

Published quarterly by the California Preservation Foundation

## C.P.F. MOVES TO OAKLAND OFFICE

The California Preservation Foundation is setting up its first real office in Oakland's Cathedral Building. We have chosen this building because it is a landmark in all senses of the word; and we have chosen Oakland because it is beautiful and exciting, a city with strong character dealing with tough realities.

We are proud to be in Oakland and relieved to have our own space...after five years of operating out of a post office box -- a "prestigious address" but, in truth, just a mail drop. The location is a statement, and the office is a commitment we are making to strengthening our visibility and our program services.

We are recruiting volunteers who will now have a place to work, people with some spare time to help do research or contribute to keeping office operations efficient. Please call (415)763-0972 if you are interested in assisting us with one of our many projects and plans. Many have offered to do volunteer work in the past; now is the time. The new Oakland address, in the middle of downtown where Telegraph and Broadway meet, is easily accessible by means of public transportation.

### OUR NEW HOME

California Preservation Foundation's new offices will be on the 7th floor of the Cathedral Building, one of Oakland's most distinctive landmarks, a 14-story flatiron skyscraper located at the gore of Broadway and Telegraph Avenue. Originally called the Federal Realty Building, it was designed in 1913 by Benjamin Geer McDougall (1865-1937) for banker J.F. Carlston and developer A.J. Snyder.

Attorney Wilbur Pierce purchased the property and in 1969 a new owner, Albert Goldhagen, gave the building its present name, Cathedral Building, "because that's what the top of it looks like" (Tribune 9/14/69). A Gothic "Cathedral of Commerce" was B.G. McDougall's solution to a commission he received in 1913. The tall, slender, steel frame is clad primarily in cream-colored architectural terracotta manufactured by N. Clark & Sons in nearby Alameda. The rich Gothic ornamentation at the top two floors is sheet-metal. "As far as I know, this Federal Realty building is the only

considerable example of its kind on the (West) Coast," wrote B.J.S. Cahill, AIA, in the November, 1916 issue of Architect & Engineer.

"The shape of the lot with an apex of 8-½ feet only, was dead against a profitable plan. To make it florid Gothic, the most expensive of all styles to build in, was practically to abandon all hope of adequate returns. None the less, owners and architect went bravely ahead to develop a building that is not only the most finished ornament to the streets of Oakland, but a triumph that would be notable even in New York. The essence of the plan lies in its bay windows, which project to the limit of the law and of course add substantially to the rentable floor space.



The Cathedral Building (1913), formerly the Federal Realty Building, at 1615 Broadway, Oakland. Photo courtesy of The Oakland Public Library/Oakland History Room.

"The real success of the design, apart from the verticality of the lines and the recession of the front at the 7th story, lies in the bold use of a highpitched slate roof edged and ridged with terra cotta and crested with bold perforated crenellations."

The Cathedral Building is important not only as the first "considerable example" of the Gothic style on the West Coast, but also as an important symbol of Oakland's post-earthquake building boom which produced nearly a dozen major downtown buildings between 1910 and 1915. It was listed on the National Register in 1979 and designated an Oakland City Landmark in 1983.

Thanks to Gary Knecht of the City of Oakland's Cultural Heritage Survey for contributing the history and architectural background of the Cathedral Building for this article.

## SEE YOU in PALO ALTO - MAY 19

The Thirteenth Annual State Preservation Conference is coming -- right on the heels of Preservation Week in mid-May. We certainly hope you plan on being in Palo Alto for this, the largest yearly conference of its kind and longevity in the country. And we hope you have already received the Registration Packet and will respond before the end of this month; if you did not get the booklet and registration form, call the conference headquarters (415/326-4123) immediately!!!

## STATE CONFERENCE

The Registration Packet provides full details on the four-day program--a very wide range of subjects, some fascinating new sessions, tours available, special events offered, and the host of important speakers--so we will not try to duplicate that here. We do encourage you to make reservations early, both to get the conference rate at hotels and to beat the rush because we do expect a turnout approaching that in Coronado last year.

