KNOX MELLON RETIRES

SHPO Knox Mellon announced, in a November 10 letter to Department of Parks and Recreation Director William Briner that he would leave State service effective December 30, 1983. Knox concludes in his letter:

I shall miss the Office of Historic Preservation as well as the Department of Parks and Recreation. They have both enriched my life and I am indebted to them. I leave with a sense of sadness and some trepidation but I am equally sure that come tomorrow, the sun will rise, the smog will roll in and life she goes on.

Knox has been our SHPO for eight and one half years and it will be difficult to imagine someone else holding the position.

HERITAGE TASK FORCE
DRAFT REPORT RELEASED

A three-part draft report has been issued by California's unprecedented Heritage Task Force. An introductory section documents preservation benefits and a concluding section is meant to serve as a guide to ideas, programs and key organizations that make up the world of preservation.

The central portion of the report comprises Task Force findings, recommendations and suggested legislative remedies. The draft report will serve as the basis for public hearings and a final legislative package. Copies of the draft report are available by contacting Heritage Task Force, attention Jim Jones, Executive Director, 1100 "J" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 324-2574.

Hearings Scheduled

Public hearings on the draft report will be held in San Francisco (February 25) and Los Angeles (March 2). If you or your organization wish to make a presentation, you should review the draft report and make your intentions known to Jim Jones.

The California Preservation Foundation, in conjunction with local groups, is planning benefits for the Task Force in both San Francisco and Los Angeles on the evenings prior to the hearings. Watch for further notice and be there.

BRADBURY BUILDING
IN LOS ANGELES — SAVED!

Fire and seismic code compliance has long plagued the owners of L.A.'s most sensational landmark, the Bradbury Building at 3rd and Broadway. But, the problem seems to be solved and, according to the Community Redevelopment Agency "...the Bradbury Building's preservation is assured for the foreseeable future." In late November an agreement was approved whereby substantial development rights on the site were sold to another developer, with proceeds to be used to fully rehabilitate the building and bring it up to code; all work done is to be governed by "The Secretary's Standards."

The rehabilitation plan, dealing primarily with seismic requirements, would be prepared by John Kariotis and Associates, the C.R.A. paying for the work from funds earmarked for seismic studies within the Broadway Historic District.

The owners will restrict future development with a covenant and will be fully eligible for 25% Tax Credits.

The arrangement, a credit to the C.R.A. and its creative use of redevelopment tools, puts those who, for years, have worried about the Bradbury Building at ease.
**Editorial Comment**  
**JOHN F. MERRITT**

You mean Knox isn’t SHPO any more. I can hardly believe that.

In a personal note Knox Mellon made the following statement, which can be a message for all preservationists in California:

> I intend to remain involved with historic preservation and, so, will be seeing many of you in the months ahead. I am very proud of the long way preservation in California has come since 1975.

Indeed! Knox was there before most of us and, as we learned about preservation one of the first things we learned was that Knox and his staff were of such great help and immense support.

We in California do not recognize the importance Knox and the State Office have had in building the preservation movement in this state. I know it could have been otherwise. No other State Office in the west has shown such consistent dedication and no other SHPO has demonstrated such a long term commitment or been so personally involved in promoting the cause.

While we didn’t always agree with the State Office - and this on very rare occasions - we knew their positions were thoughtfully taken and that Knox, himself, cared because he took his job seriously. He was a leader, coreligionist and friend.

I think I can speak for California preservationists as a group when I say, we will miss seeing you in Sacramento, Knox, but know you will still be working with us - and we look forward to the continuing close relationship. Thanks for all you have done.

**State Conference - Sacramento**

“Long Term Capital Gains”

SOCA, Sacramento Heritage and the California Preservation Foundation selected “Preservation, a Long-Term Capital Gain” as the theme of the 9th California Historic Preservation Conference. The numerous issues and images evoked by the phrase will provide the basis for the informative sessions and special events scheduled for the 1984 Conference in Sacramento April 27th through May 1st.

The California Heritage Task Force established by the legislature is the most ambitious in the country. The work of this seventeen-member body of experts will be the focus of the general and concurrent sessions of the Conference. The Task Force report will be in the hands of the legislature by the time we all convene in Sacramento.

Conference participants will be the first to learn of the "state of the art" recommendations and the newly-proposed preservation legislation which will shape the future of the preservation movement in California for years to come.

The long-term capital gain for investors and developers attending the conference directly relates to one of the most important Task Force Study Areas and Conference sessions - financial capital gain. Architects and engineers attending the Conference will be encouraged by gains made in the area of the State Historic Building Code, Preservation Standards, energy and seismic design solutions. Another major package of recommendations from the Task Force to be highlighted in April is in the area of museums, archives, and education -- curriculum apprentice programs, technical training and professional standards are all issues which continue to require our energy and ideas.

The ninth annual Conference with its focus on the California Heritage Task Force provides an excellent opportunity for conferences to promote preservation and the Task Force recommendations to the legislature. Californians for Preservation Action will coordinate lobbying workshops and appointments for conferences with their legislators. One of the Conference highlights will be the annual CPA dinner honoring the Task Force at the Senator Hotel. This all-important public participation aspect of the Conference will culminate with a CPA sponsored Breakfast With the Legislators at Morey’s Place, Tuesday morning May 1st.

For advance information write:

1984 HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE  
c/o Sacramento Old City Association  
P.O. Box 1022  
Sacramento, California 95805

Early registration is $60; $40 for seniors and students; special Sunday workshops are only $25; and late registration is $80; $60 for seniors/students.

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Coalinga - Lessons for Preservation

by Anne L. Watson and Mel Green

On May 2, 1983, a 6.1 to 6.5 Richter Magnitude earthquake struck the city of Coalinga, California, damaging all of the early twentieth-century buildings of the downtown area. By mid-July the entire downtown had been razed.

Downtown Coalinga soon after the quake

Bad times are said to be the friend of preservation; disasters are undoubtedly one of its greatest enemies. We cannot afford to lose historic buildings. But how can they continue to seem important during a time of loss and tragedy?

