

# The Bulletin

## CAPITOL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### Neighbor Profile James Brown

Should the Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council ever give a Citizen's Award for "Most Outgoing Resident", our Marmalade district neighbor James Brown could easily be the recipient. James owns and manages the Salt Lake Studio where movies, commercials and TV shows are produced and filmed. More about that later. But first, how did one of the most upbeat guys in California ever land on the corner of Quince and Apricot?

It all started in San Francisco an undisclosed number of years ago when a young Shell Oil Company employee left his job training service station managers and headed for LA. The new career: Concert coordinator for the soul group "Sly and the Family Stone". (One wonders if the name James Brown helped him land this gig.) That move started him on a journey in show business, advertising and entertainment. Not exactly an obvious path to the front door of 352 Quince Street, but here's how it happened.

In the 1980's James was living in Wyoming when he was invited to join a business partner in Utah who happened to own an apartment at Zions Summit where he could stay. That was his exposure to Capitol Hill. His early days in Salt Lake included stints as a radio personality and as a producer. It was in that roll that he found himself at the Sundance Film Festival one day where he ran into a young woman named Karen Michelsen. Being the suave, self confident type, he told her he would make her a star. Nothing much came of that promise until a year or so later when they met again. Shortly after that he made her the star of his life, AKA Mrs. Brown. They moved into a place

on 10th Ave. but started looking for a home in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. Karen was house shopping in the Marmalade area one day when she called James and said, "I think I've found the house." He drove up from his office and they toured the house on Quince, which at the time was rather small. Hence, it fit them perfectly. He liked the area because it reminded him of San Francisco with its mix of old houses and hilly streets. "This is it," he thought. They took the key out of the realtor's lock box with no intention of giving it back. A call to the agent to confess what they had done led to a successful purchase of the home. That was 15 years ago. Since then they have added two sons, Seth (11) and Sam (8); Spike, a border collie of indeterminate age; and a 2100 square foot addition on the house to accommodate them all. Says James, "I love the area! I love the people in the area! It's a great place to raise children. Just incredible neighbors! It's a place where you want to live, you want to grow up, and you want to have your family grow up."

Karen is a Salt Lake City native. She works as a manager in program development at Siemens. Sons Seth and Sam attend the Madeleine Choir School where they both pursue an interest in music. Seth sings in the choir and Sam has a band in which he plays drums. In addition to those activities, the two young boys are following in Dad's footsteps, starting their own TV show: "What's in a Kid's World?" You can



Karen and James with Sam and Seth.

check it out at [www.whatsinakidsworld.com](http://www.whatsinakidsworld.com).

James manages his own film studio. [www.saltlakestudios.com](http://www.saltlakestudios.com). The studio has several standing sets used to film some of his own TV shows plus open stage areas available for rent to outside production companies. The secret of James' success as an entrepreneur in a competitive industry lies in his undying optimism, his gregarious nature, and his proactive philosophy about running a business. "As an entrepreneur, you don't

#### CAPITOL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 19, 2010  
State Capitol Senate Building  
Copper Room

#### 6:00pm Mobile Watch Meeting

#### 6:30pm Neighborhood Council Meeting

- Welcome by Chair
- Mobile Watch Report, Georg Stutzenberger
- Police Report, Brian Wahlin
- Elected Officials Reports
- Mayor's Office Report, Joyce Valdez
- Unfinished Items:
  - North Temple Changes, Mike Howard
  - Library Committee, Mark Ewing
- Public Forum
- Adjourn

NEXT MEETING:  
JUNE 16, 2010, 6:30 P.M.

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get to sit in the back of the room and wait for someone to pick you. You've got to figure out how to be picked. You have to come to the table with an exuberance!"

That all fits in perfectly with his outgoing, fun loving personality, and with his philosophy of life in general: "Treat people like you want to be treated" and "Your life is how you make it." He's a guy who has made a good life for his family right here on our own Capitol Hill.

## This Old House The Varley/Hanks House 180 W. 500 North by Nelson Knight

*Editor's note: This month's This Old House article was originally printed in the May, 2006 issue of The Bulletin.*

Deep within a storeroom of the Library of Congress' Madison Building in Washington, D.C., sits a file with photos and a written history of this month's house, the Varley/Hanks House at 180 W. 500 North. The photos are part of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), a federal program to document America's historic buildings. Conceived as a New Deal-era project to make work for unemployed architects and drafters, HABS, and its companion programs documenting



This shot by photographer John Telford shows the Hanks home on 500 North in the late 70's before its demolition. The parking lot for the Salt Lake Acting Company is now in its place. However, the adjacent garage and stone wall belonging to the house next door are still standing and look just the same today.

engineered structures and landscapes, have systematically documented the U.S.-built environment in minute, exacting detail. Each summer, HABS teams (which have included at least one Capitol Hill resident, architect James Christensen) head to the hillsides to photograph, measure, draw, and prepare written histories of important American landmarks. The results of their work are filed at the Library of Congress, and are now even available on the web, at [http://](http://www.cr.nps.gov/habshaer/)

[www.cr.nps.gov/habshaer/](http://www.cr.nps.gov/habshaer/)

Other HABS buildings have perhaps a little more pedigree, such as the Acoma Pueblo in New Mexico, Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater, or even the Salt Lake Tabernacle and the Beehive House. However, the Varley/Hanks House (known to HABS as the John C. Varley House) has the distinction, along with the McCune Mansion and Council Hall, of being the Capitol Hill neighborhood's representatives in the HABS files.

