

# GOOD NEWS for...

**ACTIVIST** and Central City Extra photographer Mark Ellinger has spent four years documenting what he calls “the beauty to be found even in what is nearly in ruins.” The result: The Hotel Project, 160 mostly stunning images of Tenderloin and South of Market buildings, framed at the top by brooding or brilliant skies. It’s a project that got a big boost when The Extra gave Ellinger a camera after his broke. The photos were on display last year for three months in District 6 Supervisor Chris Daly’s office, and a selection of them have a permanent place on the walls at the Central City SRO Collaborative offices, where Ellinger volunteers. The images have helped The Extra tell several stories, including last issue’s piece on a pending Tenderloin historic district. Ellinger has been working to turn his project into a book. “It’s about the buildings and the fate of the people who live there,” he said, “but it’s also about my own recovery and how the project affected me.” He’s pushing to complete the book to coincide with the anticipated historic district designation. Meantime, fans can view his images at <http://upfromthedeep.blogspot.com/index.html>.

**THE OFFICE** of Self Help, which has served mental health clients for 15 years, is extending its Peer Support phone line hours — until 8:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Anyone feeling lonely or anxious can call 575-1400, ask for peer support, and talk with a fellow client trained to offer support and referrals. “We’re not a crisis line,” says M. Roy Crew, Office of Self Help director, “but you don’t have to wait till things get out of your control to talk to someone.” The phone line, paid for with state Prop 63 funds, opens at 11 a.m., and has peers who also speak Tagalog, Cantonese and Spanish, though not all languages are available at all hours. The Office of Self Help, 1095 Market, Suite 202, is open seven days a week and offers support groups, one-on-one peer counseling, a drop-in center, computer lab and health services: acupuncture, nursing and Reiki, a Japanese stress-reduction and relaxation technique.

**THE MOVE** to list the Tenderloin on the National Register of Historic Places has passed another hurdle, announced Randy Shaw, who’s gaffing the project through his Tenderloin Housing Clinic (see issue #63 for full story). The city’s Historic Preservation Fund just approved a \$25,000 grant to THC, which has hired East Bay architect Michael Corbett to resurvey the proposed historic district and update the text of an application prepared in 1983 but never filed. Corbett, who worked on the ‘83 application, is the author of “Splendid Survivors: San Francisco’s Downtown Architectural Heritage.” Next steps: THC sends the completed application to the state Historical Resources Commission, which returns it to the city for its approval, then recommends that the National Park Service and the Keeper of the Register approve the nomination — or not. “If Corbett can work fast enough to finish by May, we could make the August agenda of the state [commission] and the district could be approved at that meeting,” Shaw said. “It is too soon to tell whether we can make the August agenda.”

If you have some good news, send it to [marjorie@studycenter.org](mailto:marjorie@studycenter.org) or [tom@studycenter.org](mailto:tom@studycenter.org).

# Time capsule from 1912 unearthed by St. Anthony’s

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

**T**HE Salvation Army discovered a 1,500-gallon drum filled with oil last summer when excavating at 240 Turk St. Now, St. Anthony Foundation has found its own piece of history: a 20-by-8-by-8-inch sealed copper box buried beneath the floor at 150 Golden Gate Ave., the old Knights of Columbus building.

The building was being demolished when workers noticed a metal plate in the floor of the marble lobby.

“Under the plate, which read Knights of Columbus, the contractor found the box and opened it,” Paula Lewis, St. Anthony’s operations director, told the Tenderloin Futures Collaborative in January. She was reporting on the progress of the new home of St. Anthony’s admin offices, social services and a temporary dining room, a five-story building scheduled to open next year.

After the meeting, Lewis gave The Extra a rundown of the time capsule’s contents:

An invitation to the 3 p.m. laying of the cornerstone on Feb. 11, 1912; articles about the event in the Examiner, Chronicle and S.F. Call; a photo of a ceremonial silver trowel, made by Shreve & Co. jewelers, used to lay the cornerstone; and a roster of the original members of the S.F. Council of Knights of Columbus, the Catholic fraternal organization, chartered in 1902.

“Then there’s an adding machine tape-like list of names, but we don’t know who the people are,” Lewis said. “Maybe those invited to the cornerstone laying?”

