

The Doorknob Collector

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VICTORIAN GLORY

By Rich and Faye Kennedy

San Francisco is indeed VICTORIAN GLORY, as promised by our convention hosts, Patti Blumin and Vicky Berol. They promised we would see more Victorian homes per square mile than in any other city, and we did! As our tour bus meandered through The City we were amazed at all the different styles and shapes, but the Victorian homes were the most elegant! Many were being restored to their original glory, with gold leaf and curved glass windows. Marshall Berol's running narrative added to the understanding of the history of The City and the rebuilding after the 1906 fire and the 1989 earthquake.

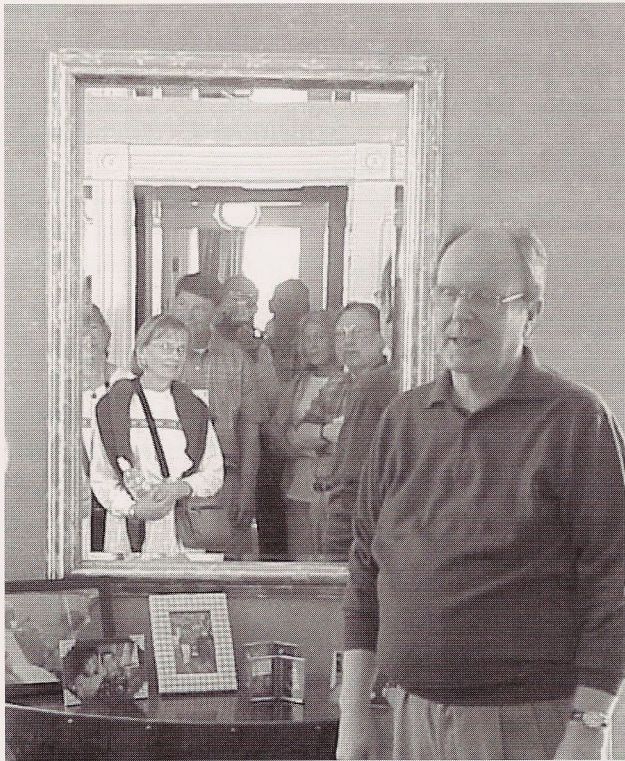
Our first stop was a landmark residence at 280 Divisadero that is currently owned by Richard and Cher Zillman, their 1994 purchase became their dream project. Being an ADCA member, he was able to obtain many original pieces of hardware. After much restoration it has indeed returned to its original glory! Richard Zillman is welcoming us to his home by opening the outside set of doors. We then see a second set of doors. He explained that when the first set was open it meant that they were accepting visitors. When the outside set of doors was closed, the family inside was requesting solitude. The wooden detail on this home is painted with the multiple colors. Homes like this are known as "painted ladies". More about this home can be read in the March/April 2004 Newsletter.

The next home we visited was the Shannon-Kavanaugh House, one of seven homes known as "postcard row", the most recognized cluster of Victorian homes in the Alamo Square Historic District. This home was a charming mix of antique and modern. The owner, Michael Shannon, accompanied us through his home and divulged personal stories about the home, including the disdain of his mother at the foolishness of



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Michael Shannon with part of our group in the mirror

her son for purchasing the ramshackle building. At that time it didn't look like there was much hope for the run down structure that was being rented by a large assemblage of young people.

Luckily Michael didn't recognize how many obstacles would be put in his way as he worked toward restoration or he might not have tackled the undertaking. Later his mother would boast about how "smart" her son had been to see the possibilities in this beautiful home.

For a more detailed article on the rebirth of this home read the May/June 2004 Newsletter.

Lunch in Chinatown was a delightful experience, the Empress of China restaurant serves a never-ending array of food from miniature egg rolls to an apricot tart, after lunch we all had a "yen" to stroll the streets and browse the shops.

The afternoon was packed with more adventure, the Brune-Reutlinger house, basically Italianate, with Eastlake features was a mere \$7,500 in 1886. Richard Reutlinger's restoration project started 30 years ago, and is still on-going.

This home is like a museum of everything Victorian. Everywhere you look there is "eye-candy". There are beautifully decorated fans, piano babies,

hatboxes, and even a horn chair. There are just too many things to mention. It was just a delight.