### CAPITOL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Historian	Shirley McLaughlan	801-328-4182

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Ensign Downs	Gordon Russell	801-364-7335
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St. Marks	Nephi Kemmethmueller	801-359-3936
Swedetown	Dorothy Lambe	801-328-4665
Temple	Erlinda Davis	801-531-1964
Warm Springs	Minta Brandon	801-355-1363
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
	<a href="mailto:brian.wahlin@slgov.com">brian.wahlin@slgov.com</a>	
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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THE CAPITOL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BULLETIN IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CAPITOL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL, C/O 606 N. DESOTO ST., SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84103.

Such a distinction is somewhat ironic, because the Varley/Hanks House has been a parking lot for nearly 25 years. Like many HABS buildings, the house was documented prior to its demolition.

According to a 1980 survey by the Utah State Historical Society, this house was built around 1888 for John and Catherine Varley. Catherine's parents, Joseph and Jane Derbidge, lived on the block and presumably gave the land for the house to the young married couple. As originally constructed, the house was a one-story, two-room structure, with the entrance on the east side of the structure and the narrow, gabled end facing 500 North. The house was constructed of soft-fired adobe bricks, covered with stucco. Stylistically, the house showed elements of the Greek Revival style, such as the heavy cornice with returns at the end of each gable, reminiscent of an ancient Greek temple. Catherine Varley died soon

after the couple received title in 1890; John and his new wife Rella received title to the house upon settlement of Catherine's estate in 1907. The next year they sold it to Daniel J. and Marie Antoinette Lang. After a period of ownership of less than one year, the Langs sold the house to Stanley A. and Maude Frame Hanks, who remained in the house for many decades.

Stanley Alonzo Hanks was born in Tooele, Utah on December 3, 1879, to Alfred E. and Ellen Lyman Hanks. He was the grandson of LDS Church Apostle Francis M. Lyman. In 1908, Hanks was a member of the firm of Hanks and Lyman, a real estate company. Later he served as a municipal court judge for Salt Lake City. Maude was born in Taylorsville on April 1, 1883. She was one of seventeen sons and daughters born to Archibald and Helen Duff Frame. Stanley and Maude were married February 15, 2005 (the family recently commemorated

their grandparents' 101st wedding anniversary) and subsequently had a large family of seven children. In order to accommodate their brood, they added on to their small house with a frame addition to the back of the house in 1909, and a porch on the west side of the house in March, 1924. Later in 1924 Stanley suddenly passed away – his obituary listed the cause as appendicitis. Maude raised their sons and daughters by herself in the enlarged (but still small) house. She also found the time to serve as district chair of the Republican party for 10 years, as a member of the Women's Legislative Council, and as her LDS Ward and Stake Relief Society President for a total of 16 years – holding meetings in the 19th Ward Relief Society building next door to her house. The Hanks children: Lincoln, Maurine Busath, Jeannette Sorenson, Beulah Olsen, Bruce, Maude May (died as a child) and Marion Duff are all well known

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

All are invited to bring friends and neighbors to the eleventh annual Capitol Hill Musical Showcase at the Assembly Hall on Temple Square.

Wednesday, May 19, 2010  
 7:00 p.m.

#### INTERNET RESOURCES

[www.chnc-slc.org](http://www.chnc-slc.org)  
[www.downtownrising.com](http://www.downtownrising.com)  
[www.downtownslc.org/events](http://www.downtownslc.org/events)  
[www.glbtcu.org](http://www.glbtcu.org)  
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\*the Salt Lake Association of Community Councils is recognized by the IRS as a section 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization.)

*Our sincere thanks to LDS Hospital for printing The Bulletin.*

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to many Capitol Hill residents. Many of Stanley and Maude's descendants still make Capitol Hill their home, including 4 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. Some family members lived in the house after Maude's death in 1967.

In the late 1970s, the LDS Church sold the 19th Ward building, adjacent to the Hanks house, to Salt Lake City. Its future had been in doubt after the church moved to a new building nearby. Neighbors, including Hanks family members, rallied to save the unique, onion-domed building, and an arrangement was made to convert the building to the Marmalade Hill Community Center. Later the building became home to the Salt Lake Acting Company. In order to accommodate the new use, off-street parking was needed. Salt Lake City purchased the Hanks home and chose to demolish the house to make way for the needed parking. As part of the agreement allowing the demolition, HABS documentation was completed for the house. Photographer John Telford took large format photos of the exterior and interior of the Hanks home. Although the building was vacant, one can sense the feeling of the home from the photographs.

## Thoughts from the Chair

by Katherine Gardner

I am sorry we missed last month the news about North Temple and the Library. We clearly ran out of time-hope to make it this month.

The city forester is concerned about our trees in the parking strips in a month when we have had a lot of rain. He is afraid when the rain stops the trees are going to suffer from a drought because people will not be watering them. Have mercy on your trees when the sun shines.

There's been a little bit of concern about dogs and it's becoming a bigger concern. Please remember your baggies when you walk them- the neighbors are complaining.

We must research the name of the wonderful scholar at West High who won a \$25,000.00 scholarship that he intends to use at MIT. Nice work!

There's concern that people are ignoring the census. Remember to fill it out and get help if you need it. It's a very important thing every ten years.

Help Vanessa Welsh exterminate Dyers Woad (a nasty invasive weed). Meet at the Ensign Peak trailhead May 18th at 5:30 p.m. Remember, we all voted our support for the extermination of this beastly weed.

We are working on several of the projects outlined in our survey- some high priority items and some low priority items. Thanks for all your efforts.

Thanks also to all of our trustees and especially secretary Rosann Greenway. Especially when the absent-minded Chair forgets to have you vote on the minutes.



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