The Opening Reception at Stanford's Museum of Art begins at 5:30 P.M. on Thursday, May 19, but several workshops start earlier in the day, so plan on spending the day in Palo Alto and stay to enjoy some terrific tours--including Filoli--on Sunday morning. The conference and tours will be over by mid-day Sunday so you can easily return to your community. If you miss this conference, you will have missed a good time and a great learning experience.

## So, What Else is Happening ?



**HAPPY CAMPERS** -- Part of the crowd attending the Huntington Beach workshop on March 28, one of two (the other in Oakland) put on by CPF for Landmarks Commissions/staff.

**APRIL 17 ARCHITECTURAL CRAFTS FAIR** at the Workman & Temple Homestead Museum -- City of Industry. This is a fair full of demonstrations of craft skills, restoration advice and architectural product exhibits: For more information call (818) 968-8492.

**APRIL 20-23 SACRED TRUSTS CONFERENCE** on the Management & Rejuvenation of Historic Religious Buildings -- Philadelphia, PA. Preserving churches is a major problem we all face and this conference deals with the question broadly and deeply for the first time: For more information (registration is \$105) call (215) 568-4210.

**APRIL 22-24 SOUTHWEST ORAL HISTORY CONFERENCE** -- Solvang. For more information contact Ava Kahn, UC Santa Barbara, by calling (805) 961-2991.

**MAY 2-3 STATE HISTORY DAY** -- Sacramento. Judging and presentation of awards to student history and preservation projects by the California Constitutional Rights Foundation, California Historical Society and California Preservation Foundation: For more information, call CPF.

## MAY IS PRESERVATION MONTH IN CALIFORNIA!

**MAY 5 STATE HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING** -- Berkeley. We anticipate final action on the proposed "Register" at this meeting: For more information call OHP at (916) 445-8006.

**MAY 8-14 PRESERVATION WEEK** -- Your Town. This year's theme, "Preservation: The People's Choice", stresses the importance of making your voice heard - locally, at state level and in Washington D.C. - in this 1988 election year. Get political, or politics will get you.

**MAY 19 NEW MATERIALS USED IN HISTORIC STRUCTURES** -- San Francisco. Presented by the Association of Preservation Technology - Western Chapter, this is planned to lead into the Palo Alto State Preservation Conference. The workshop will study optional new materials, such as fiberglass replicating terracotta, and their installation. An afternoon case study includes a tour of the Pacific Telephone Building and to a studio manufacturing substitute materials. The workshop is \$75 for APT members; \$85 for others: For more information, contact APT at P.O. Box 42458, San Francisco, CA 94142-2458.

**MAY 19-22 THIRTEENTH ANNUAL STATE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE** -- Palo Alto. Opens at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, with State Historic Building Code Board meeting. Opening Reception starts at 5:30 p.m. May 19. Two full days of workshop sessions follow and tours on Sunday wrap up the program: For more information call Palo Alto Stanford Heritage conference headquarters, (415) 326-4123.

## Building Codes & Seismic Safety Laws: A SPECIAL PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Try to get to Palo Alto early on Thursday the 19th of May. The State Historic Building Code Board has asked for additional time and will open its meeting (scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m.) an hour earlier to deal with seismic safety regulations (or are they just guidance?) The discussion starts at 9:00 a.m. instead, at the First Church of Christ, Scientist, at 661 Bryant Street, Palo Alto.

New seismic requirements have shaken preservationists as historic building owners everywhere are calling for help...and money for repairs being forced upon them. Few people know that there is a major disagreement as to what is required, and by whom.

Senate Bill 547, passed in 1986, called for local jurisdictions to list buildings potentially hazardous in an earthquake. Recommended mitigation was meant to exclude historic buildings -- subject to the State Historic Building Code -- but the message wasn't made clear. Publication of the Guidebook: To Identify And Mitigate Seismic Hazards In Buildings by the State Seismic Safety Commission this last Fall has not eliminated the confusion.

