

News For Members of
PITTSBURGH HISTORY &
LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

NUMBER 40--FEBRUARY 1973

SPRING MEETING SET
--at which--

MAJOR SUPPORT FROM THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
WILL BE ANNOUNCED

THE GIFT OF A NEW HISTORIC PROPERTY WILL BE DESCRIBED

our president will talk about fund raising

our executive director will describe our amazing accomplishments

NEW DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS WILL BE ELECTED

color slides will be shown

refreshments will be offered

ALL AT THE

OLD POST OFFICE

April 12, 1973

8:15 p.m.

A MUST FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Directors Renominated with Terms to Expire in 1978

Mr. James Bibro	Mr. Julian Miller	Mrs. Cleveland D. Rea
Mrs. Kenneth Boesel	Mr. Joseph P. Molony	Mr. William P. Snyder, III
Mrs. Robert E. Fulton	Mr. William R. Oliver	Mr. Gilmore Williams

Directors Nominated with Terms to Expire in 1974, 1975, 1976

Mr. David Miller, '74	Mrs. Florence Schwartz, '75
Mrs. Lawrence Madson, Jr., '74	Hon. Richard Caliguiri, '76
Mr. Mark S. Gleeson, '74	

Officers Nominated

Charles Covert Arensberg, President	Mrs. David Genter, Secretary
Mrs. Henry P. Hoffstot, Jr., Vice President	Mr. Richard Edwards, Treasurer
J. Judson Brooks, Vice President	Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., Ass't. Sec.
James Knox, Vice President	Ralph E. Griswold, Hon. Vice Pres.
Mrs. B. F. Jones, III, Vice President	James D. Van Trump, Hon. Vice Pres.

+ Additional nominations can be made by petition in writing to the nominating committee if signed by twenty or more members.

WITH THANKS TO OUR MANY FRIENDS

Donations of various artifacts for our museum collection in December:

Joseph Dennis.....German Bible, 1864
 Edith Furman.....Women's gloves, c. 1900
 William Walker, II....."Portrait of John Scott and Family"
 Mrs. Hugh Nevin....."Portrait of Mrs. Matthew George [1785-1859]"
 "Portrait of William Irvin [1791-1864]"
 both of 1844
 Mr. & Mrs. H. Gray Hamilton.....Collection of souvenirs from the Sesqui-
 centennial of Pittsburgh, 1908
 Swift Mission Brigade.....Records, photos, uniforms and other memor-
 abilia from the Swift Mission Brigade, 1894-
 R. H. Dietrich.....Lithographs:
 "Soldiers Memorial", 1864
 "Cameron Dragoons", c. 1865
 Mrs. C. S. Textor.....Steel engraving:
 "Portrait of Abraham Lincoln" c. 1870
 Mrs. Ann Fry Murphy.....Snow shoes, c. 1900
 Snow boots, c. 1900
 Port Authority Transit of
 Allegheny County....."Fare box", early 20th century
 Collection of "fare coins", early 20th c.

Special Donation:

David the Furrier.....Cleaning of Victorian dresses in the Museum
 fashion collection

Donations in January:

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Panagulias.....Victorian peignoir c. 1895
 French Second Empire Couch c. 1870
 Mont N. Cooke.....Set of Child's building blocks c.1910
 A. W. Dorfield.....Oriental Rug c.1900
 Ms. Dolores Henger.....Quilting frame c.1788
 Classical Pedestal c. 1860
 Arm Chair c.1870
 Dr. James Ballantyne.....Greek Revival Sofa c.1845
 Chinese Teakwood table c.1870
 Late Victorian Arm Chair c.1900
 Mrs. Mary Wohleber.....Child's Sled c.1920
 Anne Mary & Robert E. Thompson.....Plat books of Allegheny, Penna. 1901
 Plat book of The Northern Vicinity of
 Pittsburgh, 1906
 Mrs. Arthur Webster.....Photo Albums c.1880
 Collection of Victorian Costumes c.1885
 Dr. & Mrs. Alfred Johnson.....Assorted Victorian clothing, trimmings,
 and accessories c.1875
 Undergarments and Baby clothing c.1850
 Mrs. Doris Shaefer.....Oriental Anatolian Rug c.1910
 Ms. Mary Hardy.....Lattice c.1890

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THESE NEW MEMBERS FOR JANUARY 1973

