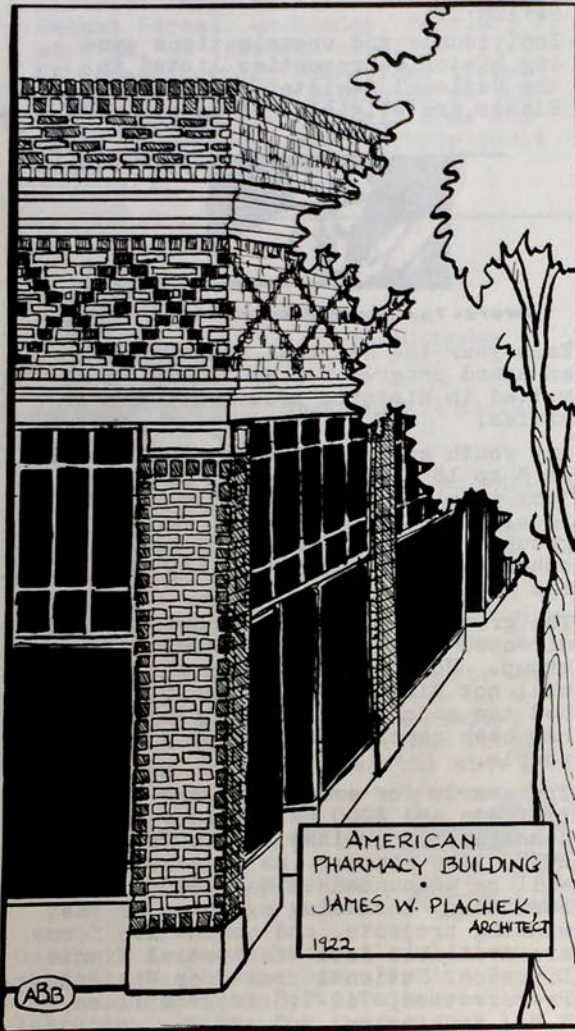


**SUPPORT NEEDED FOR STRONG DEMOLITION ORDINANCE COVERING
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES**



Good news: a draft ordinance affecting residential demolitions has been rejected by the City Council as too permissive. Planning Commission and staff have been asked to formulate stronger regulations than those originally proposed by the city attorney. The latter would have allowed administrative issuance of demolition permits in five broad categories with appeal open only should an application be denied.

B.A.H.A. and some neighborhood groups have asked 1) that no demolition permits be granted without a public hearing except in case of immediate public hazard, and 2) that all demolition decisions be open to appeal. While this procedure can be cumbersome, it prevents that wholesale razing of fine old housing stock which took place before passage of the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance. With such safeguards the quality of both threatened buildings and of proposed development would automatically be weighed very carefully before issuance of a demolition permit.

Many feel that controls on residential demolition should be extended to commercial structures as well. Given uncertain new plans afoot for the downtown area, such controls seem particularly urgent if we are to avoid further "surprises" like the razing of Plachek's American Pharmacy Building at Shattuck and Bancroft.

Comprehensive Planning staff and commissioners (City Hall, 2180 Milvia St, Berkeley 94704) need to hear from those of us who want to see strong demolition controls attached to the new Master Plan. Only in this way can we hope to avoid that endless series of last-minute confrontations with the bulldozers which has drained so much preservation energy in the past.

SHATTUCK EVENING PLANNED FOR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Berkeley, unlike many towns and cities across the nation, still has a downtown where one can find a family department store, many specialty shops, a variety of eating places, bank headquarters, active movie houses, a bustling library, the town's newspaper editor and a central transportation system. One can also find in Berkeley's downtown a tradition of fine service, well established by the merchants, and a proud architectural tradition. During the early part of this century, architects such as John Galen Howard, Walter Ratcliff and James Plachek helped to design our business center so

that it would suggest a commercial prominence and dignity befitting Berkeley's prosperity as the "Athens of the West".

In conjunction with the Centennial Celebration, on Saturday evening April 8, the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association will celebrate the downtown community by hosting a program and champagne reception in the beautiful auditorium of Armstrong Business College (Walter Ratcliff, 1923). We invite you to remember this date and to watch your mailbox for an announcement notice.



Guarding America's Heritage

Plans Announced For Association of Historic House Owners

Efforts are being made to organize a non-profit membership association to represent the interests of private owners of historic houses and other buildings in the United States. Plans were announced by James Biddle, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, in October.

