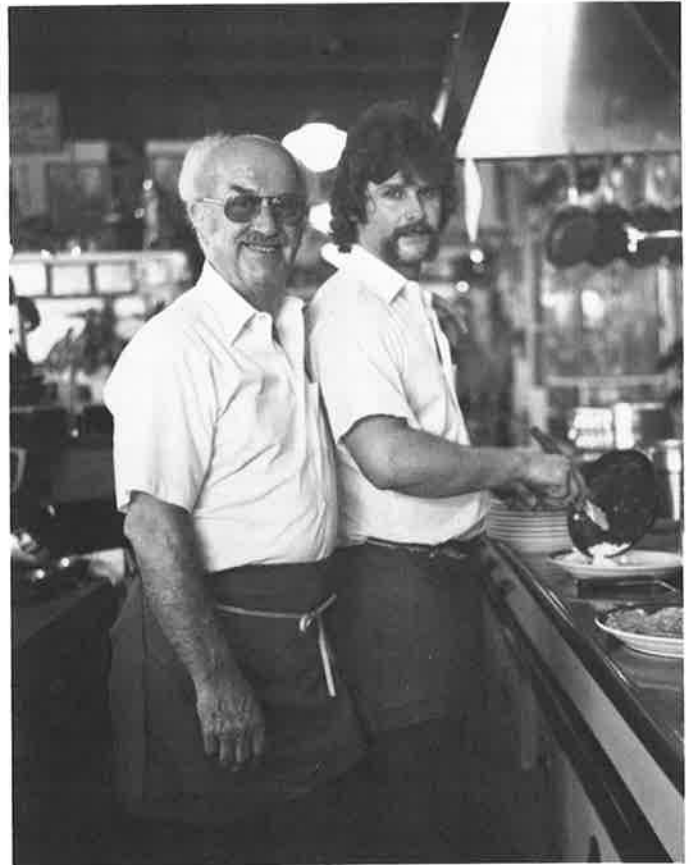


Nick & Gus' Grill Threatened by "Hotel Two"

"Every day is exciting" exclaims Lou Lekas, owner of Nick & Gus's Original Hole in the Wall Grill. "When I see a big line of people...that's exciting." Having begun his usual 14-hour day at 3 a.m., Lou talks enthusiastically about his community of customers and friends. "Every person is important whether they order just coffee or steak and eggs." As he hustles between the cash register and hash browns at the grill, he shouts a greeting to a customer coming in the door. He seems to know ALL their names. And they act like they have just dropped in at home for a bite to eat.

This unique social and culinary institution may soon be displaced by "Hotel Two," a development planned by the City of Oakland. Across the street from the convention center and Trans Pacific Centre, the proposed hotel would occupy almost the entire block bounded by 11th Street, 12th Street, Broadway and Franklin Street (see Spring 1984 *OHA News*). The project would retain only the 1100 Broadway building and would demolish all other structures including the Sessions Block building, home of Nick & Gus' for more than 75 years. The brick structure, located at the corner of 12th Street and Broadway, was built in 1871-72, originally an Italianate design.

The history of Nick & Gus' Original Hole in the Wall Grill is remarkable. James Lekas started the Kewpie Sweet Shoppe in 1909 at the same corner site. The candy store measured 8 feet deep and 28 feet wide - 224 square feet in all. James was soon joined by his cousin Gus Lekas and Nick Fifles. Friends since childhood, Nick and Gus had journeyed from Harake, Greece in 1910 to seek their fortunes in America. James sold the business to Nick and Gus in 1916 and an Oakland institution was established.



Lou Lekas and his son, Matt, carry on a 75-year-old Oakland institution, Nick & Gus' Original Hole in the Wall Grill. It is soon to be displaced by the City's proposed downtown hotel development.

In 1937, Nick and Gus remodeled the store to serve hot lunches from a small grill and a one-burner stove. They "expanded" to 12 feet by 24 feet - 288 square feet. Customers soon termed the place the "Hole in the Wall."

Today, Lou Lekas carries on Nick and Gus' legacy. Gus was his father and Nick was his godfather. Born into the business in 1925, Lou's entire life has involved the Hole in the Wall. After his father's death in 1947, Lou became a partner with▶

Nick. Now, Lou is joined in the business by his son, Matt, the third generation of Lekas at Nick & Gus'. Hundreds of photographs and artifacts at Nick & Gus' Grill tell the history of the Lekas family business.

Sadly, Nick & Gus' 75-year-old institution is threatened. With more than 10 years remaining on his lease, Lou has been served a 90-day notice to vacate by the City of Oakland. Condemnation proceedings have also begun against the owner of the building, Force Ltd. of Oakland, also a partner in the development of the new hotel.

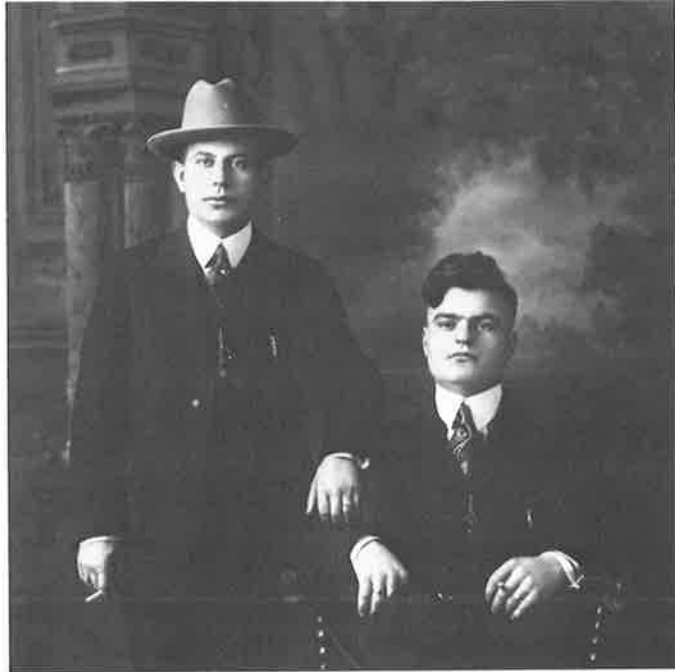
Lou is mistrustful of the City and fears the eviction and demolition will only lead to another stalled redevelopment project.

Over the years, Lou has watched the displacement of other neighboring businesses and the resulting unused vacant lots. He describes the City's approach to development as "burratic." Lou doesn't want his Hole in the Wall to become another City-owned hole in the ground.

