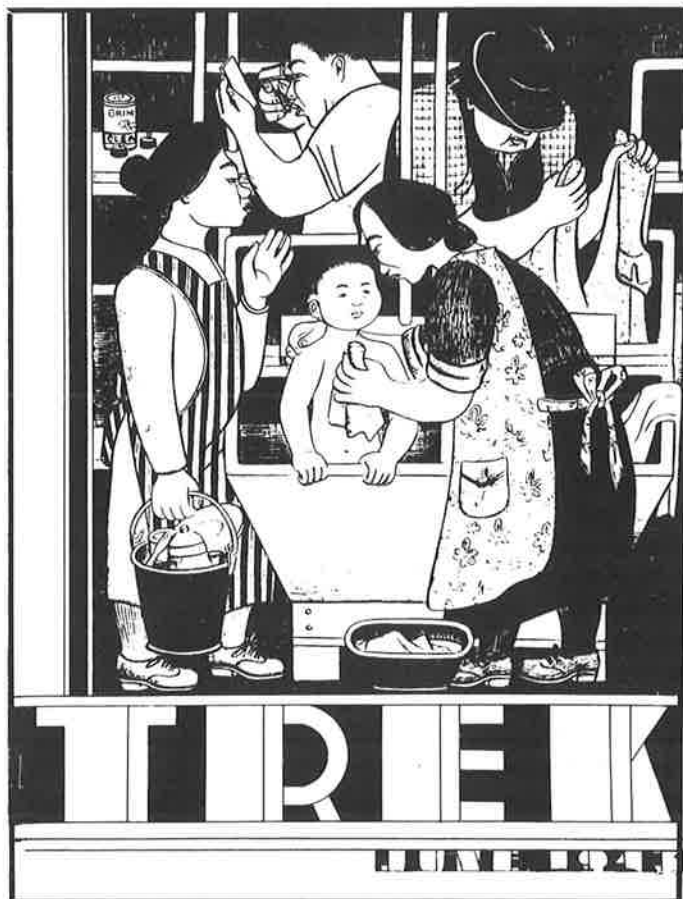


The Japanese in Oakland: Identity and Historical Experience

The history of the Japanese Americans in Oakland is one of group cohesion and common experience in the face of prejudice. Many of the social, political, legal, organizational and psychological forces affecting Japanese Americans transcended geographic location. Their experience is surprisingly consistent from one American mainland city to another. The common cultural background of the Japanese also has created strong group fidelity and social identity.

With the release in February 1983 of the Congressional Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians report, renewed attention is being focused on the World War II internment of almost 120,000 Japanese Americans. The following article addresses the social and historical forces that led up to the wartime relocation and internment. Termed a "shameful page in American history" by the Congressional Commission, the internment had long historical roots and developed amid wartime hysteria and political expediency. How Japanese Americans responded to such adversity was both heroic and tragic, for it demanded more than any society should ask of its citizens.

In 1853, Japan was reopened to the rest of the world after 250 years of self-imposed isolation. The first emigrants to leave Japan went to Hawaii in 1868 to work as laborers on sugar plantations. Complaints about plantation life led Japanese officials to investigate their situation, establishing a precedent



June 1943. Communal life at Topaz (Utah) Relocation Center, illustrated by Mine Obuko for a cover of "TREK," the Center's magazine. (Masao Yabuki collection)

for Japanese emigrants to call upon their homeland government for protection. Later, this relationship at times protected the ill-treated Japanese in America, but also cast the Japanese Americans, or Nikkei (see list of generational terms), under the shadow of a foreign influence in the eyes of many suspicious California nativists.

The problems of this first immigration alerted the Japanese government to the ▶



need for screening prospective emigrants. Recruitment then focused on the agricultural prefectures (provinces) of Japan's Inland Sea and southern island of Kyushu. The roots of almost all Nikkei today are linked to those same prefectures.

In 1869, the first 27 Japanese immigrants to California settled north of Sacramento in what was later to become known as the "Lost Colony of Wakamatsu." Crop failure led to the settlement's demise. Its only remnant is a solitary gravestone.

Beginning in the 1890's, immigration to California grew rapidly. Japanese were occupied in fishing, canning, logging, mining and especially California's expanding agriculture. The first settlements were mostly rural, but urban communities developed as way stations. Also, Japanese periodically returned to urban centers due to the erratic agricultural economy. Although San Francisco became the community's "cultural heart," Japanese also settled in Oakland. They located initially in West Oakland around Market Street, an ethnically mixed neighborhood that had long greeted immigrant groups to Oakland.

Oakland's Nikkei were employed in a

limited range of occupations which included domestic services, laundry and dry cleaning work, and gardening and nursery activities. Some worked in businesses serving Nikkei and other Asian immigrants: shops, cafes, rooming houses, and groceries. The family-run business was the cornerstone of Nikkei economic life. The A-1 Fish Market on 8th Street, still owned by the Yamagata family, is one of the last downtown Japanese businesses remaining from this era.

The period following the 1906 earthquake saw the establishment of a stable and permanent community in Oakland, with its accompanying institutions. The mostly male Issei began to seek wives and raise families. Some returned to Japan to find a bride or retrieve a waiting fiancée. Other Issei sent for "picture brides" arranged by their family, having seen only a photograph of their future spouse.

California had long been a hotbed of nativism, a politically organized form of antiforeigner sentiment. During the 19th century it was directed at a variety of groups, but primarily at the Chinese. By the early 20th century this hostility was directed toward the Japanese. The rapidly industrializing Japan was perceived as a threat. Japan had just won a war against Russia and was becoming a world power.

The Issei, even though subject to great adversity and discrimination, looked upon America as a good place to establish a family. But the rapid influx of Japanese was duly noted in a hostile press and legal restrictions on Japanese enterprise and social contact increased.

In 1906, San Francisco segregated its Asian public school students. The Chinese were already de facto segregated in Chinatown, thus this action was primarily directed toward the Nikkei. The Japanese government was affronted by such unequal treatment. President Theodore Roosevelt sent Oakland's Victor Metcalf to investigate the situation. Metcalf reported that the action taken was groundless as no students, parents, or teachers initiated the measure and that its source was in City Hall. Roosevelt

Japanese American Generational Terms

Nikkei - commonly used for Japanese American(s) or Japanese American Community.

Issei - first generation immigrant Japanese American(s), now an elderly generation who with their children underwent the internment experience.

Nisei - 2nd generation, American-born Japanese American(s), now a middle aged and retired generation who were the majority of the interned population.

Sansei - 3rd generation Japanese American(s), now a young adult to early 40's generation who grew up after World War II.

Yonsei - 4th generation Japanese American(s), now a generation of children.



The Buddhist Church of Oakland (825 Jackson St.) remains a vibrant community institution.

interceded and convinced the school board to rescind its segregation order to avoid an "acrimonious confrontation."

By late 1907, a "gentlemen's agreement" was reached whereby the Japanese government consented to self-imposed emigration quotas. Japanese immigration to the U.S. decreased a third by 1914 and Japanese soon began to settle in Brazil instead.

In 1913, California passed the Alien Land Act which prohibited aliens "ineligible for citizenship" from owning agricultural land and limiting agricultural leases to three years. The Issei's success in agriculture prompted legal efforts to curb their efforts. The Issei were soon designated "aliens

ineligible for citizenship." California's interpretation of federal law, passed during the Civil War, was that only "free white persons" and those of African descent could become citizens. Thus foreign-born Japanese were kept in permanent alien status.

