSON COLLINS from Jacksonville, Oregon.

Major contributions in 1987 were made by:

CLAREMONT HERITAGE and JIM STICKELS in Claremont, NANCY THATCHER in El Toro, THE GLENDORA PRESERVATION FOUNDATION, KNOX MELLON in Riverside, and RAY GIRVIGIAN in South Pasadena, MR. and MRS. CHARLES FIELD in San Francisco, GARRIL PAGE in Ross, OAKLAND HERITAGE ALLIANCE, THE BERKELEY ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION, NAPA LANDMARKS, INC., WARREN WILLIAMS in Sacramento and JANE CARTER from Colusa.

Our highest category of support is SPONSORS and in 1987 we were delighted to welcome a strong group of SPONSORS as members:

LARRY and JEANNE LAWRENCE of the Hotel del Coronado, FRAN OFFENHAUSER of Hollywood, THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY, WILLIAM DELVAC of Los Angeles, STEVE and CHRISTY McAVOY of Hollywood, THOMAS JOHNSON of Pomona, SAVE OUR OLD LA VERNE ENVIRONMENT, PASADENA HERITAGE, WILLIAM CROSS of Pasadena, PAMELA SEAGER of Long Beach, MYRNA SAXE of Sherman Oaks, and WILLIAM BURKHART of Felton.

Finally, a generous end-of-year gift from the FIRST INTERSTATE BANK OF CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION capped off 1987.

The lifeblood of the Foundation is its members, the individuals and organizations who help us do the work we do. Our board and member volunteers contribute an enormous amount of time and energy to this work; others -- such as those named above -- also contribute the critical financial support we need. Some are new to CPF while others have been with us since 1976; All, however, are deeply appreciated.

NOMINATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Seven new Foundation Board of Trustees will be elected at the Annual Meeting in Palo Alto; but the process starts now. Members can, and should nominate candidates and may do so by sending suggestions and supporting material to Nominations Chairman Bill Sugaya, CPF, 41 Sutter St., Suite 1593, San Francisco, CA 94104 by March 1, 1988.

Candidates should demonstrate a thorough understanding of and demonstrate strong, previous participation in preservation efforts. They should also clearly understand that CPF has a state level focus. Terms are for 3 years and attendance at quarterly board meetings is a commitment we ask.

PRESERVATION WEEK may 8-14: plan a local event !

"Preservation; The People's Choice"; for more information contact the National Trust (415)956-0610.

Palo Alto: Town and Gown

If architecture is personality writ large, few American personalities have written larger than Leland and Jane Stanford. In a grief-stricken moment, they founded a great university and designated land for the town that would support it. Their characters and the drama they set in motion are reflected in the architectural heritage of the Palo Alto Stanford University community.

Leland Stanford was already a giant on the California scene when he and his family embarked on a grand tour of Europe in 1883. The son of an upstate New York farmer and innkeeper, Stanford had made a fortune selling supplies to gold rush miners and parlayed it into a railroad and land empire. His political career, including a term as governor, reinforced his success as a businessman.

The world collapsed on Leland and Jane Stanford the following year when 15-year-old Leland, Jr., died of typhoid fever in Florence. Typically, the strong-willed couple vowed to take action in the face of tragedy. They would create a university that would live on in memory of their beloved son.

Leland Stanford's attention turned first to architecture. He let it be known that he would consult the best design minds of his era, but that the final word would be his. He fulfilled his promise on both scores.

The best minds included those of landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and the architectural firm of Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, which had been founded by the recently deceased H.H. Richardson. But the sandstone quadrangles that soon appeared on Stanford's farm bore the unmistakable signature of the founder. The classical symmetry of the layout, the references to Spanish colonial antecedents in arcades and courtyards, and the monumental impulse behind the plan were particularly foreign to Olmsted's characteristic work. Richardson's Romanesque style was more clearly visible in the buildings designed by his disciple, Charles Coolidge, but the organizing vision was Stanford's.

Meanwhile, Stanford had asked Timothy Hopkins, the adopted son of his fellow railroad magnate Mark Hopkins, to purchase land on the far side of El Camino Real to serve as the site of a university town. By 1890, six families were camping under oak trees while their homes were being built.