Five years ago, Lou invested more than \$200,000 to remodel Nick & Gus', expanding to 2800 square feet. He was praised at the time by the City as an exemplary downtown business and was told he had made "the right investment in Oakland." On January 24, 1984, the City issued a resolution honoring Nick and Gus for their pioneering endeavors and honoring Lou for helping to revitalize downtown Oakland. On the same day, the City instituted the proceedings



Nick and Gus at their candy store in 1914. (Photo: Lou Lekas)



Nick Ffiles and Gus Lekas (godfather and father of Lou Lekas) emigrated from Greece in 1910 to seek their fortunes. They purchased the tiny Kewpie Sweet Shoppe at 12th St. & Broadway from Gus' cousin, James Lekas. In time, it became one of downtown Oakland's most popular and legendary eateries: Nick & Gus' Original Hole in the Wall Grill. (Photo: Lou Lekas)

inexpensive honest food draw regular patrons of all kinds - business and professional people, secretaries, construction workers - to this downtown landmark. Lou encourages them all to write the mayor and members of the city council - and help save part of Oakland's heritage. On the counter, a stack of bumper stickers express Lou's hope: "Nick & Gus - Since 1909...and forever!"

--Phil Bellman and Les Hausrath

Highland Hospital: 1920's Grand Architecture and Model Health Care

Standing on an imposing elevation at Fourteenth Avenue and Vallecito Place is the new Highland Hospital, the greatest monument to the Alameda County plan and the far-seeing policy of the east bay county authorities.¹

--San Francisco Chronicle
November 12, 1923.

Highland Hospital, the first public hospital in Alameda County, opened for business in 1926, some 16 years after discussions about a county hospital began. Prior to its construction, Alameda County operated no acute care facility. Public medical care was offered at the County Farm, a ramshackle collection of buildings located on the present site of Fairmont Hospital, and was available only for the "sick poor," the aged and infirm.

In 1910 the County Board of Supervisors began discussing the need for a county hospital, prompted by the rapid population growth of Alameda County following the San Francisco fire and earthquake of 1906. A \$500,000 bond issue for construction of a hospital failed in the election of 1911, but planning continued. A citizens advisory committee, formalized as the County Institutions Committee, developed a county-wide plan for health care facilities and in 1917 a search began for a hospital site.▶

which are resulting in the eviction of Nick & Gus' from its present location.

The City has expressed a desire to help relocate Nick & Gus', but the proposed sites all seem pretty bleak and far away to Lou. He would prefer to remain near his customers and friends on Broadway. Acknowledging his fate, Lou has expressed interest in the nearby 1100 Broadway building, but, as yet, has received no reply to his inquiries. And the relocation settlement offered by the City, Lou says, won't even begin to offset his lost investment.

The warm atmosphere, the Lekas tradition, Lou's friendly welcome and the



The County Farm buildings provided the only public medical care in the county prior to the construction of Highland. These buildings were replaced by Fairmont Hospital as part the Alameda County Plan. (Photo: Oakland History Room, Oakland Public Library)

The plan involved development of three institutions: a modern hospital for the care of the acute sick; an infirmary to be built at the County Farm for the care of permanent county wards, the incurable sick and the indigent aged; and a tubercular sanitarium near Livermore. A ten acre parcel in East Oakland, formerly the site of California College, was purchased for the hospital in 1917. The location, in the exact center of Alameda County's population, was considered ideal for the admission, cure and discharge of patients in the least possible time. Additional parcels were acquired to complete a fifteen acre parcel bordered by Vallecito Place, 14th Avenue and East 31st Street.

Actual construction was delayed until 1921 by the continuing problem of lack of funding. The wartime economy and the failure of a bond issue in 1918 led the county to finance construction as general funds became available. Construction of the final buildings, the administration building and the power plant, was financed by a \$1,800,000 bond issue passed in 1924 after a heavy lobbying campaign.

Among the lobbyists was Henry W. Meyers, County Architect, who was responsible for the design of the complex. He had begun his career in San Francisco, with the firm of Percy & Hamilton, where he was responsible for the construction of the Kohl Building, the first steel frame building in that city. In 1902, he formed a partnership with Clarence Ward, and designed the Wells Fargo Building in San Francisco, several churches in Alameda, and institutional and office buildings throughout Northern California. He was County Architect from 1914 until 1936, and during that time designed the Posey Tube, the county Veterans Memorial buildings, Alameda County Coroner's Office and several schools.

Meyers' task was to design a hospital which would fulfill the great expectations of the Board of Supervisors and to do so without an equally great cost. Highland was to provide not only hospital care for the poor, but also for those who might "not feel like paying the full rates charged at privately owned institutions." The hospital was "to rank among the great institutions of the United States as a place for the treatment of all manner of diseases and for the most difficult of surgical operations."² The county hoped to remove the stigma attached to going to a county hospital by offering



View of the main entrance and front elevation of the Highland Hospital complex shortly after its dedication in 1926.



the most up-to-date care in impressive surroundings. The name Highland was chosen both as descriptive of the site, and to further "elevate" the image of the hospital in the minds of county residents.

Meyers succeeded in carrying out his task. The complex is dramatically sited on 14th Avenue, with sweeping entrance drives flanking two grand staircases, which are far larger and more dramatic than would be required for any functional use. The design of the exterior was, in Meyers' words, "taken from the old Cathedrals of Mexico." The Spanish Baroque style had been popularized by Bertrand Goodhue's buildings at the 1915 World's Fair in San Diego and was especially suitable for a large institutional building.



Detail of a fountain in one of the courtyards flanking the administration building, part of the park-like grounds designed to encourage patients' speedy recovery.



The main facade of the administration building, completed in 1925, is the most elaborately detailed of the complex.

As completed, the complex consisted of five ward buildings, a service building, nurses quarters, a power plant, and the administration building. The plans called for an additional three wards along Vallecito which were never constructed. In keeping with the progressive medical philosophy of the day, the complex was designed to maximize the amount of sunlight and fresh air in the wards - each of the ward buildings contains a rooftop solarium, courtyards separate each of the wards, and the grounds are extensively landscaped to provide a pleasant open air environment for recuperating patients.

Generally the interior spaces of the complex are rather simple, with the exception of the very grand entrance hall. This reception area is elaborately detailed with marble inlaid floors, wainscoting and columns, brass grillwork and chandeliers, and vaulted ceilings. The administration building is the most important of the complex and the most ►

dramatic. The grand staircases lead to a large public plaza in front of the entry facade which is flanked by twin towers in the ecclesiastical style. On either side of the plaza are landscaped courtyards bordered by stands of mature trees. The cost of the complex, including the land, was \$3,000,000.

Urging passage of the bond issue for completion of the complex, Meyer wrote: "It has been the aim of the architect...to break away from the customary monotony and dreariness of the average hospital building and to design in a style that will be pleasing and interesting, and that may in itself be a factor in the health restoring activities of the institution...The surrounding grounds in and around the various buildings will be planted in shrubbery and lawns in a manner to emphasize and adorn the architectural features, so that each of the courts adjoining the wards be attractive and a joy to the patients...By reasonable care in the upkeep, Highland Hospital should be practically as sound in 100 years as it is the day of completion."³

The landscape architect chosen to complete this design was Howard Gilkey. Gilkey began his horticultural career in Santa Rosa, working in the nurseries of Luther Burbank from 1907 until 1909. While attending the University of California at Berkeley, he worked with Cal Purdy on the Pan Pacific Exposition in the horticultural garden and the Palace of Horticulture. He was landscape architect for the City of Oakland for two years, and in the course of that time laid out the design of the City Hall Plaza flower beds, portions of Lakeside Drive and several small city parks. Once in private practice, he took on a wide variety of landscaping jobs, among them Woodminster (located in Joaquin Miller Park), the Cascade Steps at Lake Merritt, portions of Mills College, St. Mary's college at Moraga, the Piedmont Schools, and several private residential developments.

