Antiques Show
October 17, 18, 19, 1980
at
STATION SQUARE
Smithfield St. Bridge and E. Carson St.

Admission $3.00
Friday and Saturday: one to 5:30 p.m. Sunday: one to 4 p.m. Lunch available
A partial listing of dealers:

- The Connoisseurs
- Denver Pa.
- Wall Art & Decor
- and others
- Fine Art Galleries
- Pittsburgh, Pa.
- East End Galleries
- Pittsburgh, Pa.
- North Side Graphics
- Pittsburgh, Pa.
- West End Graphics
- Pittsburgh, Pa.
- The Connoisseurs
- Denver Pa.
- Wall Art & Decor
- and others
- Fine Art Galleries
- Pittsburgh, Pa.
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- North Side Graphics
- Pittsburgh, Pa.
- West End Graphics
- Pittsburgh, Pa.

Manager: Jack Smith
132-1204
Where Have All The Waters Gone?

On a recent damp Sunday evening I had occasion to be strolling along the central pathway of the west park section of the Allegheny Commons in Old Allegheny. It was dusk and I was watching for a friend and had delayed his evening walk until a rainstorm had thoroughly passed on and the pavement was drying out although the leaves still hung moist. It was a time for reflection. The end of the week, the end of August, the end of a storm.

This particular path runs south-north and is emphasized by the great white brick tower of Allegheny General Hospital, illuminated handsomely at its crowning be-columned uppermost stories. But earlier this path had faced handsomely toward a great fountain that stood at its intersection with the east-west path that leads all the way along North Avenue to Lake Elizabeth. There, splashing handsomely no doubt as the Allegheny Hospital tower was being erected in 1926–28, the fountain, as designed by Grant and Mitchell in 1931, announced the elegance of the planning of the Commons.

Just this week a staff member attended a meeting at which a different announcement was made: a model for a contemporary sculpture, locally designed, was being unveiled for possible erection there. It is not for us to comment critically on the sculpture. In fact the Director of Parks for the City indicated that it was for the "neighborhood" to decide, a swift deference by the City to Neighborhood Power neatly eliminating a hot potato for itself. The only requirement of the City for the sculpture is that no water be involved because the City cannot maintain water free of depredations of vandals who insist on using all such pools as places to toss litter, dunk park benches, and destroy plumbing.

I was struck, however, by our staff member's reminder at the meeting that once a fountain had existed there, that among us either never knew or are not curious about, and I refer not to such ancient memorials as fountains from the turn-of-the-century which punctuated many significant crossings in the Commons.

I think rather about how the great Memorial pylons were removed from Monument Hill--thus denuded of the monument but retaining the irony of the name--and re-established at Lake Elizabeth; also the Lake itself in its pre-1930 soft-lined version in the great meeting the water, and its 1960 sharp edged revival in concrete with a bronze fish fountain near the Statue of George Washington behind the Aviary, carried off in the night a few years ago, and replaced by one that parks workmen may have assiduously fashioned out of this abyss in the garage, meant perhaps to temporarily improve while we await a commission for a new one.

Or in the area in front of the Library where once the Workman set reading, a great fountain that stood at its intersection with the Allegheny Center plan whose duty was to reflect the great stone tower of the Library in the water for all those looking down from the surrounding buildings and for pedestrians walking nearby. Its mission was promptly forgotten and sculpture was commissioned, completed, and implanted at first in the water where it clogged the view of the reflected tower, and later, when the vandals triumphed and the water was drained out for what I assume will be forever, to stand in this shallow abyss alone. And now even the central fountain of Allegheny Center's public square seldom plays, the newest and last in a sorry procession of North Side fountains. (The only bright spot is that the Man, Birds and Beast Fountain, many years removed from the Commons and languishing in the yard behind the Aviary, has been re-erected and the waters run, but alas not in Allegheny but in Market Square, where it services the pigeons if not memory.)

As I walked along that early autumn night, I noticed that even the trees in the Commons are falling, the elm blight and other pestilences are taking their toll and only a few wisps have replaced them. I suppose the setting sun could be emptied of trees over the next few years, and I even that forested Commons will be submerged in this swift oblivion of public memory of our very recent past.

