

News For Members of PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

NUMBER 34--MAY JUNE 1972

RICHARD KING MELLON FOUNDATION
GRANTS \$250,000
FOR MEXICAN WAR STREETS PROGRAM

The trustees of the Richard King Mellon Foundation have granted \$250,000 toward the advancement of the Mexican War Streets Community Restoration Program.

The grant is to provide funds for acquisition of houses in that area. Some of the houses are to be resold with deed restrictions to prohibit alteration to the facade and others will be retained and restored by PHLF.

The intent of the Mexican War Streets program is to preserve the architectural heritage of this late nineteenth century neighborhood in such a way as to provide good housing for individuals and families of various income levels including low income. The restoration of the buildings serves as a catalyst to full community renewal.

PHLF initiated this program in 1966 with a grant from the Sarah Mellon Scaife Foundation which was later augmented by a grant from the A.W. Mellon Educational & Charitable Trust. With these funds we purchased anchor properties to secure portions of the neighborhood and to induce private individuals to restore the decaying buildings.

Richard P. Mellon, president of the Richard King Mellon Foundation, noted that the Mexican War Streets Restoration Fund "is a revolving fund and that any income derived from the properties which PHLF may acquire in implementation of this grant will be placed in the Restoration Fund for subsequent use in the Mexican War Streets district or the restoration projects of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation".

"The grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation", said Charles Covert Arensberg, president of PHLF, "is the largest grant to The Restoration Fund to date and should enable us to fulfill our initial goals in the Mexican War Streets program. Without these funds the program would have lost momentum because our earlier grants have been fully invested in properties there".

Several houses are available in the Mexican War Streets at present. 400 West North Avenue at the corner of Palo Alto and facing the park, a very large house with many fine interior fittings and mostly restored by Mr. & Mrs. Donald Kenagy, is currently for sale. There is a courtyard and a double garage and the asking price is \$42,000. Interested persons should call 231-2539.....

MEXICAN WAR STREETS HOUSES FOR SALE

1241 Monterey Street, a handsome 2 1/2 story brick house with elaborate cast iron window hoods is for sale by our organization. It is in derelict condition but could be handsomely restored. The price is \$10,000 firm.....The E.K. Davis house in Crafton is also for sale and is listed on page 171 in Landmark Architecture. Interested persons should call the owner at 921-7129.

SUMMER WALKING TOUR SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

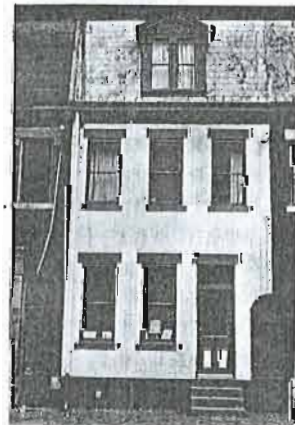
We will soon start our Summer Sunday Afternoon Walking Tours again. They will all begin at 2:00 p.m. and will last approximately 2 1/2 hours. In one case we are going to join our new affiliate chapter in Washington County to see one of the old towns along the National Road.

Last year the walking tours were free to members but in all previous years we made a charge. Due to the cost of organizing, promoting, and holding the tours, we must revert back to the charges but they will be very reasonable for our members. Each tour will be 75¢ or you may purchase a season ticket for the three tours for \$1.50 per person. Non-member tickets will be \$2 per tour and a season ticket will cost \$5. If you are interested in obtaining tickets now, please send your check and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the office and your tickets will be sent out within a few weeks.

- Point Breeze area and Henry Clay Frick Fine Arts Museum.....June 25
Meet in Frick Park across from the Frick Fine Arts Museum on Reynolds Street.
- Edgewood.....July 16
- Town of West Alexander on the National Pike (Washington County)..September 10

PHLF's first weekend tour was an enormous success. We had two full busses of members and friends and we were royally received in three towns. In Wheeling we were able to tour private residences, served coffee in the morning, sherry in the Customs House now undergoing restoration and lunch at the Fort Henry Club. In Sistersville we had a wonderful tour through many of the fine houses and an exceptionally good dinner at the restored Wells Inn. Sunday morning provided glorious weather for our excursion over to Marietta where we toured the Campus Martins Museum, the W.P. Snyder, Jr. Steamboat, and the rectory of the Roman Catholic Church, a restored Italianate building in very grand style.