Mrs. W. B. Anderson	Mr. & Mrs. Elbert C. Lehman
Ms. Blanche G. Armel	Dr. & Mrs. George Leibold
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Armstrong	Mr. & Mrs. Delvin Miller
Mr. & Mrs. John D. Beswarick	W. McCook Miller
Theodore R. Bromwell	Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Morse
Attorney Kenneth P. Christman	Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Moser
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Connors	Mrs. Conrad F. Nagel, Jr.
Montague R. Cooke	James R. O'Mahoney
Mr. & Mrs. Rowland S. Cooke	Mrs. Olga K. Parkhill
Ms. Jean R. Dapprich	Mrs. Richard C. Rose
Ms. Frances E. Demas	Charles R. Ruffing
John W. Eichleay, Jr.	Mrs. Nancy S. Sabal
Ms. Anita Fellner	Mr. & Mrs. Samuel D. Saul
Mr. & Mrs. William P. Getty, III	Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Seapker
Mrs. Estelle D. Haase	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Selck
Mr. & Mrs. Warren V. Hartz, Jr.	Miss Linda Sestrack
Miss Henrietta Helms	Miss Delores M. Smith
Doris M. Hunter, M.D.	Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Spoehr
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander P. Hutchinson	Robert E. Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. George Illig, Jr.	Ms. Jane A. Viehman
Joseph C. & Joanne D. Kopp	Ernest O. Wood
Mrs. J. Labarthe, Jr.	J. Philip Young
Mr. & Mrs. V. M. Laughlin	

We are happy to announce that as of January 15, 1973 PHLF has a total of 1763 membership address plates. The growth of our membership roll this past year has been very encouraging. Our goal of 2500 members does not seem so impossible now. If each member would make it his goal in 1973 to enroll a new member, the impact of our foundation would be astounding! As an incentive we are going to offer a copy of our new publication on the Union Trust Building free to any member who is responsible for getting 2 new members for the foundation. Be sure to instruct any new members you recruit to mention your name when they join so you can receive proper credit. Let's try to make our goal of 2500 in 1973!

RIVER ROAD MUST BE STOPPED

The Pennsylvania Department of Hiways in conjunction with the City of Pittsburgh plans to build, preferably a four-lane, possibly a two-lane roadway along the Allegheny River waterfront from the Stadium to the Heinz plant. It also plans an Expressway 4 to 6 lanes wide 800 feet away parallel to River Road along side the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks. We say the Expressway is enough; kill River Road.

The northern side of the Allegheny River is the only waterfront area available for recreational development near the downtown area. The road would preclude citizen use of the shore area in favor of auto and trucks and would forever destroy the opportunity of enabling The North Side Neighborhoods to be linked directly to the river.

We are told we need River Road to assist draining off stadium traffic after games; we rejoin that congestion after games is not nearly as important an issue as saving the waterfront for those who live and work in the area. Let the stadium goers either take public transit or expect a tie-up. That has to be the end result of collecting tremendous numbers of automobiles in one place.

Can we win? Why not? Look at these public "improvements" proposed for North Side over the past 15 years, all defeated by local residents and civic groups including PHLF. Believe it or not, these really were official proposals:

Extend an interstate expressway link through the Allegheny Commons!

Demolish all buildings from Brighton Road to East Street north of North Avenue!

Destroy the present formal character of the Allegheny Commons to be replaced by artificial hills and circuitous walkways!

Demolish the Old Allegheny Post Office!

Demolish the Allegheny Library!

Stop a ballfield proposed by the community and PHLF for Allegheny Center!

Erect high rises the length of North Avenue in the Mexican War Streets along the Commons!

Demolish Manchester!

