Public Rallies to Prod City Action on Belli Buildings

Around seventy-five demonstrators turned out on June 30 for an old fashioned preservation protest. People were responding to a call of the Jackson Square Historic District Association—relayed to Heritage members via our e-mail network—to a rally and press conference across the street from the Belli buildings, 722 and 728 Montgomery Street, to impel the City of San Francisco to take immediate action to prevent the loss of two of the city’s most important historic landmarks.

Heritage has had this case on its list of unresolved preservation issues for at least six years. Many of our members have expressed their outrage to us regarding the owner’s continuing neglect of the property and the City’s failure to take effective action to ensure the buildings’ preservation. They are among the first ten properties San Francisco designated as landmarks and are contributory to the city’s first designated historic district, Jackson Square. The district case report described them as among the “sole survivors of the early central business district of San Francisco, and thus the sole physical reminders of the city’s beginnings as a great port and mercantile center.”

In 1959, Melvin Belli purchased both buildings and converted them to his law offices.

Speaking to the demonstrators, Supervisor Aaron Peskin, who represents the district in which the buildings stand, stated emphatically that San Francisco must take better care of its historic resources. He pledged to lobby his colleagues and Mayor Newsom to rectify this shameful situation.

The owner of the property, Nancy Ho-Belli, served on the Landmarks Board for the last ten years (replaced recently by Newsom). It was during her tenure that she received approval of a plan to retrofit and restore the buildings, in 1998. Since then, removal of windows, portions of the roof and interior walls (all allegedly in preparation for carrying out the project) has left the structures exposed to the elements and vulnerable to collapse in an earthquake.

Repeated attempts by Heritage and others to work with the owner and the Department of Building Inspection (DBI) to secure and protect these buildings and to complete the work of restoration proved fruitless. In spite of an order from the city attorney in 2000, a suit initiated by the City in 2001, repeated notices of violation from DBI—the latest as recent as five days before the protest rally—and a settlement between the owner and the City in 2002, under which she agreed to complete repair and restoration on a fixed schedule, the conditions at the property have only grown worse.

At this point, it is the City that bears responsibility for failing to enforce the agreement and taking resolute action as provided for in the planning and building codes. Article 10, Section 1008 of the Planning Code requires the owner of a designated landmark or contributor to a historic district to comply with all applicable codes and declares its intent to preserve such structures from “deliberate or inadvertent neglect,” including interior portions “whose maintenance is necessary to prevent deterioration and decay of any exterior portion.”

Section 1013 provides for enforcement and penalties for any violation of Article 10, while the Building Code gives the City the authority to carry out necessary maintenance and repair work on a property and

—continued on page 8, column 3
It is a privilege to be installed as president of an organization that, nearly thirty years ago, I joined as staff architect. Together with Linda Jo Fitz, who was associate director when I arrived, and several other “old Heritage hands,” I’ve been able to observe Heritage, and the world of historic preservation in San Francisco, for a generation.

Heritage was founded just after the turbulent 1960s, a decade of change during which the National Historic Preservation Act was created, the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board was established in San Francisco, and people began to question whether urban renewal was urban, or renewed anything, or even made sense. Heritage founders Charles Page and Harry Miller sat on a park bench and wondered whether there could be a group of like-minded people dedicated to holding on to the best of what we already had: buildings, urban spaces, neighborhoods. With eight directors and an annual budget of around $20,000, Heritage began in 1971.

What were the issues of the 1970s? Some things never change, and some ideas are a long time in coming. For the newsletter of December 1975, I remember sketching a proposed plaza that could connect the face of the Jessie Street Substation with Mission Street and Yerba Buena Center. We have yet to see the plaza, and the face of the substation now floats in the air above a steel support frame. But construction is now proceeding for the plaza and the forthcoming Jewish Museum, which will occupy the rebuilt substation.

In the 1970s people worried, as now, about the fate of the downtown. ‘Manhantanzation’ was the slogan that expressed people’s fears that the downtown would grow without limit. The board and staff at Heritage knew that until the buildings of the downtown were analyzed and rated on some logical scale of value, it would not be possible to plan for their retention. The monumental study of the downtown that became Splendid Survivors was funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the State Office of Historic Preservation, several private foundations, and the gifts of many Heritage members.