William Cecil, vice president and treasurer of the Biltmore Company of Asheville, N.C., who is also involved in the planning, said the intent of the organizers is to "work to assure that these houses continue to be preserved by private owners under the free enterprise system. We have a number of handicaps that we work under. As we rehabilitate, restore and preserve, our taxes rise. We contend with zoning regulations and building codes that have not been drawn to accommodate structures that are many decades, and sometimes centuries, old.

"We intend that the new organization, to be called the historic House As-

sociation, be so organized and chartered that it can lobby for the interests of these owners," he declared.

An organizational meeting will be called for January, and the first general membership meeting will be at Biltmore House, the Vanderbilt mansion at Asheville, N.C., this Spring.

Individuals and organizations owning historic properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are eligible for membership.



Awards For Young Preservationists

Each year the National Trust sponsors an award program for youth groups involved in historic preservation activities.

Any youth group with a membership age of 8 to 18 that has worked on a project involving historic preservation is eligible for an award. School groups, Scouts, classes, clubs and other youth organizations may submit nominations.

The group need not be supported or directed by an adult preservation group. However, professional advice will not disqualify any group, provided the major part of the project has been carried out by the young people.

The awards for excellence are a certificate and \$200 cash prize. The deadline for nominations is April 1, 1978. The winners (as many as three) will be announced in May 1978. Information, including examples of past winning projects, and nomination forms are available from the Special Events Division, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 740-748 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.



Quality Architecture

Recently a conference entitled "Old and New Architecture - Design Relationship," was co-sponsored in Washington D.C. by the National Trust, the Washington Metropolitan Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Latrobe Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians.

James Biddle, President of the National Trust, in his opening remarks said that preservationists were not opposed to new construction. "We recognize that change is inevitable. However, we assert that the change must be orderly, deliberate and in some relationship with the structures now existing. Insensitively designed and obtrusive structures can create an atmosphere of visual chaos and false progress." He also suggested that a "truth-in-rendering" program be established in which drawings depict proposed new buildings in their actual settings, rather than as isolated structures.

Robert Burley, AIA, a director of the American Institute of Architects from Waitsfield, Vt., and a National Trust advisor, delivered the keynote address. He said, "growth is the process of change" adding that healthy growth is gradual, not radical, in nature. He also noted an interesting change in the architectural profession. It used to be that architects who did remodeling and additions were considered second-rate. "Now the best firms are doing preservation, reuse and additions," he said.

A JAPANESE COURT stopped road construction that would have destroyed a stand of 500-year-old cedar trees, even though re-routing the road cost about \$48 million. The presiding judge ruled that "you can build a road if you have the time and money, but a part of one's cultural heritage can never be brought back, once it is destroyed."

-International Wildlife

Paul Goldberger, architecture critic of the New York Times, criticized the tendency of many architects who "feel compelled to express themselves (in new designs) where no expression is needed." He favors good contemporary design as well as preservation of older buildings and said, "The visibility of time in a city is one of its most valuable assets."

LECTURE ON COXHEAD COMPLEMENTS HOUSE TOUR



In conjunction with and preceding the tour of Ernest Coxhead residences, B.A.H.A. will sponsor a lecture entitled "Ernest Coxhead - Master of Scale" presented by Thomas Gordon Smith, a local architectural designer. The lecture will be held in the auditorium of the Coxhead-designed Berkeley School District Administration Building, 1414 Walnut Street, on Monday, February 27 at 8 pm. A donation of \$1.50 (\$1.00 if Ernest Coxhead House Tour ticket purchased) will be collected at the door. We hope you will all come and enjoy this opportunity to hear about Coxhead before the house tour.

Free house tour for volunteers

Hosts and hostesses are needed to staff each building on the tour, March 12. Those who volunteer will be asked to take a two hour shift from 1-3 or 3-5 pm. and will receive free admittance to all other buildings on the tour during the remaining two hours. We need your help to make the tour a success. Please call Program Committee Chairman Anthony Bruce, evenings at 652-0975.



Oral Histories

Invaluable to Survey

One resource which has added an exciting dimension to the research effort in the Survey office is our growing collection of oral history tapes. We have learned that if we are eager to document a particular house, street or neighborhood, we can usually find someone, somewhere who will remember.

