

THE Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council BULLETIN



Utah State Capitol, ca. 1915, Shipler Commercial Photographers, Series 5; Harry Shipler.

Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Meeting

When: 21 July 2004, 6:30 p.m.

Where: **Utah Opera**
(336 N 400 W)

6:30 *Welcome by Peter von Sivvers, Chair*
Minutes of June 16

6:35 *Police Report*

6:50 *Report by a Representative of the*
Church of Latter Day Saints: Devel-
opment Plans in Capitol Hill Area

7:30 *TBA*

8:00 *Adjournment*

NEXT MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2004, 6:30 p.m.

Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Members

Chair	Peter Von Sivvers	364-3310
Vice-Chair	Polly Hart	355-7203
Secretary	Christine Wade	918-0114
Treasurer	Kim Fowkes	521-0104
Historian	Hermoine Jex	364-5326

Neighborhood Trustees

Capitol	Carol Wood	355-6475
DeSoto/Cortez	Katherine Gardner	328-1724
Ensign Downs	Dean Larsen	575-8135
Kimball	Victoria Collard	595-8575
St. Marks	Shauna Davenport	363-1905
Swedetown	Mary Solt	355-8507
Temple	William Call	364-1758
Warm Springs	Minta Brandon	355-1363
Washington	Bonnie Mangold	363-4634
West High	Erlinda Davis	531-1964

Mobile Watch	Joan Legge	355-8396
Bulletin	Kevin & Margaret Berchtold	364-2604
Web Site	Cassandra VanBuren	

www.capitolhillcc.org

capitolhill@aros.net

Thoughts From the Chair for the Summer

Many of you have received the yellow handbook on how to be a good neighbor and how to deal with your neighbors in friendly as well as firm ways, if necessary. This handbook will be especially useful during the sunny summer months when we all want to enjoy our houses, gardens, and our neighborhood, with our windows open or sitting outside. These months are a time when there are many parties, when music is being played, when there is lot of coming and going, on foot and by car, day and night. We all want to be understanding and tolerant of each other since Capitol Hill is a neighborhood of people with many different cultural backgrounds and customs.

But the Golden Rule also allows us to expect respect from our neighbors. We want to be tolerant but we are not required to endure loud music for hours, excessive traffic to and from houses on our streets, unkempt properties with trash and dead bushes or trees. If any of these things bother you, keep a precise record, noting times or license plates, and take photographs of messy properties. Call the police dispatch so that a record can be established and call our most helpful area police officer, Detective James Washington (799-4648), for assistance. Let me know what is bothering you (364-3310). I will tell our active and reliable Neighborhood Watch volunteers to keep an eye on your area. If necessary, we will make use of the City's Nuisance Law, a law which is designed to help us in keeping our neighborhoods orderly and our neighbors peaceful with each other.

If you need one of these nifty yellow handbooks, I'll have some with me again at the July 21 Neighborhood Council meeting. Or give me a call. Relax, take it easy, and enjoy your summer!

This Old House

August & Mary Priscilla Carlson House—378 Quince Street

This month's subject sits in a commanding position at the top of 400 North and Quince Street in the Marmalade neighborhood. Now lovingly restored, it once looked like the neighborhood haunted house, and was filled to its ceilings with years of old newspapers, magazines, and other treasures.

Part of the building's haunted house aura may perhaps lie in its architecture style: the Gothic Revival. No black makeup or frilly shirts to be found here, however. The Gothic Revival Style was one of the picturesque architectural styles popularized throughout the United States between the classical architectural styles of the early 19th Century and the Victorian styles of the late 19th Century. As noted in Tom Carter and Peter Goss' *Utah's Historic Architecture 1847-1900*, the Gothic Revival style was a "vertically oriented architecture imported from England that is characterized by pointed arches, steeply pitched roofs, and the elaborate saw-cut ornament often called 'gingerbread' today." Asymmetrical massing and elaborate color schemes also were common elements of this style.

The August and Mary Priscilla Carlson house at 378 Quince Street exhibits all of these elements. Like the neighboring Thomas Quayle house at 355 Quince Street, the building is a two story, wood frame structure, with a front bay window topped by a small balcony. The steeply pitched roofed is decorated with gingerbread detailing at the eaves. Other gingerbread is found on the one story porch. A two-story barn stood on the lot until the 1970s, along with an outhouse that had similar décor.

