How many of our members know that one of the greatest ecologists of our time, Rachel Carson, was born in Allegheny County in the town called Springdale on the Allegheny River?

Rachel Carson was born in a fine little house built about 1840 which consisted of only four rooms. Typical of structures of the early 19th century, the second story is reached by a narrow, steep staircase; the floors are uneven; the ceilings are low and sloping and the fireplaces feature crude brick hearths. The house now includes six rooms on the first floor and several more on the second. The addition was completed in 1929 after the house was purchased by Angeline Sober who lived there until May 1974.

For nearly a year we have been working with the Landscape Design Society and the Borough of Springdale to acquire the house and develop it as an ecological education center and museum.

Through a bequest of Mr. George H. Whinger Borough of Springdale, the borough was able to obtain the house just in time to prevent its being offered for sale on the open market at a higher price than it had been offered for to us.

Together with the Landscape Design Society we have formed the Rachel Carson Homestead Association which will develop and operate the house and very attractive wooded lot on which it stands.

We also made an application to the Defenders of Wildlife's Rachel Carson Fund for a grant in the amount of $5,000 for initial educational program development in conjunction with the property; that grant was awarded to us last month.

Last fall on our bus tour of our historic properties some of our members visited the Rachel Carson House; we hope to have an opening there for our members this coming summer.

The Incorporators of the Rachel Carson Homestead are:

Charles Covert Arensberg
Elting Arnold
Mrs. J.C. Bailey
Edmund F. Boyle
Mrs. Richard H. Boyles
Shirley A. Briggs
Paul Brooks
Richard A. Cooley
Mrs. David M. Crossman
Samuel S. Epstein, M.D.
S. Herbert Evison
Ethel Faunce
F.R. Fosberg
Ann Goldrell Free
Beulah Frey
J. L. George
Mrs. Thomas I. George
Richard H. Goodwin
Sydney Harris
Mrs. Lester M. Harrison

Evelyn M. Hirtle
Mrs. James P. Kinard
Roger M. Latham
Mrs. Watson C. Marshall
Kenneth D. Morrison
H. Graham Kettling
William Kiering
Marie Rodell
Thomas Ross
Mrs. Richard M. Scaife
Leonard Schugar
Mrs. Nathan Schwartz
Mrs. J. Lewis Scott
Angeline J. Sober
Elvis J. Stahr
Christine Stevens
Mrs. Lee M. Talbot
Stewart L. Udall
Charles F. Wurster
Joseph B.E. White
Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.

Pittsburghers Elected To Preservation Action Board

In the October 1974 issue of PHLF NEWS we outlined the purpose of Preservation Action, a new national organization of leaders in preservation throughout the United States whose sole purpose will be to lobby for good legislation for preservation.

We are happy to announce that three Pittsburghers have been elected to the Board of Directors of the new organization: Mrs. Henry P. Hoffstot, Mrs. Richard M. Scaife, and Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.

NATIONAL LEADER IN PRESERVATION TO SPEAK HERE FEBRUARY 10, 1975

Arthur Skolnik, Assistant to the Mayor of Seattle, Washington will be our guest lecturer in our series of Distinguished Lecturers in Historic Preservation.

Seattle is the most sophisticated city in our Nation in Preservation Techniques at the municipal level. We are anticipating Mr. Skolnik's lecture on their work and achievements.

The lecture will be given at the Old Post Office Museum on February 10, 1975 at 8:00 p.m. The lecture is free to PHLF members and friends are welcome at a cost of $1.50 each.

Invitations and reservation forms will be mailed to PHLF members.
Garden Court Readied for Spring

As the last chrysanthemums and marigolds lost their color and the purple wintercreeper died, the Old Post Office Museum Garden Court entered winter. The hemlock and yew that were the last to lose their color, the 700 tulip bulbs planted by the volunteers, and the winterbuds on the crabapple were carefully protected. The tulips are now available for planting in the garden court, and the European boxwood and Yew are awaiting the first snow to set off their hues. But we were already thinking about spring.

Our members responded very generously to our general fund raising campaign and made pledges for funding our special projects magnanimously as we have reported here through these two years. We are very gratified to report now that we have reached our goal of $600,000 and, in fact, exceeded it with total revenues for the two years of $776,429.69.