SPRING TOUR
SUCCESSFUL



JANE STREET IS COMING ALONG

Shown above is the contractor on the job restoring 2811 Jane Street, Birmingham, and the finished facade. We are pleased to announce the acquisition of our fifth house in this block, #2809, and we are currently drawing up plans in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Housing Authority, to restore it, like 2811, for low-income housing. One notable setback occurred just after we rented 2811 to the Authority. An ancient sewer broke down and we had to pay over \$2,000 for a new line to the street. Shown here is the new tenant's dog looking mournfully as we did at the great hole that the plumbers dug in his (our) back yard.



NEILL LOG HOUSE
NEEDS LANDSCAPING FUNDS

We have completed the restoration of the Neill Log House and the Junior League has completed furnishing the interior. Now we must undertake the appropriate landscape work, and our landscape architects, Griswold, Winters & Swain have drawn up the enclosed list of vines, shrubs and trees that are required and the estimated cost to plant them.

We invite the donations of individuals, families, garden clubs, and other civic organizations for these items and a permanent list of donors will be mounted in the Neill Log House.

If you or your organization is interested in funding one or more of these items, simply drop a note and send your check to the office. If your gift is in memory of a particular person, please so state.

1 Sugar Maple.....	\$400.00	
3 Winesapp Apple Trees.....	20.00	each
2 Sycle Pear Trees.....	20.00	each
3 Sour Cherry Trees.....	20.00	each
23 Indian Summer Red Raspberries.....	2.50	each
20 Cumberland Blackberries.....	2.50	each
10 Arrowwood Viburnum.....	25.00	each
20 Bitter Sweet Vines.....	5.25	each
2 Ramona Climatas.....	5.25	each
50 Virginia Creepers.....	4.50	each
2 Climbing Evergreen Roses.....	5.00	each
60 Martha Washington Asparagus Plants.....	2.00	each
30 Victoria Rhubarb Plants.....	2.25	each
8 Common Sunflowers.....	1.75	each

General planting of Silver Moon Daisies,
Queen Anne's Lace, Golden Rod, Crown of
Rays, and Black-eyed Susans..... 750.00

JUNIOR LEAGUE & PHLF
TO OPEN
TOURIST LITERATURE CENTER

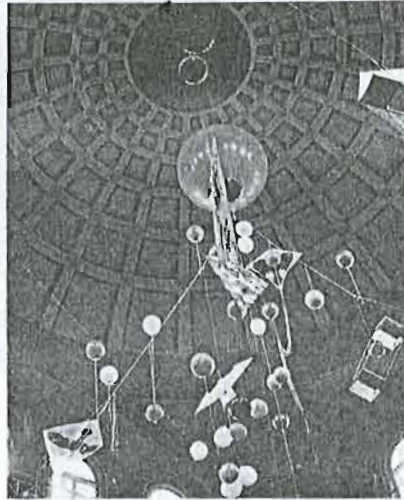
We are indeed pleased to announce that the Junior League of Pittsburgh has approved our proposal to assist us by providing funds to construct, and volunteers to operate, a tourist literature center to be located in the foyer of the Old Post Office. We have been deeply concerned at the lack of such a service for visitors and now that we have our museum, we decided to ask the League to help us undertake this project. Mrs. Lawrence E. Madson, Jr. will serve as chairman and Mr. Hazold Lyke, one of our regular volunteers, will represent PHLF. The center should be open by July. This is our third project with the Junior League, the first two being a lecture on Pittsburgh history prepared for and given to all the fifth grade classes in city schools and furnishing the Neill Log House.

APRIL DONATIONS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people who donated historical articles in kind to the Old Post Office Museum in April:

Wallace R. Beardsley	Mr. & Mrs, Don Landay
Henry Carter Corson Family	Walter Leuba
Field Curry	Mrs. J. Donald McLean
Miss Claire Hagmaier	Mrs. Sally Ogden
William Hosking	Miss Hilda Schodde
Leo R. Kleppick	Mrs. Roger Sutlon
Mrs. Diane Kumanchik	Mrs. Ruth Whener

NOTES FROM THE OLD POST OFFICE



Under the chairmanship of Sandy Kenagy, the Spring Festival Committee assembled a glittering array of events for the week of May 21. The Flea Market was so successful that the vendors asked that we hold one not less than once a month regularly; our auction the next day netted over \$400. More than three hundred children came to the story-telling hours on Monday, and several dozen people attended the lecture on Oriental carpets by Burton Lowell Kaplan. The question and answer period lasted over an hour. For Robert Schmertz's folk songs we had standing room only and a standing ovation at the end of the concert. We hope to have another concert in the near future. All the thanks go to Sandy Kenagy and the Spring Festival Committee consisting of the members of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee and the Exhibitions Committee. Now we are looking toward a Fall Festival to keep the "Lively Landmark" lively.

