

PHLF NEWS

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

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

Number 54

November - December 1974

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM

FEATURES OF THE 1974 PHLF CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL INCLUDE:

- Trimming the Giant Fir Tree
- Our own "Victorian Santa"
- A Brass Quintet from Carnegie-Mellon University playing Christmas Carols in the Garden Court
- Hot Mulled Cider from our steaming Caldron in the Garden Court
- Harriet Woodcock's One-Star Playhouse presenting O. Henry's famous "The Gift of the Magi"
- Caroling-round-the-tree, led by Marjory Smith
- Champagne Punch and refreshments
- An abundance of Christmas Spirit



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1974 8-10 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1974 2:30-4:30p.m.

To accommodate our members and their friends, the Third Annual PHLF Christmas Party will be held on two dates. You are invited to attend either Saturday evening, December 7 from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., or Sunday afternoon, December 8 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Reservations will be limited and accepted on a "First-Come, First Served" basis.

Prices: Adult Members \$3.50 each, Adult Non-members \$4.50 each, Children 50¢ plus an ornament to hang on the Christmas Tree.

Please use the form below for ordering tickets.



South Side's Car
Pittsburgh's Restored

PLAN A MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS AFFAIR

THIS YEAR

RENT THE MUSEUM

FOR INFORMATION ON RATES AND DATES

CALL NOW 322-1204

PHLF Testifies on Community Development Block Grant

PHLF testified before the City Planning Commission in the city-wide hearings on the proposed \$16.4 million Community Development Block Grant.

Community Development Block Grants, authorized by Congress under the Housing Act of 1974 combine several existing federal programs into one block grant to the City of Pittsburgh.

The City Planning Commission proposed that the money be spent in the areas of housing and community development and focus on the following programs:

- establishment of a Home Repair Revolving Loan Fund and an Emergency Home Repair Fund.
- Neighborhood Capital Improvements: including repairing police and fire stations and building new recreational facilities.
- Neighborhood Commercial Centers and Industrial development: including a small business rehabilitation revolving loan fund and capital improvements for old neighborhoods' commercial centers.

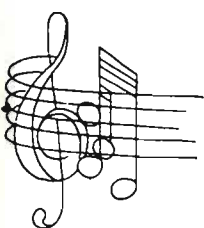
PHLF supports the proposed program outlined in the Preliminary Draft of the Community Development Block Grants with one exception: that of neighborhood capital improvements. The program as outlined provides an opportunity for government and private sector to work together to improve the older residential areas of the city.

We applaud the Home Repair Revolving Loan Fund and the small business Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund. However, we believe that these two programs will have more success if applied in specifically targeted neighborhoods. Also, we recommend that design and contractor advice be available to those wishing to rehabilitate their homes or businesses.

While we support the general approach of the proposal, we have one major disagreement. We feel that the capital funds designated in the Neighborhood Capital Improvements Budget would be best utilized in innovative new projects. Neighborhood Capital Improvements should be funded through the city's Capital Budget, as they were in the past. We believe that the new Community Block Grants should be treated as fresh capital and not be used to supplant normal budget allocations of the city.

Recommendation:

1. We recommend that a small sum of money be al-



Mary Demyan to be Featured in Folk Concert at Old Post Office

Friday, November 15, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation will celebrate the City's Fall Flower Show at Allegheny Center Mall, with a concert of folk music at the Old Post Office Museum, Allegheny Square West. The program features an evening of Appalachian Folk Music presented by Mary Demyan.

Mrs. Demyan is a specialist in Appalachian folk music. She is a native of Berea, Kentucky where she sang many of these songs as a child. Her past musical experience includes the Chautauqua Opera Company, Pittsburgh's Mendelssohn Choir and a summer at the Trapp Family Music Camp. She is presently New

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

ENCLOSED IS \$ _____ FOR A _____ MEMBERSHIP.

(Your cancelled check is your receipt.)

- Individualfrom \$10.00
- Husband & Wife.....from \$12.00
- Familyfrom \$15.00
- 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

located to support small spontaneous self-help programs in city neighborhoods. Programs such as the garden block efforts on North Side and Homewood have had a notable effect on the improvements of neighborhood morale and more important have acted as catalysts to further neighborhood improvement.

