



The San Antonio Conservation Society

JOURNAL

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Designed in the English Tudor style by Phelps & DeWees, and opened in 1923 as Washington Irving Junior High School, David Crockett Elementary housed one of the first middle schools in Texas.

CAN SCHOOLS LIVE WITH THE THREE RS?

Preservationists teach the importance of restoration, rehabilitation and reuse of historic structures, but can local schools meet today's needs in aging facilities?

There are tough choices challenging many school districts today. While attempting to balance needed facility expansion with the preservation of historically significant structures, aging campuses are weighing some difficult options. In the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD), where the city's oldest campuses are located, administrators are faced with complex issues that threaten existing structures.

At Crockett Elementary, district personnel are evaluating eroded piers and the subsequent structural damage affecting an historically significant building. Foundation instability, created by years of ground movement, has resulted in structural problems. Consequently, administrators must

determine whether the building can be stabilized or if demolition and new construction can best meet the needs on campus.

Bonham Elementary faces a far different challenge. In order to accommodate planned growth, the school is anticipating acquiring additional property for expansion. The lots under consideration for purchase include two historic houses that would either be demolished or moved to allow for the construction of new facilities. Preservationists would like to see Bonham either consider acquisition of other available adjoining property or better utilize its present land to meet current and future needs.

Design sensitivity is

another factor to be considered when additions are made to historic structures. Douglass Elementary is in the planning stage of a projected facility expansion with the addition of new construction. Built in 1914 as the second high school exclusively for African Americans, it is a cultural landmark in the East Side community. New buildings should complement the existing structures on campus, including those added in 1922-23 for junior high students, as well as reflect the school's African American roots.

Preservationists have seen SAISD pass previous tests on the Three Rs -- giving the district high marks for its restoration, rehabilitation and

reuse of historic buildings. Even additions to the Franklin and Travis Elementary campuses merit praise. Both schools are models of quality new construction that echo the original architecture. At Whittier Middle School, architects and planners are repurposing original structures to accommodate new functions in existing space.

While past performance speaks highly of the district's architectural acumen, current challenges will assess their commitment to historic preservation. SAISD can use this opportunity to teach other schools the importance of the Three Rs. Let's hope they've done their homework.

By Deborah Sibley
Editor

WATER IS OUR PAST AND FUTURE



By
Bruce MacDougal
Executive Director

Centuries ago, San Pedro Creek and the San Antonio River provided all of the water needed by our native inhabitants and later for the missionaries and settlers. Spring flow from the Edwards Aquifer was abundant. The water was pure and the flood plain was lush with vegetation. A community grew around this water supply.

Today, facts, opinions and a lot of political rhetoric pervade the discourse about the future of our historic below ground water supply, the Edwards Aquifer. Although the scientific information may not be all universally agreed upon, one thing is for sure, protection of the aquifer is a high community priority. Although only about one tenth of the aquifer's 1,500 square mile recharge zone is in Bexar County and 75% of that land is either developed or approved for development, the level of debate over PGA Village, whether for roof tops or for golf links, illustrates that the citizens of the county consider aquifer protection a high priority. Since August, the Conservation Society Board of Directors has emphasized the need to monitor the governance of the Edwards Aquifer. As a result, the Society's President, Second Vice President and Executive Director began a series of meetings with

informed local officials to learn more about aquifer protection and what the Society can do to assist in the efforts.

so far. More recently, EAA staff moved forward by developing an initial water quality concept paper to address the issues



Water: a resource that needs protection.

The key player is the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA), created by the Texas Legislature in 1993 to preserve and protect this vital community resource. The board that governs this public body has elected representatives from the eight counties that comprise the region. Rural, urban and suburban interests are all represented, each with its own agenda.

The EAA has the ability to regulate both the quantity and the quality of the aquifer water. Issuance of permits for groundwater withdrawal and discussion about water conservation and development of alternative water sources have dominated the actions of the EAA

related to the authority's charge to prevent waste or pollution of the water in this unique natural reservoir. It was conceived as a first step in proposing further water quality regulation. Due to the fact that issues related to water policy could generate considerable political jockeying, and the development of the policies would coincide with State Legislative session, the process for seeking input on the prospective rules was put on a slower track. Many in the community believe that the responsibility for governing aquifer water quality is a local responsibility, not something that should be interfered with by the State.

