



Dennis Evanosky

Constructed on both sides of the Western Pacific tracks on Third Street, and just a few blocks from the bustling wharves of the Oakland Estuary, Oakland's Produce Market was ideally situated in one of the Bay Area's liveliest commercial hubs. In 1994, a task force requested that the city fund a study to determine not only a new location for the produce wholesalers but also the highest and best reuse for the historic facility they would be abandoning.

## Oakland's most endangered sites

*Compiled by Joyce Roy*

Each year we present the OHA Most Endangered List. This year's eight sites require immediate attention, and, with effective follow-through, have a good chance of making the Saved List.

Some years, we can comfortably drop sites previously listed. For example, the Fire Alarm Building seems to be safe for the moment, due to broad-based public advocacy. Other sites are removed from the list because they have been demolished. And some stay on until their futures are known.

A ninth site considered, the Oakland Point-Prescott neighborhoods, will be featured in the next issue of the newsletter. Its importance and scope is such that it warrants extensive coverage.

### Historic Produce Market

Oakland's historic Produce Market (circa 1916) was constructed at a time when horse-drawn carts were still prevalent throughout the waterfront. Built on both sides of the Western Pacific tracks on Third Street, and just a few short blocks from the bustling wharves of the Oakland-Alameda Estuary, the market was ideally situated in one of the Bay Area's liveliest commercial hubs.

Over the years, even as valley produce began to arrive by truck only, the area's viability as a wholesale center remained strong until the late '60s. At that time, the larger rigs began to dominate the industry, leading to over-congested streets.

In 1994, a task force composed of various community groups requested that the city fund a study to determine not only a new location for the produce wholesalers but also the highest and best reuse for the historic facility they would be abandoning.

Two years later, the Oakland Produce Distribution Facility Study recommended a strategy specifically citing preservation as the preferred reuse and citing Seattle, Washington's equally historic Pike Place Market as the desired model.

Complications in the transfer of the Oakland Army Base from army to city have kept the wholesalers in limbo and,

*see ENDANGERED on page 2*



## Endangered

*Continued from page 1*

consequently, deterred any transformation of the historic Produce Market itself into a retail public marketplace. Though community support for the wholesalers, their relocation, and the proposed conversion of the Produce Market has never waned, the project remains without a dedicated public official as its champion, a clear sign of danger.

Without unequivocal City Council support, the Market could all too easily be razed to create higher density new construction, even though the Estuary Policy Plan identifies the Produce Market (and Lower Broadway) as an Area of Primary Importance (API).

For more information, contact Steve Lowe at 835-8424 or [urbanspace@one-main.com](mailto:urbanspace@one-main.com).

### SP West Oakland Diesel Shop

The 127-year-old Southern Pacific Diesel Shop building is perhaps the most historically significant building remaining in West Oakland today. Its history dates back to its construction in the 1870s as a Car Paint Shop for the Central Pacific Railroad's Passenger car manufacturing facilities. Its southeastern half dates back to 1874 when the shops underwent great expansion. The



Dennis Evanovsky

The 1927 Spanish Colonial-style orange brick and terra cotta "Original Baby Hospital" at 747 52nd St. may be in danger of demolition as Children's Hospital Oakland tries to comply with the state law setting a 2008 deadline for bringing hospitals into compliance with earthquake codes. Removal of this building could facilitate expansion.

Diesel Shop Building earns its keep even today as an inspection area and light maintenance facility for both Union Pacific and Amtrak diesel locomotives. Additionally, the Diesel Shop building is prominent in public views from Interstate 880 adjacent to the Seventh Street exit.

This important structure is the last of what was a family of classic brick buildings constructed and later owned by the Southern Pacific Railroad. The Diesel Shop Building is classified as an "A-rated" (highest) Historic URM (Unreinforced Masonry) structure by the City of Oakland, and is on the Landmarks Board's study list. In early December, the Landmarks Board voted 5-2 to recommend this structure be nominated for landmark status, thereby also rejecting the demolition permit which was pending for the structure.

Current plans are to obtain landmark status for this important structure, and

either preserve the building at its current location, or to explore ways in which it could be moved to a new location. Over 400 signatures have already been obtained in support of this effort. Get involved at [www.petitiononline.com/spdsl/petition-sign.html](http://www.petitiononline.com/spdsl/petition-sign.html).

Please contact Harry Wong at 918-8810 or [tracktime@hotmail.com](mailto:tracktime@hotmail.com) if you are interested in the effort to preserve the SP West Oakland Diesel Shop.

### Studio One

Studio One, a 50-year-old arts program run by the City of Oakland, is located at 365 45th St. in North Oakland. It is housed in a former orphanage, a building now over 100 years old. The studio is one of five historically significant buildings within a one-block radius. Together, they make up a yet-to-be-designated historic district, including Oakland Technical High

*See ENDANGERED on page 4*

## In this issue

The streets of the Temescal	3
Questions for our next mayor	6
Landmarks Board Update	7
Help celebrate Oakland's 150th	7
Meet our new members	9
OHA Calendar	10
Oakland History Notes	12



# Traveling around the streets of the Temescal

By *Quentin*

In the beginning, agriculture dominated the plain that divided Berkeley and Oakland. A connecting main street was Telegraph Road; a watercourse that came to be known as Temescal Creek bisected the nearby farms. Telegraph was named in the 1860s because it followed the first telegraph line to Sacramento. The road (later, avenue) angled off at 52nd Street toward Claremont Canyon but kept the T-name. The section from 52nd (nee Morgan Street) north to the UC Berkeley campus was Humboldt Avenue, named for the German naturalist and explorer, Alexander von Humboldt.

