

PH LF NEWS

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

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*Joanne Metzger
7730 Cliffbrook Dr.
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Geta goodie through hall of fame magazine...
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Mr. & Mrs. C. Hax McCullough, Jr.
240 West Chapel Ridge Road
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15238

LANDMARKS DAY AT MEADOWCROFT VILLAGE



The annual "Concert on the Green" is coming. Two exciting days of traditional American music highlight the event on July 19 and 20 at Meadowcroft Village in Avella, PA, Washington County.

The Village opens for touring at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 19. Music will begin at 1:00 p.m. with performances by Charlie Monticello and his Mountain Express and George Balderose with the Thompson Highland Dancers.

On Sunday, July 20, the Village opens at 1 p.m., with music commencing at 1:30. The day will be filled with song and dance performed by DEVILISH MERRY and the Coal Country Cloggers

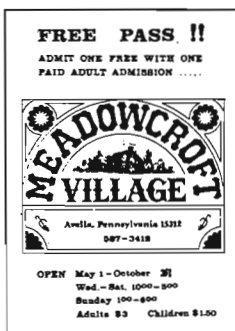
The Concert on the Green will close at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. Regular Village admission will be charged, but there is no additional fee for these great days of music.

Meadowcroft Village is a dispersed rural 19th Century community filled with a fascinating array of restored log houses, general stores, barns, schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, and carriage collection.

An added attraction this year is the Country Kitchen, with reasonable priced food, perfect for a picnic under the trees. The menu includes everything from hot dogs and hamburgers to fried chicken and homemade pie.

Meadowcroft Village is operated by the Meadowcroft Foundation, a non-profit organization, and managed by Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

Rt. 50 to Avella, turn left, follow signs



Kids at Meadowcroft

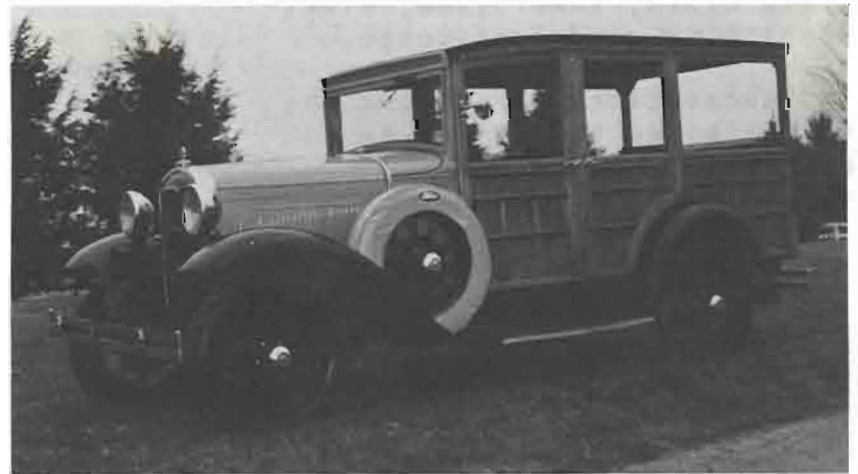


Meadowcroft Village was visited by more than 8, school children during May and June of this year. From schools throughout Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio, the kids literally had the run of the place.

They participated in hands-on experiences such as crafts, log splitting, planting, apple-coring, soap making, as well as reenacting pioneer children's games.

A few of them are pictured here. You'll note that their teachers gladly joined in on the fun.

You Could Own This Car



You could be the proud owner of this 1930 Model Ford Station Wagon, donated by the great horseman Delvin Miller, to Meadowcroft Village. Proceed from the sale benefit Meadowcroft Village's capital improvements program and general operating fund.

Tickets are available at the Old Post Office Gift Shop, or anywhere you see the car as it travels from festival to festival this summer. Tickets cost \$2.00 each, or 3 for \$5.00. The drawing will be held on August 9, 1980 at the Meadows. You need not be present to win.

