A House Odyssey

Picture yourself standing at the intersection of S. Main Avenue and Rische Streets looking east. What you see now is the west side of a C. H. Guenther & Sons warehouse building, but 30 years ago, the house now at 321 Stieren stood on this site. It was just one of a dozen houses that were removed from the east side of S. Main Avenue between Guenther St. and S. Alamo when the mill folks decided to expand their campus in the early 1980s. One other house was saved and moved across the street, sited on a vacant lot at S. Main and Sweet Street. It currently houses Green Acres Child Care Center. The other ten houses were demolished.

The house that formerly stood on S. Main Avenue, now on Stieren, was built in 1902 by contractor W. E. Tietze and had the address of 230 Frasch. (That stretch of S. Main Avenue from Johnson St. to S. Alamo Street was named Frasch Street until 1949.) In 1902, the building contractor sold the house to William Klappenbach and his wife Laura for $2,350.

Mr. Klappenbach was a piano tuner, and by 1926 was manager of piano repair for the San Antonio Music Company. The Klappenbachs had four children: sons William, Jr. and Edmund, and daughters Hattie and Lillie. Mrs. Klappenbach died in 1920, and the 1921 City Directory lists Lillie and her father as the only remaining occupants of the house.

Lillie was first a piano teacher, but by 1922 she was secretary-treasurer of Appler, Schmidt, Klappenbach Publishing and Circulating Co., located at 209 Soledad. She was still with this company in 1934 when it moved to 150 North St. as Appler & Co. Publishers. Mr. Klappenbach died in 1940, leaving his estate to his four children. Three of them deeded their shares in the house to their sister Lillie, who was still living in the family home. By 1954, Appler & Klappenbach Publisher's address is given as 1022 S. Main Avenue, so apparently Lillie moved the business part of the company into her home.

Lillie died in 1966 and left her estate to her remaining siblings, Hattie and Edmund. The total estate was valued at $84,777. This included the house and lot valued at $10,000, and ten framed pictures painted by her father along with various pieces of antique furniture. Lillie left continued on page 9
What We Have Lost

Through the years, development has eaten away at the inventory of housing downtown and in the immediate surrounding areas. Within the past 30 or so years, our own King William neighborhood lost five blocks of homes between S. St. Mary’s St. and the river for the expansion of the Brackenridge High School campus. Later, another four blocks were razed where the San Antonio Housing Authority now sits. The site was originally to be the site of a post office complex that was ultimately changed to a north side location.

But even before this, significant homes were lost in the area between King William and downtown. In her book, *Alluring San Antonio*, artist and writer Lillie May Hagner tells about homes that still surrounded downtown in the 1930s. Some of the homes are still standing, but sadly many others are gone. One such home was that of politician Thad Smith, shown below. Located on Flores St., a popular residential street of early City pioneers, it was built of stone with cupolas and arches.

*The Thad Smith Home*

Everyone, especially those who live in historic districts, needs to be vigilant to protect our heritage. Remember, once it was proposed to put a freeway through at the corner of King William and Sheridan Streets.

Ms. Hagner’s book can be found in the KWA’s library. As one reads through the book, it is easy to see that San Antonio is not quite as alluring as it once was because of what we have lost.

- Alan Cash
The Wicked Wit of Wickes Street

Craig Tallman Pennel, born January 6, 1949, a long-time King William resident, business owner and supporter of many non-profit organizations, passed away on June 21, 2014. He served as the secretary for the board of Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas (AGUA) and was a board member for the Jump-Start Performance Co. Most importantly, he was always giving of his time to mentor and help others.

Remembered for his breadth of knowledge on a variety of cultural subjects, he had a particular fondness for English literature and the fine points of English grammar. Craig got his B.A. in English at Trinity University and began his involvement in the King William neighborhood while in college. Shortly after graduating in 1971, he continued his studies with a fellowship at Liverpool University. "He was excited when he went to England, where he could be on the ground and touch and see all the things that he loved," his brother, Joe Pennel, said.