California Living Books published Splendid Survivors as a 270-page volume, but the real value of the study lay in the files of historical information gathered about every building in the downtown built before 1945. To be useful, this information had to be imparted to decision makers. Thus began a tradition of public advocacy by Heritage that still continues. So powerful was the information Heritage provided in Splendid Survivors about the value of buildings in the downtown that, in the 1980s, a new Downtown Plan was enacted that placed older buildings into categories that paralleled Heritage’s ratings.

The work of gathering information about built San Francisco never ends. Nor should it. Many a building, built after 1945, now deserves to be seen as a ‘modern antique.’ Heritage has extended its own survey work into the south of Market and Richmond districts, and a number of other worthy surveys have been made, including that for Dogpatch, enacted in 2003 as the first historic district in San Francisco in ten years, the North Waterfront, Chinatown-North Beach, the Inner Mission, and others.

The challenge now is to continue evaluating the city. Heritage can be a catalyst and a repository of information. Our sister organizations, like SPUR, San Francisco Beautiful, San Francisco Tomorrow, and others, have a voice. In a subsequent column I will outline how Heritage will approach the challenge of updating Splendid Survivors into a new project: Splendid Extended.
Heritage will soon review a project proposal for the Hayes Valley site that until recently was the campus for the University of California Extension. Shortly after closing the school and vacating the property last year, the university issued a request for proposals. Last March U.C. signed an exclusive negotiating agreement with A.F. Evans Development, Inc., and Mercy Housing California to convert the site to residential use under a long-term lease of the property, whose owner will remain the university.

As part of the planning process, the prospective developer engaged Page & Turnbull to prepare a historic resources study of the property. The subjects of the study are four buildings on the nearly 6-acre sloping site bounded by Haight, Buchanan, Hermann and Laguna Streets, built for San Francisco State Teachers College. Founded in 1899 as San Francisco State Normal School, the teacher-training institution moved to this location after the 1906 earthquake and fire destroyed its building on Powell near Clay.

In 1921, the Normal School became San Francisco State Teachers’ College, and in the following year it announced an ambitious building program. Bernard Maybeck prepared a plan and elevations for the new campus. A perspective sketch appeared in the Chronicle (November 7, 1922) that, according to the Page & Turnbull report, “depicted the campus as a series of linked pavilions, each one vaguely reminiscent of his Palace of Fine Arts built for the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition.”

What actually got built over the next decade, however, was largely the work of state architect George B. McDougall, in a simplified Spanish Colonial Revival style.

In 1924, the first new building opened: a gymnasium with classrooms (now called Middle Hall). Soon after, the one-story H-plan Kindergarten Training Building (now the Richardson Hall Administration Wing) went up on Laguna. Completed in 1927, the Science Building (now Woods Hall), with its arched formal entry, wraps the corner of Haight and Buchanan. The 1930 Training School Wing of Richardson, expressed in three distinct volumes, embraces the corner of Laguna and Hermann. W. B. Daniels, a state architect, designed Richardson, continuing the Spanish Colonial Revival style but in a kind of stripped Moderne expression (shown here). The retaining wall along Laguna was completed about the same time.

The final construction was the Woods Hall Annex (1936) along Haight Street, funded by the New Deal's WPA and containing a WPA mural, A Dissertation on Alchemy, by Reuben Kadish, that remains in place. By this time, the institution, now called San Francisco State College, had begun to consider a new campus. In the post-war period, the school began development of the Lake Merced campus, which it occupied in 1953-54.

By 1957, renovations prepared the way for the UC Extension Center. Most of the remaining wood frame structures were removed and three large parking lots filled the heart of the campus. In 1973, the French-American School leased Woods Hall, Woods Hall Annex and the Gymnasium (Middle Hall) and remained on the site until last year. UC San Francisco continues to operate a dental clinic in a contemporary building that replaced the pre-1915 U-plan structure at the corner of Buchanan and Hermann.

The Page & Turnbull study judged that the campus is National Register eligible. Integrity, which, according to the study, varies from low-to-moderate for the campus itself to moderate-to-high for the Woods Hall Annex may affect eligibility for the National Register, but not the California Register.

Historic Markers

As the result of an amendment to the Traffic Code, the Department of Parking and Traffic will begin to replace existing street signs in designated San Francisco historic districts with new ones that indicate the name of the district.

