

BERKELEY ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

THE BAH
NEWSLETTER

NO. 155

PANDEMIC NUMBER

SPRING 2020

1918 and 2020



EDISON RED CROSS NURSES

Edison Emergency Influenza Hospital

Alice Gagneben; Grace Ufford; Pearl Boyden; Monta Carpenter.

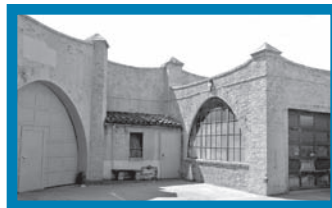


1918 Flu Epidemic

THE BAHA NEWSLETTER

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University Garage

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- BAHA's website includes notices of events, a list of Berkeley landmarks, illustrated essays, and more: berkeleyheritage.com/

- BAHA also maintains a blog where stories and notices of immediate interest are posted in a timely manner: baha-news.blogspot.com/

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COVER: Red Cross nurses at Edison Jr. High School (Walter H. Ratcliff, Jr., 1915) on Oregon Street. Part of the school was set up as an influenza infirmary in 1918. From the Fall 1918 school yearbook, The Edison Mazda. Left above: Bianca and Gene Buffington in 1918. Courtesy Anthony Bruce. Right above: the now-threatened University Garage (Walter H. Ratcliff, Jr., 1930), Berkeley Landmark No. 50. Daniella Thompson, 2006.

SALLY B. WOODBRIDGE

A TRIBUTE BY JOHN PARMAN

IN THE ERA of Google Maps and Wikipedia, that print was once how architecture news and criticism circulated has mostly been forgotten. The death in late November 2019 of architectural historian and journalist Sally Byrne Woodbridge went unnoticed even in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. As a longtime correspondent of *Progressive Architecture*, Woodbridge kept the Bay Region's architects visible nationally, exposing its readers to a broader slice of work than usually made New York City-centric editors' maps. As the main curator-compiler of a series of guides to its architecture, she explained the region to itself. Her books on Bernard Maybeck, John Galen Howard, and Bay Area houses gave depth to that broad and discerning overview.

Sally Byrne was born in Evanston, Illinois, in 1930 and raised in Louisville, Kentucky. She studied art history at Duke, graduating in 1951, then went to the Sorbonne as a



Sally Woodbridge, with Kenneth Cardwell, at the Maybeck Cottage. Anthony Bruce, 2000.

Fulbright Scholar. While in Paris, she met John Marshall Woodbridge, returning with him to Princeton and working at the art library while he finished graduate school. Sally and John's circle at Princeton included Charles Moore, Donlyn Lyndon, and William Turnbull—who together went on to later found MLTW, of Sea Ranch fame—and Hugh Hardy and Norval White. They were lifelong

continued on page 14 . . .

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Everyone is going through difficult and uncertain times in the COVID-19 crisis. Change came upon us quite rapidly at BAHA, too. In early March, the BAHA leadership was discussing whether to postpone the house tour, then scheduled for April 26. We did so, and the next day the “Shelter-in-Place” order was issued.

Under the current rules, BAHA has paused public operations and services. We have postponed or cancelled events for the foreseeable future, and we have temporarily closed the BAHA office for research to protect both our staff and the residential tenants at the McCreary-Greer House who are sheltering in place.

BAHA has suffered financial losses in two important respects. First, we could not hold the annual House Tour which is our single biggest fundraising event and provides a considerable portion of our annual operating expenses. Second, as many members know, we rent three apartments at our landmark McCreary-Greer House. These are typically leased to visiting UC Berkeley scholars who have all been affected by the closure of most of the University’s physical facilities. One of our tenants had to end his lease early and return to his home country because of the COVID-19 crisis, so we have lost the rental income from that unit.

In the meantime, due to the hard work of Treasurer Stephanie Manning, BAHA has submitted an application for federal small business relief funds. At the time of writing we have not yet heard back, but our application is in. We also applied to the City of Berkeley for a relief grant under its program for arts and cultural organizations. Through this program we have received \$9,321.21 from the City in the second round of funding, a welcome and appreciated act of support. (To illustrate the scope of the financial crisis for local organizations, we were one of 70 Berkeley arts and cultural groups that applied for this funding. All groups that applied received some funding.)

For the time being, we are not making any special financial request of you, our loyal BAHA membership, other than that you continue to remain members and renew. We know there are many other businesses, organizations, and individuals going through extreme financial crisis right now.

At the moment, BAHA can sustain itself. It may be that later in the year we will make a special fundraising appeal. Please continue to watch our e-mail announcements and your mail—including this newsletter—for any updates on how you can help BAHA.

Despite the disruptions, essential BAHA operations go on. We are not doing any layoffs or furloughs of our three part-time staff members, and they are all working from home on BAHA business. Our Board is holding Zoom meetings, and preparing for the new fiscal year. Elsewhere in this issue you’ll read about our annual election and we ask you to vote by mail for a new slate of BAHA Officers and Directors for 2020/21.

