

# The Community Spirit of Preservation

Just months ago, Ben Avon's oldest extant structure--the Dickson log house at 12 Western Avenue--stood sheathed in weather-board and asbestos shingles, slated for demolition by its owner who wished to locate a warehouse on the site. But today, the newly-established Ben Avon Area Historical Association (BAAHA) has secured the future of the log house and plans to open it to the public. Landmarks supported the efforts of the community group by offering an interest-free, six-month guaranteed loan that has enabled BAAHA to purchase the log house and begin restoration. Previously, the ad hoc committee's only resources were its determination and sensitivity to preserving Ben Avon's frontier past.

Following negotiations with the Dickson House owner, committee members Gladys Phillips, Mary Ann Graf, Martha Mitchell, Lou Seifarh, and William Trimble reached an agreement: they would purchase the log house and another portion of the Dickson property where they would move the pioneer homestead log by log. Only the original house, built by John Dickson who settled in Ben Avon in 1795, was constructed of logs in typical frontier vernacular fashion. Subsequent alterations to the c.1797 house included a slightly later stone addition as well as upper-story wood framing. Trimble said that the committee "regretted having to lose the 1820s stone section" but "determined that this was a reasonable compromise to avoid total loss of the resource."

Brad Mooney, a former landscape architect and now a full-time restorer and builder of log houses, provided the technical expertise for the project. Under Mooney's guidance, his work crew carefully dismantled, numbered, and reassembled the logs about 70 feet from the original site and closer to the Ohio River. Two logs needed to be replaced due to deterioration. Mooney's scrupulous attention to detail required that each log be notched and fitted just as they had been in the early 19th-century.

Many log houses still exist in Allegheny County--but rarely does a community work together so devotedly for the preservation of a log house. We sincerely commend the energy and perseverance of the Ben Avon community. Mary Ann Graf, who has been dedicated to the project from the start, reflects upon her experiences:



*By rallying to preserve and restore Ben Avon's Dickson House, a rough-hewn log structure c.1797, residents from the Ohio River community have sparked a revival of the region's pioneer spirit.*

*We have had an extraordinary group of volunteers, not only from Ben Avon, but from Bellevue, North Hills, and Ben Avon Heights. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been most helpful and is willing to discuss virtually anything we suggest since we are quite close to the Emsworth Locks and Dam. The property has been totally taken down, and the log house reconstructed in two weeks' time!*

*You could never experience the delight of this project unless you sat in pure dirt and shared a Mountain Dew or a popsicle. The project has truly been a labor of love for people of very diverse backgrounds. A volunteer summed it up when he said, "The day shift never meets the night shift, but when you arrive you know that other people have worked as hard or harder than you have."*

## Contributions Welcome

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution, payable to the Ben Avon Area Historical Association, for the restoration and maintenance of the Dickson log house, please send the check to:

Tom Phillips, Treasurer  
Ben Avon Area Historical Association  
316 Dickson Avenue  
Ben Avon, PA 15202

## The Henderson House

Striking of site and imposing in design, the Henderson House is finally receiving its due.

The house was built c.1860 on a hillside site high above Allegheny City--now 1516 Warren Street in the Fineview neighborhood of Pittsburgh's North Side. As a large Gothic Revival house, it is rivaled in Allegheny County only by Wilkinsburg's Singer House. It combines the simple plan and jigsawed wood detailing of a rural Gothic cottage with the bold stonework and enlarged scale of a Gothic mansion.

The house had been divided up into apartments and begun to deteriorate when Landmarks assured its preservation in 1975. The property was purchased through Landmarks' revolving fund. Then with a grant from the Pittsburgh Foundation we repaired the roof, restored the ornamental woodwork and replaced gutters and downspouts. But full restoration of the house was assured only recently. Henderson Property Associates, a limited partnership--Horn Brothers and Robert Devlin, general partners--purchased the property from Landmarks in July, with the assistance and support of the Fineview Citizens Council and the Urban Redevelopment Authority. Work began the following day.

Because the Henderson House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the project can take advantage of the Federal investment tax credit for certified rehabilitations. The building's essential historic appearance must be preserved, and significant detailing restored or reproduced.

The developers chose Tai plus Lee, architects, to provide the quality and sensitivity necessary for the project. Their plan calls for eight apartments: seven in the main house and one in the carriage house. These range from moderately priced one-bedroom units to a luxury two-bedroom unit. December 1984 occupancy is anticipated. New landscaping will complement the house and complete the project.