After earning a master's degree in English literature, Craig served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army for a year at the end of the Vietnam War. Upon returning to San Antonio, he worked a stint as a manager of the Beauregard, now Madhatter's Tea House and Café.

In 1986, Craig and his friend Danny Lozano opened La Tienda Guadalupe, at the corner of Alamo Street and Beauregard. It was one of the first and finest Mexican folk art stores in San Antonio, serving up not just art, but the rich culture of the region as well.

"So many people met him at the shop. That was the place to go if you wanted anything authentic from Mexico. Craig was such a fun and generous person. He would tell wonderful stories about the legendary characters of San Antonio," his friend Joan Frederick said. After closing La Tienda Guadalupe in 2009, he devoted more time to traveling with friends in Mexico and Europe.

Craig mentored many budding San Antonio artists, including Michael Mendoza, who roomed with him for several years. "Knowing Craig brought my life more beauty, joy and perspective," Mendoza said. He was a connector of people, a networker, even serving as matchmaker for several couples, including us.

Several years ago, Jump-Start Performance Co. held a theatrical event and fundraiser called “The Wicked Wit of Wickes Street,” in which many friends and local celebrities honored and roasted him in true Craig Pennel fashion.

The title of the event, which soon became his nickname, was based on his smart humor, his way with puns and his ever friendly-sarcastic attitude - plus the fact that he lived on Wickes Street.

Among his many friends, Craig was close to his neighbor, noted author Sandra Cisneros, who featured him in her 2012 book Have You Seen Marie?, an illustrated fable for adults about a woman's search for her missing cat through our easily recognizable neighborhood, in the wake of her mother's death.

Craig will be remembered for his great taste in art, his wicked wit and his big heart. He loved hosting parties where his friends could enjoy his fine cooking and great revelry, and these events often served as fundraisers for artists and organizations. Because his home on Wickes Street was along the King William Fair Parade route, his annual Fair Day reception was a much-loved, annual celebration for many years.

His love, generosity, passion, wit and wisdom will be sorely missed in our neighborhood - and far beyond.

Craig's family has opened a memorial account at Frost Bank. Donations can be made via check, made out to "Craig Pennel Memorial Account," and mailed to his brother, Joseph D. Pennel, 6901 Corona Dr., North Richland Hills, TX 76180. Donations can also be sent via PayPal by using email mmendoza@snaptrends.com, where deposits will go directly to the memorial account.

-Zet Baer & Rudi Harst
What's So Funny about Peace, Love and Understanding?

As you've likely noticed, there's a lot of construction going on in our neighborhood — and not just the interminable work on S. Alamo! While this is generally a good thing, sometimes your construction project (not to mention your leaf blowers!) can be disturbing to your neighbors, especially early mornings, weekends and evenings.

The KWA office has had inquiries from residents about noise nuisances. According to the Noise Ordinance, the nighttime and weekend noise level should not exceed 80dBA. The Noise Ordinance is enforced by City Police.

If you're exasperated by excessive noise, you can call the SAPD non-emergency number: 207-7273.

Excerpts from the City Code:

Noise nuisance shall mean any loud, irritating, vexing or disturbing sound originating from a nearby property under separate ownership which causes injury, discomfort, or distress of a person of reasonable nervous sensibilities, or any sound that exceeds the maximum permitted sound levels specified in subsections 21-52(a) (6)(b), (9)—(12), and 21-60(b).

Daytime/evening shall mean the hours between six o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock p.m., Sunday through Thursday and six o'clock a.m. and eleven o'clock p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Sec. 21-52. Noise nuisance enumeration.

(a) The following acts, among others not hereinafter enumerated, are declared to be "noise nuisances," and are unlawful and in violation of the provisions of this division when such acts are done or accomplished or carried on in such a manner, or with such volume, intensity, or with continued duration, so as to annoy, to distress, or to disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of a person of reasonable nervous sensibilities, within the vicinity or hearing thereof, or so as to endanger or injure the safety or health of humans or animals, or so as to interfere with the physical well being of humans or animals, or so as to endanger or injure personal or real property:

(6) The erection, including construction, excavation, demolition, alteration, or repair work, or the permitting or causing thereof, of any building or other structure, or the operation or the permitting or causing the operation of any tools or equipment used in construction, excavation, drilling, demolition, alteration or repair work:

a. Other than during the daytime on week days; or
b. At any time such that the sound level at or across a real property boundary exceeds 80dBA.

c. This section shall not apply in cases of urgent necessity in the interest of public safety, or in cases of public convenience, including city sponsored or co-sponsored fiestas, parades, and public events.