An issue of particular interest is "grandfathering" rights for property owners. Because the EAA is not a local governmental body, grandfathering does not apply. The Conservation Society, among others does not want to see the State use its authority to supercede the EAA and allow grandfathering. Therefore, as a part of the legislative agenda for this session, the Society representatives are meeting with each member of the Bexar County delegation to address this important issue.

Also of recent interest is the creation of the Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District last year by the Texas Legislature. In the November election, the voters in Northern Bexar County resoundingly confirmed the establishment of the district. Had confirmation not occurred, the Texas Department of Environmental Quality could create a district subject to state control. Because the water supply from the Trinity Aquifer is susceptible to declines due to drought and excess pumping, it is important that strong regulation, compatible with that of the EAA, be developed. A concerted effort to balance the different interests in the region will be critical to maintaining the quantity and quality of our water for future generations.

SOCIETY RECOGNIZES ACTIVE MEMBERS WITH NEW PINS



Active Member pins are now available for all Active Members in good standing. This pin is a part of the Society's program to honor and recognize the valuable efforts of current and new Active Members.

You can pickup your pin at Stuemke Barn behind the Wulff House on Thursday, Friday or Saturday, January 23, 24, & 25, 2003 from 10:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m. They will also be available at each General Membership Meeting.

If you have any questions, please call Membership Chairman Ernie Beitler at 692-1363.

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The purpose for which the San Antonio Conservation Society is formed is to preserve and to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, objects, places and customs relating to the history of Texas, its natural beauty and all that is admirably distinctive to our State; and by such physical and cultural preservation to keep the history of Texas legible and intact to educate the public, especially the youth of today and tomorrow with knowledge of our inherited regional values.



The historic Huebner Onion Homestead, owned by the Historical Society of Leon Valley, is one of the beneficiaries of the Society's Community Grants Program.

Photo courtesy of the Leon Valley Historical Society

OUR MONEY AT WORK

By Nancy Avellar

The Grants, Revolving Fund and Acquisition Committee announced the selection of seven structural restoration or stabilization projects and one publication proposal as recipients of \$50,500 in Community Grants Program funds awarded for Fall 2002. The Society's Board of Directors ratified the funding recommendations at a special meeting held on November 13, 2002.

The Society awards grants for building restoration projects based on, but not limited to, the following criteria: 1) age of structure; 2) critical need for repair/restoration; 3) potential impact to surrounding area or neighborhood; 4) location in an historic district; and 5) way in which the project relates to the Society's purpose.

The Leon Valley Historical Society received \$25,000 in funding for the completion of "mothballing" of the circa 1862 Huebner-Onion Homestead and Stagecoach Stop in Leon Valley. "Mothballing" refers to the process of removing

debris, stabilizing, and securing an historic structure against the elements and vandalism before restoration takes place. The Huebner Onion Homestead received a previous grant of \$15,000 from the Society to begin this project.

Located in the King William Historic District and designated a Significant City of San Antonio Landmark, the residence at 155 Crofton, owned by James and Debra Kistler, will receive a \$5,392 grant for first and second story porch restoration. New standing seam metal roofs will be installed on both stories and gutters will be replaced to match existing ones. This home was built in 1890.

The structure at 127 Callaghan Avenue, owned by Penelope Boyer and designated a Significant City of San Antonio Landmark, was awarded a \$4,494 grant for porch reconstruction. Included in this restoration is the rebuilding of the steps, replacement of rotten lumber, repair of gingerbread architectural elements, and redecking. This home was built in

1895 and is located in the Lavaca neighborhood.

Roger Glenn Stephens, owner of a structure at 1410 South Presa Street, built circa 1900, was given a \$5,399 grant for restoration of a two-story porch on the southeast side of the house. The owner plans to demolish a second story enclosure and return the area to its original open balcony. In addition, the original columns will be rebuilt or replaced.