*Landmarks is pleased to return the Henderson House to active use as a showcase example of dramatic siting, Gothic Revival design, private investment, and sensitive rehabilitation.*

## Welcome New Members

We welcome the following people into membership, and we look forward to their participation in our programs and support of our work:

Mrs. Shirley Siegwart Ayer  
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred D. Barbour  
Nancy Bowytz  
Josephine Butz  
Bill Martin Bylewski  
Marie A. Capezzuto  
Jean Cassetti  
Donna Chapman Chernoff  
Mary Lu Denny  
J. P. Diggins  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul K. Dodworth, Jr.  
& Family  
Nancy Ferrainolo  
John F. Flaherty  
Adrienne Goldstein  
Helen Hopton  
Mrs. Ira Hurwick  
Winifred S. Irwin  
Mary Ann Ivan

Anthony K. Kesman  
Kay L. Kotchey  
Argie M. Leech  
Janet Fraser Lewis  
Selma Lifsher  
Carol McCullough  
Diane Metzger  
Virginia Miles  
Gregory T. Monito  
Jill Mowry  
Patricia A. Murphy  
Peggy B. Orser  
Charlotte Gale Seltser  
Mrs. Donald S. Smith  
Miss Joyce W. Steiger  
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Thorne  
Delores Weir  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry M. Wick, Jr.

## Thanks to Interns and Volunteers

Our staff could not have accomplished so much this summer without the help of summer interns Helen Hopton, Susan Willock, and Anne Hollinshead. We greatly appreciated their assistance.

Helen, a senior general arts major at Hollins College, created a slide show describing the origin and significance of the many artifacts exhibited at the Old Post Office Museum. She also initiated a "weeding day" in the Garden Court for volunteers (see the photo below), and provided valuable help with the PITTSBURGH HERITAGE summer workshop and tour programs.

Susan, a fashion major at Marymount College, worked closely with costume curator Leslie Anderson Fitzpatrick. She accessioned and stored new additions to the costume collection and created a dazzling exhibit of costumes from the 1920s era which will open Thanksgiving weekend in the Rotunda Gallery.

Landmarks' publications are selling better than ever, thanks to the organizational skills and creativity of Anne Hollinshead. She outlined the concept for a publications' catalog and compiled a master mailing list of bookstores in the Tri-State area.

Alida Sterling, a trained librarian, continues to work with us on a regular basis. With the assistance of Jerry Kummer and Lois Martin, Alida is reorganizing the library and cataloguing books by subject so the extensive collection is easier to use. Much remains to be done; please call if you would like to help!

A special thanks to the Garden Court volunteers. From left to right: Shirley Wagner, Alice Saltzman, Joan Rowan (seated), Beverly Burke, Judy Delestienne, Carol Knox, Carolyn Fagan, and Helen Hopton.



## Historic Property News

### The Neville House, Washington Pike, Collier Township

On Sunday, September 23, the Neville House Auxiliary is hosting a dedication ceremony for the Virginian Vernacular house which has been designated a National Historic Landmark. Only the Allegheny County Courthouse, the Point, and the Smithfield Street Bridge share this distinction in Allegheny County.

Participants in the ceremony include Congressional representative Austin Murphy, James D. Van Trump, Robert Warren who is superintendent of the Fort Necessity National Battlefield, and The Reverend John N. Yohe from the Chartiers Valley United Presbyterian Church. Paul Long will be master of ceremonies.

### Old St. Luke's, Washington Pike, Collier Township

The Three Rivers Chapter of the Society of Colonial Dames, XVII Century, is presenting a bronze plaque to Old St. Luke's on Sunday, October 7. The plaque reads in part: "Remove Not The Ancient Landmark Which Your Fathers Have Set." This Biblical quotation is well-suited to the former army stockade which was first used for religious services in 1765. If you would like to attend the ceremony, call Edward Reno (373-2184).

### Rachel Carson Homestead, 613 Marion Avenue, Springdale, PA

If you would like to arrange a group tour of the Rachel Carson Homestead, or borrow a slide show featuring the life and work of the noted environmentalist, call Wendy Wareham (274-7408).

**PHLF NEWS**  
PHLF NEWS is a quarterly publication of  
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. ... President  
Louise King Ferguson ... Editor  
Martin Aurand  
Tamara Dudukovich ... Contributing Editors  
Walter C. Kidney  
Jean Hodak ... Artist

# Pittsburgh Heritage Summer in Review

This July, 55 area students and teachers discovered PITTSBURGH HERITAGE, Landmarks' second annual summer workshop offered in cooperation with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. Two seven-day sessions were held: the first combining students and teachers, and the second consisting of teachers only. The days were filled with walking tours, field trips, slide shows, exercises, and drawing activities. Students and teachers gained an appreciation for the history and architecture of Pittsburgh. One teacher likened her PITTSBURGH HERITAGE experience to taking a vacation without leaving home. Touring the Golden Triangle, enjoying a riverboat cruise and incline ride, visiting ethnic churches in McKees Rocks, and strolling through the restored Mexican War Streets area made her feel like a tourist in her own city. Ed O'Brien, a teacher in the first session, and summer intern Helen Hopton photographed these views of PITTSBURGH HERITAGE.