Please consider your neighbors' peace and quiet, as you would want them to consider yours.

---

Space and light and order...

Open Hand Monument, Chandigarh

Le Corbusier
1887 - 1965

...things that people need as much as bread or a place to sleep.

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OUT IN THE GARDEN
with Alan Cash

The weather has been good so far as gardening is concerned. From May 1 to June 30, I measured 11 3/4 inches of rain in my gauge. Hopefully we will get more in the coming weeks.

August is the time to trim back certain plants to keep them in bounds or to promote fall flowers. Roses that are of the repeat variety, meaning they bloom throughout the season, can be trimmed back by about one-third. This causes them to bush out with new growth and more fall blooms. Most evergreen shrubs can be trimmed moderately to prevent overcrowding. If your nandina have grown too tall, thin them back by cutting about one-fourth of the tallest canes back to about six inches from the ground. New growth will sprout at the point they were cut. Repeat this process about every six months to prevent bare stems at the lower level.

Crepe myrtles have really outdone themselves this season. The streets of the neighborhood have been a riot of color. The larger ones with the light pink/lavender flowers are Basham’s Party Pink. It is a popular choice for shade and color in the garden at the hottest time of year. They are readily available at most good nurseries.

With rain, can weeds be far behind? A good organic weed killer is two ounces of orange oil to one gallon of 9 percent vinegar from the grocery, and a squirt of kitchen dish soap (not dishwasher detergent).

Start looking for end of season plant sales at local nurseries. Perennials and shrubs are usually found at discount prices as we get closer to winter.

Garden Note: A garden is like a relationship - no matter how old or new, it is always something you have to tend to. R. Tarlton.

St. Joseph’s Awards
Scholarships to
Area High School
Students

St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Benevolent Association (St. Joseph’s Society) awarded eleven $1,000 scholarships to students entering their freshman year at a San Antonio area Catholic high school at the Second Annual St. Joseph’s Society Awards Banquet on June 8.

Funds for the scholarships were provided by St. Joseph’s Society and Hope for the Future. St. Joseph’s Society is one of the oldest Catholic men’s organizations in the state and supports Catholic charities and Catholic education. Recipients of the non-renewing scholarships were chosen based upon criteria including grades, class attendance, extracurricular activities, community service, church service and family income.

In 2013, the initial year of the program, St. Joseph’s Society awarded seven $1,000 scholarships. This year, with the dollar for dollar matching grant from Hope for the Future, the program was expanded to eleven. The Society has over 120 members who volunteer to help raise funds. The main fundraising comes from participation in the King William Fair and from rental of the banquet hall. The Society hopes to raise additional funds to expand the program.

The 2014 St. Joseph’s Society scholarship recipients are: Stephen Benavides and Angelica Rose Flores, Antonian College Preparatory; Daniel Guerra and James Leal, Central Catholic; Alejandra Gonzalez, Holy Cross; Briana Caballero and Daniela Cardona, Incarnate Word; Emily Hoog and Karina Mendoza, Providence; Edward Zamora and Angela Zavala, St. Anthony.

- Larry Wedge,
Chairman, St. Joseph’s Society Scholarship Committee

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Navigating the Historic and Design Review Process

San Antonio is rich with thousands of historic buildings that represent our culture and make our city unique. In order to preserve and protect these resources and the character of our neighborhoods, the City of San Antonio adopted a historic preservation ordinance that is part of the City’s Unified Development Code (UDC). The UDC requires that all properties designated as individual landmarks or are located within a historic district to receive a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) before any repairs, improvements, or modifications are made to the exterior of these properties.