Evelyn Ramos Hagen reminisced for us about growing up in Ocean View as a little girl in a Portuguese family. Mr. S.V. Wright, of the Golden Sheaf Bakery family, remembered the site

where his home (c. 1876) still stands at Sixth and Page Streets, as well as the bustling commercial center along Delaware at Sixth Street. Amanda Monheit Higgs told us of her mother and father's German family restaurant (Monheit's, 1890's) located on Center Street and of their home which had originally come around the Horn (moved to University Avenue where it now stands behind the Sherwin-Williams Paint store). We learned from Donald Lawton, who grew up on the corner of Durant and Oxford, how much fun it was to hitch a ride on the back of empty dairy wagons going back up Strawberry Canyon, and we learned from Sheldon Cheney about his father's development of Panoramic Way. Ted and Ellen Duncan asked James Hind to recount for us how The Uplands used to be when only his family home, the Hind Estate, the Taylor Estate and Charles Keeler's house were all one could find in the Claremont district. Mrs. Willis Baker told us about her neighborhood on Edith Street and of the Duncan McDuffie family who had come over from San Francisco to stay with them during those first days after the 1906 Earthquake. She also remembered the architect William Wharff and his associates Armistage and Miller. Florence Stratton Reincker reminisced about walks with her family from their home on Canyon Road through the open hills to Shasta Road for Sunday dinners with the Manchesters who lived in the chalet across from the ruins of the old mill. And, Edith Marshall has shared photographs and memories of her husband John A. Marshall, Jr. and his father J.A. Marshall, both important builders in Berkeley.

Original Material Sought For

Berkeley History Exhibit



On April 4 an exhibit on local history will open at the Berkeley Art Center as part of the city Centennial Celebration. Plans for the exhibit include later transferral of much of the show to a permanent site---perhaps in the old City Hall---forming the core of a public museum of Berkeley history.

The exhibit will touch on all eras, from pre-Spanish Costanoan culture to the present, using photographs, slides, maps, drawings, oral history and miscellaneous artifacts. Particularly needed are original materials---letters, pictures, a wide variety of memorabilia. If you have something of interest you would be willing to donate or loan, please call the Berkeley Art Center, 849-4120, or Frances Starn, 848-0555. All items are registered and insured when received. Final selection of material will begin soon.

These marvelous memories are all on tapes, delightful to listen to and treasures for the future. We invite any of you to help us collect more oral history material because, in this particular endeavor, time is not on our side.

NOTES AND QUOTES

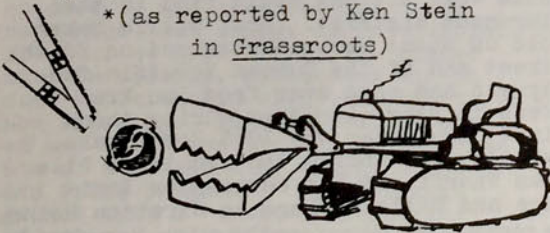
Quotes of the Year

"It's exhilarating to have such tremendous awesome power at your fingertips," John Loizeaux of Controlled Demolition, Inc., told the Associated Press in December. He was interviewed at the scene of his latest effort, demolition (with 430 sticks of plastic explosives) of the historic Woodmen of the World Building (1912) in Omaha. The 19 story structure fell to the ground in four seconds to the cheers of 10,000 onlookers.

"I appreciate nostalgia, but the training the men received was invaluable," First Assistant Chief Thomas Carman of the Paramus, N.J., volunteer fire department said after his firemen had some "practice" by burning a 225-year-old house there. The Van Saun house, the oldest in Bergen County, was offered to the firemen by a developer who planned to demolish it. Claire Tholl of the Bergen County Historical Society told the New York Times that preservationists tried to stop the demolition but learned of it too late.

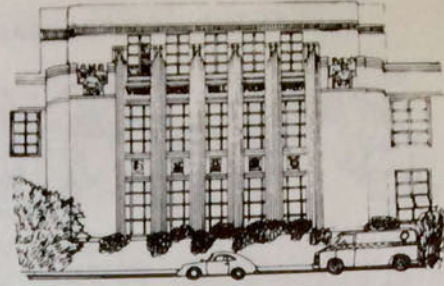
"We know how things can go. Somebody is always going to protest when a building is being torn down, so we put a dent in it to let people know that we were really going to tear it down, not just alter it,"* Don Rodriguez of Bay Cities Demolition Company said after his company 'put a dent' in the back of the American Pharmacy Building on Shattuck and Bancroft Streets in Berkeley earlier this month. Since complete demolition was not carried out at the time, the rest of the building now stands on the corner next to a huge pile of rubble.

*(as reported by Ken Stein in Grassroots)



What Isn't Preservation?

The Alaska Commercial Building (1908) in San Francisco's financial district was a richly ornamented 12-story structure covered with granite walrus, polar bears, fish, seals, icicles and even sea monsters. It was demolished several years ago by the Bank of Tokyo (now the California First Bank), which said it would preserve some of the ornamentation. The five walrus heads they saved, complete with a historic marker, are located in an alcove next to the new building.



OAKLAND FOX RESCUED

The Fox Theater in Oakland, a stunning example of the Moderne style, has been saved but now needs community support if it is to remain standing. Put up for auction and probably doomed to be eventually replaced by a parking lot, the oldest, biggest and most lavish movie theater in Oakland, located on 19th street and Telegraph avenue was bought by Erma and Mario DeLucchi who have every intention of preserving the fifty year old building.

In addition to the 3300-seat filmgoer's palace built in 1928 with illuminated Buddhas and other elaborate East Indian decor, the building also contains 35 offices and 15 stores which are now vacant. The DeLucchis hope to rent the stores and offices themselves, but would like to lease the theater to community art and theatrical groups who have a real concern for the city of Oakland. They welcome any suggestions and support that will help them achieve their main goal of preserving the decorative landmark.

Events....

The Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Avenue, has announced that tours will be held on the fourth Sunday of each month, except holidays when the tour days will be rescheduled, for an admittance fee of \$2.00. Designed by Julia Morgan, the City Club was designated a California State Landmark in 1977 and has been accepted for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. More information can be obtained by calling Mrs. Douglas Sturges, 848-7800.

Annual Victorian Home Tour - Sunday March 19, Pacific Grove, visits seven recently restored marvels in one of California's best remaining concentrations of Victorians. Contact: Anne Castro, Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 167, Pacific Grove 93950, (408) 373-3304.

THE ARCHITECTURAL ORNAMENTATION OF VICTORIANS - March 14, Tuesday
The derivation of Victorian ornamentation will be discussed in a slide presentation by Patricia Patrick, Associate Professor of Interior Design at SF State. She will show how interior and exterior details seen in Victorians relate to the uses and styles of historical decorative motifs. San Francisco Heritage, Haas-Lilienthal Ballroom. 7:45 pm. \$1.



BERKELEY ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

In answer to the many requests for old calendars, those from the years 1973, '75, '76 and '77 are still available for \$1.00 each. This year's calendar commemorating Berkeley's centennial year is nearly a sell out. Should you wish more of them, we suggest you order soon.

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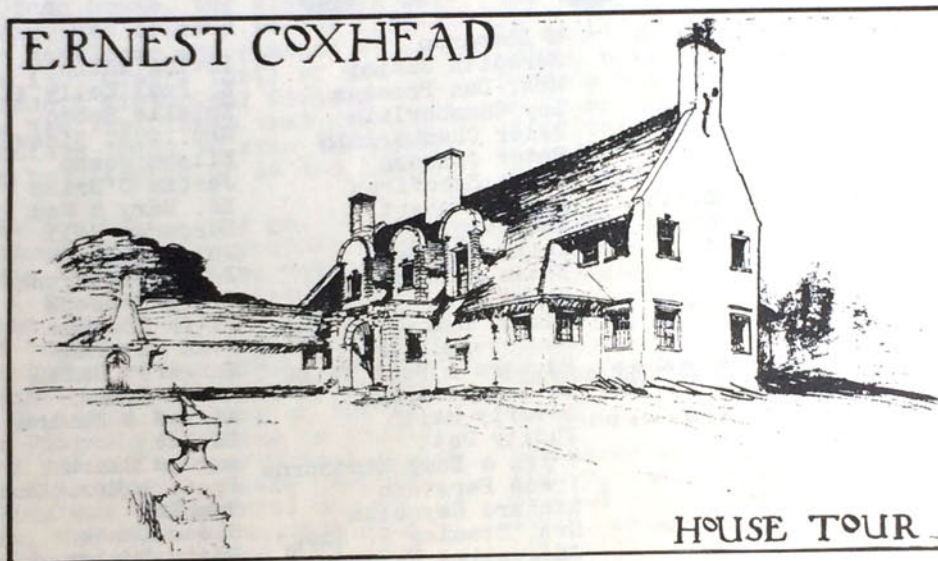
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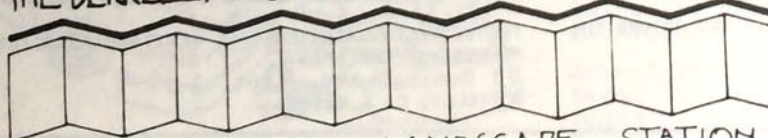
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AND RECEPTION

SUNDAY, MARCH 12 FROM 1⁰⁰ TO 5⁰⁰ PM
DONATION — \$6⁵⁰ PER PERSON

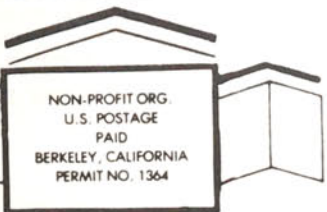
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