

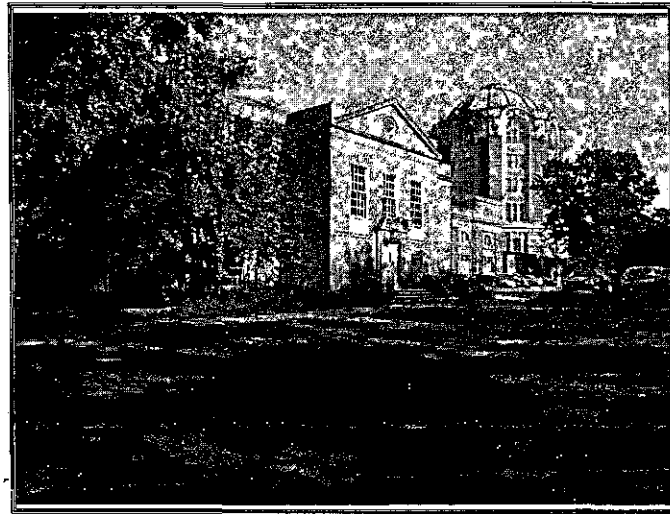


ILLUMINATIONS

A quarterly publication of the Historical Society of University City

Treasure Hunt

by Eleanor Mullin



The Old Library Building, 630 Trinity Avenue, with City Hall in the background.

The Historical Society

of University City

6701 Delmar Blvd.

University City, Missouri 63130

Books published by the

Historical Society and gift items

can be purchased year round at

the University City Library.

Visit our website at

ucityhistory.org and our blog at

patch.com

One day a few months ago, Sue Rehkopf got a phone call from a former board member, saying he saw a dumpster outside of the old library, and that many boxes of papers were being tossed into it. Sue emailed me, and I immediately emailed Mayor Welsch to state that we wanted to see what might be in the building of interest to the Historical Society.

The response was immediate. Jared Agee, Deputy Director/Building Commissioner, asked me to pick a time to go through the building. The following Friday afternoon, Sue, my husband T.J., and I met Jared.

The City is cleaning out

the old library building, and will be using it for storage of city documents. You may know that the second floor housed the University City Residential Service for many years, and a few other organizations. While there was plenty of 'stuff', it was not like we were crawling through a maze

What a treasure hunt! First, we retrieved two original plat books whose location was known to us. We already had the third. Sadly, one is in bad shape, as it was simply laid on the floor and sustained water damage. Jared, seeing our interest in this, told us the City had scanned into

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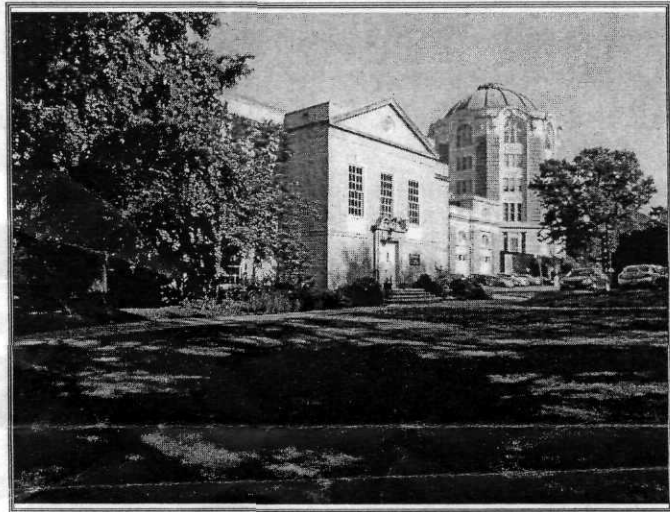


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A Message from the President by Eleanor Mullin

News abounds this spring! First, our website is finally operational, thanks to the help of Ying Lin, who generously volunteered her time and expertise. Ying formerly worked for the U. City Library. Ying, we can't thank you enough. The address is: www.ucityhistory.org. There will be additions, of course, but do take a look.

We have booked our annual dinner, which is to be Tuesday, October 9, at the Pasta House at Delmar and Bonhomme.

Charles Henry, City Manager from 1959 to 1975, has written a book, *A History of Community Sustainability 1958-2011* about our city. He has graciously given us the rights to it, we are making several copies to be placed in various libraries, and it

will be posted on our website. He has also created a documentary about this. He is working with the U. City CALOP commission, and hopefully this will be available sometime this year. For more about this, see the article below.

This was a huge month for 'preserving our history.' Please read my article about what was moldering away—some of it literally—in the old library building.

Finally, I know we are all concerned about craziness in the Loop. My husband asked me to point out that such disturbances are certainly historical—the Delmar Race Track was the site of more than one mob scene. (See our April 20 blog post "Trouble at the Track" on U. City Patch.) History does, indeed, repeat itself.

HSUC Publishes Book by Former City Manager

Charles Henry was in charge during challenging years for U. City

The Historical Society has sponsored a new publication. Ten copies of the book *A History of Community Sustainability, 1958-2011* by Charles Henry, former City Manager of University City, have been printed. They will be donated to public libraries and schools. The lavishly-illustrated book is based on a presentation Henry gave at the public library when he visited University City in autumn 2009. Henry states that he focuses on "the progress of successful urban renewal projects in University City from 1959-1975." This was the period when the city battled "redlining" and other real estate practices aimed at encouraging and profiting from "white flight."

Henry, a native of Reading, Pennsylvania, graduated from Princeton University and went straight into the Navy, where he served in the Pacific campaign during World War II. He decided on a career in public service and returned to Princeton for a Master's in politics and public administration. He came to University City in 1959 and served as city manager for the next 16 years. He was also a consultant on the field staff of Public Administration Services, a prominent non-profit organization, which for 70

years or more focused on improving the operations of public agencies at all three levels of government, both here and abroad under private contracting arrangements.

Upon leaving University City in 1975, he was appointed City Manager of Eugene, Oregon where he served from 1975-1980. That time was the era of planning, financing and constructing most of the world class, Hult Performing Arts Center and also the Eugene Conference and Convention Center, the Hilton Hotel plus all the adjoining parking structures. This downtown development was created with a \$60,000,000+ investment of public and private funds—during a recession.

In 1981 after retiring from Eugene, he worked in Washington D.C. for the Housing and Urban Development Agency as an in-house consultant for research and development projects. In 1986, he returned to Eugene, where he served as a volunteer mentor for city managers.