San Francisco designated its first historic district, Jackson Square, in 1972. Although there are now eleven, the City has, until now, never had a program to identify these cultural resources. The initiative for a sign pro-
California Electric Light Company

During July, Heritage received notice of an application for a demolition permit on the building at 166-178 Townsend Street (shown here in 1984 Heritage survey photo). Built in 1888 as a power station for the California Electric Light Company to a design by Percy & Hamilton, and rebuilt in 1906, the structure received an “A” rating in Heritage’s survey and is contributory to the South End Historic District.

This unreinforced masonry building was the subject of a demolition in 1994, when the Building Department prematurely issued a permit for removal of the smokestack without first referring the proposal to the Landmarks Board for review. Within the last four years, the owner submitted plans for a seismic upgrade and a change of use to offices, but he now takes the position that, in the current market, that plan is not feasible. Out of compliance with deadlines under the City’s UMB ordinance, the owner has submitted the application for demolition simply to meet the requirements of the Department of Building Inspection. There are no plans for a replacement structure at this time.

The Planning Department has indicated it will not support demolition because of the building’s historic significance, and it is anticipated that a demolition plan would require the owner to prepare a full environmental impact report. Heritage expects to work with the owner to reach an amicable and feasible solution that saves this important historic resource.

In conducting the department’s Inner Mission Survey, planner Moses Corrette noticed that between the time of his initial survey inventory and his return to photograph the building, aluminum frame windows had replaced the historic wood sash. After a search turned up no permit for window replacement, the Department initiated an enforcement action.

Planning staff Mark Sprick and Tina Tam pursued the case with the building’s owner and his architect. The result was installation of custom double hung wood sash windows with all the historically appropriate details.
Volunteer Archivist Logs in the Frances Stein Collection

My grandmother lived in an old Victorian house. I always found fascinating things to explore there, and granny had such interesting stories to tell about the objects I discovered.” This childhood experience far from San Francisco, in Ballymena, Northern Ireland, drew Deborah Sadler to the field of archival and museum work and ultimately led her to Heritage.

It was just over a year ago that Frances Stein donated a number of items related to the family’s life in the Haas-Lilienthal House (May/June 2003 Heritage News). And it was not long after, that Deborah contacted us seeking a volunteer opportunity. House manager, Chris Van Raalte, had begun to accession the objects, but when he learned of her experience and qualifications, he was delighted to turn completion of the task over to her.

In 1995, with an undergraduate degree in art and design and a master’s in visual culture, Debbie was set to undertake a diploma in archives from University College, London. Entry to that program required some field experience. The perfect opportunity presented itself when she spotted an ad for someone to take over for a woman on maternity leave at Oxford University’s renowned Bodleian Library.

That was the clincher, according to Debbie. “I became obsessed with the act of discovery itself,” she says. During her ten-month stint at the Bodleian, she encountered the world of illuminated manuscripts and handled papers of the architect Christopher Wren. “I made new discoveries every day.” The contact with personal items had particular meaning for her. “They’re a reflection of a person’s lifetime, their tastes and interests,” she observes, “and they relate to the larger history of their time.”

It was, then, particularly meaningful for Debbie when Chris Van Raalte was able to set up a meeting with Frances. Suddenly she had a person to connect with the objects she was cataloging and learned some of the stories behind them. The dolls included in the donation took on a new dimension, for instance, when Frances related a distant childhood memory of having been in the hospital. Her aunt arrived with a trunk that contained “100 dolls,” Frances recalled, to cheer her up and speed her through recovery.

The personal connection can make a large difference. A young woman, Deborah puzzled over a small, strange implement, not recognizing its purpose but dutifully prepared to make a straightforward and objective description of it. Frances explained that it was just an old fashioned buttonhook, taking it out of the realm of mystery and into the real world of the past.

Does Debbie have a favorite among the items she has cataloged for us? She does, indeed; it is a large tin Santa Claus. Frances explained that the three-foot tall figure that opens to reveal a hollow cavity was something her mother, Alice Lilienthal, designed to contain a holiday gift selection of Haas Brothers products for friends of the family. That story delighted Debbie. “Along with other holiday-related items in the collection, it says so much about Alice’s fondness for the Christmas season,” she observes.

