

PHLF NEWS

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
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Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ziegler
 731 Wisteria Avenue
 Pittsburgh, Pa. 15228

SARAH MELLON SCAIFE FOUNDATION AWARDS PHLF \$100,000 GRANT 2 Year Fund Campaign Halfway to Goal

Richard M. Scaife, chairman of the Sarah Mellon Scaife Foundation has announced a grant of \$100,000. to Pittsburgh History & Landmarks payable in 1974 and 1975 at \$50,000. each year. The grant is to be used for general support of PHLF programs including the Old Post Office Museum.

Charles Covert Arensberg, PHLF president, in acknowledging the grant, pointed out that the gift represents a continuation of Scaife Foundation support. He said, "Without these funds historic preservation in Pittsburgh would have had much less impact over the past ten years. We particularly take note of the fact that the Scaife Foundation has been willing to fund some of our most innovative programs, those that involved experimentation and risk and which have resulted in considerable benefit for the people of Pittsburgh and widespread national acclaim."

Our treasurer, Harold Tweedy, noted that the Scaife Foundation between 1967 and 1975 will have contributed nearly \$1,000,000. to our general support and toward the Mexican War Streets, Birmingham, Manchester and the Old Post Office Museum restoration programs.

This grant will be applied primarily to staff and administrative support. It will also help defray operational costs of the Old Post Office Museum, and of various neighborhood restoration programs.

The grant brings the total of our general 2-year fund-raising campaign to \$305,000. "As we enter the second year of our funding campaign we find ourselves with \$295,000. to raise to fulfill our goal of \$600,000," pointed out Mr. Tweedy, "We hope that our members and other foundations, business, and labor will also be able to respond generously to our efforts to restore and revitalize the architecture and urban fabric of our city."

Members are asked to send in their 1974 special pledge or contribution now if they have not already done so. Membership support of the campaign is evidence that PHLF deserves foundation and other outside support.

A PLEDGE FOR 1974

I/We enclose check or securities to be applied toward the fund campaign of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation\$.....

I would appreciate a call

Please allocate my donation to the general fund campaign

Please allocate my donation to the following program

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

All contributions are deductible for income tax purposes.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Awards \$21,500 Matching Grant to Burtner House Fund

Fred L. Owen, Jr., Conservation Specialist of the Department of Community Affairs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania announced on November 20, 1973 that the Department will make available \$21,500. of the Project 500 funds for acquisition of the Burtner House and adjoining wooded land in Natrona Heights. The funds will be given to Harrison Township when they are matched by the current fund-raising campaign by the Burtner House Committee.

This Committee of local residents together with Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation saved this two-story stone house built in 1821 from demolition for the Allegheny Valley Expressway. PennDOT realigned the road and sold the house to the committee. PHLF has been appointed to prepare a restoration program for the house and develop plans for acquiring and retaining the surrounding open space as a natural area, including Little Bull Creek, which flows near the house. The studies are being carried out by our staff.

In acknowledging the grant Mrs. Joseph Ferree, chairwoman of the Committee joined Charles Covert Arensberg, PHLF president, in expressing the

gratitude of local residents and our members to the Department of Community Affairs and to PennDOT for their cooperation.

The house was built by Philip Burtner, who married Anna Negley. An additional \$25,000. will now be needed to complete acquisition and planning.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 23 Travelogue of London and question & answer session for London Tour
- January 25- February 3 Inventory Sale, Old Post Office Gift Shop - regular Museum hours
- March 24 2:00 p.m. PHLF Annual Meeting at William Penn Hotel followed by Walking Tour of the hotel and formal dedication of the Landmark Plaque
- April 27 6:00 p.m. Dinner and Cruise on the Gateway Party Liner with members of the SIA Convention meeting here
- May 24- June 2 Charter flight to London (See page 5 for details)

THE PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE

"The Next Ten Years 1974-1984"

Our first grant from Miss Helen Clay Frick and another from the A. W. Mellon Educational & Charitable Trust allowed us to begin our work. Our first major study of a Pittsburgh area to be preserved coincided with the establishment of our Foundation in 1964. It was the second number of a series "The Stones of Pittsburgh" and James Van Trump wrote it. It dealt with that extraordinary block of Victorian houses on Liverpool Street in "Manchester Old Allegheny" and was entitled "A Study With a View Toward Preservation".