The review and approval for a COA is through one of two ways:

Administrative approval is for work that is considered maintenance or repairs including replacement of materials in-kind, window repair, removing non-historic siding, exterior paint, and minor landscaping. For a full list of items that are eligible for administrative approval go to Sec. 35-611 of the UDC.

Historic and Design Review Commission approval is for work that is not considered maintenance or repairs including additions, new construction, changes in material, window replacement, hardscaping, front yard fencing and major landscaping.

Both administrative and HDRC approvals are based on the standards set by the UDC which are required, and the Historic Design Guidelines which serve as a recommendation and allow for more flexibility than standards. More information on the Historic and Design Review is available in Chapter 1 of the Historic Design Guidelines.

- Adriana Ziga
Office of Historic Preservation, City of San Antonio

King William Fair 2014
Best Booth Display Award
to Hannah & Nemo

Nemo and I were so excited to win Best Booth Display in 2014! I’m so amazed at our King William Fair patrons who love what we do, and they show it. We consider it our “hometown” show, since it’s one of the few festivals we do in San Antonio - it’s like a family reunion for us and we love it. I’ve been attending since I was a child, and the spring wouldn’t be the same without it. We’re now going on four years living in a 96 square foot van, still traveling the country living off our art.

Thanks to all who put on this awesome event! We had our best sales year yet.

- Hannah
Neighborhood Safety
Citizen Participation Programs

The San Antonio Police Department offers many programs to help you reduce the chances of becoming a victim. The following classes and services are available to everyone for free:

- Cellular on Patrol Training
- Personal Safety Classes
- Stranger Danger (for young children)
- Home Security Surveys
- Business Surveys

COP (Cellular on Patrol)
Neighborhood residents patrol their streets, using cell phones to report crimes. Ride-along and training at SAPD substations. If you are interested in taking a Cellular On Patrol course, the next classes are: Tuesday, August 12; Tuesday, September 16; and a refresher course on October 25.

Contact: Officer Felipe Santos, class instructor, at sapd851@yahoo.com, (210) 207-4164 office or (210) 219-8451 mobile.

Police Reports
For Police Reports go to http://raidsonline.com. Type in your address and the map will show cases in last few weeks. On the left column, click on the menu bar to toggle types of crime reports. At the bottom of the left column is a Date Range.

SAFFE Officer
SAFFE Officer David McCall is our officer for King William, Monday-Friday, 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.
E-mail: david.mccall@sanantonio.gov, or leave a message at Central SAFFE Unit at 207-7413 during business hours.

Helpful Numbers
The following phone numbers may be helpful to you:
- 311 for all City services (including graffiti), other than Police and Fire
- 207-SAPD for all non-emergency calls
- 207-7410 Central Patrol
- 207-7413 Central SAFFE Unit
- 207-7482 to report tour bus violations
- 911 for emergency calls only!

- Patricia Garcia Duarte

Does "Service Above Self" Strike a Chord With You?

July is the beginning of the Rotary year, and the San Antonio Mission Trail Rotary Club is actively seeking new members who enjoy giving "Service Above Self" - the official Rotary motto.

We meet Tuesday mornings from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. at MadHatter's, 320 Beauregard. We are an eclectic group, committed to having fun while doing worthwhile projects on local and international levels. We are also long-time members of the King William Association.

If this type of service club appeals to you, please drop by any Tuesday morning. Visitors are always welcome.

Annual projects include:
Mission to Mission Charity Bike Tour - Held the first Saturday in December along the Mission Trail. We raised and donated $16,000 to 10 charities last year! Visit m2msa.org for details.

King William Fair - Organize and supervise the "Kids Kingdom" in support of the KWA, offering many free activities.

"I Like Me" Literacy Program - Distribute personalized books to 10 kindergarten classes at four area schools to encourage reading.

Bonham Academy Early Act Club - Sponsor the service club for elementary students to learn first-hand what it means to give "service above self."

Basa - Volunteer with the KWA and other groups to help clean up our San Antonio waterways.

For more information, visit missiontrailrotary.com.