In 1920, the California Alien Land Act was amended and made even more restrictive. In the 1922 Takeo Ozawa case, the U.S. Supreme Court supported the California interpretation. In 1924, Congress, responding to public outcries that uncontrolled immigration was a danger to social and economic stability, passed an exclusionary law fixing immigration quotas based on national origin. The Japanese, being ineligible for citizenship, were barred altogether. This was a major victory for nativist forces.

In practice, agricultural land controlled by Nikkei dropped only slightly between 1920 and 1930. Issei farmers transferred deeds and leases to their American-born Nisei children, who were U.S. citizens. These legal maneuvers may have also encouraged many Issei to start families in America.

These events, particularly the closing of Japanese immigration in 1924, resulted in each successive generation having a comparatively homogeneous age, cultural perspective, and socio-historical experience. This homogeneity has led Nikkei to identify themselves, as well as their place in society, by their generation. Names for each generation - Issei, Nisei, Sansei, and Yonsei - were established. Anthropologists note that the Nikkei are the only ethnic group in the U.S. to do so. The community itself essentially became closed and growth was due solely to propagation from within and not from the addition of new immigrants.

Many social institutions developed. Issei formed ascriptive ken associations, based on prefecture origin. All-Japanese churches were also established. In Oakland, prominent Christian churches were the West 10th Methodist Church, now part of the Lake Park Methodist Church on Santa Clara Ave., and the Sycamore Congregational Church, now in El Cerrito.▶



Other denominations represented in the community were Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Seventh Day Adventist, and after World War II, Mormon.

The Buddhists established a Higashi Hongwanji Church (Buddhist Church of Oakland) at 6th and Jackson Streets. In 1950, the large Church structure was moved to 9th and Jackson Streets to make way for the new freeway. This congregation is part of the Buddhist Churches of America. Other denominations represented were Nichiren and Zen Buddhist.

A small portion of the community belonged to the Konko Church (Konkokyo), a monotheistic Japanese religion noted for its use of Shinto ceremonies and dress. Oakland members went to the San Francisco church, as they still do today, which is the North American mother church.

Nikkei churches served major social functions. Boy Scout troupes were organized along religious lines, as were women's auxiliaries and religious youth clubs. The Buddhist Church of Oakland had a Japanese language school, Wanto Gakuin. Supported by the congregation, the school met for one hour after regular public school or on Saturdays. There was also a private Japanese language school across the street. The purpose of these schools was language instruction and cultural education. Later, wartime hysteria would accuse these language schools of being financially supported by Japan and used to indoctrinate students. In reality, they were solely supported by the local community.

The Nisei grew up in this complex and cohesive community. They used conventional methods of social advancement, but they too remained targets of prejudice like their parents. The American-born Nisei found many avenues closed to them.

The Nisei developed their own organizations. The most influential being the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), founded in the 1920's and retaining many local chapters, including one in Oakland. The Nisei developed their own athletic leagues, resulting in leadership skills and opportunities to



December 8, 1941. A sign on the Masuda family's Oakland grocery store, Wanto Co., recorded by Dorthea Lange. (National Archives)

travel. Nisei organizations were patterned after American rather than Japanese models creating parallel organizations similar to those from which they were barred.

Many areas of Oakland's social life were closed to the Nikkei. For example, Piedmont Baths in Adams Point did not allow Japanese. Upper income residential neighborhoods were restricted, at first on an informal basis and by the 1920's on a legal basis with the establishment of restrictive covenants. These covenants, like those for Lakeshore Highlands along Trestle Glen, did not allow nonwhites to own or live in these exclusive "residential parks" unless in a servant's capacity. These racial restrictions were declared unenforceable by the U.S. Supreme Court in the late 1940's.

Political attacks against the Nikkei intensified during the 1930's. No politician could be openly fair to the Nikkei. City and county civil service jobs were virtually closed to them. Only by the late 1930's did any job opportunities appear for the Nikkei within state government. The Department of Motor Vehicles was noted for being fair in an unfair time. A handful of Nisei also obtained local civil service positions. Oakland had a sole Nisei gardener at Lakeside Park. Alameda County had a half dozen Nisei employees. ►

**Headquarters
Western Defense Command
and Fourth Army**

Presidio of San Francisco, California
April 30, 1942

Civilian Exclusion Order No. 27

1. Pursuant to the provisions of Public Proclamations Nos. 1 and 2, this Headquarters, dated March 2, 1942, and March 16, 1942, respectively, it is hereby ordered that from and after 12 o'clock noon, P.W.T., of Thursday, May 7, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, be excluded from that portion of Military Area No. 1 described as follows:

All of that portion of the County of Alameda, State of California, within that boundary beginning at the point at which the southerly limits of the City of Berkeley meet San Francisco Bay; thence easterly and following the southerly limits of said city to College Avenue; thence southerly on College Avenue to Broadway; thence southerly on Broadway to the southerly limits of the City of Oakland; thence following the limits of said city westerly and northerly, and following the shoreline of San Francisco Bay to the point of beginning.

2. A responsible member of each family, and each individual living alone, in the above described area will report between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Friday, May 1, 1942, or during the same hours on Saturday, May 2, 1942, to the Civil Control Station located at:

530 Eighteenth Street,
Oakland, California.

3. Any person subject to this order who fails to comply with any of its provisions or with the provisions of published instructions pertaining hereto or who is found in the above area after 12 o'clock noon, P.W.T., of Thursday, May 7, 1942, will be liable to the criminal penalties provided by Public Law No. 503, 77th Congress, approved March 21, 1942, entitled "An Act to Provide a Penalty for Violation of Restrictions or Orders with Respect to Persons Entering, Remaining in, Leaving, or Committing any Act in Military Areas or Zones," and alien Japanese will be subject to immediate apprehension and internment.

4. All persons within the bounds of an established Assembly Center pursuant to instructions from this Headquarters are excepted from the provisions of this order while those persons are in such Assembly Center.

J. L. DEWITT
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

**INSTRUCTIONS
TO ALL PERSONS OF
JAPANESE
ANCESTRY
LIVING IN THE FOLLOWING AREA:**

All of that portion of the County of Alameda, State of California, within that boundary beginning at the point at which the southerly limits of the City of Berkeley meet San Francisco Bay; thence easterly and following the southerly limits of said city to College Avenue; thence southerly on College Avenue to Broadway; thence southerly on Broadway to the southerly limits of the City of Oakland; thence following the limits of said city westerly and northerly, and following the shoreline of San Francisco Bay to the point of beginning.

Pursuant to the provisions of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 27, this Headquarters, dated April 30, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above area by 12 o'clock noon, P.W.T., Thursday, May 7, 1942.

No Japanese person living in the above area will be permitted to change residence after 12 o'clock noon, P.W.T., Thursday, April 30, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the representative of the Commanding General, Northern California Sector, at the Civil Control Station located at:

530 Eighteenth Street,
Oakland, California.

Such permits will only be granted for the purpose of uniting members of a family, or in cases of grave emergency.

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property, such as real estate, business and professional equipment, household goods, boats, automobiles and livestock.

3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.

4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence.

THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE OBSERVED:

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Friday, May 1, 1942, or between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Saturday, May 2, 1942.

2. Evacuees must carry with them on departure for the Assembly Center, the following property:

- (a) Bedding and linens (no mattress) for each member of the family;
- (b) Toilet articles for each member of the family;
- (c) Extra clothing for each member of the family;
- (d) Sufficient knives, forks, spoons, plates, bowls and cups for each member of the family;
- (e) Essential personal effects for each member of the family.