—continued on page 6, column 1
Amendities Sponsorship Program

As Heritage members are aware, a very large portion of the organization’s revenue comes from the rental of the Haas-Lilienthal House for events such as weddings, corporate dinners and holiday parties. We compete for this business with many other venues around San Francisco and the Bay Area.

In an effort to increase our rental income, Heritage hired Boffo Productions to do a marketing analysis and plan. The results of the analysis have prompted us to take several courses of action, one of which is offering the House as a more complete package for prospective renters.

With most party venues, the rental fee includes only the space itself. For some time, Heritage has included tables and chairs in its rental package. After years of use, however, our chairs are in need of replacement, and clients often elect to rent them from an outside vendor. Expenses to the client mount if you add to this the cost of renting a sound system and various enhancements, such as decorative plants and lighting.

We would like to buy new chairs and provide other amenities that will allow us to offer a more complete rental package, thereby making the Haas-Lilienthal House a more attractive choice for events. To achieve this, we are introducing our Amenities Sponsorship Program.

Heritage is seeking the support of its members and friends for the Amenities Sponsorship Program to fund the $11,000 purchases, beginning at a level of just $60 for one Chiavari Chair with cushion. A complete list of items whose purchase you can make possible follows.

- 100 Chiavari Chairs: $6,000/$60 each
- 4 silk trees with containers for Ballroom: $1,680/tree $360 each, containers $60 each
- 1 additional 60” round table to increase sit-down dinner capacity to 90 persons: $15
- BOSE sound system complete with microphone and multi-CD changer: $1,500
- 5 two-color outside light pole banners $700/$140 each
- Initial purchase of merchandise (magnets, coffee cups, pins, house miniatures, etc.) for sale to visitors and on web site: $1,000
- If you are interested in sponsoring one of these purchases, please contact Barbara Roldan at 415-441-3000, x-14 or broldan@sfheritage.org.

Stein Collection continued from page 5

All that is the glamorous side of the job. Accessioning entails a lot of just clerical work. Each object receives and is tagged with an accession number that also serves as a catalog or call number. A detailed catalog entry includes an approximate date for the item, its dimensions, a full description that includes any damage or identifying marks, notes and cross references, and a photograph.

Another crucial bit of information is the location of an item in the collection. This will be important when we decide to display selected items for the public. “The act of accessioning is also an act of preservation,” Debbie explains. Each object is stored according to good archival practice to protect against deterioration or damage, and knowing just what you have and where it is means you do not have to rummage through everything to find an object. The less things are handled, the better their chances of survival.

Deborah Sadler will be moving on, now, to fulltime gainful employment. Our best wishes and our thanks for her invaluable contribution to Heritage go with her.

In Memoriam Ellen Ramsey Sanger

We note with sadness the death, in July, of Ellen Ramsey Sanger. Ellen served as Heritage’s executive director, 1980-81, coming to us after working as senior planner and project director for Venturi and Rauch of Philadelphia. In that capacity, she was responsible for preservation plans in Miami’s Deco District, the Strand in Galveston, Texas, and Philadelphia’s Old City.

In 1973, she received a master’s degree in American history from the University of Michigan and went on to serve for five years on the professional staff of the President’s Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, in Washington, D.C., where she was both preservation planner and congressional liaison.

David Hartley, a member of Heritage’s board of directors during Ellen’s tenure, recalled recently, “When she came to Heritage nearly 25 years ago, Ellen inherited an organization that was preoccupied by its exhaustive fight to rescue the Fitzhugh Building and the City of Paris. Ellen was a welcome fresh face. Her calm and persuasive leadership got Heritage back into the game.”

After leaving Heritage, Ms. Sanger remained in San Francisco and continued to be an advocate for preservation and the arts. In addition to her involvement with the San Francisco Art Institute and the Library Commission, she served on the Presidio Council early in the 1990s. For the past three years, Ellen was a member of the board of trustees of the National Trust and its executive committee.

We at Heritage extend our sympathy to her friends and family.
President Bruce Bonacker convened the annual members’ meeting in the Port Commission Hearing Room of the Ferry Building, at 10 a.m., on June 5. In his brief report, he noted that his two-year term as president of the board was drawing to a close. He expressed his heartfelt thanks to the entire Heritage team: staff, volunteers, board members and membership for their work and their support during his tenure.