Framed by the Gothic arch of the First Presbyterian Church, students take in their surroundings on Sixth Avenue.



Top: Jerry Juba of Holy Ghost Byzantine Church in McKees Rocks explains the meaning of the icon screen. Middle: A sidewalk becomes a drawing studio. Bottom: A stone lion holds court for PITTSBURGH HERITAGE participants on a Mexican War Streets front step.



## Education Alert!

Beginning this fall, Landmarks is again offering the APPRENTICESHIP IN ARCHITECTURE through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. If you are a junior or senior high school student interested in pursuing a career in architecture, call Martin Aurand (322-1200) to find out how you can become involved in this workshop.



# The Practical and the Fanciful: Preserving the Union Trust Building



It is a building both practical and fanciful.

It was a 1917 business speculation of Henry C. Frick and has been owned by banks for decades. Yet it was built on the former site of a cathedral, and its two ethereal roof-top towers carry a legend that they are chapels. (They are not.) Its design is credited to Frederick J. Osterling, an architect popular with Pittsburgh's business community. But its essential Flemish Gothic characteristics were actually conceived by the fleeting figure of one Pierre Liesch, a native of Luxemburg who was briefly in Osterling's employ. Its bulk surmounts an entire block of prime real estate. Yet its presence is light and airy, its roofline a confection of gratuitous terra cotta. It houses a former banking room, a post office, a cafeteria, and a barber shop, besides numerous no-nonsense business offices. But its public spaces soar into the stained-glass dome of a ten-story rotunda and reflect in the recesses of polished brass elevator cabs.

In its first incarnation as the Union Arcade, the structure set a new standard for office building elegance. It boasted a four-story interior arcade with 238 shops, and generally reflected the prose of the rental agent: "The paramount consideration from its conception being the comfort, convenience, and satisfaction of its tenants, economy was not allowed to encroach upon either exterior beauty or interior excellence and utility. Everything conceivable by the mind of the master-builder wrought out by the hand of the skilled fellow craftsman, has been lavishly incorporated...."

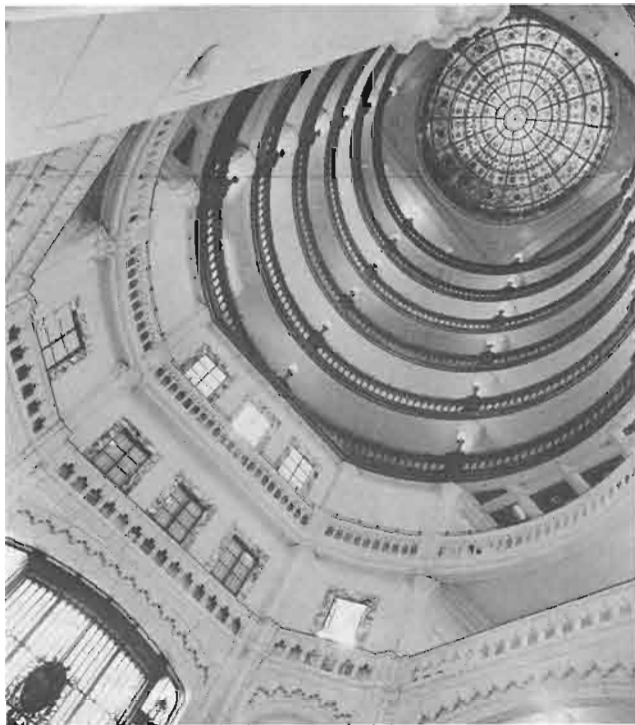
As the Union Trust Building, after 1922, the structure gained a banking clientele and lost the substance of its arcade, but maintained its architectural mystique.

## The Restoration Plans

Now, as the newly rechristened Two Mellon Bank Center, the structure will undergo a top-to-bottom rehabilitation and restoration and assume a renewed life. This work will assure the structure's enduring "beauty...and utility," and indeed its very presence in Pittsburgh.