The Seismic Commission and State Historic Building Code Board will hold a joint meeting in Palo Alto to discuss the issue...and all early arrivals to the C.P.F. Conference are invited to "get informed quick" at this meeting.



# CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

## CPF Election Slate Nominated

Each year seven CPF board positions open up and the new Trustees are elected at the Annual Meeting held during the State Conference.

The Board of Trustees of the California Preservation Foundation is recommending seven new board members to you as part of a slate to be elected at our "Annual Meeting" in Palo Alto, Saturday, May 21, 1988, beginning with lunch at 12:30 p.m. If you will be attending the State Conference you will be able to order a box lunch and you should indicate you will attend the meeting when you return your registration form.

Four new candidates for three year terms are:

Russell Fey (Fresno) Currently Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, CSU/Fresno. He has held this position since 1969; during 1975-79, and in 1982, he was chairman of the department. Professor Fey has had past experience in several city planning departments and is on the planning commission for the city of Fresno. During his sabbatical year of 1988 he will be undertaking a study/survey of historic communities in a four-county area (Fresno-Madera-Kings-Tulare).

Vivian Kahn (Oakland) Currently Chief of Current Planning, Division of Current Planning, City Planning Department, City of Berkeley. Began this position in 1987. Immediate past position (1979-87) with Kahn/Mortimer Associates, an architectural and planning firm now in Oakland but formerly in Seattle. Her preservation activities have included volunteer work with the Sacramento Old City Association, restoring a residence in the Columbia City Historic District in Seattle, and more recently, restoration of Liberty Hall as a volunteer for Jubilee West in Oakland. Her past experience includes state and regional planning and low/moderate income housing.

Sharon Marovich (Sonora) Active in preservation at the local level including President of the Tuolumne County Historical Society and as Chairman of the Tuolumne County Museum Board of Governors. Active in government - past chair of the Tuolumne County Democratic Central Committee, vice mayor of the City of Sonora, and member of a Tuolumne County Land Trust. Assisted in preparing a Historic Element for the City of Sonora's General Plan and the historic preservation section of the city's successful Main Street application.

Mark Raab (Canoga Park) Currently Director, Center for Anthropology, California State University/Northridge and adjunct faculty; Department of Anthropology, CSU/Northridge. Active in and past president of the Society for California Archaeology. Had a major role in the preparation of the Santa Barbara Element of the State Plan. Has been active in advocating for the preparation of the State Plan.

In addition two existing board members are recommended for re-election for three years:

Bruce Judd (Hercules) A principal in the San Francisco preservation firm Architectural Resources Group and former chairman of the State Historical Resources Commission.

Christy Johnson McAvoy (Hollywood) Owner of her historical research and survey consulting firm and currently also working with the Los Angeles Conservancy.

Two current board members are recommended for re-election for two year terms:

Wayne Donaldson (San Diego) Architect, member of the State Historical Resources Commission, and State Historical Building Code Board, and current President of the California Preservation Foundation.

Mrs. G.Bland (Gee Gee) Platt (San Francisco) Preservation consultant, former chair of the San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board and immediate past-president of California Preservation Foundation.

The Foundation Trustees are also recommending three new candidates be appointed to serve one year terms:

John Kenaston (San Francisco) Currently owner and manager of the Golden Gate Hotel, San Francisco (since 1985). Formerly Director, Development Authority, Pacific Asia Travel Association. In this position he was responsible for PATA's programs in heritage conservation including international heritage conservation and tourism conferences in Bangkok, Manila, Kathmandu, and Indonesia; heritage conservation workshops for travel industry representatives over a 4-year period (early 1980s); structuring PATA sponsored tourism technical assistance teams to have conservationists as participants.