Bonacker offered his view that preservation is about the future, not the past; it is about shaping the future of San Francisco, not looking back to “a better time.” He observes a sea change in how preservation is being practiced in the 21st century. There will be more emphasis on creating historic districts rather than designating individual landmarks, he predicted, and there is a change already underway in how historic buildings are altered for new uses.

He cited the Ferry Building, a venerable structure badly affected by insensitive changes in mid-century, when its historic use as a transportation terminal ceased. Now those changes have been removed, but rather than restore the building to its original 19th century state, its developer has outfitted it with compatible changes for the next stage of its life.

Charles Chase began the executive director’s report by thanking Bruce for his leadership of Heritage during the last two years. He reviewed the organization’s accomplishments during the past year in all areas of our activity—advocacy, education and stewardship of the Haas-Lilienthal House—chronicled in our published annual report in the March/April Heritage News.

Chase noted that the board’s Issues Committee reviewed thirty major project proposals during 2003, half of those for properties owned by the City and eight of those under the Port’s jurisdiction. Heritage continues to advocate the integration of preservation into the City’s planning process—including survey—as the best way to ensure identification and retention of historic resources.

A $60 million bond issue is expected to come before the voters soon, to provide funds for the seismic upgrade of a number of historic City-owned properties, including Coit Tower, McLaren Lodge and the Geneva Office Building. Heritage will support this measure, Chase stated, which will allow the City of San Francisco to set an example of good stewardship for other owners of historic resources.

The business portion of the meeting continued with the treasurer’s report and the election of board members. Treasurer Dennis Richards reported on the organization’s generally sound financial condition, noting that revenues were up over 2002, while we held the line on expenses. Secretary Alice Coneybeer presented the slate of eight board candidates and entertained a motion for their re-election, which the members present approved without dissent.

The president then opened the meeting to questions from the audience. One member asked how to protect neighborhoods like Clement Street from increased density development and Chinatown from insensitive storefront and signage alterations. Bruce Bonacker said the best way was for members to make preservation an issue in this fall’s races for the Board of Supervisors.

Another asked, “What is the new mayor’s take on preservation?” Charles Chase cited the mayor’s first appointment to the Landmarks Board as a very positive sign. At the recent swearing in of his choice, Bridget Maley, a highly qualified architectural historian, the mayor spoke very intelligently about preservation, Chase reported. At the same time, he cautioned, we must expect, with the current budget problems, that preservation planning will take a hit like all other levels of city government.

Featured speaker at the annual meeting was Heritage board member, Tom Lewis, a restoration specialist. Joining him in presenting the subject of “high tech” preservation were Kevin Cain and Mark Eakle. The three men are co-principals of Ibis Partners, LLC, of San Francisco. Cain is also director of INSIGHT (The Institute for Study and Implementation of Graphical Heritage Techniques), in Oakland.

Specifically, their topic was three-dimensional laser scanning, a technology that allows archeologists and conservationists to make far more detailed and more accurate documentation of a site than is possible with a camera or by hand drawing. It is applicable on any scale, from an entire structure to the smallest objects within.

One advantage of 3-D laser scanning is that it allows quick documenta—continued on page 11
Board Changes

We take note of two additions to the Heritage board of directors and the retirement of one member.

Joining us are Zane O. Gresham and Charles R. Olson. Mr. Gresham is an attorney and a senior partner with Morrison & Foerster LLP, in San Francisco, where he coordinates the firm’s Latin American practice and is co-director of its global airports and aviation practice. Other organizations he is involved with include the Pan American Society of California (currently president). He is an associate member of the Airports Council International and a full member of the Urban Land Institute and of Lambda Alpha, the international honorary land economics society. Mr. Gresham serves as vice chairman of the National Youth Science Foundation and as a director of the Fromm Institute of the University of San Francisco. He is a former president of the East Bay Regional Parks Foundation.

Charles R. Olson, an attorney, is a founding principal of the San Francisco firm of Sanger & Olson. He holds degrees from Harvard and Hastings College of the Law. He practices all aspects of real estate law but has specialized in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, including its application to historic or potentially historic resources. Significant projects include long-range land use and strategic planning for UC San Francisco and UC Berkeley. Mr. Olson also has substantial experience representing nonprofit corporations in formation and governance issues. He is also a member of Lambda Alpha and the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR). He serves on the board of the Berkeley Ballet Theater.