A commercial district appeared along the principal thoroughfare, University Avenue. The nearby residential neighborhood attracted the families of shopkeepers and craftsmen who were building the university. A second cluster of residences near Embarcadero Road became known as Professorville.

Among his many other accomplishments, Leland Stanford had summoned into being a lively intellectual community. Stanford professors offered their skills to the new town, designing the utility systems and taking leadership in municipal affairs. Their sophistication and eclectic tastes were reflected in the

homes that they built within an easy bicycle ride of the campus. Many chose the progressive architecture of the period, which we now call the Shingle Style. These comfortable homes often incorporated Colonial elements as well as the influence of the Craftsman movement, including an inclination toward natural materials, roomy porches, trellises, wide eaves and heavy porch columns.

The more traditional Queen Anne style, with its towers, bays and ornate woodwork, was much in evidence. Among Palo Alto's early homes were both large, elaborate Queen Anne structures and many smaller "workmen's cottages" that aspired to such grandeur in their details.

The restless intellects of Palo Alto continued to explore architectural concepts as the years went on. Today one can find evidence of many diverse impulses and trends in the Classical, Mission, Spanish Colonial, Tudor, and Medieval Revival, as well as Prairie and even Streamline Moderne, homes scattered throughout the older neighborhoods.

Following the example set by Leland Stanford, citizens of Palo Alto frequently commissioned the leading architects of their day. Among the architects who contributed to the Palo Alto inventory are Ernest Coxhead, Gardner Dailey, Bernard Maybeck, Julia Morgan and William Wilson Wurster.

The downtown business district also absorbed many styles and trends as the decades passed. Today, strong examples of the Monterey and Spanish Colonial Revival schools, with plans drawn by designer Pedro de Lemos and architects Birge Clark and William Weeks, are particularly well represented along Ramona Street between University and Hamilton Avenues and in the Varsity Theater on University.

With the death of Leland Stanford in 1893, Jane Stanford took over the reins of construction. The role of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge had begun to erode in the last years of her husband's life, and Mrs. Stanford replaced them with draftsmen and architects of her own choosing. She completed elements of the Olmsted plan, including the outer quadrangle, Memorial Church, and a monumental Memorial Arch at the entrance to the main quadrangle. She also diverged from the



Residence of Mr. Herbert Hoover, at Stanford, California. Medusa Stainless White Cement was used for the exterior stucco and on the inside for showers, baths, setting tile, etc. Architect Mr. A. B. Clark, Stanford University, California.

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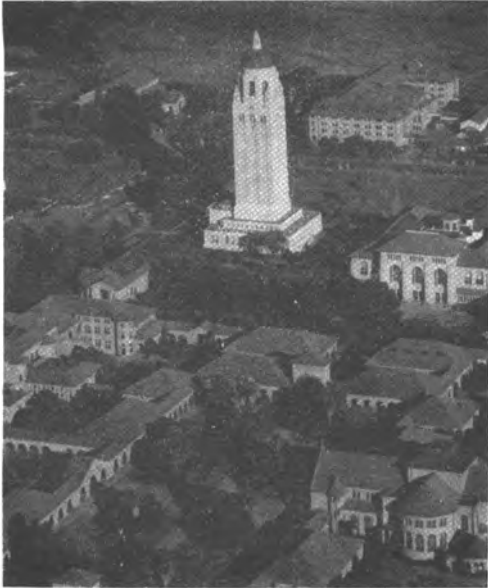
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more on Palo Alto

original plan with a series of buildings to the north of the quadrangles, including a museum, a gymnasium and a library. The museum was a replica of the Neo-Classical National Museum of Athens, which young Leland Jr. had apparently admired years before. The Stanford version was one of the first major buildings to be constructed of reinforced concrete.



Jane Stanford died in 1905 while vacationing in Hawaii. A year later, the Great Earthquake destroyed much of what had been built under her tenure, including the Memorial Arch and the tower of Memorial Church as well as the unfinished library and gymnasium. The reinforced concrete portion of the museum survived, although two newer wings collapsed. A subsequent inquiry concluded that engineering and construction standards had deteriorated after the death of Leland Stanford.