Vincent Marsh (San Francisco) Currently a planner in the Department of City Planning, City and County of San Francisco. Handles current planning cases and provides advice on historic preservation matters within the department. Immediate past experience with the United Way of the Bay Area as Agency Relations Senior Associate providing technical advice to local agencies and undertaking program and funding evaluations. Former Field Representative, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Western Regional Office, and Research Advisor, Boston Landmarks Exhibit Office.

Trish Zinn (San Francisco) Currently a self-employed designer with an interest in restoring older homes. Since 1974, she has owned four different residences which have undergone remodeling or restoration, including an 11-room Victorian in Oakland. Preservation-related experience includes being a docent at the Camron-Stanford House in Oakland. She has been a nursery school teacher and also worked for 9 years for Sierra Designs. A graduate of Northwestern University with a degree in art and art history. Husband is a realtor also with an interest in historic preservation.

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**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE--- June 30, 1988**

## Decision Time for Groveland

On the Big Oak Flat Road (State Highway 120) leading to Yosemite National Park two towns sit astride the Mother Lode. Big Oak Flat and Groveland are close neighbors separated by a small mountain ridge and invisible to each other. Big Oak Flat resulted from thousands of Forty-Niners seeking gold. At one time it was indeed flat, but severe disruption of its topography occurred during mining operations. Once its rich mineral surface deposits had been depleted, a relative calm settled over the community until the advent of intense quartz mining, which resulted in a building boom from about 1897 to World War I. Big Oak Flat has 52 structures, which house a few small businesses and residents. Only 12 have been built since 1950, and some of its buildings date back to at least 1852.

Nearby Groveland, once known as Garrote, is also a Gold Rush town. It too experienced a resurgence during the hard-rock mining era. However, its boom was supplemented by the building of the Hetch Hetchy Railroad and extended by the construction of the O'Shaughnessy Dam. By the 1930s the boom was over. The rail system began to disappear and for the next 40 years Groveland became a quiet community of a few hundred residents.

About 1970 Groveland began to experience the effects of bordering Pine Mountain Lake development where nearly 2000 permanent new buildings have been constructed, an increase in real estate activity, population growth and a rise in business activity. The character of the town has begun to change, even though the population of Groveland itself has experienced only a modest increase.



Gold Rush era downtown core of Groveland.  
Photo credit: Mark Thornton

Groveland may be unique amongst California Gold Rush towns because each end of its one-half-mile long Main Street is generally undeveloped, and the street narrows to a compact historical area providing attractive approaches from both the east and west. The buildings in this central business core reflect the hard-rock mining and Hetch Hetchy construction boom. The town, with little change since 1925, has experienced few capital improvements and has very few sidewalks. Interesting buildings such as homes, barns, sheds, etc., may be seen on its few back streets, so that much of its historic cultural heritage is readily apparent to the visitor.

One stone and four adobe buildings are still standing from Gold Rush days.

In late 1986 a handful of residents in the area recognized that with the current trend the cultural and historic character of the town might soon be lost. With this in mind they founded the Southern Tuolumne County Historical Society to encourage preservation of the history and possessions of people who have lived in the county south of the Tuolumne River. The immediate goals of the Society are: 1) acquire a museum for displaying regional artifacts, 2) develop an oral history program, and 3) recognize and encourage preservation of historic sites and buildings.

The Society was an instant success. Membership grew to over 200 families in the first year. Many Pine Mountain Lake residents who often came from heavily populated areas were quick to realize the advantages of small-town historic charm and have generously supported the aims of the Society.

In order to ensure that inevitable changes would be sensitive, the Society proposed a Historic Design Preservation (HDP) Combining District, to consist of a corridor along Highway 120 in Groveland. Despite early indications, significant opposition arose from property owners in the proposed District.