The block still stands, an embattled area that refuses to acknowledge defeat. Funds to begin restorations and achieve facade easements wound up in the endless red tape of HUD in Washington. Perhaps soon that dream will begin to take final shape. We have bought and still own three of the key structures there. We will continue to try to achieve that dream.

In the meantime like most aspiring American institutions we have prospered in a material sense. Our friends have been good to us. We own the Old Post Office lock stock and barrel (except for the mortgage) and we are about to complete the Sculpture Court. We own houses in the Mexican War Streets and the South Side, including an old market with apartments above on Carson Street. We think we have turned the corner in the "Mexican War Streets". Their future as a pleasant and integrated human-scaled area is irreversible.

We have 2200 members who are staunch in their devotion to the feeling that for a city to survive as a good place to live, its architecture must be protected, its landmarks must be safeguarded and its past must lead us to a good future.

What is that future? We have problems now we never dreamed of when we started. Benefits have flowed to us from sources we never knew existed. In order to save the Post Office from destruction we bought it ourselves and learned the rudiments of museum keeping. We have a lot to learn still and a lot of patience to garner from our fellow citizens. Again with the aid of our good Alcoa neighbors we are building a Sculpture Court and garden which we hope will be an oasis of beauty and quiet in the heart of Old Allegheny. We hope it will be an ornament to the City.

But our Museum although important now for us and we hope to the City, remains in a small sense an avocation. This is both a strength and a danger to us, because like all museums we depend on the good will of our friends to bridge the inevitable financial gap. We have many things to do: The Rotunda of the Pennsylvania Railroad Station, The Pennsylvania and Lake Erie Station interior, the South Side Market Square, Lawrenceville, The Neill Log House, the Walker Log House in Collier Township, yes, and always Liverpool Street and Manchester.

We need to spark the restoration of Pittsburgh's remarkable slope housing, those incredible "clingers" which lend such a picturesque air to the City, and with the disappearance of the dirty steam engine in the valley below, become agreeable and viable dwelling places. We need to worry perhaps about the Union Trust Building, Motor Square Garden, the Presley Neville house and St. Luke's in Woodville, St. Anthony's Shrine on Mt. Troy, even the Court House and Jail. We applaud mightily Heinz Hall and Alcoa for saving a theatre and a grand palace hotel. We point to the phenomenal success of both as hard-headed practicalities. City Council has given us a preservation ordinance allowing precious breathing time from the bulldozer. But we don't want to give many "Raw Persimmon Awards" to desecrations of worthy structures.

A hundred other emergencies will arise in the next ten years. We cannot be too narrow and we cannot spread ourselves too thin. Buildings can be refurbished and remodeled downtown to enhance Pittsburgh's in-city excitement, warehouses on the rivers can be fashioned into apartments over-

looking the water with access to shops and boat travel. Arcades of smaller scale than shopping malls can be formed to impart an intimacy to urban life which is so often lacking in downtown areas such as Detroit, Los Angeles, Dallas and Cleveland. Pittsburgh with its stunning triangle of rivers and close-knit land and hills can remain one of the most intriguing cities in North America. All it needs is the will and the vision of the friends we have now and those we hope to gain in the next 10 years.

