

PH LF NEWS

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

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

PHONE 412/322-1204

NUMBER 63

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1976

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

Mrs. Arthur Ziegler
731 Wisteria Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15228

Park to be Developed in Courtyard of Allegheny County Court House

The Allegheny County Court House will soon have a park in the courtyard instead of a parking lot. Originally the courtyard was designed by the architect of the court house, H.H. Richardson, for horses; when the automobile came into prominence, it was asphalted over as a parking lot and dozens of vehicles replaced the horses. The Court House is the most important building in Western Pennsylvania and one of the great achievements in American architectural history and we are very pleased that the courtyard will no longer suffer this ignominious use.

The Sarah Scaife Foundation is donating \$64,000 to Allegheny County for the development of the park and the County will contribute the cost of labor.

PHLF was contacted by the Allegheny County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation, and the Sarah Scaife Foundation and asked to work with the Department of Parks to develop a design for the park.

The feature of the park will be a Romanesque fountain executed in bronze and containing two pool levels and a granite base. Originally Richardson allocated a horse trough to the central point where the fountain will be located.

Pink Milford granite from Vermont, identical to that used in the original building, is to be quarried and utilized both for the lower pool of the fountain and for a bench that will surround the fountain in a design that echoes certain elements of the building itself. The court will be paved with a dark brick and there will be four major green areas containing trees and the ground cover, rhododendrum and dogwood. Slatted wooden benches will be installed and a number of free-standing chairs, movable for conversational groupings, will be included.

The park should become a major urban crossway because the County will open various entrances of the courtyard at ground level so that people can stroll through the court as they proceed from one street to another; the fountain will be visible from both Fourth and Fifth Avenues.

We believe that this will be a major urban amenity for our city, equal to the importance that Mellon Square has come to have for Pittsburgh, and will contribute to the growing vitality and beauty of the downtown. We are very pleased to have been involved in the design of this strategic enclosed public square and to be working with the Department of Parks in its implementation.

NEVILLE
HOUSE



The Neville House Auxiliary of PHLF is hard at work in their effort to help raise the \$75,000. needed to restore "Woodville", the home of the Neville family for nearly 200 years, and Allegheny County's most historic residence.

To spur the fund raising effort the Auxiliary has planned a Country Fair at the Neville House. The fair will be held on Saturday, September 11th from 10 to 4, and Sunday, September 12 from 1 to 5 p.m.

The Fair, to be held at the Historic Neville House on Route 50 at Woodville near Bridgeville will include a white elephant sale, country music, quilting display by Mrs. John C. Bigham, pony rides, refreshments, and art work.

Jack and Mary Squires of Country Squires, Perry Highway are decorating the dining room in period furniture of the 18th century. The antiques in this room will be for sale.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 10a.m.-4p.m.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1p.m.-5p.m.

ADMISSION \$1.00

children under 16 accompanied by adult admitted free

QUILTING CLASSES

The Neville House Auxiliary has also announced plans for quilting classes to be held at the Neville House, 1375 Washington Pike, Woodville near Bridgeville.

Six classes will be held on consecutive Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2:30 beginning September 21, 1976.

Mrs. John C. Bigham will teach the class. Basic quilting techniques including traditional and contemporary patchwork and applique will be studied.

Mrs. Bigham, a graduate of Penn State University with a B.S. in Home Economics Education is an experienced teacher. She recently conducted a quilting class at the Senior Citizen Center in Carnegie. Mrs. Bigham will be assisted by Mrs. Nancy Scott.

Anyone interested in signing up for the courses should contact Pat Wiley at 322-1204, or sign up

continued on page 2

with Mrs. Bigham at her display in the Neville House Fair on Saturday, September 11.

The charge for the course is \$20. and approximately \$5.00 for supplies. The charge represents a donation to PHLF for the restoration of the Neville House.