2. Use capital funds to restore key properties throughout the city. This will give areas a lift and will serve to ignite neighborhood action. This could be done on Arch Street with the Arch Street firehouse, in Manchester with the Langenheim House, on the South Side, with the South Side Market House, and with many unused churches in neighborhoods throughout the city. Key properties become a rallying point for community action and self-help. Such action should have been taken with the Cowley Elementary School on the North Side recently demolished by the Board of Education.
3. A moderate program of purchasing facade easements should be initiated; facade easement or architectural easement (easement in gross) is a conveyance (either by gift or purchase) of the property owner's right to alter the exterior of his building. The acquisition of facade easements provides a valuable and potentially economical preservation tool. It could have a beneficial effect in encouraging housing restoration, restoration of small business areas, protecting parks and open spaces and preserving such special structures as the Duquesne Incline.
4. Study the possibility of including neighborhood residents in joint ownership with the project developers of key renewal projects. Mutual ownership would ensure the mutual exchange of ideas and would ensure that renewal projects reflect the needs of the community. Often developers are unsure of what the people want in a renewal project; this shared ownership will assure that they take into consideration the needs of the community where the renewal project is to be located. At the same time local residents would learn more about the problems developers face. We feel this would be extremely helpful in Manchester and in the North Shore project in the North Side.

According to the Commission, the final draft of the Community Development Block Grant Proposal will reflect the views expressed and changes proposed at these city-wide hearings.

Anonymous Grant Made to Garden Court

We are very pleased to announce that an anonymous grant of \$15,000 has been given to the garden court fund to enable us to complete the work in the court. In a previous Newsletter we announced our need for a remaining \$15,000, and one of our members graciously donated the entire sum so that final items in the garden court will be complete next spring including chairs, tables, benches, umbrellas, the ornamental iron display, and placing our remaining artifacts.

We are deeply grateful that the garden court, now dedicated and usable, will have all of its finishing details completed. Many thanks, kind friend, MANY THANKS!

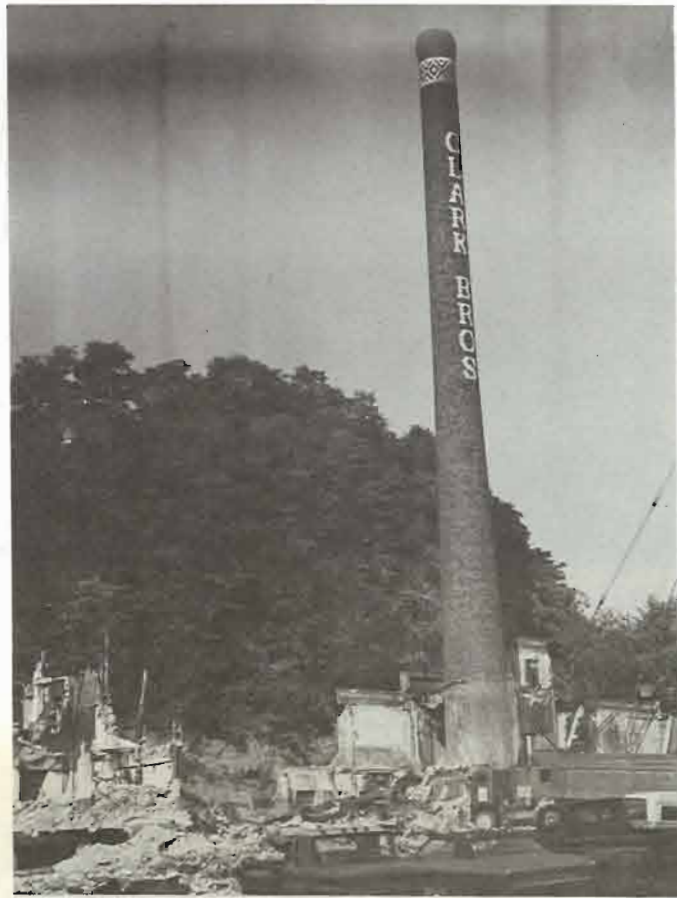
Artifacts Salvaged

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."

Pittsburgh Smokestack Saved

Why save a smokestack in a city which has worked to be free of the name "The Smoky City"? PHLF has once again cautioned Pittsburgh in the old adage: "Don't throw the baby out with the bath" by pointing out the interest and historical appeal to localities and international visitors alike of these splendid masonry towers constructed to divert the waste products of Pittsburgh's mighty industries to what was once deemed an acceptable height. The chimney pictured here served the D.L. Clark Candy Company on the North Side from 1924 until a few years ago.

Reaching 170 feet in one graceful leap with the company's name delineated in white brick along the shaft and displaying a mosaic pattern of white and red brick below a corbelled top this chimney was constructed based on sound engineering principles, has complete lightning protection and is weather-tight so as to give it a long future life. How many people do we know who having let off a bit of steam in their youth went on to lead long, productive noble lives? Such reasoning has led the D.L. Clark Candy Company to preserve its smokestack for all Pittsburgh's enjoyment and benefit.



Birmingham: New Center for Craft Stores and Antique Shops

Over the past few months antique dealers, artists, and craftsmen have discovered the Victorian storefronts along East Carson Street. Restorations are proceeding rapidly; most of the actual restoration is being carried out by the storeowners. Driving down Carson Street late at night, lights are burning in many storefronts and one sees young people busily scraping bricks, sanding floors, painting, and building display areas.