Today, Temescal's major north-south thoroughfares—Telegraph Avenue and College-Broadway—consist of wide, relatively straight streets. But due to the creek and the layout of the tracts, this was never the case when traveling east and west. Only modern-day 40th and 52nd-51st streets are thoroughfares for the traveler traveling east to west.

College Avenue in Oakland was originally University Avenue—and Audubon Way in Berkeley. To avoid confusion with Berkeley's University Avenue, its name was changed by 1895. Broadway had been extended north-north-east from the "original town" of Oakland, platted in 1853 by Julius Kellersberger.

By 1875 Temescal had its own post office and was a stop on the horse railroad that began at the waterfront in downtown Oakland and served the new suburb and points north and northeast. Within a dozen years more progress arrived in the form of the electric streetcars with a car barn at 51st and Telegraph in downtown Temescal.

By the time Temescal got its post office, three tracts had been filed at the county courthouse: Oakland Rail Road Homestead (1869), Temescal Park (1873), and Vernon Park (c.1872).



Oakland History Room

A steam locomotive with its crew at Telegraph Avenue in 1889. The locomotives carried passengers to Berkeley, relieving the tired horses that made the trip from First and Broadway.

All the street names from those tracts have been changed: Vernon to 51st, Maple to Clarke, Birch to 49th, Temescal Avenue to 48th, Linden to 45th, Cleveland to 44th, Minna to 43rd, Erie to 42th, and Evoy to 40th. Stafford became a part of today's Hudson. Beckwith and 4th Avenue combined to become Manila.

Early tract owners platted their land and laid out their streets with an eye to land sales. What the adjacent tract owner did with his streets was his own business. In short, Temescal and other neighborhoods in what was first called "Oakland Township" were laid out with quick profits in mind. Their residential or business potential was to come later.

The Weston Tract and its subdivisions placed on the map a group of streets between MacArthur and 42nd named for precious stones. Ruby, Opal, Emerald, and Garnet are still with us. 40th Street was Amethyst and a part of Manila was Diamond Street.

A section of Shafter was Silver Ave., and sections of Webster St. used to be Gold and—farther north—Cherry. Latimer was formerly Pearl. Rich Street is the oddball; it is likely named for Richard J. Montgomery, an active member of the Oakland Realty Board and organizer of the Central Oakland Improvement Club. His father, Zachariah "Old Zach" Montgomery, owned property nearby.

## Keep up the preservation fight

Editor:

I'm very impressed with *OHA News*. It should be the standard for all historic preservation group's newsletters.

(Your newsletter is) informative not only on the past history and current issues, but also on the day-to-day business. Preservation is not an easy right or

wrong overnight decision, but a long process. Your newsletter is the best I've seen to cover the overall preservation message, as well as local history, to its members. Keep up the fight! You're doing great work for the city of Oakland.

—Michael Valent



## Endangered

*Continued from page 2*

School, the Mathilda Brown Home for Women, Park Day School, the Art Deco-era Temescal swimming pool and Studio One.

Despite its long-standing popularity as a community and regional resource, the studio faces a dire backlog of delayed maintenance, and is in need of increasingly serious facility, access and seismic upgrading. Strong public support for the program and building has been crucial in keeping the studio open. Community volunteers, led by the Oakland Studio Arts Association (OSAA), are working to raise public and private funding to restore the building and ensure long-term viability for the program.

Last year, the city was awarded \$455,000 of state Proposition 12 per-capita funds specifically earmarked for Studio One. However, at an estimated total project cost of \$10 million dollars, the studio's fate continues to be uncertain.

For more information, contact Sandy Strehlou at 652-8084 or by e-mail at [strehlou@mindspring.com](mailto:strehlou@mindspring.com).

### **Ninth Avenue Terminal**

Serving the Oakland waterfront as a break-bulk cargo wharf for over 75 years, the future of the Ninth Avenue Terminal is on the line. The Port is now developing plans for its waterfront from Oak Street to 10th Avenue, including the site of the Ninth Avenue Terminal. When its twin, the Grove Street Terminal, was demolished following the Loma Prieta earthquake, its loss was mitigated by promises to preserve the Ninth Avenue Terminal. The building is a Beaux-Arts derivative wharf and warehouse. The first half was built in 1926, the rest after World War II.

At over 1,000 feet long and 180 feet wide of clear open space with 25-foot ceilings, the terminal's 180,000 square feet make it the largest building of its type in Oakland. While it is still in use as a break-bulk cargo and storage by the Port, the potential for other uses is unbounded. The Artship sits alongside

the wharf. Together these two could work as an anchor for the new mixed-use district for the Oak Street-to-Ninth Avenue area.

For more information, contact Leal Charonnat at 436-3466 or by e-mail at [gabbro@well.com](mailto:gabbro@well.com)

### **Shattuck Ave. United Methodist Church**

This handsome Craftsman-Colonial style church, located at Shattuck Avenue and 63rd Street, was built in 1906-07. The architect, Minnie M. Jackson, was a member of the church and the first female graduate of the prestigious Wilmerding School in San Francisco. This church was her first design and she oversaw the construction. The sanctuary has not been used for the last three years because of needed structural repairs.