All items carried will be securely packaged, tied and plainly marked with the name of the owner and numbered in accordance with instructions obtained at the Civil Control Station. The size and number of packages is limited to that which can be carried by the individual or family group.

3. No pets of any kind will be permitted.

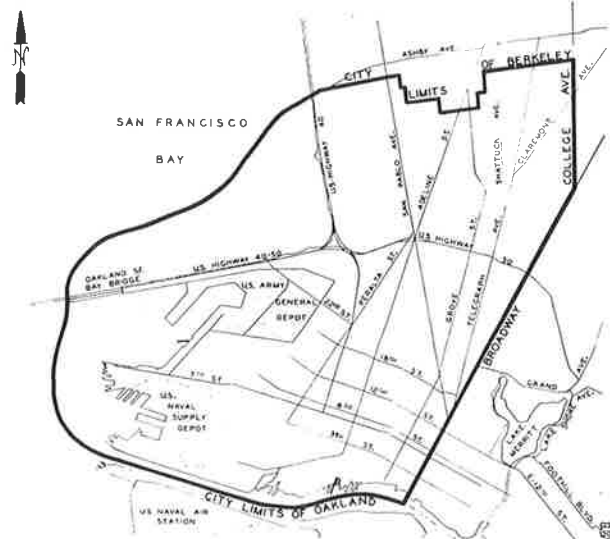
4. No personal items and no household goods will be shipped to the Assembly Center.

5. The United States Government through its agencies will provide for the storage at the sole risk of the owner of the more substantial household items, such as iceboxes, washing machines, pianos and other heavy furniture. Cooking utensils and other small items will be accepted for storage if crated, packed and plainly marked with the name and address of the owner. Only one name and address will be used by a given family.

6. Each family, and individual living alone, will be furnished transportation to the Assembly Center or will be authorized to travel by private automobile in a supervised group. All instructions pertaining to the movement will be obtained at the Civil Control Station.

Go to the Civil Control Station between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Friday, May 1, 1942, or between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Saturday, May 2, 1942, to receive further instructions.

**PROHIBITED AREA
EXCLUSION ORDER No. 27
WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY**



This Map is prepared for the convenience of the public; see the Civilian Exclusion Order for the full and correct description.

April 30, 1942. Civilian Exclusion Order No. 27 for West Oakland gave residents only one week to get their affairs in order for an uncertain future. (Masao Yabuki collection)

The December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor unleashed an hysterical response. The press made a concerted effort to discredit the Nikkei. Innuendo was stated as fact and calm voices were suspect. FBI reports and presidential inquiries, which found the Nikkei to be as loyal as any group in the U.S., were ignored. California Attorney General Earl Warren and other political leaders took the fact that there was no sabotage as "the most ominous sign" and called for the removal of all Japanese from the West Coast. Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt, the Western Defense Commander, was blatant in his anti-Japanese sentiments.

In Oakland, Nikkei announced their loyalty to America and that they would contribute to the U.S. war effort. The



February 27, 1942. An Oakland street scene recorded by Dorthea Lange. (National Archives)



"The military police opened the bus door and we stepped into the bus as our family number was called. Many spectators stood around. At that moment I recalled some of the stories told on shipboard by European refugees bound for America. We were silent on the trip except for a group of four University of California boys who were singing college songs. The bus crossed the Bay Bridge. Everyone stared at the beautiful view as if for the last time. The singing stopped." From *Mine Okubo's Citizen 13660* (1946, Columbia University Press) depicting the trek to Tanforan Assembly Center.

Masuda family proclaimed their loyalty with their touching "I am an American" sign in front of their Franklin Street grocery. But no matter what the Nikkei did to reassure society, they were destined to become victims of hysteria and deep-rooted prejudice.

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, ignoring U.S. Attorney General Francis Biddle, FBI reports, and his own presidential inquiry, signed Executive Order 9066 which empowered military commanders to remove "dangerous persons" from designated areas and authorized the construction of relocation camps in which to house them.

Religious and civic leaders were rounded-up and curfews were imposed on all Japanese. Nikkei lost their jobs. Physical violence and vandalism occurred. It was no surprise that a wholesale removal would soon occur.

On April 30, 1942, Nikkei residents of West Oakland received notice that they should have their affairs in order and report on May 7 for removal. Nikkei had to sell their property at distressed prices unless they had a white family to act as

caretakers. Some did, but many did not. En masse, the Nikkei from San Francisco, Alameda and San Mateo Counties were first detained at the Tanforan Assembly Center, a horse race track. There the Nikkei lived in horse stalls until they were moved in September to the Topaz relocation center in central Utah, one of 10 such camps.

These hastily put together camps were barracks surrounded by barbed wire and guard towers. Although the courts were functioning and martial law was not declared, the wholesale relocation, internment, and infringement of civil and constitutional rights still occurred. Although these military orders could have been applied to German and Italian Americans, they were only applied to the Nikkei. Almost 120,000 Nikkei were removed and detained during 1942-1945.

Forty years later, these wartime experiences are now coming to the surface and gaining public attention. This year, a federal commission conducted an inquiry and released a thorough report condemning



Tanforan Assembly Center: "A guide was called to take us to our home, Barrack 16, Room 50. We went practically halfway around the race track and then diagonally across the center field through sticky mud and tall weeds. Friends who had entered the camp the previous week had warned us what camp was like..." From Citizen 13660 by Mine Okubo.



Mealtime at Topaz Relocation Center illustrated by Mine Obuko for "TREK," the Center's magazine (Masao Yabuki collection).

the relocation and internment. Prospective federal legislation to make reparations to interned Nikkei has been submitted to Congress. The State of California and the Counties of Los Angeles, San Francisco and Alameda have passed redress legislation for deprived job rights. The City of Oakland is also investigating its actions during the war.

Most importantly, the U.S. Supreme Court has decided to review its three landmark internment cases that had legalized the events of those dark days. One of these major cases was that of Oaklander Fred Korematsu, now a San Leandro resident. A ruling against those wartime decisions would make such actions illegal and allow for a legal redress of individual cases.

When the nightmare of internment is closely examined, it reveals more than a century of racial prejudice and injustice toward the Nikkei. Hopefully the record of this dark unfinished page in American history will soon be set straight.

--Dean Yabuki

Last Picture Show

Downtown Oakland movie houses dwindled to two with the closing of the fifty-five year old Roxie on August 18, 1983.

Downtown, which boasted seventeen movie houses during the boom days of World War II, has been reduced to the Pussycat and Lux theaters, both located on lower Broadway. The Pussycat originally opened as the Regent theater in 1913 and over the years has operated as the Newsreel, Peerlex, and Art Cinema. The Streamline Moderne Lux was the last built downtown theater, opening in 1948.

Theater producer Henry Duffy built the Roxie in 1928 and it was originally named the Dufwin after Duffy and his wife, actress Dale Winter. The Dufwin was a legitimate theater, one in a chain of eight owned by Duffy which featured the Henry Duffy Players. This newest of his theaters opened the evening of October 8, 1928 with actor Leo Carrillo serving as master of ceremonies. Duffy and Winter were featured in Vincent Lawrence's "In Love With Love," a play described by the local press as a "smart comedy."

The architectural firm of Charles Peter Weeks and William Day designed the Dufwin. Weeks and Day had previously served as architects for the original Fox Oakland (1923) and also designed the still-standing 1928 Fox Oakland, which replaced its earlier sister. Unlike the



The Roxie is located at 519 17th St.