In closing, I’d like to note that preservation issues and controversies have unfortunately not paused with the COVID-19 crisis. There are many buildings and sites threatened throughout Berkeley. You’ll read about some of them elsewhere in this issue. There are also unfolding plans by the University of California to demolish a number of designated landmark buildings near the campus. Preservation activism is still needed in these troubled times.

Sincerely,

Steven Finacom, President

THREATENED AND DOOMED BUILDINGS

AT ANY GIVEN TIME in recent years, there have been dozens of older buildings in Berkeley proposed for demolition. In the March, 2020 Landmarks Preservation Commission agenda there were twenty older commercial buildings on the demolition list, along with eight residential buildings. And these are only the buildings where a formal permit application is pending with the City. Other buildings have already been approved for demolition.

It's also worth noting, sadly, that the Landmarks Preservation Commission in recent years has almost never exercised its right to initiate any of these threatened buildings for landmark consideration.

Presented here is a sampling of some of the buildings currently awaiting the wrecking ball. Several of them are familiar structures in Berkeley, defining part of the character of their blocks and neighborhoods. Even the most humble are part of the rich architectural and cultural history of Berkeley.



Straw Into Gold building, Ashby and San Pablo avenues. Steven Finacom, 2020.

1042-46 Ashby Avenue. Many Berkeley residents will remember the low-slung retail building at the southwest corner of San Pablo and Ashby as the long-time home of Straw Into Gold, a fabric outlet.

The sinuous parapet, and corner featuring a two-story curving glass wall, have been a distinctive feature at one of West Berkeley's major intersections for decades. This is one of Berkeley's relatively few retail buildings with a Moderne architectural character.

Portions of the building were originally constructed in the 1920s by Dolan Brothers Wrecking Company, which ran a huge enterprise dismantling and selling

salvaged parts from older structures, just like the nearby Urban Ore today. The corner later became the home of the Braun Mattress Company, which emphasized its affordable furniture in contrast to more upscale stores in higher-rent commercial districts of Berkeley and Oakland. The Great Western Furniture Company then operated there from the early 1950s to the 1970s.

The building is now doomed to demolition. An "infill" apartment building is proposed, adding to the number of similar developments in Berkeley.



2000 Dwight Way. Steven Finacom, 2020.

2000 Dwight Way. This handsome apartment building was built in 1924 at the southeast corner of Milvia to the design of the busy local firm of Hutchison and Mills who specialized in small residential and commercial structures. Although it was later converted to medical offices, the building retains almost all of its original exterior character including ornate cornice, multi-light wooden windows, wrought-iron decorations, and terrazzo front steps.

The building could easily be renovated back to an apartment building. But that's not the plan. It is proposed for demolition, with construction of a new apartment structure.

1043 Heinz Avenue. Built in 1928, this modest one-story commercial structure was expanded into a bar and restaurant in the 1930s. It operated for decades as Sam's 58 Club, which Tom Dalzell called "a blue collar working-class bar with a vibrant culture" serving workers at nearby factories, probably including the



1043 Heinz Avenue and 1047 Heinz Avenue. Steven Finacom,



massive Heinz 57 plant just across the street. There’s still a “ghost sign” for the business on the east-facing exterior wall. Dalzell wrote a two-part homage to the business on his *Quirky Berkeley* blog.

Two lots to the east there is a sturdy little clapboard bungalow at 1047 Heinz Avenue. Nicely painted with a tiny garden remaining in front, it looks ready for a new homesteading resident. But both buildings have a single owner who plans to demolish them.

2650 Telegraph Avenue. Built in about 1964 at the corner of Derby Street as one of the few Bay Area outposts of a Southern California restaurant chain, Woody’s Smorgasburger. The chain, founded in 1956, pioneered the concept of “dress-it-yourself” hamburgers.

Older East Bay natives remember it was a treat to go to the Telegraph Woody’s as children and choose ingredients from the expansive self-serve condiments bar. The building later became an International House of Pancakes and most recently housed Bacheesos Restaurant.

The Woody’s buildings had an unusual and distinctive steeply sloped chalet roof, sloping upwards from the center to the ends, with a cross gable over the main entrance. One survives vacant in East Oakland, and a few in Southern California, where they have been recorded as significant examples of Mid-Century modern design in historic surveys.

The Berkeley Woody’s is now approved for demolition and replacement with an apartment building.

To see the most current list of buildings proposed for demolition, go to the Landmarks Preservation Commission page on the City’s website <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/landmarkspreserva->



Woody’s Smorgasburger. Steven Finacom, 2020.

tioncommission/ and scroll down to 2020 Agendas and Minutes. Click on a recent agenda and scroll down to one of the last pages which has a list of “Projects Proposing Demolition of Buildings Greater Than Forty Years Old.” BAHA is continuing to advocate for the preservation of history, but we need your help. Let us know what is happening in your neighborhood or what you see in need of attention throughout Berkeley. Even better, consider volunteering with us. You won’t be alone, and together we can make a real difference.