Arthur Siegler
At Station Square, we had a wonderful sailboat display in the Freight House Shops, booths by restoration groups and specialty food vendors in Bessemer Court, and a Clam Bake by the Grand Concourse attractside. Thanks to all who participated and at the Cornerstone at Station a perfect gift!

River Regatta Notes

The River Regatta held August 4-10, was a great success. With many new events and the exciting "Anything That Floats" contest, the week's festivities were enjoyed by all.

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Summer Notes from Meadowcroft Village

Corn Husk Festival Yet To Come

Meadowcroft Village has been lively this summer with two special events: The Concert on the Green and American Heritage Day.

The Concert on the Green was held July 19-20, a whole weekend of traditional American music, dancing, storytelling, hands-clapping, toe-tapping and fun. Saturday featured Charlie Monticello and his Mountain Express as well as George Balderose and the Thompson Highland Dancers. On Sunday the Village hosted the popular groups Devilish Merry and the great dancing troupe, the Coal Country Cloggers.

American Heritage Day on September 7 was lively, with performances and battles by the Royal American Regiment. The sounds of muskets, cannon, fifes and drums filled the air.

Don't miss the Corn Husk Festival, October 11-12 with crafts, corn shucking contests, music, great food and more. For more information call Meadowcroft Village at 587-3912.

FREE PASS!!
ADMIT ONE FREE WITH ONE PAID ADULT ADMISSION

Pittsburgh Landmarks Foundation (Pittsburgh) is accepting nominations for their "Preservationist of the Month Award." The award recognizes individuals who have contributed to historic preservation in Allegheny County.

Nomination Form

Name: __________________________
Address: ________________________
Phone: __________________________

Nomination Statement:

(Please provide a brief description of the nominee's preservation efforts.)

Nomination Deadline: October 31

Return nomination form to:

Station Square Preservation Awards
One Landmarks Square
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Grants & Awards

Station Square Preservation Program

A Boost for Historic Preservation In Allegheny County

Station Square is sponsoring two programs to promote historic preservation in Allegheny County:

Station Square Preservation Awards

For more information call 322-3943 or write to:

One Landmarks Square
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Small Preservation Grants Program

Grants ranging from $50.00 to $200.00 are available to neighborhood, preservation, and historical groups for approved preservation projects. Just write a letter describing your project and send it to the address at the bottom of the flyer.

Preservationist of the Month Award

Each month Station Square will offer a special prize to the "Preservationist of the Month." Nominate someone in your neighborhood. Prizes include:

- Dinner certificate at the Grand Concourse
- Gift certificate for the Freight House Shop
- Meal at a restaurant

Just send us a letter describing your nomination for "Preservationist of the Month." Station Square Preservation Awards
One Landmarks Square
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

For more information call 322-3204
What About Penn Central?

The Pennsylvania Railroad Station remains a matter of great preservation concern to us and to many members of the Pittsburgh community, and it remains a planning concern for the City of Pittsburgh. Currently the building is owned by Conrail and its plans extend to demolish the building. The Amtrak passenger terminal has been relocated behind the main terminal building. For the Federal Railways Administration, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, the Port Authority of Allegheny County, and the City of Pittsburgh, planning to convert the building to a hotel but the City made to buy it, but have not been acceptable to Conrail. A number of interested buyers wanted to convert the building to a hotel but the City has opposed that effort because they would like their Convention center Hotel across the street to be built first.

Several months ago Conrail solicited public bids on the building but to date has made no announcement regarding the receipt or the disposition of those bids. PHLF remains deeply concerned about the building. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it has certain protections under the law and we intend that they are enforced. Developers will not be able to demolish the building using any federal money in the process because they will not enjoy certain tax benefits if they do. Restoration, if federal money is involved or if accelerated depreciation is desired by the developer, must be meticulous.

In the meantime both the building and even more importantly the Rotunda deteriorate at a steady pace. Alarmed at the condition of the Rotunda over a decade ago, we attempted to interest the Pennsylvania Railroad in repairing it, and our studies since show that it is now severely endangered by the leaks in the roof and the deteriorating gutters and downspouts. We expect the Pennsylvania Railroad Building to be one of our major preservation concerns— if not a crisis— in 1980.

