

News For Members of PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

NUMBER 35--JULY AUGUST 1972

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NATIONAL TRUST AWARDS PHLF

We are very pleased to announce that our organization has received a national award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It was presented by Helen Hays to our organization at a luncheon in the garden at Decater House on May 10 and we are indeed honored to receive it. The award reads as follows:

A citation for Significant Achievement in Historic Preservation in the United States presented by The National Trust for Historic Preservation to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in recognition of its persistent and far-sighted rescue and restoration efforts in downtown Pittsburgh and in demonstrating that architecturally and historically significant structures are an urban resource of great importance to many people.

By the practical recycling of old buildings in the Mexican War Streets district and by encouraging owners in the old Birmingham area to do the same the Foundation has proved that historic preservation can affect the lives of inner city residents in a tangible, meaningful and thoroughly beneficial way. While saving important buildings and neighborhoods, the Foundation's program has placed the emphasis on the family and the individual.

Further evidence of the success of this philosophy of preservation for reuse is the Museum of Pittsburgh History established by the Foundation in the old North Side Post Office, a structure which the Foundation has rescued and restored.

For these contributions to the preservation of the United States cultural heritage the National Trust for Historic Preservation is honored to present this Citation to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

We are pleased to report a grant in the amount of \$2,500 from the United States Steel Foundation for support of our 1972 program. The UNITED STATES STEEL GRANT grant was generously offered as a result of the good showing of our various programs and particularly, as Howard Barr, Vice President & Executive Director of the Foundation said, "The magnificent restoration of the Old Post Office". We thank the trustees of the United States Steel Foundation and we particularly appreciate their willingness to support our general operations.

Allegheny County has restored the Settler's Log House and the Scott House, a Greek Revival brick structure in the new county park system; PIONEER Joe White is now trying to find appropriate furnishings for FURNISHINGS the houses. They would include early tables, simple chairs, NEEDED stools, side-boards, corner cupboards, and various work implements like spinning wheels, candle molds, etc. Anyone who could provide such items should contact Joseph B.C. White at the Allegheny County Department of Parks, 327-0338.

LEE ADLER OF SAVANNAH
TO ADDRESS OUR MEMBERSHIP

We are very fortunate to announce that for our first distinguished lecturer series this coming season, Lee Adler, founder of Historic Savannah Foundation will address our membership on the fine work that has been accomplished by Historic Savannah. Energetic and bristling with ideas, Mr. Adler is a member of the board of trustees at the National Trust for Historic Preservation and of the board of advisors of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Fund. His talk will be one of the liveliest and most informative of the year and we encourage our members to set aside the date of September 25 to hear this extraordinary man.

After several years of discussions, we have signed the contract with the Allegheny County Commissioners that will enable us to provide consulting services to the County Department of Parks for its museum program. The contract calls for our conducting an inventory of certain historic artifacts owned by the County, consulting on the furnishing of Settler's Cabin and the Scott House, and for advising the County on all matters relating to the future development of museums and museum planning. We look forward to working with Director George Kelly and Joseph B.C. White of the Department over the ensuing months on these matters of great importance to the people of the County, and we thank the Commissioners for entrusting us with these significant responsibilities. The commitment of Commissioners Staisey, Foerster and Hunt to the advancement of educational and cultural programs is well known and we are fortunate that it continues and broadens each year.

NEILL LOG HOUSE LANDSCAPING FUND-RAISING ATTRACTS GIFTS

In the last issue of the Newsletter we listed a number of plants and shrubs that are needed for the landscaping at the Neill Log House in Schenley Park, which we have recently restored. To date \$584 has been donated for various items. Still remaining to be given are the following. The donors may give them as memorials if they wish:

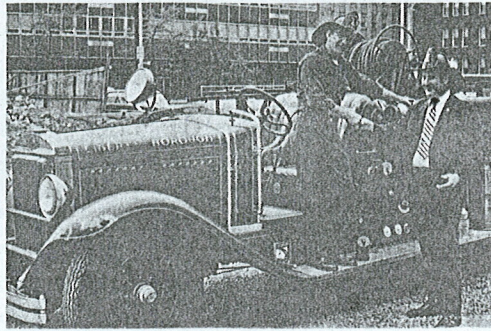
23 Indian Summer Red Raspberries.....	\$ 2.50 each
20 Cumberland Blackberries.....	2.50 each
10 Arrowwood Viburnum.....	25.00 each
20 Bitter Sweet Vines.....	5.25 each
2 Ramona Climatas.....	5.25 each
50 Virginia Creepers.....	4.50 each
60 Martha Washington Asparagus Plants.....	2.00 each
30 Victoria Rhubarb Plants.....	2.25 each

PHLF OFFICES TO BE CLOSED FOR VACATION

This year on an experimental basis we will close our central offices from August 28th through Labor Day, September 4th. Emergency assistance only will be provided by calling our central number at 322-1204. Because of the volume of constant work and activity, a number of members of our staff have had little or no vacation for several years, and we are conducting this experiment to assure that everyone will have a reprieve and a rest. The Museum will remain open as usual during this week; only the offices will be closed.