Become a California Art Lover

Proclaim yourself a lover of the arts with an Arts License Plate.

In 1994, California became the first state in the nation to offer a license plate solely designed to benefit the arts. Since then, 112,000 Californians have purchased Arts License Plates, generating more than $6 million. Revenue from their sale funds programs of the California Arts Council (CAC) for arts education and other local arts programs.

Unfortunately, fiscal year 2003-2004 budget cuts slashed funding for CAC by 94 percent (from $18 million in 2002-2003 to $1 million), making income from Arts License Plates this year all the more crucial. Of the $30 charge for each standard and $70 for a personalized (“vanity”) plate, CAC realizes $14.63, and $15 on each plate renewal.

Senate Saves 10% Rehab Credit

The Senate dropped plans this spring to eliminate the 10 percent portion of the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit after preservation organizations across the country called on members to contact their senators and urge retention of the preservation incentive program. Congress enacted the rehab credit in 1981 to encourage private sector investment in older buildings.

Less familiar than the 20 percent credit for certified historic structures, the 10 percent tax credit is available for pre-1936 commercial buildings not officially designated historic. The Senate intended the savings from ending the program to help finance a jobs bill. The National Trust was particularly concerned about the Senate’s proposal, since it has been working with Congress on amendments that would improve the entire program and make it more available for community revitalization projects. Among the Trust’s recommendations are changes to the 10 percent program to make it easier to use for producing housing in older business districts.

Our thanks to all of those on Heritage’s e-mail tree who responded to our relay of information on this issue by contacting Senators Boxer and Feinstein.

Belli continued from page 1

to charge the costs to the owner in the form of a lien on the property. Reportedly, the Department of Building Inspection is sitting on nearly two hundred thousand dollars in a fund set aside for just such intervention. Why DBI has not acted before now is a puzzle, although political influence cannot be ruled out as the reason.
Taber: A Photographic Legacy, 1870-1900
Linda Bonnett & Wayne Bonnett
Introduction by Gary F. Kurutz
Windgate Press, Sausalito, 2004

Photography was still in its first generation when the Gold Rush spurred California's growth, and this new land's many attractions drew practitioners of this art along with the gold-seekers. As a result, the state and its metropolis, San Francisco, have been photo-documented from early on.

Carleton E. Watkins, Eadweard Muybridge and Isaiah West Taber form a triumvirate of outstanding 19th century California photographers that many will recognize. Taber's work comes to us, now, in another outstanding product from Linda and Wayne Bonnett and their Windgate Press, in Sausalito, that comprises the first major monograph of his San Francisco and California images.

This large format book, Taber: A Photographic Legacy, 1870-1900, offers over 200 photographs that are but a sampling of the thousands of surviving images from Taber's lens. In an informative introduction, Gary Kurutz, Curator of Special Collections at the California State Library, tells us that portrait photography was the "bread and butter" of 19th century photographers. It was Taber's first love, and the examples published here show he was a master of this form in what was a highly competitive field. Kurutz notes that the 1880 city directory lists at least 40 photography salons in San Francisco. The reader gets the sense of a parallel in the digital media boom of recent times.

Something of a celebrity photographer, Taber was skilled at self-promotion, and he achieved fame in his own time. As the San Francisco Call noted in 1892, "Everyone who is anyone goes to Taber's to inspect, admire and order." He photographed seven American presidents, from Grant through McKinley, and was invited to photograph Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, in 1897.

Aside from portraits, the book conveys the entire range of Taber's work, from scenic photography that attracted tourists to the wonders of the West, to urban scenes, including Nob Hill mansions and what Kurutz describes as the first important photo record of San Francisco's Chinatown.

The quality of reproduction is exemplary throughout.

An excellent biographical sketch conveys a substantial image of the man behind the camera. A section on the 1906 earthquake quotes Taber's letter to a friend back in his native New England that describes the great loss he suffered in the destruction of his Post Street studio. Undaunted, he borrowed a camera and went out among the ruins, which he described as "the most desolate sight I have ever seen."