The survival of the building has never been clearly threatened. But its unique character stands compromised by piecemeal alterations, and its size is overshadowed by skyscrapers emblematic of present-day architectural and economic reality. At the same time, the building retains its human scale, as well as its expressive public spaces and lacy Gothic details which touch the

*The Union Arcade, nearing completion on November 17, 1916 (above), is now undergoing a two-year restoration. The building has been renamed as Two Mellon Bank Center.*



*The ten-story rotunda is capped by a beautiful stained-glass skylight.*

human spirit. James D. Van Trump, in his published essay "Legend in Modern Gothic: The Union Trust Building, Pittsburgh" (Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, 1966), writes, "The building's preservation is absolutely necessary to a humane city."

Now that preservation is assured. It is assured by new owner Edward J. DeBartolo, by lessee Mellon Bank, by architects Burt Hill Kosar Rittelman Associates and Landmarks Design Associates, and by Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. At the invitation of Mellon Bank, Landmarks was an active participant in formulating the rehabilitation plan and continues to act as a project consultant.

When the building emerges from its two-year cocoon of scaffolding, its ground-floor storefronts will be unified in design and signage, its sandstone shaft will be cleaned and repointed, and the elaborate terra cotta of the cornice, roof, and dormers will be restored or replaced. Budget permitting, original leaded glass transoms and terra cotta details will be returned to the building exterior.



*On June 11, 1915 site excavation for the Union Arcade is slowly progressing with the aid of two steam-powered derricks, horse-drawn carts, and a few diggers. In the background, the frame of the William Penn Hotel is being filled in.*



On the interior, private office areas will be reconditioned to meet 1984 standards. All mechanical systems will be replaced. Four light wells, which penetrate the building envelope from the roof, will be enclosed for additional office and atrium space.

Interior public spaces--the rotunda, elevator corridors, and auxiliary spaces--will be carefully restored. Ceilings will be probed for hidden recessed panels and mosaics, inappropriate lighting will be replaced with fixtures modeled after the original sconces and hanging lamps, and the window-walls which currently mask the rotunda will be removed so that its full 360 degrees of climbing space and echoing balustrades will be open on each floor.

The original four-story arcade space cannot be reintroduced to the building. But one special fourth floor office suite will boast the surviving storefronts and stenciled coffered ceiling which originally graced the summit level of the arcade.

## PHLF Board Commendation

Like the building, the rehabilitation plan is both practical and fanciful. It is based on an awareness of the building's potential as a prime business address. But it also draws on a thorough awareness of the building's history and character to dabble in "unnecessary" details. This dual awareness represents what is best in today's preservation efforts.

Therefore, Landmarks' Board of Trustees approved a commendation of the project which reads in part: "Be it hereby resolved that the Board of Trustees of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation commends the Mellon Bank for its plan to protect and restore the Union Trust Building."

## HISTORIC HOUSES FOR SALE *You Can Help!*

Landmarks continues to offer select historic residential properties. If you know someone with an interest in purchasing a historic property, have them call David Kahley at 471-5808.

# Mexican War Streets Survey Results



Landmarks' survey workers were back on the street during July and August, conducting a thorough historical and architectural survey of the Mexican War Streets Historic District. Extensive documentation was not required in 1975 when the neighborhood was listed as Pittsburgh's first historic district on the National Register of Historic Places. So Landmarks launched a comprehensive two-month survey, funded by a matching grant from the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission.

## Significant Findings

Survey findings reflect the density, homogeneity, and integrity of the District. Five hundred thirty-five buildings were recorded, photographed, evaluated, and divided into three categories: 29 buildings were labeled as "significant"; 501 as "contributing"; and only five as "intrusions."

Significant buildings include the Greek Revival Widow's Home of 1838 at 308 N. Taylor Avenue, identified by the survey as a rare design of John Chislett, Pittsburgh's first resident architect, and the small Romanesque/Queen Anne mansion at 604 W. North Avenue, identified by the survey as the former home of Russell Hurd Boggs, a founder of Boggs and Buhl Department Store. Contributing buildings include the numerous late 19th-century rowhouses which line the district's narrow streets and determine its essential scale, rhythm, and character.

## Developmental Pattern Revealed

The survey also identified important historical and architectural patterns in the neighborhood. An east-to-west developmental growth pattern is revealed, for instance, by the preponderance of simple Greek Revival houses (c.1850-65) near Palo Alto Street, the proliferation of Italianate and Second Empire houses (c.1865-85) along Resaca Place and Monterey Street, and the outburst of Romanesque houses (c.1885-1900) along Buena Vista Street.

Lacy cast-iron fences manufactured by Scott and Kenneweg, tree-shaded brick facades along Garfield Avenue, houses stepping up the Buena Vista Street hill for a view of downtown Pittsburgh all contribute to the unique historic identity of the Mexican War Streets Historic District.

Those interested in seeing the complete study on the Mexican War Streets survey project may call Martin Aurand (322-1204).