LATEST BERKELEY LANDMARKS

Landmark No. 333
Marsh-Sperry House
Henry Higby Gutterson (1924)
1440 Hawthorne Terrace
Designated: 5 September 2019



and *Marsh-Sperry House (BAHA)*

Landmark No. 334
Sperry-McLaughlin House
Henry Higby Gutterson (1924)
1450 Hawthorne Terrace
Designated: 5 September 2019



Sperry-McLaughlin House. Anthony Bruce, 1992.

On 17 September 1923, a fire decimated Berkeley's Northside. Much of Hawthorne Terrace's housing stock was obliterated in the fire, enabling James Clarence Sperry (1874–1942), a Magnavox executive, retired oil expert, and early leader in the Save the Redwoods League, to acquire three quarters of an acre bordering on Hawthorne Terrace, Vine Street, and Scenic Ave-

nue. Sperry commissioned Henry Gutterson, who had already designed two other houses across the street, to create a family compound, consisting of two residences linked by a garage, at the east side of the parcel. Sperry and his family resided in the southern house (1450), while the northern house (1440) was owned and occupied by Sperry's widowed sister, Marion Preston Marsh (1871–1959). Their brother, Willard F. Sperry, and his wife lived with Marion. On the western slope of the parcel, the two houses shared an expansive garden designed by landscape architect Mabel Symmes.

In the 1950s, the Sperry home was acquired by U.C. Regent Prof. Donald Hamilton McLaughlin (1891–1984) and his wife Sylvia (1916–2016). She went on to co-found Save the Bay, Urban Care, and Citizens for East Shore Parks, and became known as the *Grande Dame* of environmentalism.



Dille House. Roger Sturtevant, Pencil Points, May 1944.

Landmark No. 335
Grace Stearns Dille House
Francis Joseph McCarthy (1940)
1399 Queens Road
Designated: 6 February 2020

Grace Stearns Dille and her college-age daughter, Marguerite, wanted their future Berkeley home, on a lot high in the hills amid Eucalyptus groves, to be a one-room rustic cabin with exposed rafters, a fireplace, and a lean-to kitchen and bath. However, upon submitting her floor plan to the FHA for a construction loan, Mrs. Dille was told that a licensed architect must draw the plans. Enter Francis Joseph McCarthy, recommended by friends.



Dilley House interior. Roger Sturtevant, Pencil Points, May

Under no circumstances did the Dilleys want a modern house, but that is what they got, and they soon came to appreciate McCarthy’s thoughtful Second Bay Tradition design, which includes a double shed roof; clerestory windows for light and tree views; and window walls oriented toward San Francisco Bay.

As a concession to FHA requirements, a bedroom was added, but the redwood-sided house still comprises only 740 square feet. Almost all of the original architectural features, finishes, and even some of the furnishings and appliances remain.

Francis Joseph McCarthy (1910–1965), whose design career extended from about 1930 to 1965, was trained in the office of William Wurster, among other architectural firms. The U.C. Environmental Design Archives describes McCarthy’s career thus. His “work encompassed numerous residential, municipal, and commercial commissions throughout California. He specialized in library buildings, designing the Stanford University Library, Santa Rosa Public Library, and Inyo County Public Library among others.” The library commissions came later in his career; most of his designs were residential projects. He was also a founding member of the urban planning group, Telesis.

The house is important for its association with the noted puppeteers Grace Stearns Dilley and her husband, Perry Dilley, who introduced marionettes and guignol to the people of California. Both were deeply involved in the Bay Area’s creative and bohemian community of the first half of the 20th century. The house was designated for that association and for the way in which it expresses and preserves Bay Region design traditions

and represents a good example of McCarthy’s work and part of the history of residential and cultural development in Berkeley.



Whittemore-Woodworth House (courtesy of the owners)

Landmark No. 336.

Whittemore-Woodworth House

Designer and builder unknown, c. 1889

2043 Lincoln Street

Designated: 5 March 2020

This Queen Anne cottage is an outstanding example of its style, featuring a steeply pitched roof of irregular shape, with a dominant front-facing gable; asymmetrical façade with a partial-width porch and spindlework ornamentation; patterned shingles; gable ornamentation; bay windows; dentils; large panes of glass bounded by smaller panes; and overhangs accentuated by corner brackets.

The house is one of the earliest houses constructed in the two-block Golden Gate Homestead tract, which was subdivided in 1887 by Thomas F. Graber, a lawyer and landowner who at various times in the 19th century served as Berkeley’s City Attorney, City Clerk, and Trustee. A number of the buildings in the tract have been altered, and this cottage is a rare example of a mostly intact Victorian representing the style and character of the early days of this neighborhood.

