

PH LF NEWS

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

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

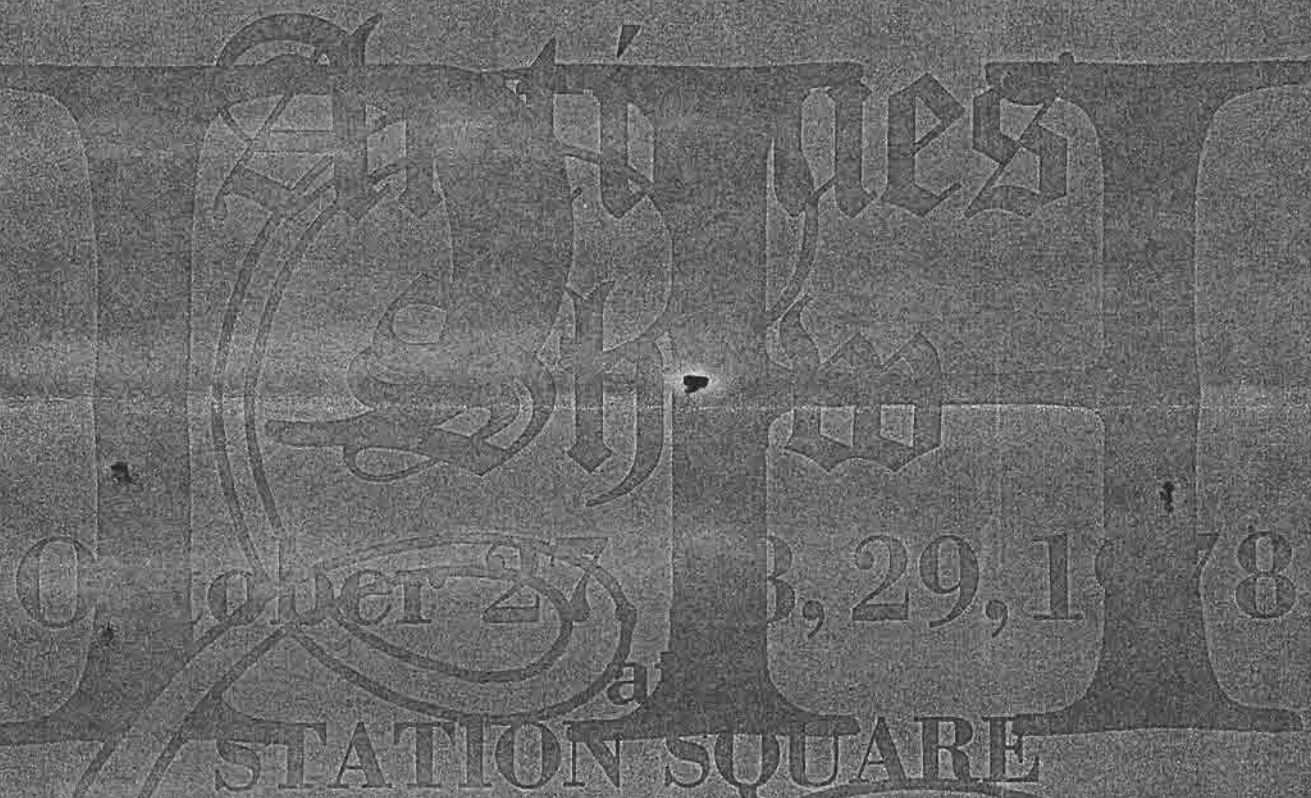
PHONE 412/322-1204

NUMBER 72

OCTOBER 1978

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PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION



Smithfield St. Bridge and E. Carson St.

Admission

Friday and Saturday: noon to 10:00 p.m. Sunday: noon to five p.m. Luncheon available

