

PHLF NEWS

NON PROFIT ORG
U. S. Postage
PAID
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Permit No. 598

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

Old Post Office • Allegheny Square West • Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212

Number 53

October 1974

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ziegler
731 Wisteria Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15228

NEVILLE HOUSE MAY BE SAVED Corps of Engineers Project Threatens Grounds PennDOT Stymies Park



At the urging of PHLF, Collier Township plans to purchase the historic Neville house on Route 50. The township will maintain the building and give it a community use.

The Neville House, called "Woodville", is one of Western Pennsylvania's most important extant 18th century houses; it is on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1785 by John Neville, a Virginian who came to the Pittsburgh area in 1775. The house reflects the influence of Virginia architectural precedent in the wide trellised verandahs and the great sloping roof. A few years after he built the house, General John Neville built another house for himself nearby and "Woodville" passed to his son, Colonel Presley Neville. General Neville's new house, "Bower Hill" was burned during the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794. Woodville remained in continuous Neville possession until 1973 when Mrs. Joseph H. Fauset a great-great-grandniece of John Neville died.

Following Mrs. Fauset's death, "Woodville"'s future was precarious.

The house stood vacant for many months and possibility of sale to a commercial developer threatened the existence of this historic house. In addition, the initial Chartiers Creek flood control project called for a temporary loop of Route 50 to pass through the front yard of the Neville house and the proposed construction of a cut-off channel for the Chartiers Creek at the edge of the Neville house would have eliminated the grounds at the side of the house.

PHLF met with the Army Corps of Engineers and developed an alternative proposal that will preserve the integrity of the land surrounding the house; we also prepared a landscaping design for the area which includes the development of a natural rock waterfall in place of a concrete drop structure in the main channel of Chartiers Creek. This would in effect soften the concrete channel and relate the stream to the surrounding landscape; creating a parklike area so that people will have an opportunity to enjoy the stream.

The Corps has been cooperative and is now reviewing the PHLF proposal; however, many months have passed and no answer has been received from the Corps.

Currently Collier Township is seeking to obtain the nine acres south of the Neville House to develop a community park. PennDOT uses this area for a storage area and is unwilling to relinquish it for the township's use.

So the struggle continues-- the historic Neville House appears to have been preserved, but what of the beautiful land that surrounds this unique building?

Preservationists Create Citizen Lobby for Preservation

Leaders in preservation throughout the United States have joined together to form a new national organization called Preservation Action. Preservation Action is a 501 (c) (4), non-profit corporation whose sole purpose will be to lobby for good legislation for preservation. It will be the only national citizens lobbying group that is organized to protect and improve America's man-made environment and to preserve our historic, cultural, architectural and environmental heritage. Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. has been elected a member of the steering committee of the organization.

Statement of Purpose of Preservation Action:

A. To propose and secure the enactment of needed legislation at the federal, state and local levels for the protection and enhancement of the man-made environment and the preservation of our architectural, cultural, historic, archaeological and environmental heritage; and to oppose legislation inimical to the above; all, in order to bring about civic betterment and social improvements for our citizens and their communities.

B. To promote the authorization and adequate appropriation of public funds for the above purposes.

C. To encourage the imaginative, effective and coordinated administration of public programs in the above areas; and to monitor such programs to ensure that they are fairly and efficiently administered.

D. To work cooperatively toward the above ends with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, other historic and environmental organizations, local community groups, private business, labor leaders, public officials and government agencies, and all others interested in securing the above ends.

E. To educate and inform the public, and to use all proper means, including mass communications, publications and the legal process to promote the above objectives and secure widespread citizen support therefor.



OVER 1,000 ATTEND GARDEN COURT OPENING

Over 1,000 people attended the dedication of PHLF's Old Post Office Museum Garden Court ceremony on Saturday, September 28.

