



PIP event: lifetime achievement awards to Mahlmann, Taylor

By January Ruck

Our annual member meeting & Partners in Preservation Awards ceremony was held February 20, 2014, at the Rockridge Masonic Hall. We started with a few highlights from 2013, when OHA hosted more than 30 signature events: building tours, lectures and walking tours. Our 2013 House Tour offered a festive opportunity to enjoy the beautiful residences of Claremont Pines and Upper Rockridge. We continued to partner with local bookstores to sell copies of *Oakland: The Story of a City*, and received nearly \$15,000 in grant funding from Clorox, Kaiser and Delong foundations.

Our preservation advocacy efforts have included leadership in the ongoing effort to establish a Historic Preservation Tax Credits Program in the State of California.

After board elections, in which Tom Haw and Naomi Schiff were re-elected, the Partners in Preservation Awards Ceremony were hosted by OHA Board Member Steve Ryner-son. The awards were given to:

Girls Inc. Simpson Center for Girls

Category: Rehabilitation

The new Girls Inc. Simpson Center for Girls is an adaptive re-use/rehabilitation of an existing 5-story, 34,000 square foot office building in Oakland. The building, originally constructed in 1919 to house the East Bay Water Company, the predecessor of EBMUD, is a particularly fine example of

the Chicago-style-influenced store and office/loft buildings which were constructed in downtown Oakland in the 1910s and 20s. The building has the first documented underground parking garage in Oakland, which (hailed as a public service) was used to keep the utility company's trucks off city streets. It is a contributing structure in the Downtown Oakland National Register District. The project, funded in part by historic tax credits, included preservation of a richly-ornamented, terracotta-clad Gothic Revival façade, and uncovered and preserved ornamental column capitals, fluted beam moldings, railings and plaster work throughout the building, which had been buried under multiple layers of previous renovations from the 1960s and 1980s.

The scope of work included a complete interior renovation, a major seismic retrofit, and an overhaul of all mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. Existing interior partitions, soffits and dropped ceilings which had been added during earlier renovations were removed or minimized to restore generous daylight and views throughout the building, which notably enjoys light from three sides. A non-original second floor was partially removed to recall the memory of a mezzanine and create a double-height gathering space in the heart of the building. A new main entrance restores ground floor transparency, while new signage improves street presence by complementing but not overpowering the historic façade.

The interface of new design elements with the existing historic structure was handled sensitively throughout. New elements, deployed with a modern aesthetic, touch the historic fabric lightly and are distinguished by color, material and/or transparency.

The award went to Linda Boessenecker, Kristin Pace, Lois DeDomenico, Tricia Schnedar and Kirsten Melton of Girls Inc. of

Alameda County, as well as to the team of professionals who worked on this project: Anne Phillips and Winston Win of Anne Phillips Architecture; Burton Edwards and Mary Hardy from Siegel & Strain Architects; Ben Golvin, Suzanne Brown and Teddy Huddleston from Equity Community Builders; Rick Spickard from Oliver and Company; Jane Mayeri on behalf of Stephen DeJesse of Ingraham DeJesse Associates Structural



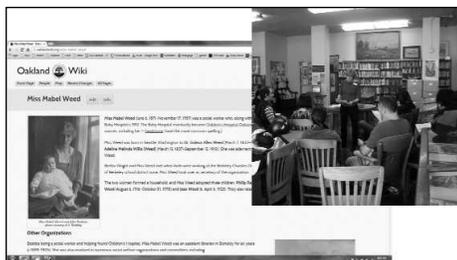
COURTESY YANCIE TAYLOR

YANCIE TAYLOR was honored for his commitment to Oakland's jazz legacy

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GIRLS INC. SIMPSON CENTER, once a water company building.



WEB PAGE at oaklandwiki.org



Engineers; and Alice Russin, Illuminosa Lighting Design.

The White Building

Category: Rehabilitation

The White Building was designed by architect Clay N. Burrell and built by R.W. Littlefield in 1924. In 1985, it was designated as an Oakland Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Harrison and 15th Streets Historic District. While it had fallen into disrepair in recent years, owners Vida and Saied Karamooze undertook a significant rehabilitation effort in 2013.

In addition to repainting the exterior façade and undertaking sidewalk reinforcement, interior work included repair and restoration of the hardwood floors throughout. Sensitive modernization included: office and bathroom remodeling, rewiring of electrical, introduction of broadband connectivity, plumbing upgrades and boiler replacement. The award went to the building owners, Vida and Saied Karamooz, and Ed Hemmat of ICR Construction.

5806 Ross Street

Category: Rehabilitation

Built in 1929, 5806 Ross Street is part of an amazingly intact block consisting entirely of Storybook houses (20 in all) designed by architect/developer W.W. Dixon. The restoration work was undertaken in stages from 2005 to 2013. Homeowners Kevin and Agnes Faughnan educated themselves about the character of the architecture and devised a good plan. To fulfill their vision of restoration Agnes and Kevin collaborated closely with artisans in various crafts: carpentry, plaster, tile, wrought iron, art glass, textiles.



THE ROSS STREET HOUSE, left, and at top, a detail of the White Building.

Each detail in the finished work passes the tests of being authentic to the period, in keeping with the character of the house, and a delight to the eye. Many original features were discovered from photographs or evidence found during demolition, and these were recreated; otherwise missing elements were newly created, designed sympathetically to the existing materials and character.

Several 1961 alterations were reversed. A nonconforming utilitarian shed was removed. Two sealed-over windows were brought back, and two aluminum framed windows were replaced with original mahogany; old glass was used in every case. Wrought iron work included a lovely dragon-themed address sign and a lamp for the garden wall. The original lamp at the front entry was restored and reinstalled. The paved driveway was replaced by two simple concrete strips, with grass between, recreating the original design. A ventilation opening low on the house along the driveway used a grille based on historic photos.

In the interior, two doorways were rebuilt to recreate the original arched openings between rooms. When wallpaper was stripped, two tall arched bookcase niches were discovered and restored. For the fireplace, the “modernized” modifications, including an oversized marble facing and hearth, were removed. Salvaged 1920s Batchelder tiles were beautifully deployed in exactly the kind of pattern characteristic of Dixon’s hand. A plaster mantel and chimney breast was created with just the right curvature to allow space for lovely antique copper wall sconces. A sophisticated art glass win-

dow was created, incorporating a clever variation of the wavy mullions and lead lines often favored by Dixon. The grand front window and front door, both quite deteriorated, were exactly recreated in mahogany, reusing both old glass and the original hardware.