Extra layers of roofing have overloaded a damaged ceiling truss and a seismically unsafe wall between the sanctuary and social hall. In addition, the structure is not bolted to its brick foundation, which itself may need upgrading or replacing.

For additional information, contact Don Link at 658-8632, or by e-mail at [donlink@jps.net](mailto:donlink@jps.net)

### **Original Baby Hospital**

The "Original Baby Hospital" located at 747 52nd St., may be in danger of demolition as Children's Hospital Oakland (CHO) tries to comply with the state law setting a 2008 deadline for bringing hospitals into compliance with earthquake codes. Removal of this building could facilitate expansion.

This Spanish Colonial-style hospital building of orange brick and terra cotta, with a clay tile roof, was built in 1927



Built in 1889 as a metal import shop, by 1925 this building had become the West Coast headquarters for the Pullman Porters, the first black union in the United States. This building, located at 1716-18 7th St. in the shadow of the BART tracks, should be preserved to document the early 20th century African-American presence in Oakland.

with funds raised by the women of the CHO Auxiliary.

The hospital had outgrown an 1880s Victorian mansion, which was then demolished. This "modern" hospital with room for 77 beds was built.

The "Original Baby Hospital" has been altered in its interior spaces, and been largely enveloped by CHO's expansion. Views of the "Original Baby Hospital" are best obtained by the Highway 24 on-ramp from 51st Street. One hope for the Baby Hospital: The City Planning Commission recently approved a new building on the site of the Old Merritt College with the provision for the re-activation of a Citizen's Advisory Committee to advise on all CHO development.

This committee had disappeared when CHO took over the site from the city. This new group, hopefully, can help CHO plan for its future needs without erasing all of its history.

*See ENDANGERED on page 5*



## Endangered

*Continued from page 4*

For more information, contact Robert Brokl at 655-3841 or by e-mail at broklcroft@aol.com

### The International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters Building

This building at 1716-18 7th St. in West Oakland should be preserved as a historic landmark to document the early 20th century African-American economic, community, and cultural presence in Oakland.

Built in 1889 as a metal import shop, by 1925 it had become the West Coast headquarters for the Pullman Porters, the first black union in the United States. Before World War II, railroads played a vital economic role in the black Oakland community.

During that period, over one-third of all African-American men living in Oakland were employed by the numerous railways that made Oakland their western terminus.

This structure served the African-American community as a focal point for all union business and activities as well as a cultural and community gathering place.



The 127-year-old Southern Pacific Diesel Shop building is perhaps the most historically significant building remaining in West Oakland today, dating back to its construction in the 1870s as a Car Paint Shop for the Central Pacific Railroad's Passenger car manufacturing facilities. The building earns its keep even today as an inspection area and light maintenance facility for both Union Pacific and Amtrak diesel locomotives.

For more information, contact Janet Keys Benson at 536-5662 or by e-mail at jkbenenson@citycom.com.

### Fruitvale Hotel

The Fruitvale Hotel is the oldest extant commercial building in the Fruitvale, and a rare trackside hotel. Located at 3221 San Leandro Blvd., it stands in the area's earliest commercial hub. Built in 1894, it is a remarkably

intact example of vernacular Stick-Italianate architecture.

Owners Frank Studiger and Baptiste Immoos, both part of early German settlers important to the Fruitvale, took over operation in 1904. Both families lived in the hotel.

It functioned both as a hotel and boarding house and likely housed refugees from the 1906 San Francisco fire and earthquake. "Frank's Place," the first-floor saloon, operated at least into the 1970s. Current owners disagree about the legal ownership of the building, although both have expressed interest in saving the hotel. Code Compliance became involved when neighbors complained about blight.

Members of Fruitvale's Unity Council have helped paint "windows" on the plywood when the actual windows were finally boarded up.

A temporary roof was put on to protect from further water damage. But without someone to care, the building continues to deteriorate.

For more information about the Fruitvale Hotel, contact Pamela Magnuson-Peddle by e-mail at prosie3@earthlink.net.



The future of the Ninth Avenue Terminal is on the line. The Port is now developing plans for its waterfront from Oak to 10th Avenue, including the site of the Terminal. Its twin, the Grove Street Terminal, was demolished following the Loma Prieta earthquake; its loss was mitigated by promises to preserve the Ninth Avenue Terminal.



## OHA QUESTIONS THE MAYORAL CANDIDATES

Our leaders directly affect preservation policies in our city. OHA sent questionnaires to the two mayoral candidates regarding their positions on preservation issues.

### Consulting with OHA

*What is your position on consulting with Oakland Heritage Alliance and other members of the historic preservation community before making appointments to the Landmarks Board?*

**Jerry Brown:** I look forward to consulting with OHA about appointments to the Landmarks Board. My Director of City Planning meets each month with representatives of OHA. During my many years of public service, I have sought to preserve and enhance the urban fabric of California. As governor, my administration was responsible for initiating and completing the restoration of the state capitol building. This turned out to be the finest and most extensive restoration ever attempted in California.

I also initiated and completed an entirely new Capitol Area Plan that for the first time emphasized preservation, human-scale buildings and a 24-hour community. The prior Plan, drafted in the 1960s, had called for widespread demolition.

I might note that my refusal to live in the suburban mansion built by Ronald Reagan was so that I could live in an historic building across from the Capitol and personally contribute to the neighborhood's revitalization.