"It was said that Howard would not hesitate to accept a commission to



A terra-cotta inscription marks the patients entry into the corridors of the administration building, elaborate enough to dispel any stigma attached to going to a public hospital.

landscape Heaven...and while there were times when one could, figuratively, wring his neck with good grace, he was so fantastic, in the sense that he was unbelievably great, one was awed by his talents."⁴

The landscape which Gilkey designed to complement Meyers' gracious and imposing complex now stands in maturity. Banks of conifers line the entrance drives, and within the grounds are found many specimen

plantings which are seen in few other places in the Bay Area. A wide variety of palms, cedars, cypress, and yews are found surrounding the courtyards and main plaza. As a whole, the grounds have the character of a park, providing one of the few open spaces in the vicinity and offering visual respite from the urban scene.

In the years following its opening in 1926, Highland Hospital and the Alameda County Plan were widely noted as an example of the latest in public health care. In 1930, the director general of the American College of Surgeons pronounced Highland the "most complete and marvelous" hospital which he had encountered on a nationwide tour.

In 1967, the present hospital facility, fronting on East 31st Street, was constructed. Designed by Ratcliff Architects, it was intentionally situated on an axis with the old administration building in order to integrate with the view of the old complex from the 14th Avenue entrance. At the time of its construction, the nurses quarters were demolished, and a parking structure erected on Vallecito Place. Much of the original complex is no longer used, although several of the ward buildings have been strengthened and refurbished for out-patient uses. The main administration building is partially used for administrative services on the ground floor.

--Carolyn Douthat

1. "Hospital Site at Center of Population," San Francisco Chronicle, December 16, 1923.
2. Ibid.
3. "Highland Hospital Plans told by County Architect," Oakland Tribune, May 4, 1924.
4. "Howard Gilkey and the California Spring Garden Shows," Arthur Navlet, Pacific Horticulture, October, 1976, p. 27.

The author wishes to thank Kirk Peterson, A.I.A., for his help with architectural description and plant identification.

Treasure Island's Mainland: Oakland at the 1939-40 World's Fair

The 1939-40 Golden Gate International Exposition entered history as the San Francisco World's Fair. But Oakland put on a show, too, both before and during the Exposition.

Oakland civic and business leaders organized early to prepare for the fair. From its headquarters in the Financial Center Building, the Alameda and Contra Costa Counties' finance Committee raised enough money to let San Francisco know "that this side of the bay is not seeking a free ride." In the meantime, the Metropolitan Oakland/Alameda and Contra Costa Counties Exposition Committee planned the East Bay exhibits at the fair. The Committee capped their effort with the "39er Ball" at the Oakland Auditorium in June, 1938. Ballgoers danced to Ozzie▶



One of many souvenirs available at the Exposition - ashtrays, notepads, and decals like this one promoted attendance at the fair. (Photo: Treasure Island Museum)

Nelson's orchestra while fireworks over Lake Merritt heralded the winning suggestion in naming the fair's fun zone: "The Gayway--the Gayest Time since '49."

Oakland continued to gear up for opening day, February 18, 1939. Publicity hounds planned a swim race from Oakland to Treasure Island. The city launched clean-up campaigns, planted flowers, widened streets, and laid out self-guided tours to sites from Mission San Jose to U.C. Berkeley. The auditorium expected the greatest convention year ever, while hoteliers smiled on their brisk bookings. "Oakland - the Host of the Coast" organized housing bureaus and lured motorists with "Tepee Villages, using hundreds of modern heated and streamlined Indian Tepees." The port crowed that "middlewesterners will flock to the waterfront."

The Police Department appointed Fair Theme Girl Zoe Dell Lantis its honorary Chief. Zoe Dell then donned her pirate outfit to inaugurate air service between



Chic pirate Zoe Dell Lantis, the most photographed girl of 1939, enticed visitors from around the country to attend the fair at Treasure Island. (Photo: Treasure Island Museum)



In the Alameda-Contra Costa building, designed by county supervisors, visitors could view depictions of life in Alameda County, or see revolving models of the county's points of interest. (Photo: Treasure Island Museum)

Oakland and Seattle, with the airline promising that every flight would circle Treasure Island for a view of the fair. The town went Western for Fiesta Week, with saloon-front facades along Grand Avenue, gussied-up streetcars, and tasseled Spanish hats on the salesladies at Woolworth's.

But the biggest bash came the night before Opening Day. Mayor McCracken hosted a dinner at the Hotel Oakland for local mayors and beauty queens. After dessert the group piled into their Key System Elephant Train (the sightseeing van at the fair) to head the Exposition Parade up Broadway. When the last float had passed, fireworks in "Treasure Island themes" heightened the anticipation of the fair's opening. Those with invitations then flocked to the costume ball at the Oakland Auditorium to crown Miss Metropolitan Oakland and ogle Hollywood celebrities Robert Young, Chester Morris, and Irene Hervey. The ball closed with the Whiskerino Contest, in which the Oaklander with the longest beard won an electric razor.

The following morning, the Exposition opened to fair weather. Oaklanders could drive to the island, take the Key System's



special "X" (for Exposition) trains from downtown, or hop aboard the last Key System ferries to operate from Oakland for the 9-minute crossing under the Bay Bridge.

At the Alameda/Contra Costa Building - designed by the counties' supervisors - gardens, murals, and statues depicted life in Alameda County. The building's 80-foot-long map of the county drew in the crowds: at the push of a button, a point of interest lit up while the scale model of it revolved.

Those inspired by the map could learn more of Oakland in other displays at the fair. Oakland Airport offered the "oldest airplane in California" and maps of the airport terminal. Oakland firms such as the Breuner Company and the California Conserving Company featured special demonstrations at the Metropolitan Oakland Area Industrial Booth. The East Bay fine arts found their place in the California College of Arts and Crafts exhibit at the Palace of Electricity. Miss Oakland did her bit by posing in the altogether - for serious sketching - in the Gayway.

On Oakland Day, May 29, 1939, "...Treasure Island's mainland took over its insular possession." Schools closed for the day as Oaklanders flocked to the fair, including hundreds of needy children who arrived as the guests of Oakland individuals and organizations. Oakland's

combined junior high school chorus serenaded the throngs when vice-mayor T.W. Fitzsimmons accepted the post of Mayor of Treasure Island. Oakland groups presented puppet shows and sports events while the Junior High Symphony played, the Senior High girls danced, the R.O.T.C. marched, and 1200 schoolchildren staged their pageant, "Spring in Sherwood Forest." That evening, the Fair Commission honored Oaklanders with a ballroom dance that featured Miss Oakland as queen of the fete.