A partial listing of exhibitors

Felicia Altman Glen Mills, Pa.	Robert H. Eckhardt Allison Park, Pa.	Morewood Galleries Pittsburgh, Pa.	Wendy P. Straub Harmony, Pa.
Bette Ant Pittsburgh, Pa.	Fischer & Strassler Pittsburgh, Pa.	Margaret A. Schler Leechburg, Pa.	The Antique Lady Allison Park, Pa.
Bent Page Antiques Potomac, Md.	Frisbee Street Antiques East Chatham, New York	Olde Antiques Zelienople, Pa.	The Country Squires Pittsburgh, Pa.
Paul Blackford Macomb, Ill.	From The Cutter's Wheel Webster, New York	Old Time Antiques Muncie, Indiana	The Crow's Nest New Brighton, Pa.
Elsie Blair Hopwood, Pa.	Betty Gaines Antiques Alexandria, Virginia	Piper Antiques Jefferson, Ohio	The Cunninghams Denver, Pa.
Robert C. Bran Pittsburgh, Pa.	Frederick B. Hanson Keedysville, Maryland	R & R Antiques Utica, New York	The Lamp Pittsburgh, Pa.
Allan J. Brink Unionville, Pa.	Holly Hill Antiques Reading, Pa.	Patricia Reed New York, N.Y.	The Tail End Pittsburgh, Pa.
Martha Brown Pittsburgh, Pa.	Billie Cole Hosh Virginia	Ellen Hosh Pittsburgh, Pa.	The Treen Shop Zelienople, Pa.
Paul Brown Cleveland Heights, Ohio	Olin King Cleveland Heights, Ohio	Duane and Nancy Sand Stevensville, Maryland	Towpath Antiques Lyons, New York
Peter W. Chillingworth Scenery Hill, Pa.	Kinzie Galleries Duncansville, Pa.	L & M Saul Washington, Pa.	Williams and Carol Warfel Manheim, Pa.
Grandall's Antiques Rocky River, Ohio	Knapp and Farley Hudson, Ohio	Marilyn Shearer Huron, Ohio	Betty Wyatt Antiques Bridgeport, West Virginia
Crazy Horse Antiques Lenox, Massachusetts	Kenneth and Ida Manko Donora, Pa.	Shehady Oriental Rugs Pittsburgh, Pa.	Yankee Maid Antiques Wallingford, Vermont
Sally Ann Decker Morgantown, West Virginia	Charles and Grete Miller Canonsburg, Pa.	Pamela F. Sprong Fayetteville, New York	Manager: Jack Squires 412/322-1204

Antique Show Scheduled for STATION SQUARE

October 27, 28, 29

This year's Antiques Show at Station Square will be even bigger and better than last year's show. Sixty dealers from across the Country will be on hand with a variety of antiques. Once again there will be something for everyone!

According to Jack Squires, noted expert on antiques and show manager, "The Station Square show features universally accepted antiques and we have gathered together dealers who are the top of the line in their fields."

He went on, "There will be something to appeal to every taste and pocket book, and we look forward to another great success."

Dealers from Maryland, Ohio, Vermont, West Virginia, Massachusetts, New York, Indiana and Pennsylvania will assemble, offering everything from American folk art to the very best collection of American Empire and Victorian Period items. Of special note is a dealer whose field is Shaker Furniture and accessories. Antique jewelry, Oriental export porcelain, early Pittsburgh glass, prints and oil paintings, Oriental rugs, formal period furniture like Chippendale and Queen Anne and country furniture are also part of this year's show.

The show opens at noon and luncheon will be available at the Freight House. This year three food services will be available at the show. The Classic cook will be serving omlets, Station Street Hog Dog will offer the famous "original hot dog" and once again the Freunds will serve up their delicious soups and sandwiches. In addition, Chuck Muer's Grand Concourse and Gandy Dancer Saloon will provide show visitors with the opportunity to enjoy an elegant, leisurely dinner or lunch!

The restoration of the Freight House is completed, awaiting the construction of shop fronts so Show visitors will be able to enjoy shopping in warm, well-lighted surroundings. And, if you haven't been to Station Square this year, now is your chance to take a look at the progress we've made: landscaping, new roadways, signs, and of course the magnificent Grand Concourse Restaurant.

PHLF volunteers are needed to help with the following details of the show:

- Booth sitting
- Helping dealers unload and reload (before and after the show)
- Helping with the food services
- Selling tickets
- Taking tickets and distribution of programs
- Carry out and loading

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Limitations on my working _____

Preservation News

NATIONAL AND STATE PRESERVATION LEADERS

TOUR PITTSBURGH

Wednesday, September 20th Edward Weintraub, State Historic Preservation Officer of Pennsylvania and Douglas Wheeler, Executive Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation spent an exciting day touring PHLF's projects.

