

illuminations

A quarterly publication of the Historical Society of University City

Sculptor To Speak at Annual Meeting

Harry Weber will describe creation of Lewis and Clark sculpture

The Historical Society

of University City

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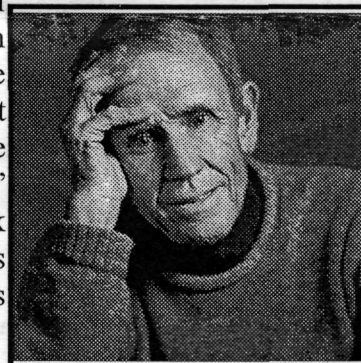
An exciting speaker and new dinner venue make the annual meeting Oct. 4 an event to look forward to. Nationally-known sculptor Harry Weber, who is currently working on the Chuck Berry statue destined for the Loop, will give a talk entitled "Cast in Bronze: the Importance of Historical Research in Statuary." He will also show the film "The Journeys We Must Take," about the making of "The Captain's Return," his Lewis and Clark statue which stands on the St. Louis riverfront.

Weber was born in St. Louis in 1942 and educated at Princeton University where he studied art history. Following his education, Weber served six years in the United States Navy. This included a year on river patrol boats in Vietnam where he compiled a compelling series of drawings chronicling his experiences.

As a sculptor, Weber has produced a body of work that includes over 100 large and more than 250 smaller pieces. His work embodies human emotion

and power with a spontaneity developed from a lifelong habit of sketching from life. He creates sculptures which capture an instant, never static or posed, with a distinct style making maximum use of the natural fluidity of the bronze medium.

Weber sculptures have won major awards at national juried competitions, and are in private collections in the United States and abroad. His work has appeared on the covers of several national magazines. His sculptures have been featured at the Museum of Fine Arts in Newport, Rhode Island and are in the permanent collections of the National Dog Museum



and the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY.

Two of his sculptural groups have been designated National Lewis and Clark sites by the Federal Parks Department. This includes a twice life-sized grouping of Lewis and Clark on the St. Louis Riverfront which commemorated the final celebration of the bicentennial of the expedition.

His sculptures of famous sports figures are prominent features

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A Message from the President by Eleanor Mullin

I'm sure you are looking forward to the fall, as I am, for at least through July, we certainly had a "St. Louis Summer." I was astounded to hear on the radio that the highest temperature recorded in St. Louis was a day in 1954 when it hit 118 degrees! Thankfully, I was far too young to remember it! But it made me wonder how everyone managed in the early 1900's and before, with the heavy, layered style of dress. Doesn't air conditioning rank as one of the best modern conveniences?

And now we can look forward to the return of a charming reminder of our past—the streetcar that will run through the Loop. What a coup for our city, thanks to the vision and hard work of Joe Edwards. In speaking to him a month or so before the grant was announced, I did ask why they did not plan to run the trolley South on Kingsland, and then back East on Loop South, as the original line ran. He said exhaustive studies had found that this would greatly increase the cost. He also assured me that studies showed that

pedestrian and vehicle traffic would flow safely and smoothly. The project will be done a few blocks at a time, to keep disruption to a minimum. Obviously, as more money needs to be raised, there is no start date.

I'm very excited about our annual dinner meeting. Our speaker, Harry Weber, is an astounding artist, and I'm sure you have admired his local works: The Plaza of Champions, featuring ten Cardinal players outside of Busch Stadium, and Daniel Boone in St. Charles, for example, even if you didn't know his name. He is a native St. Louisan, graduate of Country Day School and Princeton University. He served in the Navy, and was awarded a Bronze Star and Combat Ribbon. Last but not least, I appeared in a play with him a year ago, and he's a very talented actor! Your invitation will be arriving shortly. Remember, you can bring others with you—membership in HSUC is not a requirement!