PARKING LOT

We are pleased to report that through the generosity of Collier Township, a special parking lot has been installed at the Neville House for our use for the bazaar to be held on September 11-12. Mr. Otto Behling, a Collier Township Commissioner, contacted us to see if we would like to have a parking lot and a walkway installed to the house that could be used for the bazaar and also various other events during the summer. We met with him and before 20 hours had lapsed the township had completed the excavation and installation of the lot and the walkway to the house! Many thanks!

CORRECTION

In issue Number 61 of PHLF NEWS in the Neville House Report it was stated that a contribution of \$300 had been received from Mrs. Richard D. Edwards. The amount should have been \$3,000. We are grateful for this fine contribution.

Bicentennial Lectures Planned

"Famous Pittsburghers", A series of 17 lectures on historic men and women of the area who contributed much to American life begins September 29.

Sponsored jointly by Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and the Pittsburgh Bicentennial Commission, the series will be held Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. at the Old Post Office Museum, Allegheny Square West and at other cultural and civic institutions.

According to Leonore Elkus, Co-chairman with Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. of the lecture series, "We hope this series will be enjoyed by Pittsburghers and people of the nearby Western Pennsylvania communities. It's surprising what great discoveries and achievements have been made by the citizens of this area in industry, history, science, the arts, labor and education. We are fortunate to have such distinguished experts and scholars to present lectures about them."

The series opens on September 29 with Dr. Lowell Innes, expert on regional glass of Western Pennsylvania and a former Pittsburgh resident speaking on "Benjamin Bakewell and the Pittsburgh Glass Industry."

Other lectures planned include, "H.J. Heinz, Founder of Heinz '57", "Clinton Golden and Samuel Murray Pioneers in Pittsburgh's Labor Movement"; "John Kane, One of Pittsburgh's Greatest Primitive Painters" and "Jane Grey Swisshelm, Journalist".

Tickets for the series may be purchased by writing to PHLF, Old Post Office Museum, 1 Landmarks Square Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212 and enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. Ticket prices are:

Adults: \$1.50 for PHLF members per lecture
\$2.50 for non-members per lecture
Series: \$25.00
Students and Senior Citizens \$1.00 per lecture

For information call Pat Wiley at 322-1204.

First Lutheran Church Vandalized

The First Lutheran Church on Grant Street has been victimized by vandals. On Friday afternoon, July 23, in the alley between the church and the Porter Building, rocks were thrown through the geometric-patterned stained glass windows of the Chapel, breaking several of the leaded panes.

According to Mr. Fred Neiderhiser, damage was not extensive, and the windows will be repaired, but the cost of restoration has not yet been determined.

Station Square Update

Can't you hear the whistle blowin'.....

Everything is rolling at Station Square.

Since our public announcement we have been deeply involved in preparing for groundbreaking at Station Square and in talking to prospective tenants about specialty shops.

A contract has now been signed with Navarro Company for all of the general construction which should begin before the first snow flies this winter. Our consulting engineers and contractors include the following:

Aubrey Caplan, P.E., electrical engineer
Arthur Shock, P.E., HVAC engineer
J. Fred Triggs, structural engineer
Ruthrauff, Inc., HVAC and plumbing contractor
Ferry Electric Company, electrical contractor

All have been working intensively on the selection and designs of mechanical systems and final decisions on these will be made by mid-August.

Design of model shop fronts, construction of artifacts and site graphics are now underway and construction of these should start soon.

Press response to Station Square has been very enthusiastic. The local media have all provided splendid, detailed stories including a front page headline in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Pittsburgh Press, coverage on television and radio evening news, special interview programs with Mr. Ziegler on two major television channels, and a beautiful color story in Pittsburgh magazine, a publication of WQED.

Even the Philadelphia Inquirer carried a lengthy Sunday story that ended by rebuking Philadelphians for not having the preservation interest and foresight that abound in Pittsburgh.

The Freight House, the themed specialty center is receiving considerable interest at this time. Scheduled to be open in the fall of 1977, area retailers are contacting PHLF to talk about some innovative and unusual specialty shops. Since the Victorian Age recalls the ice cream parlor, this shop will feature scrumptuous ice cream concoction homemade chocolate candies and a candymaker who beats his fudge in a copper kettle. You'll be able to stop at the Freight House for imported tea and coffee beans from around the world. Have a choice of four different kinds of quiche for lunch. Take home toys for your children's children!