The first owner of this house was Rev. Everett T. Whittemore, founding pastor of Berkeley’s First Baptist Church. The second owners were Charles W. and Lenora Woodworth. Prof. Woodworth founded the Department of Entomology at the University of California and taught there from 1891 until retirement in 1930.

FINDING FOXES ON UNIVERSITY AVENUE

by
Fran Cappelletti



Carl Fox.

THIS is the tale of four buildings, all in a row. The scenes of typical businessness, they also hosted an odd scam, political drama, and a bit of kitsch. Shiny and new they are not, but these buildings provided a stage for a succession of ventures from the late 1920s through the present day.

Each was built by the locally famous Fox Brothers. While the four have more glamorous siblings, including the landmarks, Fox Court and Fox Common, further down University Avenue, each has a long history of its own.

A September 11, 1926 *Berkeley Courier* profile of Carl Fox noted:

His latest effort is to aid in the development of University avenue as a business street. He visualizes the transformation of a street lined with stretches of vacant lots into one of the busiest retail arteries in the entire East Bay district.

It will be interesting to note what Carl's next move will be, but whatever it is, it is safe to predict his activities will be centered in Berkeley.

At the time of the profile, only one of the four buildings existed, but within a short time, his ambitious vision was becoming a reality.

All four buildings were originally owned by C.B. Radston and Samuel Straus, already owners of Radston's Stationery on Shattuck Avenue. Radston was the grandson of a pre-Gold Rush pioneer and was active in the Berkeley business community. He was also known for increasing the population by bringing many of his Straus in-laws from Kentucky.

BUILDING ONE: 1700 TO 1706 UNIVERSITY AVE.

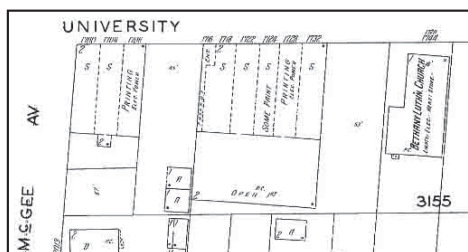
Starting at the Southeast corner of University and McGee avenues, you will find 1700-06 University Avenue. Built in 1925, it had three ground-level stores and

apartments upstairs. While no early photos are available, a simple, inelegant drawing from a 1938 permit application shows a recessed front door with windows above. This differs greatly from the current view, but the building remains mostly occupied today. It was the site of the Berkeley Blue Print Company, which later moved to the other end of the block. Note their logo below, from a time when the Campanile was still visible from this stretch of University Avenue. When it was listed for sale in 1965, the price was \$75,000.

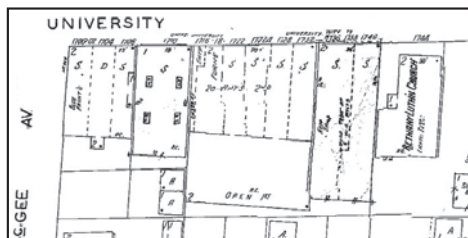
The present occupants are West Coast Pizza and Rug Masters.



The rough sketch from the 1938 permit application, and an old matchbook cover.



The 1929 Sanborn Fire map shows just two of the four buildings in place.



By 1950, all four buildings were in place.



**La Tolteca
Offers New
Food Thrills**

La Tolteca
**READY TO TAKE HOME
MEXICAN FOODS**
 Mild seasoning, mild flavor, fresh daily
 Let La Tolteca worry about
 your meal problems
 "Chili" weather is here! You
 can get yours all cooked and
 specially flavored at La Tol-
 teca—the new, spick and span
 Mexican Kitchen at 1732 Uni-
 versity Ave. Our tortillas, ta-
 miales, enchiladas, tacos and
 chiles rellenos are delicious.
Stop at La Tolteca
 1732 University Ave., Berkeley
 For Ready-to-take-out, Deli-
 cious Mexican Food!
 OPEN SUN. CLOSED MON.

In 1969, the Fox buildings in the 1700 block of University Avenue was well-occupied with businesses, including La Tolteca. BAHA

BUILDING TWO: 1716—32 UNIVERSITY AVENUE

Next built in 1927 was a building with five storefronts. At first, it was a series of storefronts like its neighbors, but twenty apartments were added in 1944.

From 1947 to 1989, 1732 was the location of La Tolteca. Opened by Bob McDonald, it was part of a small family chain based in Southern California. Providing tamales, enchiladas, tacos, and much more ‘to take home,’ they were proud of their tortilla-making machine, which could produce 120 dozen an hour.

According to Steve McDonald, who worked there in his youth, there were a number of notable customers. Admiral Chester Nimitz was a regular. His chauffeur drove him and picked up often. In 1950, Joe Rosenthal became a regular customer. He gained fame as the photographer of the famous Iwo Jima image, with soldiers raising the American Flag. The restaurant proudly displayed a print of this iconic image on the wall inside. Other customers included Doug Clifford of Creedence Clearwater Revival and George Marks of Sierra Designs and The North Face.