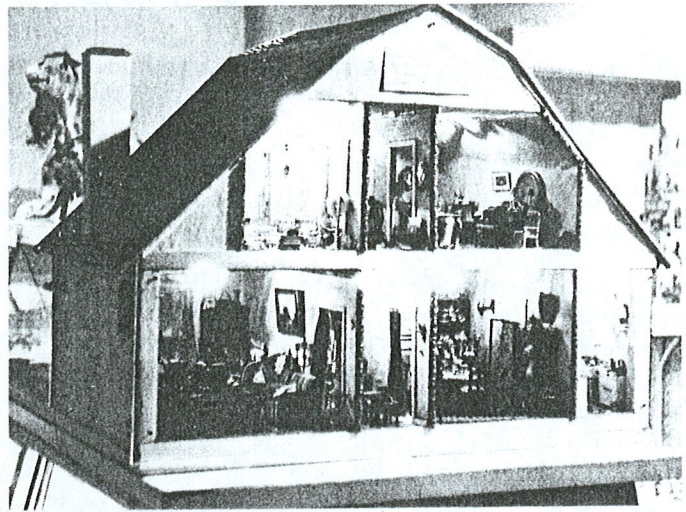
This is the level of planning by public agencies that was, until recently, routine. We've lost a good many battles on North Side: East Street, Manchester Bridge, Chateau Street elevated expressway, Beaver Avenue clearance, central North Side clearance, demolition of Allegheny Market House, destruction of Ridge Avenue, among others. But we've won enough to believe that we can win this one. River Road must be stopped.

A Victorian or Edwardian table lamp for the Old Post Office Museum is needed. We wish to place the lamp in our reception room in front of the window that looks into the main gallery. The lamp will therefore be on view from many vantage points. Also required is an Edwardian or Victorian table on which the lamp could be placed. If you could help us, please call Mr. Ziegler or Miss Zielinski at 322-1204. We are also still in need of old sheets or bedspreads that could be used to cover artifacts; and any materials that can be cut up and used for dust cloths and covering cloths.

NEEDED

We are indebted to one of our members, Henrietta Helm, for her gift of a marvelous miniature dollhouse which we have placed on display at the entrance to our toy museum. The house has quickly become a favorite exhibit with our visitors.

The idea for the house originated with Henrietta's sister, Myrtle Helm, in whose memory the gift has been made. The house itself, shingled roof, chimney and all, was Henrietta's work. She did the original electrical wiring; painted several of the tiny framed landscapes, the dishes in the dining room, and the nursery lamp; laid the rugs and papered the walls.



The collection took some thirty years to complete, and Myrtle's penchant for miniatures brought some of the pieces many miles to their places in the dollhouse. A wisp of a portrait of Queen Elizabeth hangs in the nursery, and the material for the dining room tablecloth was handmade by the White Sisters of Canada. The stained glass window which looks into the living room is from Chartres, near Paris and is a replica of a window of the Chartres Cathedral. A crock of white roses in the back yard was made in Paris. A bisque cherub from Germany perches on a pedestal in the living room.

Some of the crocheted pieces and pieces of gilded tatting were done by the mother of the Helm sisters. We are indeed grateful to the Helm family for this addition to our collection.

Mr. Van Trump was named Man of the Year in Architecture by the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Pittsburgh as part of an annual program honoring outstanding citizens of this city.

Mr. James D. Van Trump
Man of the Year in Architecture

The Award was presented at the Jaycee's dinner held at the Hilton Hotel on Sunday, January 21. The manuscript of

Mr. Van Trump's book on the court houses of Pittsburgh has been completed and is now in the hands of the publishers.

THE OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM NEEDS VOLUNTEER GUIDES TO LEAD MUSEUM TOURS.
INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS SHOULD CONTACT MR. DREXLER AT 322-1204!

We are pleased to announce that the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers has given its support to our preliminary efforts to establish industrial history exhibits in Pittsburgh. PSPE studied the need for industrial history exhibits throughout Pennsylvania. At their winter meeting, the Board of Directors of PSPE unanimously passed the following proposal made by J. Fred Triggs, State Director of the Pittsburgh Chapter of PSPE:

"PSPE designates the Pittsburgh area as the logical site for an industrial museum and lend its moral support to the efforts put forth by Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation to secure funding whether by public or private sources for this objective."

STATE ENGINEERS
SUPPORT PHLF

We express our appreciation to PSPE for their support and we hope for more support from other organizations in the future. At present, we are considering plans for industrial historic exhibits in the Old Post Office or the establishment of a separate industrial museum in Pittsburgh.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS AT THE OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM

Mr. Van Trump will continue his series of television talks on Pittsburgh Architectural Monuments with "Henry Hornbostel and the campus of Carnegie-Mellon University" on WQED's "Life Style" program at 9:00 p.m. on March 19.

March 11, 7:30 p.m. Performing Arts Event
"Pitt Slavic Choir"

March 17, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Craft Festival, demonstrations and sales

March 25, 7:30 p.m. Performing Arts Event
Opera "Dido Aeneas" performed by the Tuesday Musical Club of Pittsburgh

MARCH 17 is the date for our CRAFTS FESTIVAL. This Saturday has been set aside from 10:00 to 4:30 for craftsmen of our area to demonstrate their skills and sell their wares at the Old Post Office. We have quite a number of reservations and the variety of skills to be presented seems very interesting. Be sure to be a part of this exciting day at the Old Post Office. If you know of any local craftsmen who might be interested in demonstrating their skills and did not receive an invitation, please ask them to call 322-1204 for further information and to reserve a booth.

A TRIUMPH FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

In June of 1971, we announced that the City Council of Pittsburgh had passed and Mayor Peter Flaherty had signed the Historic Zoning Enabling Ordinance. The ordinance created Pittsburgh's first legal mechanism to protect and preserve historically and architecturally significant structures within the city. At the request of City Council, we listed initial structures and areas to be designated for regulation by the new ordinance. We submitted the list in September of 1972 to the Council and Mayor for approval. The list included the Allegheny County Court House and Jail, Old Allegheny Post Office, Phipps Conservatory, Pennsylvania Railroad Station and Rotunda, Market Square, and the Mexican War Streets.

We are pleased to announce that City Council and Mayor Flaherty have approved for regulation all the submissions on the list, except the Pennsylvania Railroad Station and Rotunda, because of the legalities surrounding the Railroad's bankruptcy. After a six year effort to secure protection for these structures and areas, we hail the approval of the five submissions as a major triumph. We express our sincere gratitude to City Council, Mayor Peter Flaherty, and the City Planning Commission, for their strong support.

We will continue to submit more structures and areas for regulation by the Historic Zoning Enabling Ordinance.

The old Aiken Homestead in Shadyside is for sale. This Victorian Mansion in the Italianate style, is over 100 years old, and has been remodeled in the Classical manner of the early 1900's. Interested parties should call Jonathan Raymond, at 621-5616.

HOUSE FOR SALE

LOBBY OF CITY-COUNTY BUILDING RESTORED

We commend Mayor Peter Flaherty for his personal interest and initiative in restoring the neo-Classical lobby of the City-County Building.

The restoration involved cleaning the blackened marble walls, vaulted ceiling and gilded columns, rebronzing the window frames and trim around the elevator doors, and repainting the fresco of the city and county seals. The A. J. Vater Company did the restoration work under the supervision of City of Pittsburgh architect, Bruce Mac Donald.

BRIEFS...

Mr. Van Trump was featured on "Lifestyle" on WQED in a superb production on the William Penn Hotel. Mr. Van Trump narrated from his Victorian study; a considerable amount of film was shown of the renovation of this grand old lady of Pittsburgh buildings. . . . Mr. Ziegler has published, by invitation, an article "Renovate, Don't Relocate" in the December 1972 issue of Museum News. . . . Two marvelous articles giving us national coverage for the Old Post Office recently appeared in prestigious journals. Donald Miller, Art Critic of the Post-Gazette, published a four page article with handsome photographs in Antiques in September 1972 and Walter Kidney, architectural historian, published a six page article in Progressive Architecture, November 1972, including a full page color photo of the interior of the Old Post Office Museum. . . . Considerable television and newspaper coverage was given to the Christmas exhibition at the Old Post Office Museum and some beautiful color film of the exhibits was shown on Christmas eve on both Channel 4 and Channel 11. Our toy museum was featured in a full-page write up in the Post-Gazette and a large article appeared on page 2 of the Pittsburgh Press. Christmas attendance zoomed up and on weekends, and between Christmas and New Years we had between 300 and 700 people a day. . . We are indebted to the choirs which sang each Sunday afternoon in the Old Post Office as part of the Christmas season. They are: Grace Lutheran of Troy Hill, Domenec High School Glee Club, Children of St. Peter's School, Brown Chapel, and Allegheny United Church of Christ. . . .

The "Great American Party", a gala benefit for the Old Post Office Museum to be sponsored by the Fashion Group of Pittsburgh which was scheduled for the evening of March 2, 1973 has been POSTPONED postponed indefinitely. Please watch for the rescheduling of this fund raising benefit for the Old Post Office.

PH PITTSBURGH HISTORY
LF & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION
THE OLD POST OFFICE
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