The majority of these funds have been used to acquire more properties in the Mexican War Streets area and the purchase of the Old Post Office. We are writing a special loan from the National Trust Revolving Fund at a very low interest rate to enable us to complete the purchase of more properties in the National Trust Revolving Fund. This loan of $85,000. four times larger than any other loan ever granted by the National Trust, came to us with the recommendation that we plan a special fund raising campaign to put our organization on a firmer financial footing. We set a goal of $600,000 for both general fund raising and special project funding.

Our members responded very generously to our general fund raising program and made pledges for the two-year period which have now been fulfilled. Corporations, labor organizations, and other civic groups also gave generously to that effort. The private foundations of Pittsburgh responded to funding our special projects magnanimously as we have reported here through these two years.

We are very grateful to our members for their continuing and growing commitment to the organization. We should point out that many preservation projects originate in the community and flow to us in the form of requests for assistance. Once a small stream, we are now flooded with them as people realize more keenly the value of their architectural heritage and the historical associations of the urban and rural landscape here.

San Francisco, Boston, and Philadelphia have also seen the large clean dependable trolley as an important element of their mass transit systems and, along with Toronto, one of the most vibrant and progressive cities on the North American continent, has maintained its trolleys as part of its modern integrated transit system. Pittsburgh's proposed Skybus will replace all remaining local trolleys since it uses their right-of-way to keep down the costs of this new and untried system estimated to cost 350 million taxpayer dollars.

We are very gratified to report now that we have reached our goal of $600,000 and, in fact, exceeded it with total revenues for the two years of $776,429.69.

The majority of these funds have been used to acquire more properties in the Mexican War Streets area and the purchase of the Old Post Office. We are writing a special loan from the National Trust Revolving Fund at a very low interest rate to enable us to complete the purchase of more properties in the National Trust Revolving Fund. This loan of $85,000, four times larger than any other loan ever granted by the National Trust, came to us with the recommendation that we plan a special fund raising campaign to put our organization on a firmer financial footing. We set a goal of $600,000 for both general fund raising and special project funding.

Our members responded very generously to our general fund raising program and made pledges for the two-year period which have now been fulfilled. Corporations, labor organizations, and other civic groups also gave generously to that effort. The private foundations of Pittsburgh responded to funding our special projects magnanimously as we have reported here through these two years.

We are very grateful to our members for their continuing and growing commitment to the organization. We should point out that many preservation projects originate in the community and flow to us in the form of requests for assistance. Once a small stream, we are now flooded with them as people realize more keenly the value of their architectural heritage and the historical associations of the urban and rural landscape here.
PHOTOGRAPHY WORK

Volunteer work at PHLF is rich and varied. Harry Hull, a chemical engineer and an amateur photographer, describes his experiences in the following excerpted article that was submitted to Modern Mature magazine.

Pittsburgh is known as the city of bridges so when as a retiree I volunteered to do photography for the Brady Street Bridge, it served as a refuge for General Neville and later occupied by his family when some whiskey rebels burned his home on Bower Hill, July 17, 1794.

PHLF has a major project of restoring houses in several deteriorating neighborhoods. This is an effort to develop an appreciation for the merits of these old houses and to utilize their graphic study to new neighborhood vitality. These neighborhoods have the advantage of being near the business and entertainment centers of the city. One of the areas in which this is being done is the "Mexican War Streets" area in the "North Side" where the streets are named for battles and for generals who served in the Mexican War.

One of the most difficult assignments was to make a photographic study of Neville House. This house was built by General John Neville and later occupied by his son. It is the house that George H. Neville's family when some whiskey rebels burned his home on neighboring Bower Hill, July 17, 1794.

Preservation Techniques I

Preservationists throughout the country have developed a number of interesting approaches to facilitate and encourage the preservation and reuse of our landmark buildings. These techniques are based on the premise that often the high cost of restoring a house or landmark building is so great that it becomes not the "highest and best use of a parcel of land" will deter restoration. In the next few newsletters we will discuss some of these preservation techniques and their national uses.

Facade Easements

A facade easement is the conveyance by gift or purchase of the property owner's right to alter the exterior of his building. A preservation organization or local agency may purchase a facade easement for a small fraction of the cost of a building and through this act assure that the exterior of the building will not be altered or demolished. Practically, the building remains through changes in ownership. While the preservation organization or public agency saves money through the facade easement purchase, it has benefited the owner's right to use the property for residential or commercial uses. Private ownership ensures that the building and property will remain on the tax rolls, but good taxation will tax on the basis of existing use, rather than "highest and best" thereby no longer penalizing the owner for failing to develop his property.