**Wilson Riles:** I look forward to consulting with the Oakland Heritage Alliance and other members of the historic preservation community before making appointments to the Landmarks Board. This makes a lot of sense. It is definitely something that I will do.

### Parking lot loophole

*What is your position on the proposed closure of the "parking lot loophole" in the demolition ordinance?*

**Brown:** I support a change to the demolition ordinance that restricts the issuance of a demolition permit for buildings rated A or B by the city's historic survey. The appropriate changes will be reflected in the 2003 zoning update.

**Riles:** I fully support repeal of the "parking lot loophole." Downtown Oakland was devastated by the terrible policy of past City Councils that encouraged the demolition of buildings with no plans to replace them. This loophole continues that bad policy and should be repealed.

### The Mills Act

*What is your position on adopting the Mills Act, a California preservation incentive program that offers property tax reduction to participants?*

**Brown:** I support this program as I did when governor of California, when I signed implementing legislation to carry out the 1972 constitutional amendment that made this tax incentive possible. I look forward to working with OHA to find owners who would like to participate.

**Riles:** I support the implementation of the Mills Act and Mills Act agreements in Oakland. This will give some building owners assistance in preserving some of Oakland's great physical assets.

### Studio One building

*What is your position on implementing the preservation of the Studio One building and strengthening its program?*

**Brown:** I support improvements to the building and the programs at Studio One. To date the City Council has committed to match dollar for dollar funds raised by the community for the estimated \$10 million restoration. I support city staff assisting the community in applying for grant

## Landmarking the Claremont hotel

*By Wendy Markel*

A group of Berkeley/Oakland residents seek to set apart an Oakland symbol—the Claremont hotel—for generations to come. In June 2001, the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board voted unanimously to recommend landmarking the hotel and grounds. These recommendations now go to the Planning Commission for public hearing and discussion Wednesday, March 6.

The Landmarks Board found that the building is an excellent example of Tudor Revival-Craftsman style and is Charles W. Dickey's most important work. It resolved that "the setting of the building on the hillside and within an open landscaped area contributes not only to the architectural significance of the historic building, but to making this one of the most visually prominent buildings in Oakland and in the entire East Bay."

The management of the Claremont is interested in landmarking the building, but currently does not want to landmark the grounds. Preservationists point out that not landmarking the grounds would sacrifice the defining characteristics of the building.

OHA members are urged to attend the March 6 meeting or e-mail the Planning Commission at [sharriman@oaklandnet.com](mailto:sharriman@oaklandnet.com) and the City Council at [idela-fuente@oaklandnet.com](mailto:idela-fuente@oaklandnet.com).

funding to support these efforts and endorse staff undertaking grant funding applications for the building and the program. There are cost and earthquake concerns that have to be addressed.

**Riles:** Every effort should be made by the city – and will be made by my administration – to preserve Studio One. The building and the grounds are

*See MAYOR on page 8*



# Happy 150th birthday, Oakland!

## ■ Celebrate Oakland's 150th birthday as an Oakland Heritage Alliance volunteer.

On Saturday, May 4, OHA will celebrate Oakland's 150th birthday. We are coordinating a great event with the Pardee Home Museum, Preservation Park, the wonderful new African-American Museum and Library (AAMLO) in its rejuvenated historic building, and the First Unitarian Church.

The celebration will include a western-themed event at the Pardee Home, a Preservation Park promenade, music, costumed characters from the past, an exhibit and a special event at AAMLO, tours of the First Unitarian Church, food, and a fine community spirit.

Volunteers are needed to help with tours, mailing, press calls, flyer distribution, decorating, set up, and clean up. In addition, if you or someone you know is



Oakland History Room

Horseback riders, and horsedrawn vehicles mingle with pedestrians in this fanciful street scene of Downtown Oakland at the time of its founding in 1852.

a theatrical or musical performer, we would love to have your talents. Call today to help OHA celebrate Oakland's

150th birthday in style. Call the OHA office at 763-9218 or e-mail us at [info@oaklandheritage.org](mailto:info@oaklandheritage.org).

## LANDMARKS BOARD UPDATE

*Compiled by Erika Mailman*

### OCTOBER 2001

**Board member Nicole Franklin** had to resign because of her appointment to the City Planning Commission.

**Director's Report: Update** on Lake Merritt Master Plan: A community meeting will be held Oct. 13 so community can describe dreams for the lake.

**Talk of landmarking Studio One;** request that Parks & Rec respond to the Landmarks Board with questions posed Sept. 25 as art programs and historic building involve separate issues.

Union Pacific granted demolition permits for 415-525 Bay St. (Southern Pacific communications buildings) because buildings were zoned industrial, and were not on the historic URM's list.

**Possible landmarking for Lawn Bowling Club** and Rotunda Building. Oak Center Neighborhood will hold a meeting to talk of possible historic district nomination.

**New Business:** Harry Wong of the Southern Pacific West Oakland Preservation Action group has submitted a notice of intent to nominate the Union Pacific Diesel Shop at 251 Wood St. Leslie Gould and Betty Marvin to investigate whether the structure is in the way of the Port's intermodal plan.

### NOVEMBER 2001

**New board member** Barbara Armstrong introduced.

**Update on Claremont hotel** landmarking: Resolution language reviewed; the language provides that any major landscaping changes would be subject to design review.

**Union Pacific Diesel Shop** landmarking is "strenuously" objected to by Union Pacific due to post-Sept. 11

strategies to keep the public away from critical railroad functions.