The residence of Josephine and Bob Comeaux, located at 702 West French Place in the Alta Vista neighborhood, was the recipient of a \$5,000 grant for front porch restoration. This large restoration project encompasses leveling, refurbishment and replacement of columns, bases and capitals, replacement of rotten wood, removal of a second story enclosure and restoration to original appearance, and restoration or replacement of railings and gutters.

A grant of \$2,015 was awarded to Roberto Hinkson for limestone and mortar repair to the

exterior of his residence located at 426 Mary Louise Drive. This Monticello Park Historic District home was built in 1935.

Maxine Bordelon received a \$3,200 grant to fund the restoration of her Mission Historic District home at 2901 Roosevelt Avenue. Work on the circa 1930 home includes complete roof and gutter restoration and repair, repainting the metal roof and replacement of rotted eaves.

From the Society's Mirza Fund, a research and education grant was awarded in the amount of \$4,850 to The Building Arts Project Team, led by Emily Thuss, Executive Producer. The funds will be used to produce publication submission materials for "The Building Arts: Craftspeople of South Central Texas." The intended publication will feature craftspeople that have contributed to the unique character of public and private architecture in San Antonio and surrounding areas.

NIOSA® 2003

It's not too early to begin thinking about your involvement in San Antonio's premier Fiesta event -- A Night in Old San Antonio (NIOSA). In this issue is a NIOSA Volunteer Sheet. If you are interested in volunteering to assist with the 2003 event, just complete the enclosed form and return to the NIOSA office.

NOTICE TO ACTIVE MEMBERS:

Due to a vacancy, there will be an election of one Director for the remainder of a three-year term expiring June 2004 at the Wednesday, January 22, 2003, General Membership Meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the River House-Garden Entrance, 509 King William Street.

Article V.1.B.: The directors elected by the membership must have been active members for at least one year or the major portion thereof.

Article V.3.A.2: Nominations may be made from the floor provided prior consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Article V.3.A.3.: Election shall be by ballot and plurality shall elect.

Article V. 5.: Vacancies in any office shall be filled in the same agency that selected them originally for the unexpired term.

Another City-approved curb cut on Houston Street ignores Houston Street Guidelines.

Photo by Deborah Sibley



CUTTING CURBS: UNDERCUTTING DESIGN PRINCIPLES

One of the basic premises of the TriParty Project was to bring the atmosphere of the River Walk up to Houston Street. The environment on the River Walk is pedestrian. While boats ply the river's banks, patrons access businesses on foot. In an effort to enhance the pedestrian experience at street level, TriParty improvements widened sidewalks, added trees and removed much of the vehicular traffic from the street.

Among the major public improvements in conjunction with Federal Realty's efforts to attract retailers to Houston Street is the Presa Street linkage, again an attempt to bring that river

ambience up to street level. The Houston Street Guidelines, funded jointly by the San Antonio Conservation Society and Federal Realty, underscored the need to keep sidewalks intact for pedestrian comfort, "...to maintain a clear definition of the street edge...."

As soon as the first major new restaurant tenant, The Palm, was signed to a lease, the guidelines were ignored. Much of the sidewalk in front of the new restaurant that had been built with TriParty dollars was removed and replaced with valet parking spots. When Bohanan's Prime Steaks & Seafood negotiated with the city,

they asked for the same privilege. The City committed to both allow and to pay for a curb cut.

City staff placed the item on the City Council's consent agenda prior to its passage by the Historic and Design Review Commission. The San Antonio Conservation Society asked that the request pass through the proper channels, and it was returned to the commission for final review on November 14.

The Historic Preservation Office recommended denial on the basis of the request's conflict with the Houston Street Design Guidelines. Staff in the City Manager's Office

countered that the commitment had been made to the restaurateur, and the city had to honor that contractual obligation.

The end result: There will soon be two long curb cuts on the north side of Houston Street in the same block, further eroding the pedestrian amenities put in place by TriParty.

Following on the heels of the recent razing of a historically significant building at Market Square, the city seems bent on undermining the very protections it has put in place to protect and enhance downtown.