Mrs. Stanford's role as driving force in campus architecture was assumed by several other strong women in succeeding decades. In 1916, the wife of university President Ray Lyman Wilbur commissioned the design of a massive Spanish-Gothic residence. Today that building, known as The Knoll, houses the Music Department. A few years later, in 1919, Lou Henry Hoover designed a striking, modern residence in collaboration with A.B. Clark, a Stanford art professor, and his son Birge Clark. Mrs. Hoover and her husband, Herbert, continued to consider this their home through Mr. Hoover's presidency and in later years. It now serves as the official residence of the university president. Birge Clark went on to design more than 120 commercial and residential buildings in Palo Alto alone.

The habit of inviting great architectural minds to make their mark also continued at Stanford. One notable example is the Hanna-Honeycomb House at 737 Frenchman's Road, which was designed in 1935 for Professor and Mrs. Paul R. Hanna by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Today, as Palo Alto and Stanford move into their second century, the intellectual ferment of the community has expanded to include saving architectural treasures. In 1980,

Palo Alto adopted an ordinance to promote the preservation of historic buildings and neighborhoods. Stanford has continued its vigorous efforts to preserve its own historic resources, including an architecturally sensitive restoration and re-engineering of the original inner and outer quadrangles over the past decade.

With the recent formation of the Palo Alto - Stanford Heritage Association, the two elements of this community have come together to continue the task of protecting their mutual historical record. You are welcome to share this delightful heritage during the 13th Annual California Preservation Conference on May 19-22.

by Diarmuid McGuire

OLD HOUSE CURRIULUM LAUNCHED

Three San Francisco Bay Area women have initiated an exciting project with the help of the California Preservation Foundation. "Our Houses" is a curriculum which will enable California teachers to use their own cities or towns to encourage appreciation of residential architecture. The curriculum will include detailed chapters on styles, timelines of significant statewide, national, and world events, and a discussion of how students can perceive and analyze changes in their neighborhoods.

San Francisco teacher Alberta Furnoy, architectural historian Marty Gordon, and Victorian architecture freak Judith Lynch (a founding board member of Californians for Preservation Action) combined their skills and their considerable enthusiasm last year. They decided to research and produce a curriculum that would expand students' awareness of houses as important historic artifacts and enlist them early as soldiers in the preservation army.

While they intend to concentrate on San Francisco as their detailed model, they will work closely with CPF board members to ensure statewide coverage of architectural styles and eras. The completed guide will also include information about how teachers can do local research as well as glimpses into the architectural treasures of Los Angeles and representative sites elsewhere in the state.

They anticipate the project will take two years, including field-testing with teachers and students in several locations. Some draft material will be presented at their May State Historic Preservation Conference workshop "Awakening Delight", a session about working with elementary school students.

The three are currently seeking funding, with CPF assistance. In addition to support for the written materials, they also want funds for a companion videotape, which would involve students themselves in the scriptwriting, narration, camerawork and production.

This newsletter was brought to you by John Merritt with the assistance of Dick Price. Contributors were Judith Lynch, Diarmuid McGuire and Sandra Shannonhouse.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - - - MARCH 31, 1988

California Issues, Actions, Ideas

IMPORTANT "STATE REGISTER" HEARING

The State Historical Resources Commission will be meeting in Sacramento on February 19, 1988, and will devote the entire session to recommendations for establishing the State Register. A packet of material defining the State Register criteria and process - as proposed - is available from the State Office of Historic Preservation now; if you are interested in what the Commission has created, contact the State Office (316/445-8006) to be sure you receive the packet before the meeting.

The State Register was a priority recommendation of the California Heritage Task Force in 1984. The idea was put forth that existing programs - designed by federal administrators or created many years ago - effectively restricted the people of California from nominating many properties they held dear. The early programs were fine, as far as they went, but Californians had advanced beyond these prior limits.

Our understanding of heritage has deepened and the scope of resources we see as important to the culture has broadened greatly in the intervening years. A California State Register would enable us to match our vision with a much enlarged recognition program; and, it was hoped, listing would be followed by the application of programs providing new incentives and greater protection for State Register resources.