Fox Oakland with its wild facade of Hindu and Islamic elements, the Dufwin was quite restrained with a facade of severe, almost plain, modern Greek elements. Mahogany doors led into the Dufwin's foyer, with soapstone walls and an arched ceiling of Pompeian reds, blues, and greens. The auditorium seated 1250 and featured two proscenium balconies. Its walls were of Philippine mahogany and the auditorium ceiling painted in pastel colors. The Dufwin proudly boasted of separate lounges and smoking rooms for men and women.

Henry Duffy went bankrupt during the early days of the Depression and the Dufwin was closed. Converted to a movie house and renamed the Roxie, the theater reopened in December 1930. It closed several times during the 1930's before becoming successful during the war years.

Competition with television, the growth of the suburbs, and the gradual decline of the inner city led to an ever decreasing number of downtown Oakland movie houses in the 1950's and 1960's. The Roxie, unlike its more prestigious competitors, was able to survive by becoming a bargain house. The Roxie featured two or three first-run movies per showing at a low ticket rate. With its demise, downtown Oakland has lost the last of its first-run movie houses. The Lux currently shows kung-fu movies while the Pussycat features adult films.

The Roxie was acquired by American Recreation, Inc. of Sacramento shortly before the theater's closure. The company intends to gut the theater's interior and create office space, linking it with a building located behind the Roxie. The Redwood City architectural firm of Herring and Worley is currently working on plans for American Recreation which should be finished by late 1983. Construction start-up date is uncertain. Fred Herring, of Herring and Worley, currently envisions the Roxie's facade being restored to its 1928 appearance. This will unfortunately mean the end for the large, Art Deco Neon sign which has dominated the building for so many years. However, if plans are realized, we will once again be able to see Weeks and Day's original Dufwin design.

--Daniel Krummes



\$40,000 for Cohen House Restoration

Front elevation of the Alfred H. Cohen House at 1440 29th Ave. (Drawn by Kirk E. Peterson for Historic Structures Report, Aug. 15, 1983)

Initial restoration work on the historic Alfred H. Cohen House will begin soon thanks to a \$20,000 matching grant from the California Office of Historic Preservation. These critical funds will pay for much needed weatherproofing and repair of deteriorated portions of the house's exterior. Funds to match the grant came from generous contributions (totaling \$18,500) made last July by friends of the Cohen House and Oakland Heritage Alliance members.

In 1981, OHA quietly launched its Landmarks Assistance Program—a program to assist owners of Oakland Landmarks locate both the technical and financial assistance for maintenance and restoration of their historic buildings. Impetus for creating this program was a donor who wanted to contribute toward restoration of the Cohen House—a truly extraordinary National Register landmark—built in 1884 by Alfred H. Cohen and lived in to this day by his daughter, Emelita Cohen.

OHA accepted this donation, as well as a "grant of scenic, open space and architectural facade easement" on the Cohen House, and the Landmarks Assistance Program had begun. The "architectural

facade easement" means that no construction, alteration, or remodeling of the Cohen House's exterior can be undertaken without the written permission of OHA. With this formal commitment to preservation from the Cohen family, OHA agreed to help them locate the technical services and financial resource needed to restore, repair, and maintain the exterior of the house. A joint committee of OHA and family members was created which identified work that needed to be done, and began looking for funding.

Last spring, the California Office of Historic Preservation received \$610,000 of "Emergency Supplemental Appropriation and Jobs Act of 1983" grant funds for "fast-moving preservation construction projects." The committee decided to apply, but needed at least \$20,000 to match a minimum grant. We had two weeks to raise those funds—and we did it! We began the campaign with \$4000 in the bank and in two weeks had \$18,500 in cash and pledges. A loan to cover the remaining \$1500 enabled us to apply for the grant.

The best news is that in late September the Cohen House project was awarded a grant of \$20,000. ▶



Thanks must go to architect Kirk Petersen who, in less than 4 weeks, drafted an historic structures report and prepared measured drawings, plans and specifications; and to OHA board member Gary Knecht who saw to it that all deadlines were met.

The \$40,000 will enable us to weatherproof the house and prevent it from deteriorating further. Work will include repair or replacement of wooden gutters, fascia, trim, soffit boards, downspouts, flashing, wooden windows, and exterior plumbing. Partial roof repair and front porch restoration will also be included in Phase I.

Phase II (for which additional funds must be raised) will include painting, foundation work, restoration of ornament, front stairs, and removal of a small closet addition on the front of the house. If you would like to help with Phase II fund raising, contact the Cohen House Committee at 893-9829.

Those who have never seen the Cohen House may wonder why it is so important to preserve. The Alfred H. Cohen House was built between 1881-1884 by Watson A. Bray as a wedding present for his daughter, Emma, whose marriage to Alfred H. Cohen on February 28, 1884, marked the completion of the house. The interior furnishings and decorations, most of which are still in the house, were given to the newlyweds by the bridegroom's father, Alfred A. Cohen, the famous attorney for the Big Four of the Central Pacific Railroad. The Cohen family has owned and occupied the house continuously for the past 99 years.

Today, the 17-room bracketed "stick style" Victorian is one of the last of the original homes built in Fruitvale area of that period. Its craftsmanship and detailing are superb and the house is virtually unaltered, both inside and out, from its original appearance. The woodwork, doors, mantels, overmantels, gasoliers, wallpapers, stenciling, plaster work, shutters and finishes remain unchanged.

--Leslie Flint

Contributors to Cohen House Fund

A special thanks to the following contributors who made possible the \$20,000 matching grant for initial restoration of the Alfred H. Cohen House!

Annalee Allen, Stephen S. Arnon, M.D., Jan & Dick Aston, Mary U. Augsburg, Margaret Azevedo, Elizabeth Bagwell, Helen Barber, Beatrice Sturgis Bartlett, Amos & Natalie Bassein, Beulah Belling, Phil Bellman, Dolores Bermak, Theresa S. Bigelow, May L. Blaisdell, Loma Brant Boyd, Hilda M. Brant, Mrs. Dorothy Bray, Esther Bristol.

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Newhouse, Margaret Nicholson, Brad & Laura Niebling, Dr. H.W. O'Grady, Roberta O'Grady, Bill & Ruth Parker, Lilo M. Perrin, Jr., Marian Perry, John R. Pichotto, Lorenne Pitts, Tom Preston.

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Tim & Pat Vickers, Edward E. Waller, Jr., M.D., W. Sheridan Warrick, Chester M. Weseman, M.D., Mr. & Mrs. Carrington Williams, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Clyde M. Wilson, Edith Wilson, Marlene Wilson, Capt. & Mrs. Cornelius Winkler, Zane Working, Dean Yabuki.

Special thanks go to Leslie Flint who spearheaded the Cohen House fundraising effort. A member of the Cohen House Committee, she served as OHA President, 1981-83. □

Oakland Briefing...

■ HOUSING PROJECT PROPOSED TO REPLACE HARRISON SQUARE.

Interest in Oakland's original 1853 town squares for nonpark development continues. Lafayette Square, bounded by 10th, 11th, Grove and Jefferson Streets, was recently proposed as the site of a cogeneration power facility (see Summer, 1983 OHA News). Now Harrison Square, bounded by 6th, 7th, Harrison and Alice Streets is being eyed by the East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC) for development as an 80-unit low income housing project.

The squares were shown in Oakland's original town plan, the 1853 Kellersberger Maps. Four of the original seven squares--Lafayette, Harrison, Lincoln and Jefferson--continue as parks on their original sites. A fifth square, Madison (originally Caroline) was relocated to



Harrison Railroad Park is one of the seven original city squares platted in 1853. Only four survive today.

allow construction of BART headquarters. The remaining squares, Washington and Franklin, were replaced in the 1870's by the Alameda County Courthouse and Hall of Records as part of a political deal which made Oakland the county seat. Of the surviving four squares, Harrison and Lafayette best preserve 19th century landscaping schemes. The two squares include oaks which may predate Oakland's founding.