CITY'S FIRST NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

In response to the City's 1997 Master Plan and 1998 Community Revitalization Action Group report, the City developed the Neighborhood Conservation Districts (NCD) zoning overlay classification. This ordinance affords neighborhoods the opportunity to develop unique design standards to address appropriateness of new construction and rehabilitation in both residential and commercial neighborhoods.

Since the adoption of the NCD ordinance and program, nine neighborhoods have applied to the City to request help in developing an NCD. The first neighborhood ordinance addresses the Southtown/Lavaca

area properties south of S. Alamo Street to the railroad tracks, between S. Presa and S. St. Mary's Streets and the properties on the east side of S. Presa Street. The area includes the NCR Program Southtown target area. This new ordinance will "fill the design protection gap" between the King William and Lavaca historic districts and respond to the revitalization efforts for the Southtown commercial corridors.

This new ordinance, approved by City Council on November 14, contains a set of design standards, which will become part of the zoning code for this area. These design standards complement the Southtown Design Guidelines and provide a

means of defining appropriate development.

An informational brochure identifying all design standards will be sent to all property owners. The design standards reflect both issues pertaining to the structure and the site. Standards that reflect the structure typically address building height, elevation features such as window and door openings. Standards that reflect the site address lot size, setbacks, paving, fencing, lighting, landscaping, signage and parking.

The NCD will offer a more predictable course of development for both the development community and neighborhood property owners.

At the time of ordinance

adoption, all properties are "grandfathered," therefore, no property owner is required to bring their property into compliance. Compliance for the NCD occurs only when a property owner submits plans for a permit.

Questions regarding the NCD program may be addressed to Christine Vina in the Neighborhood and Urban Division of the Planning Department at 210-207-7815.

Written by Christine Vina for the Fall 2002 edition of the Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization Program Newsletter. Reprint permission granted by NCR.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Bill	Sponsor & Co-sponsors	Summary	Status
FY03 Interior Appropriations Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) H.R. 5093 S. 2708		In President Bush's FY 2003 budget, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), already suffering from a near \$20 million reduction in FY 2002, saw a further decrease of funding for FY 2003, with the total HPF appropriation at \$67 million. The State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO's) took the brunt of the hit, with their allocation falling from \$39 million in FY 2002 to \$34 million for FY 2003. The National Trust's Historic Sites Fund, which received \$2.5 million in FY 2002, was also cut and received no funding in the President's 2003 Budget. The amount of funding for Save America's Treasures, and for the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices remained constant at \$30 million and \$3 million, respectively.	On July 17, 2002, the House passed their Interior Appropriations Bill (H.R.5093) with funding for the HPF at \$76.5 million, an increase of \$2 million over the FY 2002, and \$9.5 million over the President's Budget. However, the Senate Appropriations Committee opted at its markup on June 27, 2002 to mirror the President's budget at \$67 million. A floor vote on the Senate measure (S. 2708) is expected soon.
Historic Homeownership Act (HHAA) H.R. 1172 S. 920	Reps Clay Shaw (R-FL) & John Lewis (D-GA), Sens John Breaux (D-LA) & James Jeffords (I-VT)	The Historic Homeownership Assistance Act (HHAA) would create an incentive in the federal tax code for the rehabilitation of historic, owner-occupied residences. This incentive would reverse disinvestment and blight in historic neighborhoods through homeownership. HHAA is attractive to current homeowners as well as families on the cusp of homeownership.	Introduced in both the House and Senate and referred to the Ways and Means and Finance Committees respectively. Neither has taken action on the measure in this Congress.
The Farm Security Act of 2001 H.R. 2646 PL 107-171	Rep Larry Combest (R-TX)	The Farm Bill provides for the continuation of agricultural programs through FY 2007 including provisions that make historic buildings, structures, objects, and archaeological sites on farmlands eligible for conservation incentives under the Farmland Protection Program (FPP). It also creates a barn preservation program which will provide grants to eligible structures for rehabilitation, repair, fire protection, vandalism prevention, research and identification.	The Farm Security Act of 2001 was signed into law on May 13, 2002. Unfortunately, the Agriculture Appropriations Committee declined to fund the barn program FY 2003 spending package.
National Heritage Areas Policy Act of 2001 H.R. 2338	Rep Joel Hefley (R-CO)	The measure establishes the criteria for designation and a mechanism for federal support of national heritage areas. Two granting programs are authorized - a five year matching grant to fund feasibility studies and management plans for proposed National Heritage Areas, and a ten year program for designated National Heritage Areas to carry out their management plans.	H.R. 2388 was introduced on June 28th, 2001, and was favorably reported out of the House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands on May 22, 2002. A floor vote on the measure is expected at any time. Controversy surrounding private property rights issues is anticipated.
Cultural Heritage Assistance Partnership Act H.R. 1882	Rep Mark Udall (D-CO) Co-sponsors: House 11	Measure would establish a cultural heritage assistance partnership program to coordinate government programs that can assist the cultural heritage programs being developed by States, tribes, local governments and private organizations through a program office within the National Park Service will be established to provide information, technical assistance, awards and small grants.	H.R. 1882 was introduced on May 16th 2001, and was referred to the House Resources Sub-Committee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. Executive comment was requested from Interior on May 30, 2001. A companion bill has not been introduced in the Senate.
TEA-21 Reauthorization		The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), authorizes federal surface transportation programs. It expires in 2003. Historic Preservation has received significant funding through TEA-21s Scenic Byways and Transportation Enhancement programs.	Hearings on the reauthorization have begun. Staff members predict draft proposals will be ready by the end of 2002. Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) has already introduced S. 2678, the first of eight bills he plans to offer to address reauthorization issues.
Historic Schools Preservation Act H.R. 4045	Rep Baron Hill (D-IN)	Authorizes the Secretary of Education to carry out a pilot program to promote the preservation of historic school structures.	The bill was introduced on March 20, 2002 and referred to the House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Education Reform.

