

Belltown Babylon

by Elaine Bonow

Chapter 8

By the time this issue hits the street Spring will have arrived in Belltown. Since this is my last spring in business here, on First and Bell, I decided to walk around the area to see if there are any potential spaces for The BBC Studio.

I think it is très drôle that so many of the new businesses moving into the area are nightclubs and restaurants. Well, what if the new restaurants and bars just slightly changed the names



of the businesses that they replace. Walking up First Avenue, I pass by the Belltown. People will soon forget that it once was the Belltown Pub. Riflessi, the Italian glass shop, is moving from the bottom floor of the Dorothy Day House. Hmmm, what if that space becomes a new restaurant called Reflex? It could specialize in authentic Italian cuisine. Oh Boy! Let me see what else I can come up with.

Rounding the corner of First and Battery the Choice Linens now empty store front is for lease, and I wonder what type of restaurant would fit in there. The space is cool with those old film vaults in the back. My mind starts to go...OH OH, I know Film Vault Foods and Deli. The old storage vaults can be meat lockers and...



Huge "for lease" signs are up at the International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots building on the corner of Third and Battery. This stately edifice would make a great nightclub. The name could stay the same, "hey, there's a great band playing at the Mates and Pilots tonight, ya wanna go?" The old digs of Pacific Publishing, in the middle of the block, have languished for years. You could cram six or seven restaurants into that



space, all having cute names like Gazette Steak House and The Thai Tribunal.

In fact, all of Third Avenue is ready for a good brisk sprucing up. The old Crawford and Waage hardware store, which by the way is sorely missed, is turning itself into a Reggae Nightclub...(No, it is not called the "Hardware Store Disco or The Tool Shack"). This club should bring some much-needed rockin' nightlife to this block.

Yes, it will soon be my turn to vacate Belltown, and I wonder if someone will open a nightclub called the Dancestudio Nightclub and Flamenco Restaurant. Hum, I wonder if I can sell that idea!



THE OLD PACIFIC PUBLISHING BUILDING

Home only to seagulls and other pestilent urban birds.