

The Bulletin

CAPITOL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



Neighbor Profile Mike Stransky, Architect

by Stephen Sorensen

If you live or work on Capitol Hill, or even if you drive in the downtown area or to the University of Utah, or if you viewed the 2002 Olympics, chances are that you see some of Mike Stransky's handiwork every day without realizing it. Mike is in the enviable position of working at creating, as he puts it, "a piece of art that's useable." His useable pieces of art – the buildings he designs as one of the city's best architects – enrich our community.

Mike grew up in Casper, Wyoming, and moved to Salt Lake City in 1964 to attend the University of Utah. After graduating in 1970, he was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He and his wife, Carolyn, returned to Salt Lake City where he began his architectural

practice and continued his Army Reserve service until 1979. During that year he went to work for and later bought into the firm which is now called GSBS Architects. GSBS now employs 65 with offices in Salt Lake City and Ft. Worth, Texas

Some of Mike's firm's larger projects with which you may be familiar include:

- The Utah State Capitol East and West Annexes (the Senate Building and House of Representatives Building). Mike worked closely with the Capitol Design Team designing and constructing these two buildings as well as the Capitol Plaza and Fountain and East Parking Garage.

- The Kearns Speed-Skating Oval for the 2002 Olympics. Mike notes that, while the parameters for the ice courses were very strict, his firm enjoyed great latitude in creating the envelope in which the races would be presented. The challenge, he says, was, "How do you create an environment for a skater to skate as fast as he can?"

- The seismic upgrade of the Bennett Federal Building at 100 South and State.

- Portions of the LDS Conference Center, in association with ZGF Architects.

- The new Natural History Museum at the University of Utah.

Asked about his favorite project, Mike names the St. Thomas More Catholic Church. Creation of these and other major projects, he comments, calls into play his long-felt interest in both construction and design – "a mix of art and science."

Mike's wife, Carolyn, followed roughly the same arc to Salt Lake City, moving from her home in Los Angeles to attend the U, where she studied

CAPITOL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, February 17, 2010
State Capitol Senate Cafeteria

6:00pm Mobile Watch Meeting

6:30pm Neighborhood Council Meeting

- Welcome by Chair
- Mobile Watch Report, Georg Stutzenberger
- Police Report, Brian Wahlin
- Mayor's Office Report, Joyce Valdez
- Elected Officials Reports
- Salt Lake Art Council, Mike Neider
- Kern River Transition, Doug Gibbons
- Natural Gas Line
- Adjourn

NEXT MEETING:
MARCH 17, 2010, 6:30 P.M.

dance and met Mike. They have three children (now in Tooele, Portland, and San Francisco), two grandchildren, "and a grand-dog." In addition to enjoying a life-long interest in dance, Carolyn is now retired after a long career as the librarian at East High School, so she and Mike have more opportunities to indulge their mutual enthusiasm for touring together on their motorcycles.

Ever since their days as students at the University, Mike and Carolyn have lived either on the lower Avenues, downtown, or (as they do now) on Capitol Hill. Mike remarks that they have particularly enjoyed these past few years here. Fortunately he continues to create pieces of art that are useable and that all of us enjoy.

Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Meeting Report, January 20, 2010 *by Dean Larsen*

An efficient meeting was held this evening. One vote was taken. Chair, Katherine Gardner asked for an advisor vote on whether the Salt

Lake Planning Commission should do further study on the proposed Alcohol Zoning Amendment, which would change the rules for alcohol-serving businesses in several areas of our city. The vast majority voted for a further study of noise, parking, smoking and enforcement problems arising from such businesses.

Our City Councilman, Stan Penfold, reported that the City RDA has required the Howa Construction Co. to finish the buildings on the West side of 300 West between 5th and 6th North and has asked for revised plans regarding the proposed development on 300 West immediately across the street.

Additional items discussed were the police watch stating that vandalism and car prowls were down in December although there were some serious home burglaries. Mobile Watch advised that we need to pay attention to high school students wandering our neighborhoods during school hours.

