

## JUNE 1976 – NEWSLETTER

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

First of all, to the 93 new members who joined the Hallmark Society at the Heritage Restoration weekend. We hope you'll enjoy being a part of the Hallmark Society. We are glad to have you aboard!

### HERITAGE RESTORATION WEEKEND

The Heritage Restoration Weekend at Roslyn was a big success. It was a lot of work, but it was worth it. Our thanks to the executive who made it happen ~ especially Coordinator Stuart Stark, who masterminded the whole show. Thanks, too, to the members who helped--Vicki and Jack Kuhl, Katherine Hodgins, Mary Emerson, Mary Dick, Nary Gisborne, Mary Graham, Gloria John, Margaret Richards, Stella Kupitz, Jim Lee, Jill Sewell, Martin Segger, Margaret Burnand, Julie Lane, Daryl Jensen and Ursula Robbins. Special thanks to Bill Murphy for the use of his truck, to Judy Bossio, who drove the truck and worked all day at Roslyn, to Mary Warrington for the smart banner, to Rennie Knowlton for all those classy signs, to Mrs. MacVicar for baking us some cookies, to Terry Reksten for researching the homes whose pictures were displayed in the kitchen, to Carolyn Smyly and George Radford for the excellent bus tours, and to George's friend, Bruce Gibson, who helped map out the tour and typed notes for the tour guides.

### WORKING COMMITTEES

Many of the new members will be interested in the working committees of the Hallmark Society. At the moment, the most energetic of these is the Inventory Committee, which is continuing towards its goal of recording all the heritage buildings in the Greater Victoria area. That is a formidable task, but the enthusiastic members are becoming expert at seeking out the many delightful examples of Victoria's early architecture.

The identification and filing of photographs is undertaken twice monthly at meetings held in the homes of committee members. We are currently applying for a Canada Council Grant to cover the costs of this important work. If approval is received, the fall of 1976 will find us well on our way towards the publication of the Hallmark Society's Inventory of Heritage Buildings, something we are constantly being asked for.

If becoming a part of this exciting project appeals to you or if you would like more information, please phone Chairman Mrs. Margaret Hutchison, evenings, at 592-2313.

### COME TO THE MEETING

For news and details of other committees, plan to attend our next General Meeting, to be held on Wednesday night, June 16, in the Courtroom of the Maritime Museum, Bastion Square, starting at 8:00 p.m. We'll be announcing details then of our summer outing, which will be our last formal activity before we take a holiday break. Be sure to come. We want to see you all there, especially the new members, so we can tell all of you more about the Hallmark Society, and our activities and goals. Guest speaker too!

### GETTING IN TOUCH

People often ask us how to get in touch with the Hallmark Society. We now have an official mailing address: P. O. Box number 1204, Victoria, B. C.

### WHAT IS A HERITAGE DESIGNATION?

We are often asked, "What is Heritage Designation? What does it mean, and what happens to my house if I offer it for Heritage Designation?"

A building offered for designation will be referred to the Heritage Advisory Committee, which will determine whether it is, in fact, worthy of designation. Their recommendation will be forwarded to Council, who may or may not vote to pass a bylaw designating your building. This bylaw must then be approved by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council (i.e. the Cabinet).

Legislation concerning heritage designation is found in Section 714(A) of the Municipal Act. Simply stated, a designated heritage building cannot be demolished nor can its facade be altered without the permission of Council. The interiors of designated heritage buildings are not controlled, so no special permits are required for renovation.

To date, only two residential buildings in Greater Victoria have been designated: Tod House, on Heron St., which was subsequently purchased jointly by the Municipality of Oak Bay and the Province, and the white tower house on Robert St. in Vic West, whose owner is promoting demolition through neglect. Two "residential" buildings on Fort St. have been designated in return for forms of commercial zoning--the Norwich Union Life Insurance Building and Higgins Hall.

Designation does not preclude new adaptive uses. In fact, the owner of a building worthy of designation stands an excellent chance of obtaining zoning which might not ordinarily apply to his neighborhood.

Five buildings volunteered for designation by Hallmark Society members are currently wending their way through the bureaucracy.