Another store was Frazier’s Minerals and Lapidary, operated by Si and Ann Frazier from 1965 to 1981. Si studied geology with an emphasis on mineralogy and petrology at U.C. Berkeley.

Today there are still the signs of Edoko Japanese res-

taurant and Sacred Rose Tattoo, but much is hidden by a retrofit of the building currently under way. While changes to the front entries and windows will be made, the essential structure will remain in place.



1708–10 University Avenue in 1968. BAHA Archives.

BUILDING THREE: 1708—10 UNIVERSITY AVE.

The third Fox building on the block is 1710, built in 1930, a single-level commercial building between the first two buildings. At first it was the second location for Radston’s Stationery in Berkeley. The original Radston building at 2225 Shattuck Avenue no longer sells stationery, but Chipotle burritos instead.

A later occupant was Turner’s Furniture, sellers of Early American furniture in their 1957 telephone directory ad.



1708–10 University Avenue in 2020.

Today the building houses Hello Stitch, a community-based textile studio at 1708, and Chabad House Berkeley at 1710.



1734–40 University Avenue. Photo:

BUILDING FOUR: 1734–40 UNIVERSITY AVENUE

According to the original 1930 permit, this structure was built to house an indoor golf facility. The *Oakland Tribune* of September 16, 1930 reported the incorporation of Berkeley Indoor Golf Course, Limited, with a capitalization of \$300,000. The November 1930 opening was covered by local radio station KLX. The facility had 27 greens, easy chairs, and a fireplace. A trendy thing in 1930, at least a dozen

such ventures in Berkeley and Oakland were operating. Competitions were reported in the *Tribune*, such as for an epic 1930 battle between Miss Bunny Fergus and Mrs. O.H. Dalwigk at the Alameda Golfdrome for the women’s championship. It turns out, thousands of courses were open across the United States at the time, heralded as lucrative business opportunities. The rush for riches was short lived, though it wasn’t until 1936 that the company was in default and the building made available for sale at public auction.

By 1939 Edward Galvin and Rudolph Rusher opened Galvin Appliance and Refrigeration Company at 1734. When Rusher died in 1944, Galvin continued to run the business. They later moved to their current location on San Pablo Avenue in Albany. Ironically, our source for the history of La Tolteca, Steve McDonald, currently works at Galvin Appliance.

After Galvin, the next occupant was Al Lasher’s Electronics, still in place today. One could write a book about this venerable business. In fact, Charles W. Ragsdale did that very thing in 2014, in *The Electronic Side of Planet Berkeley*. His research of records at BAHA and interviews with owners and residents provided much data and inspiration for this article.

On September 21, 2017, Tom Dalzell wrote one of his “How Quirky is Berkeley” columns on Lasher’s in *Berkeleyside*, noting the many items for sale, and the dedicated customers and family still running this venerable business. Due to the need for retrofit, the future of the building was in doubt.

Al Lasher’s continues to honor their own history on their website, allashers.com/about/:

Founded in 1960 by Alfred Lasher, who had previously worked for Pacific Radio Supply, calling on T.V. and radio dealers, stocking their shelves right out of the back of his station wagon. As Pacific Radio began moving into HiFi, Al decided to open a

No Charge for Inspection.

REFRIGERATION SERVICE
Commercial & Domestic

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GENERAL ELECTRIC	OAKLAND
FRIGIDAIRE	HI 3040
KELVINATOR	
NORGE	BERKELEY
WESTINGHOUSE	BE 3212
LEONARD	TH 3211
CROSLY	
COLD-SPOT	

Gibson Apex
 Gilman Major
 Zoroastri Potter
 Helms Universal
 Mayberr Tru-Cold
 Sereel Saksam
 Beckage Grange
 Electro-Kold Spartan
 Cyclone Stewart-Walker
 Copeland O'Keefe & Merrill
 Fairbanks-Morse

GALVIN'S APPLIANCE & REFRIGERATION CO.
 1734 University 29th & Grove
 BERKELEY OAKLAND
 2420 Broadway
 OAKLAND

CREDIT TO ALL

radio shop of his own, in Berkeley, as a branch of a friendly competitor, Styles and Engleman. Six months later, because the store wasn't doing as well as he had hoped, Al purchased the stock and re-opened as Al Lasher's Dealer Electronics.

As we strive to preserve the legacy of the late Al Lasher, we continue to operate as a family run business, with customer service as our #1 priority. We hope you can experience a taste of that from this site or savor the full flavor when you visit our shop. Not only do we stock the latest in electronic parts, we also carry many unique items, since we tend not to throw things away. So if you need that tube for your grandmother's Philco radio, or a cmos battery to keep the bios in your Pentium computer, give us a call. We'll definitely give it the Lasher Family best!