NEVILLE HOUSE: More Archaeological Excavations and Discoveries

In June 1977, PHLF NEWS reported on the first archaeological excavation at "Woodville", the late 18th Century farmstead of the Neville family, built in the Virginian Vernacular style. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, "Woodville" is the ancestral home of one of the most aristocratic and Federalist families of the nation, and is one of Allegheny County's oldest most historic residences. Acquired by PHLF in early 1974, the house is now undergoing restoration through the fundraising efforts of our Neville House Auxiliary, and through grants from the Department of the Interior, Certainteed Corporation, Ryan Homes, and other local corporations and individuals.

From November 17-24, 1978, the University of Pittsburgh Archaeological Research Team conducted the second series of excavations. Johnson and Carlisle under the direction of James B. Richardson, III, Chairman of the Department of Anthropology, performed the field work. The photo shows Johnson and Carlisle by the trench in their main area of study along the northwest wall of the Neville House. The purpose of the dig was to study this area before PHLF leveled the small mound there which has caused drainage problems for this side of the house. In addition, the work included an on-site inspection of the dump located near the house to determine the impact of the construction work by the Army Corps of Engineers which removed a portion of the dump last year.

Trenches were dug in the study area, and string grids were superimposed with each small square measuring 6" x 6" to insure that the walkways could be accurately



replaced following ground leveling operations.

Trench units adjacent to the frame covered log portion of the Neville House were opened first since it was thought that this area would most likely yield artifacts from the Neville family's occupation of the house. Interestingly enough, this was not the case, as the area had fallen prey to many earlier needed excavations for a concrete drain, sewer line, electrical line, and lamp posts.

The excavations throughout the site yielded the following conclusions:

1) That the ridge being studied was composed of a brick and rubble fill, perhaps associated with one of the phases of construction of the house. Other features indicated a possible previous road and approach to the house which may have been a cinder paved drive which encircled the house. The artifacts, pictured below, and at right were uncovered in the brick and rubble fill, and may date to the earliest Neville family occupation of the house.

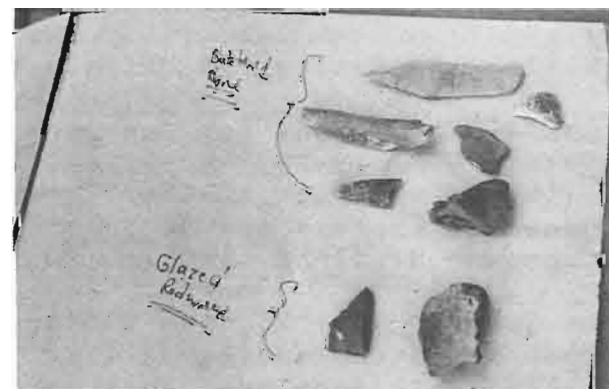


2) The present excavations sustained the basic sequence of soil horizons (strata of soil which correspond to time and cultural sequences) defined in the June 1977 dig.

3) A subterranean sandstone feature seemingly represents a now buried walkway extending under (and therefore predating) the addition on the northwest side of the house.

4) A well made projectile point of the Middle Woodland (A.D. 0-800) time period demonstrates that prehistoric scatters of material are deposited at the site.

Inspection of the nearby dump gave clear evidence that the Army Corps of Engineers activities did result in the partial removal of this important archaeological feature. An estimated 20-30% of the dump had been unsystematically removed.



The study recommended that this area be excavated at the earliest possible time. This third set of excavations took place in the fall of 1979. We will report on this latest series of excavations in a future edition of PHLF NEWS.

Our thanks to James B. Richardson III, Ronald Carlisle, William Johnson; and to Harry Hull for the photographs.

Old Post Office Fashion Collection Reviewed

In March of this year at Mrs. David Genter's request, Cathryn J. McElroy, curator of Decorative Arts at the William Penn Memorial Museum reviewed the costume collection of the Old Post Office Museum. Here through the courtesy of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Ms. McElroy spent three days reviewing over 1500 items of historical costumes, and in her subsequent report made recommendations regarding collection limits, storage, and conservation. Ms. McElroy was assisted by Mrs. Genter and Mr. Weidner.