HUXTABLE FOR US We were pleased to read in the Sunday, March 19, 1972 New York Times Ada Louise Huxtable's kind words about our victory with the Old Allegheny Post Office. She noted that we had a "smashing opening day party for the building's new role as the museum of the people of Allegheny County" and that our victory "was a perception of true urbanity in every sense of the word".

EVENTS AT THE OLD POST OFFICE

June 26, 5-7:30 p. m.

Opening of special show of our newly acquired fashion collection from Margaret Morrison College of Carnegie Mellon University. Our hosts will be the Fashion Group of Pittsburgh.

The Drawings and Water Colors of Norton Peterson continues

Old Wills of Pittsburghers continues

Textiles of Bucky King through June 20th

An Architectural History of Allegheny County continues

THE PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

Ballet, Violin, & Piano. Our first performance included high-school students playing the violin and the piano followed by a very colorful series of dances by the Mount Lebanon Ballet. The variety of the program and the vitality and style of the group enlivened the Old Post Office and delighted the audience.

An Afternoon of Music & Poetry. Under this title, the second event of the Foundation's performing arts program took place at the Old Post Office on Sunday afternoon, 26 March. A trio, of young men--Robert Croan, tenor, Anthony de Vittorio, pianist, and John Haber, reader--banded together to produce Robert Schumann's Dichterliebe (Poet's Love), a song cycle composed to verses contained in Heinrich Heine's Lyrisches Intermezzo (1822-1823). Dr. Croan does not have a "big" voice but it was well-adapted to the intimacy, charm, and private intensity of these prime examples of German lieder. Vittorio's piano accompaniment was competent and sympathetic, and Mr. Haber's reading (in English) of the poems before each song selection was elegant and properly supportive. The young men, all costumed to suggest the early nineteenth century, undertook their roles with both vigor and understanding, and their obvious delight in their joint performance communicated itself to the audience.

Brockett & Russell. A complete change of pace occurred on 9 April when, through the courtesy of PHLF member Barbara Russell, our members previewed "Politics '72", a new nightclub skit by Don Brockett. Amusing, the songs were original and the points well made.

An Evening of Chamber Music. The performing arts committee of the museum again in the interest of providing variety in its programs, scheduled a chamber music program on Thursday evening, 11 April at seven o'clock, when the Department of Music of the Allegheny Campus of the Allegheny Community College presented in conjunction with PHLF, the Allegheny Quintet, consisting of Judith Moore, flute, Eve Blum and Joseph Picchi, violins, Paul Landefeld, viola, and Henrietta Voyvadich, cello. The program consisted of the allegro and minnetto of Luigi Boccherini's Quintet in D, the Suite in A Minor of Telemann and Foote's A Night Piece. The ensemble played with competence and spirit and we hope they will come again for a return engagement.

An Afternoon of Creative Drama. On Sunday afternoon 23 April Dr. J. Brooks Dendy, III, supervisor of the Drama Section, Division of Education, at Carnegie Institute brought to the Old Post Office his creative drama group of young people who, attired in "anonymous" costumes and with a minimum of props and no scenery evolved dramatic "actions from the incidents of their lives". With no training in the performing arts save what they had received with the group, they were able within patterns of stylized movement and spoken dialogue to project a poetic vision of what it is to be young in today's uncertain world.

Needed: A few ladies who can sew and would like to help make minor repairs to the elegant Victorian dresses recently given to us. Call Karen Casey at 322-1204 if you can spare a few hours.



We recently commissioned a special commemorative plate showing the Old Post Office on a simulated pewter plate. It is quite handsome and will be available only for a limited time. 100 have been reserved for members at \$8. If you wish to order, simply send your name, address and check including 50¢ mailing charge to Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, Old Post Office, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212.