INSTRUCTION AND INTRIGUE UPSTAIRS: 1740 UNIVERSITY AVENUE

1932 saw the introduction of the Pacific Extension University. Hopes were high as the February 14, 1932 *Oakland Tribune* reported their growth and merger with the Pacific Secretarial School.

This group was followed by World Wide Schools, but is was also short-lived here.

In 1934, the California Worker's Association had their headquarters here. Newspaper accounts document their support for the unemployed, with a census, educational forums, and dances. City officials, such as Mayor Ament, Dr. McCall of the First Congregational Church, and businessman Lester Hink, were noted as supporters of these efforts. Later that summer, howev-

er, the organization was under suspicion. In the aftermath of the 1934 General Strike in San Francisco, the Bay Area witnessed vigilante attacks on organizations suspected to have communist sympathies. Though Mayor Ament now was on the side of the vigilantes, George Graydon, president of the California Worker's Association chaired a meeting in front of the Berkeley High School Auditorium to protest these acts of violence. The Association would continue to have meetings, including a 1935 meeting to discuss unemployment insurance and old age pensions, moderated by William Spooner of the Central Labor Council and Sam White of the Socialist Party. The political legacy would extend into the 1950s. As noted by Dalzell, Ragsdale, and Lasher's, FBI surveillance noted Civil Rights Congress meetings here were attended by Jessica Mitford and others in 1950.

In 1935, the Edison Electrical School established itself here, leaving their name on the façade. Ads looking for young men to learn about jobs in radio, television, and electronics were frequently found in newspapers locally and across the nation. Promises were made that appropriate candidates would be brought in and trained in their "laboratories" on University Avenue.

However, by April of 1937, the Federal Trade Commission stipulated that the owners "will cease using certain unfair methods of competition in connection with the sale of correspondence courses in Diesel and radio engineering." A few vague ads would come out later in the year, promising radio announcements or interviews in a Reno hotel, but by the end of 1938, all advertising ceased and they were no longer listed in directories.



NOT THE END

It takes a few seconds to drive past these buildings, but take a moment to consider these were but a part of the dream Carl Fox and others had to build Berkeley, further connecting Berkeley's east and west. From brief stays to decades of service, consider where Berkeley would be without them and further consider who is yet to arrive.

BAHA EVENTS UPDATE

WHEN the COVID-19 crisis arrived in the Bay Area, BAHA was hard at work organizing our annual House Tour, which had been scheduled for Sunday, April 26. Because of the Shelter-in-Place order, the tour has now been postponed, *but not canceled*. At this time, however, we have no way of projecting when we can resume in-person events, including the house tour.

This year's tour was to be centered around the Antisell's Villa Tract—north Berkeley's first residential subdivision—among the pleasant and historic homes on the slopes north of Cedar Street and east of Walnut Street. This neighborhood remains the focus of our House Tour, and we will resume tour planning when circumstances permit.

All our other events are also on hold, including lectures, walking tours, single-house showings, and tabling at civic festivals. But we have an energetic Events Committee which will continue to discuss event possibilities and prepare for the time when such BAHA activities can resume, although we do not yet know when or how. One possibility might be neighborhood walking tours with limited attendance, held outdoors, with appropriate social distancing amongst participants.

Your suggestions for topics of future walks, talks, and events are welcome and you can email them to baha@berkeleyheritage.com

Due to the cost of producing and mailing notices, especially during this financially stressful time, we are less likely to mail special event notices. E-mails to our



A house that was to be open on the April 26 tour. Ansel Adams, BAHA Archives.

mailing list and the BAHA newsletter will most likely be the primary ways of publicizing events in the coming year.

If you don't believe that you are signed up on our e-mail list, then please send us your e-mail address and we will add it. Around 80% of BAHA members are already on the e-mail list. (*note: we do not sell our mailing list to other parties.*)

People's Park Neighborhood

The University has announced plans to build student dormitories on People's Park. Surrounding the park are landmarks, National Register properties, and one National Landmark. How will the University's large-scale project affect these significant buildings and sites? To view a photographic exhibit of the People's Park surroundings, go to berkeleyheritage.com.

Gifts to BAHA

came from **Christopher Adams** (a Bret Harte story printed and bound as an illustrated book by Ellen and Wilder Bentley); **Willis Andersen** (his collection of books on Berkeley and local architecture); **Nancy Clark** (a framed color rendering by architect Louis Christian Mullgardt of his Taylor House, which stood on The Uplands); **Neysa Garrett** (a framed historic view of the Raspillar Brewery); **Joan Seear** (her books on Berkeley and local architecture).

BAHA is grateful for the monetary gifts that came

from **Christopher Cullander**, **Fredrica Drotos**, **Richard Ehrenberger** (*with happy memories of Susan Cerny*), **Trish and Tony Hawthorne** (*in memory of Sally Woodbridge*), **Therese Pipe** (*in memory of Carolyn Hartsough*), **Merrilee Posner**, **JoAnn B. Price** (*in honor of Anthony Bruce*), **Jack Sawyer**, **Jim Sharp**, and **Ron Yee**.