Anyone interested in volunteering to assist with work on the costume collection please call Greg Weidner at 322-1204.



William C. Johnson and Ronald C. Carlisle of the University of Pittsburgh Archaeological Research Program at the northwest corner of Neville House.



Phipps Conservatory Institutes Docent Program

The Committee for the Restoration of Phipps Conservatory in conjunction with the City of Pittsburgh has begun a training course for volunteer guides for Phipps Conservatory. The first class has recently graduated, and the program will begin on July 14.

Public tours for individual visitors without reservations will be conducted on Mondays through Thursdays, twice daily at noon and 1:00 p.m. (excluding holidays). Prearranged group tours can be scheduled by calling 255-2376, a two week advance reservation is necessary.

Langenheim House Restoration Completed



THE LANGENHEIM HOUSE BEFORE AND AFTER RESTORATION

On May 6 over 100 people gathered on Liverpool Street in Manchester to celebrate the restoration of 1315 Liverpool Street, the Langenheim House.

Attending the ceremony were Manchester residents, Stanley Lowe Executive Director and Ron Suber President of the Manchester Citizens Corporation, Mayor Richard S. Caliguiri, Paul Chin of HUD, George M. Brady, Jr., President of the National Housing Partnership, and Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.

The house has been restored into eight one-bedroom apartments by Tom Mistick & Sons, Inc., and the National Housing Partnership. Seven of the eight apartments have already been rented to existing Manchester residents including one woman who is 100 years old and the oldest resident of the community.

Tom Mistick & Sons, Inc., Manchester residents and builders who have been actively involved in the Manchester restoration program completed the extensive renovation.

The property was purchased from PHLF by the Misticks. PHLF originally purchased this large house to save it from demolition in 1967. At that time the proposed restoration costs of \$85,000 were considered to be too high and PHLF struggled for many years to obtain funds to restore the building. Finally, 2 years ago PHLF obtained a Section 8 Rental Subsidy for the structure, drew up plans and still was unable to find sufficient funding for restoration. By that time the restoration costs were \$345,000!

The Mistick Brothers approached PHLF to buy the structure and to restore the building into the eight units for Manchester residents that PHLF had originally planned. Using the original Section 8 commitment, they were able to obtain financing for the now \$400,000 restoration from the Tandem Program of the government National Mortgage Association through the Pittsburgh National Bank in partnership with the National Housing Partnership of Washington, D.C.

The Langenheim House has always been a symbol of the Manchester Restoration Program. PHLF first met with Manchester residents to discuss the preservation of this historic neighborhood on the steps of this house thirteen years ago. Built between 1882-84 for Gustave Langenheim, the building stands at the center of the 1300 block of Liverpool Street, the finest block of Victorian houses in the City.

1980 River Regatta Activities

The third annual Pittsburgh Three Rivers Regatta will be held from August 4-10 this year. On Sunday, August 10, we'll celebrate at Station Square with booths by our restoration auxiliaries, a band concert, specialty food vendors, street theatre, and more. Watch for more details in ALL ABOARD.

First Phase Restoration Work of Neville House Nears Completion

With the final coats of paint applied by our restoration crew last May, the first phase of the restoration of the Neville House comes to a close. The \$22,000 project, half funded by the Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service included installation of a new shingle roof, donated by the Certainteed Corporation and Ryan Homes, new gutters and downspouts, stabilization of the interior floor structure which had split, rotted, and been attacked by termites, and complete restoration and repainting of the exterior woodwork.

During the roofing work all of the old roof sheathing was exposed and we were able to document the patterns of boards and nailings which gave us clues to the development of the house. Also, during the work we discovered a section of the original wood shingle roof and its cornice hidden under the newly extended roof of the porches which were added in 1846. A section of this handsome cornice and roof is now open to public view where we removed a section of the porch ceiling. Although there is more research to be done on the interior work that we have done so far points to at least three major building stages; first there was a small one roof log structure at the south end of the present building, then the building was considerably enlarged with a center hall and two rooms under a very steep roof, that roof being the section which we have uncovered the wood shingles and the cornice. Then, in the 1940's the trellised porch was added on the east side of the house and rear rooms onto the west side of the house at which point the roof was extended and its lower slope flattened.

In conjunction with the work we conducted an extensive paint analysis which shows the wood siding to have fifteen coats of paint and the window trim to have seventeen to eighteen coats of paint. The earliest color of the house proved to be all white followed by white siding with dark green woodwork and porch trellis, followed by a series of mid Victorian colors including pale green siding with dark brown trim and medium brown siding with white trim. For the last seven paint coats, since about 1900, the house assumed its present color of yellow siding with some white trim and that is the color that it has been repainted.

The restoration, supported by the Neville House Auxiliary, has been challenging but rewarding and we look forward to the next phase.



1980 Neville House Country Fair

The reopening of Neville House will be celebrated the weekend of September 5 and 6 with a country fair atmosphere planned by the Neville House Auxiliary to delight people of all ages. Auxiliary members will be on hand to give tours of the house, sell homemade crafts, jellies, canned goods, freshly baked cookies, pies and cakes, Christmas items, and to conduct a white elephant sale. Light refreshments will be available.

Games and fun for children are also planned for grounds of this historic house. The days proceeds will benefit the Neville House restoration campaign. The house has undergone considerable exterior restoration, and the grounds have been the location of several archaeological digs. More on these subjects appear in other articles in this issue.

Admission to the Country Fair will be \$1.00 per person. Children under 12 will be admitted free but all children must be accompanied by an adult.

The Neville House is located on Old Washington Pike (Route 50) near Bridgeville. The hours of the Country Fair are: Saturday, September 5, 10 a.m. til 5 p.m.; Sunday, September 6, 12 til 4 p.m.

Old Post Office Museum Repointed



As part of the \$40,000 improvement undertaken at the Old Post Office Museum with 50% funding from the Federal Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service, this June all of the granite masonry was repointed. The pointing, or mortar joints between the pieces of stone, had deteriorated considerable since the building was last repointed in 1970. Damage was especially bad around all of the projecting cornices which experience a considerable amount of water along the top edges during rainfall and which accumulate snow and ice during the winter. The present work, which is being undertaken by the Mariani & Richards Company, replaced the pointing of the tops of all the ledges with special industrial strength sealant, similar to caulking, which has superior weathering characteristics to standard mortar in these highly exposed locations. The sealant was used only on the tops of the ledges so that all of this would be entirely invisible to the viewer looking at the facade of the building.

All of the other mortar joints were repointed with the mortar mixed to match the original mortar used in the building. Our laboratory analysis proved that the first mortar contained one part of Portland Cement, two and a half parts of lime, and three parts of sand. This mortar mix is not all that dissimilar from the present building mortar but it does contain slightly more lime that is used today. Also the analysis showed that the original mixture contained iron oxide impurities which gave the mortar a slightly buff color so a slight amount of coloring had to be added to the mix to make the new mortar match the old.

The work was undertaken by an experienced crew of three men working from ladders and scaffolding under the direction of our building restoration department who determined the extent of the work necessary in each area of the building.

This work along with the roof and gutter work performed last year now makes the exterior of the building completely weathertight with a long expected life needing nothing other than routine cleaning and maintenance.

Neill Log House News

The Neill Log House (built c. 1780) in Schenley Park is still in our custody, and we are endlessly grateful to Max Armbruster of the Botanical Society of Western PA for continuing to care for the grounds. With the first good breezes of spring, Mr. Armbruster placed egg cases of wasps and praying mantises (both harmless to man) on the grounds to feed on aphids and other insects that destroyed much of the plant material last year. He also cut down the dead stocks of last year's growth and has continued to plant the wild grape, green headed king flower, choke cherry, bitter night shade, wild aster, hollyhocks, spice bushes, and all of the other native plants on the grounds and attend to them.