The award went to the homeowners, as well as to the team of professionals on the project: Steve Rynerson of Rynerson O’Brien Architecture; John Kraft of Kraftmanship Carpentry; Ron Roberts Plastering; Riley Doty of Doty Tile; Eric Clausen of Clausen Sculptural Iron; Theodore Ellison of Theodore Ellison Designs; Dianne Ayres and Marina Imfeld of Arts & Crafts Period Textiles; and Tom Carroll of T. Carroll F.S Electrical.

City of Oakland Mills Act Program

Category: Leadership

2014 marks the five-year anniversary of the Oakland City Council’s unanimous vote to adopt the Mills Act historic property tax abatement program, a program OHA strongly supported as a way to offer residential and commercial property owners a reduction of property taxes as incentive to undertake historic rehabilitation and preservation.

Mills Act contracts require an approved 10-year work program, indicating how the tax savings will be used to preserve the historic property. Work is limited to exterior repairs such as window repair/replacement, repair/restoration of front porches, reversal of inappropriate building modifications, and foundation work, among other tasks. The award went to the City of Oakland for adopting the Mills Act and to the City of

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Oakland Planning Department for its commitment to administering the Mills Act Program. Accepting the award were Betty Marvin of the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey and retired City of Oakland Preservation Planner Joann Pavlinec.

Oakland Art Murrmur

Category: Leadership

In 2005, Oakland's Uptown neighborhood was the site of industrial shadows. Populated by buildings that had previously served as stables and manufacturing spaces, many of the structures were unoccupied or unmaintained. The neighborhood was marked by high crime rates. However, creative property managers, artists, and gallerists saw potential in the derelict spaces.

Inspired by such architectural qualities as dramatic high ceilings and sweeping windows, the buildings along 23rd and Telegraph slowly began to be converted, marketed, and leased as spaces for creative use. Eight art exhibition spaces in the area decided that a cooperative effort to promote the arts in the neighborhood would garner more attention for their individual visual art programs. This led to the first First Friday art walk in January 2006, when participating spaces held concurrent gallery receptions, in an event branded as "Oakland Art Murrmur." The concept was an immediate success. The event's popularity encouraged new galleries to repurpose more buildings in the area, not just on 23rd street but also on 25th and 26th between Telegraph and Broadway, creating a vibrant

art scene in the neighborhood. Today, the heart of the Oakland Art Murrmur is still located on Uptown, which is home to over two dozen gallery and creative work spaces. OAM members are careful stewards of their spaces with a proud sense of place, and this revitalizing energy is translated into a revaluating of Uptown's architecture.

John Bliss & Kim Thompson

Category: Advocacy

Those of you who attended our 2013 Claremont Pines & Upper Rockridge House tour know the Morse House at 5654 Margarido Drive as a stunning example of Tudor Revival residential architecture. While we might have recognized this home with a rehabilitation award, we thought it better to acknowledge its owners, John Bliss and Kim Thompson Bliss, with an advocacy award. In 2013 they not only undertook the process of seeking landmark designation for their home, but have been tireless proponents of the process, advocating the value of landmark designation to others. The plaque bestowed on their home recognizes its significance as one of Oakland's valued historic resources. This award recognizes John Bliss and Kim Thompson as champions who have helped raise community awareness about the Oakland Landmarks Program.

Oakland Wiki Project, oaklandwiki.org

Category: Education

The Oakland Wiki project, oaklandwiki.org, is a free website about Oakland that anyone can edit. It's like Wikipedia in that it is an online encyclopedia built by volunteer contributors and holds a Creative Commons license, but differs in that it's exclusively about Oakland and includes many things that are considered "too small" or "not significant enough" for Wikipedia. Oakland Wiki launched in July 2012, starting with weekly volunteer meetings focused on gathering new contributors. Oakland Wiki experi-



5654 MARGARIDO DRIVE

enced its first major jump in contributions and new user sign-ups after volunteers launched a Local History Editathon series, held in the Oakland History Room. During these editing parties, new and experienced users made use of the History Room's primary neighborhood and map archives to build out much of the local history content you see today. Oakland Wiki is an example of crowd-sourced digital preservation; it is a powerful platform upon which multiple historians, expert and amateur alike, can come together to create a comprehensive historical memory that would otherwise be scattered among multiple publications and mediums, and lost as individual memories fade away. Instead, as long as there are people to write about, record, and photograph Oakland's past, present, and future, Oakland Wiki can keep growing and evolving to capture our community's stories. The award went to Gene Anderson for his leadership in development of the Oakland Wiki.

The Food Mill

Category: Stewardship

The Food Mill, located at 3033 MacArthur Blvd., opened in its current location in 1933. The original owner, John Dennis, decided to open a retail grocery store with a mill operation to serve the needs of Oakland's growing population, then experiencing hard times during the Great Depression. After 80 years of operation, The Food Mill continues to provide that same service to our community. While other grocery stores evolved into today's more commercialized outlets, the Food Mill has always maintained its emphasis on unprocessed foods, bulk grains and other items, and it has kept the feel of an old-fashioned general store. Today, over 800 items are available in the bulk section,

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THRONGS of people check out the art at Oakland's Art Murrmur studio events.



PIP

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including, spices, herbs, grains, nuts and various flours.

Current owner Kirk Watkins started working in the store in 1969 as a high school sophomore. Today one son and his wife work there too. He has made every effort to preserve the original general store feel, both inside and out. The Food Mill still retains most of its original exterior. Inside, employees still use the old cash registers, peanut butter grinder and roasting machine from when the store first opened and for which the store is well-known. Modernizations, like a new machine to speed up the packing process, are few. The store motto is "Just remember we are old fashioned and that's the way we love it." The award went to Kirk Watkins, for his dedication to The Food Mill and the community this business serves.

Yancie Taylor

Category: Lifetime Achievement

Oakland is a city long known for its rich history of blues and jazz music, reaching back to the early part of the twentieth century. OHA celebrates Yancie Taylor for his role in



KIRK WATKINS of the Food Mill.

helping keep jazz music alive and relevant here for the past 50 years. An Oakland native, he started his first jazz group at an Oakland Recreation Center when he was only 19 years old. Influenced at an early age by the "straight" jazz piano style of Les McCann and Ramsey Lewis, Yancie was caught by the sweet tones of the vibraphone during the Latin craze of the 1960s. He attributes his deepest influence to the masters: Milt Jackson, Bobby Hutcherson, and Cal Tjader. Ed Kelley, the Oakland pianist, was also an inspiration to him.