Union Pacific's attorney further argued that diesel was not widely used until the 1950s, and the 1874 building predates the transcontinental railroad and would be costly to restore. Union Pacific would be amenable to relocating the structure.

Several board members pointed out that public access is not a requirement for landmarking. Harry Wong, the nominator, stated that the building is the only survivor of the Oakland yards and the oldest known railroad structure in the Bay Area; plus, there is substantial community support for its preservation. Wong was directed to file a full landmark nomination.

**Discussion: Oakland Army Base** is being transferred to the Port for transfer of title only, not reuse. A feasibility study

*See LANDMARKS on page 9*



## Mayor

*Continued from page 6*

a historical landmark for Oakland and the services are of great value to all of Oakland. I believe that it is possible to preserve these buildings and to strengthen and enhance this program.

### Public Land discussion

*What is your position on encouraging broad public discussion before consideration of selling off or leasing public lands or changing their use?*

**Brown:** I support having a broad public discussion before selling, leasing or changing the use of public lands.

**Riles:** There are limited public lands remaining in Oakland. What lands are available need to be protected for the benefit of all Oakland residents. It is absolutely necessary that any consideration of selling off or leasing public lands or changing their use – whether that is lands near Lake Merritt or Port properties – must have broad public discussion.

### The treatment of parkland

*What is your position on the acquisition of new parkland and the protection and enhancement of existing parkland, particularly around Lake Merritt?*

**Brown:** The city's Open Space, Conservation and Recreation Element of the General Plan (OSCAR) contains policies which ensure that there is no net loss of parkland in the city and which encourage the city to acquire new parkland. Past funding for such acquisition has been through general obligation bonds. I am currently working with the Port of Oakland on a lease agreement for perpetual public use of the future 9-acre, UnionPoint recreation area, located along the waterfront near the Fruitvale area.

I am personally working on the Lake Merritt Master Plan and am committed to raising the funds necessary to implement it. The major themes of this plan are: (1) Expanded park borders: Up to nine acres of new park land and continuous multi-pur-

pose paths and bike lanes around the lake, (2) Estuary access and improved pedestrian and bicycle circulation at 12th Street.

In addition, the plan will result in expanding the park borders along Lakeshore Avenue and Lakeside Drive by reducing the width of these streets and may reconfigure the area near 20th and Harrison street to expand Snow Park. I also intend to link the lake with the estuary in a way that will make this long-neglected part of Oakland one of the most important places of the city for residents and visitors alike.

**Riles:** I support the CALM proposal for the reconfiguration of the roadway near the west end of Lake Merritt. Although this plan was put together in response to the Cathedral proposal, it makes a lot of good sense and will increase the availability of parkland. In a Riles administration, the city will make every effort to recover and enhance the availability of parkland around Lake Merritt and other areas of the city.

### Produce Market

*What is your position on establishing a Produce Market historic district and finding uses for its buildings, which will preserve them, perhaps something similar to Pike's Place in Seattle?*

**Brown:** I would like to [see] a development strategy for the Produce Market as laid out in The Oakland Estuary Policy Plan actually realized. If this vision for the Produce Area could work financially, Oakland's Produce District could look much like Pike Place in Seattle, which I have visited and very much enjoyed.

**Riles:** I support the approach of establishing a historic district in the Produce Market area. Clearly this is a historic district in Oakland and many of the buildings here should be preserved. We must thoroughly investigate the economic potential of a Pike's Place-like development and whether this is the best means of preserving these buildings and anchoring a historic district.

## PROPOSITION 40

Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act, is up for voter approval in the March election. The proposition is a bond act which, besides providing funds for parks, land, air and water conservation projects, contains over \$267 million for the acquisition, restoration, preservation and interpretation of resources that are part of California's historic and cultural legacy. Nonprofit organizations and government organizations would qualify for funding. Oakland projects that might benefit include Studio One and Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park.

Passage would signal a real commitment by the voters to historic preservation, and the strength of the historic preservation community in California. The California Preservation Foundation, the California Historical Society, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Los Angeles Conservancy and San Francisco Heritage have joined in forming the California Heritage Coalition, A Committee for Proposition 40, to create a network of preservation support for the proposition.

The Web site, [www.california-heritage.org](http://www.california-heritage.org), has more information, including the text of the bill and a list of supporters.

Contact the coalition by e-mail at [info@californiaheritage.org](mailto:info@californiaheritage.org), or by calling (415) 956-0610.

## Landmarks Board vacancies

Due to term limits, a number of vacancies are expected on the city's Landmarks Board in the near future. If anyone wishes to serve, they can make their interest known to the Mayor's office by calling 238-3141 or e-mailing [jb@oaklandnet.com](mailto:jb@oaklandnet.com).



## Landmarks

*Continued from page 7*

by Nancy Stoltz on the base's reuse is overdue. An EIR on the redevelopment plan is being prepared, and needs to be certified before conveyance of the property, likely to be May.

**City is committed to retaining Studio One** but needs \$10 million for full rehabilitation. City will match funds raised by nonprofit group OSAA. School district is not pursuing the site.

**Lawn Bowling** landmarking nomination approved by City Council. Rotunda landmarking to be scheduled.

### DECEMBER 2001

**Director's Report:** Claremont hotel landmarking scheduled for Planning Commission hearing Jan. 23; board will send a representative. Case planner Pat McGowan is preparing a chart comparing landmark designation of the grounds and a design review overlay option.

