

PHLF NEWS

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

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

PHONE 412/322-1204

NUMBER 71

SEPTEMBER 1978

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U. S. Postage
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Pittsburgh, Pa.
Permit No. 598

North Negley Neighborhood Historic House Tour

September 10, 1978
11am ~ 4pm

PHLF and the North Negley Neighborhood Alliance will sponsor a House Tour of Historic Houses of North Negley, September 10 from 11:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The North Negley Neighborhood is located in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh. Over 500 houses built between 1860 and 1904 can be found in the area and many of them have been or are in the process of being rehabilitated.

Ten houses will be featured on the tour, the first to be held in this historic residential neighborhood. Of special interest on the tour is a Queen Anne Victorian structure on Hays Street. The interior of this elegant house dating from 1902 boasts elaborate wall murals throughout the dining room, covering the living room ceiling and spanning the stairways.

The murals were discovered intact when the present owners purchased the house and they have been preserved. Although the murals are unsigned, according to James D. Van Trump, architectural historian of PHLF, "The wall murals were probably painted by itinerant artists who had immigrated to Pittsburgh around the turn-of-the century. These painters traveled from house to house in the middle class neighborhoods of Pittsburgh offering their services in order to earn a living.

North Negley was named for Jacob Negley who settled the area in 1800. The Mellon family also settled in this area and Thomas Mellon built a large mansion near the vicinity of Rippey Place in 1850. The Mellon family were instrumental in the building boom that created this elegant residential neighborhood.

Tickets are on sale for the tour at Pittsburgh History & Landmarks office and the day of the tour at B'nai Israel Synagogue, 327 North Negley. You may also purchase tickets at Kaufmann's downtown. For more information contact 322-1204. Cost of tickets: \$3.50 prior to 9/10/78; \$4.00 day of tour.

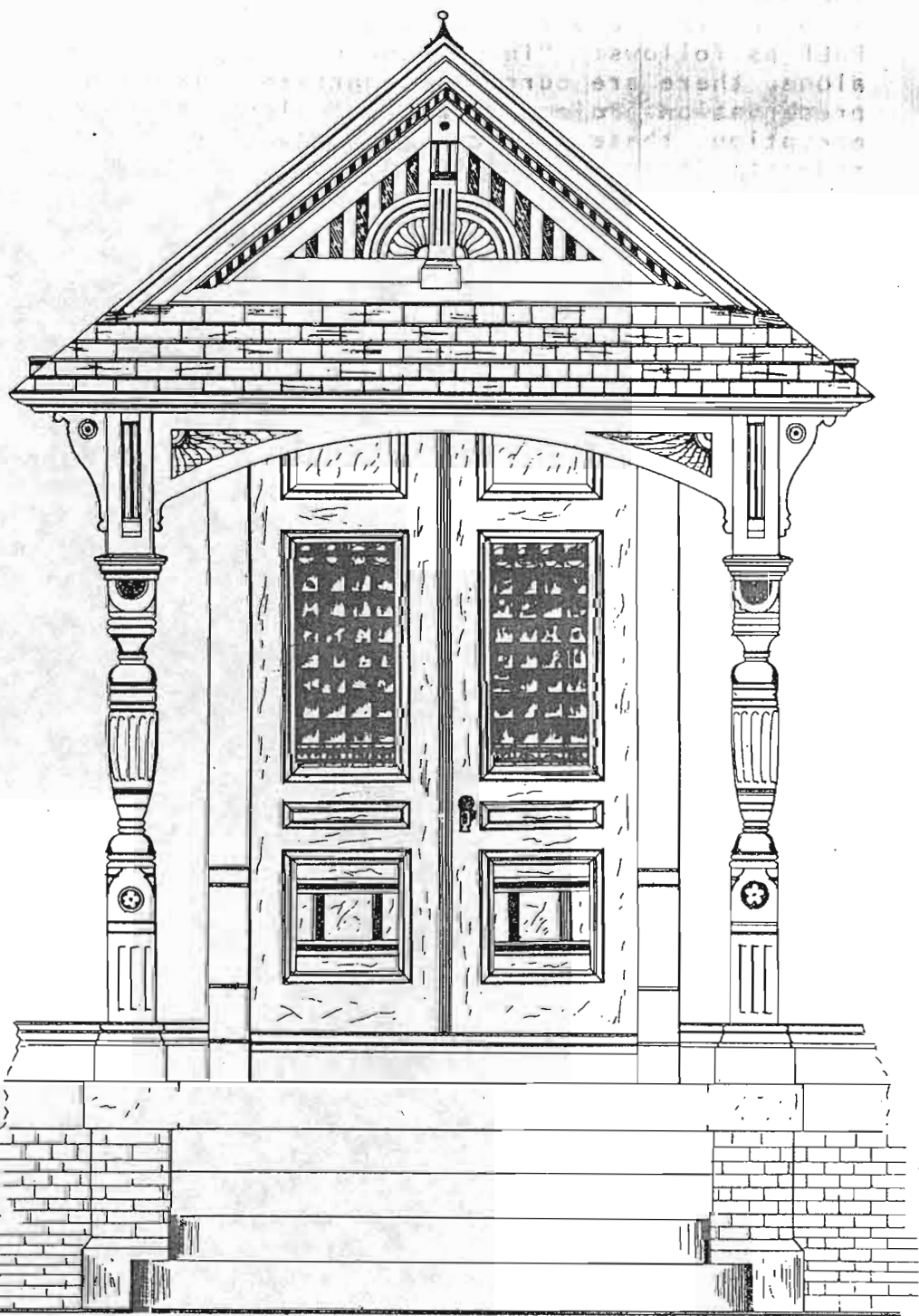
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. . .