Throughout the fair, Oakland touted its virtues and sold its wares. Newspaper ads urged businessmen to remember Oakland's port, once they returned home. The Leamington Hotel claimed its guests could reach Treasure Island in 10 minutes. And of course, "...after Treasure Island, you'll want to see H.C. Capwell's."

Official ads enticed visitors to move to Oakland; the city wanted to grow and increase its taxable wealth. Thus the Chamber of Commerce brochure depicted Oakland as the great residential and industrial area it was - throwing in for good measure views of Tahoe, Yosemite and Monterey as part of the greater metropolitan area.

Oakland's role in the Golden Gate Exposition, then, was colorful but small. The fair was plainly San Francisco's show. Even Oakland's Post-Enquirer referred to "the San Francisco Fair." The East Bay's attempt to name it the San Francisco Bay Fair never caught on.

In spite of the careful planning, Oakland did not benefit from the Exposition. As the fair closed in 1940, war raged in Europe. The time for peaceful change passed with the maelstrom which soon overtook Oakland along with the rest of the world. The city would certainly change, but not in the gradual and progressive manner envisioned by the Fair Committee.



A transfer for the Key System's special "X" trains which ran during the fair from downtown Oakland to Treasure Island. (Photo: Treasure Island Museum)

--Doug Brookes



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, CA 94610, 893-1278, or Annalee Allen, 654-6791. The deadline for the October-January Calendar is Tuesday, September 4th.

Upcoming Activities

Continuing through Friday 24 August

Latham Square Design Contest Winners. Exhibit of winning designs for the improvement of Latham Square triangle (Telegraph Ave. & Broadway) & the street level facade of the Cathedral Bldg. On view at the East Bay Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, 315 14th St., Oakland. Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm, M-F. Free. Contact 893-6834.

Sun 29 July 1:30-3:30pm

Uptown Oakland Art Deco Terra Cotta Walking Tour. Dean Yabuki, architectural programmer, and Sharon Moore, architectural guide. Art Deco Society of California and Friends of Terra Cotta. Oakland's Distinctive 1920's-1930's retail/entertainment district has one of the finest collections of Art Deco and terra cotta buildings on the West Coast. Meet in front of the Mary A. Bowles Building, 1718 Telegraph Ave., below 18th St., Oakland. Near 19th St. BART station. No reservations required. \$1/ADSC or FOTC member, \$3/general public. Cancelled in case of rain. Contact ADSC, 552-DECO.

Wed 1 Aug - Fri 12 Oct

The Grand Hotels of Oakland: 1852-1912. Exhibit at Oakland History Room, Oakland Public Library (2nd Floor), 14th & Oak Sts., Oakland. Free. Hours: TuTh noon-8:30pm, WF 10am-5:30pm. Contact Oakland History Room, 273-3222.

Fri 3 Aug 9:00am-5:00pm

State Historical Resources Commission Hearing. This quarterly meeting of the State Commission includes the Chamborge Apartments National Register Nomination. Monterey Conference Center, One Portola Plaza, Monterey. Open to the public. Contact State Office for Historic Preservation, (916) 445-8006.

Sat 4 Aug 10am-noon & 1:30pm-3:30pm

Pacific Heights History Walking Tour. Charles Fracchia, historian. S.F. Community College District. Meet at Lafayette Park, corner of Washington & Gough Sts., San Francisco. Free. Contact Galileo Center, 931-3595.

Saturdays & Sundays 4 Aug - 2 Sept 1:30-3:30pm

Oakland Neighborhood Walking Tours. Oakland Heritage Alliance's 4th Annual Series of Summer Tours. For information on each of the 10 walking tours see items below or special summer tours schedule. Contact Dean Yabuki, OHA Tours Coordinator, 893-1278, or Ed Phillips, OHA Program Chair, 465-9829.

Sat 4 Aug 1:30-3:30pm

Rose Garden Neighborhood Walking Tour. Joanne Hausler. OHA and Rose Garden Neighborhood Preservation Association. Meet at the corner of

Monte Vista Ave. & Vernon St., Oakland. \$2.00/OHA member, \$3.50/general public. Cancelled in case of rain.

Sun 5 Aug 1:30-3:30pm

Lakeshore/Trestle Glen Walking Tour. Debra Shefler and Dean Yabuki. OHA. Meet in front of the Lakeview Branch Library, El Embarcadero at Grand Ave., Oakland. \$2.00/OHA member, \$3.50/general public. Cancelled in case of rain.

Sat 11 Aug 1:30-3:30pm

Brooklyn Neighborhood Walking Tour. Carolyn Douthat and Darby Brandli, Brooklyn/Clinton Park survey coordinators. OHA. Meet in the parking lot of St. James Episcopal Church, 12th Ave. & Foothill Blvd., Oakland. \$2.00/OHA member, \$3.50/general public. Cancelled in case of rain.

Sun 12 Aug 1:30-3:30pm

Mountain View Cemetery Walking Tour. Barbara Smith, history docent, and Michael F. Crowe, architectural historian. OHA. The tour will discuss some of the cemetery's prominent residents and explore monument design and its symbolism. Meet in front of the Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. \$2.00/OHA member, \$3.50/general public. This is a hilly walk. Wear comfortable shoes. Cancelled in case of rain.

Sat 18 Aug 1:30-3:30pm

Mills College Walking Tour. Aaron Gallup, architectural historian, and Dean Yabuki, architectural programmer. OHA. Meet inside the Mills College campus entrance, MacArthur Blvd. at Richard Rd., Oakland. \$2.00/OHA member, \$3.50/general public. Cancelled in case of rain.

Sun 19 Aug noon-2:00pm

Pacific Heights Art Deco Apartment Buildings Walking Tour. Michael F. Crowe, architectural historian. Art Deco Society of California. The new desirability of apartment living in the 1930's produced these fine examples in gracious living. Meet at Lafayette Park, corner of Sacramento & Gough Sts., San Francisco. No reservations required. \$1/ADSC member, \$3/general public. Cancelled in case of rain. Contact ADSC, 552-DECO.

Sun 19 Aug 1:30-3:30pm

Temescal Neighborhood Walking Tour. Sharon Moore, architectural guide. OHA. Meet in front of Vern's, corner of Telegraph Ave. & 51st St., Oakland. \$2.00/OHA member, \$3.50/general public. Cancelled in case of rain.

Sat 25 Aug 1:30-3:30pm

Fernwood Walking Tour. Ed Phillips, city planner. OHA. Meet at the corner of Fernwood Dr. & Mountain Blvd., Oakland. \$2.00/OHA member, \$3.50/general public. Cancelled in case of rain.

Sun 26 Aug 1:30-3:30pm

Oakland Civic Center Walking Tour. Nona Hamilton, history guide, and Sharon Moore, architectural guide. OHA. Meet in front of the Camron-Stanford House, 1418 Lakeside Dr. at 14th St., Oakland. \$2.00/OHA member, \$3.50/general public. Cancelled in case of rain.