Progress in developing this program, to be generous, has been slow. The Administration has been less than enthusiastic about new programs and defining the scope of a new set of criteria for cultural resources has also proved to be difficult. Commissioner Karana Hattersley-Drayton's subcommittee has persisted, however, and we now have a chance at the February 19 Hearing to push the State Register one step closer to reality.

If you or your group can be at this hearing, do so; if you can't, as OHP for the packet of material and express your opinion in writing.

MORE CALIFORNIA NEWS -- REDLANDS

On January 6, 1988, The Redlands Sun reported that "the City's gamble to save (the) historic trolley barn from the wrecking ball has paid off", the City Council approving sale of the property to a Santa Ana developer. Redlands' willingness to purchase and attempt to market the building was described and applauded in our last issue; we now hope the risk they took and the success they have had will convince other cities to make similar moves to save historic properties.

There is a lot of talk about the "public/private partnership" but few public entities seem to be able to play an active role in promoting preservation projects in an entrepreneurial way. Instead, some cities designate worthy properties as landmarks and then sit on the sidelines until acceptable proposals surface, or, worse, someone applies for demolition permits. Redlands' Mayor Carole Beswick and Planner Darrell Cozen should serve as models for many California cities.

Publications

The Heritage Education Quarterly (498 South Main Street, Madison, Georgia 30650) has come across our desk. The newsletter covers a wide range of school programs, ideas, teacher materials and educational training opportunities throughout the country and should be of interest to anyone using architecture as a teaching tool in the schools.

Wallace Neff was well known as the Hollywood stars' architect, but his career and creativity went far beyond that. Neff was one of the most imaginative users of the "Spanish-Colonial" style but was also an innovator in both the use of materials and architecture he produced in a long life in Southern California. Wallace Neff, Architect of California's Golden Age (Capra Press, 1986) is a luxurious and well-informed study of Neff's work by Alson Clark, Jr., of Pasadena, a man who grew up in the environment Neff helped create, and a man who knew Neff and his family well. This is an unmatched analysis of Neff's work, an architect whose contributions have long awaited - and deserved - serious study. Neff groupies (like the editor) are delighted our friend Alson Clark has written this book.

Robert E. Stipe is one of America's true gurus in historic preservation, a lawyer, teacher and activist from North Carolina. Every decade or so Stipe produces another visionary piece, an invaluable guide for future preservation planning. The latest, "The Next 20 Years", was published in The American Mosaic: Preserving A Nation's Heritage by US/ICOMOS in time for the first International Conference held in the United States (October, 1987, in Washington, D.C.) For copies, try US/ICOMOS (1600 H Street, Washington, D.C. 20006).

So, What's Happening ?

Feb. 7 - May 8 -- The Silvergate CONCERTS - San Diego - chamber music in historic sites. Four Sunday afternoon concerts and receptions sponsored by Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO); for more information contact Lyn Schubert at (619)459-0621.

Feb. 19 -- State Historical Resources Commission meeting - Sacramento; meeting will concentrate on proposed STATE REGISTER criteria (see story)

March 24-26 -- Annual Meeting of the SOCIETY FOR CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY - Redding; for a full program and meeting details contact S.C.A., c/o Department of Anthropology, Cal State University, Fullerton, CA 92634.

May 11-14 -- INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC ISOLATION/HISTORIC PRESERVATION SYMPOSIUM - Salt Lake City - will focus on the unique solutions for the City-County Building in Salt Lake; for more information contact the Office of The Mayor, (801)535-6042.

May 19-22 -- Thirteenth ANNUAL STATE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE - Palo Alto (see story); for more information contact the California Preservation Foundation, (415)527-7808.

BENICIA (continued)

a citizens' group raised over \$700 to have hazards such as old water heaters removed from the saloon, the grounds cleaned up, and the windows secured with plywood. The City fenced the saloon and house and agreed to maintain them, but concerns about the IT Toxic Waste Dump and the need for a new City Manager took precedence. However, contact was made with the Coastal Conservancy and the City received a grant for a study of development possibilities for the Historic Triangle. Conducted by Interactive Resources, the final hearing on the study was held December 12, 1987. It appears that major portions of the most elaborate plan have the public's support. Unfortunately, while the plan recommended retaining the Saloon and Depot, the Queen Anne house was not included. Local preservationists hope to correct this omission.