EBALDC proposed the housing project to help replace Chinatown housing stock which has been lost since 1950. Much of this loss is due to BART, Nimitz Freeway, and Trans-Pacific Centre construction. EBALDC states that the park site is needed because costs of privately-owned sites in Chinatown are too high to make the project feasible. EBALDC previously asked BART to make its parking lot bounded by Oak, Fallon, 8th and 9th Streets available for housing (see November-December, 1982 OHA News), but BART wants to develop that site for offices.

The Oakland Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board voted in September to oppose use of Harrison Square for housing. The Board also voted to initiate landmark nominations for Harrison and the other three surviving original squares. Also in September, the Oakland ▶

City Council asked staff to explore further the use of alternative sites.

■ FOX OAKLAND THEATER FOR SALE

The Fox Oakland Theater was listed for sale in September by owners, Erma Delucchi and Diane Goodhue. The asking price is \$6 million. Preference will be given to offers which preserve the theater. It is possible that a high rise could be constructed above the structure. The owners will also consider a \$400,000 per year ground lease. The listing follows the collapse of plans by developer Dick Neault to develop the theater into a performing arts center (see July-August, 1982 OHA News). Lenders for the proposed \$3 million project had required that financing be secured by the deed to the property. Delucchi and Goodhue refused to agree to this and the project collapsed.

The theater building will be open to the public for the first time in years during the Dicken's Christmas Faire, scheduled to open November 18th. Despite the \$8.50 admission charge, it's probably worth taking a look at this landmark movie palace.



Ticket booth of the Fox-Oakland Theater with the Oakland Floral Depot in the background.



This view of Oakland City Hall will soon be blocked by OB-IV, a mirror image of OB-III (at right).

■ CITY HALL PROPOSED FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

The State Historic Resources Commission has recommended listing Oakland City Hall in the National Register of Historic Places. Final approval by the Keeper of the Register is regarded as only a formality. The building, constructed in 1911-14, was the first skyscraper city hall in the U.S. Oakland City Hall was designed by New York architects Palmer, Hornbostle, and Jones.

■ COMPETITION PROPOSED TO REDESIGN LATHAM SQUARE

The Bay Area Partnership, an affiliate of Washington D.C. based Partners for Livable Spaces, has proposed a design competition to rebuild Latham Square, the triangular area at the gore of Broadway and Telegraph Avenue in front of the Cathedral Building. The competition will develop a design to improve the appearance and functioning of the square as well as set an appropriate example for future downtown development.

The square presently contains the 1913 Latham Fountain (see Spring, 1983 OHA News) and a 1960's A.C Transit bus shelter. This obtrusive zig-zag roofed

shelter seriously flaws Latham Square. Replacement of the shelter with a simpler structure would be more compatible with the older surrounding buildings and give the square a less cluttered appearance.

The projected scope of the competition includes the bus shelter, Latham Fountain and the ground floor of the Cathedral Building. Competition cosponsors include the American Institute of Architects' East Bay Chapter, Oakland Design Advocates, the City of Oakland and A.C. Transit. The competition jury will include two architects, a landscape architect and representatives from the City and A.C. Transit. Construction funding is expected to come from city tax increments.



Latham Square is at the base of the Cathedral Building, at the gore of Broadway and Telegraph Ave.

■ CATHEDRAL BUILDING ALMOST PAINTED BLUE

Cathedral Building owners in September attempted to paint the first floor terra cotta entry a dark blue. The building is in a design review zone and is a city landmark. Exterior changes for any such building require a design review permit from the City Planning Department. The owners were not aware of this requirement. They had wanted to paint the terra cotta due to its deteriorated condition. Work was stopped and paint already applied was removed after Steve Costa of The Bay Area Partnership saw the painting in progress and called OHA president Leslie Flint. Flint called the City Planning Department, which asked that the work be stopped. The Planning Department has encouraged the owners to have the terra cotta cleaned instead.

■ REPORT ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN RELEASED.

At a joint meeting in June the City Planning Commission and Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board asked City Planning staff to prepare a report on adding an historic preservation element to the Oakland Comprehensive Plan. They also asked the staff to conduct a workshop for downtown developers and property owners on the city's historic preservation goals. The staff has released the report for consideration at the Commission's November 9 meeting. It concludes that while an Historic Preservation Element might be desirable, many of the issues to be addressed could be more comprehensively analyzed in the upcoming Central District Development Program (CDDP) (see Summer, 1983 OHA News). The staff feel much of what the workshop might accomplish would also be achieved through the public review of the CDDP's historic preservation proposals.

OHA's directors have expressed concern that relying on the CDDP would focus attention on downtown preservation issues, while virtually ignoring neighborhoods. In addition, they insisted that preservation policies should be developed independently



and incorporated, where appropriate, into the CDDP.

In August, OHA sent a letter to the Planning Department supporting the historic preservation element concept and offering volunteer assistance in preparing the element.



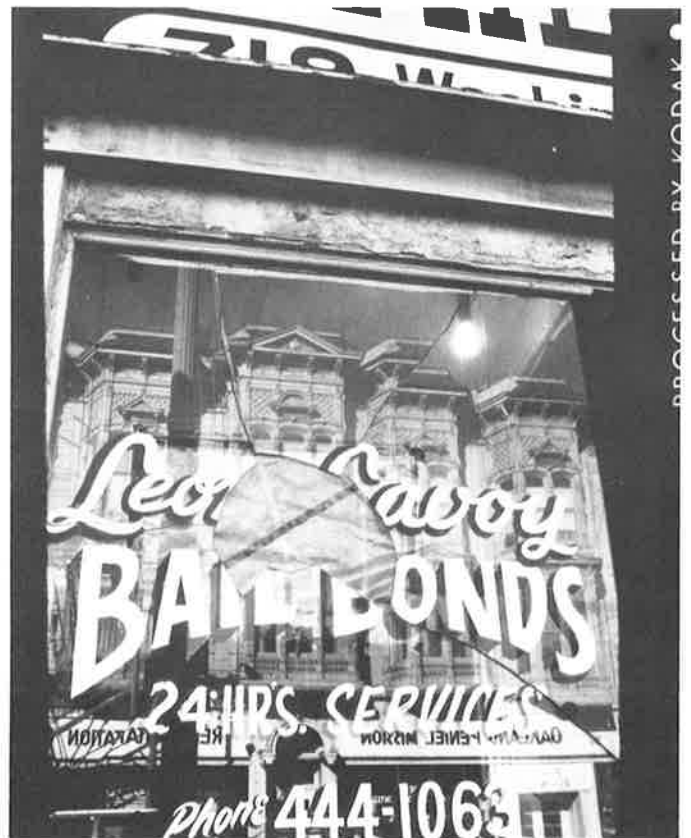
Old Oakland's developers Storek and Storek have begun rehabilitation of the Henry House at 476 9th Street. The building was constructed as a hotel by A.C. Henry, one of Oakland's leading 19th century bankers. The Storeks plan to develop the structure as a "European Style" hotel.

■ STOREFRONT MUSEUM FUNDING CONTINUED

The Oakland Museum's unique Storefront Museum has obtained funds to continue its innovative exhibits for another year. The Storefront Museum hosted more than 10,000 visitors in its first year, featuring exhibits on local themes. The museum is



"Focus on Old Oakland, 1973-1983," features outstanding color photographs by Richard Nagler. At The Storefront Museum, 9th & Washington Sts., Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., through December 23. Photographer Nagler notes that Victorian Row "shows an atmosphere of great tension and drama." "Buildings can be renovated and preserved for future generations; people can't be. Only their image can be preserved."



under the creative direction of curator Irina Barnes.