Annual meeting continued

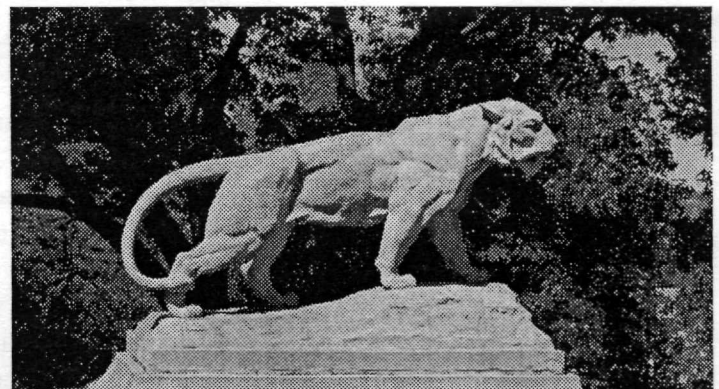
at twelve different professional and amateur stadiums. He has installed monumental work in eleven different states and the Bahamas.

The annual dinner meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 4 at Orlando Gardens, 8352 Watson Road in Webster Groves. Go to orlandogardens.com for directions.

Trolley Wins Grant

On July 8, the Loop Trolley received a \$25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Construction will cost around \$44 million, according to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*; gifts from local private donors and a special business district tax will make up most of the sum. The tracks will run from University City's Civic Plaza to the History Museum in Forest Park, and Joe Edwards and the other backers hope that the trolley will help spread the bustle and glitter of the U. City Loop eastwards to DeBaliviere. The Historical Society congratulates Edwards, who has been patiently nurturing the trolley project for 13 years.

Up Close to a Lion *Monument inspected*



Vice-President Ed Nickels took this picture May 4, when he enjoyed the rare opportunity of getting on the level with one of the U. City lions, atop the Gates of Opportunity. He was with the experts from Russell-Marti Conservation Services who were lifted up by a U. City Fire Department truck to inspect the statues for preservation purposes. Once the conservators' full final report is in, the HSUC Board will make an announcement about recommended repairs.

More on Schuschnigg

Dennis J. Tuchler writes:

The article on Schuschnigg was incomplete. After Dolfuss was assassinated, Schuschnigg took over as the head of a political party which had anti-Semitism as a major part of its program. He had no problem with anti-Semitic politics in Austria. I suspect that his major disagreement with the Nazis was that the capital of the Third Reich was in Berlin and not Vienna.

David Linzee responds:

My article (in the May issue), based mostly on the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* clippings file in the Mercantile Library, portrayed the former Austrian chancellor as a Hitler foe and a decent man who was grateful to lead a quiet life here after the war. Was he really an anti-Semite and crypto-Nazi who managed to impose on his U. City neighbors, Saint Louis University and the U.S. State Department?

I went back to the clippings files, which did contain one note of controversy: in the '60s, Professor Alex Garber refused to appear on a panel at a conference in Boulder, Colorado with Schuschnigg because of his "fascist background."

Next I looked at a few histories of the Anschluss. All agreed that anti-Semitism and pro-Nazism were powerful forces in pre-war Austria, and Schuschnigg had to deal with them. But the historians did not charac-