The dedication ceremonies took place in the Alcoa Performing Arts Plaza of the Garden Court. With the backdrop of the Manchester Bridge sculptures, Charles Covert Arensberg, chairman of PHLF, and Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., president of PHLF, expressed their gratitude and thanks to the many people who made the dream of a garden court a reality. T. Ames Wheeler, treasurer of the Smithsonian Institute brought greetings and good wishes from the Smithsonian Institute.

Special tribute was paid to Mr. Arensberg. James Bibro a member of PHLF's Board of Trustees presented a special plaque to Charles Covert Arensberg that will be placed on the iron gates leading to the Garden Court. Inscribed on the plaque are these words:

This gateway to the Garden Court is dedicated to our first President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Charles Covert Arensberg. His belief that a city should be beautiful defines our ideals and inspires our work; this court is designed in that spirit. It contains sculpture from demolished buildings, exhibits of contemporary arts, and a green garden.

Here, surrounded by the modern city, you are invited to reflect upon our lost architecture, to view outdoor exhibits and performing arts, to participate in a variety of community activities, and, amidst the trees and green, enjoy repose.

Following the dedication ceremonies PHLF members and friends strolled through the Garden Court and the Museum and enjoyed champagne and hors d'oeuvres provided by the Joseph Horne Company.

PHLF extends a special thanks to the Joseph Horne Company who ably planned and executed the party following the ceremony. The attractive room displays in the museum featuring the Smithsonian Collection of Fieldcrest linens and the young men and women dressed in 19th century costumes made from the Fieldcrest collection added a festive note to the grand occasion.



Board of Education Destroys Cowley School Refuses Artifacts to PHLF Sends Them to Scrap Heap



Cowley school, a handsome three-story Romanesque building of orange brick and stone trim is now rubble! A grade school serving the North Side since 1896, the building was a landmark in central North Side on Sherman Avenue. Its plan was an interesting one, particularly from the point of view of the open classroom today. Rectangular in shape, the building had classrooms around the perimeter of each floor, all of which opened onto a central court; a well penetrated the court from the first floor to a skylighted roof. Therefore, the building had an extensive common space on each floor with visibility to floors above and below as well as ample daylight. Around the well on each floor was an intricate and beautiful iron rail. The building was sturdy and in good condition.

Outside there were paved playgrounds and the entire exterior area was bordered by a cast iron fence with ornamental gates.

However, having built a new school on the open plan near the Allegheny Commons, the Board of Education decided to dispose of the old one. Although we examined the old building, we could not develop a preservation plan fast enough.

We did contact the planner for the Board of Education and were assured that the ornamental iron and stone would be made available to us for the garden court at the Old Post Office Museum.

Suddenly, to our astonishment, a huge crane with a headache ball arrived on the site and began to batter down the building. We contacted the Board of Education about our artifacts and were told that the Board had decided not to give them to us. Since we thought they had been promised to us, and since no word had arrived to the contrary, we felt a trust had been betrayed.

More important, at a time when public interest in our past and in preservation is growing, and at a time when recycling materials is of acute importance, the Board of Education should not consign to annihilation all of the iron, all of the stone, all of the desks, all of the metal lockers, and many another reusable item. If nothing else, all of these objects could have been sold to help alleviate the Board's tight budget. But better yet, why not commission a plan for reuse? Such a plan could not be more expensive than demolition.

Since we have had such excellent cooperation with all other public agencies in the city, county, and state, we can only hope that the Board of Education will in the future be alert to the significance of such a building and its contents. Our educational establishment should be setting an example of recycling, of saving the best of our past, and of upholding public trust.

Preservation In the Banking World



The McKeesport National Bank offers the full range of traditional banking services, but what distinguishes it from many other banking institutions is the philosophy of the Bank's president Mr. Reed Albig. Over his past twenty years as the Bank's president, Mr. Albig has amassed an interesting collection of Americana and European collectibles that are on display in the main office of the Bank in McKeesport and in branch offices. In many instances, a valuable antique becomes the focal point for the Bank branch's decorating scheme. The Branch office at the County Airport is decorated in the Country French Manor, at the center of this scheme is an old French bread safe. The Rainbow area branch boasts a plaza designed around an old millstone found by a farmer during the excavation of a shopping center area.