*The Richardsonian Romanesque style, as typified by this row at 1221-1229 Buena Vista Street, was a popular choice during the development of the Mexican War Streets from 1885-1900 (above).*



*This handsome pair of houses at 1212-1214 Resaca Place displays bracketed cornices, arched windows and hooded doors derived from the Italianate style, combined with the mansard roof characteristic of the Second Empire style.*



*The firm of Scott and Kenneweg of Allegheny manufactured the delicately detailed gate which adorns this fine Italianate rowhouse at 412 W. North Avenue.*

## Major Grants Received for the Survey Book

We are very pleased to announce that the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the Alcoa Foundation, and the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation have contributed to the publication of a hardbound volume based on the comprehensive survey of Allegheny County conducted by our staff from 1979 through 1984.

This publication is intended to be the sequel to *Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County*, (1967) now out of print but still much in demand. Walter C. Kidney is the author of this new book which will contain guidebook entries and photos for over 650 architecturally significant sites, as well as a historical essay illustrated with many photos depicting the "lost architecture" of Allegheny County. With this publication we will:

- present the most significant findings of the survey in a coherent format available to the public;
- focus local and national attention on the architectural landmarks of the County;
- and work for the preservation of over 650 existing structures and sites that reflect the history, culture, and unique character of the County.

## Monongahela Incline

In the summer of 1983 riders of the Monongahela Incline noticed that the wild growth along the right-of-way, which had come close enough to brush the passing cars, had turned brown. It was obvious that a defoliant had been thoroughly applied. A few days later, crews rappelling up and down the steep slope cut the remaining stems and trunks to reveal a broad vertical swath of bare earth, several billion pieces of shale in assorted sizes, a garnish of bottles and cans, and a handful or two of tinsel. What was this to be? A reconstruction of the face of Coal Hill a century ago, when industrial fumes from the river shore did a similar work of landscaping?

Then something fuzzily green, like a sweeping compound, covered the exposed slopes, and we were told that the right-of-way was being planted with crown vetch, the stuff that grows on highway embankments. The rise of the incline is about 370 feet: might Pittsburgh have the highest plantation of crown vetch in the world?

We have not. It is now mid-September of 1984, and where's the vetch? Flushed down the bare hill by the rain, probably. There is green here and there in the shale, volunteer growth of no official standing that probably includes the poison ivy whose effect on track workers was the Port Authority's explanation for the whole undertaking. What will happen next?

## Picture Postcard Society Formed

Picture postcards--the kind tucked away in drawers or scrapbooks alongside ticket stubs and newspaper clippings--preserve more than memories. Collectors have long-recognized their historic usefulness, too. Now a group of South Hills' residents has formed the Three Rivers Postcard Club. According to H. C. Ticknor, members avidly collect cards depicting historic Pittsburgh scenes and landmarks, and they welcome the opportunity to exhibit or lecture about the collection. Contact Mr. Ticknor (531-9113) if you would like to join the Postcard Club or donate to its collection.



# EVENTS' CALENDAR

## Antiques Show

**Oct. 26, 27, 28**

East Warehouse, Station Square

Friday & Saturday: 1 - 10 p.m. Sunday: 1 - 6 p.m.

Admission \$3.00

Now an autumn tradition, our Antiques Show brings together more than 45 dealers from the United States for a three-day event attracting thousands of visitors. Plan on attending! And, if you would like to volunteer to help us manage the show, call Tamara (322-1204). We can use you!

## Lectures

### Nov. 13 Clyde Hare's Pittsburgh: A Photographer's View

Old Post Office,  
Allegheny Center  
8 p.m.

Nationally-recognized photographer Clyde Hare will draw upon his color slide collection to illustrate the changes in Pittsburgh's parks, architecture, and industry from 1950 to the present day. The lecture is free to members.

### The Historical Society Lecture Series

Oct. 10  
8 p.m.

*Extraordinary Men for Extraordinary Times: A Biographer Looks at 3 Presidents--Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Harry S. Truman.* Lecture by David McCullough at the David Lawrence Hall, Univ. of Pgh.

Oct. 11  
8 p.m.

*Pittsburgh Yesterday--Views of the City 1910-1940.* Illustrated lecture by Frank Kurtik at The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 4338 Bigelow Blvd.

Nov. 7  
2 & 8 p.m.

*Lost and Found: Public Sculptures in Pittsburgh.* Illustrated lecture by Vernon Gay at The Historical Society.

Dec. 5  
2 & 8 p.m.

*Native Americans and the French and Indian War.* Lecture by J. Martin West at The Historical Society. ALL LECTURES ARE FREE.

