

JOURNAL

SCA
Society for Commercial Archeology

Spring 2004
Volume 22, No. 1

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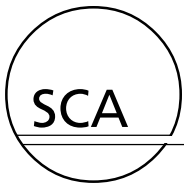
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Cover: The Aztec Motel in Albuquerque, N.M., built 1931. Read about more the restored signs of Route 66 starting on page 14.



Editor's Corner

By Douglas C. Towne

Our *SCA Journal* editor, Robert Hadlow, is taking a well-deserved break this issue after churning out many impressive publications. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to edit this issue of the *Journal* and hope to maintain the high standards set by Bob and previous editors. Fortunately, Brian Butko, our designer extraordinaire, remains to smooth the transition. Thanks should also be extended to our new SCA President, Carrie Scupholm, who has reinvigorated this organization with her dynamic leadership.

I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage members to attend the 2004 SCA conference:

See You In Seattle: Roadside Culture in the Space Age August 18-21, 2004

Information will be arriving in your mailbox soon or check the SCA web site. For more info, contact Bert Bedeau comstockhdc@hotmail.com or (775) 847-0281.

Although a member of the organization for over a decade, I rue that it took me until 2002 to attend my first SCA gathering. What a convention Reno was! Reports from attendees were overwhelmingly positive. I happily singed my retinas gazing at the city's incredible neon displays, but equally indelible were the SCA's many intriguing individuals.

To name but a few, there is Rick Kilby, a graphic designer who annually produces a superlative Florida roadside calendar; Kristin Leuschner, the Shakespeare scholar who bonded with neon signs through her lepidopterist father who gravitated to these to collect moths; the enthusiastic and speedy Nancy Sturm, always first off the SCA bus to photograph the sites. And the fearless Joel Seely, who proved (to Carol Ahlgren's dismay) a connoisseur of even the most exotic ethnic foods!

Although this successful convention was the result of hard work by many SCA members, ultimately the spotlight falls on our former president, Bert Bedeau, for pulling it together. The good news is that Bert is back as the convention chair for Seattle, ably assisted by our new board member in Olympia, Michael Houser.

Folks, don't miss this event! It's never a dull moment with Bert, who is a historical font and quick-witted humorist. During SCA Board meetings, I've been tempted to put forth a motion to make Bert, "Convention Chair for Life." But that would be unfair to him as these events take an ungodly amount of time and energy to produce. Make it to Seattle next month so you too can tell your grandkids, "I was at a Bedeau-chaired SCA convention!"

A fringe benefit as editor is the opportunity to highlight some of my favorite places such as the "Lilac City" of Spokane in eastern Washington. Check your bookcase for the excellent historical perspective on downtown Spokane by John Mann that appeared in the Fall 2001 *SCA Journal*. It's a city chock full of neon signs and retro establishments. A personal highlight of my 2002 visit was the Shack Restaurant, which dates from 1927 but sadly, closed in March 2003. By all means, if you have the luxury of a leisurely drive to Seattle next month, pencil in Spokane as an overnight stop. Happy motoring! ●



Ferguson's, Billy Burger, and The Shack. - Photos and Shack napkin courtesy Douglas Towne