At the center of Mr. Albig's interest in preserving the past and relating it to present uses is the building which houses the main offices of the McKeesport National Bank at 5th and Sinclair Streets in McKeesport. Built in 1889 when the Bank outgrew its original location in the White Building on 5th Avenue in McKeesport, the building's architects are said to be Longfellow, Alden and Harlow, a firm best known for its design of Carnegie Institute in Oakland.

The Bank's original minute book on display in the Bank's Board Room documents the history of the Bank's growth and the ensuing decision to move to more substantial quarters. Founded in 1887 by a group of prominent McKeesporters and including on their original Board of Directors that eminent Pittsburgh financier, Andrew Mellon, the bank was originally known as the Shoe and Leather Bank. The first entry in the original minute book dated April 15, 1887 is a move to change the name of the bank from Shoe and Leather Bank to Bank of McKeesport. The bank's first president was James Evans. Mr. Evans' family had long been associated with McKeesport; his father Oliver Evans settled there in 1816 and lived most of his life on the Hill Farm overlooking McKeesport. According to Mr. Albig, Mr. James Evans owned much of the residential land in McKeesport and he was an active figure in the McKeesport community.

It was Mr. Evans in committee with W.C. Soles, another of the Bank's directors, who made the commendation April 26, 1889 that Longfellow, Alden and Harlow be employed as architects for the new bank building. It must be assumed that the original plans and drawings for the building were approved by the Bank's Board although this is not documented in the minute book. Today, the Bank still has these drawings and plans of the proposed building; however, they are unsigned and there is no further mention in the minute book of the architects Longfellow, Alden and Harlow.

What is documented in the minute book, however, is the frustration of building construction in the late 19th century. Acting quickly in July, 1889 the bank Directors awarded the building contract to a Mr. Daniel Stratton in the amount of \$35,000. Mr. Stratton was told that he would receive a premium if he had the building under roof by December of that year. In September it was decided that an additional story would be added to the proposed building making it five stories and an attic. An entry in the minute book, December 27, 1889 notes that Mr. Stratton, the contractor has failed to have the building under roof and will forfeit unless he has the building completed by March 20, 1890. There is no mention from hereon in the minute book that the building has been completed. One wonders whether Mr. Stratton ever received his premium which surely would have been noted in the Bank's records, or whether he faded away forfeiting his premium. By March 1890 the bank building must have reached some stage of completion because at this time the Directors saw fit to award the contract for interior furnishings of the Banking Room to an Andrews & Company. \$2,300 were spent on the interior fittings which were described by the McKeesport Daily News as "furnished with rich, but quiet taste."

Special mention should be made of the Bank vault and the safety deposit room. Early in the Bank's construction, a decision was made to contract with The National Safe Deposit and Vault Company of Pittsburgh for the Bank Vault and to attempt to encourage the company to include in the package 150 safety deposit boxes. It was the general custom at this time for banks to lease space to a separate company who would provide and maintain the safety deposit room. The Bank eventually leased this space to the McKeesport Safe Deposit Company. Evidently the National Safe Deposit and Vault Company was uninterested in the Bank's efforts to "Make a deal".

They did, however, provide a unique vault for the Bank, one that still remains in use today. It is one of only four vaults made by this company and one of two in existence today, the other being in Scranton. The vault is made entirely of steel and the door mechanism is fully automatic; a sliding door disappears into the wall of the vault.