The answer to this question can be found by examining the legal and administrative procedures that have been designed for use in emergency situations. After a major earthquake or other disaster, local governments will declare a local emergency and request the Governor to declare a state of emergency. If the problem is beyond the capabilities of the State (as a major earthquake probably would be), the Governor requests the President to declare a major disaster, thus enabling involvement of federal agencies. In practice, all available aid is rushed to the area to save lives and property, even if a formal declaration of need has not yet been made.

Federal aid generally comes in the form of money -- for temporary housing, food, medical care, and rescue. Later aid may involve demolishing damaged buildings, as it did in Coalinga. Federal money, however, may not be used in violation of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Executive Order 11593, unless necessary for the preservation of human life.

The United States Constitution provides that issues of health and safety are under the jurisdiction of the states. Therefore, evaluation of structural damage is accomplished under local or state agencies' initiative. When historic properties are affected, the State Historic Preservation Officer acts as an advisor to the Governor's Authorized Representative to the Regional Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The SHPO will help the Regional Director to determine that federal aid is used in accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Procedures for Historic and Cultural Properties.

The SHPO, however, is not brought into the decision-making process unless affected structures are listed on state or local landmarks listings or on the National Register of Historic Places; or have been officially designated as eligible for such listing. It is essential, therefore, that local preservation groups strongly urge cities to perform surveys and identify landmarks and districts prior to a disaster. If local, state or National Register eligibility is recorded for structures affected by a disaster, adherence to Advisory Council procedures is automatic except in cases of imminent threat to life.

If possible, vulnerable historic structures should be strengthened. Structural strengthening can and should be performed in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards. Cities can encourage building strengthening through building code administration and enforcement. In vulnerable areas, such as California, preservation groups should make every effort to have important buildings strengthened prior to a disaster, and to lobby their cities for codes and policies that will make such strengthening feasible.

Building owners and local preservation groups should also have their own disaster plans. They should be able to secure their buildings quickly after a disaster. This will probably involve some sort of fencing, since a damaged building may not be secureable by locking or boarding up doors and windows. If a building is not secured, it may be construed to be an imminent hazard to the public.

Engineers brought in by the state will probably not be experts in historic preservation. Historic building owners and preservation groups should know, prior to an emergency, the names and credentials of engineers who do specialize in preservation.

In summation, disaster planning is an important part of the preservation process. Only official designation of structures and districts will ensure consideration for historic resources by federal and state agencies. Preparedness on the part of building owners is essential: they should strengthen their buildings if they can, and should be able to secure them quickly to prevent hazards to the public. Finally, they should know engineers who can help them if their building is damaged in a disaster. They must plan for all these items before an emergency happens; afterwards -- as Coalinga proved -- is just too late.

50 years ago Long Beach fared no better. The 1933 Long Beach quake led to the "Field Act" which has led to the demolition of many public buildings.
The annual meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation was held recently in San Antonio, Texas. On Tuesday, October 25th, a day before the National Trust meeting began, representatives of about 25 statewide historic preservation organizations met in San Antonio to discuss common issues. California Preservation Foundation had three participants at the statewides meeting. John Merritt and I were involved in the program for the meeting, while Claire Bogaard, a CPF board member from Pasadena, attended and joined in the work sessions. We also had two other board members from Californians for Preservation Action (CPA) at the statewides meeting, Jane Ellison and Bill Ellinger, so California was well represented in the discussions that took place.

We learned several things at the meeting that will be useful to the Foundation board as we work toward a statewide historic preservation program in California. First, we learned that California is unique in having two statewide historic preservation organizations, CPF and CPA. In the other states represented at the meeting, the statewide organization was formed as a tax-exempt, non-profit educational corporation under the IRS designation, 501(c)3. As an educational group, their efforts to lobby for favorable legislation at local, state, and federal levels is limited by IRS rules. Here in California, as most of our readers will remember, we set up CPA as a 501(c)4 corporation (non-profit, non-tax exempt) in 1975 mainly for lobbying purposes, and it wasn’t until 1978 that the Foundation (CPF) was formed by the CPA board as a 501(c)3 group to carry out the statewide educational mission. Until then, CPA had done the statewide educational programming in addition to its lobbying efforts. Now, in California, we have CPA as the political activist for historic preservation, and CPF as the educational foundation, both operating statewide.

Second, we learned that most other states do not have the strong local preservation groups in their larger cities that we have here in California. It is common to find, in other parts of the country, that the statewide historical preservation organization is an extension, to statewide prominence, of one of the big city preservation organizations, and usually that city is the state capital. In California, we have several large metropolitan preservation groups -- San Diego's Save Our Heritage Organization, Los Angeles Conservancy, Pasadena Heritage, Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage, Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, Oakland Heritage, Sacramento Old City Association, to name a few -- which have strong local programs. Some of these organizations were active long before CPA and CPF were set up, so the statewide preservation effort in California is concurrent with, rather than derivative from, those local programs. This gives us a strength that other statewides don’t have. CPA and CPF can focus on statewide historic preservation efforts without having to protect any “turf”. Also, we can work closely with each of the metropolitan organizations in a completely open, non-provincial atmosphere, since CPA and CPF have no vested interest whatever in one community to the exclusion of any other.

Since I serve on both boards, CPA and CPF, I am especially aware of the separate, but parallel, missions of the two statewide historic preservation organizations in California. We brought back ideas from the work sessions in San Antonio that will be useful to the boards of both CPA and CPF.

To focus more closely on the Foundation, let me reveal something more we learned in San Antonio. In a meeting where some of the participants were from organizations more than 100 years old, John, Claire and I found that the California Preservation Foundation has as much opportunity for success as any of them. Our annual statewide conference is better organized and better attended than most; we present our annual report to the Office of Historic Preservation is more cooperative than most; our geographic distribution of directors and of preservation programs is more diverse than most, in spite of the great distances required for travel in the state; and we have the advantage of the Heritage Task Force, set up by the California Legislature, working toward development of a statewide historic preservation policy that will guide our CPF educational program efforts for years.

Add to this package the strong metropolitan preservation organizations, willing to work with the Task Force, with CPA, and with CPF toward realization of the preservation ethic, and you can see that we have an unbeatable combination in California. Other statewides may have larger operating budgets, they may own museum properties, or they may have been in operation longer than CPF, but we have vigor, and we have an opportunity for preservation effectiveness in California that is unmatched in other states. The role of the California Preservation Foundation is to develop, to undertake, and to carry out educational programs that will make the most of this opportunity.

