

PHLF NEWS

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

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Phone 322-1204

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Mrs. James H. Childs, Jr.
217 Edgeworth Lane
Sewickley, Pa. 15143

Citizens Committee and City Make Commitments

PHIPPS CONSERVATORY RESTORATION FUND LAUNCHED

A committee of citizens working cooperatively with Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation announced recently that they want to raise \$250,000 to help the City of Pittsburgh restore Phipps Conservatory.

Completed in 1893, Phipps Conservatory was for many years the largest conservatory in the United States. Henry Phipps, one of Pittsburgh's leading industrialists, gave the conservatory to the City.

For years the Conservatory was a magnificent show place and the pride of the City, but decay sets in! Several times throughout its lifetime major renovations have been necessary.

Once again in its history the Conservatory has reached a state of critical disrepair! The major renovations that are necessary today include new glass throughout the structure, new electrical service and improved display lighting, replacement of heating pipes, and new growing tables.

The City is committed to its restoration and the Citizens Committee spontaneously developed to assist. PHLF was asked to serve as trustee of the funds and consultant by the City and the Committee.

On hand to launch the fund raising campaign were Henry M. Cathey, President of the American Horticultural Society, Louise Brown, Director of Parks and Recreation, Mrs. James H. Childs, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, Charles Covert Arensberg, Chairman of the Board, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, and Ed Vasilcik, the horticulturist of Phipps Conservatory.

Mrs. James H. Childs, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to help Phipps Conservatory noted that the funds would be used to help the city renew the glass roofs, the heating systems, the electrical systems, and the outdoor landscaping. According to Louise Brown, Director of Parks and Recreation, the city has committed major capital expenditures to the conservatory over the past three years. The glass over some of the growing rooms has already been replaced. The city has also committed \$150,000 for the next three years toward the restoration of the conservatory. Through the Public Employment Act, the city is furnishing glazers, painters, and carpenters, and has already begun the replacement of the glass in all rooms.

The Ad Hoc Committee is working through all civic organizations in western Pennsylvania to raise funds at the grass roots level from those who love Phipps Conservatory. The committee offers a free slide show and lecture about the conservatory. Groups may request a lecture by calling Patricia Wiley at Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, 322-1204.

According to Mrs. Childs, "Once we have achieved our goal of \$250,000 and the restoration work has been completed, our Ad Hoc Committee will disband, feeling that we have performed a great service in saving Pittsburgh's great glass house."

The budget calls for:

General Construction	\$215,948.00
Electric	33,000.00
Heating	183,000.00
Drains & Pipes	53,000.00
Misc. Interior Notes	112,500.00
Exterior	12,000.00
Grand Total	\$609,448.00

FUNDS FOR PHIPPS CONSERVATORY

I wish to contribute to the renovation of Phipps Conservatory.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

NAME _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Make checks or money orders payable to:
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
Old Post Office Museum
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212 Mark check "Phipps"

Special Garden Court Gift Received

Through the generosity of Mrs. E. Joseph Charny our Garden Court will now be open on Monday afternoons in good weather at no charge. Heretofore one had to pay the general admission charge to the Old Post Office Museum and the Garden Court was included under that fee.

Mrs. Charny felt that it would be useful and pleasant if the court could be opened at least one afternoon a week to passersby and her contribution will enable us to cover the cost of security for the area.



THE OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

AT THE OLD POST OFFICE PHLF Christmas Party

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1975 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

The PHLF Christmas Party for 1975 promises to be the best yet!

The theme will be "A Victorian Christmas". Entertainment will include our very own "Victorian Santa", "Mother Goose", Al DeLernia's musical trio (you may know them as the strolling musicians seen throughout Kaufmann's Department Store during the Holiday Season), Kimo the Bicentennial Clown, Readings of the Victorian period, and much more!

Featured at the refreshment tables will be our special "Wassail", cheeses and crackers, and punch and cookies.

Don't miss this great time of fun, singing, and all the abundance of Christmas Spirit!

The party will be held on Sunday, December 7 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Reservations will be limited and accepted on a "First-Come, First Served" basis.

Prices: Adult Members \$4.50 each, Adult non-members \$6.00 each, Children under 12 \$1.00 each.

Please use the form below for ordering tickets.