Then to top it all off, at the end of the tour we were treated to a discourse and demonstration of mechanical musical instruments. These included music boxes, small and even large floor models, and a host of player pianos. Richard gave us a wonderful demonstration of the piano seen in the picture on the next page. The handles hanging to the left were pulled to make noises like train whistles or running horses, whatever was required for the silent movie being shown. To read more about this house see the Jan/Feb 2004 Newsletter.

Our final destination was Cirecast, Inc., a company dedicated to reproduction of fine Victorian hardware. Peter Morenstein, ADCA member and owner of the company, explained the lost-wax process. This is a time-proven method of duplicating very fine ornamentation in hardware. The company has been recreating hardware since 1965 and many of us were awed by the results, which made it virtually impossible to distinguish the original from the reproduction piece. The lost wax process is itself becoming a lost art because it takes great dedication to detail and a very skillful staff of people to make the items. The mold is made and then resized so that the final product will be the exact size of the original. The knob is cast in two parts, joined, a finish is applied and it is polished. The whole process is VERY labor intensive and uses a highly skilled workforce. It is truly a labor of love!

Patti and Vicky did an OUTSTANDING job of putting it all together, and we THANK YOU! And of course, we would be amiss if we did not mention

The Doorknob Collector®



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Founded Sept 1981, the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** is a non-profit organization devoted to the study and preservation of ornamental hardware.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Board of Directors of ADCA or the editors.

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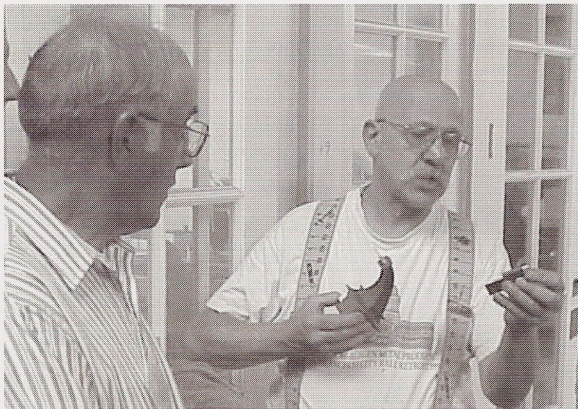


*Richard Ruttlinger
demonstrating his
"Silent Movie Player Piano"*

Len Blumin and Marshall Berol. You guys can finally have a "normal" conversation with your wives. No more convention planning!

Did we all learn a lot, absolutely! The tour is what makes each convention unique. Next year we will see the uniqueness of

Charleston, SC. on July 25-30.



Member Joe Sousa is paying careful attention to Peter Morenstein, owner of Cirecast, who is explaining casting techniques.

Contest Winners

By Faye Kennedy

Each year we have a display contest at the convention and plaques are given to the winners. It is always fun to see what people come up with.

Nick Doto used four-leaf clovers to show off his four-fold knobs. Nancy Sandwick is also a collector of giraffes so she naturally made her doorknobs into spots on a giraffe. And finally, Marge Bornino came up with something spectacular once again. She displayed various classifications of knobs on a beautifully constructed multi-level display.

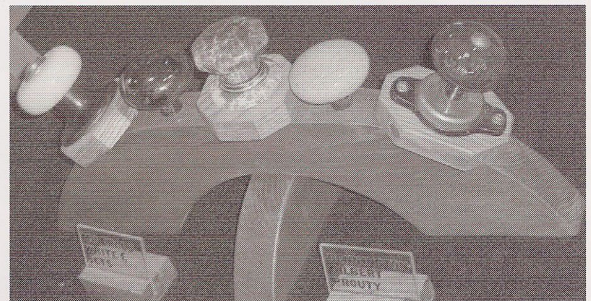


*Nick Doto, Nancy Sandwick,
and Marge Bornino*



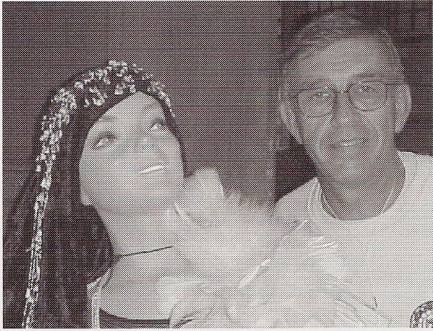
Nick Doto, Best Theme Display

*Nancy Sandwick,
Most Creative*



*Marge Bornino, Best of Show
(a small portion of an elaborate display)*

Having Fun at the Convention



Rich Kennedy with a "flapper"