James P. Stickels, Ph.D
President, California Preservation Foundation

Central Valley Workshops A Big Hit

The California Preservation Foundation carried out its first “travelling workshop” in November visiting seven communities in the southern portion of the Central Valley. Accompanied by OHP restoration architect Bob Mackenson, and later joined by Deputy SHPO Marion Mitchell-Wilson, Director John Merritt met preservationists, business and community leaders, planners and public officials and spoke to groups in Bakersfield, Hanford, Visalia, Porterville, Tulare, Reedley during a strenuous week of program presentations, and informal get-togethers. Mackenson and Merritt also stopped in Coalinga to survey earthquake damage.

The Workshop team spoke to hundreds of people and learned, as expected, that many preservationists, city officials and developers in the Valley feel isolated, cut off from current information. It was also clear that vision and energy are not lacking in these communities.

Visalia has an excellent City-supported program and citizen activists like Jane Nash and Pat Clevenger of Visalia Heritage are building a preservation constituency that will support City efforts. Porterville, less organized, has the individual knowledge, credibility and leadership in Bill Rogers and Orlan Shires to construct a strong movement in an incredibly fine town. Reedley, behind Planning Director Val Grinsteiner, is putting together a “Main Street” program and the City (continued on page 5)
of Bakersfield, led by Mayor Mary Shell, is very much aware of the role historic preservation can play in revitalizing that community's downtown.

Most impressive was individual action by caring people in each town the team visited. Richard Monje, Chairman of the Bakersfield Historic Preservation Commission, working in tandem with Art Hartenberger of the City Economic Redevelopment Division, should be a prominent voice in preservation. Tim Gannon's developments of historic properties in Bakersfield should be known throughout California. Dan Humason's commitment to save major Hanford institutions -- the theatre project on Hanford's Courthouse Square is truly innovative and should be the subject of national publicity.

The California Preservation Foundation workshop opened our eyes. We went to teach; we learned more than we taught. Preservation is alive and well in the lower Central Valley and our greatest accomplishment may have been to start reconnecting people in this section of California with others doing similar things and facing similar problems in nearby towns and with others throughout the state who can share experiences with and gain confidence from a very active set of remarkable individuals we met.

This was our first travelling workshop and we returned exhilarated and convinced we were doing something people wanted. CPF is grateful to the State Office for its help and to ARCO Foundation for the financial assistance that made this all possible.

CPF hopes to repeat the experience in other California communities. Let us know if your town is interested.

JOIN NOW!
Help Build the Foundation

As CPF enters the first year of a new aggressive program we will need your help; we pledge to make an honest attempt to construct programs that will meet your needs and ask you to support that effort by becoming a Foundation member. Fill out the form below and return it with your tax-deductible contribution to:

California Preservation Foundation
55 Sutter, Suite 593
San Francisco, CA 94104

Joint Membership Offer Continues

This newsletter serves the needs of two preservation organizations. Californians for Preservation Action (CPA) was founded in 1975 and incorporated as a 501(c)4 advocacy group with a focus on improving public policy toward preservation through legislative action. The California Preservation Foundation (CPF) was established in 1978 and incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit educational foundation and works to improve understanding of preservation tools and techniques at the local level.

The two organizations complement each other but contributions to CPA are not tax-deductible because of its lobbying emphasis. CPF wants to assist CPA in its efforts and, to a limited degree, can contribute to the critically important work CPA carries out at the state level. To do so, the California Preservation Foundation offers a special joint membership in both organizations.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to support the entire preservation effort in California. Join at the $30.00 level and the Foundation will direct $10.00 to CPA. Fill out the form below and return it with your tax-deductible contribution to:

California Preservation Foundation
55 Sutter, Suite 593
San Francisco, CA 94104

I want to support the work of the California Preservation Foundation and that of Californians for Preservation Action; sign me up!

NAME(S): ________________________________
ADDRESS: ______________________________
CITY: ___________________ ZIP: __________
HOME PHONE: __________________ WORK PHONE: __________________
MY CHECK FOR $30 IS ENCLOSED. ☐

The California Preservation Foundation is partially supported by grants from ARCO Foundation, the California State Office of Historic Preservation, The San Francisco Foundation and The National Trust. They have challenged us to find matching funds. We need your financial support if we are to meet this challenge, and survive.

This newsletter was brought to you courtesy of the following people: Carol Branan, Robin Datel, Jane Ellison, Connie Finster, Mel Green, Peggy Hathaway, Gary Knecht, Nellie Longsworth, Carlotta Mellon, John Merritt, Marion Mitchell-Wilson, Dick Price, Linda Rapp, Mark Ryser, Jim Stickels and Bill Sugaya.
Sacramento Report

All of us who are concerned with the protection of historic resources in California share a commitment to ensure that a strong, effective and responsive State Office of Historic Preservation survives the transition into a new administration. Recent events affecting that Office are at the forefront of CPA's attention.

First, Dr. Knox Mellon this fall announced his retirement as State Historic Preservation Officer effective January 1, 1984. The Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, William Briner has stated his intention to undertake a broad and open selection process to identify a new SHPO who he will recommend to the Governor.

At the time of publication, no selection committee has yet been established.

California has been very fortunate in having as SHPO Dr. Mellon who has genuinely believed in the importance of historic resources and who has been a very good friend to historic preservation groups throughout the state. CPA will be communicating with the Director and the Governor's Office to offer our assistance and to seek clarification of the administration's intentions regarding this vitally important appointment.

A second, more recent development involves proposed reductions in Office staff level for the 1984-85 fiscal year which will begin July 1, 1984.

The Governor has called upon his Department to reduce staff levels by 3% in the 1984-85 fiscal year. In carrying out this policy, the Parks and Recreation Director has chosen to propose greater reductions in some Department functions than in others. This is necessary because exempting some activities from reductions requires larger cuts in remaining programs in order to achieve the overall 3%. The State Office has been proposed to receive a 27% reduction in staff. This amounts to 6 persons including two archeologists and one historian.

