

Eureka Heritage Society

P.O. Box 1354

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Eureka, California 95501



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A mere 18 months ago the idea of a Eureka heritage organization was conceived "to create an awareness of our city's heritage." And, without a doubt, that awareness has been created: If newly-painted Victorians, restored buildings, and overall pride in our past is any indication.

Since that May of 1973 - - when a dozen or so citizens gathered informally around a table to talk heritage at a meeting called by Eureka Mayor Gil Trood -- to this November 1974, and a total of 404 members in our incorporated, non-profit society - - we've come a long, long way.

And, if you don't mind another cliché, we've only just begun. For instance:

'75 COMING EVENTS

* * January, 1975 will be a gala month for heritage with a special event (emphasizing Victorian elegance) planned for heritage members and their respective guests. The event is tentatively planned for the last Sunday in January - - launching your society's second membership drive. Myrtle Sevier and Linda Burman, themselves a part of Eureka's heritage, are the able co-chairpersons.

* * Also in January, your society board will make appointments to permanent committees to begin work on many phases of "heritaging." After all, heritage need not be esoteric. It's alive and well. Especially in Eureka.

* * An historic, important 1975 event will be the first evaluations of the architectural survey. This will be accomplished by imported experts in fields of architectural history, planning and preservation - - aided by local, equally qualified historians, architects, and planners. Evaluation information will give Eureka's insight into their city - - its make-up, its significant neighborhoods, etc.

* * Special programs will be offered during 1975 for your information and pleasure. Among those suggested is a presentation by representatives of a S.F. firm specializing in Victorian restorations. Please give this idea some thought. If you'd like to hear about "the care and feeding of Victorians" write your society. (see letterhead address). Your opinions will be appreciated, as they will be on other topics of interest that you may prefer.

HISTORY OF VICTORIANS

Another reason to use the society's mailing address now - - and in the future - - comes from board member Betty Riley. She suggests (with blessings of chairman Dr. Walter Dolfini) that all residents of Victorians (or other interesting, older structures) compile a history - - as much as they personally know - - about the building, attach a photo and mail it to the society. If a photo is not available, the society can arrange to take one. Eureka's, not living in Victorians, but who may have pertinent information about specific buildings, are asked to submit it. Information received will become a part of permanent records for public use.

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

The survey committee, headed and organized by Ted Loring, ably aided by Dolores Vellutini, Sally Christensen and Doris Knowlton - - plus a host of volunteers - - has been steadily surveying the city. Volunteers were first introduced to survey techniques at orientation seminar ably conducted by Janie Clarke. Teams first went into the field in September, 1973. Dolores now reports the survey nearly 40 per cent complete, through the efforts of more than 25 volunteers, coordinated

by Mid Westfall, and through the diligent photography of an untiring volunteer, Milton Phegley. He's soon to be aided by other photogs - - in order to complete the survey goal of reaching Henderson Street - - 80 per cent of the city - - by the first of 1975. Then will come time for the first evaluations.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Funds for the evaluation will be available from our treasury. Darrell Ditty, CPA, society treasurer, reports a balance of \$11,898.56 - - \$9,000 of which is in a time certificate and the remaining \$2,978.56 in a commercial account.

Of this total, \$9,259.16 is profit from the fabulous Heritage Fair held in April at Redwood Acres. A mini profit and loss statement on the fair follows for your information:

* HERITAGE FAIR — CONDENSED INCOME STATEMENT (Unaudited) — April 1974

Operating income:	
Admissions	\$ 5,184.87
Preview party	2,119.84
Quilt raffle	495.55
Commissions	1,739.15
Donations	<u>535.00</u>
	\$10,074.41

Expenses:

Rent, programs, publicity, Insurance	<u>766.45</u>
Net income	<u>\$ 9,307.96</u>

Other income came from members dues (\$2,943, according to membership chairman Fran Giffen); donations, oldest home house tour in January, the dinner for Nat'l Trust President James Biddle in March, the survey kickoff dinner with Marion Ross in October, 1974 and an around-the-table funds call at our first general orientation meeting in the chamber office.

* The heritage fair, grand beyond all expectations and a financial success beyond dreams (the largest profit ever for a weekend Eureka event) was truly a marvelous celebration of Eureka's Gingerbread years.

Gratitude beyond measure is due co-chairpersons Marilyn Bartlett and Anne Ashley for a superb job of planning, organization and presentation.

And while Heritage Fair '74 can never be duplicated it is hoped that a bi-centennial adaption can be offered in 1976. Meanwhile, anyone with fair photos, who would care to donate them for posterity, is asked to send them to your society. They will augment the interesting collection prepared by Ron Klein.

"ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE"

Something equally interesting and with equally handsome photos was distributed by the City of Eureka on Nov. 7. It's a brochure entitled "Architectural Heritage." Available at the city's Redevelopment Office, it focuses on the Eureka core area of the redevelopment project, pointing up very vividly that city powers have an eye on our past - - and a concern for our future.

TOUR VISITORS

Nat'l Trust for Historic Preservation members - - on tour through Eureka in October - - also had (appreciative) eyes on Eureka's past and indeed felt we had a future in it. They viewed the city on a tour organized and directed by society member Ralph Dyer.

And in July, when the League of California Cities, northern Division, convened here, Ted Loring directed a tour. They, too, were enthusiastic about our buildings and most impressed with the Carson Mansion - - as a significant Eureka Victorian symbol.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

The idea of having the Carson Mansion appear on one of the nation's forthcoming commemorative stamps is gaining momentum. If you wish to support this project, do write to Congressman Don Clausen or the U.S. Citizens Stamp Committee, c/o Eureka Soroptimist Club, Box 648, Eureka. The idea of the commemorative stamp - - proposed for the bi-centennial year or any year! - - originated within your society - - and is being furthered by Soroptimists and other local groups.

HERITAGE SOCIETY OFFICERS: Dr. Walter Dolfini, chairman; Ted Loring, vice-chairman; Muriel (Mrs. George) Dinsmore, secretary; Darrell Ditty, C.P.A., treasurer; Fran Giffen, membership chairman. BOARD: Betty (Mrs. Fenwick) Riley; Dorie (Mrs. Tom) Knowlton; Marilyn (Mrs. Tom) Bartlett; Harry Bistrin, John Burger, Bob Palmrose, Jack Nielsen, Dr. Howard Kelly, Ray Vellutini, Bob Madsen.