Retrospectively, the Society concluded that: 1) insufficient information had been available about the proposal; 2) more publicity and meetings were needed; 3) more input should have been obtained from property owners concerning the proposed District boundaries; and 4) the HDP Committee should be composed of District property owners. Consequently the Society decided that future efforts should be directed toward the collection and dissemination of information on the benefits of an HPD District and the formulation of an assistance program helpful to individual property owners.

One local developer, when made aware of the importance of the historic DeFerrari Home, (a 1901 Victorian) agreed to restore the home incorporating it into a new commercial center designed to blend with the historic buildings of the area.

Independent of HDP, the Society applied through Tuolumne County to the California Department of Commerce for a grant to conduct a Historic Buildings/Cultural Resources Inventory. Referred to as the Rural Economic Development Promotion (REDP) program (or "Rural Renaissance"), its purpose was tourism promotion related to economic development; the inventory will result in a brochure promoting the cultural and historic heritage of Big Oak Flat and Groveland.

The Society engaged Mark V. Thornton to do the research necessary. In addition, 25 to 30 interviews were conducted for additional information, primarily on building usage. Although the survey was mostly concerned with those buildings that were 40 or more years old, maps were drawn to include all buildings, even those constructed after 1950. Pictures were taken of selected buildings and landmarks.

(story continues – top of page 5)

## Groveland (conclusion)

Finally, Jean McClish's extensive research on the historical background of the area was made available. Because of the number of historic buildings still found in Groveland's downtown core, it may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The property owners in the proposed HDP District will have to decide the future of the two towns, that is, to opt for preservation of these historic structures, or by default permit unrestricted development. In Groveland such a decision will in part be based on the perceived future of the town. The town has the historic buildings to serve as an attraction for tourists - adding to the economic base, providing no further degradation takes place.

One has only to look at Sonora to realize that bypass of Groveland and Big Oak Flat by Highway 120 should be carried out -- before the current policy widening the highway through town destroys the historic look and feel of these towns. In the decades to come tourists will visit Groveland because of its proximity to Yosemite and because of the visitors' interest in the California Gold Rush. In maintaining the historic aspects of a typical Gold Rush town, Groveland can balance economic stability with a quality of life its residents have long enjoyed. But the choice must be made soon.

With many apologies to the author, Lou Hansen, this story has been much edited to fit our newsletter. The Southern Tuolumne County Historical Society (P.O. Box 1849, Big Oak Flat, CA 95305) is publishing the full story and I encourage you to write for a copy.

## California Issues

### San Diego : Saving the Big Dipper

The once thundering Giant Dipper Roller Coaster in San Diego will roll again! The San Diego City Council voted 5-3 that the Coaster had a "vested" or irrevocable property right to operate.

The Belmont Park Giant Dipper, sister coaster to the now-operating coaster in Santa Cruz, was commissioned in 1925 by John and Adolph Spreckles of the Spreckles Sugar Company. John D. Spreckles' amusement park, which once contained a dance pavilion, an indoor swimming plunge, a roller skating rink and the Giant Dipper, was a gift to the City of San Diego as a community park. The Giant Dipper last operated in 1976 and is one of the last of Frederick Church's coaster designs, with three of Church's original patents: the car couplers, a brake safety device and the track construction.

The 62-year old landmark has been part of the highly emotional issue of the Belmont Park development, a private development within a city owned park. Proposition G, voter approved last November, prohibits commercial uses of Mission Bay Park (Belmont Park). The measure was sparked last year by the threat of losing the Plunge Building, Roller Rink and the Giant Dipper. Following the passage of the measure, there has been fear that the coaster would not be restored if the work completed thus far was not to be found "vested" under Proposition G (thus permit-



ting commercial operation). The Council decided to split the issue of the Belmont Park Development and the Giant Dipper Roller Coaster; the development of the park including the fate of the now-demolished plunge building has been delayed to April 19, 1988.