We were able to visit a few of these new stores and here's a partial listing of what one can find today along Carson Street. Most of the stores are closed on Mondays, but they are open Tuesday through Saturdays. The storeowners are friendly and quite willing to take time for a chat about what they sell, how their restorations progressed and what they think of the future of Old Birmingham.

J.J. Grumble's Emporium 1015 East Carson Street—owned and restored by Jeff Sussman, a potter from Carnegie-Mellon and Randy Krimm, an antiques buff, J.J. Grumble's Emporium offers a selection of pottery and crafts done by Mr. Sussman and local craftsmen as well as an interesting selection of American Indian artifacts and jewelry. They pride themselves on their selection of Navajo rugs at reasonable prices. One Navajo rug, Mr. Sussman showed us dated from before the Civil War.

Samaha's Antique Mart 1105 East Carson Street—One of the first to recognize the potential of Carson Street, Mr. Samaha has recently opened an UPSTAIRS FLEA MARKET featuring collectibles, antiques, and used furniture.

Laulicht's Antiques of Antique Mart 1107 E. Carson—Laulicht's features lots of old furniture, oil lamps, prints, frames, and an usually large supply of hand-painted Limoges. Of special interest is the lovely courtyard garden at the back of the shop

Golden Age Shop 1122 Carson Street—

Joe Zimmerman's Golden Age Shop will celebrate its first anniversary on the South Side, November 22nd. French baker's racks priced from \$100 to \$450 are featured along with old furniture, clocks, baskets, and other collectibles. Two items of note Mr. Zimmerman showed us are a German clock dating from 1840-1850 and a carved 17th century Austrian chair.

Et Cetera II 1223 East Carson Street—

Clothes and one-of-a-kind items are featured in this boutique. Et Cetera II prides itself on its line of up-to-date fashion for the young and its unique collection of antiques and collectibles.

The Glazing Pot Ceramics Hobby Shop 1302 East Carson Street—

Chuck Nogal and Jim Hasley's Glazing Pot offers everything in ceramics from finished products to the greenware and firing supplies. They offer instruction in ceramics seven days a week.

Statue of Life, Inc. 2222 East Carson Street—

An art gallery with an interesting collection of paintings and crafts by local artists at reasonable prices. Statue of Life, Inc. is also a non-profit corporation established to facilitate artists' workshops and galleries throughout the United States. There is a statue of Life on display at the gallery.

There's lots more to see and visit on Carson Street, as we were going to press, a pottery store, Down to Earth at 1023 East Carson was nearing completion, a storefront at 1220 East Carson offers an auction service, a new antique store has opened in the 1600 block of East Carson Street and a clothing store in the 1900 block called You're Putting Me On was about to open.



South Side's Carson Street
Pittsburgh's Restored Birmingham

Cultural Area . . .
Antiques—Crafts—
Boutiques—Plants—
Pottery—Printing

TOURS

Make plans now to accompany members and friends of PHLF on our exciting Mini-Tour of New York. This would be a delightful Christmas gift for family, friends and self!

Our Mini-Tour will feature tours of the Metropolitan Museum, the Guggenheim Museum, and other museums as time permits, a sight-seeing tour of the cast iron area, the Brownstone restoration area, and other architecturally significant areas and buildings.

We will leave Pittsburgh on Friday, April 25 at 10:00 a.m. and return on Sunday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Cost of the tour will be \$52.74 airfare, and \$80.00 land arrangements (based on quotations for rates available for 1975). Arrangements will include round trip airfare, group basis via Allegheny Airlines (return may be via any Allegheny flight), accommodation at the first class Stanhope Hotel in twin-bedded rooms, continental breakfast daily (two), all taxes and tips on services in tour, portage at hotel and LaGuardia airport, exclusive round trip transfer to and from hotel, tour escort and guiding at museums, local guide on sightseeing tour, admission to all the museums on the tour.

We expect this tour to be sold out early so don't delay registering. Please use the form below to register and send with your deposit of \$50.00 per person to PHLF, Allegheny Square West, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212.