Thurs 30 Aug 8:00pm

History of Berkeley's Sidewalks: Early Cement Contractors and their Sidewalk Trademarks. Ken Duffy. Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association. Shattuck Apartments Living Room, 2322 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Free/BAHA members &





- guests. Contact BAHA, 845-6591 (weekday afternoons).
- Sat 1 Sept 1:30-3:30pm
Oak Center Neighborhood Walking Tour. Ed Novak, architectural designer. OHA. Meet in front of the De Fremery House, De Fremery Park, 18th & Adeline Sts., Oakland. \$2.00/OHA member, \$3.50/general public. Cancelled in case of rain.
- Sun 2 Sept 1:30-3:30pm
Lakeside Neighborhood Walking Tour. Leslie Flint, curator. OHA. Meet in front of the Camron-Stanford House, 1418 Lakeside Dr. at 14th St., Oakland. \$2.00/OHA member, \$3.50/general public. Cancelled in case of rain.
- Wed 19 Sept 7:30pm
Clothes Design of the Art Deco Era. Art Deco Society of California. ADSC's 2nd Annual Fashion Show includes beaded gowns, day dresses, jewelry and men's wear. Jewish Community Center, California & Presidio, San Francisco. Space limited, arrive early. \$2/ADSC member, \$5/general public. Contact ADSC 552-DECO.
- Late September
Seismic Retrofit. Leon Sugarman, architect, and Peter Cullay, architect, Western Chapter Association for Preservation Technology. St. Joseph's Hospital Chapel, Buena Vista Ave. East (across from Buena Vista Park), San Francisco. \$1/APT member, \$2/general public. Contact David Look, W. Chap. APT President, 556-7741.
- Sun 23 Sept noon-2:00pm
South of Market Art Deco Hike. Michael F. Crowe, architectural historian. Art Deco Society of California. San Francisco's South of Market offers an unusual mix of commercial buildings in style and ornament. See for yourself on this new art deco walking tour. Held in conjunction with the Folsom St. Fair (Folsom St. between 7th & 11th Sts.). Meet in front of the Western Furniture Mart Building, Market & 9th Sts., San Francisco. No reservations required. \$1/ADSC member, \$3/general public. Cancelled in case of rain. Contact ADSC, 552-DECO.
- Sun 23 Sept noon-5:00 pm
Oakland Preservation Fair. Camron-Stanford House Preservation Association. Camron-Stanford House, 1418 Lakeside Dr. at 14th St., Oakland. Free. Interested exhibitors should contact Annalee Allen, 654-6791. For further information contact C-S House, 836-1976.
- Sun 23 Sept 1:00-3:30 and 2:30-5:00
Victorian Ice Cream Social at the Cohen House. Benefit to celebrate the 100th year of the Alfred H. Cohen House, an Oakland landmark. Includes musical entertainment, refreshments and house tours. Hosted by the Cohen Family and the Oakland Museum Association Council on Architecture. \$12.50 until Sept 12, \$15.00 thereafter and at the door. Send reservation with time desired and check to Council on Architecture, OMA, c/o Ruth Kleinman, 89 Vernon #1, Oakland, CA 94610. For further information contact Ruth Kleinman, 444-4533.
- Thurs 27 Sept 8:00pm
Craftsman Houses by George T. Plowman & John Hudson Thomas. Thomas Gordon Smith, architect. Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association. Shattuck Apartments living room, 2322 Shattuck

- Ave., Berkeley. Free/BAHA members & guests. Contact BAHA, 845-6591 (weekday afternoons).
- Sun 30 Sept 1:30-3:30pm
Uptown Oakland Art Deco Terra Cotta Walking Tour. See Sun 29 July for details.
- Sun 30 Sept - Sun 30 Dec
Jewish Life in America: Fulfilling the American Dream. Photographic exhibit on national tour. Judah L. Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. Free. Hours: Sun-Fri 10am-4pm. Pre-arranged group docent tours available. Contact Magnes Museum, 849-2710.
- Sun 30 Sept - Sun 30 Dec
Jewish Life in Northern California: Pacific Pioneers. Exhibit. Judah L. Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. Free. Hours: Sun-Fri 10am-4pm. Contact Magnes Museum, 849-2710.
- Wed 24 - Sun 28 Oct
National Trust Annual Preservation Conference. Baltimore, Maryland.

Regularly Scheduled Tours

- Oakland Tours Program. The program includes tours of Old Oakland, City Center, Uptown to the Lake, Preservation Park, Chinatown, and Port of Oakland. 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 Dr. at 14th St., Oakland, 836-1976.
- Paramount Theatre. Tours are offered the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month, 10am-Noon. 2025 Broadway at 21st St., Oakland. \$1.00. Meet promptly at the box office entrance on 21st St., 893-2300.
- Dunsmuir House. Tours offered through September, Sundays & Wednesdays, 1pm, 2pm, & 3pm. 2960 Peralta Oaks Ct., Oakland. \$3.00. 562-7588.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

- Oakland Heritage Alliance. OHA Board of Directors meets on the 1st Monday of the month, 7:30pm. For agenda and location, please contact Jon Good, President, 531-5086. OHA Preservation Action Committee meets on the 3rd Monday of the month, 7:30pm. For location and agenda, please contact Carolyn Douthat, 763-5370. Meetings are open to all interested persons.
- Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. The board usually meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 3:30pm, City Hall, Room 221, Washington & 14th Sts., Oakland. For agenda and dates, contact Oakland City Planning Department, 273-3941.
- Oakland City Planning Commission. The commission usually meets every other Wednesday, 3:30pm, City Hall, Room 115, Washington & 14th Sts., Oakland. For agenda and dates, contact Oakland City Planning Dept., 273-3941.
- Oakland City Council. The council meets every Tuesday evening, 7:30pm, City Hall, Council Chambers, Washington & 14th Sts., Oakland. For agenda and dates, contact Oakland City Council, 273-3266.
- Oakland Design Advocates. ODA meets on the 2nd Wednesday morning of the month, 7:30am, Lake Merritt Buffet, 336 Grand Ave., Oakland. For agenda and dates, contact ODA, 893-6834.



Oakland Briefing...

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 Les Hausrath, 428-2820, or Carolyn Douthat, 763-5370.

■ PORT APPLIES TO CHANGE NAME OF BROOKLYN BASIN

The Port of Oakland has applied to the United States Board of Geographic Names to change the name of Brooklyn Basin to Embarcadero Cove. Brooklyn Basin, the portion of the Oakland Estuary between 10th and 23rd Avenues (adjacent to Pacific Dry Docks), was originally the embarkation point for cattle from Rancho San Antonio, and lumber from the San Antonio Redwoods (Montclair) in the early 1850's. Ferry service was established by 1852, linking the town to downtown Oakland and San Francisco before construction of the 12th Street dam in 1868. The name Brooklyn was adopted in 1856, by motion of the Board of Supervisors and commemorates the ship, Brooklyn, which brought Sam Brannan and his group of Mormons to California in 1846. Most recently, Brooklyn Basin has been the temporary home of the steam schooner, the Wapama, and FDR's presidential yacht, the Potomac, both at Pacific Dry Docks.