Once Yancie started playing jazz, he never stopped. He has collected experiences that remember important people and places associated with Oakland's jazz history and has mentored young jazz musicians. Since 1992, Yancie's unique vibraphone sound and driving percussive style are cherished by an ever-growing international audience. Locally, Yancie plays Sundays from 6 to 10 p.m. at Geofrey's Inner Circle, in a historic Oakland building on 14th Street between Broadway and Franklin. The music is straight ahead jazz classics from the jazz songbook, with



MILLS ACT PROGRAM assists a 1914 bungalow (top) and an 1891 railway barn.

different guest soloists each week. Yancie invites all of you to help maintain a vibrant jazz scene in Oakland. Come join him!

We recognized Yancie Taylor with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his commitment to Oakland's jazz music legacy.

Lewis Mahlmann

Category: Lifetime Achievement

Lewis Mahlmann made and performed with puppets from 1952 to 2006, entertaining diverse audiences, aged 2 to adult, at Oakland's own Children's Fairyland. Lewis was known as one of the major puppeteers in America. He created and performed over 150 different productions, rotating them every

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Welcome to our new members!

OHA is pleased to welcome these newest members to our roster:

Susan Anderson, Tom & Liz Bacchetti, Richard Benson, Sarah J. Bernhard, Paul Brekke-Miesner, Ken & Katherine Cameron, Catherine Chang, Rissa Coplan, Margaret Dollbaum, Theodore Ellison, Susan Gilkey & Charles Schwartz, Sarah Hahn, Lee Hildebrand, Marie-Ann Hill, C. J. Hirschfield, Diane Johnson, Rebecca Kidd, Philip Laing, Leland Leisz, Natalie Martina, Henry Massie, Scott McKinzie, John McNamara, Vincent Medina, Elizabeth Patelke, Jane P. Perry, Kirk Peterson, James Puskar, Dan Rael & Howard Burrows, Janet Rodriguez, Bill Roberts, Lynne Rodezno, Celeste Scanlon, Deborah Shefler, Joyce Stanek, Kristine Steensma, Sonia Tamez, Rosemary Wendt, Joan Marie Wood, Kristen Zaremba

Thanks to our devoted volunteers

Suzy Bohling, Michael Boone, Charles Bucher, Claire Castell, Doug Dove, Alison Finlay, Allysyn Kiplinger, Melissa Pauna, Martha Peck, January Ruck, Juanita Rynerson, Steve Rynerson, Joyce Stanek

PIP Awards committee: Steve Rynerson, Kathryn Hughes, Charles Bucher, January Ruck

Lecture Presenters and Building Tour Guides: Cat Chang, Bruce Beasley, Paul Brekke-Miesner, Ted Ellison, Frank Flores, Lee Hildebrand, Bob Huff, Steve Huss, Fred Isaac, Arthur Levy, Vincent Medina, Bill Roberts, Steve Shanks of SKS, John Stashik, Rabbi Andrew Straus, Steve Wolmark of SKS. Thanks to Tony Meadow for lending us meeting space.

Consider a gift subscription to OHA for a friend!

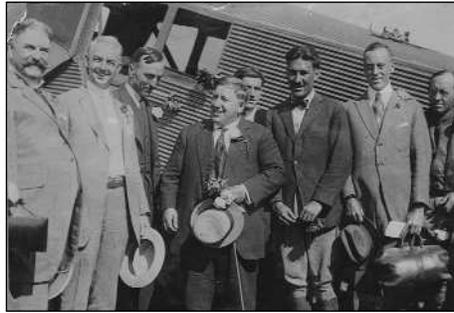


Walking tours heat up summer pavement

By Alison Finlay

Come walk with us and hear how Oakland grew into the diverse city it is today. This year we learn about the White Elephant Sale mural, hear about a volcano in Oakland, and slip into the past with *Eye from the Edge* author Ruben Llamas as he visits his West Oakland boyhood haunts. Join us as we appreciate the midcentury development along Lake Merritt's eastern shore and learn about the history and how-to of Lawn Bowling in Lakeside Park. New tours include Between Two Creeks, exploring Upper Fruitvale, and Tracing the Terraces, exploring the exteriors of gracious homes on the hill above Piedmont Avenue. Norman Hooks and Phil Banta link parks, places and people as they loop from the lake on their West Oakland Walk. Stu Swiedler tells tales of trains and tunnels in the hills. Your donations support Oakland Heritage Alliance as you learn from passionate local history buffs and take home a deeper appreciation of the stories of our city.

■ Saturday, July 12, 10 am–12:30 pm.
LAKE MERRITT MODERN. Meet: Lakeview Branch Library, 550 El Embarcadero between Grand and Lakeshore Avenues. Modernist (mid-20th century) apartment



OAKLAND HISTORY ROOM

THE FIRST MAIL PLANE lands in Oakland, 1920. Tour the airport's North Field with Woody Minor.

buildings near the lake: points of discussions will be examining modernist architecture as applied to apartment buildings, features of the buildings which are shaped to relate to, or not, to the view of the water, contrasting these buildings with single family residences, urban development patterns, and finally, discussion of the 'meaning' of these buildings. Tour will walk up the hill above the lake, also viewing similar buildings beyond the lake, then drop back down to Lake Merritt at its completion. —Bill Coburn

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PIP

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seven years. Lewis made all his own puppet patterns, as well as the clothing. Painstakingly built and outfitted by hand, each one is a work of art. He was President of Puppeteers of America twice and has written four books on puppetry, coauthored with David Jones, his long-time partner. Lewis is a committed teacher and mentor; he taught puppetry at San Francisco State University and mentored upcoming puppeteers, including Frank Oz and Randal Metz. Metz, who worked with Mahlmann since 1970, still performs using Lewis's puppets, sets and scenery. Today Fairyland's Storybook Puppet Theatre is the oldest ongoing professional puppet theatre in the U.S. Master Puppeteer Lewis Mahlmann gets the lion share of credit for this success.