EDGEWOOD WALKING TOUR The Edgewood walking tour will take place on Sunday, July 16 at 2:00 p.m. We will meet in the Edgewood Presbyterian Church parking lot. Tickets for members are 75¢ each; \$2 each for non-members.

NOTES FROM THE OLD POST OFFICE



Shown here is Warren Schweitzer receiving from a representative of the Liberty Borough Volunteer Fire Department their 1927 fire truck which they have donated to PHLF. It arrived during Spring Festival Week and is on display on good weekends in our parking lot beside the building. We are very indebted to the Volunteer Firemen of Liberty Borough for shining the truck and salvaging all the valves, hoses, extinguishers, hats, and axes and other paraphernalia of the period and affixing them in the proper places on the truck.

We are already making plans for our Christmas exhibition at the Old Post Office. Members of the Exhibitions Committee have approved the suggestion that we have an exhibit of old toys of all kinds ranging from games to special artifacts to sleds and wagons and dolls. If you have something that you can give or lend for this show, would you please send a post card to the office or call Mrs. Casey. We would like to have it, if on loan from early November until late January, and if a gift we would like to obtain it by November 1. This should be a show that people of every age should enjoy and we hope to have the biggest selection of toys that it is possible to assemble, so please do help us if you can.

EVENTS AT THE OLD POST OFFICE

On Sunday 2 July an exhibition of the architectural and landscape sketches of the Pittsburgh architect Edward B. Lee (1876-1956) presented by his son Edward B. Lee, Jr. opened. Most of these sketches which depict the landscapes of Western Pennsylvania were done in the 1920s and the 1930s. Many of them also figure in his son's recently published book, A Pencil in Penn. The exhibition will continue until September 4.

On Sunday 2 July an exhibition of the work of the Industrial Photographers of Pittsburgh opened. Although some of the subjects are industrial, there is a wide range of material including human interest still life, sports, and landscape--some of it in color. The exhibition will continue through July.

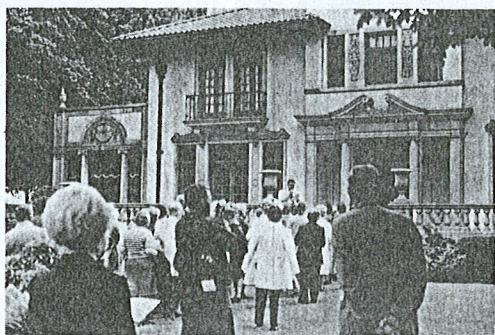
Currently occupying a first floor gallery are the sketches of Norton Peterson, a local artist who has specialized in depicting the Pittsburgh landscape, particularly its buildings. Of particular interest to us are his fine drawing of the Museum, which we used in our preservation campaign for the building and various structures and houses that have now vanished. The show opened on May 16th and will continue through the summer.

PERFORMING ARTS

On Sunday 14 May the Tuesday Musical Club Instrumental Ensemble at 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. gave a program of Classical music at the Museum. George Grossman was the conductor; Margery Hill Steen was the concert mistress; Cecilia Ester Kruger was the narrator; and Lois H. Dietrich the co-

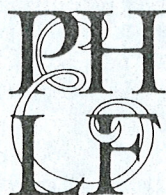
ordinator. Donna Lynn Stark, a student at Carnegie-Mellon University was the violin soloist. The Program consisted of Bach's Violin Concerto in A Minor, the first movement of Haydn's Quartet #13, Opus 77, #1, and Mozart's serenade--Eine kleine Nachtmusik. The musicians performed with brilliance, particularly in the Mozart; this was altogether the most elegant of our musical programs.

On Wednesday evening 17 May as part of the Museum's Spring Festival, at 8:00 p.m. we presented "An Evening with Robert Schmertz and Friends". Performing with Bob were his son Jack Schmertz, his daughter Gretchen Schmertz Jacob, Dr. Vivian Richman, Jo Davidson, Myra Elmers, Anne Schapiro, and Bob's grandson Robert Jacob. On this gala evening, Pittsburgh turned out to pay tribute to its much loved folk singer and the house was packed. There was standing room only.



Shown above are two scenes from our spring bus tour to Wheeling, Sistersville, and Marietta. In the first photograph our group is looking at a fine 1920 structure in Sistersville where our host Mr. Kinkaid is describing the history of the building and in the second photograph we see the beautifully restored Italianate house that serves now as the Roman Catholic Rectory which we visited and climbed all the way to the cupola and looked over the town. Next door is the church which is now undergoing restoration.

Of the many telephone calls that we receive at the office requesting historical research information, the question most frequently asked is how Pittsburgh came to be spelled with an "h"? Our Director of Research, James D. Van Trump, recently decided to resolve the matter by writing an article describing the entire history of the spelling of Pittsburgh which has varied several times through the years. The article was published in WQED Renaissance, and we have now reprinted it as a handsome four-page pamphlet. It is available at the Old Post Office Shop for 50¢ and may be ordered by mail for 75¢.



PITTSBURGH HISTORY
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