This legislative update notes pending legislation compiled by Preservation Action. Preservation Action coordinates a network of community activists, preservation professionals, historians, commercial investors and civic leaders working together to advocate for our architectural heritage. Funded in 1974, Preservation Action is the only national 501 (c) (4) preservation lobby. Preservation Action monitors federal legislation and keeps members informed of its consequences for preservation through weekly legislative updates, committee conference calls, quarterly national meetings and in-depth policy reports. For information on how you can support the work of Preservation Action, visit their website at www.preservationaction.org or reach them at Preservation Action, 1054 31st Street, NW, Suite 526, Washington, DC 20007, telephone 202/298-6180 or fax 202/298-6182.

The Navarro Hotel shows current construction aimed at creating a boutique hotel at the historic property.

Photos by Ron Bauml



PRESERVATION NEEDS A BADGE

Residents in Washington call them history cops or the preservation police. In actuality, they are the District of Columbia's historic preservation inspectors. The inspector position was established two years ago to enforce permit compliance for construction projects in historic districts. In the Washington metropolitan area, approximately 23,500 properties in historic districts are protected under that city's preservation law.

Like Washington, San Antonio has designated landmarks and historically significant structures in numerous historic districts throughout the city. Where we differ is our ability to enforce the municipal codes that should protect our architectural and cultural treasures. By law, owners of property in historic districts are required to submit their construction plans to the City of San Antonio in order to acquire necessary permits as well as apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC). Many residents don't even

bother with what they perceive to be a cumbersome application process. However, owners and contractors that do submit applications to the HDRC often fail to follow approved plans that preserve the character and architectural integrity of the structure.

A good example is the Navarro Hotel. Bordering the La Villita Historic District and located in the River Improvement Overlay District 3, the Italianate structure, built in 1915 as the Garden Hotel, is designated as an Historically Significant Landmark by the City of San Antonio. O'Brien Hospitality, Ltd. purchased the property this year, and a \$1.6 million investment is being made to convert the structure into a boutique hotel. The necessary documents and construction plans were filed with the City of San Antonio, and because of its historical designation, an application was made to the HDRC. Last March, the architect for the project asked the commission for approval to make changes to the exterior of the

building. The following changes were approved: a canopy below the storefront transoms restored to run the full length of the façade; the addition of new wood-frame, glass panel storefronts; replacement of windows with new wooden windows; new wood doors; and the addition of metal balconies across the rear of the building. Following the HDRC's review, a Certificate of Appropriateness was issued, and work began on the renovation.