We recognized Mahlman for his commitment to preserving the art, craft and performance of traditional puppetry. Randal Metz and C.J. Hirschfield, director of Chil-

dren's Fairyland, accepted this lifetime achievement award on his behalf.

NOTE: Mahlmann died March 18 at the age of 86, shortly after this PIP event, which he did not attend. All photos for this article are courtesy of the PIP entrants.



LEWIS MAHLMANN

A big thank you to our kind, thoughtful donors

We're grateful to the generosity of our donors, who make our programs and advocacy possible:

Jeffrey Adams, Annalee Allen, Mary Allen, Ralph E. Anderson, Susan Anderson, Jeff & Joan Angell, Patricia V. Angell, Jo Anne Baca, Vicki Bandel, Martha Becker, John Bliss, Mike Bradley, Carol Brookman, Judith Broude, Charles Bucher, Bonnie Burt & Mark Liss, Claire Castell, Eunice Childs, Jonathan & Gaynell Chase, Martha Chase, Stephanie Cimino, Edmund A. Clausen, Robert M. Cole, Caryn Combis & Jerry Barclay, Joseph & Sandra Costa, Joan Dark, Rory Darragh, Mary O. Davis, Adrienne DeBisschop, Mary Catherine Dino, David Donovan, William Donnelly, Arvi Dorsey, Sue & Lawrence Duckles, George Duncan, Kevin Dwyer, Kevin & Agnes Faughnan, Alison Finlay, Peter Frazier, Iona Gage, Pamela Grove, Teresa & Andrew Gunther, Earl & Bonnie Hamlin, Donald Hausler, Les & Linda Hausrath, Thomas Haw, Pieter Hazewindus, Robert Hofmann, James Holst, Kathryn Hughes, Raleigh E. Hughes, Jr., Bill Iracki, Judy Jackovics, Thomas & Barbara Job, Bruce & Candis Kerns, Kathy Krohn, Terry Kulka, Marcia Larsson, Kent Lewandowski, Daniel Levy, Helen Lore, Claire M. Lucas, Mike Lydon, Mary MacDonald, Ann Mariposa, Christopher Marshall, Daniel Marvin & Alison Zarembo, Suzanne Masuret, Jean Matthews, Barbara McElrath, John McNamara, Jon C. Merkle, Col. Robert D. Mojica, John Moore, Janet Mulshine, Eva Paul, Martha Peck, Margaret Phillips, Margaret L Pillsbury, Leslie & Joellen Piskitel, Jeanne Porter, Richard & Carol Nitz, Roberta O'Grady, Carol Olmert, Richard Orlando, Kent Rasmussen, Janet Rodriguez, Emily Rosenberg, Stephen Rynerson, Susan Sawyer, Naomi Schiff, Laura Schlichtmann, Rosalee Schubert, Ruth Shibley, Beverly Solo, Ann Steppan, Melinda Stuart, John Sutter, Roy & Melinda Samuelson, Rosalee Schubert, Joseph Taylor, Sandy Threlfall, Dolores Thom, John Tuttle & Doug Drummond, Esther Umezawa, Steve & Heather Walker, William & Nan West, Susan H. Wester, Ilene Weinreb, Thomas W. White, Andrew & Billie Wiesenthal, Tom Willging, Wilson Family, Hilary Winslow, Ellen Wyrick-Parkinson



Walking

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■ Sunday, July 13, 12 noon–2 pm. **BETWEEN TWO CREEKS: UPPER FRUITVALE RESIDENTIAL.** Meet: Peralta Hacienda, 34th Ave and Paxton St. In 1821, Oakland as we know it began with the establishment of the Peralta Hacienda on a hill between Peralta and Sausal creeks. Discover the Peralta House, historic park and ethnobotanic garden. See the neighborhood's generations of new residents reflected in the architectural designs: Colonial revival, bungalow, post-war 40s modern, and remodeled. A few short steep hills on this walk. Stay for a 45 min. tour of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, 532-9142, at 2:30 or 4 pm. Reservations recommended. —Pamela Magnuson Peddle & Betty Marvin

■ Saturday, July 19, 10 am–12:30 pm. **SHEPHERD CANYON AND TALES OF THE TUNNEL.** Meet: Shepherd Canyon and Paso Robles Drive. A walking tour on the Montclair Railroad Trail will chronicle the changes in Shepherd Canyon in the 20th century, ending at the west portal of the railway tunnel to Contra Costa County. Images of the construction, location, and interior views post-abandonment of the tunnel and west portal will be featured. —Stuart Swiedler

■ Sunday, July 20, 12:30–3:30 pm. **TILES AND TERRA COTTA IN UPTOWN OAKLAND.** Meet: Southeast corner of 17th & Webster Streets (at the Howden Building). We will explore 20 buildings, exhibiting a variety of styles, whose façades are clad with architectural ceramics. All were built between 1908 and 1931 during a period when fired pottery materials were used on



WOOD STREET STATION'S platform, which could potentially use tax credits.

the exteriors of many important structures. The nature of this medium will be examined, and its unique beauty highlighted. Emphasis will be given to its special needs in terms of maintenance, preservation, and restoration. Afterwards, from 3:00 to 3:30, there will be an optional tour of the inside of the Howden Building and also a chance to view historic photos of the buildings seen on the walking tour. A level walk. —Riley Doty

■ Saturday, July 26, 10 am–12:30 pm. **TRACING TERRACES: THE LINDA VISTA TRACT.** Meet: 412 Monte Vista Avenue (Walter J. Mathews, architect). The eclectic neighborhood known as Linda Vista Terrace features a wide array of historic homes reflecting Oakland's architectural history, many designed by well-known architects. Discover traces of historic terracing as we explore the evolution of transit in Oakland and its effect on this enclave of handsome homes. If you have them, bring old photos or documents to share. A moderately hilly walk on sidewalks, with optional steep pedestrian staircase at tour's end. Lunch after. —Kathryn Hughes & Betty Marvin

■ Sunday, July 27, 10 am–12:30 pm. **YOU AUTO BE ON BROADWAY: BROADWAY–VALDEZ PAST AND PRESENT.** Meet: 28th St. and Broadway, tip of the flatiron building. Oakland was once "the Detroit of the West," and Upper Broadway became "Auto Row." Historic showrooms from the 1910s to the 1940s house artists, makers, and hackers in distinctive brick and tile garages, while CVS takes over the old Firestone building and the city hopes for retail around Valdez. A level walk. —Valerie Winemiller & Naomi Schiff

■ Saturday, August 2, 10 am–noon. **WHOLESALE PRODUCE MARKET AND WATERFRONT.** Meet: intersection of 3rd and Franklin streets. Explore two of Oakland's most fragile and endangered historic districts, where early 20th century wholesale, industrial, shipping and warehousing activities are being replaced by office, commercial, residential, and lifestyle lofts. Since the year 2000, 850 new condos and 700 new apartments have been built. The Waterfront Warehouse District boasts the country's finest collection of sidewalk trash receptacles. —Gary Knecht



JOHN KLEIN

THE KEY SYSTEM BUILDING, 1100 Broadway, could use tax credits.