On September 9, 1891 the McKeesport Bank became a National Bank and it is at this time that we are assured by an article in the McKeesport Daily News that the new building has been successfully completed. The headline reads "An important metamor-

phosis in a leading commercial institution", and the article goes on: "The enterprising and public spirited officers and directors erected the present imposing structure . . . which is one of the public institutions of the city to which all refer and point to with pride." The article's conclusion is even more enthusiastic, *A McKeesporter in a strange city in speaking of the characteristics of our city... and public features would not fail to refer to this building, a symbol of the solidity of the managers of the bank and of their enterprise.*

Since its completion, the McKeesport National Bank Building has undergone numerous remodelings. The Bank originally occupied only one-half of the first floor and as the Bank grew more and more of the building has been converted to Bank use. Mr. Albig notes that this has been a continuous process but remodeling of the building dates back to 1910.

At this writing the McKeesport National Bank Building stands at 5th and Sinclair Streets in the midst of vast, vacant spaces. The land surrounding it has been cleared to make way for a new development complex. Certainly the existence of the Bank Building is a tribute to the success of integrating the past with the future. The building is a significant tribute to 19th century architecture and maintains within its structure fascinating memorabilia documenting the building's inception and its history.

NOTES FROM JAMES D. VAN TRUMP . . .

The Bank's Minutes of 1889 state that the architectural firm of Longfellow, Alden and Harlow of Boston and Pittsburgh had been engaged to design the new building. Although this is the only reference to the architects to be found in the institution's records the structure is very obviously the work of that firm which had been established in Pittsburgh in 1888 by three New Englanders--Frank Alden, Alfred Harlow, and Alexander Longfellow--the latter a nephew of the famous poet.

The McKeesport Bank was undoubtedly designed in the Pittsburgh office of the firm which was managed by Alden and Harlow (Longfellow was in charge of the Boston branch) and it bears a strong resemblance both in style and material to the other early buildings of the new firm which during the next two decades became the largest and most prestigious in the City.

This five story and attic structure with its pitched roof and walls of Pompeian brick and carved stone was designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque manner so fashionable at the time--indeed the young New England architects had all been trained well in that style due to their close connection with the great H.H. Richardson. The general mass, the rock-faced masonry and some of the carved detail of the building are generally medievalistic and Richardsonian, but in some of the detailing there is a hint of the renewed interest in the Classical, particularly the Italian Renaissance, which gradually became the stylistic hallmark of the firm's work during the 1890's. The McKeesport Bank is architecturally an interesting document in the transition from the Romanesque to the late 19th century Italianate, as well as a highly sophisticated design which no other local designer could have rivaled at the time.

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS BEGUN

Under matching grants totalling \$58,672 from the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, and the Hillman Foundation, Pittsburgh, we are going to undertake a new experimental program in several neighborhoods in Allegheny County.

The goal of the program is to help neighborhood people see and understand their neighborhoods more clearly and to enumerate the strengths of the neighborhood that they should build upon and the weaknesses that should be eliminated.

The grant provides the means for not less than two or more than four aging neighborhoods in Allegheny County to determine their unique qualities; their strengths as a community.

We will encourage the residents to articulate their area's physical attributes including architecture, location, transportation system, landscape features, historical development, and human qualities.

Each neighborhood will design its own working processes. The tools will include discussions, interviews, walks, photography, research, and access to professional assistance when needed.

For example, residents might interview elderly neighbors about the history of their area, develop an architectural tour, or display unique home crafts from embroidery to canning.

Ultimately each group will assemble an exhibition about its area to be shown both in their neighborhoods and at the Old Post Office Museum. The exhibition in turn will be put in booklet form for widespread local distribution. We want to bring this program to neighborhoods that either have lost their ability to retain their young people and

attract new residents, or which face imminent problems of urban blight. Included may be a rural town that could potentially suffer from urban sprawl.

We want to enable the neighborhoods to discover that they have an option for new, sound vitality and that the exercise of that option lies not so much in public agencies as it lies in themselves. For the first time neighborhoods will be able to engage in self study and formulate their own improvement goals, then submit them to the proper public and private agencies to secure help rather than be in a position of being the unwilling recipients of programs from public agencies.

Both the National Endowment for the Arts and the Hillman Foundation have granted the funds because of our experience in neighborhood activities, our commitment to revitalization of old buildings without dislocation of residents, and because they felt that PHLF was best equipped to conduct the experiment of what they hope will be a good new approach that can be adopted across the United States.