**Major projects on CEDA's List:** Environmental review in process for 426 Alice St., Leona Quarry, 300 Harrison St. and 23rd and Valdez. Bermuda Building demolition underway, negotiations in process for a new building. Board members asked about 10K Housing Plan (5,700 units completed or underway) and Claremont hotel expansion (no application yet).

**AB 436:** Gould summarized the bill: in four specific areas, residential projects can be processed with "focused" rather than full EIRS.

**Discussion:** Lake Merritt Master Plan steering committee is meeting monthly, along with other stakeholder meetings. Web site in process. Public display planned for Main Library and museum Jan. 5-12.

Ideas under study include making a "lid park" out of the 12th Street Dam area, eliminating a traffic lane around the lake and instituting bike lanes, moving admin and maintenance users and stables out of the park, restoring two boathouses to original look, demolishing Arts and Science Center building, and improving water quality.

**Board Reports:** Residents held a meeting about Studio One Nov. 26, suggesting breaking up the \$10 million of work into smaller, more manageable increments, and investigating funding through bond measures or historic designation.

**Secretary's Report:** The Planning Commission approved the Cox Cadillac project Dec. 5, with revised mitigations suggested by the board, changes to detailing on new building and landmark status for showroom only.

**Open Forum:** Board member George Lythcott is leaving after seven years; was praised for his service. New board member John Bliss was introduced.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(JANUARY-FEBRUARY)

Kay & Benjamin Andersen  
Gerald Axtell  
Bill Caldwell  
Mary Catherine Dino  
Jason Kaldis  
Bill Laferriere  
Ruby Long  
Gloria Ramos  
Dan & Elizabeth Turner

## OHA THANKS ITS GENEROUS DONORS

**Patron Membership (\$250)**  
Eldien Kistner

**Sponsor Membership (\$100)**  
Jana Drobinsky of Omega Too  
Geoffrey & Cynthia Haines  
Roy & Melinda Samuelson

**Benefactor Membership (\$50)**  
Frances L. Johnston  
Mary Manning of CCAC  
George & Helene Strauss

**Donated Gift Memberships**  
Dennis Evanosky  
Mary Phillips

Thank you and much appreciation to all those who have contributed time, money, and spirit to OHA, as we fight to ensure that the Oakland renaissance includes a renewed appreciation for our extraordinary architectural heritage.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Mary MacDonald  
Vice-President-Preservation Action, Naomi Schiff  
Vice-President-Membership & Programs, Jamie Cross  
Secretary, Alan Templeton  
Treasurer, Kevin Flynn

John Dalal	Pamela Magnuson-Peddle
Pat Dedekian	Sharon Priest
Cynthia Haines	Joyce Roy
Erika Mailman	



## NEWS

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Annalee Allen, Katherine Leles DiGiovanni, Kevin Flynn, Erika Mailman, Wendy Markel, Quentin, Joyce Roy, Naomi Schiff, Alan Templeton

**EDITOR-PRODUCTION:** Dennis Evanosky  
OHA News welcomes contributions: research projects large or small, historic photos and reports on preservation issues or events.

Submissions on disk should be in Wordperfect or Word for PC. Submissions by e-mail may be sent to news@oakland-heritage.org.

OAKLAND HERITAGE ALLIANCE, a California nonprofit corporation since 1980, was formed to bring together community groups and individuals sharing an interest in the history of Oakland, and in the preservation of the city's archaeological, architectural, cultural, environmental and historical resources. Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible, under IRS regulations. Oakland Heritage Alliance is a 510(c)3 organization.

### OHA MISSION STATEMENT

OHA is a nonprofit membership organization which advocates the protection, preservation and revitalization of Oakland's architectural, historic, cultural and natural resources through publications, education, and direct action.



## OHA CALENDAR

The OHA calendar lists events that may be of interest to our members. To submit items, call 763-9218 or e-mail oaklandheritage@california.com. All phone numbers in 510 area code unless indicated.

### Exhibits

**Through May 12:** "Being There: 45 Oakland Artists" exhibit, Oakland Museum. Katherine Westerhout's photos of Sears and Montgomery Ward and work from Anthony Holdsworth are included. 238-2200.

**March 9–Aug. 25:** "Scene in Oakland 1852-2002, Artworks celebrating the city's 150th anniversary," Oakland Museum. Fifty views by 40 painters and photographers. 238-2200.

### Upcoming events

**Wednesday, March 6:** Planning Commission hearing on landmarking the Claremont hotel. Call 238-3941 for meeting time.

**Sunday, March 10, 7 p.m.,** First Congregational Church, Central Avenue at Chestnut in Alameda. Learn about "The History of Gas Lighting" from expert Paul Ivazes, who will also discuss oil and kerosene fixtures. Free for Alameda Architectural Preservation Society members and \$5 for others. 986-9232.

**Thursday, March 28, 7 p.m.:** "A Passion for Pattiani," exploring the work of Alameda architect and builder Alfred Washington Pattiani, presented by Paul Roberts. Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Ave. near Park Street, Alameda. The Museum will open at 6:30 p.m.; come early to see the exhibits and visit the gift shop. Free for members; \$5 for others. 748-0796.