Without an historic preservation inspector, however, the city did not monitor the project's compliance to codes governing historic building facades. A code compliance violation did surface. It became evident to Society members that the owner had deviated from approved plans and had cut numerous holes in the front and rear walls - with large sections of the brick façade removed - to accommodate exterior air conditioning units.

The Historic Preservation Office was immediately notified and a code compliance officer was sent

to the property to stop further defacement to the building. Although the owner has repaired the brick cutouts on the front façade, this case like many others, points to a need for code enforcement before damage is done to historic structures.

The City must find a way to make preservation rules stick. San Antonio has experienced a rapid increase of renovation in historic districts that intensifies the need for stricter code inspections and the personnel to enforce the law.



Mason works to repair damage to the Navarro facade.

POST MORTEM: THE DEMISE OF THE HARDING BLACK STUDIO

By Bruce MacDougal

The 1953 Harding Black Studio at 8212 Broadway became only a memory October 7, 2002, just four days after the City of San Antonio's Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC) denied a finding of historic significance for the property. Although the case for historic significance was clearly established, Dr. Alfred Miller, who had acquired the property months earlier for establishment of a car wash on the parcel, prevailed. A local design firm attempted to purchase the property for their office, but the owner would not lower the asking price to fair market value. Because of the high price of the property, the proposed reuse of the building was infeasible and the effort to purchase it was blocked.

If it were not demolished, the studio would have served as a tangible reminder of the career of Harding Black, a nationally acclaimed ceramicist with strong San Antonio roots. According to research by HDRC staff, Black was a graduate of Brackenridge High School, beginning his career at the Witte Museum where he trained as a potter and eventually established a ceramics department. With Mary Vance Green, he worked on ceramic plaques for the San Antonio River. He did all of the tile work at La Villita for the WPA project. While at the studio on Broadway, he advanced his craft using new techniques and producing a large body of works. His works were exhibited at institutions, including: the National Museum of Art, Smithsonian Institution and the National Ceramic Institution.

The building designed as his studio was unique. A model of the 1950's international style, the building was an understated example of the creative use of materials and surfaces - in this case brick and tile. The kiln area of the one-story L-shaped building was made of stacked arched tile, open to the air. Enclosed portions of the building were faced with square clay tiles accented with tiles made by the artist. According to an observer who visited the site after the demolition, every trace of the tiles was removed. The site was scraped clean.

ISSUES AND UPDATES

By Barbara Johnson
and Deborah Sibley

The Hays Street Bridge fund committee has submitted an application for a grant to the San Antonio Area Foundation for funding needed for the restoration of the circa 1880 railroad truss. The City of San Antonio's planning department is currently working on a grant to the Meadows Foundation to provide additional funds to restore the bridge and link it to the planned Salado Creek Hike and Bike Trail. Donations of any amount would be welcomed to insure that this National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark is restored to its highest potential. For information on how to make a tax-deductible donation to the Hays Street Bridge Restoration Fund, contact Barbara Johnson at the Wulff House, 210-224-6163.

A third public meeting was held November 20 to discuss the renovation plans for **Plaza de las Islas Canarias**, San Antonio's historic central downtown square, more generally known as Main Plaza. Further refinement of the design continues to emphasize unifying the space around the Bexar County Courthouse, San Fernando Cathedral and Municipal Plaza.

San Pedro Creek ... Meetings with stakeholders have garnered further support of the creek restoration project with the following endorsements to date: Judge Nelson Wolff, Mayor Ed Garza, the Metropolitan Planning Organization and VIA, Goodwill Industries, Alameda Theater and the San Antonio Conservation Society. A Department of Transportation T-3 funding application was submitted in November in the amount of \$50 million that earmarks \$5 million for the San Pedro Creek restoration project. Twenty percent or \$1 million needs to be raised from public and private sources.