The box also held a copy of Columbia, the Knights’ publication, now a magazine in print and online but then a Central City Extra-size rag. Pages from the Boston Globe and the Brooklyn Daily Eagle were in the box, too.

“We have no idea why those East Coast papers were included,” Lewis said. “Maybe to give the idea of what was going on elsewhere.”

The Extra hit the microfiche machine in the periodicals sections of the Main Library and did some sleuthing. According to a Feb. 12 Call article, the cornerstone laying was a huge event.

After a benediction at St. Mary’s Cathedral, cars full of dignitaries and thousands of marchers paraded along Van Ness to Market, up Jones and over to Golden Gate to assemble at the site. Archbishop Patrick William Riordan, the city’s second archbishop who served from 1884 to 1914, recited prayers and “with a silver trowel his grace spread the cement that will bind the stone,” wrote the Call’s staff reporter.

The story solved the mystery of the East Coast papers: They carried accounts of the arrival home from Rome of Archbishops John Murphy Farley of New York and William Henry O’Connell of Boston.



The Examiner’s real estate page from 1912 featured the laying of the cornerstone for the Knights of Columbus building.

The cornerstone-laying ended with the entire assemblage, estimated at 5,000, singing “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

The ceremony was big, but not big enough to make the front page of the San Francisco papers. There, readers learned that supervisors were planning to drive loan sharks out of the city; a motorman on the Haight Street line found a \$1,380 wad on his streetcar; burglars in Oakland, tunneling 50 feet from a church into a bank, fled when the air got too foul; and bidding at the U.S. Custom House was fast and furious, up to \$40,000, for a “famous” Russian art collection. The Call — 56 pages for 5 cents — ran a bird’s-eye illustration of what the upcoming 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition would look like.

Only the Chronicle ran a story about the most important international news of the day: the end of the 268-year-old Qing, or Manchu, Dynasty, the last of China’s imperial dynasties that had ruled for 2,000 years. “President Sun Yat Sen is in absolute control,” said the story, referring to the head of the new

Republic of China.

Lewis said St. Anthony’s hasn’t decided yet what to do with its time capsule.

**TRANSIT FACTS**

Surprise! Muni needs a systemwide overhaul to increase ridership and lower costs. That was the message that Peter Straus, Muni’s manager of service planning, brought to the Collaborative in January.

In a slick presentation, Straus highlighted the early findings and goals of the Transit Effectiveness Project — an 18-month joint effort of the Municipal Transportation Agency, Muni’s overseer, and the controller’s office.

Project Manager Julie Kirchbaum joined Straus for the presentation.

The project was launched last summer and will end in December with recommendations on how Muni can improve “mode share” — bureaucracy-speak for increasing the number of people who choose Muni to get from here to there.

People take 4.5 million trips a

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



**CENTRAL CITY EXTRA**  
SAN FRANCISCO

**CENTRAL CITY EXTRA** is published monthly by San Francisco Study Center Inc., a private nonprofit serving the community since 1972. The Extra was initiated through grants from the S.F. Hotel Tax Fund and the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund. It is now assisted by the Kosbland Committee of the San Francisco Foundation. The contents are copyrighted by the San Francisco Study Center, 1095 Market Street, Suite 601, San Francisco, CA 94103.

**PHONE:** (415) 626-1650  
**FAX:** (415) 626-7276  
**E-MAIL:** [centralcityextra@studycenter.org](mailto:centralcityextra@studycenter.org)

**EDITOR AND PUBLISHER:** Geoffrey Link  
**SENIOR WRITER/EDITOR:** Marjorie Beggs  
**REPORTERS:** Tom Carter, Ed Bowers, John Goins, Anne Marie Jordan  
**DESIGN AND LAYOUT:** Lenny Limjoco  
**PHOTOGRAPHERS:** Lenny Limjoco, Mark Ellinger  
**CONTRIBUTORS:** Diamond Dave, William Crain, Mark Hedin, John Burks  
**DESIGN CONSULTANT:** Don McCartney  
**DISTRIBUTION:** Itzhak Volansky  
**EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** David Baker, Michael Nulty, Debbie Larkin, Nicholas Rosenberg, Brad Paul, Tariq Alazraie

---

Central City Extra is a member of the  
 SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION