

PHLF NEWS

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

IT'S HAPPENING IN THE MEXICAN WAR STREETS

A TOUR OF THE HOMES AND PEOPLE THAT MAKE A NEIGHBORHOOD

Presented by the
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
Mexican War Streets Society

and
Central North Side Neighborhood Council
SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 1974
11:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.
DONATION: \$3.00

June is upon us and for Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation members June means the Mexican War Streets House Tour. The third annual house tour is sponsored by PHLF, The Mexican War Streets Society and the Central North Side Neighborhood Council.

This year's tour features newly restored houses, houses in the process of restoration and unrestored houses. Those of you who visited the War Streets last year will have the opportunity to see Dr. William Tacey's house at 1231 Mimosa Way transformed from an unrestored shell to a completely restored liveable house. Houses in the process of restoration provide new ideas and encouragement to all of us who think we might want to try restoration. Marian and Bruce Phillips bought their house on Resaca Place after last year's house tour. Less than a year later, their charming bedroom and dressing room with its log burning fireplace is completed. Many of the original details such as the eleven foot ceilings, marble fireplace and 3-piece floor mouldings can be seen in this house. Ginny and Len Richard's house on Monterey is also in the process of being restored. The master bedroom with its 11' 6" ceiling and its gray and white mantel and an informal kitchen-dining-laundry area complete with stained glass window are just a sampling of the imaginative interior design that is happening in the houses on the Mexican War Streets.

The Richardsonian Romanesque house of Mr. & Mrs. John C. Oliver, Jr. heralds the start of the restoration of Buena Vista Street. The apartments throughout are unique in their treatment of fireplace and original trimmings. This restoration by PHLF for Mr. & Mrs. Oliver is the most elaborate undertaken in the Mexican War Streets.

These are just a few of the houses to be seen on the Mexican War Streets House Tour. The houses on the tour offer interior scenes that range from the

modern adaptation of space found in Marilyn and Carl Detwiler's house on Monterey and the use of space as detail found in Marirose & John Radelet's house on Resaca to the true Victorian setting of Mrs. Lois Dietrich's house on West North Avenue. They are as interesting and creative as the people who live in this unique city neighborhood.

Allegheny Arts & Crafts of the North Side, a new community shop staffed completely by volunteers is a feature of this year's tour. The shop has been the subject of much favorable publicity in the past month and it offers unique paintings, drawings, pottery hanging planters, decoupage items, quilting, jewelry, weaving, macrame, for sale.

Join us Sunday, June 30th from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the Mexican War Streets House Tour. Tickets may be purchased in advance at: Kaufmann's, Horne's, Something Green, Allegheny Arts, and the Old Post Office Museum. Tickets will also be available the day of the tour at the corner of North Avenue and Resaca Place. The charge is \$3.00 per person.

TO MAKE YOUR DAY MORE ENJOYABLE . . .

- Lunches may be purchased at the YMCA Cafeteria
- Light refreshments may be purchased at the:
 - Trinity Lutheran Church
 - Allegheny Center Unitarian Church
 - YWCA
 - YMCA
- Rest room facilities are available at the same locations listed above
- Parking is available at the:
 - Allegheny Mall garage and Old Post Office
 - Lot at corner of North Ave & Brighton Road
 - Keystone Plumbing lot on Brighton Rd. & Taylor

Advanced ticket reservations can be made by using this form and sending it to PHLF.

RESERVATION FORM FOR MEXICAN WAR STREETS HOUSE TOUR

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please send me _____ tickets for the House Tour, June 30, 1974 @ \$3.00 each.....\$ _____

My check is enclosed...My self-addressed stamped envelope is enclosed.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|------------|--|
| June 22 | "He Ain't Done Right by Nell"
A turn-of-the-century melodrama to be presented at the Old Post Office as a fund-raising project of the volunteers...Barber Shop Quartet...Much More... |
| June 30 | Mexican War Streets House Tour
11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. See Tour page for more details. |
| July 19-21 | Bus Tour to Bedford Springs |
| Sept. 7 | Bus Tour to PHLF Properties |
| Sept. 21 | Bus Tour to Washington County for the Covered Bridge Tour |

NEW FEATURE OF MEXICAN WAR STREETS HOUSE TOUR

A new feature of this year's House Tour will be a Walking Tour led by James D. Van Trump of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. Mr. Van Trump will point out the significant architecture of the area, as well as give a history and reason for this area's being chosen for restoration by the Foundation.

Anyone interested in being a part of this Walking Tour should be at the corner of Palo Alto Street and North Avenue at 1:30 p.m. sharp! Your ticket for the House Tour will also permit you to be a part of the Walking Tour.

MEXICAN WAR STREETS HOUSE TOUR IS A COOPERATIVE EFFORT OF THREE ORGANIZATIONS

Working in cooperation with PHLF to make the House Tour in the Mexican War Streets possible are two neighborhood organizations: The Mexican War Streets Society and The Central Northside Neighborhood Council, Inc.

THE MEXICAN WAR STREETS SOCIETY

The Mexican War Streets Society is a neighborhood organization founded in 1968 by Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and local people--both tenants and property owners, new and long term. It was developed to improve public services in the Mexican War Streets and for solving various local problems. Its objective is to stimulate a sense of community among the residents, along with promoting the neighborhood as a desirable community in which to live.

The Mexican War Streets Society works in close cooperation with the Central Northside Neighborhood Council.

THE CENTRAL NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

The Central Northside Neighborhood Council, Inc. is a non-profit, tax exempt, community based organization. The neighborhood is bound by the Allegheny River on the south, Perrysville Avenue on the north, Marquis Way on the west, and James Street on the east but the Council's efforts have extended beyond these boundaries. It has worked cooperatively with many direct and indirect service agencies on the total lower Northside.

The Council was organized in 1950 to provide a vehicle for citizens living in the 22nd and 25th wards. The goals of the Council were to bring about better housing, to stop illegal sales of liquor, to open community recreational facilities to Blacks, Jews, and Roman Catholics, and to secure trained librarians for the Carnegie Library - Allegheny Branch. During the '60's, the principal objective of the Council was to involve residents in the city's plan for the Northside and the improvement of services.

Past Council activities have included successful pressure to develop an effective code enforcement program and to increase the frequency of garbage collection, the saving of Carnegie Library in Allegheny Center from being demolished, the planning of significant renovations in West Park, securing adequate street lighting for the Central Northside, and participating in the redesign of North Avenue. Most recently the Council's activities have centered around the development of a 1,000 pupil elementary school; and development of a full-size football and baseball field in Allegheny Center.

Other past and current activities include:

- Initiation of discussions which produced Neighborhood Housing Inc.

- Rehabilitation of one house

- Development of West Park Court

- Pressure to develop low income housing in Allegheny Center.

THE STORY OF TWO HOUSES TO BE FEATURED ON THE TOUR

Two houses in the Mexican War Streets originally acquired by PHLF which have been resold to individual owners are 1246 Resaca Place and 1241 Monterey Street.

In October, 1972, Mr. & Mrs. John T. Radelet purchased 1246 Resaca, moving into its third floor apartment (with three small children), shortly thereafter to begin restoration. A major portion of the work was completed in June of the following year in time for the 1973 House Tour.

An architect by profession, Mr. Radelet has created a magnificent two-story space by removing most of the second-parlor ceiling, leaving a second floor balcony as a library. The excellent finish of the interior has been achieved by nailing dry wall directly over the old plaster. Contrasting with the flat contemporary effect thus obtained are the original pine floors, sanded and stained a dark brown, as well as the exposed brick of the main staircase wall. A handsome, bright super-graphic design provides a striking accent in the dining room. High quality workmanship and thoughtful design make the Radelets' house a delightful urban environment.

The house at 1241 Monterey, sold to Mr. & Mrs. Leonard B. Richards III, in April of 1973 was one of the King-Lusk properties acquired by PHLF early in 1971 with grants from the Sarah Mellon Scaife Foundation and the A.W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust. Having been vacant for a few years, the house was in deplorable condition, and seven months' work was required to make it barely habitable. There was no water supply, the plumbing and heating systems had been ripped out, and a twenty-five watt bulb would have put a strain on the wiring. Total neglect does have its compensations, however; prior owners and tenants had not gotten around to "modernizing" to the extent of lowering ceilings, removing mouldings, or applying artificial siding. The new owners are now occupying the house and are in process of patching, sanding, refinishing, and painting.

TREES PLANTED ON TAYLOR AVENUE

The City of Pittsburgh planted Taylor Avenue in the Mexican War Streets with Maple trees this May. The street tree planting program is directed by Earl Blankenship, the City's Forester, and is funded jointly by the Sarah Scaife Foundation and the City.

The trees are a welcome addition to Taylor Avenue and even in their yet young state, they have added interest and a sheltered effect to the street.

MEXICAN WAR STREETS RESTORATION PLANS ADVANCED

PHLF has made plans for the exterior restoration and painting of nine of its properties in the Mexican War Streets. Painting schemes were selected with the assistance of a consultant from PPG Industries, and samples of all the schemes are scheduled to be applied to the houses in June.

In addition work is proceeding on plans for the renovation of the three story Lusk building at the corner of Monterey and Taylor Avenues. It is being planned for between three and five living units. At present only the "Green Shop" on the first floor has been restored.

PHLF laments the passing of Theodore Bowman. Mr. Bowman was a very active member of our Board of Trustees. He also worked very closely with us through his position at the University of Pittsburgh in the placement of the Plaque at Pitt.



He Ain't Done Right By Nell

by

WILBUR BRAUN

THE PLAY

Owing to the tremendous demand for real old-fashioned melodrama, the sort that was popular in the gay nineties when the muchly despised villain pursued the proud heroine and was finally rescued just in the nick of time by the noble hero, we take pleasure in presenting this old-fashioned melodrama that is filled with genuine comedy and dramatic fire.

Little Nell Perkins lives in the hills with her grandmother, Granny Perkins. Nell never suspects that she has no claim to the Perkins name, that she is just a foundling who was left outside the Perkins barn night onto twenty years before the action of the play starts. Hilton Hays, who is a deep-dyed villain if there ever was one, overhears Granny Perkins discussing the matter with Lolly Wilkins, a typical old maid. When Nell repulses his advances and tells him she knows he is paying attention to Vera Carleton, a city gal, Hilton comes out in his real colors and threatens to shout the true secret of Nell's birth to the world. Poor Nell! She is much too honest to wed Jack Logan, the manly hero, and she cannot stay in the mountains and have the finger of shame pointed at her. So she dons her misery cape, says goodbye to the old homestead and prepares to roam the cold, cruel world, seeking a refuge for her broken heart. What will become of Little Nell? Join us. . .

JUNE 22, 1974

OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM

DOORS OPEN 7:30 p.m.

PERFORMANCE 8:00 p.m.

THE CAST

Seven Duquesne University students under the direction of Dane Chamberlain will perform the heroic speeches of this rip-roaring melodrama.

THE MUSIC

Take a trolley operator, an orthopedic surgeon, and a stockbroker--put them together with a detective, a grocer, an investment banker, and a construction worker--then add a lumber salesman, an insurance agent, a draftsman, and a motorcycle cop, and what do you have? Only a sampling of the diverse professions that comprise the membership of the Pittsburgh Good Tyme Music Company. But regardless of profession, education, religion, or social status all members have a common denominator--they love to sing!

The Pittsburgh Good Tyme Music Company also represents Pennsylvania's #1 Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber-shop Quartet Singing in America. The Company has placed high in the standings in district and regional chorus competitions. In addition to the numerous S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. engagements, the Pittsburgh Good Tyme Music Company has recently appeared at many private banquets, in the Three Rivers Arts Festival, and at community programs throughout the tri-state area.

The Chorus is under the very capable musical direction of Larry Autenreith who also arranges many of the selections. The Company repertoire includes ballads, spirituals, popular, and patriotic numbers, not to mention a wide variety of barbership medleys. The Chorus will sing at 8:00 and again during the Interval of "He Ain't Done Right By Nell".

THE WHY

Landmark Associates, our dedicated volunteer group, is sponsoring this GALA GAY NINETIES NIGHT to raise money for the Old Post Office Museum programs, exhibits, and performing arts.

THE GAIETY

Reflecting the lively Gay Nineties tradition of raucous intermission entertainment, our own "Interval" will feature drawings for fabulous prize door prizes, refreshment and old-fashioned Barber-shop music.

THE TICKETS

The tickets may be purchased in advance at the Old Post Office Museum or the night of the performance. The cost is \$3.00 for PHLF members, and \$4.00 for non-members. DON'T DELAY!

NEILL LOG HOUSE OPEN FOR SUMMER

The Neill Log House, in Schenley Park, Oakland is open for the summer months from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Log House is the oldest extant domestic structure in Pittsburgh and one of the last three extant buildings from the 18th century within the City of Pittsburgh. The house has been restored and furnished with items reflective of the rugged frontier life of the 18th century.

A volunteer guide is on duty to answer questions about Pittsburgh life in the 18th century. The Log House is free to the public, and open Monday through Friday.

BUS TOUR TO BEDFORD SPRINGS JULY 19-21, 1974

Our bus will leave the Old Post Office at 4:00 p.m. Friday afternoon, and arrive at Bedford Springs Hotel in time for a private dinner. This will be a relaxing week end at the historic Bedford Springs Hotel and resort, along with several walking tours of the area and a visit to the Historical Museum in Bedford. We will return late Sunday afternoon.

The price of the tour is \$94. per person for a twin room. The cost includes bus fare, hotel room, and all meals. For a single room an additional \$20. will be required.

This will be a popular trip and reservations are limited so don't delay sending your reservation and money.

RESERVATION FORM FOR BEDFORD SPRINGS TOUR

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

ROOMING WITH _____

ADDRESS _____

Specify Room Accommodations Desired:

____ Twin @\$94. per person; ____ Single @\$114; or
____ \$125 for non-members.

I understand no money can be refunded after July 2, 1974, and I hereby absolve PHLF from any liability for loss, damage or injury to my person or property due to any cause whatsoever.

SIGNED _____

Tour Notes

PHLF'S TOUR PROGRAM GOES ABROAD

by James D. Van Trump

The Foundation has just concluded, most successfully, its first tour abroad. A group of thirty-four PHLF members under the leadership of Mrs. Betty Schloss of the Ponzio International Travel Agency gathered on 24 May at the Pittsburgh Airport to take an Allegheny Airlines plane to Buffalo and then another to Toronto, Canada, where they finally boarded a Wardair 747 which carried them to one of the London airports- Gatwick.

We arrived there at 9:55 a.m. and transferred to a bus which conveyed us to the London Embassy Hotel at 150 Bayswater Road in the West End.

It was on this journey that all of us first encountered Gilbert Hawker, who for the remainder of our touring stay in London was to be our constant bus driver and good friend. Gilbert said that he was a native of the English seaport Plymouth and that he was the descendant of a Rev. Mr. Hawker who was a clergyman sailing on the Mayflower's first voyage in 1620. Gilbert was thus particularly interested in Americans and his wit and good nature were a constant source of pleasure to our travelers.

Upon arriving at the Hotel, most of us rested for a couple of hours before descending to the cocktail lounge where we were to have tea and meet our tour guide.

This pleasant English tea hour was notable for a quantity of those wonderful thin English sandwiches- ham, cucumber, water-cress-and, of course, a great deal of tea, in the brewing of which the English excell. Here, over the tea cups, we met Major Roy Battcock, M.B.E., a pleasant, cultivated Britisher who served as a guide and commentator during our London sojourn. Without him, our bus excursions would have lacked a vital, knowledgeable element.

The next morning was "free", so that each tour member could do as he pleased, but at one o'clock, Gilbert and the Major in the London Pride bus appeared to bear us off to Windsor and Hampton Court.

This Sunday was part of a British Bank Holiday weekend so we were, to a degree, prepared for the enormous crowd that we encountered at Windsor Castle. The group first went to see Queen Mary's doll house and then toured the State Apartments of the Castle. Here are to be found some of the finest pictures of the Royal collection, but the great pressure of the constantly moving crowd, did not permit any leisurely inspection of them. That must be left for a more propitious moment.

From Windsor we went on in the bus to the palace of Hampton Court which is no longer inhabited by royalty. The great Tudor building, constructed in the sixteenth century was tightly joined in the late seventeenth century to a huge classical addition designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Here, we walked through some of the Tudor courtyards and the magnificent Baroque gardens.

Next morning, we started off in the bus to the Tower of London. Although we arrived at nine o'clock, Betty Schloss had to go ahead of us in a cab to procure admission tickets in anticipation of the extra heavy Bank Holiday crowds. We toured the Crown Jewels and the White Tower and then we were off in the bus once more to the Anchor Inn, Bankside, Southwark where we had lunch. In the afternoon we visited in succession St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.

Tuesday being a "free" day all the tour members went their own way, but on Wednesday Gilbert and the bus took us to a magnificent eighteenth century country house, Kenwood, whose design is chiefly due to the famous Scot Robert Adam. Located at the highest point in the vicinity of London, the northern suburb of Hampstead, the house has a superb view of the distant city. The gardens and the picture collection of Kenwood are both famous.

On the return trip, some of us preferred to stay in the village of Hampstead for lunch, returning to

town by underground while the rest of the tour returned, under the able guidance of Major Battcock through the Regent's Park area of North London to the hotel.

Late in the afternoon the bus picked us up again, and we toured through Belgravia and Chelsea, before arriving for a visit at the Victorian Society's headquarters in Exhibition Road, South Kensington. Here, after a drink at the bar, we listened to a slide lecture on the Victorian architecture of London given by Mr. Clark of the Society.

Thursday was a free day, but Friday brought the most concentrated touring, again under the guidance of Major Battcock. Gilbert drove the bus to the hotel at 8:30 and we were carried off to the southwest, to the fabulous city of Bath in Somerset, famous since Roman times for its therapeutic waters. Here we visited the Roman baths, the Pump Room, and the handsome late Gothic Bath Abbey Church. After an excellent lunch at the Francis Hotel, we visited the Museum of Costume in the Bath Assembly Rooms, a well known social center of the eighteenth century city.

Through the beautiful Classical squares and crescents of eighteenth century Bath, the bus carried us away into the country toward Stonehenge. These huge mysterious stones poised so monumentally on Salisbury Plain are one of the great mysteries of pre-historic Europe. Certainly, they constituted for many the high point of our historic journey, although in actual height the tall spire of Salisbury Cathedral which we saw later that afternoon was of greater altitude. Underneath the soaring tower, our tourists attended, as the last memorable event of a memorable day, a service of Evensong in the choir of the Cathedral.

Saturday morning at 10:30 those who wished to (after the marathon touring of the previous date) went to the Horse Guards Parade Ground to see the rehearsal for the Queen's Birthday Parade. This was the last event of the organized tour and from then on until the following Friday each member of the tour was on his own. Each followed his own fancy--some elected to remain in London, others to travel in the British Isles or on the Continent.

All of us assembled again at the London Embassy Hotel on Friday 7th June and the next morning we returned to Gatwick to board another Wardair 747 for the journey home.

Our luggage which was checked through American customs at Toronto was much heavier than when we started out, and many of us were laden with the spoils of extended shopping excursions. All during our two weeks the weather generally had been beneficent and the skies had smiled upon us, but a final note of drama was reserved for our group--we descended to the Pittsburgh Airport in a spectacular thunderstorm--a memorable climax to a tour which has become for us now a pleasant memory.

COMING TOURS FOR 1974

Bus Tour to Bedford Springs July 19-21, 1974
(Reservation form is on page 3 of this issue)

Bus Tour to PHLF Properties September 7, 1974

Bus Tour to Washington County for
Covered Bridge Tour September 21, 1974

RESERVE THESE DATES - FORMS WILL APPEAR IN NEXT
ISSUE OF PHLF NEWS