The desolation within the walls of his studio was complete. Along with all his cameras and other equipment, Taber lost the negatives of 40 years of work, including three or four generations of portraits. Fortunately, Taber's popularity had ensured a wide distribution for his albums and prints beyond San Francisco, and it is these that have found their way into the large private and institutional collections that are the sources for this appealing book.

Golden Gate Park: San Francisco's Urban Oasis in Vintage Postcards
Christopher Pollock
Arcadia Publishing, 2003


A brief history of the postcard introduces the sampling of more than 200 specimens, from 1894 (soon after Chicago's Columbian Exposition gave birth to the modern picture postcard) through 1940, that Pollock has drawn from his own collection. He has organized the material into chapters that encompass subjects including monuments and buildings in the park, landscaped vistas and water features, recreational opportunities, and now vanished or transformed features of the park. One section illustrates a time, before the city had a separate zoo, when more than just buffalo roamed in Golden Gate Park.

Separate chapters illustrate the collections of the Academy of Sciences and the precursor to the de Young Museum. These are of particular interest because, while remaining in the park, the two institutions are now undergoing major transformations that will have greater impact than any change in living memory.

This is a collection that will stir memories, pique curiosity about the park's earlier days and remind us why this great "urban oasis" is so dear to the hearts of all San Franciscans.
**Bay Area Tours**

**ALLIED ARTS GUILD**
Menlo Park, 650-322-2405

**CAMRON-STANFORD HOUSE**
Oakland, 510-836-1976

**CITY GUIDES WALKS**
San Francisco, 415-557-4266

**COHEN-BRAY HOUSE**
Oakland, 510-532-0704

**CYPRESS LAWN CEMETERY**
Colma, 650-550-8810 or 8811

**DUNSMUIR HISTORIC ESTATE**
Oakland (April–September) 510-615-5555

**FALKIRK CULTURAL CENTER**
San Rafael, 415-485-3328

**LATHROP HOUSE**
Redwood City, 650-365-5564

**LUTHER BURBANK HOME & GARDENS**
Santa Rosa, 707-524-5445

**MC CONAGHY HOUSE**
Hayward, 510-276-3010

**MEYERS HOUSE & GARDEN**
Alameda, 510-522-8897

**OAKLAND TOURS PROGRAM**
510-238-3234

**OCTAGON HOUSE**
San Francisco, 415-441-7512

**PALO ALTO-STANFORD HERITAGE**
650-299-8878 or 324-3121

**PARDEE HOME**
Oakland, 510-444-2187

**SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL**
415-554-5780

**STRYBING ARBORETUM**
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco 415-661-1316, ext. 312

**Continuing Heritage Events**

**HAAS-LIENITHAL HOUSE TOURS**
Wednesdays 12 noon to 3:00 pm
Saturdays 12 noon to 3:00 pm
Sundays 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. $8

**PACIFIC HEIGHTS WALKING TOUR**
Sundays 12:30 pm. $8

**GROUP TOURS BY ARRANGEMENT**
Call Natasha Glushkoff, 415-441-3000

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CURRENT HERITAGE EVENTS**
Call 415-441-3004 or go to:
www.sfheritage.org/events+tours.html

**Heritage programs supported in part by City of San Francisco Grants for the Arts.**

**September**

**THROUGH SEPTEMBER 23**
Exhibitions marking 125th anniversary of the S.F. Public Library. Main Library 415-557-4277. www.sfpl.org

**THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30**
Photo Exhibition: Shades of the Mission Mission Branch Library. www.sfpl.org

**THROUGH DECEMBER 10**
Exhibition: The King’s Orphan: Drawings of an Early Swedish Explorer to California. 415-957-1849
www.californiapioneers.org

**SEPTEMBER 14, 7:30 PM**

**SEPTEMBER 14, 8:00 PM**
ADAF Lecture: From Queen Anne to Arts & Crafts: Two Centuries of Change in American Furniture Legion of Honor. www.adafca.org

**SEPTEMBER 18 & 19**
AIA/SF: Home Tours: San Francisco Living. www.aiasf.org/hometours

**October**

**OCTOBER 9 - JANUARY 16**

**OCTOBER 12, 8:00 PM**
ADAF Lecture: Four Centuries of Silver in the Golden State Legion of Honor. www.adafca.org

**OCTOBER 15 - 16**

**OCTOBER 17, 2:00 PM**
Lecture: Matters Funereal: Odd Deaths & Unusual Obsequies.
Cypress Lawn. 650-550-8811

**OCTOBER 17 1:00 - 5:00 PM**
Victorian Alliance House Tour (See page 11)

**OCTOBER 21, 6:00 PM**
Heritage Lecture. Jack Stauffacher: Historic Seawall Warehouse
Haas-Lilienthal House. 415-441-3000