Historic Annapolis, Inc. is the first and only preservation organization to develop a large scale program of facade easement purchases. Facade easements have been purchased on a number of buildings within the designated historic district. Architectural plans submitted by property owners are reviewed by the Architectural Committee of Historic Annapolis before changes can be made. In addition Historic Annapolis provides architectural advice as a part of the program, and thus has been successful in creating a positive climate for restoration and growth in the inner city. According to Historic Annapolis, Inc., nearby historic structures profits, and visitors attracted to the scenic surroundings increase the community's prosperity.

The success of this program is widen by the fact that in Annapolis real estate values in the historic district increased from $12 million dollars to $38 million dollars in 10 years.

Here in Pittsburgh, PHLF is working with the Urban Renewal Authority in a program of facade easement purchases to preserve the houses in Manchester. The program is unique; this is the first time that a redevelopment authority has participated in a renewal project that is based on historic preservation for low to moderate income people.

BOOK SALE

We are pleased to announce that the book shop now offers a special sale of "Memories of the Old Post Office". Architectural books, history, biography, and nature are all displayed at the time of this writing an encyclopedia is available for a mere $15. We invite our members not only to browse through it, but to contribute their used books to it. All proceeds benefit the Old Post Office Museum. Also bring your used books to the Old Post Office gift shop on your next trip and let us add them to the "book soup" as soon as they can be "recycled" for the benefit of others as well as the museum.
PHLF MINI-TOUR TO NEW YORK CITY

Now is the time to set aside the dates of APRIL 25-27 (leave Friday and return Sunday) for the Landmarks' 1975 Mini-tour to New York City.

Come along with us on a special tour of the Metropolitan Museum, as well as an exclusive sightseeing tour of New York visiting the remaining Cast-Iron Section, restored Brownstones Maritime district and other architectural highlights that are still in existence. In this ever-changing major metropolitan city. You will feel as though you stepped back 100 years as our guides provide a lively and exciting description of each point visited.

Accommodations will be at the comfortable Stanhope Hotel with its well known sidewalk cafe, directly across from the Metropolitan Museum on 5th Avenue and within walking distance of the Frick, Whitney and Guggenheim Museums.

The tour price of $52.74 per person for group airfare plus $80.00 per person land package will include round trip airfare via Allegheny Airlines, transfer from and to LaGuardia Airport, tips and taxes on services included, admissions, the sightseeing tour on our own bus, plus two continental breakfasts at the hotel. Sightseeing and guide service are included of course. (You may return to Pittsburgh on a later AA flight at no extra cost.)

The tour will take you to parts of New York that are of major interest to all PHLF members and friends. So, get over the winter doldrums now and complete the application below to be sure of your place on our Spring Mini-Tour to New York City's Museums. Your deposit will confirm your reservation.

We expect this tour to be sold out early as we have quite a few reservations already—don't delay! Send your completed form (below) with your deposit of $50.00 per person to PHLF, Allegheny Square East, Pittsburgh, Penna. 15212.

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

NAME ______________________________________________ PHONE ____________________
ADDRESS _____________________ POST OFFICE BOX ____________
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

WINTER WALKING TOUR ——— FEBRUARY 2, 1975

Our Winter Walking Tour will meet at the lobby of the William Penn Hotel at 2:00 p.m. From there we will proceed to several buildings in the downtown area to look at the architectural significance of the lobbies of these buildings.

The cost of the walking tour which will be led by PHLF staff members is $1.00 for members and $2.00 for non-members. Tickets may be purchased prior to the tour at the Old Post Office Museum or the day of the tour at the William Penn. Join us at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 2, 1975 and enjoy an interesting walk and learn more about our great City!

Sympathy

PHLF extends deepest sympathy to Mary Wohleber, president of our volunteers, and her family on the death of Mary's husband Alan E. Wohleber on November 26, 1974.
GALLERY LECTURE SERIES

PHLF's Winter Series of Gallery Lectures will be held at 11:00 a.m. on five Tuesday mornings. The lectures will last for 1 hour and a box lunch following the lectures is optional.