In addition, according to the State Office, due to seniority civil service procedures, if architects and historians with greater seniority are reduced from the staff of other Department programs, they could exercise their right to fill additional State Office positions currently occupied by OHP staff with less seniority. Staff from programs outside the State Office would presumably not hold the same experience and knowledge of historic preservation.

OHP has had no staff increase since 1978. Since then, the workload in the tax benefits program for income-producing historic properties, in the environmental review of federally funded projects, and in the National Register of Historic Places program to identify historic resources eligible for these programs have more than doubled.

New programs have been added to the Office's responsibilities, including local preservation ordinance review, certifying local governments to share federal grant funds, review of all work on State-owned historic properties, preparation of a comprehensive statewide historic resource inventory, and initiating a statewide comprehensive plan for historic preservation. The federal grants program for work on individual historic properties continues to generate funds requiring OHP administration.

All but two of these programs are mandated by the federal government; the other two are State-mandated. At present each mandated program is handled by one staff person; each staff cut will require the reduction in the performance of more than one program. California's annual federal appropriation from the Historic Preservation Fund, which pays half of OHP's operating costs, is based on an adequate performance of all of these functions. Current staff is minimally adequate to meet the workload with some delays in response time.

Finally, as this is written, a consolidation of the grants functions of all programs of the Department, including OHP, has been initiated by the Director. This (continued on page 7)
move raises new questions as to the administration's plans for a State Office of Historic Preservation.

CPA is working closely with our lobbyists and the State Office to determine the most effective course of action in responding to these proposals. Our first priority is to bring to the administration's attention, in a constructive way, the need for a distinct and separate State Office, its unique functions, and the clear benefits which it provides. Whether we succeed will determine our next steps.

By January 15, the administration's proposals for the State Office for the 1984-85 budget year will be released to the Legislature. This begins a 5 to 6 month process of review by both houses which will rewrite and enact a budget which will be returned to the Governor for his approval.

CPA anticipates that there may be a need to communicate our concerns regarding the vital importance of a State Office directly to the Legislature during this process. Is your State Legislator aware of the support for historic preservation in his or her community?????

Washington Briefs

Pickle-Dole (reported on in detail in the October issue) are now part of larger, omnibus tax reform acts before both Houses of Congress (H.R. 4710 and S.2062). Some minor revisions could lessen the impact on "Tax-exempt use" but we are advised that passage of legislation curtailing both sale and lease back and use of bonds and I.T.C.s in conjunction is likely.

As part of the ongoing jockeying between the administration and agencies with significant environmental review prerogatives, a Justice Department opinion, delivered in late October, declared Advisory Council procedures to be illegal. The Council continues to function and, in December, adopted new Section 106 Regs.

Final Regulations covering "Certified Local Governments" (the 10% pass through provisions of the 1980 Historic Preservation Act) should be published in the Federal Register this month.

The New Year may mark the end of the "demolition disincentive". Unless Congress acts to retain this provision, taxpayers will no longer be prevented from "writing off" the demolition cost of a National Register property.

Congress defeated the Interior Department's proposed zero funding for preservation for the third straight year. 26.5 million has been appropriated for preservation in fiscal 1984.

New York State is seriously considering exemption of religious properties from local landmark law, a precedent that could spark similar action in other states. The preservation of churches in metropolitan centers is a major dilemma.

HR 999 would re-establish a CCC (called, this time, the American Conservation Corps); the Senate is considering related legislation.

An interesting development is being noted in Washington. Democrats are now more critical of preservation because tax benefits are perceived as a developer boondoggle, while Republicans are beginning to recognize preservation's "private enterprise" potential. Who's on First?

NEW REPORT ASSESSES FEDERAL TAX CREDITS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The use of tax credits to encourage building rehabilitation has been extremely successful according to a new report by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Federal Tax Law and Historic Preservation states that the program of 25%, 20% and 15% tax credits has resulted in over 4.52 billion in private rehabilitation of historic buildings since such credits began in 1976.

Three aspects of the tax credits program, however, may hinder preservation according to developers surveyed. These factors are the IRS definition of "substantial rehabilitation," the requirement concerning 75% retention of existing walls, and the small margin between 25% credit (requiring certification) and 20% credit (no certification required). The Council report makes several alternative recommendations to Congress based upon these findings.

While many developers still shy away from "certifiable" projects, opting for the more easily obtainable 20% ITCs, fifty percent of those projects certified would not have been feasible without the 25% Tax Credit.

The Council report also revealed that over 19,800 new housing units have been created by certified historic rehabilitation, and half of these were for low- and moderate-income families.

INFLUENCE SACRAMENTO: 
JOIN CPA NOW!

Your membership in CALIFORNIANS FOR PRESERVATION ACTION will enhance your effectiveness as a preservationist. Your support of CALIFORNIANS FOR PRESERVATION ACTION is crucial if preservation of California's structures, districts and neighborhoods is to become a guiding consideration of State policy in the 1980s.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM BELOW

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Return to: Californians for Preservation Action
P.O. Box 2169, Sacramento, CA 95810

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Government Organizations 15.00
Library ................. 15.00
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NEW PUBLICATIONS

Retrofit Right

The City of Oakland Planning Department has done it again. Six years ago Rehab Right appeared and instantly gained recognition as a national model. Retrofit Right is in the same league.

Helaine Kaplan-Prentice who masterminded the earlier book, served as project manager with Sedway Cooke Associates and Sol-Arc are responsible for developing content research.

The message of Retrofit Right, like its sister publication, is work with what you have -- repair and maintain -- and keep it relatively simple. Weatherstripping and appropriate insulation is cheaper than fancy solar equipment and doesn't detract from the basic character and design of a structure.

Retrofit Right is available from the City of Oakland Planning Department, City Hall 6th Floor, #1 City Hall Plaza, Oakland, 94612. Individual copies sell for $7.95 plus $1.38 handling; preservation groups can get a better price by ordering copies at bulk rate. The book is also to be available in book stores soon.

Other New Books

The Brown Book: A Directory of Preservation Information, Diane Maddex, Editor, $17.95, plus $2.50 for handling, is available from the National Trust Preservation Press. Designed for handy reference, the directory contains important preservation phone numbers, procedural basics, even preservation quotations you can use. (Write: Preservation Shops National Trust, 1600 H. Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006)

Another Revolution in New England is a series of case studies on Tax Act projects in the northeast. While financial details and project figures may be useful, the 100 page study documents the importance of rehabilitation tax benefits in making the selected projects feasible. (Available from: Preservation Action, 1700 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, $12.45 plus $2.50 handling).