Old Post Office Receives Grant

The Old Post Office Museum recently received a grant of $12,500 from the Institute of Museum Services, a Federal agency in the Department of Education. A general operating support grant, it is the most valuable kind we can receive, since we can apply it at our own discretion towards our basic services— exhibitions, education, outreach programs, conservation, and security. Out of 1,500 applications, only 405 were funded.

Allegheny Cemetery Study

In June, the Building Restoration Department of PHLF completed a study of the major structures of the Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville. The study, commissioned by the Cemetery Board of Trustees, involved a detailed investigation of each building including structural analysis, energy efficiency and exterior restoration. A total of 14 buildings were examined including the gatehouse complexes at the Penn Avenue and Butler Street entrances. (Pictured is the Butler Street entrance)

The 57-page final report includes detailed descriptions of each building: present condition, estimated costs for the recommended work, and suggested priorities. Cemetery officials were very pleased with the final report.

Warehouse Donated to PHLF

We are pleased to announce that Second Federal Savings & Loan Association has donated a four-story vacant warehouse located near the West End Bridge to PHLF. The gift of the building is accompanied by a cash gift of $10,000 to enable us to make repairs and pay the taxes for the next several years if we wish to keep this structure.

We will now evaluate the potential usefulness of the building for restoration, storage or for rent. The building does not have architectural value although it is a turn-of-the-century structure. We will be determining whether we wish to retain it and use it, rent it, or sell it. We thank the officers of Second Federal Savings & Loan Association and its Board of Directors for this generous consideration.

PHLF Salute to Pittsburgh Industries

What do you know about the history of the great industries and corporations of Pittsburgh? Why are they so great? and what part have they played in making Pittsburgh great?

On October 6th at 8 p.m. in the newly restored rotunda gallery of the Old Post Office Museum, we are beginning a new series of exhibits, film presentations and lectures that should answer these questions. The series is called "Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation's Salute to Pittsburgh's Industries".

The first company to be featured in the series will be the Duquesne Light Company which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary. William Roy of Duquesne Light will present the centennial celebration film, Pittsburgh An American Industrial City and answer any questions that you may have.

Come see and hear the story of Duquesne Light Company's 100 years and join us in our Salute to Pittsburgh's Industries. After the lecture you may preview the historical exhibit and join us for a reception in the Lower Galleries. Members free; non-members $2.00.

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PHLF NEWS & NOTES

We thank the Navarro Corporation for donating a flag for the Old Post Office Museum. In a recent PHLF NEWS we put out a request for a new flag to fly on the pole that is on the front of the Museum, a very prominent place. Shortly thereafter, the Navarro Corporation, general contractors, located in Pittsburgh, donated the flag.

The Three Rivers Chapter of the National Society of Colonial Dames presented its Pennsylvania State Award to Charles C. Arensberg for his service to PHLF.

Charlotte Lane of Washington County History & Landmarks Foundation, Stanley Lowe of the Manchester Citizens Corporation, and Ellis Schmidlapp of PHLF have all been named to the new State Historical Preservation Advisory Board.

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. has been named a Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, and also elected Chairman of Preservation Action.

Anyone wishing to exhibit collections in the Old Post Office Museum's Collector's Corner, is asked to contact Greg Weidner at 322-1204.

Volunteers are needed for selling tickets, taking tickets, passing out programs, booth-sitting, and "manning" the door prize table for our Antiques Show again this year. Please contact Mrs. Emerick at 322-1204. We also have need of persons to help before and after the show with the unloading and reloading of the dealer's antiques.

On Sunday afternoon, 29 June the Foundation unveiled one of its bronze historic landmark plaques at the 75 year old Carnegie Free Library of McKeesport.

Survey 1980

The pace of the Allegheny County Survey continues to quicken! In the first year of the project, we recorded over 2000 sites in the City of Pittsburgh alone. As we move out into the County, we are visiting one municipality per week.

PHLF wants to thank all those members who have donated their time and expertise to the project. If you haven't; join us today! Call Eliza Smith at 322-1204.

Historic Property For Sale

Historic 1835-40 2 story brick building situated on 1.3 acres, located in Kennedy twp. Owners, asking $70,000. Call 331-7869 for details.