We wish to congratulate the Mount Washington Community on its anniversary. Exactly 100 years ago the governor signed a bill into law annexing Mount Washington to the City of Pittsburgh. To celebrate its centennial year, the community will close Grandview Avenue to traffic for a street fair which will begin with a parade of floats, bands and animals from the Childrens' Zoo on Thursday, June 8 at 7:30 p.m. Every evening between 7 & 11:30 p.m. from Thursday June 8 through Friday June 11 there will be a sidewalk cafe on the "view side" of the Avenue and refreshment and exhibitors' booths lining the "house side". To add to the atmosphere, musical groups will perform nightly on the sightseeing platforms. The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform at Grandview Park on Friday June 2 at 7:30 p.m. The closing ceremonies will consist of a spectacular fireworks display over the Monongahela River on Sunday night. The public is advised to use public transportation as street parking will be very limited. PHLF will have a special booth at the fair offering publications and memberships.

We were pleased to read in the recent newsletter of the Society of the Preservation of the Duquesne Heights Incline that several Pittsburgh companies as well as PHLF have made notable contributions toward this splendid preservation effort. J&L Steel contributed a pulling cable, Dravo Corporation has provided a pair of cable-reel jacks, Sargeant Electric has donated electrical hardware and Westinghouse has contributed \$20,000 toward a rectifier installation. PHLF recently located some newel posts and a handrail to be used in the lower station. To the Society we extend good wishes; we note that it is the only organization for which we hope that it will continue to have its ups and downs.

We have, month in and out, been bewailing the fall of church spires and the almost complete lack of ecclesiastical interest in this deplorable state of affairs. This month we can report, mirabile dictu, that a Pittsburgh spire that was destroyed by lightning in 1930, is about to be restored. Pastor Ruff of the Grace Lutheran Church on Hatteras Street in Troy Hill has informed us that the congregation has received a bequest that will permit it to restore its spire which will be a modern reproduction of the one erected in 1899. The new structure, 48 feet high, will be octagonal in shape, of white vinyl over aluminum and will be surmounted by a seven foot gold cross. Work was scheduled to begin in late April by the Overly Company. We heartily congratulate Pastor Ruff and his congregation.

RAW PERSIMMON AWARD TO BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE NEWSLETTER

It has been a principle of our organization to reward people as appropriately as we can for their efforts on behalf of historic preservation. We have given life memberships to several of our most active members, we have awarded landmark plaques to owners of significant buildings, and we hand out bouquets of words through our newsletters and through letters to those who are working on behalf of historic preservation. It seems only appropriate, therefore, that we also reward those who would destroy, deprecate, and denude our historic buildings. At the urging of our president we are therefore establishing the Raw Persimmon Award which will be given at appropriate intervals to those who deserve to savor this bitter taste that results from their actions, a taste which in effect they have forced upon the community. If you have a suggestion of an owner who deserves our symbolic Raw Persimmon Award, send it to the office. We will announce first winners at the annual meeting.

Needed: Hat and shoe boxes for use in storing costume accessories.

FOUR SPLENDID BOOKS PUBLISHED

Buying and Renovating a House in the City by Deirdre Stanforth and Martha Stamm. This is a fine volume which discusses the subject in question from the point of view of two women who acquired a house in New York, and restored it. Thereupon they set out to study such work around the United States and summarize what they have learned from their excursions. Our PHLF work in Pittsburgh is covered in considerable detail. Paperbound \$4.95--Hardbound \$10.00.

A Guide to Remodeling Old Houses Without Destroying Their Character by George Stephen. This fine little volume by our friend George Stephen who will be lecturing to us in May is an excellent guide to the practical matters in rehabilitating a house. Mr. Stephen discusses ways to reconstruct rooms, insert bathrooms and mechanicals, and in general how to renovate an old house for modern living conditions. The book contains a very useful glossary. Paperbound \$3.95.

A House in the City: A Guide to Buying & Renovating Old Houses by Dixon McKenna. This book is particularly good for its financial guides for determining the economics of restoration and is a large size book with excellent photographic coverage of restored houses around the country. Hardbound \$10.00.

The Old Pike by Thomas Searight. This is a reprint of a fine old book that has long been out of print that deals with the history and development of the architecture of the National Road, now Route 40. For anyone interested in local history in the tri-state area, this is a fascinating study and we are delighted to see it reissued in such an economical edition. Hardbound \$10.00

All books are in immediate supply at the Old Museum Shop and we will be glad to take mail orders.