The **San Antonio River Improvement Project** calls for development of a 13-mile stretch of the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek that includes the historic Mission Reach - nine miles extending from Mission Espada to South Alamo Street, and the Museum Reach - four miles of river from Lexington Avenue to Hildebrand Avenue. On December 10, a public meeting will be held to address the design of the park and urban segments of the Museum Reach. The 6:00 p.m. meeting will be held at the San Antonio Museum of Art. There will be a separate public meeting on the Mission Reach from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on January 8 at the Texas Department of Transportation headquarters located at Loop 410 and S. Presa.

Further designs have been submitted for review and discussion of the proposed **River Walk ADA** ramp at the Hugman bridge at La Mansion. To date there is no consensus as how to adapt ADA standards to the historic bridge and Hugman fountain along the San Antonio River Walk.

On November 5, the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) conveyed approximately 1,200 acres in south Bexar County to the **Land Heritage Institute of the Americas** (LHIA). The property had been acquired a number of years ago by SAWS as part of what was to be the Applewhite Reservoir Project. Since the reservoir was rejected by voters, the property remained in SAWS possession until its transfer to LHIA. Plans call for the acreage to be developed as a natural resources and heritage park.

Expansion plans are in the works for the historic **Crockett and Menger Hotels**. According to the San Antonio Business Journal, the downtown landmarks are moving forward with a proposal to construct a multi-story addition to the Crockett Hotel. The project would include a six or seven floor addition with new guest rooms and meeting facilities as well as a new parking garage to be shared with the Menger Hotel. The November 6 article noted that the City's Historic Preservation Officer Ann McGlone has met with Gal-Tex, the hotels' owner, to also discuss the possible demolition of a previous addition to the Crockett.

Plans are finally moving forward with the city's **Historic Structure Survey**. Cherise Bell has joined the staff of the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation Office to supervise a project that will identify and classify the 62,000 buildings within San Antonio's original 1856 city limits, an area of 36 square miles. With a \$50,000 grant to the project and its donation of digital cameras, laptop computers and a pledge to provide volunteers, the San Antonio Conservation Society has worked tirelessly to reinvigorate the city's return to cultural resource survey work. The multi-year effort will document architectural and cultural resources in neighborhoods and commercial areas throughout San Antonio in an effort to preserve landmarks before they are lost. **Volunteers** are needed to assist with the reconnaissance level survey that will identify and describe these structures. Please contact Sue Ann Pemberton-Haugh at the Society office to help. The number is 210-224-6163.

The Conservation Society Yearbook is near completion and will be provided to members in an improved format this year. The new yearbook will be compiled in a tabbed binder that will allow future issues to be printed as supplements rather than complete reprints of all information.

Speculation on the transformation of the former **Pearl Brewery** has many San Antonians talking -- particularly the media. Since the brewery property was purchased by San Antonio-based Silver Ventures, reporters from the San Antonio Express-News and local television stations have interviewed Ken Halliday, the company's managing director. According to reports, preserving the history of Pearl will be key to the development plans for the property on the banks of the San Antonio River. Although no specific plans have been announced, word is circulating that a mixed-use development with entertainment and lodging may be in the works. Closure of the on-site Jersey Lilly Saloon will allow renovation to the building and mark the first phase of construction. Existing brewing equipment will be sold in January by the new owners.

SOCIETY'S JOURNAL WINS TWO BRONZE QUILL AWARDS

The International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) has honored the San Antonio Conservation Society Journal with two Bronze Quill Awards. The Society was the only winner to take home the top prize, the Award of Excellence, given in the Publication category. Additionally, the Journal was one of two Award of Merit winners in the Publication Design category.

IABC, the premier international organization for professionals engaged in strategic business communication management, represents 13,000 communicators in 60 countries. Members from chapters throughout the United States volunteered their time and expertise to judge the San Antonio area entries honored at the annual Bronze Quill Awards ceremony. Professionals from San Antonio's public and private sector came together for an evening of celebration at the Institute of Texan Cultures where the Society garnered the 2002 honors.