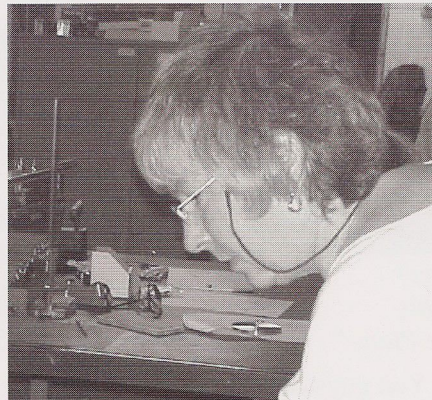
Marilyn and Bob Swedenburg



Loretta and Ray Nemecek



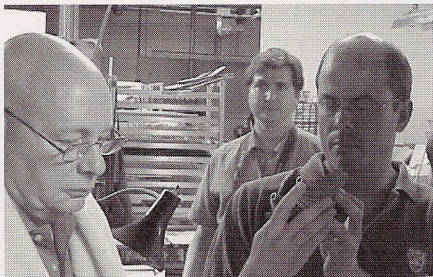
Tim Hennessey, guest of Joe Souza, our Australian friend



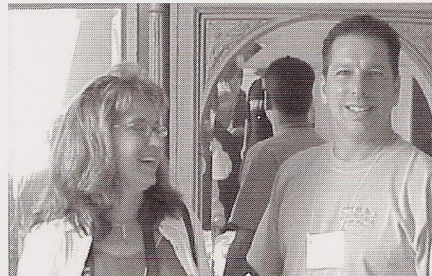
Nancy Sandwick



Mark and Kathleen Aitken



Allen Joslyn, Richard Perris, Rhett Butler



Courtney and Steve Takes



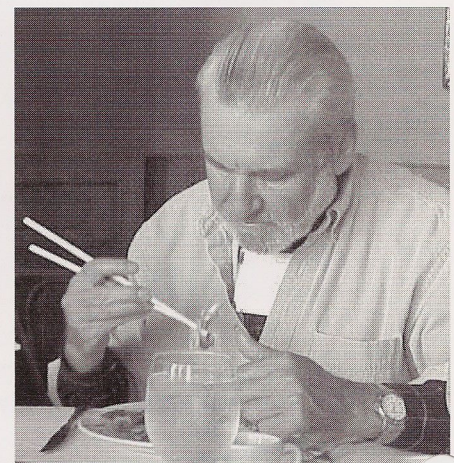
Marshall Berol, Jackie Rode, Shelia Cain, Steve Menchhofer, Bill Byington