■ Sunday, August 3, 10 am–1:30 pm. **GLENVIEW.** Meet: Glenview Elementary School, corner of Hampel St. and LaCresta Ave. Walk through Oakland's charming Glenview district, tucked between Trestle Glen and Dimond Canyon. From its earliest years as a ranching district to development as Fourth Avenue Terrace, we will explore Glenview's lively period-revival commercial strip and its lovely residential streets adorned with houses representing a variety of architectural styles. A hilly walk.

—Kathleen DiGiovanni

■ Saturday, August 9, 10 am–12:30 pm. **RAIL MEETS WATER: THEN AND NOW.** Meet: Take 7th St. west to Middle Harbor Shoreline Park. Meet in the parking lot. Middle Harbor Shoreline Park preserves a wealth of Oakland history. Moles and wharves met passengers and freight riding the transcontinental railroads. See the wall that "trained" the Oakland estuary for ship traffic. Walk the footprint of the Oakland Naval Supply Center, the largest facility of its kind in the world. See the Hanjin container terminal, where rail and water meet. Hear front-line staff talk on preserving history and the challenges of the present and future. —Celia McCarthy

■ Sunday, August 10, 10 am–12:30 pm. **WEST OAKLAND WALK: NETWORKING PARKS, PLACES AND PEOPLE.** Meet: 1 Lakeside Drive, opposite the Essex at Lake Merritt Tower. Look at Oakland in a new way, as a network of "Parks, Places and People." Walk the north leg (2.25 miles) of the proposed West Oakland Walk, an urban



design concept to create a “green social circuit” for walking, biking, organic gardening, exercising and meeting friends, all activities that build sustainable communities. The total 4.5 mile loop of existing city streets, from Lake Merritt to Central Station, ties together 12 major parks with numerous notable places, and hosts a history of exceptional people. Level sidewalks. —Norman Hooks and Phil Banta

■ Saturday, August 16, 10 am–1:30 pm **SAMPLING SIBLEY.** Meet: park entrance, Skyline Blvd. east of Grizzly Peak Blvd. and Diablo Drive. Walk back 10 million years to explore prehistoric Oakland. The hike includes an up-close look at the Little Round Top volcano and a study of some geology beneath our feet. The mostly-flat walk follows Round Top Look Trail and Volcanic Trail, includes great views of Contra Costa County and Mount Diablo, and visits a pair of labyrinths. Wear hiking boots and bring water.—Dennis Evanosky

■ Sunday, August 17, 10 am–1:30 pm. **SCALING LEONA HEIGHTS.** Meet: McDonell Ave. and Mountain Boulevard. Hike the woods and fire trails of the Leona Greenbelt in East Oakland to see Leona Mine, Leona Creek, Leona Hotel site, Leona trolley line end point and relics of industrial activity and redwood lumbering in early days. Hike has its ups and downs, but rewards with breathtaking views. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, a snack, and binoculars or a camera. Moderately difficult walk. —Dennis Evanosky

■ Saturday, August 23, 10 am–12:30 pm. **OAKLAND’S AIRPORT/NORTH FIELD.** Meet: Business Jet Center, 9351 Earhart Rd. (west on Hegenberger Rd. from 880, cross Doolittle. Immediately turn right on Earhart) Park in lot across from the building; assemble under the trees. Old Oakland Airport (North Field) was dedicated by Charles Lindbergh and often visited by Amelia Earhart. One of the nation’s most historic aviation sites, its original facilities (five hangars, an administration building, and a hotel, built between 1927 and 1929) are largely intact. Afterwards you may wish to visit the Western Aerospace Museum. (Adults \$10, Seniors \$9, Children 6–12 \$5) —Woody Minor



JOHN KLEIN

THE OAKLAND FLORAL DEPOT: Join Riley Doty for an expert tour of uptown tile and terra cotta.

■ Saturday, August 23, 11 am–1 pm. **OAKLAND MUSEUM: CELEBRATE THE UNVEILING OF THE WHITE ELEPHANT SALE MURAL** By reservation, tour is limited to 25 persons. This tour, \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Joining or renewing members, \$10 off member price. Call OHA office, (510) 763-9218 or reserve at <http://tinyurl.com/k3gbbh4>. Join our special private tour of the ‘White Elephant Sale’ warehouse. The annual sale is a legendary benefit presented by the Oakland Museum Women’s Board. Three prominent Bay Area artists—Vogue, Ernest Doty and Griffin One—have painted an aerosol mural filling the Derby Avenue side of the warehouse, expressing pride in Oakland and the Jingle-town neighborhood. The themes blend nature and urban landscape, and feature several

prominent characters, including a White Elephant! Afterward, at the mural unveiling, the artists will speak about their work.

■ Sunday, August 24, 10 am–12:30 pm. **STORIED LAKESIDE PARK: BONSAI, BOWLING AND BUTTERFLIES.** Meet: Edoff Memorial Bandstand. Tour Lakeside Park and learn the history of this unique local treasure and today’s uses that keep the park vibrant, from Children’s Fairyland to the Wildlife Sanctuary, from the bandstand to the McElroy fountain. We’ll tour the Lakeside Garden Center, home to garden wonders from century-old bonsai to butterflies. We’ll also visit the nearby Lawn Bowling Club, founded here in 1903. A level walk. —Kathleen DiGiovanni

■ Saturday, August 30, 11 am–1:30 pm. **STEPPING INTO THE PAST.** Meet: front of La Borinqueña Mexicatessen, 582 7th St. Carmichael resident Ruben Llamas grew up in West Oakland, 7th Street, a first generation American born to Mexican immigrants. His memoir *Eye from the Edge* lets us glimpse Oakland’s history through his eyes. West Oakland comes to life as Llamas relates memories from his dad’s La Ideal Music shop from pre-World War II through the 1970s. —Ruben Llamas

■ Sunday, August 31, 10 am–12 pm. **CHINATOWN OAKLAND: A BIT OF ASIA.** Meet: Fountain of Pacific Renaissance Plaza, 388 9th Street, between Web-

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ALAN TEMPLETON

GARY KNECHT TOURS the Waterfront Warehouse and Produce Market Districts.



