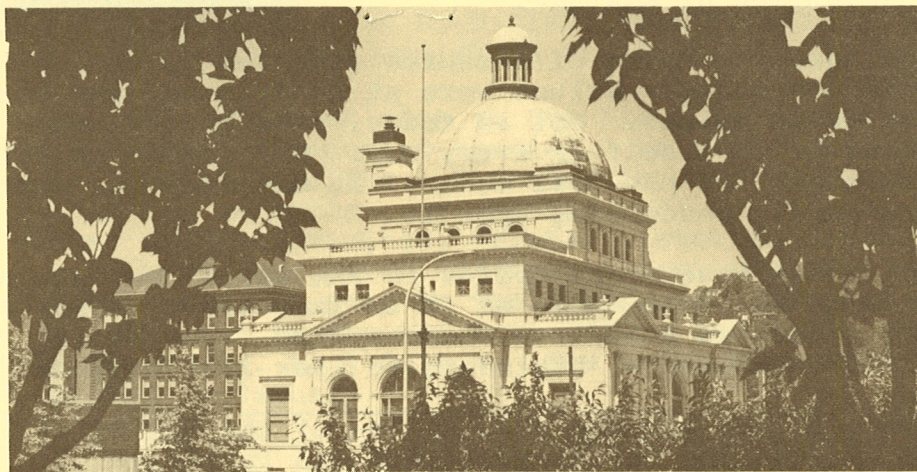


News For Members of
PITTSBURGH HISTORY &
LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

NUMBER 31--NOVEMBER DECEMBER 1971



OLD POST OFFICE OPENING PARTY



On January 9 at 2:00 p.m. we will have a ribbon-cutting and a preview of the Old Post Office Museum and our first exhibition and the museum will then open to the public on January 11. Set aside Sunday afternoon, January 9, for the special members' preview. Our first exhibit, "Expedience and Aspirations: the History of the Architecture of Allegheny County," will be a dramatic showing of a sampling of our significant architecture through the use of large lighted color transparencies, historical lithographs and engravings, paintings, and artifacts. Directors, members, and friends are making available the \$25,000 show which we have been working on now for months. The House Committee has planned refreshments and music, and the afternoon should be a festive one. The preview will remain open from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

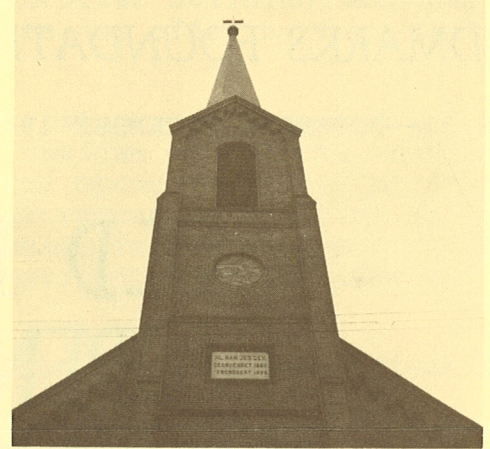
Recently the Pennsylvania Department of Highways announced that it intends to remove the very broad medial strip on Ardmore Boulevard in Forest Hills, where the trolleys formerly ran, and to replace it with an even broader Ardmore Boulevard. Forest Hills had planned to make this medial area into a green strip lined with trees, and we contacted the highways department in a spirit of concern and cooperation with Forest Hills: "It seems to us that the strip gives this community an unprecedented opportunity for creating a handsome tree-lined avenue and softening the effect of the great volume of traffic in the area. There are already six lanes of traffic on Ardmore Boulevard and that seems like quite enough for what is essentially a residential thoroughfare. We ask that further study be given by your department to the opportunity for ameliorating the environmental effects of this avenue."

GREEN VERSUS
CONCRETE

THE TOWERS CONTINUE TO FALL

Without warning, another North Side Victorian church spire has fallen. Toward the end of October we were notified that scaffolding had appeared on the tower of the R.C. Church of the Most Holy Name of Jesus on Troy Hill--an ominous sign. Once a scaffold meant execution; now it means demolition. In the latter case, there is little hope of a reprieve. Since demolition of the spire was beginning, there was nothing we could do save protest.

The Holy Name is one of the Roman Church's historic parishes in Pittsburgh, having been founded by a German congregation in 1868. The church is a pleasant brick building, but it was the spire, constructed in 1888, that gave the church whatever architectural distinction it had. Without its needle pointing skyward, the church has suffered what we can only consider a fatal diminution of stature.



Not so long ago, the spire of a church signaled to the world that this was a place where non-worldly values were at least named and considered. The spire proclaimed those values. Not so today. The church seems now to be shrinking, falling in on itself in every way. But if the church will not proclaim itself, maintain its physical towers, it deserves the apathy and disregard which are surely descending upon it.