The program will begin October 1 and conclude June 30, 1975.

RECOGNITION

PHLF has awarded an historic landmark plaque to the Bridgeville Public Library. The Library was built in 1870 as a Railroad Depot. It was saved and restored by the local people. Our commendations on this act of preservation!

Bridgeville Library Gets Caboose Grant

The Bridgeville Library has received a \$5,000 grant from the Pittsburgh Foundation to refurbish an old railroad caboose for use as a children's section of the library.

In order to qualify for the grant, the library ran two campaigns that raised more than \$6,000. The funds came from the foundation's Charles H. Spang Fund.

Old Post Office Exhibit News

Art Schwerin's exhibit of Shadow Boxes opened September 17 at the Old Post Office Museum.

The exhibit features over thirty of Mr. Schwerin's unique assemblage constructions. The art form related to collage makes use of everyday objects as well as antiques and collector's items to illustrate a theme, portray a mood, or tell a story. His Boxes cover a broad range of topics from the "World of Opera", "Deja Vue the days of Grace" reflecting the 1930's to "Reflections on Paris Revisited" to the "Docteur Collodion's Cabinet De Curiosities".

His "Heinz, the History of a Company through the use of Memorabilia" done for H.J. Heinz Company combines a 1930's ketchup bottle, a photograph of an English tram with a Heinz advertising promotion card in a diptych style to portray the history of the H. J. Heinz Company.

A Box commissioned by Mellon Bank relates the history of the bank through pictures of an early bank contrasted with pictures of Mellon's main branch, pictures of the Mellon family and architects' plans for the new bank.

Mr. Schwerin makes use of everyday objects to show beauty. His "Piston with Spanish Calipers" uses an aluminum piston in a natural wood box.

"March King" which Mr. Schwerin describes as an arrangement in still life under glass includes old sheet music of John Phillip Sousa as well as an original autographed line of music written for Schwerin's father in 1896.

Of special interest are Mr. Schwerin's Toy Boxes, combining antique toys he has collected all his life and everyday pictures and items, such as a coke can recycled into a miniature Victorian chair and his five Circus Boxes which relate The Big Top in symbolic terms and the famous Flying Aerial.

Mr. Schwerin's Boxes will remain on exhibit through December 15, 1974. Some of these very interesting collections are for sale. If interested check at the Gift Shop desk.

Old Post Office Gift Shop Corner

GIFT IDEA OF THE MONTH

Terrarium Kit for cultivating your Victorian Garden!
Kit includes: 32oz. glass bottle, Terrarium planting tools, Packet of seeds, Package of sand, Package of gravel, Charcoal, and Terrarium soil.....complete..\$4.98

Also fine gift items are the Bicentennial Armetale Plates @\$10.00, and the Mugs @\$7 and \$8.

FLASH — — —

The Pittsburgh Wellesley Club in cooperation with the Pittsburgh chapter of the American Institute of Architects will sponsor the program listed below.

INSIGHT '74: ARCHITECTURE
(Program will emphasize Pittsburgh architecture- past, present, and future.)

Wednesday, November 13, 1974

Panel Discussion with slides, 4:00 P.M. Lecture Hall
Carnegie Institute

Panelists: Dahlen K. Ritchey
Mildred M. Schmertz
Charles Morse Stotz
Arthur P. Zeigler, Jr.
David Wilkins
Sylvester Damianos

Cocktails, 6:00 P.M. Sarah Scaife Gallery
Museum of Art
Carnegie Institute

Dinner, 7:00 P.M. Music Hall Foyer
Carnegie Institute

Speaker, Edward Larrabee Barnes,
8:30 P.M. Music Hall
Carnegie Institute

The entire program is open to the public. For ticket information call Mrs. Charles Heppenstall at 963-9888.