**OCTOBER 28, 7:30 PM**
Lecture: The Portola Festival of 1909 San Francisco History Association. 415-750-9986
www.sanfranciscohistory.org
ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENTS

A fundraising dinner to benefit preservation of St. Francis of Assisi Church will take place Thursday, September 30. One of seven churches closed in 1994 as a result of pastoral reorganization by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco, the historic North Beach church (Landmark #5) reopened in 1998 as the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi. Proceeds from this event will go toward ordinary church maintenance and a costly seismic retrofit. Tickets are $250 per person and can be obtained by telephoning the dinner chairperson, Annette DeNunzio, at 415-391-8493, or by e-mail AMDENUN@aol.com.

Heritage member Richard Brandi is seeking to contact people who have memories and family photos of West Portal, Forest Hill and St. Francis Wood for a book he is writing on these neighborhoods for Arcadia Press. He will arrange in-person or telephone interviews, or you may send photos, mementos and other information to the Western Neighborhoods Project, P.O. Box 460936, San Francisco, CA 94146-0936. Richard has written and lectured on the history of West Portal and leads a City Guide tour of that district. Contact him at rich.brandi@oracle.com, or call 415-753-5130.

Unveiling of the Market Street Railway Mural at Church and 15th Streets took place on June 12. The 12'x38' work of art offers a fisheye view of Market Street from the Ferry Building westward, proceeding through time, as well as space, depicting architectural changes, the history of urban transit and significant moments of social history along the city's main stem from early in the 20th century to the present and into the future. The mural's creator is Mona Caron. For more information on the mural and the artist, visit www.monacaron.com. The Neighborhood Beautification Fund of the Mayor's Office provided initial funding, with private donations making up the balance.

As the fall house tour season approaches, we note that the Victorian Alliance of San Francisco will present its annual tour, featuring the Fair Oaks Neighborhood, on Sunday, October 17, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Go to www.victorianalliance.org for details. The Alameda Legacy Home Tour takes place on September 19, featuring classic Craftsman “Homes of Natural Charm.” Call 510-523-5907 or visit www.alamedahome-tour.org.

In an exhibition currently on through December 10, 2004, the Society of California Pioneers is presenting The King's Orphan: Drawings of an Early Swedish Explorer to California. It features thirty-three drawings that are some of the Society’s most rare and important treasures. Made between 1842 and 1843, they are among the earliest views of the region and represent a first impression of a remote and singular place. For more information, visit www.californiapioneers.org.

Glamour: Fashion, Industrial Design, Architecture is the title of an exhibition that opens at the Museum of Modern Art on October 9 and runs through January 16, 2005. The show features nearly 125 objects that illustrate how the concept of glamour has been applied in three design fields, from 1945 to the present. The idea of glamour is based on notions of excess, i.e., the inclusion of design elements not tied to function, and has been most accepted in haute couture. This exhibition explores the influence of this concept in high fashion, as well as in architecture and industrial design.

On July 28, Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC) held a grand re-opening of the Antonia Manor, at Turk and Jones. Built in 1926, the ten-story reinforced concrete structure opened as the Governor Hotel. The architect was Creston H. Jensen. The recently completed rehab, designed by architect Gelfand RNP and providing 133 affordable housing units, is another TNDC preservation project.
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Contributions are tax-deductible.

The historic Haas-Lilienthal house, a property of San Francisco Architectural Heritage, is a great venue for your wedding or your next corporate or personal event. The house can accommodate up to 150 guests. For more information, call 415-441-3011.

4 New Walking Tours
Saturdays at 1:30 starting September 4

New Docent Training Class
Watch our web site, www.sfheritage.org, for details on our new walking tours and for the dates of our fall Docent Training Class.
To sign up for the training to become a Heritage walks guide or Haas-Lilienthal House docent, contact Natasha Glushkoff: 415-441-3000, natasha@sfheritage.org.

San Francisco Architectural Heritage
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