PLEASE SEND ME THE FOLLOWING:

____ tickets for members @ \$4.50 each....\$ _____

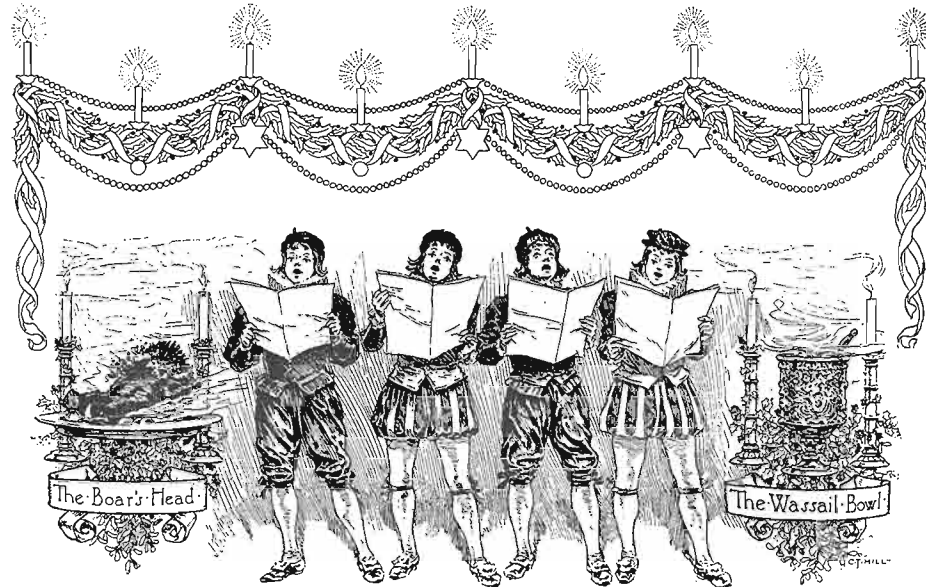
____ tickets for non-mem.@ \$6.00 each....\$ _____

____ tickets for children (under 12)
@ \$1.00 each....\$ _____

MY CHECK AND SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE ARE ENCLOSED

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____



Gift Memberships are

DISTINCTIVE APPROPRIATE & LASTING

The gift of a PHLF membership this coming holiday season means that your friends, relatives and associates will enjoy the full range of benefits and privileges all year long. In a matter of minutes you can solve a gift problem for a number of friends on your list...and at the same time help advance the cause of historic preservation. Simply list their names on the blank provided and send with your check today.

Then, throughout the year your gift recipients will receive the PHLF NEWS, and each time they take advantage of membership benefits they will be reminded of your thoughtfulness.

To announce your gift memberships we will send a hand-signed card to each gift recipient. Send your gift list today so we may get it properly entered before the holiday rush is upon us.

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

ENCLOSED IS \$ _____ FOR A _____ MEMBERSHIP.

This Membership is a Gift from _____

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

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."

New and Continuing Projects

"PHLF ACQUIRES GREAT GOTHIC HOUSE IN FINEVIEW"



The Henderson-Metz House at 1516 Warren Street, built c. 1860 is a Medievalistic Gothic Manor house. It's large stone structure in the "Gothic" manner is stylistically closely related to the John F. Singer House which is the best example now surviving in the Pittsburgh area of the manor house of the mid-nineteenth century. The barge boards and painted windows and the general sharpness and elongation of its mass testify to the popularity of the medieval domestic silhouette in mid-nineteenth century Pittsburgh. Unfortunately no house of its type has managed to survive in its early "pure" state; most of them have been demolished or remodeled and all of those remaining are poor. Thus we feel it is essential that this house be restored as part of Pittsburgh's heritage.

PHLF will continue to landscape the extensive grounds with various trees and bushes, and we plan to continue the existing moderate income tenants for the near future. We will be seeking funds in 1976 to restore the exterior of the building in the amount of \$25,000. Funding for the purchase came from earlier gifts to the revolving restoration fund from the Sarah Scaife Foundation, and the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

"1331 LIVERPOOL STREET"

The next project will be restoration of 1331 Liverpool Street. Members will recall that last year we acquired a very fine Victorian House in the great block of Liverpool Street across from one that we already own and have restored. We are now planning to restore 1330 under a 312 Low Interest Loan Program for moderate income tenants. We will develop two units in the building. Funding is provided by the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh.

"THE FLATIRON BUILDING"

Work has already begun on the completion of the upper two stories of the Flatiron Building in Sewickley. Last year, through a community fund raising program we restored the exterior and the first floor of this building and it now houses the offices of the Sewickley Herald. Work is now underway to convert the upper two floors to apartments which will rent for \$160 to \$180 per month plus heat and light. Funding comes from a mortgage with First Federal Savings & Loan Association.

"PUBLICATION OF BOOK ON ALLEGHENY"

During November we will release a major new book the subject of which will be Allegheny including Central, East and West North Side, Manchester, Fineview, Perry Hill Top, and Troy Hill. Written by Walter C. Kidney and Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. the book is an essay on history and development of Allegheny profusely illustrated by photographs of the old and the new. More details in our next PHLF NEWS. Funding comes from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Hillman Foundation.