Mary Walton Winner of Silver Kitchen

Miss Mary Walton was the happy winner of the drawing for the miniature silver kitchen on December 12, at the Old Post Office Museum. Proceeds from the raffle were used to help in the effort to save the antique toy museum. Much more help is still needed if that goal is to be achieved. We thank Mrs. Paul C. McBeth, Jr. for her work as chairman of this committee and the following donors:

Mr. R. Green Annan
Mrs. Kenneth Boesel
Mrs. William Booth
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Compton
The Fashion Group of Pittsburgh
Mr. & Mrs. Sylvan Green
Mrs. Henry L. Hillman
Mrs. B. F. Jones, III
Mrs. James I. Marsh
Mr. & Mrs. Paul C. McBeth, Jr.
Mrs. A. E. Teichart
Mrs. Alex F. Trimble
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Ziegler

SOME INSPIRED VERSE

written and delivered by our Executive Director on the occasion of The Old Post Office Christmas Party, December 2, 1973

There was a post office in Pittsburgh
Which was "old" that was always the hit word.
It had no further use--
It was a gone goose--
Or at least so the populace heard.

The Authority called Redevelopment
Said, "This building's not worth a cent,
So it we'll demolish
The landscape we'll polish
And let someone build an apartment."

The Landmarks Foundation said, "No,
This structure we will not let go."
They raised quite a fuss
The president railed and he'd cuss--
They really put on a great show.

The result was a change in the plan
And the planners were soon on the lamb.
The Group made a case:
Restoration took place
Because donors said, "We'll give what we can."

Now that non-functional, decrepit old building
Looks fulfilled with all of its mending:
Exhibits are there
And events that are rare
In spite of a mortgage that's pending.

A museum it has turned out to be.
"Who keeps it going?" you well might ask me,
A staff of my peers
And free volunteers
A board and executive committee.

To their past people gave this nice present
And to their future the present was sent.
It stands with great meaning
With life it is teeming
And foundations and friends pay what is spent.

Does the Old Post Office return anything?
Well, on a warmhearted evening when bells ring
It presents members with cheer
Who hold it so dear
They say, "It's our Santa Claus king."

VOLUNTEERS IN THE NEWS

ELECTRICAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Field Curry, PHLF member and volunteer has recently completed an upgrading of the electrical service to the dome area of the Old Post Office Museum to make the service more convenient for special exhibit lighting. He has also reorganized the central electrical control panels on each floor so that the switches controlling exhibit lighting and other electrical services are grouped for easy use by the museum staff. Previously switches for exhibit lighting, duplex outlets, fluorescent maintenance lighting, office lights, and mechanical equipment were scattered randomly throughout the panelboard.

Our thanks to Mr. Curry for bringing light to the dome, and sense to the electrical panelboard!

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Mrs. Gerald Biehn and Mrs. L. Joanne Lippert are the new managers of the museum gift shop. Both Mrs. Biehn and Mrs. Lippert have served as volunteers in the gift shop and in other areas of the work of PHLF; we are quite confident that they will do a good job as co-managers of the shop.

January 25 - February 3 have been set as dates for our Inventory Sale 1974 in the gift shop. You won't want to miss this sale! Many one-of-a-kind items will be greatly reduced as well as candles, paper weights, shadow box kits, glass curio cases, preserved flower pictures in frames, and tote bags. BE SURE TO GET YOUR SHARE OF THE BARGAINS!

NEWS OF TOURS

One of our tour guides is Mrs. Wilbert F. Alster whose special interest is giving slide lectures to civic groups, women's groups, and church groups about the work of PHLF, and giving walking tours of the Mexican War Streets. We asked Mrs. Alster to tell us about her walking tours and she responded with:

TAKE A WALK WITH ME. . .

If you see a group of interested students or a dozen or more women following a rapidly moving leader -- don't be alarmed, it's just a "Walking Tour of the Mexican War Sts.", led by a fast-talking group leader. There is great interest of late to actually see the restoration work of PHLF.

Mrs. Alster talks about the people who lived here long ago-- where they worked, how they joyfully used the 'green area' of Allegheny Commons, the churches close by, the view of lovely green hills above the flat streets below, the old market house with its varied activities, and much more of the history of Old Allegheny. The group becomes quite interested as they are told of the busy, bustling, thriving, and exciting place Old Allegheny was.