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

Please send me the following:

_____ copies of Buying & Renovating a House in the City by Stanforth & Stamm
paperbound at \$4.95--hardbound at \$10.00

_____ copies of Remodeling Old Houses by Stephen at \$3.95

_____ copies of A House in the City by McKenna at \$10.00

_____ copies of The Old Pike by Searight at \$10.00

Total.....\$	_____
6% sales tax.....\$	_____
Postage.....\$	50¢
Grand Total.....\$	_____

My check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

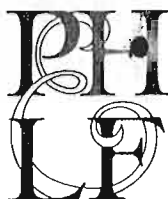
Effective immediately we will announce new members in our organization. We are pleased to announce these new members for March-April 1972.

We are pleased to announce the following new life members: Mrs. Clifford F. Heinz, Mr. & Mrs. John F. Walton, Jr.

Mrs. Agnes P. Allen
John Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. John E. Angle
Louis Anstandig
Dr. & Mrs. David Archer
Edna Ashton
Mrs. John Bankson
Mrs. Helen M. Beatty
Robert Berkebile
Louise P. Berlin
Beulah Historical Society
John Bissell
Mr. & Mrs. Frederic Bolander
Dr. & Mrs. John O. Bolvin
Mrs. C.M. Boucek
Mrs. N.F. Braun, Jr.
Stanley T. Brosky
H. Edward Cable
Mr. & Mrs. Alan O. Caldwell
Lulu D. Caldwell
Owen Cantor
Myrtle E. Carey
Miss Rosemary Casey
William L. Chapman
Dr. A.F. Cohen
E. Jane Colborn
Mrs. Annabel K. Confer
Marshall J. Conn
Mrs. Frances M. Corsello
Beekman W. Cottrell
William H. Crawford
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Cunningham
Mrs. G. W. Davies
Dorothy C. Dawson
Jean J. Dittmer
Mrs. Thomas P. Eddy
Hulda Edelstein
Ruth M. Emery
James C. Fisher

Mrs. J. Monroe Franks
Dane Fravenholz
Curtis S. Garner, III
Belle George
Richard C. Getty
Denis A. Glunt
John P. Graver
Janet D. Grugan
William Guernsey
Fred E. Haller
Miss Caroline Heppenstall
Margaret Higginbottom
Carl W. Huch, Jr.
Mrs. Melvin Humphreys
Mrs. William Jackson
E. M. Jepsen
Kendall F. Jones
Mrs. Florence Woods Keeler
Dr. Howard Kress
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Kubiak
Dorcas Leibold
Henry Leonard, Jr.
Miss Marcia Leonard
Miss L. Joanne Lippert
Mr. & Mrs. Robert I. Long
Mary Virginia Louden
E.E. MacCache
Alice K. MacDonnell
Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. McAlister
James B. McClements, Jr.
Raymond A. McGeary
Anna M. McGill
Neele V. McLaughlin
Roy E. Metzler
Mary S. Mohney
Mrs. W.R. Murdock
Robert Peel
Mrs. Enoch Perkins
Mrs. Russell Peters

Mr. & Mrs. James F. Pitcairn
Quentin E. Polasky
Louise Pushing
Matthew Pusic
Mrs. Rose Raebel
Mrs. Clinton Randall
Mae Ransford
Donald H. Ratchford
Mrs. Bertram Reilly
Dr. & Mrs. T.J. Robbins
Mrs. G.T. Roberts, Jr.
E.W. Rudert
Melanie Russell
Sally Sasser
Grace E. Saulters
Edward Schaefer
Mrs. Oscar Schloss
William T. Schoyer
Edgar H. Shroyer
Robert J. Simonds
Milton R. Slater
Mrs. Charles C. Smith
Emerson S. Smith
Mrs. Alexander Speyer
Norbert Stanny
Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Starr
Mrs. Clarence Steffey
Mrs. Frank R. Stoner, III
Charles M. Stolz
Helen M. Studer
Mrs. John B. Sutton, Jr.
Stuart J. Swensson
Lloyd Tatem
W. Ward Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. John F. Walton, Jr.
Gary Lee Weston
Vincent Widmer
Mrs. David Witherow
Mildred M. Young



PITTSBURGH HISTORY
& LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

THE OLD POST OFFICE
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