The house's first owners, August Carlson and Mary Priscilla Spencer Carlson, were well known throughout Capitol Hill and late nineteenth-century Salt Lake. August was born in 1844 in Karlskrona, Sweden. He abandoned a planned career in the Swedish Royal Navy to join the LDS Church, and emigrated to Salt Lake City in 1871. In 1872, he married Mary Priscilla Spencer. They soon built this home in 1874. The Gothic Revival was at the height of its popularity in Utah, so the Carlson House, though modest in size, stood out from the less-fashionable classical-styled older dwellings in the Marmalade District. By

(Continued on page 2)

VOLUNTEER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Food, Clothing, and other Donations

- **The LDS 19th Ward Relief Society**, located at 225 W. 500 N., sponsors a **clothing exchange** on the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. **Everything is free!** Come and look, or bring something along to pass on to someone else. All are welcome
- **Crossroads Urban Center**, 347 S. 400 E., helps feed the homeless in our neighborhood. This month they have a special need for **crackers, small individual snacks, and small juices**. Their **Thrift Store**, 1385 W. Indiana (850 S.), needs dishes, silverware, pots and pans, and small groups for sorting. Please call Linda Hilton at 364-7765 for more information.
- **The Road Home** is in need of volunteers at its community shelter, 210 S. Rio Grande St. Donations of personal hygiene items, socks, underwear, diapers, and any other items are needed. Call 359-4142 or go to www.theroadhome.org.



Literacy, Reading, and Children

- **Become a foster parent** and strengthen a family! Right here in our Capitol Hill neighborhood are children in need of safe, stable, loving homes while their families heal. You can be married or single, with or without children, renter or homeowner. Visit www.utahfostercare.org or call 994-5205. Volunteer opportunities are also available.
- **The Children's Museum of Utah** needs energetic, fun-loving seniors, and others to volunteer for work in the galleries, at the front desk, and behind the scenes. Call 328-3383.
- **Literacy Volunteers of America-Wasatch Front** is seeking volunteers to teach English to adult refugees and immigrants. Training is provided. Call Barbara or Denise at 328-5608.



Service Activities

- **LifeCare** (1025 S. 700 W.) needs volunteers to help homebound seniors and persons with disabilities by delivering food boxes. For more information, call 978-2452.
- **TreeUtah** needs volunteers to water seedlings at the Audubon Site. For more information, visit www.treeutah.org or call 364-2122.
- **Utah Food Bank** always welcomes volunteers to help sort food at their warehouse at 1025 S. 700 W. Please call Christine Thomas at 908-8660.
- **Primary Children's Medical Center** needs volunteers for its information desks, gift shop, and other areas. Call 588-2446 for more information.
- **Capitol Hill Kiwanis Club** continues its service to our community. Join us each Thursday at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast and a speaker at the Inn at Temple Square. For more information, call Moyle Anderson at 364-7294.
- Help the **Neighborhood Watch** for two hours or more monthly. To help, or for more information, please call Joan Legge, 355-8396.



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that time, August was an up-and-coming financial mind for Z.C.M.I, so this must have suited the Carlsons well.

August eventually rose to treasurer of the Z.C.M.I. system. He also became a director of the Zion's Benefit Building Society, director of the State Bank of Utah, and the director of the Deseret National Bank.

He served as a member of the Boards of Regents of the University of Deseret (forerunner to the University of Utah) and was a member of the Salt Lake City Council. In addition, Carlson was a member of the High Council of the Salt Lake Stake of the LDS Church, and was a counselor to two bishops of the LDS 19th Ward. He translated the Book of Mormon into Swedish and traveled to his home country with his wife almost yearly.

As noted by Capitol Hill historian Hermoine Jex, "he was a man that people greatly loved,

and he had the kind of a disposition that made no enemies. He was known as a peacemaker, and cared for all people."

Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, less is recorded about the life of Mary Priscilla Carlson. An English convert to the LDS Church, Mary Priscilla may have met her husband in Liverpool, where he was serving as an emigration agent. A 1978 oral history by Alpha Johnson, a long-time neighbor, noted that the Carlson's garden was large and elaborate and tended by Mary Priscilla. The history also notes that Johnson's mother would often visit Mary Priscilla to keep her company on August's meeting nights.

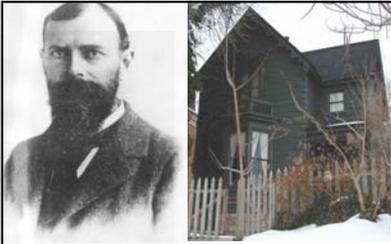
Throughout their obviously busy lives, the Carlsons remained in their house on Quince Street. They had no children. On a visit to Santa Barbara in 1911, August had a heart attack on a hotel veranda and died shortly thereafter. Hermoine Jex notes that "his death

was very difficult for Mary Priscilla to adjust to, and she lived alone for 21 years in the same home he had built for her as a bride."

Mary Priscilla died in 1933. Clifford Johnson, a member of the Johnson family that were longtime neighbors of the Carlson, purchased the house in 1935. Johnson lived in the house until the 1970s. Late in his life he was in ill health, and wasn't able to maintain the property. He also took to not throwing anything away. Eventually, the house was filled to the rafters with stuff, with only narrow paths allowing passage between rooms.