- Anna Kiefer
City Lights

It is a hard thing to love an old house. In many ways it is not unlike caring for an elderly parent. The bond of love is being constantly tested by fatigue and expense that never diminishes.

It is a hard thing to leave an old house. Like facing the loss of an elderly parent, the inevitability of not being able to hold on longer can become manifest and undeniable.

I’ve been thinking about three sets of neighbors who’ve reluctantly decided that living in their grand old houses no longer makes sense for them. One neighbor has already moved and the other two families have purchased condominium homes that will free them from the unremitting demands of painting and gardening.

Giving up an old house is also part of the acknowledgement that one is moving toward a phase of one’s life marked by diminishing energy for maintenance projects, and perhaps a certain impatience in waiting to see those projects fulfilled.

The side of the scales that contain the weight of the pride and pleasure a homeowner takes in keeping windows spotless, paint pristine, and hedges and lawns in good order, begin to tilt in the direction of the physically taxing burden of keeping up with it all. One’s energy might be better conserved for other things, time with one’s spouse or children, travel, time to read more or walk farther along the river.

When a house loses its current owner it also loses something of its personality. If the residents are gregarious and generous with hospitality, their residences acquire the brightness of their spirits. When we walk by the home of someone we know and like or admire, its hard not to smile a little in passing. I’ve always thought empty houses seemed haunted not by the shades of their former occupants, but by the memory of them in the minds of their still living friends and family.

Houses, especially handsome old ones, are potent symbols of the most intimate of human relations, of the raising of families, of the passage of time, and as the physical repositories of the touchstones of people’s lives. We are lucky our neighborhood is blessed with attics and basements, they are vessels for the artifacts of memory, un-played-with toys, fading photographs in aging albums, surplus books, clothing from other times.

I’ve seen two moving vans in the neighborhood lately. One was being filled with fine furniture, boxes of books, things that mark a comfortable life that has reached some stage of maturity. A maturity that will continue elsewhere. The other van was being emptied. Less expensive furniture, and small bicycles with training wheels, evidence of a life not yet fulfilled.

We don’t really own houses - we just take care of them while they shelter us and our lives.

- Michael Guarino

Newsletter
Improvement Plan

Do you have a story to tell? A neighbor to praise? News to share? A general interest column to launch? Submissions and contributions to the KWA newsletter are welcome! Please send to info@ourkwa.org.
A House Odyssey

continued from page 1

this advice in her will to her brother and sister: “I wish to caution that the above devises not be hastily sold. It is my opinion that because of its location and other factors, this property is of substantial and increasing value.”

Apparently disregarding their sister’s caution, Edmund and Hattie sold the property less than two years later to William O. Gifford, who rented it as two apartments until he sold it to D. B. Harrell Co. in 1983. Just weeks later, D. B. Harrell Co. turned around and sold the property to C. H. Guenther & Sons.

Lewis Fisher, architect and past KWA president, remembers that there were about a dozen houses on the east side of S. Main Avenue between Guenther and S. Alamo Streets. All of the houses backed onto the river, which flowed almost to S. Alamo before hooking back toward the mill before flowing under the S. Alamo Bridge. Shortly thereafter, the river enhancement project eliminated the deep bend behind the mill by diverting the river from Johnson Street directly to the S. Alamo Street Bridge, thereby putting the river in front of the mill instead of behind it.

When Lewis Fisher bought his cottage at 319 Stieren in 1976, it came with a vacant lot next door. He was looking for a house that would fit his corner lot when he heard that those houses on the east side of S. Main Avenue were scheduled for demolition in the summer of 1983. Lewis found that one of those houses, its wrap-around porch would fit perfectly on the corner of Stieren and Mission, with the porch facing both streets.

Lewis offered the mill $500 for the house which they accepted, but it had to be moved very quickly. The house was cut in half from the front door to the back, and the top of the roof peak was temporarily removed. Three small dormers were also removed and laid sideways for the move. Lewis completed the renovation in the spring of 1985, and sold the house to Jim Nelson in 1990.