In their application, the Port said that the name change would be "in the public interest for marketing and promotion purposes to more firmly establish the name Embarcadero Cove for the recreational commercial area along the waterway." A hearing was held on July 17 by the State Commission on Geographic Place Names, which is advisory to the National Commission. **Oakland Heritage Alliance** submitted a letter objecting to the name change, and representatives from the Brooklyn Neighborhood Preservation Association and the San Antonio Community Development District



The Port of Oakland has petitioned the federal government to change the name "Brooklyn Basin" to "Embarcadero Cove." Here the Wapama, a steam schooner which carried lumber from the North Coast to San Francisco, stands in dry dock at the foot of 14th Avenue at Brooklyn Basin.

Council spoke against the change. The Commission deferred their decision until October on the basis that the City of Alameda had not been notified of the petition. Both the State and National Commissions will make a final recommendation in October when they meet at Lake Tahoe.

■ TRIBUNE URGES CITY SUPPORT FOR OLD OAKLAND/VICTORIAN ROW PROJECT

In an editorial (6/21/84) entitled "Old Oakland, Don't Let It Die," The Tribune urged the city to move forward to issue bonds for the completion of Storek & Storek's Old Oakland/Victorian Row rehabilitation project. A lawsuit filed last January (see Spring 1984 OHA News), which held up issuance of the bonds, has been dropped, but the City has yet to complete the paperwork necessary for the financing. The Office of Economic Development & Employment maintains the delay is necessary because of changes in

the federal legislation governing the bond program. OHA has written to the Mayor in support of The Tribune editorial, urging a rapid completion of this long delayed project.

The Montclarion (7/3/84) reported that the City Council is discussing a plan to issue the bonds if the developers will agree to a list of concessions, including new completion timetables and provision for minority equity participation in the project.



The Oakland Tribune recently urged the City to be more supportive of Storek & Storek's Old Oakland/Victorian Row Project. The Hyatt Regency Hotel towers over the unfinished project.



The Planning Commission approved construction of a 38 unit condominium development for Richmond Boulevard over neighborhood protests that the project was out of scale and disruptive to the rustic, wooded enclave.

■ LARGE CONDOMINIUM PLANNED FOR RICHMOND BOULEVARD

The City Planning Commission has approved a 38-unit condominium development on Richmond Boulevard which was first proposed three years ago and rejected by the City Council (see June-July 1981 OHA News). Richmond Boulevard, just southeast of Piedmont Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard, is a wooded neighborhood centered around Oak Glen and Glen Echo Creek, and contains a number of Craftsman and period revival homes. The original proposal was opposed by the neighborhood because of the size and boxy design of the project, and the potential increase in traffic congestion. The latest design, by Chris Craiker, Inc., rises 65 feet above the boulevard in a stepped back facade, and involves widening the street by 8 feet.

At the June 26th hearing, the Richmond Boulevard Neighborhood Association requested an EIR, including a traffic/parking impact study and a flood control study, but the project was approved as presented with one dissenting vote (Arce). The neighborhood has appealed the planning commission decision.

■ CITY PROCEEDS WITH HOTEL TWO

The Oakland City Council has approved the acquisition of properties on the block bounded by Broadway, 11th Street, Franklin Street and 12th Street for the proposed Hotel Two project (see Spring 1984 [OHA News](#)). The properties to be acquired includes the Sessions Block which houses Nick & Gus' Grill (see feature article, page 1).

The original design for the hotel, prepared by the developer Greener & Sumner, involved retaining the 1100 Broadway Building and demolishing the 1100 Broadway Building Annex. Both are listed on the National Register. That design was rejected by the City, and the Office of Economic Development and Employment is working with the developer to come up with a design that conforms to design guidelines prepared by Kaplan, McLaughlin, Diaz as part of the environmental impact report.

The draft of the EIR/EIS was presented to the Planning Commission in May and the Planning Department received 16 comment letters on the document. The EIR analyzed three general design alternatives: demolition of the Annex, retention of the Annex facade with new construction above, and retention of the Annex as it stands. Planning staff and consultants are responding to the comments in preparation of the final EIR/EIS. Because federal funding is involved in the project, the document will not be published until a memorandum of agreement is signed between the City and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the federal body which reviews projects affecting buildings which may be eligible for the National Register. That agreement has been negotiated and awaits approval by the State Historic Preservation Office.



The Oakland Floral Depot and the Fox Oakland Theater are key historic structures in the City's "Retail Center Development Program" study. Some of the current proposals would retain only the buildings' facades and construct large new buildings on the interior sites for expanded office and retail uses.

■ FLORAL DEPOT LANDMARK NOMINATION TABLED

The City Council voted to table the Oakland Floral Depot city landmark nomination at their March 27th meeting. Speakers from the Chamber of Commerce and developer Carter Hawley Hale expressed opposition to the nomination, and speakers from the Landmarks Advisory Board, the State Historic Resources Commission and **Oakland Heritage Alliance** voiced support.

Conflicting recommendations came from two City departments; the Planning Department favored designation and Office of Economic Development & Employment proposed that the nomination be tabled for nine months pending completion of the Retail Center Development Study. The motion to table the nomination for an indefinite period was made by Wilson Riles, Jr., after it appeared that an earlier motion by Marge Gibson to approve the designation did not have the votes necessary to pass.

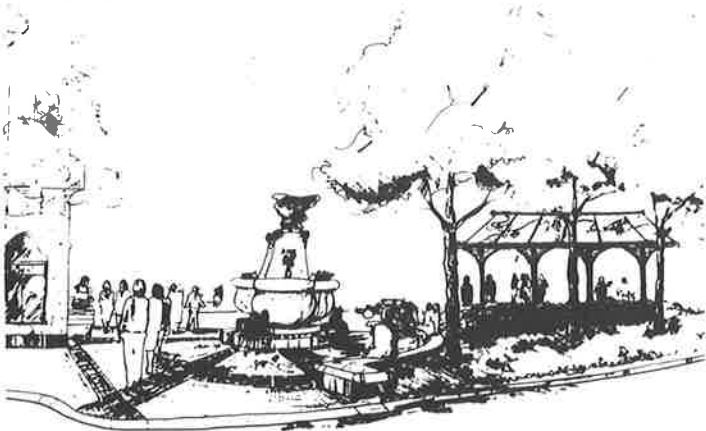
■ LATHAM SQUARE DESIGN SELECTED

The Bay Area Partnership recently announced the winners of a design competition for improvement of Latham Square, the triangular space at the intersection of Broadway and Telegraph, and the street level facade of the adjacent Cathedral Building.