APPLICATION FOR PHLF NEW YORK TOUR April 25-27, 1975

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

DEPOSIT ENCLOSED _____ ADDITIONAL PERSONS TO ACCOMPANY ME _____

_____ TOUR PROGRAM APRIL 25-27, 1975

_____ AIRFARE TO NEW YORK ONLY (\$52.74 per person)

_____ SINGLE SUPPLEMENT REQUESTED - \$35.00

GIVE A CHRISTMAS

GIFT

TO LAST ALL YEAR



MEMBERSHIP

IN

PHLF

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 12	11:00 a.m. Fall Lecture Series "East End"
November 15	8:30 p.m. Folk Concert with Mary Demyan
November 21, 22, 23	Museum Hours, Gift Shop Christmas Sale
December 7 and 8	PHLF Turn-of-the Century Christmas Party Opening of Christmas Exhibit
January 21, 28 February 4, 11	11:00 a.m. Gallery Lecture Series at Old Post Office
February 2	Walking Tour of Lobbies of Downtown Buildings
February 19- March 26	8:00 p.m. Six Wednesday Evenings Mr. Ziegler's Course "How to Restore An Old House"
April 25-27	PHLF "Mini-Museum" Trip to New York

CHRISTMAS TIME AT THE OLD POST OFFICE GIFT SHOP



HINTS FROM SANTA:

- * DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EARLY- *to help yourself!*
- * DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT THE OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP - *to help PHLF grow and in turn help Pittsburgh!*
- * THE OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP HAS UNIQUE GIFT ITEMS FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR LIST
 - Unique Christmas Trimmings
 - Books on Restoration
 - Special books on dolls, buses, trolleys & trams, circuses
 - Unique Cook Books
 - Pilgrim Glass Kitchen Chemistry Ware
 - Mini-Mansion Model Kits
 - A Wide Selection of Stocking Stuffers from 50¢ - \$2.00
 - Unique yo yo's
 - Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania Puzzles
 - Pittsburgh charms
 - Reproductions of Antique Books
 - Banks
 - A great variety of toys and novelties



PLAN A MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS AFFAIR

THIS YEAR

RENT THE MUSEUM

FOR INFORMATION ON RATES AND DATES

CALL NOW 322-1204



Pittsburgh's Main Post Office Lobby "Cancelled"



Due to a reorganization of the Pittsburgh Main Post Office, its public lobby is being altered beyond recognition. The present lobby has quarry tile floors and a vaulted tile ceiling with bronze stamp windows, writing desks, and bulletin boards. All of this is being removed or covered with new automated and "full service" windows. The artifacts were to have been sold for salvage but with the cooperation of local postal officials PHLF has acquired many for use at the Old Post Office Museum (appropriately named in this sorrowful instance.)

What is perhaps more alarming is that the renovation of Pittsburgh's lobby is only one of what

is to be a nation-wide renovation of all post offices to use the same type of machines and identical furnishings. The Post office is a building which can be found in every city, town and village in the country so the visual impact of the new Postal Service program will be felt everywhere; no local flavor will be tolerated.

There were instances in our Post Office where much of the old tile and bronze could have been incorporated in the new lobby without adversely affecting new methods of automation, but the Postal Service was unswerving in its dedication to complete renovation.



New Recreation Center Now Nearly Complete in Allegheny

A Baseball field with a 360' foul line, basketball courts, and other recreation facilities are now nearly complete at Federal Street and the Allegheny Commons North in the center of Old Allegheny. The site was chosen by PHLF and a community committee including both adults and youngsters who will be using the field.

To our horror and to the horror of the residents of Allegheny, two years ago the City of Pittsburgh proposed to install a new ballfield at the corner of North Avenue and Cedar Avenue across from Allegheny General Hospital. The plan involved the removal of 60 great trees from the Commons.

We joined the community in defeating this proposal, and Mr. Ziegler was appointed Chairman of the community committee to seek alternate sites. Eight locations were studied and finally the committee decided that this open field then proposed for residential development in Allegheny Center would be best because it was located in the center of the community and was the size required.

Alcoa, owner of the site, after negotiations of several months, generously relinquished its interest in the site and the property reverted to the City of Pittsburgh.

As part of the program, the old statue erected to the labor leader, Thomas Armstrong, which stood near the Aviary and which was knocked over by a pickup truck that ran wild several years ago, will be installed on the corner of Federal and Allegheny Commons North.

PHLF to offer Restoration Course

Mr. Ziegler's course on How to Restore an Old House will be offered here at the Old Post Office in February and March of 1975. It will be given on six Wednesday evenings from February 19 through March 26 at 8:00 p.m. Each session will last until 9:30 p.m. Reservation forms will appear in the next issue of PHLF NEWS. The cost of the course will be \$25.00.

GRANT RECEIVED

We are pleased to announce the receiving of \$5,000 from the Anne L. and George H. Clapp Charitable and Educational Trust. The grant is to be used for general purposes. We are very grateful to the trustees of this trust for their continued interest in the work of PHLF.

Sympathy

PHLF extends deepest sympathy to the family of our Chairman, Charles Covert Arensberg on the passing of Mr. Arensberg's father.

PHLF also extends sympathy to Mary Wohleber, president of our volunteers, and her family on the passing of Mary's mother.

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
 Familyfrom \$15.00
 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

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4. Free admission or discount tickets for walking and bus tours.
5. Free admission to winter lecture series.
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7. Participation in an organization given national awards "for the vigor of its programs."