We will have need of some volunteers to help with the house tour. If you can help please fill in the form below and send it to PHLF, One Landmarks Square Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212.

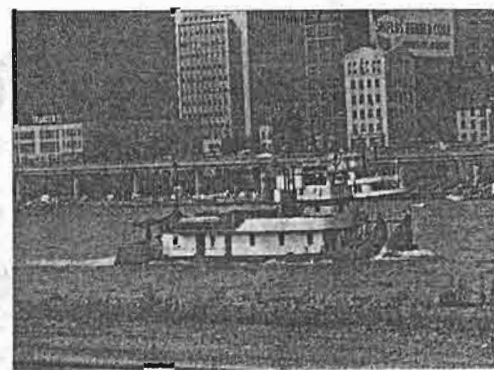
NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

I prefer to work _____ 10:30-1:30; _____ 1:30-4:30.



Three Rivers Regatta Great Success Many Attend Festivities at Station Square



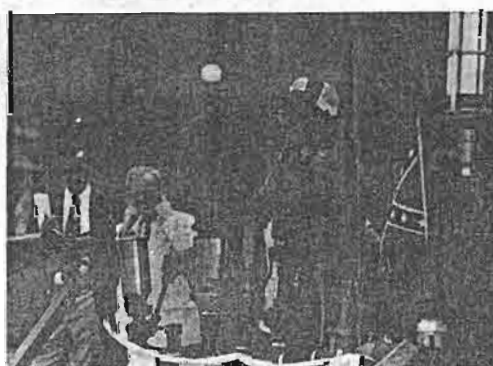
Many people made their way to Station Square to watch the Three Rivers Regatta on Sunday, July 23, and found that it offered the "best view in town" of the river races, to say nothing of being the best spot to hear the Whistle-blowing contest. They also found the festive carnival games, the museum auxiliary booths, as well as all the food available at the food booths. The DeBence's caliope from Franklin, Pa. provided a musical background for the festivities. AND, the storm held off until the races were over!!!

Be sure to join us at Station Square to watch the Regatta next year!

NEEDLEPOINT DRAWING. . .

Following the Three Rivers Regatta, the drawing was held for the needlepoint which was donated by Mrs. James O'Neil, and has been on display in the Old Post Office Gift Shop for some time.

The winner of the needlepoint was Mrs. William Eichleay (Marge) of Greensburg. Mrs. Eichleay is a member of PHLF and was an active volunteer when she lived in Pittsburgh.



National Preservation News

RECENT SUPREME COURT DECISION A VICTORY FOR PRESERVATION EFFORTS

By a 6 to 3 vote, the Supreme Court sustained the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission's rejection of the plan to construct a 53 or 55-story office building on the site of Grand Central Terminal, a designated New York City landmark.