The current show, "Focus on Old Oakland, 1973-1983," runs through December 23. Upcoming exhibits will showcase Gertrude Stein and traditional Chinese medicine.

The "Oakland Briefing" column is prepared by the OHA Preservation Action Committee, which meets the third Monday of each month. If you would like to help monitor critical developments in Oakland, please call Carolyn Douthat, 763-5370. □

Oakland Landmarks Board Actions

■ JULY

Recommended approval of wheelchair ramps to be installed at Charles S. Greene Library at 659 14th Street and of memorial plaque to be installed at Old Greek Orthodox Church at 928 Castro Street. Heard presentations by Gary Knecht, Cultural Heritage Survey Coordinator and OHA board member on status of the Cultural Heritage Survey and OHA's Cohen House project (see article on page 1). Commended retiring Boardmember Lloyd Barron on his many years of service to the Board since its creation in 1974; Barron was the last of the Board's original members.

■ AUGUST

Elected Chris Pattillo as Board Chairperson for 1983-84 and Jean Spees as Vice-chairperson. Recommended approval of fence and exterior alterations to the Hume-Willcutt House at 918 18th Street. Received letter from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission requesting landmark designation for Harrison, Jefferson, Lafayette and Lincoln Squares; noted threats posed to Lafayette Square by proposed cogeneration facility and to Harrison square by proposed Housing project (see Briefing); the Board directed that a letter be sent to the City Council opposing the Lafayette Square cogeneration facility and agreed to pursue the landmark designations.

■ SEPTEMBER

Discussed 13 buildings, located mostly in downtown Oakland, as possible landmarks; heard opposition on requests for deferral from owners of five of these: the Athenian-Nile Club at 14th and Franklin Streets, Swan's Market at 10th and Washington Streets, the Howden Building at 17th and Webster Streets, the Asian Resource Center at 8th and Harrison Streets, and the Southern Pacific Depot at 16th and Wood Streets; agreed to continue discussion of the proposed designations at later meetings. Reviewed history prepared by Sister Ethel Mary Tinnemann of the original 1853 town squares; heard presentations by Michael Kaplan of the City's Office of Economic Development and Employment on the Lafayette Square cogeneration facility and by Lynette Lee of the East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation on the Harrison Square housing proposal; the Board reaffirmed its previous opposition to the cogeneration facility, voted to oppose using Harrison Square for the housing project and voted to proceed with landmark designation for the Lafayette, Jefferson, Harrison, and Lincoln Squares. □



On Sunday October 30th, this Queen Anne house was moved from its original location on Dimond Ave. to a new home in Preservation Park where there are now 12 structures awaiting rehabilitation.



OHA Calendar

The OHA Calendar lists events, activities, and meetings related to history and preservation that may be of interest to OHA members. To submit items for listing, contact Dean M. Yabuki, 842 Grosvenor Place, Oakland, California 94610, (415) 893-1278, or Annalee Allen, (415) 654-6791. The deadline for the February - April 1984 Calendar is Tuesday, January 3rd.

Upcoming Activities

Continuing through Thursday 1 December

The Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915. Lowie Museum exhibit on the anthropological history of world's fairs, highlighting the 1915 fair in San Francisco. Lowie Museum of Anthropology, Kroeber Hall, U.C. Berkeley. \$1.00/adult, 25¢/child or senior. Hours: MTuThF 10am-4:30pm, SatSun Noon-4:30pm. Contact Lowie Museum. 642-3681.

Continuing through Friday 23 December

Focus on Old Oakland, 1973-1983: Changing Face of Old Oakland. Storefront Museum exhibit of Richard Nagler photographs. Storefront Museum, 9th & Washington Sts., Oakland. Free. M-F 11am-4pm. Contact Storefront Museum, 273-3402.

Continuing through Friday 30 December

Wootton Patent Desks: A Place For Everything and Everything In Its Place. Oakland Museum exhibit of 19th-century office furniture. Special History Gallery, Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. Free. Contact Oakland Museum, 273-3402.

Continuing through Friday 30 December

Lincoln Child Center 100th Anniversary Exhibit. Oakland History Room, Oakland Main Library, 125 14th St., Oakland. Free. Hours: TuTh Noon-8:30pm, WF 10am-5:30pm. Contact Oakland History Room, 273-3222.

Continuing through Sunday 15 January

California Counterpoint: New West Coast Architecture. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art exhibit of 40 models and 70 drawings of 10 California architects. Museum of Modern Art, Van Ness Ave. & McAllister St., San Francisco. TuWF 10am-6pm., Th10am-10pm, SatSun 10am-5pm. \$3.00/adult, \$1.50/senior or child. Contact Museum of Modern Art, 863-8800.

Wed 23 Nov - Sat 31 Dec

Arthur Brown Jr. Drawings. Philippe Bonnafont Gallery exhibit of 35 drawings highlighting Brown's career. Philippe Bonnafont Gallery, 2200 Mason St., San Francisco. Tu-Sat 10:30am-5:30pm. Free.

Thursday 24 November

Flying Colors: Downtown Oakland Flag Design Competition Registration Deadline. Bay Area Partnership. Two \$500 awards, 22 \$200 awards. All participants must register by sending their name, address, phone number, and \$10.00 entry fee to: Bay Area Partnership, 337 17th Street, Oakland, CA, 94612. Contact Laura Elliott, 763-8447.

Thursdays 1 Dec - 19 Jan 7:00-9:30pm

Berkeley History: Town and Gown. Charles Wollenberg, Historian. Vista College short-term

class. Jewish Community Center, Room 14, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. Free. Register at first class meeting. Contact Vista College, 841-8431.

Sat 3 - Sun 11 Dec 10:00am-9:00pm

13th Annual Christmas at Dunsmuir House. Tour of house and gardens. Dunsmuir House, 2960 Peralta Court, Oakland. Reservations required. \$6.00/person, \$5.00/senior, \$2.00/child. Contact Dunsmuir House, 763-1066.

Sat 3 Dec 10am-Noon & 1:30-3:30pm

Potrero Hill History Walking Tours. Charles Fracchia, Historian. S.F. Community College District. Meet at the Potrero Hill Branch Library, 20th St. between Connecticut/Arkansas Sts., San Francisco. Free. Contact Galileo-Marina Community College Center, 931-3595.

Sundays 4, 11, 18 Dec 3:00-7:00pm

Whittier Mansion Holiday Teatime Concerts. San Francisco Conservatory of Music. California Historical Society Docent Association. House tour, refreshments, and holiday music. Whittier Mansion, 2090 Jackson St., San Francisco. Reservations required. \$7.00/person. Contact CHS, 567-1848.

Thurs 8 Dec 7:30pm

Camron-Stanford House Holiday Reception. Camron-Stanford House Preservation Association. Camron-Stanford, 1418 Lakeside Dr. at 14th St., Oakland. RSVP. Free. Contact Camron-Stanford House, 836-1976.

Fri 9 Dec 6:30-9:30pm

California Historical Society Holiday Gala. CHS. Whittier Mansion, 2090 Jackson St., San Francisco. Reservations Required. \$8.00/CHS member, \$10/general public. Contact CHS, 567-1848.

Fri 9 Dec 7:30pm

Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association Auction and Holiday Party. BAHA. Held at a Gutterson House. Reservations required. \$3.00. Contact BAHA, 845-6591 (weekday afternoons).