On Friday the 13th of June, Mr. Van Trump represented the Foundation at the dedication of the Jennie King Mellon Gardens which were once a part of the R. B. Mellon estate at 6500 Fifth Avenue in the East End, and which is now included in Mellon Park. In 1979, the Garden Club of Allegheny County (the local component of the Garden Club of America), received a grant of $63,500 from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, through the good offices of Mrs. Peter Burrell to renovate and partially replant the terraced gardens on the Beechwood Boulevard side of the 4 1/2 acre Mellon Park.

The project was implemented by the Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center who will be charged also with the maintenance of the Garden, along with the Park Department of the City. The firm of Seay and Rideau were the design consultants.

Among those taking part in the dedication were George Tabor, Director of the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Mrs. Jane Treherne-Thomas, President of the Garden Club of Allegheny County (who read a brief history of the project) and Mrs. J. C. Whetzel, Jr., who is chairperson of the Civic and Conservation Committees of both the Club and the Center. A plaque was unveiled designating the area as the Jennie King Mellon Gardens.

The bi-level gardens with their sweeping steps and high brick walls designed by Alden and Harlow were first laid out in 1911-12 as a part of the estate of Richard Beatty Mellon and his wife Jennie King. Their large brownstone house was demolished in 1940 and the estate itself was deeded to the City in 1942 by Richard King Mellon and Sarah Mellon Scaife in memory of their parents.

The restoration which is now complete, included the reinforcement of the brick retaining walls, replacement of the balustrades above them, working of the brick walkways and other details and a major re-planting of the upper section with winter hardy materials geared to low maintenance.

Mr. Van Trump has been working on a history of the Mellon house and garden, and the metamorphosis of the estate into Mellon Park.

Grants & Awards

STATION SQUARE PRESERVATION PROGRAM

A Boost for Historic Preservation In Allegheny County

STATION SQUARE'S SMALL PRESERVATION GRANTS

PRESERVATIONIST OF THE MONTH AWARD

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For the Federal Railways Administration, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, the Port Authority of Allegheny County, and the City of Pittsburgh Planning Department, we have completed a study on the use of the building as an intermodal transportation and cultural center. Our findings for that use were generally negative.

We extended that study to examine the building for many other alternative purposes and acting on those findings, we sought to protect the building by offering to acquire or lease the building from Conrail. Our offer was submitted many months ago, but was rejected by Conrail which chose instead first to sell the building to a person who announced that he was going to strip the interior and sell the artifacts. The Mayor's office, PHLF, and Conrail opposed that effort; the buyer never produced this person and so the deal never closed. Other offers have been made to buy it, but have not been acceptable to Conrail. A number of interested buyers wanted to convert the building to a hotel but the City has opposed that effort because they would like their Convention Center Hotel across the street to be built first.

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Out of 1,500 applications, only 405 were funded.

Neville House Auxiliary News

The Neville House Auxiliary Fair held September 6, 7 at this historic home on Route 50 outside Bridgeville, was a gala affair commemorating the completion of the exterior restoration and the launching of a new funding campaign to begin the interior restoration.

Auxiliary members worked through the winter, spring and summer months making crafts for the fair, drying herbs, putting up preserves and jams, and planning the day's activities. A very hearty committee of auxiliary members and their services literally scrubbed buckets and brushes and attacked the house with a great vengeance to make ready for this event.

Our thanks is extended to everyone for their long hours of hard work, to Channel 4, WTAE for a beautiful promotional film on the house and the auxiliary, and to all those who attended the event to help make it such a great success.

The auxiliary will have a booth at the PHLF Antiques Show selling crafts and other items of interest.

Old St. Luke's Auxiliary News

Everyone was very pleased with the success of the Old St. Luke's Festival held on August 16.

The doll house was won by Edward Alderson who has already enclosed it in plexiglas and will present it to Children's Hospital.

There were $370 in tickets sold on the doll house which was a delightful satisfaction to Mrs. Paul King who spent so many hours making all furnishings by hand.

The workers at Old St. Luke's wish to thank all who donated and worked for the success of the festival. The proceeds were $2,368.38.