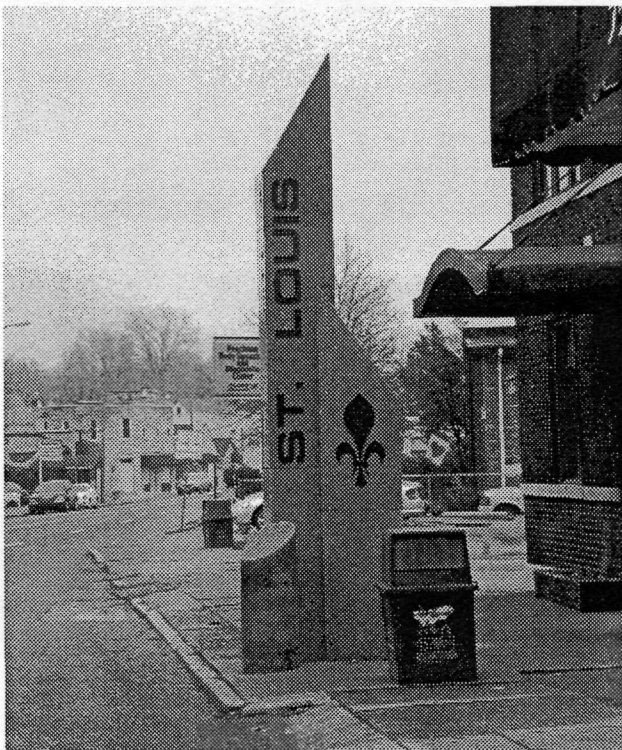
terize Schuschnigg as an anti-Semite or fascist. M. Kitchen, in *The Coming of Austrian Fascism*, wrote that the regime of Dolfuss and Schuschnigg was authoritarian and repressive, but whether it was fascist was debatable. Alfred Low wrote in *The Anschluss Movement* that "Schuschnigg rejected the racist ideology of National Socialism." Evan Burkey, in *Hitler's Austria*, wrote that "Under the Dolfuss-Schuschnigg regime, the Jewish community recovered a measure of governmental protection." Burkey described Schuschnigg as "a political bureaucrat, a decent but myopic man."

At that Boulder conference, Garber's attack did not prevent Schuschnigg from participating. Some spoke in his defense, saying that he had tried to pursue a moderate course in difficult times.

Henry Honored

Congratulations to Charles Henry, City Manager of University City 1959-75, who has been honored by the Oregon City/County Managers' Association as the longest-standing Range Rider in Oregon history. This pro bono position was created to assist Council Manager Cities experiencing trials and tribulations. The Association has created the Charlie T. Henry Scholarship in recognition of his 23 years of work in Oregon

The Big Spike: Readers Respond



This picture ran in the May *Illuminations*, identified as a city line marker on Manchester Road, along with a plea for more information about the similar one that used to stand on Delmar, until it mysteriously disappeared. Former City Councilmember Paul Schoomer said that the marker on Manchester is the same one that used to stand on Delmar. It was moved, said Joe Edwards because it blocked the view of the building behind it, was a magnet for graffiti, and provided a hiding place for muggers. An email from "willardinisrael" confirmed this, adding that there were similar monuments on West Florissant, Hampton, Chippewa, and possibly Gravois and North Broadway at Riverview. Former Mayor and current Grand Center chairman Vince Schoemehl said the spike was one of several put in place by his predecessor, Mayor James Conway. That would mean the Spike was a prominent feature of the Loop for more than 25 years. Thanks to all who responded to the editor's request.



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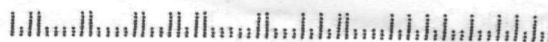
Inside--

*All about the Annual Dinner

*Readers comment: Schuschnigg and City Line
Marker

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Iron Man

He met us in St. Louie, then went home

You hear a lot about the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis—in fact, some local worthies say you hear entirely too much, and our civic self-esteem wouldn't be so proverbially low if we didn't think our greatest moment was more than a century in the past. Perhaps it's some consolation to note that St. Louis isn't the only city over which the Fair continues, literally, to cast a long shadow.

The city of Birmingham, Alabama promoted its status as iron and steel capital of the South by sending the world's largest cast iron statue, Vulcan by Giuseppe Moretti, to the St. Louis Fair, where it stood in the Palace of Mines and Metallurgy. At summer's end, the statue went home and suffered various indignities until the 1930s, when the Works Progress Administration constructed a 126-foot base for it in a hilltop park. After costly rehabs in 1971 and 1999-2003, this hardy survivor of the great Louisiana Purchase Exposition continues to dominate the Birmingham skyline.