"Giving Tuesday" donations came from **Tim Q. Cannon**, **Travis Crawford**, **Jane Goodwin**, **Ann and Dobie Jenkins**, **Larry V. LaBarge**, **Katherine Stern Meurer**, and **Julie Weeks**.

1918 FLU PANDEMIC

IN THE FALL OF 1918, my great-grandmother, Mary A. Rhodes (living at 2628 Benvenue Avenue), wrote daily to her husband, Charles L. Rhodes, away on a business trip to Washington D.C. In her letters, she described the effects of the influenza epidemic on life in Berkeley. Below are two excerpts from her letters as they seem apropos to the situation we are facing today, as the current pandemic affects our lives here in California and around the globe.

All schools in Berkeley are ordered closed. Seventy three new cases today. Miss Hine [a student at the University] is greatly upset. One of her boy friends has just died at the infirmary. Also, a girl friend is very seriously ill. Worse tonight. So, we are not a gay household. The University rang me up to say that students must not appear on the campus without masks on.

Leora Kibbe is better, her mother says, but so weak! I am almost glad you are away, for everything is closed, even the library. And I believe it is not in its first stages yet in the East. Do be careful in every way!

—October 18, 1918, Berkeley, California

and

How very strange you— knowing me —should have thought that I was afraid! And my dear husband, if you were here in Oakland or San Francisco, Berkeley, or any of the other cities about the bay, you would be wearing a mask. First, you were requested to, then it was made a law. Hundreds of people were arrested and fined. The Civic Auditorium in San Francisco, also Oakland's Auditorium (which was opened first) are being used as hospitals. Also some of the larger schools have been fitted up for hospitals. So, you need not wonder I wrote much about it! For it was all one could hear about.

I, of course, was not afraid for myself, but it made one's heart ache to know how people were dying. You are too far away to be any judge of conditions, and what they were like. I have been following all the instructions you give in this letter: plenty of fresh air, not getting any closer to people than I can help. But I wear a mask. For one reason, I do not want to pay a fine. (I think they have carried it to extremes, such as arresting people driving in the park.) If tonight is my time, why, I go. So, I am not afraid. I know I cannot



My mother Bianca Bruce (on the right) and her siblings with two unidentified adults in December 1918.

prevent it! So, I go right along about my daily cares and duties ... The paper states that there were only forty new cases reported of influenza today. Oakland has collected over seven thousand dollars in fines for failure to wear masks. So, you see, my love, it is not a question of whether you will or will not. You must! I shall be glad when it is over. I hate the masks and they stole one.

—November 4, 1918, Berkeley, California

Later in November, as the number of cases dropped, restrictions were lifted. A second wave—worse than the first—hit in January 1919. At that time, my grandfather came down with the influenza. He was hospitalized, and then convalesced for about six months. He could not work, and the lack of income seems to have placed the final strain on his already-precarious marriage. My grandparents separated in June, 1919, and the four children moved permanently to Berkeley to be raised by their doting grandparents on Benvenue Ave.

—Anthony Bruce

BAHA President Steven Finacom is writing a week-to-week historical narrative of Berkeley's 1918 flu experience, with extensive transcriptions and quotes from the 1918 Berkeley Daily Gazette. The first four installments were published in March and April online at berkeleydailyplanet.com. (or search online for "Daily Planet," "Finacom," and "influenza")

... continued from page 2

friends of James and Pamela Morton. As Dean of St. John the Divine Cathedral, James Morton restarted its construction and initiated its art program.

Sally and John married in 1954. John finished at Princeton in 1956. Moving to San Francisco, he worked initially with the architect John Funk. They became friends with his colleague Albert Lanier and his wife, the artist Ruth Asawa. Through her, Sally met the photographer Imogen Cunningham. Moving to Berkeley, they raised a family in the 1912 house that John Galen Howard, U.C. Berkeley's first campus architect, designed and built for himself. While John worked as an architect and planner for SOM in San Francisco and Washington, D.C., Sally took up her career as a journalist, critic, and historian.

Although they divorced, Sally and John remained good friends and writing partners. John married the poet Carolyn Kizer, winner of a Pulitzer in 1985. Sally never remarried, living on Vine Street in North Berkeley with her daughter Pamela Woodbridge and her son-in-law, the cinematographer Elliott Davis, as neighbors.

The final edition of their guide, *San Francisco Architecture*, designed by Chuck Byrne, appeared in 2005. *Bay Area Houses*, for which Sally was editor and a contributor, appeared in 1976. Monographs on Bernard Maybeck (1992) and John Galen Howard (2002), two giants of early 20th-century architecture in the Bay Region, followed. She contributed to the Historical American Buildings Survey in California and organized exhibits on architecture.