We're talking early with interested retailers so if you have a unique concept you'd like to discuss, give us a call at 412/322-1204.

By next June you should be able to dock your boat at the marina and buy accessories for your boat and boating life at the dockside shops.

The Grand Concourse will be available this October for catered private parties and receptions. You'll recall that in our public announcement we indicate that the Grand Concourse would be used as a public festival center and would be available for private parties; bookings are already underway. Call Mrs. Emerick at the office, 322-1204, if you are interested in holding a party at Station Square.

The trustees of the Allegheny Foundation, a Scaife family Charitable Trust, which committed a \$5,000,000 grant to PHLF for equity funding for the project, remain involved daily with the project.

Twice in July the Smithfield Street Bridge did threaten to give us problems when structural defects occurred during the \$2,000,000 rehabilitation now under way but both defects were corrected within 48 hours and the State is continuing its huge investment in rehabilitating this historic bridge.

On July 6, we presented the Station Square proposal to the City Planning Commission which received it with enthusiasm equal to that of the press. Residents and businessmen from Mt. Washington and South Side as well as the City at large attended and spoke on behalf of the project and not a single dissent was heard! That in itself should be an historical event in hearings before the Planning Commission!

Foundation Support for Phipps Conservatory

The Ad Hoc Committee for the restoration of Phipps Conservatory recently received a grant in the amount of \$75,000 from the Richard King Mellon Foundation for the restoration project currently underway at the Conservatory.

The Mellon grant is the largest received by the group since its formation in September 1975. Other foundation grants include:

Buhl Foundation.....	\$15,000.
Pittsburgh Foundation.....	5,000.
Hillman Foundation.....	15,000.
Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation.....	500.
Hunt Foundation - in memory of Mrs. Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt.....	2,000.
James & Rachel Levinson Foundation.....	250.
Freda T. & Oliver M. Kaufmann Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation.....	100.
Bertha K. Blum Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation.....	288.

The committee has now raised more than \$160,000 in private donations and foundation grants, and is currently studying several proposals for the renovation of the heating system. The work will begin in the next few months.

The City of Pittsburgh has performed all of the restoration work thus far with CETA employees, appropriations from City Council, and City materials. Many rooms have been reglazed, painted, cleaned and strengthened structurally.

At the request of the members of the Phipps committee, industry has taken a closer look at the restoration campaign now underway at the Conservatory.

The U.S. Steel Corporation has donated 1,000 galvanized steel bar angles for the restoration program. The angles, used for framing and supporting the metal and meshing used for greenhouse benches in growing houses in the Conservatory, were donated under the direction of Mr. J.T. Hosey of the U.S. Steel Foundation. This donation represents the first contribution of materials for the campaign.

The most recent gift of materials from industry came from PPG Industries. At an approximate cost of \$74,500., the corporation donated all of the flat glass needed to reglaze the entire Conservatory.

This kind of broad based support from industry, foundations, individuals and civic organizations, has made the Phipps Campaign one of the most successful in the history of PHLF fundraising activities.

New Look for

THE
DUQUESNE
INCLINE



The Duquesne Incline received a surprise call in April from Leonard Rothdus of Nationwide Exterior Contractors, Inc. offering to restore the exterior of the upper station free. The Incline took advantage of PHLF's consulting service and PHLF provided drawings of missing door and window trim and worked with the contractor in setting restoration specifications.

The last step was the selection of authentic Victorian colors and the installation of a sign which was designed, constructed and installed by PHLF staff. The Incline is pictured here after the insulbrick siding was removed but before actual restoration work was begun.

WALKER - EWING LOG HOUSE

NOW AVAILABLE FOR RENTALS

A new membership privilege is available for PHLF members.

The Walker-Ewing Log House on Noblestown Road in Collier Township which was donated to us by Mrs. Jane Rovensky Grace, is ready for rental to our members. The house contains a sitting room, two bedrooms, four fireplaces, and a modern kitchen and bath.

