

# Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

NEWS FOR MEMBERS

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We had a fine spring day for our tour to see the 1850's planned community of Evergreen Hamlet in May, and our group enjoyed wandering over the grounds and through all of the houses. A bountiful box lunch on the patio of the Beall House and a champagne reception at the offices, EVERGREEN provided through the generosity of the firm of Van Trump, HAMLET Ziegler & Shane, Inc., were delightful respites in a day of ambling along the rustic walks and poring into nooks and crannies of these Gothic Revival houses. Below are a few photos taken at random during the day. Next on our list of tours will be two summer Sunday walking tours. An announcement card is enclosed.



One of our most rewarding projects to date has been initiating garden block plantings on the North Side. The Garden Club of Allegheny County has carried out the block work and has succeeded in getting the residents of a block in Sheffield Street and Lake Street to plant window boxes of flowers. The plantings have led to a general paint-up and fix-up effort and it has also restored the community spirit of the people. Below are some photos of "planting days." Since planting days one landlord has completely repainted two houses, which now look very pleasant, and another landlord was so impressed to see his tenant painting his front steps that he bought her a screen door. She had never had one before.



Two 12' high stained-glass windows, reputed to be Tiffany, were removed from the Henry W. Oliver house on Ridge Avenue and donated to us by the Chilton Company, which sold the structure to the Urban Redevelopment Authority for the Community College.

These rich windows contain 80 square feet of glass and ornamented a splendidly carved oaken staircase. The house, built in 1871, was remodeled by Oliver in 1879 into one of the finest residences of its type in America. Its fate is still unknown. However, we have written to the Board of Directors of the College suggesting that it be maintained because it is both important culturally and historically to Pittsburgh. Some interest has developed among Board members, but it is too early even to hope. With its elaborate panelling, great fireplaces, and prominent site, it would function well as a faculty club or library.



Arthur Knight, custodian of the Oliver House for twenty years

We were so impressed with the spirit of the garden block residents that, through the generosity of a private donor, we have offered to create a vest-pocket park on a vacant lot on one of the blocks.

When finished, it will serve as a little community garden, designed to the satisfaction of the residents, instead of the debris-laden eyesore it is now. It will also contain playground equipment so that it will function as a tot-lot as well.

The enclosed tour card announcement should read:

\$2.00 for members  
\$3.00 for non-members

For each tour.