



CONTINUITY

Newsletter of the Preservation Action Council of San José

Volume 3, Number 6, November/December 1992

Fox Theatre Project Delayed

Franklin Maggi

The State of California's budget woes have resulted in a \$10 million reduction in the San José Redevelopment Agency's current budget. As a result, current-year funding for design and engineering work on the long-awaited Fox Theatre renovation is temporarily delayed. The agency had proposed shifting start-up work to the end of the 5-year capital improvement program, about 1997.

The final report of the Fox Theatre Advisory Committee has just been published and is available for review at the Redevelopment Agency office. The final report outlines a basic renovation project for \$15.5 million dollars that would seismically upgrade and rehabilitate the lobby and main auditorium while providing temporary support facilities for Opera San José, the San José Symphony and local multicultural groups.

During the first week of December, the Redevelopment Agency board will decide funding priorities for this project. The Preservation Action Council supports keeping the project on schedule and moving forward.

For more information about the Fox Theatre, contact Gary Parks at (408) 371-9103.

River Street Update

April Halberstadt

Nearly two years ago, the Preservation Action Council discovered that River Street, a historic district already evaluated as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, was going to be bulldozed for the Guadalupe River Park. The long-awaited Corps of Engineers flood-control project would demolish these 100-year-old structures, and there was no alternative plan to salvage or move them.

Original plans called for a large reflecting lake with the houses replaced by a "water feature." But budget constraints and consideration for the riparian habitat of the egrets and migratory fish in the Guadalupe River changed the plans. However, the houses were still scheduled for demolition.

Early this year, the Preservation Action Council was a concurring signatory to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State Office of Historic Preservation, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (to the President) to look at alternatives to demolition. Because a designated eligible National Register site is protected under federal law, section 106, all alternatives to demolition must be explored before the houses are destroyed. The Corps of Engineers and the Preservation Action Council will assist a consultant who is looking at all the options, including the possibility of keeping the houses

and businesses in a possible "Old Town" solution.

We are very excited about the possibilities this could offer Guadalupe River Park visitors—a chance to see some of San José's earliest houses in their original setting by the river. The feasibility study will also include a detailed economic analysis of the various proposals.

For more information about River Street, contact April Halberstadt at (408) 293-2860 or Karita Hummer at (408) 971-0940.

1992 Preservation Awards Presented

The Preservation Action Council's 1992 Preservation Awards were presented at our San Pedro Square Open House last month. These awards are presented annually to acknowledge and encourage historic preservation and excellence in new architectural design. The recipients were:

- Santa Clara County Supervisor *Rod Diridon* for outstanding contributions to local preservation.

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Preservation Awards from page 1

- *John Giacomazzi and family* for donating and moving the Greenawalt House to the San José Historical Museum and providing exterior restoration.
- *Hank Lutz* for the seismic retrofit and quality rehabilitation of 311 North Second Street, a 1913 three-story apartment building, San José.
- *Manou Mobedshahi* for the historic restoration of the Hotel Sainte Claire.
- *The Neptune Society of Central California* for the exterior restoration of the Art Fixture Shop (Cambiano Building) at 798 South Second Street, San José.
- *The Redevelopment Agency of the City of San José* for the historic restoration of the Fallon family home, San José.
- *Keith Watt* for the historically accurate repainting of 666 South Sixth Street, a four-unit apartment building, San José.



New Members Elected to Preservation Action Council Board of Directors

At the October Board of Directors meeting, the Preservation Action Council of San José elected two new members to the board: Scott Montoya and Kitty Monahan.

Scott Montoya

Scott Montoya is an active contributor to our community. Owner of Montoya and Associates, an entertainment and

marketing firm, Scott has had a great love of architecture and preservation for a long time. Julia Morgan is one of his favorite architects.

Scott is a board member of Teatro Campesino and the San José Jazz Society and played a principal role in producing Christmas in the Park in Plaza Park. Scott is playing an active and significant role in efforts to have Teatro Campesino make San José, and the José Theatre in particular, its new home. He serves on the Preservation Action Council's José Theatre Task Force.

We welcome him to our board—appreciative of the contributions he has already made to our group and confident that he will be active on our board.