Small trains, but with big amounts of charm

By Kathryn Kasch

I was born and raised in Oakland and Piedmont, and had a vague memory of a miniature train and park near Lake Merritt; but when I came back from Boston in 1991, there was no trace of it, so I wasn't sure exactly where it had been. In a childhood photo album I found this one picture of me riding (standing!) in the train in 1950 with my brother, and my Dad, who was a young doctor, WWII Navy vet, and whose office was in the Franklin Building. (note the suit and bowtie!)

Today recent Measure DD work around Lake Merritt has partially uncovered a corrugated metal pipe that served as the tunnel for this train that ran in Peralta Park. For years it was hidden by vegetation, but now if you walk below the new pedestrian bridge near 1200 Lakeshore toward Laney College, or walk along 10th Street, you can spot the outline of this tube. The concrete entrance may be covered in plastic by a homeless resident, but the big pipe is clearly visible and you can vaguely make out the cut of the land toward the OUSD Administration building where the tracks used to be. The retired Public Works project manager told me that the date 1950 is engraved in the concrete header.

All of this made me curious to learn more about Peralta Park and the train, so of course I went to the Oakland History Room and the newspaper files at the Main Library. The land was purchased in 1898 from Oakland Waterfront Co. (Southern Pacific Railroad) and in



KATHRYN KASCH

THIS MINIATURE STEAM ENGINE once operated near Lake Merritt.

1907 from Frank P. Bacon as part of the effort by Mayor Frank Mott to develop public access and recreational uses around Lake Merritt.

The miniature replica steam engine and five cars were built in 1949 by George Reddington and Robert Blecha in San Leandro and 1,500 feet of narrow gauge track was laid around the bit of exposed estuary channel. The Oakland Acorn train opened to the public on Sat. July 22, 1950, and joined other miniature features of the park such as a

carousel, Wild West storefronts and a mini-paddlewheel steamboat that rode in the water.

In 1996 Steven Lavoie wrote an article in the *Tribune* about the park, explaining that the train operated until 1968 (diesel powered by then), when use of the park had dwindled and the exhibits were closed. Gene Autry bought the train and ran it in Griffith Park, Los Angeles, for some years. Today it seems to still be in use on the Whiskey River Railroad at an amusement park called Little Americka in Marshall, Wisconsin! ■

Walking

Continued from page 7

ster and Franklin streets. Fee parking under Pacific Renaissance Plaza. San Francisco's Chinatown may be a tourist attraction, but Oakland's is a vital economic force, everchanging in social dynamics and cultural diversity. Learn about this fascinating neighborhood and

its evolution to "Asiatown" with many Southeast Asian immigrants. In addition to the architecture, we explore the history, cultural bases, changing demographics and food. Some interiors, time permitting. Optional group lunch after. A brisk level walk, some stairs. —Ernie Chann

You can find information and make reservations at [oaklandheritage.org](http://www.oaklandheritage.org). ■

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STATE HISTORIC TAX CREDIT: AB 1999 passed through the Assembly on a 75-0 unanimous vote, and headed for Senate Committee hearings. Speaker Toni Atkins is the sponsor of the bill, and California Preservation Foundation and AIA California are heading up a broad coalition of supporters. OHA is thrilled to have played a role in getting this started! The measure would provide a substantial investment tax credit for preservation projects restoring buildings on state or federal historic register. If it passes, commercial or residential projects will be able to use it alone, or together with federal tax credits. For more information and updates: <http://www.californiapreservation.org/state-tax-credit-coalition.html>



Oakland History Room collections going digital

By Dorothy Lazard

Over the past year, the staff of the Oakland History Room has actively pursued projects that would help bring the room's extensive collections of photographs, documents, and ephemera to a wider audience. To achieve this we have begun to digitize our materials. The Friends of the Oakland History Room has secured the services of Sara Ferguson, a professional media specialist, who, so far, has digitized two sets of Oakland photographs for us: Oakland City Hall and the Oakland Auditorium.



OAKLAND HISTORY ROOM

THE OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY in 1904, when digital materials were not yet available for check out. The Carnegie library was originally located on 14th Street and now houses the African-American Museum and Library. This image was digitized some years ago, during an earlier project. You can visit the Online Archive of California at <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/about/> for more Oakland images and many other fascinating California pictures.

In October 2013, I attended an informational workshop hosted by the California Audiovisual Preservation Project (CAVPP) at which librarians, archivists, film producers, and historians gathered in Berkeley to learn more about this important preservation effort. Battling obsolescence was a key theme of the workshop. As newer, more capacious technologies are made available, libraries and other repositories are faced with an ever-increasing amount of obsolete formats and fewer machines on which to retrieve this information. The goal of CAVPP is to preserve and provide access to unpublished audiovisual content that is significant to state history; to raise awareness of the need to preserve such items; and to build a coalition to raise funds for this archival effort. As of May 2011, the CAVPP had 23 partner archives, libraries and museums and had preserved more than 692 recordings. These recordings reside on the Internet Archive (www.archive.org).

Participants in the October session were asked to nominate up to 50 items in their collections that they deemed worth preserving. In a few months, those institutions whose nominations were deemed appropriately pertinent to California history were welcomed to become partners. I'm happy to report that the Oakland History Room has been chosen as an official partner!

Since October, the Oakland History Room staff has nominated 67 items.



DOROTHY LAZARD

A SAMPLING OF THE FORMATS being digitized for the Oakland History Room by the California Audiovisual Preservation Project.

Among the items due to be digitized are: home movies of speed boat races on Lake Merritt; park ranger Paul Covel's movies of Lake Merritt birds; the 1949 Christmas Balloon Parade in downtown Oakland; a Melrose Neighborhood documentary, and Oakland Public Library talks on topics such as Jack London's socialism and personal accounts of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Over 75 libraries, archives and museums are currently participating in the CAVPP, including the California Historical Society, the California State Railroad Museum, the Labor Studies Archives (San Francisco State University), Humboldt County Historical Society, The Kitchen Sisters, the Museum of Performance and Design, the Sierra Club, and the Pasadena Museum of History.