The Santa Cruz Seaside Co., which restored and now operates the Santa Cruz Boardwalk, is willing to invest \$1 million toward the restoration of the Giant Dipper, the only roller coaster on the National Register of Historic Places. The coaster will be put back into working order by Seaside and all safety devices will be included that were not on the coaster previously, i.e., active lap bars will also include seat belts. The insurance underwriter also has an inspector who issues specifications for the restoration then inspects for compliance as a precondition to the issuance of liability insurance.

It has been six years since a group of local citizens got together to save the landmark from being torn down by the City of San Diego. Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) supported the project with \$3000 for legal fees. In 1986 the Save the Coaster Committee received \$150,000 from the California Park and Recreational Act for structural stabilization and fire damage repair. In addition, several hundreds of volunteers have added thousands of hours scraping, painting, cleaning and clearing of trash over the last six years.

The coaster is a local landmark, a reminder to many locals of exciting earlier times. Or, as Councilman Bruce Henderson remarked, "the ability to ride on the coaster is really a birth-right of San Diego's children."

### Some Mayors We Love

MAYOR MAUREEN O'CONNOR of San Diego blasted the developers of Belmont Park for destroying the historic plunge building and forcing the City to take unnecessary action to reaffirm that the Giant Dipper would be saved. Several other mayors also deserve our high praise

MAYOR MARILYN O'ROURKE of Benicia introduced the following resolution at the March 15 Council Meeting: "Be It Resolved By The Council Of The City of Benicia that preservation of the Historical Triangle is a priority and a policy to be implemented", a motion passed 4-1.

We hope this further cements the success of those battling to save Benicia's "Lido" and two other equally important buildings on the waterfront (see last issue of newsletter). The prospective developer of the larger parcel which includes the Lido now has clear direction that the historic buildings are to be incorporated in any proposal.

( see Mayors , page 6 )

## Board Elections

And, to fill out the board, one current board member is recommended for a one year term:

Rob Selway (Santa Ana) Staff Director to the Orange County Historical Commission and historian with the Orange County Environmental Protection Division.

Additional nominations are still possible and can be presented to the May 21 Annual Meeting. To nominate others at that time you must do so by "...means of a petition signed by not fewer than the lesser of twenty members or 5% of the membership, (petition) received by the Secretary not less than ten days before the date of the Annual Meeting" (CPF Bylaws). If you wish to nominate someone, contact John Merritt at 415/527-7808 immediately for a copy of the petition and for an explanation of the process.

## Some Fond Farewells

As election of new Trustees approaches we realize old friends are leaving us...and we wish to salute them for their service. Retiring from the Board this year are Nadine Hata (Redondo Beach), Bill Ellinger (Pasadena) and Jim Stickels (Claremont). Nadine has promoted our efforts in education and is responsible for initiating the CPF Awards given to students each year at "History Day". Bill began as a CPA board member and has stayed with us as our resident design expert since 1984.

Jim Stickels - as our Membership Chairman most recently - has communicated with all of you, reminding you your support is important to us and is much valued. Prior to that Jim served as the President of the Foundation and will always be remembered - and honored - as the person who steered us through difficult times and made the merger of CPA with CPF a reality and one readily accepted by both organizations in 1984.

Thanks to each of you; we will miss you at board meetings but expect to see you often at other CPF activities and events.

## Mayors -- Berkeley

MAYOR LONI HANCOCK of Berkeley literally stood in the way of bulldozers early Monday morning, March 28, to halt the demolition of two Art Deco apartments by the University of California. Alerted to the imminent destruction of the buildings by Leslie Emmington - City Landmarks Commissioner and longtime Director of the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association - Mayor Hancock and Assemblyman Tom Bates joined others in stalling the bulldozers and worked out a temporary compromise allowing continued residential use of the apartments.

The University, arguing it is not subject to local ordinances or permit procedures, has become an increasingly troubling neighbor to the citizens of Berkeley. The role of colleges and universities in town/gown preservation is a continuing problem in our state, and across the nation. Since Loni Hancock will be a speaker at the Palo Alto conference next month, we can thank her again for her willingness to put herself on the line and we can probe, with her, what we all might do to address this problem.