Accompanied by Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. President, PHLF, Mr. Weintraub and Mr. Wheeler visited Birmingham, Manchester and the Mexican War Streets, stopping for lunch at the Grand Concourse and a tour of Station Square. They made a special stop at the Penn Central Railroad Station and Rotunda, and declared their support for PHLF's efforts to preserve this building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The visit was well reported in the local media.

Both Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Weintraub praised PHLF's innovative neighborhood and adaptive use preservation programs.

In the evening Mr. Weintraub spoke with over 100 representatives of neighborhood groups and PHLF members about historic preservation in Pennsylvania.

We were most pleased to learn from the County that it concurred in the two-lane bridge design, and then unhappily learned that the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission insisted that the County build a four-lane bridge.

Our attorney, Charles Arensberg, petitioned to intervene on behalf of the Chartiers Citizens' Action Council, the Manns, and PHLF, and at a hearing on September 26, 1978, the Commissioners presented their plan for a two-lane bridge.

Unfortunately, the two lane bridge also requires the demolition of Manns Hotel because the County now wants to build it on the upstream side. County officials believe it will result in less relocation of residents and less expense.

PHLF will be testifying at future hearings to see if a compromise can be reached about this important ancient building in McKees Rocks.

Conference on Adaptive Use of Downtown Buildings Scheduled for December 7

December 7, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, the City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning, and PHLF will sponsor a conference on the adaptive reuse of downtown buildings. The conference will focus primarily on adaptive older buildings for residential use. The keynote speaker for the conference is James Rouse, chairman of the Rouse Company one of the largest shopping center developers in the country and the developers of Columbia, a planned residential community. The Rouse Company has recently completed Faneuil Hall in Boston.

Support for the Conference has come from the Pittsburgh Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Invitations will be issued to realtors, developers, lending institution representatives and political and civic leaders.

Mann's Hotel Update

We reported earlier of our commitments to the preservation of Manns Hotel, the oldest building in McKees Rocks. The County has planned to build a four-lane bridge which will eliminate the hotel which also contained the first post office and the first jail in McKees Rocks. Together with citizens groups we have been working to try to convince the County to build a two-lane bridge. In that the bridge connects with two-lane roads that will not be widened at either end of the bridge, the County could save about \$2,000,000.

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Special Program September 20, 1978

Don't miss a special program "Historic Preservation: The Nation and the Commonwealth" September 20th at 7:45 p.m. at the Old Post Office Museum.

PHLF is happy to welcome Douglas Wheeler of The National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Edward Weintraub the new state Historic Preservation officer and the Director of the newly created Bureau of Historic Preservation of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to Pittsburgh.

Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Weintraub will be spending the day in Pittsburgh and will be on hand that evening to report on preservation activities both at the National and the State level.

PHLF members, friends, neighborhood organizations and local government officials are all invited to attend.

Following the program will be refreshments in the Garden Court and an opportunity to talk with Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Weintraub.

There is no charge for admission, however, a ticket is necessary. Please order tickets by using the form below and sending with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to PHLF, One Landmarks Square, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please send me _____ tickets for the Preservation Program on September 20, 1978 at 7:45 p.m.
My self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

2nd Area Railroad Station Restaurant Studied

By MIKE MOYLE
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

On the heels of its success at Station Square, the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation is looking at the possibility of converting another railroad station into a restaurant.

Although it would not be as grand as the Grand Concourse on the Southside, it would be just as important to its surrounding neighborhood.

The foundation recently signed an \$11,500 contract to study the feasibility of restoring the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie station in Coraopolis, which was built just before the turn of the century by Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge, the successor architectural firm to that of H. H. Richardson, designer of the Allegheny County Courthouse.

Although History and Landmarks will consider a number of possibilities for the station, the best bet now seems to be turning it into a restaurant and the adjacent freight house into a banquet hall.

Arthur Ziegler, head of the foundation, said that at present the station seems worth saving and that a restaurant appears to be "the use which would do the most good for the community."

The foundation has reserved the right to develop the restaurant itself, as

it did at Station Square, if the idea proves feasible.

The station is still used daily by a handful of patrons of the Pittsburgh to Beaver Falls commuter train operated by the Port Authority. The station building is occupied by an auto parts dealer and the freight house by an auto dealer.

The restoration study is being financed by the Coraopolis Economic Revitalization Corporation, which administers the county's \$500,000 attempt to shore up the sagging downtown business district of the borough of 8,700 residents.

Establishment of a first-class restaurant in the old station would be important to the borough's economic comeback because of its location along Mill Street, the center of the revitalization program.

