

## MARCH 1977 – NEWSLETTER

OH RATZ!

GENERAL MEETING - 8 P.M. WEDNESDAY MARCH 23<sup>rd</sup> LIBRARY - MARITIME MUSEUM featuring FOR THE FIRST TIME ON ANY SCREEN! THE LIFE (and loves) OF FRANCIS MAWSON RATTENBURY!

Rattenbury, the designer of the Parliament Buildings and the Empress Hotel, was more than just an architect. He was a visionary, a promoter, an empire builder, a "jolly good fellow" and the victim of a brutal murder.

Using slides collected over two years of research, Terry Reksten, who may be the only Victoria resident to 'have met the man convicted of Ratz' murder, will tell the story of Rattenbury's professional and private life.

Reports on Society activities and on the recent "New Life for Old Buildings Conference" held mid-February in Vancouver are on the agenda.

## HERITAGE PRESERVATION AWARDS

Thanks to Jim Lee for the use of his home, to Candy Wyatt who organized the affair and to the talented troubadors who provided the entertainment, Carolyn Smyly who sang while Don Reksten fiddled, the presentation party on Feb. 23 will again be remembered as a highlight of the year's functions. Heritage Preservation Awards were presented by Pim Manning to.:

- Mr. & Mrs. B. Vivian for their continuing restoration of their house at 1161 Fort St.
- Orme & Levinson, Architects, for their adaptation of 146 Clarence St. to an apartment building while restoring the exterior to its original style.
- Mrs. Faith Grant for pioneering heritage restoration in Victoria and continued preservation of the Connoisseur's Shop at 1156 Fort St. .

- The 1976 Mayor and City Council were awarded a "Louis" the Society's most coveted award, given to recognize special efforts of individuals or organizations to preserve heritage buildings. On this occasion the Society recognized the City Council for acknowledging that pending destruction of heritage buildings represented an emergency and for passing a by-law preventing demolition of many fine buildings. The "Louis" is named after the famous parrot who lived in the Parrot House. It was the destruction of that building which led to the formation of the Hallmark Society. ...The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association for its work in preserving the Chinese School at 636 Fisgard St. The award was given on March 5 as they were unable to attend the presentation party because of the Chinese New Year's festivities.

#### HERITAGE DAY '77/'78

Heritage Day as a statutory holiday did not materialize--it remained on Parliament's order paper. Although the third Monday in February was proclaimed Heritage Day by the Mayors of Victoria, Oak Bay, Saanich and the week as Heritage Week by the province, little promotion was evident. While the Hallmark Society is not the only organization concerned with "heritage"; it is proposed to set up a Society committee to examine and plan activities to promote the day in 1978. Norman Pearson (592-7657) has agreed to chair that committee. Let him have suggestions now so that appropriate activities may be organized for the 1978 Heritage Day. Perhaps by then the fate of Heritage Day as a country-wide holiday will have been determined.

#### ROYAL TREATMENT FOR VICTORIA?

While other banks adopt a policy of restoring their offices and other companies actively seek out heritage buildings in which to locate, the Royal Bank has the strange idea that their corporate image will be improved by demolishing one of the few commercial buildings designed by architect Sam Maclure. The Jones building in the 700 block Fort Street, next to the site of the Campbell building

demolished a year ago by the Royal Bank, will soon come tumbling down to make way for the bank's new Victoria headquarters. The style of the new building has been described by the Mayor as "Babylonian" and, while it's uncertain just what that means, it has an ominously decadent ring to it.

City Council feels that the plans are too far along for them to designate the building now although it has been listed in the "City of Victoria Heritage Conservation Report" since that report was first published in 1975. But there may still be time to convince the Royal Bank of the error of their ways. Just how to do that will be a hot topic at the next general meeting. Come with some ideas!

### CRYSTAL GAZING

Psst! Anyone got a crystal ball? That's what's needed these days to try to figure out what is going on behind the scenes regarding the Crystal Garden. One thing is known--some Hallmark Society Members have collaborated on a soon to be published book about the Crystal. Carolyn Smyly, Terry Reksten, Martin Segger and Al Kerr have written the text and Stuart Stark and Rennie Knowlton are doing the art work and selecting the photographs and other memorabilia to be included. All proceeds will go to the Crystal Garden Preservation Society or, if the Crystal's fate has been decided, the Heritage Building Foundation of the Hallmark Society. Developer Hans Hartwig has an on-again off-again plan to restore the Crystal and perhaps by the time of the general meeting there will be some firm news one way or the other.

### MODEL BUILDERS AMONG US?

Among the papers of the late Gloria John, a former and very active member of the Hallmark Society, was a draft letter suggesting that models be made of those buildings where it was inevitable that they would be demolished. Perhaps there is, among the membership, an amateur model builder?

### DOWN AT THE OFFICE

The Society is receiving publications which are worth reviewing--particularly the "Old House Journal" if one is planning restoration as it illustrates old building detail. Also available is "Preservation News" directed to the community aspects of preservation and restoration. Both are American publications. Copies of the latter may be picked up but the "Old House Journal" is kept in the office. Reminder--office hours are: Mondays and Saturdays 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Do drop in!

#### HILLSIDE BAZAAR

A booth has been reserved for the Hillside bazaar at the Hillside Mall on Wednesday, April 20, 1977. If you can help man the booth any time from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. please phone Margaret Hutchison (592-2312). Saleable items such as handicrafts, white elephants, jams, jellies or any items (not old clothes) which can be sold from the table are needed. Items may be left at the office.

#### HAVE YOU GOT A HERITAGE BUILDING?

A number of members have reported pre-1914 buildings that YOU A they own and have restored or plan to work on in response HERITAGE to last month's appeal. Are there more? Often, BUILDING? organizations such as the Hallmark Society are accused of preaching and not doing. It would be an effective support to the Society's requests for others to preserve heritage buildings if it can be shown that a goodly number of members are so engaged. The only way this can be stated is to list member restorations--past or pending. Drop a note into the office (30 Bastion Square) or bring it to the meeting showing address, name of owner (and phone number), date of construction and any other available information.