## Meanwhile, in Oakland...

The same night, Benicia's City Council resolved to take extraordinary efforts to preserve the "historic triangle", the Oakland City Council voted 5-3 against doing anything to retain even a portion of the Christian Science Church, a prominent historic and architectural feature on the shores of Lake Merritt.

The Oakland Heritage Alliance made it a long and brave battle. Bowing to the new congregation's desires for a more modern floor plan, OHA's Randolph Langenbach had nonetheless presented a workable design saving the classic colonnade facing the lake and, President Les Haurath argued, saving the new owners construction costs.

While Oakland will lose a major landmark, citizens, city officials and many members of the City Council may have recognized how weak Oakland's protection is for historic properties, how few positive incentives exist and, finally, that the time is ripe to rethink the preservation program in Oakland.

## Washington, D.C. Update

Federal support for historic preservation may be greatly enhanced following 1988 Congressional moves already begun. While the Administration again asked for zero dollars for the program, Congress -- with our continued urgings -- is likely to restore and may even enhance the budget. Bruce Bentsen (D-MN) has already moved a \$45 million level through the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands.

With the use of Federal tax credits for historic rehabilitation in FY 87 down 35% from 1986 and 40% from 1985, efforts will be made to resuscitate this important incentive this year. The sure feeling we all had that this program was faltering is confirmed in the National Park Service report Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings: Fiscal Year 1987 Analysis (reprinted and available for \$8.00 from Preservation Press, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington DC, 20036).

Identical bills introduced (H.R. 4048 and S2115) would correct the "passive loss" problem for historic rehab and low-income housing but passage will not be easy. Contact your legislators now to get bill copies, to educate them in the problem we face, and to inform them of your interest in their support for these measures.

Representative Mo Udall (D-AZ) is expected to introduce legislation to increase annual funding for preservation through a "Trust Fund" approach. Interest on "The Historic Preservation Fund" would allow level allocations annually -- avoiding budget battles -- and is expected to produce revenues exceeding 50 million dollars yearly. The complementary Land And Water Conservation Fund would operate in the same way.

Udall's bill links preservation, conservation and recreation interest groups and would end the continual uncertainty about levels of funding and, since 1981, qualms about the zero funding this administration has recommended each year. We should know much more about this important and promising legislation by the time we all meet in Palo Alto.

## KIDS LOVE OLD HOUSES

Fifth graders in San Francisco's Western Addition neighborhood got bitten by the Victorian house bug during a six-part program presented as a field test of a statewide architectural awareness curriculum. "Our Houses" is being produced by Alberta Furnoy, Marty Gordon and Judith Lynch with CPF sponsorship. The two-year program will help teachers inspire students at all grade levels to appreciate the history around them and become passionate advocates for older homes, from adobes to stucco tract houses.

As part of the field test, devised to evaluate teaching methods and materials in an urban elementary school, students learned to recognize the architectural styles and details in a nearby neighborhood. The class also heard true tales of Victorian San Francisco, taken from the 1880s memoirs of Nellie McGraw Hedgepath and interpreted by storyteller Ruth Stotter, costumed in a long, bustled dress. Then as a homework assignment, students interviewed older family members to elicit their own stories. Quincy Bailey discovered that his grandmother, Frances Jefferson, was born in 1912 in Mississippi, and "she worked for 50 cents a day and picked corn and peas and pumpkins. Times were hard."



Alberta Furnoy (center) from the "Our Houses" program, listens as Aaron Lewis points out Victorian details. Photo: Tamara Patri.

Each student did a final project. Union Banoung (named after the United States by grateful immigrant parents) devised a time capsule for his "friend in the year 2088." He wrote about life in 1988, telling people in the future of things which may be extinct by then: "paper, pencils, cars, roads, skateboards, plastic, water, dirt..." Tonyia Pryor wrote a "newel post letter", to be deposited in a mythical staircase and opened by future house owners, "I want you to know this house was loved...If you knock down this house, years of great memories will be gone."