At one end of the street is a new high rise apartment building for the elderly. At the other end, between the railroad tracks and the Ohio River, lies a large section designated as a redevelopment area by the county Redevelopment Authority. A second new high rise for the elderly is being built there.

In between is the borough's business district, which like those in other old towns in the county, has fallen prey to the proliferation of shopping centers.

Coraopolis business and government

leaders say they hope the revitalization program will give their downtown a new image, new profits and an improved tax base.

Merchants are being asked to invest their own money in exterior and interior improvements to their businesses. In return, they get grants from the county in proportion to their investments.

The corporation, headed by Joseph Sweterlitsch, a hardware dealer, and Mario Manna, the local tax collector, has signed up about a dozen merchants for the program, and many others have expressed interest.

"Although we want to offer help to all out business people," Manna said, "this program is especially important

to marginal businesses. The ones who are just making it are the ones we want badly to help, and, of course, we'd like to be able to attract some new ones."

A by-product of the program has been closer cooperation between business and borough government Sweterlitsch said. He said borough council is considering ways to finance physical improvements to Mill Street to complement the business improvements.

Coraopolis is one of three river towns selected for the economic revitalization by the county Planning Department. Similar \$500,000 programs are under way in Homestead and Clairton.



Louis Romasio, owner of Station Auto Parts, stands in front of Coraopolis railroad station which is being studied for restoration.

NEVILLE HOUSE AUXILIARY HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

**SET FOR FRIDAY,
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.

Luncheon will be available at Chartiers Country Club from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. by reservation only. Two choices will be available:

Julienne Salad, includes roll, coffee/tea \$4.40

Soup, Club Sandwich, coffee/tea \$5.00
(Tax and tip included in the above)

Deadline for lunch reservations is October 10th, phone 921-3780.

Ryan Homes Helps Neville Project

Charles W. Prine, Jr., Senior Vice President of Ryan Homes, Inc., announced a gift of materials to the Neville House of 150 sheets of plywood and 5,000 sq. ft. of roofers felt with a total value of \$1,378. These materials were used in connection with the replacement of the entire roof of Neville House, the shingles for which were granted to us by Certain-Teed Corporation. As announced in the previous PHLF NEWS, we had entered Neville in the Certain-Teed annual restoration competition and we are one of the three national winners.

This combination of corporate support has enabled us to complete the new roof of this house located on Route 50 near Woodville and dating from 1785.

PHLF Classified

WALKER -EWING LOG HOUSE AVAILABLE

The Walker-Ewing Log House in Collier Township is now available for summer 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!

HOUSE TOUR

The Mexican War Streets Society, Inc. will hold a House Tour on September 17, 1978 from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. For more information call 322-3893.

GARDEN COURT RENTALS

There are still available dates for summer parties in the Garden Court at the Old Post Office Museum. Call Mrs. Emerick at 322-1204 to make arrangements.



PLAN A MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS AFFAIR
THIS YEAR

RENT THE MUSEUM

FOR INFORMATION ON RATES AND DATES
CALL NOW 322-1204



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

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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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Post-Gazette Staff Writer

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Coraopolis business and government

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 10	House Tour 11 a.m.-4 p.m. North Negley, Starting point B'nai Israel, 327 No. Negley Details on page 1
September 20	Special Program on Preservation Old Post Office Museum 7:45 p.m.
October 20	Neville House Auxiliary House Tour 10:00 a.m. - 4 p.m. Details page 6
October 21	Ethnic Church Tour to Bloomfield Churches. Tour departs Old Post Office at 1:00 p.m.
October 27,28,29	Second Annual Antiques Show at Station Square.
November 18	Ethnic Church Tour to North Side Churches. Tour departs Old Post Office at 1:00 p.m.
December 3	PHLF Annual Christmas Party at Old Post Office Museum. Details in next issue PHLF NEWS
December 16	Ethnic Church Tour to Strip Dis- trict and Downtown Churches. Tour departs Old Post Office at 1:00 p.m.

Ethnic Church Program Successful Junior League Funds and Staffs Expansion

The aesthetic charm of many Old World cities has not travelled well across the Atlantic, but Pittsburgh has suffered a harder fate in this respect than most of America's other urban centers. Both the large influx of immigrants and the topography have assured that Pittsburgh's Old World heritage will not be easily obscured. Probably the most prominent reminder of this heritage is the extravaganza of churches which immigrants and their descendants have built on the slopes and summits of the city's hills and in its valleys.