This log house in its rural setting and only a few minutes from Pittsburgh provides a perfect opportunity for rest and relaxation.

PHLF members may rent the house by the day, weekend, or week. Organizations and groups may also rent the facility if sponsored by a member of PHLF.

Call Mrs. Emerick at 322-1204 for rates and reservations.

The Walker-Ewing Log House is open to the public Sundays 2-4 p.m. except three-day holiday weekends.

The Heeren Building Tower Clock

Of special interest at the Old Post Office Museum is a unique outdoor clock. Spanning the stairwell between the first and second floors of the Museum, the Heeren Building tower clock was originally a part of the Heeren Building located on the corner of 8th Avenue and Liberty Avenue in downtown Pittsburgh. It was installed at the building in 1894 and four 10' 10" dials in the tower of the Heeren Building displayed the time until the clock was dismantled in 1963.

The clock movement is a No. 3 Time Piece with Dennison double three-legged gravity escapement built by the E. Howard Company of Boston. The clock is of particular interest because it uses the time keeping mechanism invented in 1854 by E.B. Dennison for "Big Ben" in London.

On display are a pair of the original clock hands. The dial being driven by the clock was original part of a Howard Street Clock. Because the dial faces towards the clock mechanism rather than away from it in the normal manner, the drive gearing includes a reversal of direction.

When the Heeren Building was demolished in 1963, the wrecker and Building owner turned the clock over to the Allegheny Chapter of the National Association of watch and clock collectors with the understanding that it would not become private property. The Allegheny Chapter has installed the clock on long-term loan at the Old Post Office and the chapter maintains the clock.

NEEDED...

PHLF has need of old sheets and cloths suitable for dust rags for the Museum. If you can provide such please drop them off at the Reception Office on the second floor of the Museum.

Old Post Office Gift Shop Corner Members Discount Sale

During the months of September and October, the feature of the Old Post Office Gift Shop will be 30% off the regular price of all the PHLF Landmark China Series to PHLF members. This china will make wonderful Bicentennial Christmas gifts, but don't wait too long or you may be disappointed in the selection!

Also featured will be \$1.00 off on Old Post Office plastic playing cards, and a Special \$1.00 book Sale. The book sale includes many one-of-a-kind titles, be sure to get your share!

Neill Log House Plantings

For the past several years friends of PHLF and the Western Pennsylvania Botanical Society under the leadership of Mr. Max Armbruster have been providing us with native plants for the Neill Log House in Schenley Park. We thought that you might like to know what is now growing there.

- VINES**
Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)
Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)
Trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*)
Trumpet Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)
Virgin's Bower Clematis (*Clematis virginiana*)
- TREES**
Sugar Maple (*Acer sacharrum*)
Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)
Dwarf Appletrees (*Malus sp.*)
Witch-hazel (*Hammamelis virginiana*)
Mulberry (*Morus rubra*)
- SHRUBS**
Arrowwood *Viburnum* (species unidentified)
True Filbert (*Corylus americana*)
Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)
Strawberry-shrub (*Calycanthus floridus*)
New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)
Choke Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
Blueberries
Blackberries
Rasberries
- HERBACEOUS ITEMS**
Hollyhocks (*Althea rosea*)
Sunflowers (*Helianthus annua*)
Indian Physic (*Gillenia stipulata*)
Green-headed Coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*)
- Soapwort (*Saponaria officinalis*)
Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicus*)
Goldenrods (4 species)
Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
Sunchokes (*Helianthus tuberosa*)
Adventives that came in with the various plantings, such as yarrow, pokeweed, etc.
- VIOLETS** (Planted in the triangles formed by the rail fence)
Common Meadow Violet (*Viola papilionacea*)
Triangle-leaved (*V. emarginata*)
Ohio Violet (*V. cucullata ohioensis*)
Ruby Violet (*V. cucullata rubra*)
White Marsh Violet (*V. cucullata alba*)
Confederate Violet (*V. Priceana*)
Mottled Violet (Scientific name not yet est.)
- WE WOULD LIKE TO ADD THE FOLLOWING:** if you can help, please call the office at 322-1204.
- Bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*)
Pawpaw
Dutchman's Pipe Vine
A true wild rose (Not double)
Blue Vervain
Wild Grape
2 Blueberries
Trumpet creeper
Another Clematis