Marisa Brown "interviewed" a Victorian, "the most beautiful house on this continent". When it confided, "Sometimes I get lonely," Marisa suggested the house go on television. "You would be a star and have lots of people to talk to." Several students wrote to San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos. Frances Lopez said, "It would be a big help if old houses should not be torn down...Old houses are very special to me."

Even though this initial field test of the "Our Houses" curriculum was limited, student evaluations show that its effect was significant. Many now understand more about historic preservation, "I never even noticed old houses before, and now I think they should be saved." They added a new dimension to their views of older people: "I liked interviewing my grandmother, because I learned something about her life." They increased their visual acuity by learning to recognize specific details in a mass of millwork, and they began to perceive their own place in the context of history by pondering life in San Francisco a century ago. Their final projects also showed they strengthened other skills, including drawing, composition, and the ability to speak in public, "It helped me not to be shy as much."

Many of the projects will be on display at the May Historic Preservation Conference, where Furnoy, Gordon and Lynch are presenting "Awakening Delight", a workshop on teaching young students about architecture and preservation. Several of the students from the field test and their teacher, Julia Gibson, will be at the workshop to show slides and talk about their projects. (The workshop is at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday May 21. Teachers are encouraged to attend and may opt to register for this one session only (\$10.00) or for the one full day -- at a reduced registration rate of \$55.)

The women writing the "Our Houses" curriculum are eager to know how others are inspiring the next generation of history buffs and old house fanatics. If you know of an effective education program, please write: "Our Houses", 352 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

## Wallpaper Video Now Available

"Bradbury & Bradbury Meet a Plain White Room" which premiered March, 1986 at a benefit for CPF, is now available on home video cassette. The 25-minute video shows how B & B silk-screened reproductions of Victorian wallpaper in their Benicia studio, where each roll requires many thousands of individual impressions, pulled painstakingly by hand on tables 90-feet long.

The most exciting part of the video is the stunning transformation of the pallid parlor of a San Francisco Victorian house. As cited in a Victorian Homes magazine review, "the once snow-white walls and ceiling virtually explode in color...Never has a room been so transformed on video... It is absolute perfection." The visual aspects of the video, subtitled "Making the World Safe for Polychrome", are matched by the exuberant sound track, featuring Gilbert & Sullivan, Generic Strauss and Richard Wagner, among others. The VHS tape is available for \$19.95 from B & B, Box 155, Benicia, CA 94510.



This newsletter is brought to you by John Merritt and Dick Price. Contributors are: Wayne Donaldson, Lou Hansen, Judith Lynch, Gary Knecht and Bill Sugaya.



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David Shelton (Santa Barbara)	805/962-1715
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Jim Stickels (Claremont)	714/773-3955
Bill Sugaya (San Francisco)	415/421-1680
Warren Williams (Sacramento)	916/444-8170

John Merritt (Berkeley) 415/527-7808  
Executive Director

Steve Taber (San Francisco) 415/777-3200  
Counsel: Hanson, Bridgett, Marcus

The California Preservation Foundation exists to help you improve preservation awareness and activity in your town. If you think we can help, don't hesitate to call your nearest Board member or call 415/763-0972.

**IT'S PRETTY FUNDAMENTAL - WE NEED EACH OTHER**

For the past thirteen years California Preservation Foundation has grown with the help of people all over California. With no federal funding and only limited revenues from programs, we rely upon you for your support. You the members and local preservationists help us identify issues and suggest how best we may help your local community. Our board members come from local programs near you -- sometimes your own. Now, won't you HELP US CONTINUE AS WE WORK TO IMPROVE THE CLIMATE FOR PRESERVATION IN CALIFORNIA.

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