PLAN A MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS AFFAIR

THIS YEAR

RENT THE MUSEUM

FOR INFORMATION ON RATES AND DATES

CALL NOW 322-1204



Major Triumph for Preservation with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Although victory occurred outside of Allegheny County, we should join with all Pennsylvanians in a preservation triumph that occurred at Indiana University at Indiana, Pa. recently. Several years ago the board of trustees had declared the original "Old Main", John Sutton Hall, on the campus nonfunctional and asked to have it demolished and the Governor signed a demolition order. A local committee rose up to save the hall and asked members of our board of trustees and staff to determine whether the building could be feasibly reused. Even though the Department of Property and Supplies of the Commonwealth had declared that it could not. Pasquale Navarro, J. Fred Triggs, Ellis Schmidlapp, and Arthur Ziegler, carried out a study of the structure and the condition of the building and prepared a substantial report indicating that the building could expect a long life yet and could feasibly be adapted to new uses. Also, Mr. Van Trump wrote a historical essay about the building and pointed out its great significance in its particular location on the campus. Upon reviewing the report the Governor rescinded his demolition order as did the Board of Trustees at Indiana and through the good offices of Edward Weintraub, the State Historic Preservation officer, all parties were brought together and are now working on a plan to preserve the structure.

Earlier this year the Governor had issued an executive order requiring that every effort be made to retain and restore significant architecture owned by the Commonwealth and this particular challenge was the first under this executive order. Preservationists won and it sets a precedent across the Commonwealth.



Book on Pittsburgh Bridges Underway

With funding from the National Parks Service and the James and Rachel Levinson Foundation, we have commissioned Mr. Van Trump to begin work on a book on Pittsburgh bridges. Further funding will be sought for final publication, enough funds are now available and Mr. Van Trump has begun extensive work on the Brady Street bridge, the Old Point bridge, and Manchester bridge, all the bridges ever erected on Sixth Street including one by Roebling, Smithfield Street bridge and the studies will now include the other bridges of Pittsburgh. Professor Clark Mangelsdorf of the Department of Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh is cooperating in the project. Students are working on research and producing essays on the bridges that will be utilized by Mr. Van Trump. We will report on this in more detail as the project proceeds.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November	4	Gallery Lecture 1:00 OP9 Mary Wohleber
November	11	Gallery Lecture 1:00 OP0 Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.
November	18	Gallery Lecture 1:00 OP0 Mrs. J.G. Marks, Mrs. J.B. Sutton "Phipps Conservatory"
December	1	Volunteers' Work Day at OP0
December	7	PHLF Victorian Christmas Party
February	6	Old Post Office Birthday Party - Watch for Details
February	28-29	Save this week end for a Tentative date for a bus tour to Wheeling, etc.

Mayor Holds Artifact Sale

On October 4 and 5, a beautiful early fall weekend, crowds in the hundreds gathered for the Mayor's artifact auction. Mayor Peter Flaherty had decided to make available on an auction basis all kinds of items and artifacts and materials that the City no longer had use for, ranging from hydrants and parking meters to stained glass and hand-carved benches and on to beautiful antique fire trucks.

People bid up the prices and the sale grossed approximately \$50,000. for the City of Pittsburgh. More than that, old objects were given new uses and even those who didn't buy enjoyed the fun of the auction and the ethnic foods that were being served near by.

PHLF had urged that precautions be taken so that really fine objects did not slip out of the City and into the eastern or western antiques trade, and recommended that if it were possible, items such as stained glass would be re-used in new City buildings as they are erected.

At the auction PHLF acquired the brass information sign that for more than fifty years was in the lobby of the City County Building. We also purchased a handsome oak panel with a brass bell from a city fire hall and several street signs.

P&LE Station Studied for Development

On October 17, the Pittsburgh Press carried a front page story indicating that our organization is studying an historical-commercial development in the P&LE Railroad complex of buildings at Carson Street and the southern end of the Smithfield Street bridge. This study, one of several being carried out by PHLF of the adaptive use possibilities of major old buildings in the City has not produced any specific recommendations to date. Work has been under way in this study as well as the one of the B&O Warehouse in the North Side and the Penn Central Railroad Station downtown for more than eighteen months. However, a project of such magnitude requires extensive preparatory work and we are by no means to the point of moving ahead with actual physical development.

Studies will continue for several more months, when we have firm news to report to our members, we will do so.