Those wishing to attend the panel discussion or the evening speaker only may purchase tickets at the door.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS!!!!

The Western Pennsylvania Humane Society is celebrating its 100th birthday on November 10th. PHLF extends congratulations to this great organization.

GALLERY LECTURE SERIES

"EXPLORING OLD PITTSBURGH"

When the Bicentennial arrives in 1976, how much will you know about Pittsburgh's unique history and architecture?

This fall PHLF invites you to join us for a series of four exciting lectures, beginning October 22 with a unique film on Pittsburgh history and a special guided tour of the Old Post Office Museum. The following lectures will focus on three of Pittsburgh's historic neighborhoods. James D. Van Trump, PHLF's renowned architectural historian will bring to life "Old Allegheny", "Old Birmingham", and the "East End".

Join us at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 22 - Pitts. history
Tuesday, October 29 - Old Allegheny
Tuesday, November 5 - Old Birmingham
Tuesday, November 12 - East End

The lectures will last for 1 hour, and you may elect to remain for a fantastic boxed lunch and informal discussion period with Mr. Van Trump in the Belfour Gallery.

Cost for PHLF Members - \$6.00 for the series of 4 lectures/
or \$2.00 per individual lecture. Boxed lunch \$3.00 each.

Cost for non-members - \$10.00 for the series of 4 lectures/
or \$3.00 per individual lecture. Boxed lunch \$3.00 each.

Please fill in the form provided and register soon, registrations will be taken on a first come, first served basis as the Belfour Gallery's size will limit the number of the group.

Please register me for the Fall Gallery Lecture Series:

_____ Member @ \$6.00 per person

_____ Non-member @ \$10.00 per person

_____ Please place my order for the boxed lunch each
week @ \$3.00 per lunch

_____ Total enclosed.

Please register me for the following individual lectures:

_____ Member @ \$2.00 per lecture

_____ Non-member @ \$3.00 per lecture

_____ October 22, _____ Lunch @ \$3.00

_____ October 29, _____ Lunch @ \$3.00

_____ November 5, _____ Lunch @ \$3.00

_____ November 12, _____ Lunch @ \$3.00

_____ Total enclosed.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 12	Bus Tour to PHLF properties Leave Old Post Office at 9:15 a.m. Lunch at Hyehoide Tea Room Return to Old Post Office by 6:30 p.m.
October 22	First session in Gallery Lecture Series Unique film on history of Pittsburgh Tour of Old Post Office Museum Optional box lunch
October 29	Second session in Gallery Lecture Series "Old Allegheny" - Mr. Van Trump
November 5	Third session in Gallery Lecture Series "Old Birmingham" - Mr. Van Trump
November 12	Fourth session in Gallery Lecture Series "East End" - Mr. Van Trump
December 7,8	PHLF Christmas Party

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLE

Flora Notes on the Ewing Log House

We played hookey one beautiful August day at noon and four of us drove out to our new acquisition - the Walker Ewing Log House on the Oakdale Road down the draw from the "Walker-Ewing-Glass House" (see p. 217 of Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County by Ziegler and Van Trump).

Imagine our surprise and joy at the gift of this well-maintained but unspoilt log house of 1785. Last year, which we had listed in our book on page 217. Mrs. Jane Rovensky Grace, descendant of the original Ewing-Walker settlers, had decided finally to let the old house go as a haven to be kept by the Foundation. We have it now and hope soon to open it to our members when we will provide a fitting tribute to our generous benefactor and her family. A splendid oil portrait of Mrs. Grace as a child and her dignified mother, Mrs. Madjeska Ewing Rovensky hangs on the livingroom wall.

In the meantime we had a picnic on the grass. What a charming place! Situated on a rise over a fertile valley by a branch of Robinson Run, the house instantly takes you back well over a century and a half. Even the adjacent frame farmhouse has the window cornices which betoken a construction of the 1840's or 1850's.

Below the cabin you can see a healthy cornfield half-moon shape stretching down to the stream which at this time of year is obscured by the maples, willows, and sycamores which line its banks.