After 10 years of controversy and 3 lower court decisions, this case reached the Supreme Court this year and led to the first Supreme Court review of a local historic preservation law. The significance for preservationists is the Supreme Court's holding that a landmark owner's property was not taken without compensation when government restricted its use of a site it had wanted to redevelop. The "taking" issue has been a major problem whenever preservationists wish to regulate a historic building, and now the Supreme Court has related a historic preservation law to zoning and other accepted uses of the police power. Justice Brennan's opinion gives official recognition to many laws designed to protect historic buildings "by involving public entities in land use decisions affecting these properties and providing services, standards, controls and incentives" to owners and users.

At the end of the court's opinion, it sets a standard for historic preservation laws that will be useful when efforts are made to save a threatened landmark.

ZIEGLER TESTIFIES FOR RECENT SENATE BILLS

Recently the U.S. Senate was considering for adoption two bills that encourage community and neighborhood artistic and cultural activities, promote sound urban design, and contribute to urban conservation. Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., President of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation was one of several persons from around the Nation invited to testify before the Senate Banking Committee concerning these two bills.

The Honorable H. John Heinz, III, later on the floor of the Senate, complimented the work of PHLF as follows: "In my home City of Pittsburgh alone, there are currently fourteen neighborhood preservation projects underway, almost without exception, these projects directly benefit low and moderate income residents, not only economically, but in the very enhancement and unique restoration of the old concept of neighborhood. These projects were conceived, not at the local, state, or federal level, but within the communities, and as a part of the communities in which they are found. We were fortunate enough to receive testimony from one of the finest and most experienced leaders of that City, Mr. Arthur Ziegler. I would gladly volunteer to personally guide any of my colleagues through the marvelous restoration work that he has accomplished. Thousands have visited the Station Square project, which just a few years ago was as abandoned and deserted an area of the City as anyone would find in major, metropolitan areas."

PHLF Wins First Round With Post Office

During our recent summer walking tour in Sewickley, residents pointed out the fine Italianate Second Empire Kramer-Hovis House at Kramer and Chestnut Streets in Sewickley and informed us that the U.S. Postal Service plans to vacate its fine Classical Building two blocks away, demolish this house, and erect a new structure.

We promptly notified the Postal Service that we felt the building qualifies for the National Register and asked that it not be demolished. We pointed out that the building must be evaluated by PHLF and the State Office of Historic Preservation to determine whether it actually does qualify. In so many words we were told to "mind our own business", but we appealed to the State Historic Preservation Officer who in turn appealed to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

On July 26 the Advisory Council informed the U.S. Postal Service that it must proceed with the evaluation of the architectural significance of the house. We have won round one, but there are still several rounds to go.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1978

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

DON'T MISS . . .

- JACK PURCELL'S BRASS QUARTET playing Christmas music from the balcony... and group singing
- LOVELACE THEATRE'S presentation of "The Little Big Top"
- CHAMPAGNE PUNCH and delicious refreshments
- PHLF'S "OWN" Charles Dickens and Mother Goose



RESERVATIONS will be limited, and accepted on a "First-come, First Served" basis.

PRICES: Adult Members \$4.50 each, Adult Non-members @ \$6.50 each, Children under 12 \$1.00 each.

Please use the form below for ordering your tickets.

Mail early! Don't be disappointed!

PLEASE SEND ME THE FOLLOWING:

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

_____ tickets for non-members @ \$6.50 each.....\$ _____

_____ tickets for children under 12 years of age @ \$1.00 each.....\$ _____

MY CHECK AND SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE ARE ENCLOSED.....TOTAL ENCLOSED\$ _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____



PHLF

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.

NEVILLE HOUSE AUXILIARY

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

OCTOBER 20, 1978
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Neville House Auxiliary of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation has scheduled a Holiday House Tour for Friday, October 20, 1978 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Six members of the Auxiliary have generously offered their homes for the tour and each home will feature a special festive party or holiday theme. The themes will include Thanksgiving, Christmas and Harvest Time. Three homes are located in Rosslyn Farms, 5 Winthrop Road, 14 Winthrop Road, 26 Club Road; two in Thornburg, 223 Tech Road, 249 Tech Road and one in Greentree, Chatham Crane, 595 Oaklynn Court, off Greentree Road.

The locations of the homes are drawn on a map on the back of the ticket which can be purchased by calling Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation at 322-1204 or at the Signal-Item office in Carnegie and also at the door of each home. Donation for the house tour is three dollars and fifty cents. Members with their 1978 cards will be charged three dollars.