Practical and Technical Aspects of Adobe Conservation Edited by James Garrison & Elizabeth Ruffner, is the proceedings of an important state-of-the-art conference on adobe preservation held in Tucson last Spring and this publication should be in everyone’s library if they deal with this traditional construction material. (Copies available from: Heritage Foundation of Arizona, P.O. Box 61, Prescott, AZ 86302 -- ($15.00).

The Successful Volunteer Organization, by Joan Flanagan (author of The Grass Roots Fundraising Book), is an excellent handbook for nonprofits wanting to get started or get better results and, for $8.95, is a steal. (Write: Contemporary Books, 180 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60601).

Revitalizing America's Cities: Neighborhood Reinvestment and Displacement, by Michael Schill and Richard Nathan (State University of New York Press, 1983), a look at residential neighborhoods in transition, points out that reinvestment is necessary and important, that displacement can be managed (even averted) and that, despite all the commotion about displacement, the nation’s troubled urban areas are in continuing decline.

The 1983 updated version of the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation is now available from the California Office of Historic Preservation. This publication is essential for all preservationists and can be ordered free of charge. Write to Bob Mackenson, Staff Architect, OHP, P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento 95811.

RERC Report for 1984

Chicago’s Real Estate Research Corporation observes in Emerging Trends in Real Estate: 1984 that rehabilitation has really caught on as a result of tax changes. RERC was the primary research firm behind HUD’s 1974 “neighborhood strategy area” approach and produced, for the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, the very valuable Economics of Revitalization: A Decisionmaking Guide for Local Officials, a 1981 publication that received, undeservingly, little notice.

Emerging Trends... reports that, in Chicago alone, 5.1 million square feet of office space have been rehabbed as Class A office space since 1981, that such space is renting below market yet is also perceived as having more character. In the area of housing, RERC says rehab accounted for 43% of 1981’s new units and that from one to 1.6 million new housing units have been created from existing buildings since 1981.

The figures in this report, covering a broader field of rehabilitation activity than the just-released Advisory Council report, nonetheless underline the incredible interest in building reuse that has grown in a very few years. The report is available from RERC (72 W. Adams St., Chicago, IL 60603) for a modest $5.00.

Preservation Week

May 13-19, 1984

The national theme for Preservation Week 1984 is to be "Taking Care of America", with the stress coming, this year, on repair and maintenance.

The National Trust estimates more than 5000 preservation and neighborhood groups across the country plan events during the annual week-long focus on preservation.

California preservationists might use this year’s theme to emphasize, particularly, neighborhood revitalization, to plan restoration workshops and to collaborate with neighborhood groups in clean-up/fix-up campaigns.
The Santa Ana Story

by Kathleen Les

What is being touted around the region as The Santa Ana Story is the tale of the rejuvenation of not only a group of historic buildings, but the image of an entire city. What was previously a place outsiders feared to tread is now talked about as an example of how effective preservation can be.

Located in the heart of Orange County, Santa Ana has held the title as county seat since 1889, the year Orange County became a county apart from Los Angeles. As the second oldest city in the county, Santa Ana reigned as its economic and governmental center from the boom of the 1880s through W.W. II. During those more than 50 years, the finest buildings were erected ranging from the pressed metal Italianate facade on the Victorian-era Khryl Building [the oldest remaining facade downtown] to the Old City Hall, a 1934 W.P.A. project designed in the Moderne style.

Those who think Orange County contains only post-1960 tract homes and high-speed freeways will be surprised to find the historic oasis in downtown Santa Ana. More than 125 commercial and public buildings are listed on the recently-submitted National Register Historic District nomination. The commercial core is surrounded by over five square miles of residences built prior to 1940 including a preponderance of Craftsman and California bungalows.

The advent of enclosed shopping malls in the 1950s was the ruination of old Santa Ana and the hustle and bustle which once characterized the city came to a rapid halt. The resulting deterioration of buildings through the lack of building improvements caused the formation of the City Redevelopment Agency in 1973. This ushered in a new era of planning in Santa Ana, one where planners developed a different vision for the City, one of modern highrises and super-blocks.

City Council passed the Seismic Safety Ordinance in 1980. Building officials toured downtown properties and sent notices to over 100 owners with brick buildings more than 50 years of age notifying them that their properties were declared unsafe. Owners were given from 3 to 9 years (depending on the level of risk) to structurally reinforce their buildings or demolish them. The assumption was, of course, that owners wouldn't bother to invest the money in upgrading an old building.

Heritage Orange County, the local historic preservation organization with a special interest in its hometown of Santa Ana, began working to convince the decision-makers that historic preservation was the most economically sensible approach to revitalization and city image-building. Following the successful fight to save the Smith-Tuthill Mortuary, Heritage Orange County and others in the community watched as Santa Ana First Federal Savings acquired the house and beautifully restored it as a branch office.

With a successful restoration to point to, Heritage Orange County had tangible evidence that rehabilitation, not redevelopment, was the answer. A few months later the Redevelopment Agency drew up plans for a major rehabilitation loan program. It was clear that Santa Ana couldn't compete with the new high-tech parks of Irvine and must come to grips with its own heritage and identity for image-building purposes.

With the City's loan money and the technical services of Heritage Orange County, the right combination of help and incentives for large scale renovation was in place.

More than 35 key buildings have been renovated totalling 480,000 square feet. Working with Wells Fargo Bank, the City sold bonds totalling $15 million which resulted in the rehabilitation of 28 buildings each receiving an average loan of $500,000. A second loan program was also set up through Mercury Savings and Loan, this program designed for smaller buildings.

Loans were offered at below market rates, usually around 1%. In addition, both soft and hard costs could be covered with the loan monies. A preliminary architectural assessment was offered and if the property owner chose to follow through with the recommendations, these costs were reimbursable. Any part of the interior and exterior could be renovated using the loan money, but the owner had to guarantee that seismic deficiencies would be remedied.

