

*Brothers and Sisters***Liberating Warehouses**

Joyce Ennis Hardin

Nowhere, I imagine - in Tucson or elsewhere - can you find a more unusual setting for a studio-gallery of fine arts and crafts than the Splinter Brothers and Sisters Warehouse (911 N. 13th Avenue). The entire front of the old, adobe structure is covered with a wall mural featuring a colorful locomotive. Very appropriate when you realize that the Southern Pacific tracks run immediately behind the Warehouse.

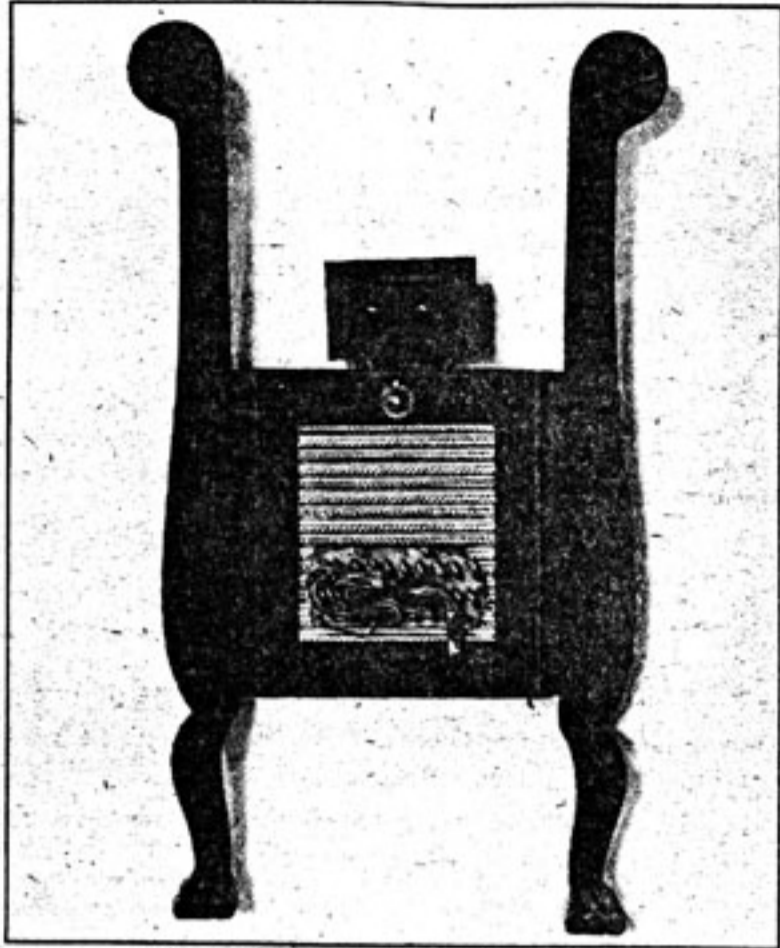
The atmosphere at the Warehouse is unusually stimulating. Among the ten individuals now sharing the Warehouse and yard are potters, woodworkers, metalworkers, and other creators. Some of them do practical, as well as artistic, crafts to keep a steady income. If you need a house painter or a carpenter, give them a call at 622-9093. Somebody there will probably be able to oblige you. They can "decorate your house or fix it up. Or help you humanize your environment."

At the present time there is no formal gallery. Last year the group tried setting up regular exhibits and announcing gallery hours, but the arrangement lessened the flexibility of the space. The gallery was too far off the beaten path to encourage browsing, so the experiment was short-lived.

**"Our project has found its own space."**

One of the special charms of the Warehouse is the performing and dancing space you find when you enter the front door. Events held there have ranged from bluegrass concerts to surrealist dramas to Halloween parties to benefits for a number of good "alternative" community causes.

Keith Jellums talked about the



**Assemblage by Saul Lieberman**

history and the structure of the Warehouse group. "We have loose articles of confederation, but basically it's a kind of anarchy. Everyone has to be responsible - responsibility is not delegated. Everyone has a chance to take out the garbage and a chance to steer the ship. We're all equal."

Any serious artist or crafts-person would be eligible to apply for space in the Warehouse. But he has to be willing to contribute. It's not a place for people just to "hang out." There are few rules. Those who have been interested in joining the group have had a lot in common.

"Our project has found its own space," Saul Lieberman feels.

"We're an island in the midst of rivers of traffic - right in the shadow of downtown." There's a symbiotic relationship among the Brothers and Sisters. A needed tool or bit of information is readily available from a friend in an adjoining space.

Visitors to the facility are very welcome during daytime hours. A few of the artists are usually around, although you might want to call ahead to be sure of getting in.

The "island" by the railroad tracks is a unique place. There you can see some distinctive pottery and other fine arts and crafts in the same space where they were created.

**Basie Concert At The Doubletree**