The loss of these towers and spires in the way of variety and interest to the city scape is as inestimable as it is lamentable. Troy Hill with its many towers once resembled a medieval German burg. Now it is, to the dismay of many of its old inhabitants, beginning to look like a plucked chicken.

All that is left now are the twin spires of the Shrine of St. Anthony--one of the most fascinating buildings in Western Pennsylvania. On it, and its spires, we are keeping a watchful eye.

James D. Van Trump

Needed: Several oriental rug runners for the Old Post Office Museum. We are in need of these runners measuring about three feet wide and anywhere from three to nine feet long for use in various areas in the Old Post Office Museum. A tax deduction can be given to anyone wishing to donate such a rug.

DUMMIES We are much in need of some dummies--dressmaker's dummies--that is.
WANTED The Fashion Group is hard at work inventorying the many Victorian costumes that have been given to us, but we need some dressmaker's dummies on which to hang some of these things. So if you have a dummy in your attic, send it to us.

In our last newsletter we reported on the proposed demolition of the pavilion in West End Park. We are pleased to report that Stephen
WEST END PARK George, of the Department of Parks and Recreation, has as-
PAVILION sured us that the pavilion will not be destroyed. He pointed out that the condition of the structure is not bad and that the City has no intention of removing it. We commend the Mayor's office and Director George for recognizing the value of this landmark in this city park.

ARTIFACT CLEARANCE SALE

From 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, 18 December, we will have a special clearance sale of many of our artifacts at the old fire house on Union Avenue in Allegheny Center, North Side. The sale will not be an auction. Prices will be set in advance at sale levels and artifacts available include paneling, mantels, iron fireplace surrounds, ornamental cast iron, special sculptures from the Manchester Bridge, marble slabs and marble mantels, and a number of pieces of furniture. Plan to drop in for the big artifact sale before Christmas and buy a friend or yourself a unique present. Cross the Seventh Street bridge and proceed up the eastern side of the Allegheny Commons loop and turn right at the sign.

SPECIAL FIVE HOUR GIFT STORE PREVIEW FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Our new gift store and book shop at the Old Post Office will open for a brief preview and Christmas shopping special. We will have unusual gifts for all ages including hand-made gifts. A member in Mount Lebanon has crocheted caps and scarfs for us, an artist has created cuff links from broken pieces of cathedral glass, we have drawings, prints, Victorian miniatures, and books about architecture, antiques, coins, sailing ships, ecology, and most extraordinary cook books. Plan to stop by the artifacts clearance sale at the fire hall and then to walk over to the Old Post Office and visit the gift shop. December 18 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The shops will then close until the formal museum opening in January.

Volunteers Needed: The museum is just getting underway and it is a good time for our members to consider involving themselves in museum operations through volunteer services. We need persons who will work regularly at our admissions and reception desk and our gift and book shop. We are also looking for three volunteers to help us assemble our first major exhibit and two volunteers to help us catalog artifacts. If you are interested in working on a regular basis in our shop or at our front desk, please plan to attend a brief orientation in the Old Post Office on December 17 at 8:00 p.m.

The Only One of Our Kind

THE OLD POST OFFICE SHOP

Gifts . Artifacts . Books

Special Opening Souvenir Sale

Old Large JUGS of the

Red Wine Potteries

Found in a loft of a South Side warehouse

Only 73 Jugs Available

1 to a customer

\$10.00

NEW NOTEPAPER RELEASED

Three South Side landmarks, St. John Baptist's Ukrainian Catholic Church, the old Market House, and a handsome restored Victorian building, are depicted on the new Birmingham set of notepaper that we are now offering for sale to members.

These line drawings in brown ink on an ivory stock are executed in the same manner as the drawings on our very popular Mexican War Streets series of notepaper. Each sheet has one horizontal fold and opens to a writing area of approximately 5" x 8". This notepaper makes an interesting addition to our earlier sets and enables our members to have a selection of unique Pittsburgh notepaper for their stationery needs. In the past, many members have purchased our notepaper for gift purposes.

The cost is \$1.86 per box including tax. Each box contains fifteen sheets made up of the three scenes.

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
The Old Post Office
Allegheny Square West
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15212

Please send me:

_____ boxes of Birmingham notepaper @ \$1.86

_____ boxes of Mexican War Streets notepaper @ \$1.86

_____ boxes of historic Pittsburgh full color notepaper @ \$1.86

My check is enclosed. Please add \$.35 for postage.

Name _____

Address _____



PITTSBURGH HISTORY
& LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

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