The house was renovated in the 1970s and now is one of the showplace historic buildings along Quince Street. A new, compatible rear addition provides more living spaces for the house's current owners. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Salt Lake City Register of Cultural Resources as part of the Capitol Hill Historic District.

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August Carlson and the home he built in 1874 on Quince Street. For more information, see *This Old House* on pages 1-2.

FEATURED NEIGHBORS

Blaine and Annette Overson

He grew up on a farm in West Jordan, she on a farm in Herriman, and they were around horses a lot (although, as he wryly notes, “farmers don’t like horses – that’s a waste of revenue!”) She even spent a year working as a jockey, traveling around to county fairs and other races in Utah. But when Blaine and Annette grew up, moved to the city, and got jobs in construction and accounting, respectively, it appeared that the part of their lives involving horses was over.

So much for appearances. In 1987, Annette worked for a business that provided carriage service in downtown Salt Lake City. Blaine began to do occasional repair work on the carriages and eventually concluded that there was room for competition in the field. So they bought one carriage that year. “Then we bought another, and that led to another,” Blaine says. “We were able to buy out one competitor, and then six years later, bought out the other one.”

Today when you see horses and carriages plying their trade around Temple Square, you can be sure that they’re owned by Blaine and Annette Overson – they operate the only existing carriage business downtown. This has come about because of hard work and the excellent service they’ve always provided, and by one additional circumstance – they own their own large stable on 400 West in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. Some other carriage businesses in rented space found themselves displaced as property values rose and other uses proved more lucrative for their landlords. Blaine and Annette, on the other



Carriage Keepers

hand, have been able to remain and to expand their business and home near downtown.

Now, seventeen years after buying their first carriage, the Oversons own 40 vehicles, including 22 carriages in active service downtown, and 45 horses (mostly draft horses – Clydesdales, Belgians, Percherons.) In addition to the downtown carriage-for-hire service, they provide riding horses for This Is the Place State Park and carriages of many kinds for funerals, movies, displays, and parties. They travel at least twice a year to the Midwest, Denver, and elsewhere in search of antique carriages. “If a flyer comes that says ‘auction’ and something looks interesting, we jump on it,” Blaine laughs. Their most unique horse-drawn vehicles are probably an operating stagecoach from turn-of-the-century Pennsylvania and a glass-paneled hearse from Indiana, late 1800s.

The pre-Olympic years of Main Street closure and I-15 reconstruction were difficult. “No one came downtown,” Blaine notes, “and we didn’t take in much at all for those years.” But since then, “with the city vibrant and the changes in downtown that have happened and are still coming, we’re very optimistic about the future,” Annette states. Blaine and Annette, with their son Jeremy assisting, are some of those lucky people who have ended up making a living at work they love doing. With their carriages now a prominent city fixture, they add to downtown life a real sense of heritage, elegance, and fun. If you’d like more info, send email to carriageforhire@hotmail.com.

FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS — JULY

- Temple Square* 7:30 pm**
 3 Utah Army National Guard 23rd Army Band
 15 Opera by Children
 17 Seventy-fifth Annual Gala Concert
 20, 21 “I Went On My Way Rejoicing”
 23, 24 “The Long Walk of Patience Loader”
 31 Jenny Naylor Richards, pianist
 *Certain programs require tickets; please call 240-0080.
- Brigham Young Historic Park - 8:00 pm**
 Garden Talks every Wednesday
- Joseph Smith Memorial Building - 10 am - 8 pm**
 19- 24 Days of ‘47 Landscape Art Show

- Gallivan Center**
Lunch Bunch Concert Series - Weekdays - Noon to 1 pm
Come Alive Concert Series - Wednesdays - 7 pm to 10 pm
Twilight Concert Series - Thursdays - 7 pm to 10 pm
- Brown Bag Concert Series** Weekdays - Noon to 1:00 pm
 For locations, see slcgov.com/arts/brownbag/junetext.htm
- Gateway**
Summer Street Entertainment, Friday/Saturday nights
- Pioneer Park (300 S 300 W) 8:00 am-1 pm**
 Downtown Farmers’ Market
- July 24 - DAYS OF ‘47 PARADE**

- Brigham Young Historic Park—8 pm**
 2 Utah National Guard 23rd Army Band
 6 Synergy - Dance troupe
 9 Octappella - Intricate harmonies
 13 Utah Premiere Brass Band
 16 Greg Simpson - Acoustic guitarist and folk singer
 20 Kid Fiddlers - Jackson Family
 23 Cherie Call - Contemporary and blue grass recording artist
 27 Easy Street Entertainers - Dixieland to swing to jazz
 30 Nancy Hanson - Folk singer, guitarist, and songwriter