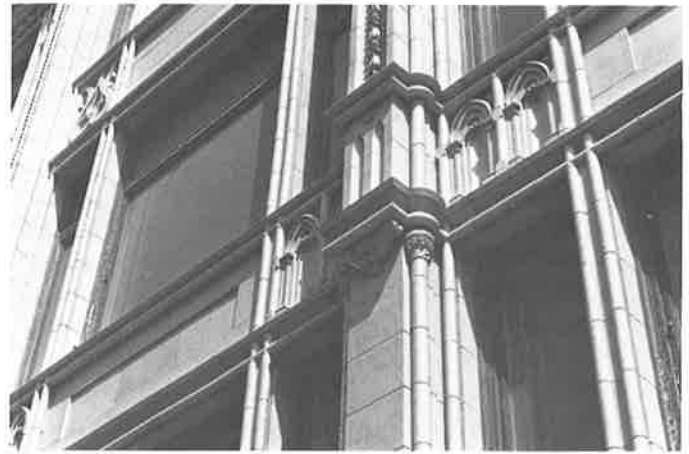
The \$5,000 first prize went to Singer & Hodges, an Oakland-based landscape architecture firm. The second and third prize winners were L. Patrick Anders, Oakland, and Marc Treib, Berkeley. The five honorable mention awards went to Fitzpatrick/Karren Associates, Oakland; Richard Litwin, Oakland; Mark Bryant and Lyle Oehler, Oakland; Ace Architects, Lucia Howard and David Weingarten, Oakland; and the team of Herb Greene, Berkeley, John Toki, Point Richmond, and Theodore Osmundson, Kensington.

According to the Partnership's President Steve Costa, it is hoped that within the next 12-18 months funds can be raised through public and private interests to implement the winning design.

The award-winning designs are on exhibit through August 24 at the East Bay Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, 315 14th Street in Oakland. The hours are 9:00-5:00, Monday through Friday. The competition was funded by the City's Office of Economic Development and Employment.



Singer & Hodges, Oakland-based landscape architects, submitted the winning design for the renovation of Latham Square (gore at Telegraph Ave. & Broadway). It calls for a small circular plaza surrounding the 1913 fountain, an open transit pavilion, landscaping, and renovation of the ground floor of the Cathedral Building (site of Doggie Diner). The competition was sponsored by the Bay Area Partnership, AC Transit, East Bay Chapter AIA, Oakland Design Advocates, and the City of Oakland.



OHA is continuing to monitor new design proposals for the Roos Brothers building renovation (15th St. & Broadway). The ornate, terra-cotta clad structure currently retains its three-part "Chicago-styled" windows.

■ NEW DESIGN PROPOSED FOR ROOS BROTHERS BUILDING

The Roos Brothers building (northeast corner of Broadway and 15th Street) is coming before the City for design review approval a second time. Last year, the City Planning Commission nixed the proposed design for renovation which included protruding oriel (bay) windows of reflective glass. The owners did not appeal and the building's ownership subsequently changed.

In June of this year, the building's architects, Vickerman, Zachary and Miller of Oakland, proposed a new design which eliminates the oriel windows, but still calls for replacement of the glass and the wood frames of the original Chicago-style windows. The new design eliminates the bay window scheme and is a substantial improvement over the previous design. At a meeting with the architects and new owners in June, OHA suggested retention of the original wood frames, as well as retention of the existing glass if doing so would be consistent with State energy requirements.

The new design, like the earlier one, calls for coordinating the exterior look of the Roos Brothers building with the ►



adjacent Hartfield's building to provide continuity of the facades. The plan calls for retail space on the ground floor and offices on the upper floors.

■ CONSTRUCTION OF PRESERVATION PARK BEGINS

The last two houses necessary to complete the collection of buildings in Preservation Park were moved to the site on Sunday, July 1st. In an impressive display of municipal efficiency, the City decided to acquire the houses on Tuesday, contracted with the mover on Wednesday, and had the houses moved on Sunday. The two structures, a Queen Anne cottage and an Arts & Crafts brownshingle house were moved from Moss Avenue where they were to have been demolished for a condominium development.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the park took place on May 22, and were attended by no less than Samuel Pierce, the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Redevelopment. The ceremonies marked the beginning of work on the \$2 million public improvements to the site, which will include landscaping, creation of a new street serving the interior of the project, and foundations for the buildings. The public improvements are scheduled for completion by November 1984 and the developers will begin working to secure and weatherize the buildings in August.

The \$10 million project is being developed by the Northern California Black Chamber of Commerce, and financed by a combination of bank loans, a \$2 million UDAG grant, and a private equity syndication. The City will provide a financed sale of the land at \$1 million and the public improvements. Title to the property will be transferred to the developers as each of the rehabilitations is completed.

A number of Oakland residents and firms have acted as consultants on the City side of the project including Dave Johnson, project manager for CHNMB (site planning); Blair Prentice, Harrison Associates (urban design and engineering); Ishimaru Design Group (architectural); and Melinda Young



After more than a decade of planning, Oakland's Preservation Park project is finally under construction. Groundbreaking on May 22 was quickly followed by the purchase and relocation of the final Victorian houses and the construction of new foundations. The park will recreate a Victorian streetscape and eventually house offices and restaurants adjacent to Oakland City Centre.

Frye (historical), a former OHA board member.

The developers have hired Architectural Resources Group as consultants for the construction phase of the project, which will entail the rehabilitation of the exteriors and remodeling of the interiors to serve the office and restaurant uses projected.

As of late July, many of the new foundations had already been poured and structures positioned for placement. Removal of the addition to the front of the Nile Club on 13th Street has opened to view the facade of the adjacent Frederick Ginn House, 1890, designed by the offices of A. Page Brown.

■ RETAIL CENTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

As a first step towards development of a shopping center in downtown Oakland, Mayor Wilson formed, in May, two committees to work with staff and consultants in the preparation of a Retail Center Development Program. A large Retail Center Overview Committee was formed to review program proposals. Leslie Flint represents



Oakland Heritage Alliance on the Overview Committee. A smaller Program Committee works more closely with the consultants to prepare the development program. Unfortunately, no expert in preservation has been placed on this committee despite OHA's requests.

This development study, which is to take approximately one year to complete, will cost \$150,000 and is being funded by the Redevelopment Agency. The project area is bounded by Broadway, San Pablo, 18th and 20th Streets, with the major focus being Telegraph Avenue.

Four consultants have been hired: Keyser Marston Associates are the financial experts; ELS Design Group is exploring the design alternatives for the site; Community Design Collaborative is looking at the relationship between the retail center and the adjacent residential and commercial areas; and Adams Grant and White are seeking to secure adequate minority participation.

As of mid-July, the committees have met three times and the staff and consultants have prepared public development objectives and evaluation criteria, and have generated 16 alternative plan concepts. They have narrowed these alternatives to three; all call for the retention of the Floral Depot and the Fox Oakland in some form. One of the 22 design objectives calls for "reinforcement and integration of the historic architectural fabric," and the retail developers criteria include "creating a special sense of identity for development, i.e. the Fox Oakland Building/Floral Depot should be preserved and incorporated into development."