The California Audiovisual Preservation Project is just one of three projects being administered by the California Preservation Program, a state-funded initiative. The local CAVPP office is located at UC Berkeley's Preservation Department in Doe Library. It is funded by the California State Library, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. For more information about the California Preservation Program, its resources and its services, contact info@CalPreservation.org or check out the website (<http://calpreservation.org/>). ■

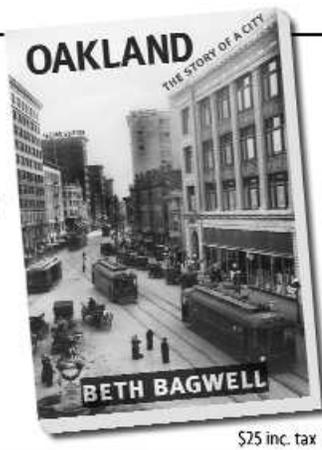
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OHA works for a better city

By Naomi Schiff

KINGFISH MOVING: The unpretentious but historic Kingfish bar on Claremont stands on the site of a new housing development. Owner Emil Peinert says they'll move the venerable low-ceilinged building to a lot near the Temescal Library, on Telegraph, just half a block away, retaining the old shuffleboard game and as much of its wellworn character as possible. In May, the *SF Chronicle* pointed out that when a large band of bar patrons visited the Landmarks Board to submit the saloon, originally a bait shop, for landmark status, "They even submitted a formal architectural report, which describes the building's style as 'tree fort' and its 'interior decoration scheme... (as) sports memorabilia randomly stapled to the walls and ceiling.'"

CITY TO ISSUE RFP FOR OAKLAND AUDITORIUM: Shuttered in 2006, when Jerry Brown was mayor and Deborah Edgerley City Administrator, the 1915 Auditorium on the shores of Lake Merritt is mothballed. In January, longtime OHA member John Tuttle sounded the alarm as large graffiti appeared on the irreplaceable terra cotta reliefs by Stirling Calder, on the arches facing the lake. Betty Marvin of the City of Oakland and Riley Doty, terra cotta expert, surveyed the damage with Derin Minor of Oakland's Public Works Department. Public Works managed a very good cleanup, but real security probably depends upon reawakening the building. Now, the city plans to issue a request for proposals to lease the building and operate it, stipulating that the Calvin Simmons Theater would remain in use as a theater, and the historic features of the building be kept intact. The RFP is due out by the beginning of July.

WEST OAKLAND SPECIFIC PLAN APPROVED: The longterm plan, environmental impact report, and zoning recommendations for a 990 acre area bounded by freeways 980, 880, and 580 focuses primarily on how best to develop on underused commercial and industrial property and on the areas around the BART tracks, leaving residential areas as they are. A lively Planning Commission hearing on June 11 brought out residents, political groups, housing advocates, seniors, developers, business people, property owners, environmentalists, and nonprofit organizations. Among many considerations,

great concern was expressed about effects upon the demographics and economics of the area: will residents be pressured by increasing rents and more intense development? OHA asked that the plan encourage locally-owned businesses and build capacity in the community as Seventh Street, the historic Blues District of Oakland—devastated by the building of BART and the post office—encounters a new wave of development ideas. View the plan documents from the Planning Department, 3rd Floor, Frank Ogawa Plaza or online at <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PBN/OurOrganization/PlanningZoning/OAK028334>

BROADWAY-VALDEZ SPECIFIC PLAN APPROVED : A Specific Plan for what was formerly called "Broadway Auto Row" was approved by the Planning Commission, with a late addition requesting a study of how to mitigate displacement for existing residents. Residents affected are in the historic Area of Secondary Importance around Waverly, Harrison, 23rd and 24th Streets, designated as a retail development area, but currently consisting of 94 rental units in older structures. Overall, the area contains a number of historic buildings and historic context from the early auto sales area in Oakland, as well as the remains of the Googie Biff's/J.J.'s restaurant, the former 7th Christian Science Church, and a Newsom Brothers apartment house. The Plan moves on to City Council.

SAVE GLENVIEW SCHOOL?: OHA, the Art Deco Society, and neighbors are working together to ensure that Oakland Unified School District doesn't knock down Glenview School. The Art Moderne school is a 1938 "reconstruction" and expansion by W.G. Corlett of a 1927 building by Williams & Wastell. OUSD seems to be reconsidering and may ask its architects to come up with a compromise plan that preserves the school's look. Architects H. Lynn Harrison and Thomas Towey have contributed hours of pro bono suggestions, letters, recommendations and proposed alternative plans.

LATHAM SQUARE PLANNING PRESERVES FOUNTAIN: Landscape Architect Terry Bottomley presented plans to the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, showing that the Latham Fountain, where



GLENVIEW SCHOOL

Broadway meets Telegraph at the Cathedral Building, would remain in its original position, and that its original foundation could be exposed and remain visible. Discussions continue about whether to bring the bus stop back to Latham Square or to leave it further north along Broadway. Plantings will buffer the plaza area from Broadway, and reconfigured roadways will leave more space dedicated to the plaza. Mr. Bottomley is optimistic that the fountain's plumbing could be repaired and water could flow again, without too much expense.

(<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PWA/o/EC/s/BicycleandPedestrianProgram/LSPP/index.htm>)

BILLBOARDS STOPPED: OHA teamed up with the coalition Scenic East Bay, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, and other groups to advocate against placing changeable LED billboards near the former Key System building along 880 at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza and in the maze. The city's army base deal called for five new billboards, and the city approved them, but Caltrans defines the stretch of freeway near the old zig-zag-roofed building as "landscaped." Under state regulations, billboards may not be placed along landscaped freeways. A large area to the south of the roadway will eventually become a park, now being planned by agencies including the city, CalTrans, MTC, and East Bay Regional Parks. The other three billboards, to be placed in the maze area, seem to be going forward, but the permit applications for the two proposed at the toll plaza area have been withdrawn by Foster Media. For information, visit www.sceniceastbay.org. ■

NANCY ROWELL



Big changes, new faces

By Alison Finlay, President

Early this year we said a fond farewell to **January Ruck** as she moved on to a great position with SF AIA. If you were able to attend the Partners in Preservation Awards event in February at the Rockridge Masonic Temple, you'll remember we surprised her with a special award for her selfless dedication to OHA, for giving her all during the nearly three years she was with us. All those who worked with her were saddened by her departure. We know she'll continue her good work wherever she goes!