Shelby Walker stated that their non-

profit organization (Neighborhood Housing Services) provides counseling for those with delinquent mortgage loans and help for those who seek low interest loans.

Also, we were reminded of the Mayor's one-on-one meeting with citizens the third Wednesday of each month and that there are glass recycling containers for city residents by the Hogle Zoo and at Fairmont Park.

See you on Wednesday, February 17 for our next Neighborhood Council meeting.

This Old House
The Skeleton in Grandpa's Attic
131 W 200 North
by Herbert Z. Lund

Editor's note: This is a re-print of an article that originally ran in the October 2006 issue of The Bulletin.

The Utah Historical Quarterly, a publication of the Utah State Historical Society, has printed fascinating Utah

history for 72 years. In this story written by Herbert Z. Lund for the winter 1967 Quarterly, the author tells how a human skeleton ended up in the Capitol Hill barn of his grandfather, LDS apostle Anthon H. Lund—and what happened to it. The barn was located on the southeast corner of 200 West and 200 North.

As the people of Salt Lake City continue to obliterate the charm of Temple Square with a growing ring of skyscrapers, it is probably inevitable that an office building will be erected near the corner of West Temple and North Temple streets and a skeleton bedded down in old issues of the Improvement Era [an LDS magazine] will be excavated. Explanations will be asked for this rather irregular disposal of human remains, and they are hereby given.

The man whose skeletal remains lie in the shadow of Temple Square was a murderer executed April 30, 1912, at Utah State Prison. He had concealed

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Washington	Polly Hart	801-355-7203
West High	Bonnie Archer	801-328-1325
At large - 2010	Juliann Calderon	801-243-2673

SLPD / CRISIS INTERVENTION

Salt Lake City Police	Det. Brian Wahlin	801-799-3314
	brian.wahlin@slegov.com	
Abandoned Shopping Cart Hotline		801-446-7984
Graffiti Busters		801-972-7885
Mobile Watch	Robert King	801-359-9992
	Georg Stutzenberger	801-510-1603

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his true identity and died under the assumed name of J. J. Morris. The Lund family spoke of the remains only as the "Skeleton in Grandpa's Barn," for it was stored there many years.

Father was not only liked but admired. Shortly after his death, almost 40 years after he had resigned his job [as a doctor] at the prison, a former convict came to see me at my home in Cleveland, Ohio, "Just to shake the hand of the eldest son and namesake of Dr. Herbert Z. Lund." My father had trained this man to be his surgical assistant and anesthetist at the prison and helped him obtain a parole from a life sentence.

I believe it must have been a similar feeling of friendship and respect that led Morris to will his body to my father to be used for the purpose of anatomical dissection after he was sentenced to death.

According to my father, Morris cynically chose to be hanged rather than shot because it would incur a greater expense to the State of Utah.

Following the execution, the dissection

was carried out...and the body was reduced to a skeleton. However, it was not a respectable skeleton, because my father never got around to cleaning and bleaching the bones. A story is prevalent in the Lund family that the skeleton was taken to the open country near Beck's Hot Springs by my father and William Willis, the druggist, and it was boiled in sulfur water and lime. To make the story more savvy, it is said that a hobo chanced by and fled in terror at the awful sight. I have doubted this story because the bones as I saw them had not been well cleaned and maintained through the years a peculiar rancid odor...

My father intended eventually to make the skeleton into a fine teaching specimen, but with the burden of a steadily increasing medical practice he never got around to finishing the job. In the meantime he nailed the skeleton up in a wooden box and stored it in the unused hayloft of my grandfather's barn on north West Temple Street.

A skeleton in a barn cannot be kept secret, and the grandchildren of Apostle Anthon H. Lund found sinister

excitement in opening the box and contemplating the remains. The loft was made "off limits" and barricaded. The trap door to the loft was padlocked, but there were other ways to get into it—up the hay chute or through the boarded windows. The routes required considerable skill in climbing and, frequently, cautious carpenter work, but this only added to the adventure. My brother Richard and I, and cousins Alton, John, Robert, and Elmo Lund were mostly involved, but we conducted guided tours for outsiders. We had an immense respect for the remains of a murderer, and although the bones were handled they were always replaced.