PHLF Classified

WALKER-EWING LOG HOUSE AVAILABLE

The Walker-Ewing Log House in Collier Township is now available for winter rentals to members by the day, week-end, or week. The house stands on twenty acres of beautiful countryside, with two streams on the property. Our caretaker lives nearby. There are four working fireplaces, a modern kitchen, 1 1/2 baths, and two bedrooms. Rental to members is \$25. per night. There are also special weekend and weekly rates.

FREIGHT HOUSE RENTALS


While awaiting construction of the specialty shops in the Freight House at Station Square, there is a large area of the Freight House which is available for rental for special events. If you are in need of a large space be sure to check this out!



PLAN A MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS AFFAIR
THIS YEAR

RENT THE MUSEUM

FOR INFORMATION ON RATES AND DATES
CALL NOW 322-1204



A Happy Ending Story

For many years the Light of Life Rescue Mission, which services alcoholics and vagrants, and is located on North Avenue facing the park near Boyle and Lorraine Streets, where the Garden Club of Allegheny County conducts its garden block program and where we have worked for the residents for years on restoration of their houses, decided to demolish its historic 1870 Italianate buildings and erect a new concrete block structure.

The three houses in which they are located are an important ingredient in the fine row of houses all along North Avenue facing the park and we did not want to see them lost. Nor did the residents or the North Side Civic Development Council.

We met with their director and communicator and members of their board and the Architects Workshop provided an alternative plan. We tried to show them that they could restore the buildings and reuse them at a lower cost, but for several months the Light of Life turned aside the advice of all of these groups and proceeded along a steady course to demolition.

Suddenly just recently we were delighted to be notified by the Mission that they have been able to acquire another building on East North Avenue which is in excellent shape and will serve their needs well and they are moving to it.

Their current houses are available for sale; interested parties should call the Light of Life Rescue Mission at 321-4716.



News from Old St. Luke's

The Autumn Festival of the Old St. Luke's Auxiliary, held on Saturday, September 16 on the Church grounds, was a great success. Volunteers spent many hours preparing the 18th Century Church and its surrounding grounds and cemetery for the event. Crowds of friends and supporters of St. Luke's enjoyed the booths selling baked goods, crafts, plants, and white elephants donated by members of the Auxiliary. Ladies and gentlemen in period dress worked in the booths, gave quilting demonstrations and solicited membership in the Auxiliary and its restoration efforts. The Royal American Regiment entertained with demonstrations of field activities, musket-firing, fife and drum accompaniment and tales of long ago. The day brought over \$1,200 to the tills of the restoration group!

Christmas cards are available for purchase from the Auxiliary. They feature a color photograph of Old St. Luke's lit by flood lights and luminaries. Cost is 3 cards for \$1.00 or one dozen for \$3.75 plus postage. Call Maude McDowell at 531-7036 to order.

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ New

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

ENCLOSED IS \$ _____ FOR A _____ MEMBERSHIP.

This Membership is a Gift from _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Individual	from \$10.00
Husband & Wife	from \$12.00
Family	from \$15.00
Contributing	from \$50.00
Sustaining	from \$100.00
Patron	from \$500.00
Life	from \$1,000.00
Organizations:	
Active	from \$25.00
Contributing	from \$50.00
Sustaining	from \$100.00
Patron	from \$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."

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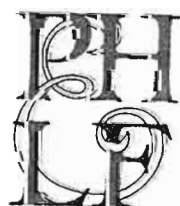
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 _____ tickets for children under 12 years

MY CHECK AND SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____



Gift Memberships are

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| October 20 | Neville House Auxiliary House Tour 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Details page 6 |
| October 21 | Ethnic Church Tour to Bloomfield Churches. Tour departs Old Post Office at 1:00 p.m. Call 322-1204 for reservations. |
| October 27
28
29 | Second Annual Antiques Show in the Freight House at Station Square. Details page 1,2. |
| November 18 | Ethnic Church Tour to North Side Churches. Tour departs Old Post Office at 1:00 p.m. Call 322-1204 for reservations. |
| December 3 | PHLF Annual Christmas Party at Old Post Office Museum. Details on page 3. |
| December 7 | Conference on Adaptive Use of Downtown Buildings. |
| December 16 | Ethnic Church Tour to Strip District and Downtown Churches. Tour departs Old Post Office at 1:00 p.m. Call 322-1204 for reservations. |

Restorationist's Corner King Estate Restoration

The City of Pittsburgh has committed funds and begun restoration of Baywood, the Alexander King Estate in the Highland Park area. Formerly housing the Pittsburgh Plan for Art, the building and grounds now function as a delightful setting for meetings, picnics, and community use.