In 1976, Pittsburgh Ethnic Churches was organized with the intention of making both Pittsburghers, and visitors to Pittsburgh better aware of the unique and lasting contribution which these ethnic parishes have made to this City's cultural life. Affiliated with PHLF since 1977, PEC recently opened its new office at the Old Post Office Museum and is currently under the guidance of Messrs. James Van Trump, Arcadi Nebolsine and Andrew Sopko.

Two seasons of public tours highlighting the respective arts, languages, and customs of these places of worship have already been completed, but many more are planned since 250 of these parishes can be found in Pittsburgh and the surrounding area of Allegheny County.

It should be noted here that the term 'church' has been used generically by the organization since synagogues and the city's new Hindu temple have also been included as integral parts of the program.

This past March, the Junior League of Pittsburgh chose PEC as one of its community projects for the next two years. League volunteers will be working closely with PEC in developing and offering private group tours and in collecting information and photographs for a projected guidebook. Through these efforts, PEC hopes not only to make the public aware of the importance of these places of worship but also to better assure the preservation of these buildings and their surrounding neighborhoods. The League has allocated \$5,000. to this program.

A brochure featuring a cross section of these parishes is currently under production and scheduled for release in October. A new season of public tours will begin on Saturday, October 21 with a trip to Bloomfield Churches. (Call 322-1204 for reservations). For more information on private group tours, call 366-0641 or 563-0273).

Restorationist's Corner

Restoration of the Grand Concourse

The dramatic interior of the main waiting room at Station Square is truly a restoration of the original. The colors, textures, and surfaces have been cleaned and refinished faithful to the original painting contractor's work. In most restoration work one must uncover layer upon layer of paints and varnishes added over the first surface by the demands of changing tastes in decorating. The investigation is painstaking and often inconclusive since previous owners may have elected just to redo the walls or just the woodwork or perhaps remove entirely an earlier wall-paper to replace it with a new one.

The Grand Concourse faced none of these problems. From the day in 1901 that the painters put the finishing touches on the glazing, gilding and stenciling the room simply stood - no keeping up with the times, no employing of decorators to revamp an image, no dramatic change in ownership eager to make its stamp on the most visible architectural display of the railroad.

The room was not, however, immune from the soot and grime and smoke which was so prevalent until recent times. A photograph taken only twelve years after the buildings' construction shows the pale brown exterior brick and sandstone trim a uniformly dingy black color; some of this soot found its way to the interior.

The workhorse of the restoration work, carried out by the A.J. Vater Co., was the thorough but safe cleaning solution, tri sodium phosphate. This removed the soot and grime which had accumulated without damaging the original surface. Suddenly the room took on a much lighter and vari-colored appearance. The dark brown framework supporting the stained glass vault became a soft fawn color, the bands of egg and dart moulding and the guilloche ornament on the major vault ribs showed their original colors of deep green and red and gold.

The bland strip of fascia containing the lights at the base of the vault proved to be an elaborate painting on canvas and previously almost invisible stenciling on the end wall of the vault appeared for all to see. The plaster columns which had been painted expertly to resemble marble were washed, repaired and remarbelized where necessary, and reglazed; so skillful is the marbelizing that real marble would find it difficult to compete with this bold imposter.

Once the surfaces were cleaned the restoration work included repainting of the pale brown and green colors on the flat areas of the ceiling and walls, and repainting stenciling and ornamentation which had been damaged by roof leaks. A clear coat of lacquer returned the lustre to the polychrome moldings and fresh varnishing restored the woodwork to its first warm glow. The result is a lighter, brighter, more colorful room than we have become accustomed to in the past few years, but a room that would appear to a visiting rail passenger from 1901 as if time had stood still.

Season's Greetings from Old St. Luke's

The Old St. Luke's Auxiliary of PHLF is offering greeting cards this holiday season with profits benefiting the restoration of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Scott Township. The cards feature a colored evening photograph of the church decorated for Christmas.

For information on how to order, call: Maude McDowell at 531-7036.

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.....	from \$10.00
Wife.....	from \$12.00
.....	from \$15.00
g.....	from \$50.00
.....	from \$100.00
.....	from \$500.00
.....	from \$1,000.00
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