Kitty Monahan

When Kitty Monahan was asked to provide a resumé for this article, she wrote a very personal biographical note describing her background. To preserve the quality of her correspondence and to do it proper justice, we are printing the letter as she wrote it. With all her major accomplishments and background in parks and preservation, we feel very proud to have her on our board.

“Born in San José off The Alameda on Cleaves Avenue, in the house where my mother still lives, my father owned Monahan's Printing which was first in the Old Knox Building on Santa Clara Street and then moved to Second and Fountain Alley above the Moderne Drug Co. My cousin Tommy Monahan owned the Monahan, O'Brien and Moriarity Funeral Home across from the Civic Auditorium which is now the Public Library. Tommy was also Mayor of San Jose.

I moved to New Almaden in 1971 and was hooked on the preservation of the

historic setting of this unique mining community. I was selected by Suzie Wilson (County Supervisor) for the Historic Heritage Commission and served on this group for 11 years. During this time we reactivated the New Almaden Community Club to protect the buildings in the neighborhood. The association has promoted the park with tours, endurance runs, horse events, Pioneer Days, and the management of the Museum, purchased by the Parks Department in 1983.

One and a half years ago, I was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission (County) and act as chairman for this year. I taught school for 39 years, the last 23 years at Overfelt High School as a math teacher. I retired June 13, 1992.”

Kitty recently organized a tour of the New Almaden Quicksilver Mines County Park for our organization which was a great success. The park is a real treasure for our region. As president of the New Almaden Quicksilver Park Association, she has spearheaded the preservation of this park and its historic resources. She has also been a very active member of the Bernal Joice Ranch Task Force. We welcome her to our board.



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holiday gift?

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Use the enclosed
membership form, or
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From the President

Karita Hummer

Our San Pedro Square Open House on October 17 has set a standard of excellence for our 1993 activities. It has launched a bevy of activity for this fall. Occurring on a beautiful autumn day, the open house was really quite lovely. It was wonderful to meander through this really old part of town.

From the marvelous restoration (nearly complete) of the Fallon family home, to the lovely Peralta Adobe evoking a sense of our earliest Spanish settlement, to the great Lyndon Block undergoing extensive seismic retrofitting, to the interesting cluster of buildings and shops and restaurants along San Pedro Street, to the charming and restful patio behind the Lyndon Block Building and D.B. Cooper's, it is an area that flows beautifully together. And like the area, the tour flowed smoothly and beautifully. In its planning stages, there was the utmost attention to detail, and it paid off in a day that went almost flawlessly.

Many thanks go to co-chairpersons Nancy Newlin and Sharon Heinrichs for their superb planning efforts, which were so well implemented on the day of the event. Special mention must be made of the fine graphics that were produced under Nancy Newlin's direction. Graphic designer Josie Filarca's cover, poster, and ticket design featured a beautiful drawing by Jeffrey George.

A framed original drawing by Jeff George of a collage of San Pedro buildings was on auction that day. Others shared in all the work that went into making this such a spectacular

event. Many thanks to Linda Larson and April Halberstadt for their excellent historical research and marvelous educational program booklet; Pat Vaughn for the editing and Pat Kirk for the photos in the program; Paul Bernal and Nancy Newlin for their work on the preservation awards; Greg Casella for a beautiful and delicious reception table; Marti Wachtel and Patti Massey for extensive public relations and press kits and contacts; Nancy Newlin for her fine exhibits incorporating fine photographs by Scott Hinrichs; Gabriel Ibarra for his excellent photography show; Betsy Mathieson for her excellent docent education and April Halberstadt for her assistance with docent education; Lisa Goebel for docent organization; Betty Antrim for very efficient ticket sales; and Yolanda Borbon for office assistance.

Our docents added very special warmth, welcome, and expertise at all the sites. We had well over twenty docents from our Board, membership, and the San José Historical Museum, and we are grateful to all of them. We greatly appreciate the Historical Museum's special generosity in recruiting docents for this event.