Sat 10 Dec 10am-Noon & 1:30-3:30pm

Mission Dolores and Mission District History Walking Tours. Charles Fracchia, Historian. S.F. Community College District. Meet in front of Mission Dolores, Dolores & 16th Sts., San Francisco. Free. Contact Galileo-Marina Community College Center, 931-3595.

Mid-December

Berkeley Historical Society Holiday Party. BHS Location TBA. Contact Stephanie Manning, 841-8562.

Thurs 15 Dec 5:30-8:00pm

OHA Christmas Party & Raffle. The festivities will take place at a 1911 Julia Morgan designed house. Includes book party for the new Oakland City Planning Department publication, Retrofit Right: How to Make Your Old House Energy Efficient, and raffle of dinners, books energy-saving accessories, etc. Retrofit Right will be available at the party for \$5.00; later to be sold to the public for \$7.95. Refreshments will be served. Prepaid reservations are required by Dec 10. Cost \$10. OHA members will be receiving a mailed invitation. Contact Leslie Flint, 658-4915.

Sat 17 Dec - Sat 11 Feb

Photographer of the American West. Oakland Museum exhibit of 19th-century photographs by Carleton



Watkins. Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak St., Oakland.
Contact Oakland Museum, 273-3402.

Sat 17 Dec 10am-Noon & 1:30-3:30pm
Sutro Heights and Land's End History Walking Tours. Charles Fracchia, Historian. S.F. Community College District. Meet in front of the Cliff House, Ocean Beach, San Francisco. Free. Contact, Galileo-Marina Community College Center, 931-3595.

Wed 18 Jan 7:30pm
Art Deco Interiors. Art Deco Society of California. Roosevelt Middle School, Arguello & Geary Sts., San Francisco. Free/ADSC member, \$2.00/general public. Contact Michael F. Crowe, 477-3843, or Deborah Keresztury, 383-3008 (evenings).

Thurs 19 - Sun 22 Jan
Successful Rehabilitation Seminars. National Park Service, National Trust, etc. Two parts, Unit 1: Rehabilitating According to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and Unit 2: Architectural Technology in the Conservation of Historic Buildings. \$275/unit, \$500/both. Pre-registration required. Contact Ann Faulkner, APT, Box 2487, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P, 5W6, (613) 238-1972.

Sun 22 Jan Noon-2:00pm
Pacific Heights Art Deco Apartment Buildings Walking Tour. Michael F. Crowe, Architectural Historian. Art Deco Society of California. Meet at the corner of Sacramento & Gough Sts., San Francisco. \$1.00/ADSC member, \$3.00/general public. In case of rain, tour is cancelled. Contact Michael F. Crowe, 477-3844, or Deborah Keresztury, 383-3008 (evenings).

Late January
Bay Area History on Film. Berkeley Historical Society. Location & cost TBA. Contact Ellen Drory, 849-3387.

Sun 29 Jan Noon-2:00pm
Uptown Oakland Art Deco Walking Tour. Dean Yabuki, Architectural Programmer. Art Deco Society of California and Uptown Friends. Meet in front of the Mary Bowles Building, 1718 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. \$1.00/ADSC, UF, or OHA member, \$3.00/general public. In case of rain, tour is cancelled. Contact Dean Yabuki, 893-1278, or Deborah Keresztury, 383-3008 (evenings).

February-March Tuesdays & Saturdays
Oakland History Courses. Sister Ethel Mary Tinnemann, Holy Names College. Six lectures (Tuesdays, 7-10pm), two tours (Saturdays). 19th Century Oakland History (February), 20th Century Oakland History (March); \$55 (1 unit), \$100 (2 units/both courses). Call 436-1508, 436-0111. Oakland History for the Oakland Tours Program coincides with the above classes. \$10 for six Tuesday meetings without credit. Register with Oakland Tours Program. Call Tricia Freitas, 273-3234.

Regularly Scheduled Tours

Oakland Tours Program. These regularly scheduled free walking tours of different areas of downtown are on winter break and will recommence in April 1984. Specially arranged tours are available upon

request. Tours directed toward school children are also available. For further information contact Tricia Freitas, Oakland Tours, 273-3234.

Camron-Stanford House. Free tours are offered Wednesdays 11am-4pm and Sundays 1-4pm. 1418 Lakeside Drive at 14th Street, Oakland, 836-1976.

Paramount Theatre. Tours are offered the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month, 10am. 2025 Broadway at 21st Street, Oakland. \$1.00. Meet promptly at the box office entrance on 21st Street, 893-2300.

Dunsmuir House. Tours are offered Sundays at 1, 2, and 3pm. For special holiday schedule see Upcoming Activities. 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. \$2.00. 562-7588.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Oakland Heritage Alliance. Board of Directors meet the 1st Monday of the month, 7:30pm. For location and agenda, please contact Jon Good, 531-5086. Preservation Action Committee meets third Monday of the month, 7:30pm. For location call Carolyn Douthat, 763-5370. Meetings are open to all interested parties.

Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. Usually meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 3:30pm, City Hall, Room 221, Washington & 14th Streets, Oakland. 273-3941 (in Dec. the Board is meeting on Wed 14 Dec).

Oakland City Planning Commission. The Commission is meeting on Wednesdays 23 Nov, 7, 21 Dec, and 11 Jan at 3:30pm, City Hall, Room 115, Washington & 14th Sts., Oakland. Contact the Oakland City Planning Department for agenda and revised schedule. 273-3941.

Oakland City Council. Meets every Tuesday, 7:30pm. City Hall, Council Chambers, Washington & 14th Steets., Oakland. 273-3266.

Oakland Design Advocates. Meets the 2nd Wednesday morning of the month, 7:30am, Tom Lovely's Restaurant, 336 Grand Avenue, Oakland. 893-6834.

New OHA Members

The Officers and Board of Directors of Oakland Heritage Alliance wish to welcome and thank all those concerned citizens who have shown their interest in Oakland's history and preservation by joining OHA. Between July 10 and October 1, OHA's new members are as follows:

Patricia Allen, Julie & Earl Barron, Tom & Margaret Bowman, Bridget Brewer/Rebecca Walden, Linda Cashion, Beverly Perl Davis, Kelly DeWitt, Charles & Lorelei DiSogra.

Minnie Eg, Judy & George Fleming, Suzanne M. Gleason, David & Stella Goodwin, Shirley A. Hoyer, Diane Joy/Henry P. Schroerluke.

Harlan & Esther Kessel, Virginia Leach, Jeffrey S. Leiter, Dr. Ann-si Li, Peggy MacLean, Scott & Elizabeth Mathieson, Guy Mayes, Dr. Knox Mellon.

Elizabeth Patelke, Mr. & Mrs. James W. Schubert, Deborah S. Shefler, Frank & Phyllis Stern, Joel Swisher, Christopher Thayer, Oraville Jane Tuttle, Albert Volz, Ilse Wasserman, and Page A. Yarwood.



Oakland Heritage Alliance, a California non-profit corporation since 1980, was formed to bring together community groups and individuals sharing an interest in the history of Oakland, and in the preservation and conservation of the city's archaeological, architectural, cultural, environmental, and historical resources. Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible.