The lectures will be as follows:

January 28 - "Old North Side" - lecturer, Mary Wohleber
February 4 - "Troy Hill" - lecturer, Mary Wohleber
February 11 - "The Point" - lecturer, George Swetnam
February 18 - "Pittsburgh Pleasure Places" - J.D. Van Trump
February 25 - "Lawrenceville" - lecturer, Joseph Borkowsky

Cost of the lectures for PHLF members - $8.00 for the series, or $2.00 per individual lecture. Boxed lunch $3.00 each.

Cost of the lectures for non-members - $12.00 for the series, or $3.00 per individual lecture. Boxed lunch $3.00 each.

You may pre-register using the form below, or pay at the registration desk on the day of the lecture (space permitting). We must know in advance if you wish a box lunch!

Please register me for the Winter Gallery Lecture Series:

- Member @ $8.00 per person
- Non-member @ $12.00 per person
- Please place my order for the boxed lunch each week @ $3.00 per lunch
- Total enclosed.

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. 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. Please use the form below to register and mail along with your check for $25.00 for the course to PHLF, Allegheny Square West, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15212.

Please register me for the following individual lectures:

I wish boxed lunches on these dates:

Total enclosed:

---

Old Post Office Gift Shop Corner

FEATURE OF THE MONTH

The fourth in the series of landmark plates, a limited edition series of original works of art featuring area subjects of historical interest, features the Allegheny County Court House and Jail.

"Landmark Plates" are exclusively available at Pittsburgh National Bank and the Old Post Office Gift Shop. The plates are Castleton china, off-white background with gold trim and drawing in black. The cost of this year's plate is $15.00. We still have some of last year's plate which featured the Old Post Office Museum and cost $10.00.
3rd Annual PHLF Christmas Party
Great Success

Because of scheduling our Turn-of-the-Century Christmas Party 1974 for Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, over 500 people were able to enjoy the festivities.

Between the raindrops, we enjoyed mulled cider in the Garden Court; we trimmed the giant fir tree; Santa and Mother Goose were on hand to talk with the children and tell stories; we sang Carols and songs; were entertained by a brass ensemble from Carnegie-Mellon, and Harriet Woodcock's One-Star Theater.

Our volunteers served champagne punch and cookies and everyone seemed to grasp the spirit of the season and have a good time.

Many thanks to Eisler Nursery for providing the tree and greens for decorations, and to all the volunteers who helped.

Braddock Library Contract Expanded

Several issues ago, we reported that we had received a contract from Model Cities of the Turtle Creek Valley to conduct a feasibility study for restoring the Braddock Library and Carnegie Hall for community use. This building, designed by William Halsey Wood, erected in 1889, is the first Carnegie Library erected in the United States, although it was the second one commissioned, following the one in Allegheny.

At that time we assumed that Model Cities would furnish us with a program so that we could conduct our studies accordingly. However, the agency has not developed one and instead has asked us to formulate a program of uses for the building, based upon a recent proposal that we made to them. We suggested that we interview all public and private agencies in the area that might utilize space in the library, hold a community forum concerning the use of the library, and investigate recreation needs and library needs. We will also analyze funding sources. Then we can complete our physical plan studies.

We have now signed a new agreement with the Allegheny County Commissioners for a total contract sum of $8600 to conduct this work which will be due June 30, 1975.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. Gallery Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>Series at Old Post Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11, 18, 25</td>
<td>Walking Tour Lobbies of Downtown Buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 10</td>
<td>5:00 p.m. Lecture Old Post Office - Arthur Skolnik, Preservationist from Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 19, 26</td>
<td>Restoration Course Old Post Office - Arthur Ziegler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5, 12, 19, 26</td>
<td>Restoration Course Old Post Office - Arthur Ziegler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25-27</td>
<td>PHLF &quot;Mini-Museum&quot; Trip to New York City</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

ENCLOSED IS $ FOR A MEMBERSHIP

(Your cancelled check is your receipt.)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>from $10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband &amp; Wife</td>
<td>from $12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>from $17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributing</td>
<td>from $50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining</td>
<td>from $100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patron</td>
<td>from $500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life</td>
<td>from $1,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
7. Participation in an organization given national awards "for the vigor of its programs."