Typically, on our way to break and enter, we would go through Grandpa's house to the kitchen to help ourselves to gooseberry pie or a bowl of red raspberries. Grandma (Sarah Ann Peterson Lund) kept not only an open house but an open kitchen. It was a large room furnished with chairs and a big square table, and it was stocked with pies, fruits, home-grown berries, cheese, milk, and occasionally (but not

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Looking for work? The U.S. Census Bureau is looking to hire more than 1,000 Census Takers in Salt Lake County for the 2010 population survey. The jobs are temporary and will pay \$14 per hour.

Salt Lake County residents interested in applying should call 801-736-5060 to schedule a time and location to take a 30-minute multiple-choice test that measures the skills required for employment. Applicants must be 18 years old and pass a background check.

INTERNET RESOURCES

www.chnc-slc.org
www.downtownrising.com
www.downtownslc.org/events
www.glbtcu.org
www.lds.org
www.saltlakeactingcompany.org
www.slcgov.com
www.slcgov.com/PublicServices/Gallivan
www.slcityevents.com
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www.visitsaltlake.com

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officially known by the grandchildren or grandfather) homemade beer.

[Then] we would leave by way of the back door, ostensibly to play in the barnyard. After completing our ulterior mission, we never returned by the same route because the characteristic odor we exuded would let the folks know we had been in the hayloft. It was best to go directly home to the bathroom and wash up. Washing at the faucet out in the barnyard was usually inadequate.

After Grandpa Lund died in 1921, the skeleton remained in the barn another five or six years, but the grandchildren were growing up and moving away, and a certain degree of custodial care was lost. Raids by outsiders were made on the barn, and after a raid by children from the nearby Monroe School in which some of the bones were stolen, Grandma decided to have the skeleton buried. I was the natural choice to do this. "Get Zack. He's going to go to medical school."

At an arranged time I met Grandma, who was to supervise the proceedings, and I sensed a note of anticipation, possibly mischief, but this was her usual air. I brought the rather depleted remains down from the hayloft, dug a grave in the seclusion of the barnyard, and laid out the bones in approximate anatomical order. Grandma had a large stack of old L.D.S. Church literature on the back porch, mostly issues of the

Improvement Era that she wanted to get rid of, and she asked me to carry these out to the grave.

She stood at the head of the grave, opened them, and slowly dropped them in, pausing intermittently to read and comment upon a selected pearl of wisdom or an exhortation to righteousness. She called attention to the benefits the deceased might obtain by perusing the contents of the literature being buried with him—already conveniently opened to some of the best passages— and hoped that by so doing he would improve his chances in the Hereafter. After the Improvement Eras were distributed over the remains, I was instructed to shovel the dirt back. The ceremony was brief and simple.

I have been asked exactly where the grave is, but it is hard to say. It is still an open piece of ground. If I could determine where the old barn stood and find the line of the old plank fence along the south side of the barnyard, I could locate it exactly, but these have been gone for many years. A service station encroaches on the grave site from one side and a row of houses looks out upon it from another. It already has lost the peace and dignity of the old barnyard and in time, I suppose, even this spot of ground will give way to steel and cement.

Editor's note: Multi-family housing, not a skyscraper, now occupies the land

once owned by the Lund's. We are not aware whether anyone ever found the bones. FYI: If you ever find human bones, call the police. If the bones are old, law enforcement officials will inform the State Archaeologist's office at the Division of State History.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

**CAPITOL HILL MUSICAL
SHOWCASE IS COMING**

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Assembly Hall at Temple Square

The annual Showcase to give an opportunity for our talented neighbors to perform is set for this coming May. Anyone who lives in the Capitol Hill Neighborhood is invited to audition. Auditions will be scheduled in March and early April. Get your vocal, instrumental, piano, organ or other performance number ready. Even if you don't wish to perform, please let us know of those who have talents and may not know about this opportunity.

Contact Jean Hanks at 801-961-9889 for further information.