## Museum Events

### Sept. 30 Handycourse Exhibit Preview

Old Post Office,  
Allegheny Center  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Children's Museum invites our members to a preview party for "Handycourse," a new exhibit that helps youngsters understand handicaps. Call Pat (322-5059) if you plan to attend.

### Nov. 30 Costumes of the 1920s: Exhibit Preview Party

Old Post Office,  
Allegheny Center  
5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Put on one of your favorite 1920s' costumes and come to the special exhibit party for members on Friday evening, Nov. 30. Refreshments will be served, 1920s' music will be broadcast, and we all will be able to view the glitzy, glamorous costume exhibit created by Leslie Anderson Fitzpatrick, Susan Willock, and Becky Smith. Ten costumes will be exhibited--the premier piece being a court train worn by a Pittsburgh lady who was presented to King George V and Queen Mary of England. It is a pale salmon color embroidered with silver metallic threads and rhinestones, and lined with silver lamé.

The exhibit will be displayed in the Rotunda Gallery beginning November 17.



**PHIPPS**  
CONSERVATORY

Visit the Fall Flower Show at Phipps Conservatory from November 11 through December 2. The show is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

November 9 is the date of the Annual Fall Gala Cocktail Party from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call 255-2375 for more information.

## Tours: Call 322-1204 for Reservations



The Frank Thornburg House, 1905 (top)

Howe-Childs Gatehouse, 1860  
Woodland Road (left)

### Sept. 30 Downtown's Terra Cotta Treasures

Meeting Place:  
Union Trust Building,  
Grant Street Entrance  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

From the lacy cornice of the Union Trust Building to the striking coloration of the Buhl Building and the frieze of telamons seeming to support the Park Building, downtown facades are rich with terra cotta ornament. Noted architectural historian Walter Kidney will conduct this walking tour of selected structures in the Triangle, sharing his knowledge and observations about the practical and fanciful uses of this building material.

### Oct. 7 Woodland Road

Meeting Place:  
Chatham College,  
Eddy Theater  
parking lot  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

A recipe for Chatham College's main drive might read: "Combine a dash of Colonial Revival, a sprinkle of Tudor, a pinch of Shingle Style; season liberally with eccentric details and gracious grounds." Woodland Road, a veritable cookpot of domestic architecture, is lined with private residences and college-owned buildings representing an assortment of styles, periods, and materials. Landmarks will sample some of these architectural treats, including visits to A. W. Mellon Hall and the Beatty and Laughlin houses.

### Oct. 14 Thornburg

Meeting Place:  
Thornburg School,  
(main entrance)  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

During the early part of this century, college-named streets, spacious lots, and artistic homes built in a wooded setting gave Thornburg the reputation of being Western Pennsylvania's "most attractive and finished" community. Long-time residents of the still-charming suburb will accompany Landmarks' tour group for a leisurely stroll through their historic neighborhood and tell how it has changed.

### Oct. 21 Allegheny Cemetery

Meeting Place:  
Allegheny Cemetery,  
Butler Street  
Gatehouse  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

A walk through Pittsburgh's first park-like cemetery, designed by John Chislett in 1844, gives a unique and rare perspective of the city's social history and customs. Members of the cemetery's historical society will conduct this walking tour in cooperation with Landmarks, talking both about the grand monuments and the Pittsburghers for whom they serve as memorials.

The fee for each walking tour is \$2 for members and \$5 for non-members. Please remember to bring the exact amount with you on the day of the walking tour...and invite your family and friends to join us, too! Call 322-1204 to make reservations in advance.