PHLF's "Carnegie"

One of the most interesting cultural events of the past season at the Old Post Office Museum was the production of a play "Carnegie". This was a full-length drama in two acts written by a young Scotch dramatist Ian Brown who came to Pittsburgh from Edinburgh to attend the final rehearsals and the first performance of his play in America - it had already been produced in Scotland. Julie Swoyer, the producer, and Peter Grego, the director, procured a modest grant from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts.

TOURS

Bus Tour to Penn Alps - White Sulphur Springs -
Bedford Historic Area October 2-3

Our Fall Bus Tour for 1976 is coming soon, don't hesitate to make your reservation or you may be disappointed as so many were on our Longwood-Winterthur Tour. The bus will leave the Old Post Office Museum at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 2. We will journey to Grantsville, Maryland to PENN ALPS for the annual Springs folk festival, here you will be on-your-own to shop, browse, and enjoy the craft festival of the Appalachian craftsmen, and have lunch as you wish at the many available concessions and rooms of the restaurant area. In the afternoon we will leave Penn Alps and journey on the White Sulphur Springs, an historic hotel and resort at Manns Choice, Pa., just outside Bedford. We will have White Sulphur Springs entirely for our group. We will have dinner and a lecture by J.D. Van Trump about the history of the area, and plenty of free time to just rest.

Sunday morning we will have breakfast, then leave for Bedford where we will have a walking tour of that historic Pennsylvania town, lunch at Bedford Springs Resort, then we will stop to visit the new Bedford Historic Village with all its shops, restored buildings and historic atmosphere. We will plan to return to Pittsburgh by 6:30 p.m.

The price of the tour is \$65.00 per person which includes everything except your lunch on Saturday at Penn Alps. Use the order form below and send with check to PHLF, 1 Landmarks Square, Pgh. 15212.

* * * * *



A Day
on
Rural
Preservation

With funding from the Bicentennial Commission of Pennsylvania, and in conjunction with our exhibition "Celebration of Pittsburgh" at the Old Post Office Museum, PHLF is offering a series of workshops on historic preservation and local history.

The first workshop will be held in the rural setting at Meadowcroft Village in Washington County and will include lectures dealing with practical experience of others in preservation in rural areas and small towns. A lunch, and field demonstrations at historic structures at Meadowcroft Village to examine methods of restoration and see demonstrations of pioneer life will also be included.

DATE: September 25, 1976

TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Registration will be limited to 100

SCHEDULE: 9:00 - 11:30 Lectures



"The Meadowcroft Story" – Albert Miller, Director of Meadowcroft Village

"Environmental Interpretation & Rural Preservation" – Joseph B. C. White, Superintendent, Allegheny County Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation

"The Preservation of a Small Town" – Frank Piper, Past President Salem Crossroads Historical Restoration Society



12:00 Luncheon

1:00 - 3:00 Field visits for restoration technology and uses of historic buildings.

Bus transportation will be available and will leave the Old Post Office Museum at 8:30 a.m. traveling to Meadowcroft via various small towns in Allegheny and Washington Counties including West Middletown.

Cost for the seminar (including lunch) is \$5.00 per person. Cost for bus transportation is \$1.00 per person.

This Seminar is partially funded by the Bicentennial Commission of Pennsylvania.

RESERVATION FORM FOR RURAL PRESERVATION SEMINAR • SEPTEMBER 25, 1976

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

AFFILIATION _____

CHECK HERE IF YOU DESIRE BUS TRANSPORTATION FROM THE OLD POST OFFICE

MY CHECK IS ENCLOSED (\$5.00 per person plus \$1.00 for bus transportation)

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 18, 1976