The building had been in a sad state of repair but the work being performed now is quite thorough including new roofing and gutters, extensive woodwork repair, brick pointing, and painting. The City is conducting a fine restoration; when an additional pair of exterior steps for an exit were required, they constructed a beautiful set of steps with a cut and hammered stone side wall matching earlier stone work on the building.

PHLF reviewed the plans and selected a painting scheme appropriate to the 1910 period of the house when large porches were added. The building was constructed c. 1880.



All That Glitters . . .

All that glitters is not gold as the saying goes, and now that saying is true of the dome of the Old Post Office Museum. In August a team of workmen applied thin gold colored mylar sheeting to the top and base of the cupola and to the four corner dome finials.

The application process is quite simple. First, the copper surface is brushed clean and coated with a zinc primer. The mylar has its own adhesive backing and is applied like contact paper. The heat of the sun creates a permanent bond and smooth fit. The product is guaranteed not to crack, peel, or fade for 20 years.

The copper dome of the Old Post Office was originally covered with gold leaf. Later it was painted a deep bottle green color and finally a lighter green shade. This sequence is clearly shown on a sample of the original copper retrieved by Warren Schweitzer, of the PHLF work crew, from inside the existing dome. In the 1950's the entire dome was resheathed in copper.



Brighten Your Holidays With Gift Ideas From the Museum Shop



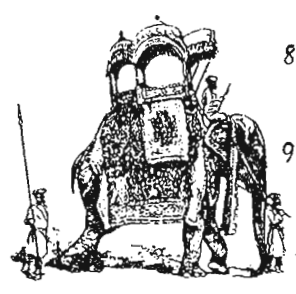
BOOKS

1. Allegheny Long Ago- a delightful 16 page coloring book. \$1.50 (.50).
2. Fun and Games of Long Ago- in the Americana Review Series. \$1.25 (.50).
3. Storybooks- by Kate Greenaway, Beatrix Potter, and others. Hardcover with beautiful illustrations, only \$1.79 each (.50)

STOCKING STUFFERS

4. Coal Animals- little critters made of Penna. coal, 2-3". \$2.49 (.50).
5. Old Post Office Museum playing cards- for grown-ups too, in a sturdy case! \$2.50 (1.00).
6. "Seriglass" Christmas Scenes- lovely designs painted on 3 x 5" glass. \$2.50 each (.50).

Special Gifts



7. Limited Edition Poster- UNCLE JAMIE WANTS YOU! Inspired by the Griffith Collection of Posters. \$25.00 (2.00 postage, insurance). 150 numbered edition.
8. Heavy Brass Candlesticks- by Georgetown, nicely finished. \$9.00 (1.50). Limited supply.
9. Landmarks Plates- Choose from the Old Post Office, Union Trust Building, Courthouse, Ft. Pitt Blockhouse, Duquesne Incline. In rich sepia tones on buff china. \$9.95 (2.00).

Publications



10. "Our Eastern Domes, Fantastic, Bright..." by J. D. Van Trump. \$1.00 (.35).
11. "An Ethnic Church Sampler", good introduction to our area churches. \$.35 (.35).
12. Allegheny- discusses the development of Old Allegheny. Fully illustrated. Hardcover, \$10.00, softcover, \$3.50 (.70).
13. The Olden Triangle- Complete with four illustrations suitable for framing. The large folio volume presents scenes which capture the grand period of building from 1870 til the Turn of the Century. \$15.00 (1.50).

Please visit us! But if you prefer to shop by mail, please send us a note, including your name, address, and phone number, a list of the items you want, and a



check to cover their cost plus 6% tax and postage (shown in parentheses). Orders received by Nov. 15 will be delivered by Christmas. Thank you!

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Old St. Luke's Foundation

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-from \$10.00
-from \$12.00
-from \$15.00
-from \$50.00
-from \$100.00
-from \$500.00
-from \$1,000.00
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-from \$50.00
-from \$100.00
-from \$500.00

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