Delightful musical sounds could be heard throughout the day at our reception site and at the Bay Company. Many thanks to Music for the Love of It (Janet Telford, flute and oboe; Ted Rust, oboe and English horn; Bruce Finch, bassoon) who gave a lovely performance at the reception and to Knodel and Valencia (Debra Knodel and Jane Valencia), harp duo, who performed beautifully at the Bay Company.

Special thanks to Robin Bigger for doing such a great job of chairing the raffle and for the mixer at the Tied House that followed the event, where we celebrated the success of the Open House and held our raffle. Robin did a great job in pulling the whole raffle

and mixer together in no time flat.

And now, for a fall season full of activity—

On November 7, we'll have toured the New Almaden Quicksilver Mines and Park led by Kitty Monahan, Board Member.

We're testifying on behalf of the José Theatre and Teatro Campesino as a tenant. We're knee-deep in a proposal application for a National Trust technical assistance grant to focus on developing a feasible economic plan for the José Theatre and surrounding block. Clearly, the José Theatre has become one of our most important projects. One of the state's oldest theatres, it has a quiet elegance about it and, once restored, it will be one of our city's finest cultural and historical assets. With the Teatro Campesino, a company with national prominence, in the building as a tenant, the theatre would be assured of making a major contribution to the cultural life of our city. Indeed, Teatro Campesino will give cultural expression to a very significant part of our city's Hispanic historical heritage and contemporary life.

Regarding the River Street historical area, we'll be hard at work reviewing the Scope of Work for the Alternatives Analysis that will be conducted on behalf of the Army Corps of Engineers. We'll be meeting with the Army Corp of Engineers, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the State Historic Preservation Office to help hone the scope of work for the study. This is a very significant undertaking for our group. We hope that out of this will come a feasible way to incorporate some of the best of the River and St. John Streets' buildings in the Guadalupe River Park (or just adjacent to it), possibly for cultural or park uses.

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From the President

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The Destination Cities Task Force that we formed continues to review projects for possible consideration for Enhancements Funding under the Transportation Law. (See separate article.) It is with considerable pride that we can look back on the formation of this group this year. It is impressive that an opportunity was found to have city and county officials and staff members and non-profit organizations from throughout the county work together on preservation issues.

The Bernal-Joice Ranch project continues to pick up steam with more support being garnered, and the trust fund for the ranch growing.

These projects are all a lot of hard work. To take a break for the holiday season, we can relax at a holiday party, which will also be the occasion for acknowledging the hard work of so many of our members. The party will be in December or January. I hope everyone will come. It will be a great time for everyone to get acquainted, and to acknowledge the members who contributed so much to our group this year.

We have a number of committee leadership and volunteer roles open: in Community Relations (Chair), in program and projects (Education, Government Affairs, Watchdog, First Church of Christ, Scientist), Finance and Operations (Operations Chair and grantwriting), and the newsletter. Call Karita Hummer (408) 971-0940.

**Members and guests are
always welcome at our
monthly board meetings.
Check the calendar on
page 6.**

How to Reach Us

Bernal/Joice Ranch Task Force: Paul Bernal, (408) 299-7438

CONTINUITY newsletter: Nancy Newlin, (408) 297-4084

First Church of Christ, Scientist Task Force: Sharon Heinrichs, (408) 298-7810

José Theatre Task Force: Gary Parks, (408) 371-9103

River Street Task Force: Karita Hummer, (408) 971-0940 or April Halberstadt, (408) 293-2860

Transportation Law Task Force: Karita Hummer, (408) 971-0940

URM/Seismic Retrofit Task Force: Peter Fenerin, (415) 322-7440

Watchdog Committee: April Halberstadt, (408) 293-2860

Ouroffice: (408) 947-8025

Transportation Act Update

Michael Bethke

The county-wide task force formed by the Preservation Action Council of San José, called Destination Cities, has been meeting monthly since June of this year. The purpose of this task force is to address the provisions of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), which allow for transportation enhancements that include historic sites. Santa Clara County may be eligible for up to \$9 million between 1992 and 1997.

So far, the task force has a list of 64 projects, ranging from the restoration of the San José College Station Control Tower to providing landscap-

ing along the existing CalTrain corridor. Eventually, projects will be submitted for approval by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), which is our local metropolitan planning agency.