The expertise of Heritage Orange County was used in promoting and advising on the tax benefits of renovating National Register listed buildings and in establishing an historic district. Heritage Orange County established a fee-based program of rendering services to property owners in processing National Register nominations and in counseling on the various provisions of the tax incentives law.

With the available loan monies fully committed, demonstrating the property owners' commitment to the downtown, the City further responded with a full-scale streetscape improvement program including major infrastructure overhaul. The last year has seen not only building renovation, but also new sidewalks installed and coordinated lighting and street furniture.

The Santa Ana Story is not a tale of "once upon a time"; it's a modern story of how an economically-minded staff of city planners, far-sighted decision-makers, willing property owners and a vigilant and technically equipped preservation organization worked together to revitalize an important historic district.

The Spurgeon Building in downtown Santa Ana, built in 1913 by city founder William Spurgeon.
Preservationists Profiled—Recent Survey Results

by Robin Datel

It is important that those of us involved in historic preservation pause now and then to examine philosophic­
al roots of our actions. If we are conscious of the
reasons why we want to preserve places, we can be more
articulate and effective advocates for them. Clarifying
our own or our group’s philosophical position can be
dilemously helpful in a movement that is as diverse and
decentralized as historic preservation. Not all preser­
vationists are alike.

This brief report summarizes a piece of research that
identified the arguments used by preservation organi­
zations and measured their relative popularity.

In 1980 I sent a mail survey questionnaire to organi­
zations engaged in some kind of historic preservation
work in three metropolitan areas (Philadelphia,
Washington, D.C. and San Francisco). In all, 330
questionnaires were mailed, and 199 (64%) were returned.

My research discovered that a wide array of groups is
involved in the historic preservation movement. Of
those that responded, 29% were historical societies,
26% were public commissions, 14% were general preser­
vation groups, 12% were entities concerned with a
single building (usually a museum), 5% were neighbor­
hood organizations, 4% were civic and planning groups,
4% were arts and education groups, 3% were administra­
tive agencies, and 2% were local chapters of profession­
al organizations.

In order to find out what was inspiring the creation and
functioning of these organizations, I asked them, "Which
of the following ideas play a central role in the argu­
ment your organization uses to justify historic preser­
vation?" The ideas were expressed as 15 phrases (con­
densed from preservationist literature) that would com­
plete the following sentence: "The preservation of
historic or older buildings and sites helps to provide...
Respondents could also write in additional answers.

The most popular arguments for preservation were that it
provided "a knowledge of history" (85% of respondents
chose this argument), "honor for the past" (64%), and
"psychological benefits of continuity with the past" (63%). Although these arguments all have to do with
the "history" in historic preservation, they are very
different. The first expresses the idea that buildings and
landscapes can help us understand the events and
conditions of past lives. They are documentary evidence,
an idea that emerged in the 19th century. The idea of
buildings as memorials to our ancestors probably goes
back further and is part of a "vague respect for antiqui­
ty that has existed since time immemorial". The third
argument, that old buildings help root us, is a modern
one. Preservationists find in their work a way of coun­
tering major environmental upheavals associated with
urban growth, high-rise construction, and the widespread
adoption of the automobile. With high rates of mobility,
there is an increased need to cope with the experience
of being in unknown places. Preservationists uncover
and supply facts about places that help make them seem
more familiar, even if that familiarity is different
from one acquired through years of intimate association.

The next two most popular arguments emphasized physical
character more than historicity. Sixty-one percent of
the respondents used the argument that historic preser­
vation helps provide "aesthetic satisfaction." Many
people appeared to prefer the patina of time-worn
buildings, their interesting architectural styles, and

their natural construction materials. Fifty-seven
percent of respondents supported the idea that historic
preservation helps maintain "distinctive environments.
They wanted to preserve what they perceive as unique or
special about their locale or region, for after all, it
helps define who they are.

Historic preservation’s provision of “opportunities for
community participation” was a motivating reason for
49% of respondents. Preservationists do not see them­
selves as elitists, but conversely, as people engaged
in the democratization of decision-making about places,
since without their participation, the opinion of an
even smaller group -- the property owners involved --
would likely carry the day.

The argument that historic preservation provides
"tourist attractions" was only the seventh most popular,
being checked by 42% of respondents. Even less popular
were three other economic arguments -- that historic
preservation provides "local tax base" (18%), that it
provides "private financial profit" (13%), and that it
provides "labor-intensive renovation projects" (11%).
Of course, these arguments can only be marshalled in
defense of some historic preservation projects; in
other cases, charting a preservation course means fore­
going taxes, profits or jobs.

Conservation arguments were moderately popular. Twenty­
six percent used the rationale that historic preser­
vation supports "conservation of material resources" and
19% that it supports "energy conservation". These
arguments are the product of a general 20th-century
consciousness of limits and of a specific campaign by
the National Trust for Historic Preservation to link
preservation and conservation concerns.

Fifteen percent of respondents employed the argument
that old buildings function as "sources of inspiration
for new architectural designs". Preservationists
wanted architects designing new buildings to pay
attention to what was there already, and to create
something that would enhance the existing sense of
place, not radically alter it.

Finally, 11% of respondents used the argument that
historic preservation helped provide "moral instruc­
tion". Particular buildings symbolized moral values
that their preservers wanted to communicate. Although
this argument is not used much today, it was the basis
of many of the first preservation efforts in this
country on behalf of such patriotic shrines as Mount
Vernon and Independence Hall.

Preservationists care chiefly about memories and
places. The arguments they most often use reflect
that. Preservationists also employ more practical
arguments in an effort to broaden their base of support
and adapt to a world where profit and efficiency con­
cerns often dominate. However, in our efforts to win
friends and influence people, it is important not to
relinquish the "moral high ground" -- an unstinting
advocacy of the value of human remembrance in everyday
life.

(The author recently completed her Ph.D in Geography at
the University of Minnesota. The above report is from
her dissertation, "Historic Districts in Three American
and Two Western European Cities: A Geographical Study," and
represents an attempt to bring the results of
original research to readers).