Board member **Martha Peck** and I helped keep the office going while a small committee sifted through responses to our appeal for a new Administrative Director. We thought about the job, its challenges, and the challenges facing the organization. As we listened to Board member ideas, our thinking about the job in the office started to evolve into a different approach that we are trying for the next year. We decided to increase the number of workdays in the office from 3 to 4, and split the position into a shared job. There are many benefits to flexible staffing and we hope that a collaborative team will ease the workload. It is a pleasure to introduce **Joann Pavlinec** and **Christina Herd**.

Joann is familiar to many involved in historic preservation in Oakland, as she was Secretary to the Landmarks Advisory Board for 12 years before retiring in October. (see article in our last edition). After a few months of retirement, she decided she wanted to continue working, preferably two days a week. Kismet! Joann will be in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Christina holds a Masters of Library Science degree, and has worked in local libraries including the Oakland History Room. She was born in West Oakland and is passionate about OHA and Oakland history. She will be in the office on Fridays and Saturdays.

Since our last *OHA News*, Board member **Melissa Pauna** stepped down. Melissa was active with the building tours and lectures programs. She coordinated the Jazz in Flight program, the spooky Scottish Rite Temple tour, and the Bruce Beasley Studio and Sculpture Garden tour.

Board member **Martha Peck** also resigned. She helped enormously with the House Tour last spring, with our lectures and building tours program and with reviewing resumes for our office position, among many other helpful contributions.

Thank you to Martha and Melissa; we will miss you!

We welcome two new Board members: **Charles Smith** and **Susan Anderson**. Charles is an architect and did a study of the history and potential reuse of the Wood St. Train Station and surrounding area. Charles has been tweeting our events and posting our activities on Facebook. Thank you, Charles!

Susan grew up in the East Bay, and her maternal grandparents founded Bethlehem Lutheran Church in West Oakland in 1920. Susan has returned to the Bay Area and vows to help us build a stronger and more diverse organization. Welcome, Susan and Charles!

We are looking for folks who would like to work on committees. You might enjoy pitching in with the lecture/building tour program, the Walking Tours, the House Tour, the OHA News or with food prep for special events. Please call or email: 510 763-9218 or info@oaklandheritage.org

Lastly, we are reorganizing the office. We are looking for a large work/conference table, and 4 four-drawer vertical letter size file drawers, in good condition. If you have these to donate, please let us know.

The Walking Tours are underway. Join us for history and health in equal doses as we walk Oakland neighborhoods! ■

CONTRIBUTORS:

Kathleen DiGiovanni, Alison Finlay, Christina Herd, Kathryn Kasch, Dorothy Lazard, January Ruck, Steve Rynerson, Naomi Schiff

PRODUCTION: Erika Mailman

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

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The nine lives of the Dufwin Theatre

By Kathleen DiGiovanni

What downtown Oakland building has been a live theater, a movie house, and an office building? Look no further than 519 17th Street, the Dufwin Towers.

The Dufwin Theatre was built in 1928 for Income Properties of California and leased to actor-impresario Henry Duffy. It was designed by Weeks and Day, whose Oakland projects included the nearby Fox Oakland theater and I.Magnin store. The original exterior was notable for three polychrome tile murals depicting the muses, the work of the tile artists at Gladding, McBean. Contemporary accounts described the Dufwin's overall design as "Grecian" and "Pompeiiian" and made note of its bright colors and lavish use of mahogany. The Dufwin opened for business on October 8 with the comedy "In Love with Love" starring Mr. Duffy and his wife, Dale Winter. The theater's name, "Dufwin," was a combination of their two names.

Oakland's Dufwin was part of a nine-theater chain that reached from Los Angeles to Vancouver in the late twenties. Duffy specialized in affordable, middle-of-the-road plays for middle class audiences. His 1961 *New York Times* obituary described him as the king of the stock companies in the twenties. The Dufwin was home to Duffy's troupe, the Henry Duffy Players. Duffy actors who went on to greater success included Leo Carillo, Joan Blondell, Eve Arden, and Randolph Scott. The Dufwin's run as a

live theater ended after only two years. The Great Depression and the rise of the talkies drove Duffy into bankruptcy, closing the Dufwin in 1930. By the end of the year United Artists had reopened it as a movie house under a new name, The Roxie. A flashy neon marquee went up over the front entrance, taking the place of the more subdued Dufwin marquee. At some later point the trio of tile murals over the front entrance were stuccoed and painted over and largely forgotten.

Over the 50-plus years the theater operated as the Roxie it opened and closed several times. In 1950 Oakland evangelist Bebe Paten was holding services there. The last major, first-run movie to show at the Roxie was "Hawaii" in 1966. After that it was second-run shows and exploitation flicks. *Tribune* theater critic Robert Taylor noted in 1983 that the Roxie was the last downtown Oakland theater to show major Hollywood films, even on a second-run basis. At that time the Lux at 13th and Broadway was showing martial arts movies and the Pussycat, then at 12th and Broadway, ran cinema classics like "Maraschino Cherry." Taylor thought that the Roxie's conversion to action and exploitation pictures, though, represented a "vicious cycle" leading to its failure.

The end for the Roxie came on Aug. 18, 1983. It closed with "48 Hours," on a triple-bill with "Flashdance" and "Don't Answer the Phone." *Tribune* columnist Sidney Jones reported that 15 people were in the audience.



OAKLAND HISTORY ROOM

THE DUFWIN in earlier days.

At the time of its closure the Dufwin/Roxie was in danger of being torn down. American Recreation Centers, which bought the property from the Blumenfeld movie theater chain, decided instead to build inside the original frame. They teamed up with Herring & Worley, a Redwood City-based design and engineering firm and spent \$5.2 million rebuilding it from the inside out. A steel frame tucked inside the old walls supports the seven-story office building. All remaining interior theater elements were removed in the theater's transformation to office space but the tile murals at the front entrance were revealed and restored. In July 1985 it reopened as the Dufwin Towers, a clever reuse of a downtown asset worth saving. ■