We unlocked the old wooden well and raised the bucket full of water which creaked up by wooden handle honest to the feel up to the brim. We unlocked all the doors in the house to let the air in and then sat down on the grass to eat our lunch of wine and cheese. After a leisurely meal, we decided to make an inventory, incomplete as it was, of the plants around the house.

Hemlock, spruce, maple and dogwood surround the house and make it isolated from the sparsely traveled Pinchot road along the crest of the valley before the steep hills mount up. Since the house was occupied up to recently, only a mild disorder prevails and lends added charm to the age of the structure.

On both upper corners of the house is the snowberry bush (*symphoricarpos racemosus*) with little white flowers and white balls of fruit appearing unusually at the same time as is its wont. We understand these waxy berries persist into the winter and were eaten by some of the western Indians.

In an old garden above the well are phlox (*phlox paniculata*) and peonies (*paeonia albiflora*). Rugosa rose is there characterized by its continuous blooming and its extremely prickly branches. Lilac bushes (*syringa vulgaris*) - the state flower of New Hampshire) rise at the corners of the well and the house.

In the little yard we encountered the common poke-weed (*phytolacca americana*), whose berries and root are emetic and purgative. The root is poisonous but the young shoots are sometimes eaten like asparagus.

Wild larkspur or delphinium (*delphinium consolida*) sports its purple flower, golden rod (*solidago canadensis*) Queen Anne's Lace, the wild carrot (*daucus carota*) and the buttercup (*ranunculus bulbosus*) also called goldcup or kingcup bespeak the Western Pennsylvania scene.

Coltsfoot (*tussilago farfara*), long a popular cough remedy is everywhere presenting its brilliant yellow head.

And over all the field intermittently grew what Helen called "good old heal-all" (*collinsonia canadensis*), the universal panacea, horse balm, or self-heal with its purple flowers in full bloom. This old world herb cultivated in America was formerly supposed to cure the quinsy or croup.

Next we walked the boundaries down by the sizable Pennsylvania "crick". There we saw the great old sycamore (*platanus occidentalis*), surrounded as it was by the yellow-ponched and orchidaceous jewelweed, *impatiens* or balsam (*impatiens biflora*). The stem and leaf of the jewelweed produce a bright orange juice that has been used as a dye and was applied by the Indians to irritations of the skin.

As any child knows they are also called touch-me-nots or snapweed. Believe me they were in top snapping form as we touched their pods, which instantly propelled the ripened seeds into the hot summer air.

Along the dark banks of the stream grew also the weeping willow (*salix babylonica*), and the sumac (*toxicodendrum vernix*). I was reminded of the old saw my father used to recite: "Did you know the sumac (pronounced 'shumack') is the only word in the language beginning with 'su' that's pronounced like that?" "Sure" I was taught to answer.

Along the stream we also found the Viburnum or hobble-bush, American wayfaring tree (*viburnum alnifolium*), the hackberry (*celtis*), the chokecherry or wild cherry (*padus virginiana*) and the wild haw (*crataegus coccinea*) with its vicious spikes so handy for spearing marshmallows and gumdrops at Easter Time.

Up through the cornfield and into the car we hurried back to the salt mine at two o'clock, or say three, a comfortable lunch hour for the tired businessman.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

ASK A FRIEND!

As a member of PHLF, you already are aware of the exciting things that we are doing to preserve the significant architecture of Allegheny County. You already know that as a PHLF member you can: be admitted free to the Old Post Office Museum and Garden Court, the Neill Log House, and soon be able to rent the Walker-Ewing Log House in Collier Township for weekends. You already know that for a special rate you can join our tour groups to historic areas of the country, and that you are often invited to lectures by leading preservationists of the world. But what about your friends--do they know about PHLF? Join with us in attracting new members to PHLF. 1,000 invitations are being mailed this month, should you receive one, please pass it on to a friend!

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 & Wifefrom \$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."