Journal Editor Deborah Sibley (left) and Society President Jill Souter accept IABC Bronze Quill Awards at the October ceremony.

NEW MEMBERS

Melissa P. Aguillon
 Guy R. Banta
 Patricia Riios Berck
 Barb Brem
 Michael Broker
 Alice V. Carrillo
 Anthony G. Carrillo
 Roselee H. Chaney
 Rozana G. Corbo
 Edwina Love Fanner
 Christina Annalise Forestier
 Raul H, Garcia, Jr.
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Richard Iltis
 Emily Elizabeth Jennings
 Sarah Jennings
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 Emily McGinty
 Jordan Elizabeth McGinty
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 Cottie Miles
 Antony L. Montaldi
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 Rose Moran

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 Jessica Reser
 Linda Segesman
 Kathryn Elaine Sibley
 Sonia Stallones
 Susan Stallones
 Elia Nuncio Toms
 Randall James Trevino
 Antonio R. Valenciano, III
 Veronica Villarreal-Perez
 Kirk Wells



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THE SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY
 107 KING WILLIAM STREET
 SAN ANTONIO, TX 78204-1399

(210) 224-6163

www.saconservation.org

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

- 7 Mission to Mission "Wheels for Meals" Family Bike Ride Tour.** 7:30 am - 2:00 pm, Mission County Park #1. Registration at 7:30 am and the tour takes off at 10:00 am for the "Ride History," touring past 17th century Spanish Missions and out to Braunig Lake and back to Mission County Park for a 34-mile event. The 12-mile short course rides past the missions, touring the Espada Aqueduct on the newly completed Hike & Bike Trail. Call 210-271-7000 for more information.
- 7 Christmas Along The Corridor.** 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, The Harrison and Brown Stage Coach Stop at IH-35 and Evans Road. The Pony Express will carry the Governor's Christmas Message to the people of Texas. Bring your cards and letters for cancellation with the official post office commemorative Pony Express Rider stamp. In conjunction with Selma's Third Annual Heritage Day, enjoy crafts, historical exhibits, local genealogy, food and entertainers.
- 7 Castroville Conservation Society's Christmas Candlelight Open House.** 5:30 - 8:30 pm, Four Historic Homes on Tour in Castroville. For information, call 830-931-9221 or 830-931-6397.
- 8 Texas Holiday Traditions.** 4:00 - 7:00 pm, Institute of Texan Cultures, Back 40. Celebrate the season with holiday music, create Victorian ornaments, trim a pine tree, string cranberries and popcorn, visit the Exhibit Floor depicting ethnic holiday celebrations and decor. For information, call 210-458-2300.
- 8 Las Posadas.** 6:00 pm, River Walk. The public is invited to enjoy the beautiful pageant followed by priests, mariachis and candle-bearing choirs singing traditional Posada songs and Christmas carols in English and Spanish. After the procession, guests are invited to Maverick Plaza in historic La Villita where children can take part in a piñata breaking and all are welcome to enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. This is the Conservation Society's annual holiday gift to the community and its visitors and is one of the most famous Christmas celebrations in the United States. It has been listed in Traveler Magazine as one of the world's top Christmas attractions.
- 10 Weihnachtsfeier.** 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Steves Homestead, 509 King William Street. The annual German Christmas party for Society members.
- 11 SACS Board of Directors Meeting.** 9:30 am, River House.
- 28 Los Pastores.** Food booths open at 6:00 pm, performance begins at 7:00 pm, Mission San Jose. Traditional performance brought by Franciscan priests to San Antonio more than 250 years ago. Originating in Spain in the 1500s, the play depicts the age-old conflict between good and evil, with Lucifer and a band of masked devils trying to prevent the shepherds from reaching Bethlehem. The colorful handmade costumes combine native Texas traditions.

MEMORIALS

Remembering:

Received From:

Mary Matthews Barry

Jill Harrison Souter

Marlene Gordon

Celia Jones Prehn

MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of the San Antonio Conservation Society, or would like to nominate someone for membership, applications can now be accessed on-line at:

www.saconservation.org