### Dec. 8 Pittsburgh's Tiffany Windows

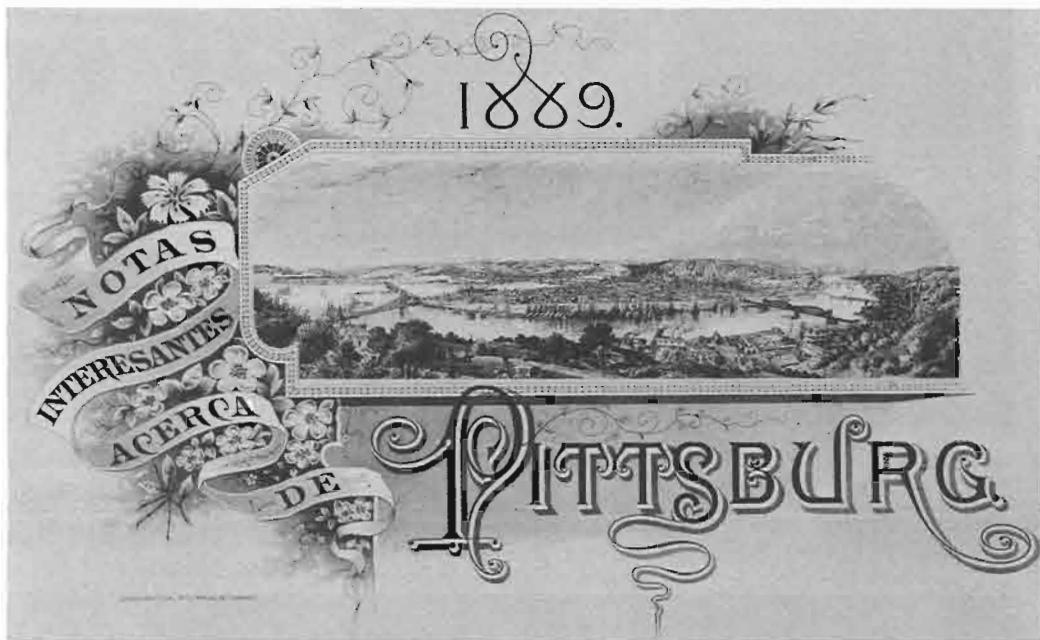
Meeting Place:  
Third Presbyterian  
Church, Shadyside  
Fifth Ave. & Negley  
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Welcome the holiday season with our celebration of the city's Tiffany stained-glass windows. Our tour features a lecture by Sarah Nichols of Carnegie Institute and visits to Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Calvary Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and Third Presbyterian Church. Refreshments and a carol sing follow. The fare for members is \$16 (non-members, \$18) and includes bus transportation throughout the day. Reservations must be made before November 30.

# In the Library

Notas Interesantes Acerca de Pittsburgh  
1889

Walter C. Kidney



The illustrated frontispiece of *Notas Interesantes* with a lithograph of Pittsburgh in 1871 by Otto Krebs (left). The Point Bridge of 1880 (below).

In early 1889 the International American Congress visited Pittsburgh, and the Chamber of Commerce issued a deluxe album, long-format and bound in blue plush with silver mounts, to commemorate the occasion. W. S. Bell's photographs, reproduced by a photolithographic process, and Norton G. Chandler's text probably impressed the Latin Americans, but they are valuable documents too of the scenographic, architectural, and especially industrial Pittsburgh of a century ago.

The first picture is of the *Cámara de Comercio* itself, located in a Wood Street bank building that is declared a *prueba de fuego* although I seem to remember a photograph of its burnt-out ruins. In the caption, statistics are given: Pittsburgh and environs have 3,583 industrial establishments employing 101,261 persons. There are 24 blast furnaces and 36 iron and 20 steel plants, producing one fifth of the nation's total. The ceramic plants produce 23,000 tons of table china a year. The glass houses produce one fifth of the nation's glass including half of its crystal, 42.5 million lamp glasses, and 85 million bottles.

The picture of *El Meulle Monongahela* shows the Triangle, dimly seen and dominated by the new Courthouse tower, with about 15 towboats at rest and several acres of old wooden coalboats, characteristically waiting for the river conditions to favor a trip. Shoenberger's iron and steel plant on the Strip appears in another picture, with the furnaces that emitted sensational amounts of smoke. The text says that the plant employs 1,500 starvations (*hambres*, not *hombres*: the Chamber's Spanish is a little shaky). The Connellsville coke ovens of H.C. Frick, 9,500 of them, appear in an engraving along with mine cars, larry cars, workers quenching and moving the coke, and the waiting railroad cars of the Carnegie Brothers Company. *H. K. Porter y Co. (locomotoras ligeras)* is represented in a plate of 20 industrial locomotives and four steam-powered streetcars. *La Compañía de Vidrio Cilindrado de Pittsburgh* (PPG) is shown with a view of its company town at Ford City--neat wooden double



houses, landscaping of bare earth plus weeds--with the endless-looking plant in the background. *El Puente Point*, the Point Bridge finished in 1880, appears with the Duquesne Incline ascending a treeless Mount Washington that bears an advertisement for Leming & Son Market Street, Pure Drugs, Wines & Liquors; more towboats and coalboats wait in idleness. Thomas Evans is the greatest manufacturer of lamp glasses in the world, and employs a great number of *muchachas* to decorate them. *La Compañía de Maquinas Westinghouse* is situated between Penn and Liberty, 24th to 26th Streets. Manufacturers from all over the world come to visit, and the company, making no secret of its operations, welcomes them cordially. The text seems to say that a Westinghouse steam engine gives 100 horsepower of output for every 100 horsepower of steam pressure, which is quite a claim. Westinghouse Air Brake, Westinghouse Electric, and the Westinghouse Building also have their individual write-ups. A humbler enterprise, Hostetter's Famous Stomach Bitters, gets three pictures on one plate. The *Plano Inclinado de Penn* shows the grandly-conceived incline that descended from the Hill to Penn Avenue at 17th Street.