The most often asked question by the groups is why the name, "Mexican War Streets". Mrs. Alster quickly explains that these streets were in the process of being built during the years of the Mexican War. The short war between the U. S. and Mexico, over the boundary of the Rio Grande River. Generals, battles, and places were prominent in the news-- so they were chosen as names for the new streets. And beautiful they were too -- Palo Alto, Resaca, Monterey, and Buena Vista; a charming Victorian four block area almost intact--much of it run down, but still standing--waiting--waiting to "be lived in again", and restored.

Two highlights of a walking tour of the area are provided by Mrs. William Eichleay and Mr. Carl Detwiler. With a quick previous phone call, both Mrs. Eichleay and Mr. Detwiler are very willing to show their gardens, chat a little, and depending on the size of the group Mrs. Eicheay graciously invites them into her home. An "Orchid Award" is due both these fine people for such fine cooperation which really makes the walking tours something to remember.

Recently an added attraction came to the area with the opening of a unique plant shop at the corner of Monterey and Taylor Avenue. "Something Green" is owned by Mrs. Carl Detwiler and Mr. Schwartz, and is housed in this restored corner store front.

Arrangements for walking tours of neighborhoods and for lectures and slide presentations are made by calling PHLF office at 322-1204.

THE LANDMARKS'

LONDON HOLIDAY

MAY 24 through JUNE 2, 1974

- fly non-stop from Pittsburgh, round trip on a Pan American charter jet
- stay at the London Embassy Hotel, across from Kensington Gardens
- see Westminster Abbey, Parliament, Tower of London, and more London landmarks
- visit Bath, Stonehenge & Salisbury
- see the Queen's Birthday parade & Trooping of the Colours
- meet members and staff of London Victorian Society
- learn about National Trust functions and visit one of their properties
- join your friends and meet new ones on PHLF's first tour program abroad
- plan to be pampered and thrilled throughout this special travel program and store up many happy memories of London, an ancient Roman village, now one of today's world capitals



OR . . . JUST TAKE THE ROUND TRIP FLIGHT ON THE PHLF CHARTER PROGRAM AND TRAVEL ON YOUR OWN

COMPLETE PACKAGE RATE IS \$419.00 per person plus \$3 US departure tax, single supplement: \$40. additional AIRFARE, only: \$249.00 per person & \$3. departure tax

for a confirmed reservation, complete and mail application:

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PERSONS TO ACCOMPANY ME _____ your own TELEPHONE _____

check preference: twin _____ single _____ airfare only _____

Name of roommate _____

ENCLOSE DEPOSIT OF \$50. for each person. Final payment is due April 1, 1974. Make all checks payable to Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS: Airfare cancelled up to 45-days prior to departure will be refunded in full, less a \$10. non-refundable deposit. For cancellations on airfare later than 45-days prior to departure, there will be no refund due unless the seat can be sold to a member of PHLF. For cancellation on land program, out-of-pocket expenses will be deducted from refund paid.

SPECIAL NOTE: mark the date, January 23, 1974
Wednesday, at 7:00 p.m.
at the Old Post Office Museum

- see a film on London as it is today
- ask questions of the tour organizers and PHLF representatives
- get together with your friends for a travelogue
- refreshments will be served



Shown here is the PHLF work crew applying a new layer of hot tar and gravel to one of the side gables of the Old Post Office Museum roof. The roof covering was in good condition and we did not renew it during the restoration two years ago, but careful maintenance is required to keep it in good shape. Here a sixth grade volunteer from nearby St. Peter's looks on.

SEATS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR

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News Media Generous to PHLF

The Pittsburgh newspapers, television, radio stations, and magazines have always provided excellent coverage to PHLF, but recently we have been spotlighted even more than usual.

Reporters from Channels 2 and 11, and the Press and Post-Gazette spent hours in the rain to photograph the erection of the Manchester Bridge sculptures. WQED Renaissance magazine ran a feature article by James Van Trump on the Art Deco style in Pittsburgh. (This article will soon be available in booklet form from PHLF.)