Debbie Fellenz



Maude Eastwood



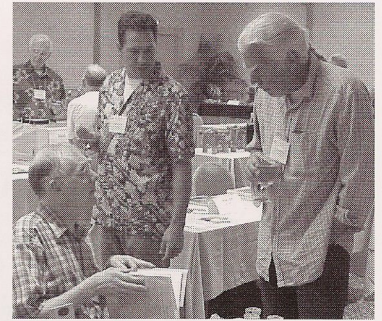
Len Blumin



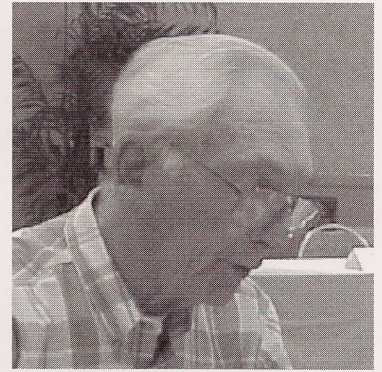
Bud Wolski



Your Hosts, Vicky Berol and Patti Blumin



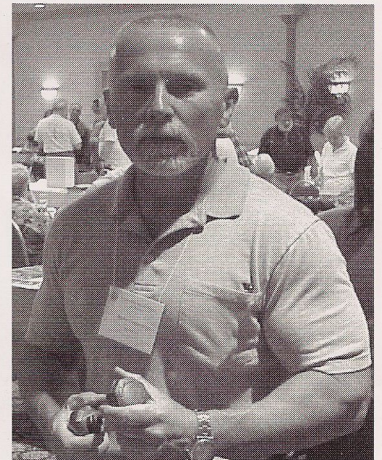
Philip Austin, Steve Takes,
John Decker



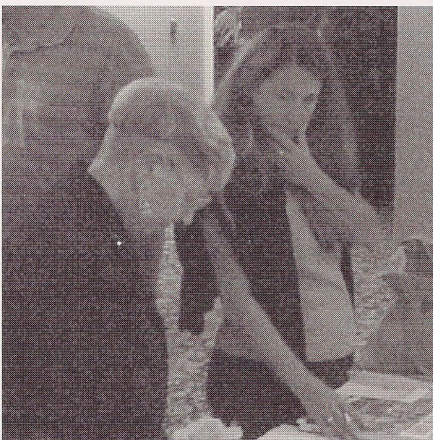
Norm Blam



Jennifer Lamphier



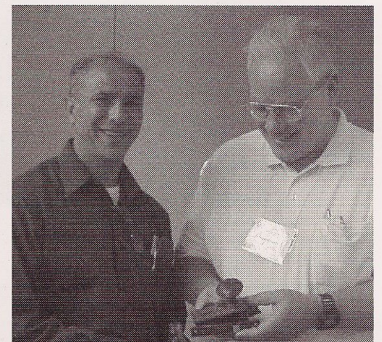
Wes Creager



Vicky Berol and Liz Gordon



Judith Stogner



Jesse Jimenez, Donald Matson



Faye Kennedy, Brad Kittel,
Allen Joslyn

The Doorknob Exchange

Members are reminded that your dues entitle you to advertise items for sale, trade, or wanted at no charge. ADCA is not responsible for any transaction or the condition of the items advertised.

ADCA Board Sets New Priorities

ADCA has been successful in accumulating money over the years, due in large part to generous contributions from members and gifts from their estates. At the recent 2004 Annual Convention, the ADCA Board discussed how to best utilize those funds to further the mission of ADCA.

We are pleased to report that the Board voted to spend \$4,000 to sponsor 2 display cabinets at the soon-to-be-opened "Architectural Heritage Center" of the Bosco-Milligan Foundation, in Portland Oregon. The cabinets will have ADCA plaques in memory of Florence Jarvis and Barbara Menchhofer. In addition, the Board acted to re-allocate a total of \$21,000 from existing funds into a new Board-designated fund for the publication of a large supplement to Victorian Decorative Art.

Your Board of Directors:

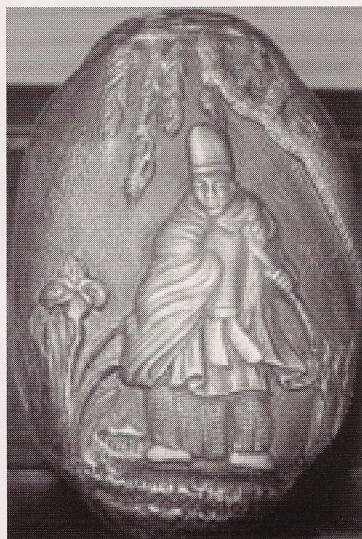
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Loretta Nemeč

Rich Kennedy (Secretary)
Vicky Berol
Rhett Butler
Liz Gordon
Patty Ramey

THE P. E. GUERIN KNOB

As promised in the last issue, herewith a picture of the doorknob resulting from Guerin's incredibly laborious hand-chasing process.



NEXT YEAR

Next year, the ADCA convention will be in Charleston, South Carolina, on July 25-30th, hosted by Rhett Butler. This will be the 25th annual convention of the Club With the historic richness of the area, two days of tours are planned. It will also be an opportunity to tour the South (and to taste a lot of good cooking).

But leave your fur coats behind: it is not San Francisco!

Membership	Newsletter and Other Questions	Web Site
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