**Thursday, April 25, 7 p.m.:** "Storybook Houses," with architect and author Arrol Gellner, who will discuss the architectural styles of the 1920s, including Stonehenge and Stoneleigh, "a unique tract of Storybook homes in Alameda," designed by architect Walter W. Dixon for developer Christopher Columbus Howard. Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Ave. near Park Street, Alameda. The Museum will be open at 6:30 p.m. before each show; come early to see the exhibits and visit the gift shop. Admission free for museum members; \$5 for others. 748-0796.

**Thursday, May 2:** Workshop on Historic Landscapes Preservation in Santa Rosa. Presented by Charles Birnbaum, sponsored by the California Preservation Foundation. For information, contact CPF at 763-0972, or e-mail cpf@californiapreservation.org.

**Thursday through Sunday, May 2–5** 27th Annual Preservation Conference, "Vintage Sonoma County." 763-0972, or cpf@california

preservation.org.

**Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4:** Celebrate Oakland's 150th birthday!

### Tours

**First Tuesday tour** sponsored by Oakland City Tours Program. Free guided tours of City Hall, Frank Ogawa Plaza and administration buildings the first Tuesdays at 10 a.m. City Hall front entrance. 238-3234 or www.oaklandnet.com, click on the community link.

**African-American Museum and Library** is open in its new (and old) home, the historic Charles Greene Library at 659-14th St. The library and museum's hours will be Mon. through Thurs. and Sat., 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m., and Fri. noon–5:30 p.m. Closed Sun. 637-0200 or www.oaklandlibrary.org.

**Black Panther Legacy Tour** conducted by the Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation. Eighteen sites significant in the history of the Black Panther Party, last Saturday of each month, noon–2:30 p.m.. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$15 students. Day of tour: \$25. Departs from West Oakland Branch Library, 1801 Adeline Ave. 986-0660.

**Camron-Stanford House**, an 1876 Italianate house museum on Lake Merritt offers tours 11 a.m.–4 p.m. on Wednesdays and 1–5 p.m. on Sundays. \$4/\$2 (free first Sunday). 1418 Lakeside Drive, 836-1976.

**Cohen-Bray House**, an 1884 Stick Eastlake with original interiors, 1440–29th Ave. Tours at 2 p.m. on the fourth Sunday or by appointment. \$5. 532-0704.

**Dunsmuir House & Gardens**, a neoclassical Revival mansion, offers free access to its grounds 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. 2960 Peralta Oaks Court. For information on mansion tours, call 615-5555 or visit www.dunsmuir.org.

**Mountain View Cemetery** offers free docent tours 10 a.m. on second Saturdays. 5000 Piedmont Ave. 658-2588.

**Paramount Theatre**, an art deco movie palace, offers \$1 tours of areas not usually open to the public. Learn the theater's history, at 10 a.m. on the first and third Saturday. 2025 Broadway. 893-2300.

**Pardee Home Museum**, an 1868 Italianate villa home to two Oakland mayors and one California governor, offers tours at noon on Fridays and Saturdays, reservations recommended. Schools and private groups may arrange a special tour. \$5 adults, children 12 and under free. 672 11th St. 444-2187 or www.pardeehome.org.

### Meetings of interest

**Friends of the Oakland Fox**, second Thursdays, 6–7:30 p.m., 229 Harrison St. 869-3519.

**Oakland Planning Commission**, alternate Wednesdays, time varies, City Hall. 238-3941.

## MORE VOLUNTEERS

In our last issue we listed all our volunteers, but we left out some very important contributors: the Cs through the Gs. You're the heart of the OHA. Thanks for your volunteer spirit!

### Walking Tours ●, Rotunda ▲, House Tour \*, Halloween at the Mansion □

Nancy Capell \*  
 Marina Carlson \*  
 Kevin Chak □  
 Martha Chase \*  
 Alex Cheng \*  
 Donna Cheng \*  
 Marilyn Citron □  
 Cliff Cline \*  
 Kristi Clover ●  
 Fran Costa \*  
 Laurie Craise \*  
 Stacy Cromwell and friend, Linda \*  
 Jo Ann Coleman □  
 Jamie Cross ●▲\*□  
 Lynn Crosby \*  
 John Dalal \*▲  
 Gwen Davalier \*  
 Pat & George Dedekian ●▲\*  
 Ann Del Simone \*  
 Tim Dennehy □  
 Tamilmaran Devedas ●\*  
 Kathleen DiGiovanni \*  
 Riley Doty \*  
 Debi Echlin \*●  
 Shane Etzenhouser □  
 Dennis Evanosky▲\*  
 Allison Finlay \*  
 Christine Fligstein \*  
 Kevin Flynn ●  
 Rebecca Goodwin \*

**Oakland City Council**, every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. City Hall, Council Chambers. 238-3941.

**Oakland Heritage Alliance**, Board of Directors, first Mondays 7–10 p.m., Camron-Stanford House, 1418 Lakeside Drive. 763-9218.

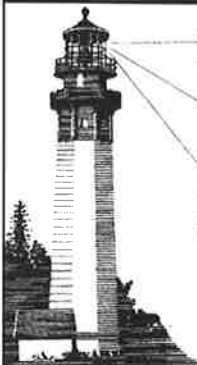
**Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board**, second Monday, 4–8 p.m., City Hall, Hearing Rm. 1. 238-3941.



## Help visualize Oakland

Local photographer Bill Caldwell is putting together a book called *Oakland at 150—A Visual History Book*. In honor of our city's sesquicentennial, the book features historic photos of Oakland paired with modern photos shot from the same vantage point. For more information, contact Momentum Publications at 510-653-4311.

### CELEBRATING OAKLAND'S 150TH BIRTHDAY



## BEACON SELF-STORAGE COMPANY

For all your packing, moving and storage needs.  
2227 San Pablo Avenue • Oakland, CA 94612  
Phone **510-444-7867**

Ask about our  
**10% OHA member discount**



### WE KNOW GRAND LAKE

*Chris Specker and Gloria Hitz are longtime Grand Lake residents. We work with both buyers and sellers of residential and income property.*

If you'd like to know the value of your property in today's market or have other real estate related questions, please call or e-mail us. If you're interested in knowing what properties are currently available, sign up for our Listing Watch to receive automatic e-mail notification of properties as they get listed in the MLS.

**GLORIA HITZ**  
(510) 466-5687  
GLORIA.HITZ@PRUWEB.COM

**CHRIS SPECHER**  
(510) 869-2749  
CHRIS.SPECHER@PRUWEB.COM

*We publish the Blue Heron, a real estate newsletter for the Grand Lake area. If you would like to receive the Blue Heron, please call or e-mail Chris or Gloria.*



## Join OHA today!

**Your annual tax-deductible membership dues include the OHA newsletter.  
Your contribution helps make OHA a more effective organization.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to help with:
- Programs/Tours
  - OHA News
  - Development/Fundraising
  - Membership
  - Preservation Action
  - Mailing/Office
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

Membership  new  renewal

- \$15 Limited Income
- \$35 Individual
- \$50 Family
- \$75 Organization/Benefactor
- \$125 Sponsor
- \$250 Patron
- \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Contribution

**Oakland Heritage Alliance**  
P.O. Box 12425, Oakland, CA 94604  
510-763-9218  
[www.oaklandheritage.org](http://www.oaklandheritage.org); [info@oaklandheritage.org](mailto:info@oaklandheritage.org)

## Preservation conference

The 27th Annual Preservation Conference, a statewide conference for local preservationists, organizations and planners will be held in Santa Rosa from Thursday, May 2, to Sunday, May 5, with the theme "Vintage Sonoma County."

Educational sessions and workshops are scheduled for Saturday, May 3, and Sunday May 4; one-day registrations are available. Call the California Preservation Foundation at 763-0972, or e-mail [CPF@californiapreservation.org](mailto:CPF@californiapreservation.org).

## ADVERTISERS WANTED

If you are interested in advertising in the *OHA News* or are interested in a position selling advertisements for the newsletter, please call Kathy at 763-9218.

# Oakland History Notes: the Charles S. Greene Library

By Kathleen Leles DiGiovanni

Festive grand-opening events in February marked the realization of an \$11.2 million renovation and seismic retrofit of this 1902 American Beaux-Arts structure that had been severely damaged in the Loma Prieta earthquake.

Festivities also greeted the building's original dedication on June 30, 1902. This event, featuring an address by University of California president Benjamin Ide Wheeler, musical performances and an original poem by city librarian Charles S. Greene, concluded a building process that had begun several years earlier.

By 1898 the deficiencies of the library's earlier home at 14th and Washington were well known to Oaklanders. The wood-framed library, built in 1868, was regarded as a dangerous firetrap.

An 1899 attempt by the library Board of Trustees and the Merchants' Exchange to build a new library reached a stalemate over money. Henry A. Chittenden, an Oakland Tribune reporter covering the library impasse, sent a packet of newspaper clippings about the library's troubles to the great philanthropist Andrew Carnegie.

Carnegie responded by telegram on Aug. 23, 1899, saying that if Oakland would "provide a site and agree to maintain the library at a cost of say \$4,000 per year, it would give me pleasure to give the necessary \$50,000." On September 12, Mayor R. W. Snow sent a cable to Carnegie, accepting his offer. The City Council, however, did not have money to

purchase land and favored turning over one of the downtown parks for a new library. The public opposed that scheme, and skirmishes over a library site continued until November when the Ebell Society, a women's educational and philanthropic organization, moved to undertake a subscription drive to buy a site. The City Council reluctantly agreed to give Ebell until mid-December to raise the money.

Ebell promptly secured an option to buy the site at 14th and Grove streets for \$20,000 and began its campaign. In a month the women had done what the men had failed to do and over \$21,000 had been raised.

Having now secured a site, an architect had to be selected. The winning design for a two-story brick building in the Beaux-Arts style was submitted by San Francisco's Bliss and Faville out of a field of 51 entries. Berkeley's Bernard Maybeck came in third, netting a \$250 cash prize for his efforts. The cost of the building could not exceed Carnegie's \$50,000. As a result, the winning bid by A. E. Barrett did not include

furnishings or interior finishes. Carnegie refused to expend any more money on Oakland's project (which had so far cost the city nothing!).

Ebell Society went to work again, supplying \$5,000 and their own architects.

After the present Main Library opened in 1951, the site was converted to a branch library and remained in use until 1971. City government offices occupied the building until damage from the Loma Prieta earthquake closed it in 1989.

This beautiful building is now beginning its second century in a whole new role.



Oakland History Room

Look into this photograph and see library staff members at work in the circulation room of Oakland's Main Library around 1914. This splendid room has been reborn as the exhibit hall of the Oakland Public Library's African American Museum and Library at Oakland (AAMLO).

**Oakland Heritage Alliance**  
**P.O. Box 12425**  
**Oakland, CA 94604**

Address Correction Requested

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Oakland, California  
Permit No. 31