And there are other examples too. This is an upbeat Chamber of Commerce portrait of a region that may not be beautiful but is certainly prosperous, progressive, and clever. In all, *Notas Interesantes* is a kind of snapshot of the Pittsburgh area at a time when its industry was expanding rapidly.

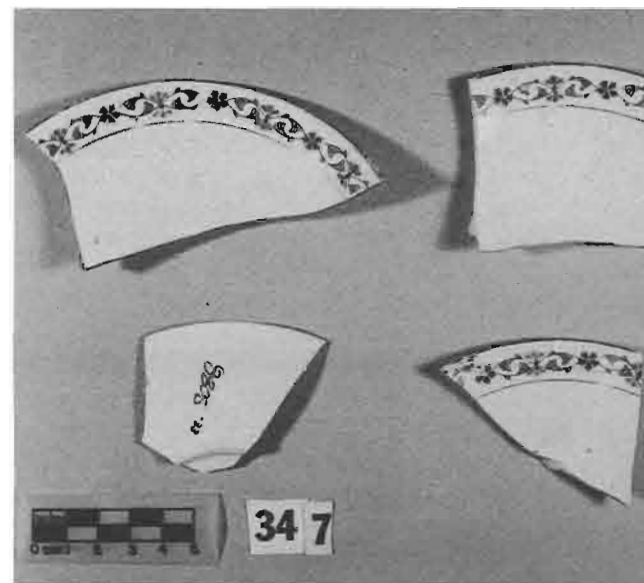
Members are welcome to visit the Landmarks library on the second floor of the Old Post Office Museum every Tuesday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Museum Donations

We would like to thank the following people for donating costumes and artifacts to the Old Post Office Museum:

- Mrs. Robert F. Michael for arranging a gift of an ivory silk satin wedding dress from the 1890s which was worn by Elizabeth Negley; and for a formal men's Scottish outfit of a navy wool jacket, kilt, and accessories.
- Mr. & Mrs. John J. Griffith for the gift of a wooden, Victorian overmantle mirror with exquisitely ornate carving and fluted detailing.
- Mrs. Charles F. Beck, Jr. for more than 30 articles of clothing ranging from a child's organdy dress to brocade-and-silk pajamas.
- Mr. Armondo Ombres for 30 full-reel home movies of Pittsburgh c.1935 to complement Landmarks' film holdings.
- Dr. Joseph Pois for eight ladies' gowns.
- Mrs. Gloria Kohlmeyer Robinson for an old portrait photograph and an 1893 high school photo montage.
- Realty Operating Company for donating to our library an original copy of the promotional booklet published in 1916 for the Union Arcade Building.

## Results of the Neville House Archaeological Dig



When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers launched a flood-control project along Chartiers Creek in the 1970s, federal law required the excavation of archaeological sites impacted by the project. Thus the Neville House, Allegheny County's premier 18th-century house, became the site of a major dig coordinated by the Section of Anthropology, Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

The team of professional and student archaeologists expected to find artifacts dating back to the house's construction date of 1785. Instead, they discovered that the refuse dump excavation site lay over the mill-race of a shingle mill which had operated from c. 1830-60. The artifacts, therefore, were of later date--but very numerous.

When the last of the 125,944 artifacts was discovered, the archaeologists had unearthed North America's largest archaeological data base for the Victorian period and the only one associated with the Victorian upper-middle class. Artifacts included an extraordinary range of ceramics and glass bottles and jars which shed light on the Wrenshall and Fauset families who had then occupied the house, and on local industrial production and transportation patterns.

Artifact data compiled in a 1200-page two-volume report, has been analyzed and computerized, and the collection will be made available for research and exhibition. Comparative analysis with artifacts taken from digs in downtown Pittsburgh--at PPG Place and the subway right-of-way--is expected to yield further insights.

## Special Exhibit of Interest

IMAGES OF INDUSTRY

Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute: November 3 - January 13

Pittsburgh's vivid industrial landscape became the focus of photographic interest during the early 20th century. Some used the camera to document the powerful spectacle of the city's industries, others to present the scene artistically. Both photographic movements are portrayed in *Images of Industry*, an exhibit of Pittsburgh photographs by local and national photographers of this era. The exhibit was compiled jointly by Frank Kurtik of the University of Pittsburgh and Charlee Brodsky of Carnegie-Mellon University.