Channel 11 did feature news coverage with our Executive Director, Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., on our proposal for solving the County's office space problem without building a "Hall of Justice" as has been proposed. We believe that the adoption of our proposal will save the taxpayers between \$60 and \$80 million dollars. The Post-Gazette then published an editorial urging the county commissioners to investigate the proposal.

The Post-Gazette also carried a lengthy feature on our Christmas Exhibits prepared by the Pittsburgh Doll Club.

On New Year's Day KDKA-TV's Al Julius did a feature story with Mr. Ziegler on architectural sculpture on downtown buildings. Mr. Julius called it both a "New Year's present to Pittsburgh" and a warning that we had better learn to look up and see the ornaments that adorn our buildings. As Mr. Julius put it, "Love it or lose it."

We regret that George Swetnam of the Press will soon retire, but we look forward to the historical writing he promises will be forthcoming.

John Carter Robinson and Samuel H. Golden to be Remembered

We are pleased to announce that the Western Pennsylvania Research & Historical Society, a local organization devoted to Black history in Allegheny County has made a \$250. donation to cover the costs of installing wrought iron from Avery College in our garden court. Avery College was founded by Charles Avery as the first institution of higher learning for blacks in this area; it was located on Nash Street in Old Allegheny.

The contribution is made in memory of the founder and first president of the Society, John Carter Robinson and of its distinguished second president Samuel H. Golden, who served also as a member of the board of directors of PHLF.

We have been working with this Society on a number of projects ever since we were founded in 1964, and we are very pleased to see this memorial established in the garden court.

Due to the shortage of newsprint, we have had to use white stock for issues 47 and 48 of our PHLF NEWS. Since this has increased the cost of the publication we have combined January and February issues. Number 49 should come early in March.

Display Cases, Children's Games, and School Desk Donated to Old Post Office

Patricia Anne Reed has donated 8 display cases, a selection of Victorian and Edwardian children's games, and an early school desk to the Old Post Office Museum. The Children's Toy Museum, which has occupied the southeast corner of the main gallery for the past year has been on extended loan from Mrs. Reed, who formerly operated the Reed Toy Museum in Ambridge. Most of the toys remained on exhibit through the annual Old Fashioned Christmas Exhibit.

St. Stanislaus Added to National Register

St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church at 21st and Smallman Streets in the Strip District has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Established in 1875, the parish was the first Polish Roman Catholic parish in Pittsburgh. The present church, constructed 1891-92 with a broad brick Romanesque facade vigorously striped with stone, stands as a notable visual element in the Strip District and as an almost singular vestige of the neighborhood that preceded the present commercial development.

Tour Notes

Our last bus tour of 1973 was to historic Annapolis, Maryland.



Shown above is our tour group strolling through the gardens of the William Paca house built in 1765, now being restored by Historic Annapolis. It will be used by the State Department to house visiting dignitaries of foreign governments.

Below members of our group listen to Mrs. St. Clair Wright, pres. of Historic Annapolis, describe the plants in the Paca house gardens. The trip included various tours of Annapolis houses, dinners at restaurants in historic buildings, a walk thru the Naval Academy, and dinner enroute at the Fort Bedford Inn.



Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

ENCLOSED IS \$ _____ FOR A _____ MEMBERSHIP.

(Your cancelled check is your receipt.)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Individualfrom \$10.00
 Husband & Wife.....from \$12.00
 Contributingfrom \$50.00
 Sustainingfrom \$100.00
 Patronfrom \$500.00
 Lifefrom \$1,000.00
 Organizations:
 Activefrom \$25.00
 Contributingfrom \$50.00
 Sustainingfrom \$100.00
 Patronfrom \$500.00

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

1. Free admission to the Old Post Office, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Museum.
2. 5% discount on purchases at the Old Post Office Museum Gift Shop.
3. Subscription to "News for Members" and special publications on architecture and history.
4. Free admission or discount tickets for walking and bus tours.
5. Free admission to winter lecture series.
6. Notification of new exhibits at the Old Post Office.
7. Participation in an organization given national awards "for the vigor of its programs."