While Jim has moved on to restore yet another one of King William’s fine houses, his Stieren Street house is currently occupied by Ed and Bobbie Masoro. The Masoros, many of you will remember, lived at 221 E. Guenther from the early 1970s until the late 1990s, when they sold their home and moved to Charleston, SC. After living for about 20 years in their charming “South of Broad” house on Legare Street, they have now come back to King William.

People move...houses move. Sometimes, even the river moves.

- Bill Cogburn

Sources: San Antonio Public Library archives; Mary V. Burkholder archives; Lewis Fisher
Kids, Kayaks and Canoes

Neighbors celebrated July 4th in stars-and-stripes style at the annual King William Yacht Club Regatta. The good-natured tradition featured the canoe race, won by Bryce Milligan and Richard Contreras, and the kayak race, won by David Murphy, despite fierce competition from fast-paddlin' Dolly Poteet.

The Style Award went to blinged-out Shimi and Oscar Alvarado, who edged out the twin Miss Liberties and Uncle Sam in Shaun Bradford's canoe.

Neighborhood kids Kate and Lianna Hartman, participating in their first regatta, promise to challenge in next year's canoe race. Many other neighbors also joined the river fun, each distinctive and happy to celebrate Independence Day in our 'hood.

The King William Yacht Club is a loosely-organized group of neighbors who rally for patriotic and neighborhood folly on the morning of each July 4th. If you are interested in participating, please contact KWYC Commodore Marita Emmett sometime before next year!

-Marita Emmett

Psst!

It's KWA membership renewal time.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

September 2014 – August 2015

The King William Association invites you to renew your membership today! Your membership enables us to support local art, education, and community programs and to further our mission to preserve and maintain our historic and diverse neighborhood. Membership includes two wristbands to the King William Fair, a $20 value.

Annual renewal dues for the 2014-2015 membership year must be paid before September 1 to vote at the Annual Meeting for the Board of Directors and by October 1 in order to be listed in the annual KWA Directory. Contact the office at (210) 227-8786 or info@ourkwa.org if you have questions about membership.

A business or organization that is eligible for “active membership” (owns property within the KWA boundaries) must inform the Secretary of the KWA, in writing, of the name and address of its representative who shall be entitled to cast its one vote at general membership meetings.

☐ New Membership  ☐ Renewal Membership

I/We would like to activate/renew King William Association membership at the level indicated below:

☐ Individual ($10)  ☐ Associate – not a KW resident or property owner ($10)  ☐ Family ($15)  ☐ Friend ($25)  
☐ Patron ($50)  ☐ Benefactor ($100)  ☐ Sustaining ($250)  ☐ Business – ALL CAPS directory listing ($50)

I/We would like to be listed in the KWA Membership Directory as:

Business Name (for Business level): ________________________________________________________________

Name(s): ____________________________________________________________________________________

Children's Directory (under 18, list name): _______________________________________________________

Street: _____________________________________________________________________________________ City/State/Zip: ____________________________

Primary Phone: __________________________________ home  cell  work  (please circle one)

Additional information for KWA database, KWA Eblast, and/or Business listings only:

Additional Phone Number(s): ____________________________

E-mail Address(es): ____________________________

Website Address (for Business level): ___________________________________________________________

The KWA depends on neighborhood involvement to be successful. Are you interested in our volunteer and committee opportunities below? Please check all areas of interest.

☐ Architectural Advisory  ☐ Board Member  ☐ Cultural Arts  ☐ Finance  
☐ Graffiti  ☐ Home Tour  ☐ King William Fair  ☐ National Night Out  
☐ Newsletter  ☐ Planning  ☐ Scholarship/Mentor  ☐ Socials

Please mail or drop off this completed form with a check made payable to:

King William Association, 1032 S. Alamo, San Antonio, TX 78210

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date Rec'd _________ Paid $_______ Check #__________ Cash ______ BCAD/CC/MT ______ Directory ______
August Calendar

6  KWA General Meeting - Blue Star Brewing Co. - 7:00 p.m.
12  Deadline for submissions for September newsletter
14  SAHA Farmers Market/SA Food bank (2nd & 4th Thursdays) - 818 S. Flores - 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
20  KWA Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
25  First day of school!