#### NEED DROP SIDING?

Stuart Stark would like to know if anyone wants to share an order of 8 inch drop siding, which he needs for the restoration work on his heritage home. To save on the \$50 minimum cost of running 1,000 lineal feet, how about sharing an order? Phone Stuart (soon) at 386-0215.

#### GARDENING ANYONE?

If you find your garden soil lacking in sand or clay, how would you like some good soil? As if he didn't have enough to do already, Carl Rudolph has excavated his basement. Two "historians" visited the site, one declaring the excavated soil clay, the other declaring it sand. Come and see for yourself. Let's just call it dirt, free for the taking in the driveway of Higgins Hall, at Fort and St. Charles.

## SOME GOOD NEWS

Our spies tell us that the heritage home at the corner of Fort and Stadacona Street has a new lease on life. We understand the new owner specializes in historic books and is interested in opening a bookshop there. The building is presently zoned R3 and we have written to Council supporting commercial use for the building, provided the exterior is preserved.

Many members have expressed concern about the state of "the fine building at 146 Clarence St., in James Bay. It is undergoing extensive interior renovation which will make it into six suites, but the owner, OLCO Management Ltd., plans to retain the exterior in its original state. Recognizing the building's historical significance as the home of the first complete aircraft ever built in Canada, it is planned to publicize this with an appropriate plaque on the building, and by sitting play equipment on the grounds with an aeronautical theme.

## SAME OLD GARAGE SALE

Yes, Virginia, there is a Garage Sale! It is currently planned for Sunday, June 20, at the Rekstens, 2636 Lincoln Rd., in Oak Bay, if we manage to collect enough items. If we don't, we'll take what we have out to Swap 'N Shop at the Tillicum Theatre. To date the response has been

underwhelming. Do you have anything you can donate, especially classical junk? We would like to have everything in by Saturday noon, June 19, and the sale will start at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. If you have any small items you wish to donate, bring them along when you come to the meeting at the Maritime Museum on June 16.

## SUPPORTING YOUR HERITAGE BUSINESS

This month's heritage business is The Backroom Gallery, 2070 Oak Bay Avenue. Many of you may have noticed the tastefully decorated old home on the left hand side of Oak Bay Avenue (going towards the Village), but have you walked through the beautifully landscaped grounds and gone in through the front door?

Inside, you'll find one of Victoria's most attractive art galleries, with full facilities for custom framing and which every month opens a new show, mostly of well-known Canadian artists such as Maxwell Bates, Pat Martin Bates and Fleming Jorgensen, to name just a few.

We chatted with artist/owner Valentine who with his partner, weaver Cornelius Schoonman, operates the gallery. First located across the road four years ago, they bought their present house in 1974 and immediately ran into rezoning problems and other restrictions. Twenty years in Canada, and now a Canadian citizen, Valentine and his partner are originally from Holland, where so much is done for history and culture, and some of the obstacles here were puzzling, to say the least. However, with backing from the local art colony, they finally got the green light from Council and opened The Backroom Gallery in their present location in June of last year. Valentine believes the intimate setting of this charming house serves both the artist and the customer better. When you see it, you will agree. There is a Fleming Jorgensen show opening there on June 9. Drop in and see it. You'll be glad you did. Let's remember to do our best to support and encourage the enterprising people who undertake operation of heritage buildings as a viable business.

#### ANOTHER BUS TOUR

There were so many requests for space on the bus tours which were held on the Heritage Restoration Weekend that we have booked another, to accommodate those who were disappointed on the weekend, and who left their name and phone number. George Radford will be the guide for the twohour tour which will start at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 6. Following a similar route, the tour will stop and go inside Higgins Hall, at the corner of Fort and St. Charles, as well as Norwich Union, at 1162 Fort St.

#### P.S. RE-INVENTORY COMMITTEE

There is currently no one in City Hall to do research into heritage buildings, and the Inventory Committee wants to work closely with Terry Reksten (our

representative on the City's Heritage Advisory Committee) to provide needed historical and architectural data for the City's Inventory.

#### REMEMBER THE MEETING

That's it for now! Remember the General Meeting on Wednesday night, June 16, at 8:00 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Maritime Museum, Bastion Square.