The project is envisioned as a mixed-use development including three department stores, retail shops, offices, housing and entertainment. It is not clear at this time whether more than the facade will be retained of the Floral Depot since several plans call for an office building on that site (resulting in the loss of the buildings facing Broadway).

None of the current alternatives call for the retention of the Fox Oakland as a

theater. At least one plan envisions it as a forecourt to one of the department stores with the balcony being converted into a small 300-500 seat repertory theater. A plaza will be created in front of the Fox by removing several buildings on the south side of 19th Street across from the Floral Depot. This would create a gateway into the retail district and a splendid view of the Fox from Broadway.

For more detailed information, please call Leslie Flint, 658-4915 (evenings).

■ PARDEE HOUSE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Pardee House, one of Oakland's most significant landmarks, is seeking volunteers. The house, home to the Pardee family 1868-1981, is undergoing restoration and will eventually be opened to the public as a museum.

To date the staff and volunteers have documented the interiors, inventoried the collections, and conducted preliminary research on the home and family. A volunteer program has begun to research and catalog museum objects.

New volunteers are needed to help maintain the historic gardens, catalog and research artifacts, and conduct family research. Volunteers will soon be needed to help clean and repair the home's interior. If you would like to help with this work contact Heidi Casebolt at the Pardee Home Foundation, 444-2187.



Volunteers are needed to help prepare the 116-year-old Pardee Mansion for use as a public museum. Call 444-2187 for information.



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 and conservation of the city's archaeological, architectural, cultural, environmental, and historical resources. Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible.

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Oakland Heritage Alliance News

5569 Lawton Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618

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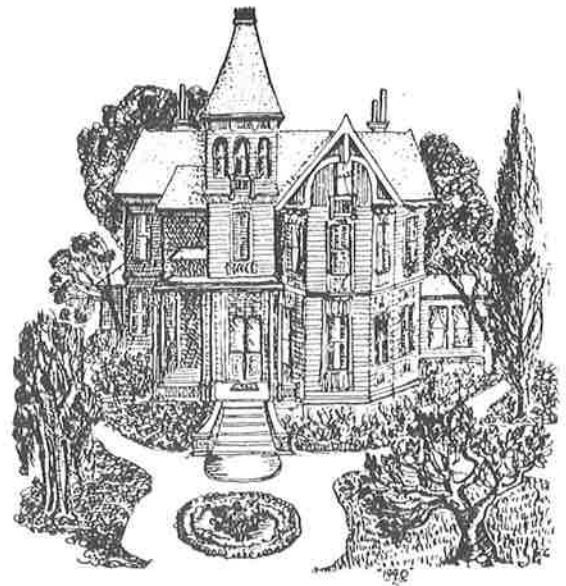
PHOTOGRAPHY

Phil Bellman

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Larry 'Buck' Holst

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Sunday, September 23rd Victorian Ice Cream Social at the Historic Cohen House

You and your friends are cordially invited to celebrate the 100th Birthday of the landmark Alfred H. Cohen House!

The house was built in 1884 as a wedding present for Emma Bray and her fiance Alfred H. Cohen by Watson A. Bray, a grain merchant, and furnished by A.A. Cohen, a lawyer for the Big Four railroad magnates. The original wallpapers, carpets, tiles and furnishings all have been carefully preserved. The house has been the key project of the Oakland Heritage Alliance's Landmark Assistance Program.

The very special 100-year birthday party will include ice cream and refreshments, musical entertainment and tours of the house. The Victorian Ice Cream Social is hosted by the Cohen Family and the Oakland Museum Association Council on Architecture.

Date: Sunday, September 23rd. **Times:** 1:00-3:30 P.M. or 2:30-5:00 P.M.
Location: Cohen House & Gardens, 1440 29th Avenue, Oakland. **Cost:** \$12.50 until Sept 12, \$15.00 thereafter and at the door. Send reservation with time desired and check to Council on Architecture, OMA, c/o Ruth Kleinman, 89 Vernon #1, Oakland, CA 94610. For further information contact Ruth Kleinman, 444-4533.



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. OHA's new members (April-June 1984) are as follows:

Sandy Anderson, John Burrows, Kendrick Brown & Theodore Nunes, Mary Gallagher, William O. Hanson, Miriam Hawthorne, Janis Kaufman, Bert & Ann Leaver, Margo McNally, Diane Nicholson, Conley Ramsey, Billy Ray, Jim Reidenbach, Robert Saarnio, and Edwin Westberg.

Special thanks are extended to Bob Maynard of The Oakland Tribune for his contribution of \$100 in support of the Oakland Heritage Alliance News!

Oakland Heritage Alliance Needs Your Help!

Oakland Heritage Alliance is more than the Oakland Heritage Alliance News! It is hundreds of volunteers interested in preserving Oakland's unique cultural and architectural heritage. Have you considered doing more than just reading the News?

YOU CAN HELP with tours, monitoring local preservation issues, coordinating educational programs, recruiting new members, planning special fund raising and social events, assist with the preservation of local landmarks...and more. Even the OHA News needs your help with writing, photography, production and distribution.

If you have a talent...Oakland Heritage Alliance can use it!

YES, I WANT TO BE AN OAKLAND HERITAGE ALLIANCE VOLUNTEER!

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____ Telephone(s) _____

Type of volunteer work you would like to do: _____

Send to: Volunteer Coordinator, Oakland Heritage Alliance, 5569 Lawton Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618. OR call Annalee Allen, 654-6791.

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 \$15 Family (2 votes)
OHA News Publicity Landmark Nominations Landmark Assistance \$25 Organization (1 vote)
Preservation Action Summer Tours Development Fund Raising other \$100 Sponsor (1 vote)
 \$ _____ Additional contribution



Oakland History Notes

Fremont High School

To the brassy blare of the Melrose Coronet Band, and the somnolent sonorities of the high school glee club, the new Fremont High School was proudly dedicated on April 10, 1908. Located at 47th Ave. and Foothill Blvd. (site of the present building), the school began in 1901 as the Fruitvale Public School No. 2, later consolidating other district schools into Union High School. The new building, designed by Thomas Smith, housed 10 teachers and 300 pupils. It featured an auditorium - with upholstered leather seats - special lecture rooms, laboratories, a gymnasium, and an art department. A large room devoted to bookkeeping instruction was presided over by Miss Ella O'Connell, to whom the students affectionately dedicated the 1908 "Flame" yearbook. Gazing through her pince-nez out the classroom window, she could see "...the upper end of the athletic grounds, the outside of the magnificent auditorium, the street-car line to Leona Heights, and the home of Joaquin Miller in the distance."

When, in 1909, Fruitvale was annexed to Oakland, Fremont High became part of the Oakland Public School system. On the



(Photo: Oakland History Room, Oakland Public Library)

evening of January 1, 1930, the building succumbed to the rabid intents of a local pyromaniac. The school survives in the memories of her graduates - and in the poetic effusions of student Winfield Whitney, class of '09:

As the days unroll before us,
Help us one and all to see,
That the John C. Fremont High School
Stands for what was best in thee.

--William Sturm

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