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PHLF BRINGS ANCHOR OF USS PITTSBURGH TO PITTSBURGH

The Old Post Office Museum is now the home of the 18,000 lb. anchor of the third USS Pittsburgh (CA72), a heavy cruiser.

Pittsburgh (CA72) was launched February 22, 1944 under the sponsorship of Mrs. Cornelius D. Scully, wife of the Mayor of Pittsburgh. The cruiser was placed in commission at Boston Navy Yard on October 10, 1944, Captain John C. Gingrich, U.S.N. in command. She was placed out of commission in reserve at Bremerton, Washington on August 28, 1956. During the period she was in commission, Pittsburgh earned two battle stars and other awards for operations in Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Europe, and China.

Mayor Flaherty accepted the anchor, which was transported from Seattle, Washington, prior to the Denver-Pittsburgh Steelers game on October 12, 1975 at Three Rivers Stadium.

The anchor is now permanently located on the front walk of the Old Post Office Museum for viewing.

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



SPECIAL EVENT IN THE GIFT SHOP

DECEMBER 4, 5, 6, 7

CHRISTMAS SALE

REDUCTIONS OF 20 - 30 - 40 - 50%
on regular stock items

Note: Dec. 4 will be for members only!

Neill Log House Plaque

All landscaping work will be completed at the Neill Log House this fall and a plaque will soon be prepared to thank donors for contributions to the landscaping fund. The plaque will read as follows: (Please report any errors to Mr. Schmidlapp at 322-1204)

PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

is grateful to these donors for funds to defray costs of indigenous plants for the Neill Log House.

Alice Voller Ali
In Memory of
Mrs. Margaret Voller

Mr. Maxim E. Armbruster

Edna R. Ashton
In Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Ashton, Sr.

Donald S. Bernson
In Memory of
Kirke C. Wilson

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

Dr. & Mrs. Sargent Cheever
In Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Hillman

Daryl Chubeck
In Memory of
Donald Chubeck

Montague R. Cooke
In Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Cooke

Sandra F. Dobler

Leona K. Fisher
In Memory of
William A. Fisher

Mr. & Mrs. James A. Frank

Grace R. Gates
In Memory of
Mrs. Mary G. Briggs

Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. Geltz

Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. Getty

Mr. & Mrs. W. P. Getty, III
In Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. James O. Flower

Mr. Charles C. Hewitt
In Memory of
Mrs. Marion M. Hewitt

Marcia Campbell Hobaugh & Donald L. Hobaugh
In Memory of
Arthur B. Campbell
&
E. Russell Hobaugh

Birda Jones
In Memory of
Rev. L. G. McLeod

Junior League of Pittsburgh

Mrs. Kenneth Kearney
In Memory of
Mr. Kenneth K. Kearney

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kunkle
In Memory of
Mr. John H. Kunkle
&
Dr. John S. Silvis, Jr.

Linden Garden Club

John Maegle Family
In Memory of
Margaret B. Proch

Grace Z. Melassonos
In Memory of
Dr. John C. Melassonos
&
Joseph, John & Lenore Zurlinden

Richard King Mellon Foundation

Nell Nickerson

Valentina Petrone

Mr. & Mrs. John D. Price, Jr.
In Memory of
Mrs. Richard B. Proch
&
Mrs. Karoline Schmaus

Anna E. Retterer
In Memory of
Mrs. Priscilla Goodale
&
Irvine L. Retterer

Elizabeth C. Rich Family
In Memory of
Avis Cook Nagle

Janet Robbins
In Memory of
Michael Homitz

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Ryan

Milan Spanovich
In Memory of
Stanley Spanovich

The Alexander C. Speyer & Lillie S. Speyer Charitable Foundation
In Memory of
Alexander C. Speyer, Sr.

Lillian & Shirley Starrett
In Memory of
Maurice S. Starrett

Mrs. LeRoy Thompson
In Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Painter, Jr.

Western Pennsylvania Unit of the Herb Society of America

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur P. Ziegler



WE GET LETTERS . . .

The following letter was received by us on October 9, 1975. Just what its implication is concerning the way at least one member of the public views our organization is unsettling.

Please will you be so kind to let me know soon as you can if you had a patient admitted there from Fayette County, Pennsylvania jail in May or June, 1913. He was in jail from April 22, 1913 to May and June 2, 1913 for assault and battery and insanity. I thought maybe they sent him to Pittsburgh Historical & Landmark Foundation, his name is John Koltes. Thank you very much

for looking through your files, and an answer. Somerset State Hospital and the Somerset County Historical Society have no record of John Koltes being there as a patient.

NEEDED...

Interested person to do research on the Neville House, the family, houses in the surrounding area, and their role in the whiskey rebellion. If interested please call Mrs. Emerick at 322-1204.