OFFICERS 1983-84

President	Jon Good
Vice President	Edward Phillips
Financial Officer	Laura Niebling
Secretary	Carolyn Douthat

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Phillip Bellman (1982-84)	532-5788
Douglas Brookes (1983-85)	530-3638
Carolyn Douthat (1982-84)	763-5370
Leslie Flint (1983-85)	658-4915
Melinda Young Frye (1982-84)	763-1642
Jon Good (1983-85)	531-5086
Les Hausrath (1983-85)	428-2820
Bruce Judd (1983-85)	421-1680
Gary Knecht (1982-84)	893-9829
Sherrie Billig McLeod (1983-85)	527-8128
Laura Niebling (1982-84)	658-1933
Edward Phillips (1982-84)	465-9829



Oakland Heritage Alliance News © 1983
5569 Lawton Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618.

Editor: Phil Bellman

Contributors: Annalee Allen, Doug Brookes, Leslie Flint, Diane Judd, Gary Knecht, Daniel Krummes, Laura Niebling, William Sturm and Dean Yabuki

Production: Kati Johnson and Lucia Hopper

OHA News is funded in part by a grant from the California Tamarack Foundation.

OHA Update

■ The OHA Board of Directors welcomes two new board members, Sherrie Billig McLeod and Les Hausrath. Sherrie has volunteered with the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey and has led summer walking tours. She is a second-generation Oaklander and works as an attorney in San Francisco. Les is an active member of OHA's Preservation Action Committee. He too is an attorney and works with Wendel, Lawlor, Rosen & Black, one of Oakland's oldest law firms.

■ More than 100 OHA members and friends feasted on a marathon, family-style Italian dinner at the OHA Annual Meeting & Dinner. Held October 20 at the Fratellanza Club in Oakland, the meeting featured Marc Herbert, Assistant Director of City Planning, speaking on Oakland's landmarks program. Elected to the OHA Board of Directors were Douglas Brookes, Leslie Flint, Jon Good, Les Hausrath, Bruce Judd, and Sherrie Billig McLeod.


Congratulations to meeting coordinator Ed Phillips for a fun, festive evening, and thanks to Marc Herbert for an especially informative presentation!

■ OHA sponsored a fascinating lecture in September and tour in October featuring The Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve and the East Bay Regional Parks' efforts to preserve, restore, and interpret the abandoned mines and townsites in rural Contra Costa County. More than 35 people ventured underground with Park Director John Waters to view the unique restoration of a 1930's sand mine and 1860's coal mine, soon to be a museum of California's mining history. Naturalist Traci Gibbons conducted a tour of the Somersville townsite and the Rosehill Cemetery and related fascinating tales from the area's oral history. The program is OHA's first to focus outside Oakland, and serves to integrate Oakland's history with that of the greater Oakland area. John and Traci also provided a most informative illustrated lecture at OHA's first evening program.



■ Membership cards have been printed and mailed to all OHA members except those who joined recently. If you have not received your membership card yet, please call Jon Good at 531-5086.

■ OHA Annual Financial Report:

 STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES OAKLAND HERITAGE ALLIANCE for the year ended June 30, 1983	
Revenues	
Membership Dues	\$3,130.00
Contributions	500.00
Landmarks Assistance Program donations & interest	612.43
Programs - receipts	450.00
Donations for Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey	900.00
1982 Preservation Conference - donations, etc.	811.26
Bagwell reception and raffle	2,175.00
Interest	387.34
Other	201.35
Total Revenues	\$9,167.58
Expenses	
Newsletter	\$4,496.15
Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey	760.59
Programs	922.12
Membership	224.51
Brochure	1,166.85
Landmarks Assistance Program	375.00
Preservation Action	514.32
Bagwell reception and raffle	1,573.68
Telephone	221.54
Other	450.23
Total Expenses	\$10,704.99
Total OHA Funds, as of June 30, 1983	
Checking Account - Bank of California	\$35.06
Merrill Lynch - money market fund	2,148.39
Dreyfus Fund - money market fund	3,965.08
Balance, 30 June 1983	\$6,948.53
Landmarks Assistance Program, Balance, 30 June 1983	\$3,772.43
Oakland Heritage Alliance, 5569 Lawton Avenue, Oakland, California 94618	

OHA Christmas Party & Raffle

Come celebrate the holidays in a 1911 Julia Morgan designed home!

The festive OHA Christmas Party and Raffle will take place Thursday evening, December 15th, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. The party will feature a sumptuous array of foods and libations including hors d'oeuvres from the Gulf Coast Oyster Bar! The Christmas Raffle will offer you a chance to win a luncheon at the Bay Wolf, a night at Gramma's, goodies from Cocolat, fine liquor and more!

For the second year in a row, OHA's Holiday Party will debut a new book: RETROFIT RIGHT: How to Make Your Old House Energy Efficient, sequel to the City Planning Department's very popular Rehab Right. An invaluable addition to the preservationist's library, Retrofit Right will be available for \$5.00 (regular price is \$7.95), and its authors from the City Planning Department, Sedway/Cooke, and SolArc will be available to answer your questions and perhaps even to autograph your book.

All of this for a donation of only \$10 per person! OHA members will receive a personal invitation and reservations must be received by December 10th. For further information, please call Leslie Flint, 658-4915.

Mark your calendar for December 15th, and join OHA members and friends in this enjoyable, annual celebration! □

Oakland Heritage Alliance, 5569 Lawton Avenue, Oakland, California 94618

JOIN OHA TODAY! Your annual tax-deductible membership dues include the OHA News and announcements of all OHA activities. Additional contributions and your active participation will make OHA a more effective organization.

Name _____ New Renewal
 Address _____ Change of Address only
 City, Zip _____ \$5 Senior/student/limited income (1 vote)
 Phone Numbers (H) _____ (W) _____ \$10 Individual (1 vote)
 I would like to serve on the following committee(s): Membership , Programs ,
 OHA News , Publicity , Landmark Nominations , Landmark Assistance ,
 Preservation Action , Summer Tours , Development, Fund Raising , other . \$15 Family (2 votes)
 \$25 Organization (1 vote) \$100 Sponsor (1 vote)
 \$ _____ Additional contribution

Oakland History Notes: The Tubbs Hotel

"This new and elegant hotel, situated in one of the most desirable localities, commanding a splendid view of the surrounding country and of the Bay, and having large and nicely laid out grounds, is now open for the reception of guests." So was announced, in 1872, the opening of one of Oakland's grandest and most opulent hostelryes, the Tubbs Hotel. Situated in the block area bounded by E. 12th, E. 14th Streets, 4th and 5th Avenues, the hotel was built by Hiram Tubbs, California pioneer and executive of the Tubbs Cordage Co. The 216-room structure afforded guests the bucolic pleasures of a rural retreat, the spirituous delights of a mahogany bar, and the Lucullian treats of a sumptuous banquet room. "It is par excellence the hotel for Tourists and Winter Visitors," puffed the "Oakland Enquirer," "though it has also long been a favorite with businessmen and their families, as it is only distant thirty-five minutes' travel by rail and boat from San Francisco..." Weary and disheveled passengers, detraining from the overland railroad at the 7th and Broadway station, could be connected directly to the hotel by the Tubbs' horsecar line.

The Tubbs Hotel was the scene of many lavish and festive social gatherings. An 1876 Centennial Charity Ball, sponsored by the Ladies' Aid Society, was "largely and



Photo courtesy of Oakland Public Library, Oakland History Room

fashionably attended." The hotel played host to such luminaries as Robert Louis Stevenson and a very, very young Gertrude Stein. It was one of Oakland's largest employers of blacks, hiring many as stewards and waiters.

On the evening of August 14, 1893, Mr. Tubbs' grand building succumbed to a blaze of Gotterdammerung proportions. That night Oakland lost one of its most singular and colorful buildings.

--William Sturm

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Oakland, California 94618

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