Mr. Armbruster has reached the ripe age of 79 and needs assistance in this summer work. If you can help him, please feel free to call him direct at 441-1119.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | |
|-----------|-------|--|
| July | 8 | 12:45 Frank Ostrowski and t Opera Orchestra, free conce Court - Station Square |
| July | 19-20 | Concert On The Green - Mead Details on page 1 |
| August | 4-10 | Three Rivers Regatta |
| August | 16 | Old St. Luke's Festival 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. |
| September | 6-7 | American Heritage Days Meadowcroft Village |
| September | 14 | Walking Tour 2:00 p.m. - SH |
| October | 11-12 | Corn Husk Festival - Meadow |
| October | 17-19 | PHLF Antiques Show |

Puppet Exhibit at Old Post Office

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks is happy to h
at the Old Post Office Museum the display of
Marionette Company's puppets from around the
puppets will be exhibited until July 28 in t

The display emphasizes one of the American F
of puppetry, Tony Sarg. An English illustra
Tony Sarg brought about the refinement of th
this country as well as being the originator
balloons used in Macy's parades.

Old St. Luke's Auxiliary News

The Reverend Victor Zuck is the new leader o
Luke's Auxiliary, working to restore the hi
near Bridgeville. Stepping down is Charles

The Autumn Festival will be held on Saturday
from 11 a.m. til 4 p.m. with a baked goods s
plants for sale, and a spectacular Victorian
be raffled off. Tickets are \$1.00 each and
from Elsie Cousins in the Old Post Office g
10 a.m. til 1 p.m. on Tuesdays.

St. Luke's is open for touring every Sunday
ember from 1:30 til 4 p.m.

NEEDED

- A Hemlock tree (or a donation to purchase o
grounds of the Neill Log House.
- A large United States Flag to fly atop the
Museum.
- Volunteer(s) to help with the Old Post Offi
Costume Collection.
- Volunteer(s) to help with the Old Post Offi
Collector's Corner exhibits.

CAN YOU HELP?

CALL 322-1204

Historic Property For Sale



What a Great Place for a Party!



The Old Post Office Museum and Garden Court

The Old Post Office Museum and Garden Court is a wonderful location for a summertime party, wedding, or office picnic. Available for rentals both week nights and weekends, the rates are reasonable, and you can rent all of the building, or just a portion of it. If your event is beset by summer rains and the Garden Court is out of the question, the Lower Galleries are spacious and attractive. Keep us in mind as you look ahead to Christmas, too. Imagine your guests' delight when they see our 28-foot Christmas tree! Call Mrs. Emerick at 322-1204 for details.



Old St. Luke's Church for a wedding or a baptism

This beautiful stone church just outside Bridgeville is available for weddings, baptisms, and meetings. The grounds contain an historic cemetery, and a fine view of the Woodville area. For information call the Reverend Victor Zuck at 835-7935.

Walker-Ewing Log House

A retreat from the hectic pace of daily life, our log house makes a perfect place for a weekend escape, yet it's close to home - just outside of Carnegie. The house is comfortably furnished, has a fully equipped kitchen, and sleeps 6. Or, just rent it for the day, for a business meeting or picnic on the lawn. Call Mrs. Emerick at 322-1204 for details.



Meadowcroft Village The Picnic Area

Available free to families with admission to the Village, or to groups at a reasonable fee, our picnic area is located on a beautiful portion of this 200-acre wooded site. Tour the restored Village buildings and make a day of it!

The A-Frame

Or, rent the modern A-frame for a weekend of relaxation or a small business conference. It's fully equipped and has a magnificent view of the countryside. Observe the many birds and small animals in this beautiful nature preserve. For all Meadowcroft rentals, call Mrs. Miller at 587-3412.

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

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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."