The State of California has already vested the MTC with the authority to determine how the transportation enhancements funds will be allocated in our area. The task force hopes that by bringing a wide range of local interest groups together, discussing alternatives, and making project plans that the final proposals will have a better chance for approval.

For more information about the Destination Cities Task Force, contact Karita Hummer at (408) 971-0940.

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**For more information,
contact the editor,
Nancy Newlin,
at (408) 297-4084.**



Watchdog Report

April Halberstadt

The Watchdog Committee of the Preservation Action Council keeps an eye on historic buildings that may be threatened by insensitive rehabilitation, demolition, or neglect. The projects we are currently tracking include:

- The *Midtown Plan* which is finished and has been accepted by the Planning Commission and forwarded to the City Council on a unanimous vote. The plan recommends high-density housing. There is no specific recommendation for the Del Monte building along The Alameda. Also threatened by the plan are newly renovated Victorian residences along Wilson Street and the residential neighborhood along Sunol Street.
- The *Scheller House* which continues to sit and wait on the San José State University campus.
- The *Autumn Street neighborhood* next to the new Sharks arena which is still threatened, including the pre-1870 bungalow of inventor A.C. Stowe on old St. Augustine Street and the old barn and several newer (circa 1920) bungalows along Autumn Court, which are scheduled for demolition.
- The San Fernando Street realignment at Cahill Station which will increase the traffic pressure on the remnants of the *Delmas Street-Lakehouse area*. The Redevelopment Agency calls this area "Parkside."
- *Goosetown* which is still being whittled away by the Redevelopment Agency to accommodate more parking.

Also on the list are Wool Ranch, the Bernal-Joice Ranch, First Church of Christ, Scientist, River Street area, José Theatre, and Naglee Park.

Naglee Park and Dora's Boarding Home

Naglee Park watchdogs have been watching the saga of Dora's Boarding Home at 184 South 13th Street for more than ten years. Once a licensed care home, the operator lost her license but continued to operate a boarding home, illegally renting space in her basement and garage.

While under investigation by San José Code Enforcement, the house caught fire twice, the second fire killing the tenant in the garage and gutting the back of the house. After the fire, the house stood empty for five years while the owner attempted to sell the property. The house was finally purchased by someone who has replaced the fire-ravaged parts and restored the rest. The final coats of exterior paint are being applied this month. A big thank you from the Naglee Park watchdogs to Jonathan Davar.



The Preservation Action Council of San José is a non-profit membership organization providing information to property owners and education to the public, and promoting programs and policies for historic preservation and compatible new architectural design.

Interested in watchdog activities?
Call April Halberstadt at (408)
293-2860.

Neighborhood Grants Available

Grants are available from the Neighborhood Program of the Community Foundation of Santa Clara County to fund neighborhood resident-based organizations providing neighborhood improvement programs such as street fairs, public safety, affordable housing, and multi-cultural arts events. Projects considered for funding must demonstrate self-help, diversity, self-sufficiency, and longevity. Grants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 are available. The foundation is especially interested in organizations in the under-served areas of South County and San José.

For more information, and to receive the grant guidelines and application forms, contact The Community Foundation of Santa Clara County at (408) 241-2781.

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Calendar

November

- 9 (Monday) Executive committee meeting. Karita Hummer's, 96 Fox Ave., 7:00 p.m., (408) 971-0940.
- 16 (Monday) Open board of directors meeting. Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th St., 7:00 p.m., (408) 971-0940.
- 30 (Monday) Finance and operations committee meeting at our office, 40 N. First St., 8 p.m. Greg Casella, (408) 998-5034.

December

- 14 (Monday) Executive committee meeting. Karita Hummer's, 96 Fox Ave., 7:00 p.m., 971-0940.
- 21 (Monday) *No* open board of directors meeting.

January, 1993

- 11 (Monday) Executive committee meeting. Karita Hummer's, 96 Fox Ave., 7:00 p.m., 971-0940.
- 18 (Monday) Annual meeting, election, and open board meeting. Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th St., 7:00 p.m., (408) 971-0940.
- 25 (Monday) Finance and operations committee meeting at our office, 40 N. First St., 8 p.m. Greg Casella, (408) 998-5034.

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