California Preservation is interested in receiving
other original material such as this. If you have
an interest in contributing some of the results of
your research please call the Editor, John Merritt,
at 415/527-7808 to discuss the possibility.)
NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Preservation Comes to Laguna Beach

At long last the tiny Southern California coastal town of Laguna Beach, known for its quaint neighborhoods and eclectic architecture, has a comprehensive and unique historic preservation program befitting its diversely styled buildings. At their November 1, 1983 meeting, the City Council adopted the Historic Resources Element Implementation Program.

Prepared by Heritage Orange County, the incentive-oriented program establishes by ordinance the Laguna Beach Historic Register. The soon-to-be-created Laguna Heritage Board will act on nominations to the Historic Register. Once listed, owners of Historic Register buildings and homes are entitled to partake of various zoning and building code incentives which encourage sensitive renovation rather than demolition and gross remodelling.

The very thing which contributes to Laguna’s charm, its irregular shaped hillside lots and rustic cottages, was also causing the demise of much of its architectural heritage. The under-sized lots, less than minimum building setbacks and inadequate parking typical of the older buildings routinely required variances under the existing city code, a time-consuming and expensive process for the homeowner engaging in renovation. The new historic preservation ordinance adopted by City Council now provides exceptions from these code requirements for listed historic buildings.

The City Council wisely recognized the important relationship between economics and historic preservation. By exempting historic building owners from cumbersome code requirements, the City is providing for a considerable cost savings on buildings undergoing renovation. In return, the City will receive houses sensitively restored and buildings with the long-term historic designation they deserve.

by Kathleen Les

Oakland

Oakland Heritage Alliance’s Fall 1983 News features an excellent article on Japanese historical experience in Oakland. Substantial political coverage and efforts to document social history in more and more newsletters indicate that preservation has gone beyond mere architectural appreciation. (For copies, contact: O.H.A., 5569 Lawton Ave., Oakland, 94618).

Sacramento

Sacramento Cityscape (1400 45th Street, Sacramento 95819), a nonprofit corporation, provides to property owners and individuals rehabilitation advice, brokers financial assistance, and acts as an advocate for preservation in downtown Sacramento.

Cityscape has recently published River City Renovator’s Guide, by Katherine Knight, proceeds of sale to support the organization’s work. The guide (and every community should have something similar) identifies Sacramento Area individuals and firms capable of doing the largest or smallest preservation job, from chimney sweeps and stenciling to stonework and plumbing.

Highland Park

“Seven Scenic Strolls Through Highland Park & Mount Washington” is a nice surprise. The brochure, produced by the Highland Park Historical Task Force, reveals the wealth and range of treasures in an oft-forgotten section of L.A. and the growth of awareness by citizens in those once separate, historic communities along the Arroyo Seco. Highland Park Heritage has since sponsored the fine November survey workshop put on by the Southern California Alliance of Preservationists at the Ebell Club. The brochure is available from: The Highland Park Improvement Association, 5806 North Figueroa, L.A. 90042.

Pasadena

Pasadena Heritage presented an amazing tour of “Bungalow Heaven” on November 20, 1983. Hundreds of people walked a neighborhood of modest but fine examples of California’s first modern home, the ubiquitous bungalow, and enjoyed landscape lectures, restoration demonstrations, slide shows and the opportunity to look in on numerous period interiors. As little as five years ago the “bungalow heaven” area was considered to be a deteriorating neighborhood.

Collinsville

One item the Heritage Task Force has attempted to address is the power granted to redevelopment, particularly when a very loose definition of “blight” permits radical action. The San Francisco Chronicle reported (on Dec. 14, 1983) the following:

“Residents of the Solano County hamlet of Collinsville won a partial victory yesterday in their effort to keep the town from being bulldozed.”

The County had planned to declare a redevelopment project, found Collinsville to be “blighted”, and intended to use eminent domain to acquire, clear, and redevelop the large riverfront area that included the town. The threat of wholesale condemnations mobilized the small community, still legally “blighted”, but now eligible for rehab assistance.

Southwest Museum

Line drawing from Highland Park’s “Seven Strolls...”
PLEASE NOTE

L.A. has a full-service preservation real estate operation for historic properties. Jim Dunham's "Victorian Register" and "The House Relocater" seeks buyers for houses and houses for buyers, advising prospective buyers on rehab, relocation, research, financing and tax benefits. For proof that preservation is both fun and profitable call The Victorian Register 213/734-6476.

Heritage Orange County provides a similar service with its "Old House Buyers' Guide" a full listing of old and historical houses in Orange County. To subscribe ($6.00 yearly) to this quarterly, contact HOC Inc. 106 W. 4th St., Suite 503, Santa Ana, CA 92701. (714) 835-7287.

TRUST LAUNCHES STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION LEGISLATION PROJECT

The National Trust established its State Historic Preservation Legislation Project on December 1.

Phase One of this project is a comprehensive examination of state enabling legislation for local preservation commissions. A report issued on completion of the study will enable the Trust to develop a clearinghouse capacity to aid legislators and member organizations wishing to improve state legislation.

Stephen N. Dennis in the Trust D.C. Headquarters office heads the new program, with Pamela Thurber serving as Project Director.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Workshops entitled "Business Ventures for Non-Profits" are planned for February in Los Angeles and San Francisco. For more information on these valuable sessions contact Laurel Bartlett of the Grantsmanship Center (1031 S. Grand Ave., Suite 3, Los Angeles, 90015, 800/421-9512).

THE 1984 HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

The Office of Historic Preservation was informed this December 9th by the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service that Congress has signed the 1984 Historic Preservation Fund appropriation. California's allocation will be $553,000. Planning Guidelines from N.P.S. for state administration are expected shortly and deadlines will be tight. However, receipt of funds this early in the year is a welcome change from the recent past.

The Office expects to distribute approximately $175,000 in subgrantee contracts. Of highest priority is the ongoing statewide planning effort and the Cultural Resource Management Plan funded for the first time in 1983. Part of this important effort is also the Archeological Information Centers Program.

Local matching grant assistance will be continued to cities and counties for survey and inventory. As previously announced, the grant application deadline for inventory grants is January 31. OHP is particularly interested in receiving applications from communities with significant properties that have, as yet, not conducted an inventory.