Since the fence was erected in 1984, vandalism has resumed, window coverings were removed and deterioration accelerated. In 1987, a group of Benicians, including most of the still-living former elected officials, became irate and frustrated with what had become an eyesore. They named themselves the Lido Zappers and presented a petition with over 2000 signatures to the City Council asking for immediate demolition of the saloon. The Council voted to create a restoration plan and set a March 15, 1988, cut-off date.

Supporters of restoration organized under the very active leadership of Peter Bray to form The Friends of the Lido Committee in support of restoration of the three structures in the Historic Triangle and the sadly-deteriorated Von Pfister Adobe, just two blocks north. During the first week over \$600 and several hundred signatures were collected. The City was convinced to once again allow private citizens to clean up the premises, removing three dumpster loads of wood, debris, and weeds. The windows have been weather-sealed with donated, scene-painted panels and existing, faded molding and shutters have been painted. The rear exposure of the Jurgensen Saloon was sealed with donated polyethylene plastic. Signs have been made and installed identifying the three structures as Historic Buildings that are to be restored. Several press releases have been submitted and have received positive press coverage from local and out-of-county newspapers. Contact is being maintained with the City, the Main Street Program, of which Benicia is a part, and with the Coastal Conservancy. Grass-roots support is keeping the buildings standing. The March 15 deadline is approaching.

By Sandra Shannonhouse

The "Friends of the Lido" story is a classic example of the ability of citizen preservationists to save a lost cause. Individual initiative rebuilt sentiment for saving a major remnant of Benicia's most interesting past. The Mayor and City Manager were willing to take positive steps to preserve the Lido, once they saw citizens were willing to get out there and help with the job, and the critics of preservation seem to have been silenced. The story also reminds us that the Coastal Conservancy often takes an interest and plays a significant role in preserving historic properties along

the coast and rivers of California. We anticipate being able to report a happy ending to this story in the near future, but even before that, we want to congratulate the people of Benicia for their willingness to contribute money, materials, physical energy and political acumen to the cause, acting as well as talking.

The Editor.

D.C. NEWS - FY 87/88 FUNDING

Preservation Action reports that 1987-88 funding for the federal preservation program finally was approved just before the Christmas recess.

The final number - 28.25 million - was a compromise between the Senate's recommended 34 million, a slightly lower figure by the House, and the Administration's traditional request for zero. The funding figure allocates 20 million for SHPOs, 4.5 for the National Trust, \$750,000 for a comprehensive survey of Micro-nesia and 1 million for the "Centennial Light-house Fund". An additional 2 million dollar fund was created for "predevelopment grants" and is earmarked for planning and survey, architectural or engineering fees or planning and management costs for projects initiated by local government and/or non-profits; while it is uncertain at this time how this money will be distributed, the program is a new wrinkle in federal support.

The National Park Service, separately, received 7.8 million to administer the preservation program nationally, and the total of over 36 million represents the highest ever budget allocation for preservation during the Reagan Administration. Nellie Longworth warns, however, that a worsening deficit picture will make for a tougher budget fight this year.

EASEMENT REPORT FROM TREASURY

The Department of Treasury released a report Dec. 18, 1987 (Document 88-25) which suggests the current 'free market' in easements is inefficient and error-prone. Without being able to fully document some conclusions, the report argues that easements are overvalued for IRS purposes, are granted by individuals without concern for overall planning or preservation priorities and the results are difficult to monitor. One suggested solution in the report is to switch over to a federal purchase program to acquire easements on critically important properties and elimination of the current tax deduction for easement donations.

Insiders suggest this report is just one of thousands and the recommendations will gain little congressional support; but, coupled with the apparent drop in easement donations in 1987, the report signals continued tinkering with existing tax law regarding easements may be expected, regulations which have changed six times already in the last ten years.

RAISE OSTRICHES FOR PROFIT

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