At *Progressive Architecture*, Sally covered the region's architecture with critical and historical awareness. Coming of age in Paris and Princeton, hers was a cosmopolitan, even existentialist sensibility that saw how the best work here reflected the wider world, including Finland and Japan's hybrid modernism, yet was attuned to such attributes of place as terrain, climate, light, view, fabric, and pattern.

As Pierluigi Serraino noted in *NorCalMod*, modernism here varied across a wide spectrum. Lewis Mumford's "region apart" was never really true, nor was the idea of "critical regionalism" quite accurate. Some architects here agreed. Others were wary of the designation.

Sally Woodbridge dealt with the region by considering the history—Maybeck and Howard were products of the Beaux-Arts system, but both designed buildings here that looked back to Arts & Crafts and picked up on the Bay Region's artisan tradition. She also stayed open to everything that arose here. The countermovement around Archetype, with work by Andrew Batey, Mark Mack, Steven Holl, and Jim Jennings, and the postmodern, anticipatory classicism of Thomas Gordon Smith, was a rebellion against a too-narrow view of what the region was and what it could achieve. A close friend of Charles Moore, she saw his work embrace such developments as Pop Art, Bobbie Stauffacher Solomon's super-graphics, and the environmentalism-as-art practiced by Larry Halprin. As she observed and wrote, the region was in constant ferment, viewed from within.

Woodbridge also leaves her son Lawrence and four grandchildren. Her daughter Diana, who worked with the San Francisco architect Jeremy Kotas, died in 2002. John Woodbridge died in 2014.

BAHA member John Parman is an editorial advisor to The Architect's Newspaper (where this obituary first appeared) and a visiting scholar at U.C. Berkeley's College of Environmental Design. Reprinted with permission.

Sally Woodbridge was an active participant in the earliest days of BAHA. She led a memorable walking tour of Buena Vista Way in the spring of 1974 (part of BAHA's first walking tour series). She presented the unique Maybeck architecture and bohemian atmosphere of "Nut Hill" in a most compelling way

The first meeting of the newly autonomous organization was held in the living room of Sally's John Galen Howard-home September 8, 1974. The publicized event drew a large crowd of people, many of whom became actively involved in BAHA. The first item on the agenda was a name for the group. "Berkeley Architectural Heritage" was proposed. I remember Sally calling out, as she was coming in from the hall, "Berkeley Architectural Heritage what? Society? Association?" And "Association" it was.

—Anthony Bruce

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The former Mercantile Trust Company building at Ashby and College avenues, designed by architect Walter H. Ratcliff, Jr. in 1925. City of Berkeley Landmark No. 55. Anthony Bruce, 2020.

BAHA ELECTION – PLEASE VOTE!

If you are a BAHA member you will have received, enclosed with this issue, your ballot for election of a 2020-21 slate for BAHA Officers and Directors. Because of the COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place orders, BAHA cannot hold its traditional in-person Annual Meeting this month. Instead, the election is being conducted by mail. Please review the ballot, fill it out, and return it in the enclosed envelope addressed to BAHA. The ballot must be postmarked by June 13, 2020 for your vote to count. We need to meet a minimum number of votes for the election to be valid, so please exercise your voting franchise. We thank you for your membership.



The University Garage (Walter H. Ratcliff, Jr., 1930), 1952 Oxford Street. Fran Cappelletti, 2020.

UNIVERSITY GARAGE IS THREATENED BY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Since the early 1970s, BAHA has been active on the preservation front, accomplishing much with generations of volunteers and staff working on causes small and large. We may sometimes take for granted those preservation victories that can be enjoyed to this day, but preservation is not a static thing. Stopping a demolition is only a beginning, and there is no guarantee that future threats will end.

The University Garage, at 1952 Oxford Street, is the site of the proposed Housing Project #1 in the UC Berkeley Long Range Development Plan Update. The building has been threatened over the years, as various projects were proposed, and now, once again, there is a plan to demolish it. The garage is rated as seismically poor and is primarily used for storage and staging of campus parking and shuttle operations. The University will bring information about the Garage and the project that would affect it to the Landmarks Preservation Commission in the coming months.

The University's plans for this block would also necessitate the demolition of the Home Street Apartments, built for Berkeley pioneer William Brewer Heywood in 1909. The University is negotiating to buy this property, and tenants have been notified of future redevelopment and eligibility for relocation assistance, according to a May 4th report in *Berkeleyside*.

As part of any evaluation, many factors are considered under CEQA. In particular, the cultural resources aspect asks if the project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5. This and other factors must be considered in this case.

Designed by Walter H. Ratcliff, Jr. in 1930, the building was owned by the University as a public garage and leased as an income property to Richfield Oil Company, and later Shell Oil. Its 1979 listing in the California Historic Resources Inventory codes the building as "Appears eligible for [listing in the] National Register of Historic Places as an individual property through survey evaluation." It was designated City of Berkeley Landmark #50 in 1981.

(Read the complete article by Fran Cappelletti at berkeleyheritage.com)