Although funding will be limited, statewide educational activities and programs will be emphasized. The results of OHP assistance on such activities as Retrofit Right with the City of Oakland, the regional workshops through the Conference of California Historical Societies, apprentice training at Gavilan College, and the annual California Historic Preservation Conference and travelling seminars through the Foundation in 1983, have proved the value of this part of the grant-in-aid program. Proposals for projects of this nature should be received by January 31 as well.

SECTION 106 REVIEW TRAINING SESSIONS IN 1984

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will offer twelve sessions on "Section 106" training course in 1984. A two-day session, "INTRODUCTION TO FEDERAL PROJECTS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION LAW", will explain what Section 106 review is, when it is required, the applicable Advisory Council regulations, and recent changes in those regulations. "Section 106 is that portion of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 which requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their projects on historic properties.

The course will be held February 27-28 in Portland, Oregon. No session this year is scheduled for California.

SEISMIC CONFERENCE

Maintaining the historical characteristics and fabrics of buildings while reinforcing the structures to withstand earthquakes will be the focus of an April 27 conference in Sacramento.

Experts in the field of historic preservation and seismic technology will address innovative methods for retrofitting historic structures, identify building codes and safety standards, and introduce new research. Cosponsored by the National Park Service, OHP and APT, the one-day program precedes the 1984 California Historic Preservation Conference. For more information, contact: David Look, National Park Service, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063, San Francisco 94102 or call (415) 556-7741.

Registration fees are $84 ($75 for APT members).
Jobs Bill Grants Awarded

Development grants for repairs or restoration of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Preservation and approved by the National Park Service.

The 1983 Emergency Supplemental Appropriation and Jobs Act included $25 million for the Historic Preservation Fund for labor-intensive work on individual historic properties. California's share of $642,000 (including $31,000 for administration) was 2.6% of the total, with 91 applicants competing for funds.

Congress eliminated annual Historic Preservation Fund grants for work on individual properties in 1981. Income-producing properties have continued to benefit from federal tax incentives for substantial rehabilitation. The Jobs Bill allocation this year was designed to provide for projects not eligible for the tax benefits.

Most of the selected projects are for emergency exterior stabilization and restoration. Work must have started by January 1, 1984, and be completed by September, 1984.

The following projects have received approval for grant-funded work:

- Calaveras County Courthouse, San Andreas
- Camron-Stanford House, Oakland
- Alfred Cohen House, Oakland
- Robert Dollar Estate (Falkirk), San Rafael
- Engine House No. 18, Los Angeles
- First Unitarian Church of Oakland
- Garfield Intermediate School, Berkeley
- Girls Club (Capp Street Center, San Francisco
- Hearst San Simeon Estate, San Luis Obispo County
- Cornelius Jensen Ranch, Riverside
- John McMullen House, San Francisco
- Mission Inn, Riverside
- Muckenthaler House, Fullerton
- Grace Nicholson Building (Pacific Asia Museum), Pasadena
- Old City Hall, Redding
- Old Oroville Commercial District: Gardella-Reese Bldg.
- Olivas Adobe, Ventura
- Orange County Courthouse, Santa Ana
- Rancho Los Alamitos, Long Beach
- San Luis Rey Mission, Oceanside
- Sonoma Grammar School
- Sun House, Ukiah
- Tracy City Hall & Jail
- Woodland Opera House

STATEWIDES MEET

Representatives from other statewide preservation organizations in the nine western states will gather for a day-long information sharing session in San Francisco on February 2. The meeting, the first since a similar one in Portland in 1981, is being planned by the Trust's Western Regional Office again, and the California Preservation Foundation is in charge of the evening reception.

Officers and staff from statewide organizations in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii and Utah, as well as California, are expected to join the meeting. The last such meeting led to the development of "Statewide Challenge Grants"; we should hope for equally good results this time.

National Trust Adds Staff

The Western Regional Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation has recently added to its staff. Bill Frazier, who assumed responsibilities as Director last January, and Nancy Shanahan, Regional Counsel since 1980, have been joined by a new Assistant Director, Jane Ellison; Field Representative, Susan Angevin; Administrative Assistant, Alice Booth; Secretary, Rosalind Henning; and clerk/typist, Kathy Dick.

New staff members bring to their positions experience in preservation at both the local and national levels, museum sciences, architecture and planning. Their extensive experience with preservation tools and techniques, as well as their broader knowledge of preservation issues in the west, are valuable assets to the field service program of the Western Regional Office.

The current work program includes items of particular interest to California preservationists. Among several contemplated studies will be a compilation of local preservation legislation which will provide a basis for evaluating the "state of the art." Field trips will be concentrated in California. In addition, the National Trust will be co-sponsoring the 1984 State Historic Preservation Conference.

Over the past year, the National Trust has awarded grants from several of its categories to organizations in California. A $12,000 Challenge Grant to CPF assisted with funding for an executive director's position; an Inner City Ventures Fund grant/loan went to the Clayton Hotel in San Francisco's Chinatown; a Critical Issues Fund grant of $25,000 to the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage funded a study on methods for protecting historic resources in downtown where development pressures are greatest. A Preservation Services Fund grant of $2,500 was given to the Bottle Village in Simi Valley for preparation of a restoration plan for this folk art village. Most recently, $20,000 was awarded to the California Heritage Task Force.

For further information on the National Trust Western Regional Office, its field services program or grant information, write to: 681 Market Street, Suite 859, San Francisco 94105 or call (415) 974-8420.

TRUST RESEARCH PAPER

The first in a series of research papers, Older and Historic Buildings and the Preservation Industry, is now available. The 20-page report investigates annual rate of investment in older buildings, rehab costs vs. new construction, preservations impact on housing, tourism, etc.

Copies are available for $4.95 plus $2.50 handling from the Preservation Shop, 1600 H St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - MARCH 10

The "Conference Issue" is to be published in April and we will want material for the newsletter to be submitted by March 10, 1984. California Preservation is your newsletter. Use it to let the rest of the state know what is important to you and what you are working to accomplish. Submittals should be typed and should be accompanied by graphics.
The Board's role is to promote the growth of the historic preservation movement in the State of California, and to represent and serve you who work to achieve the same goals at the local level. Give board members in your area a call and let them know what you think the Foundation can do to help. The phone numbers listed above are daytime numbers; we want to hear from you!