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# NEWS

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## Sarah

Her life Her restaurant Her recipes

It is a rare accomplishment to live a life that is worth sharing with others. Sarah Vukelich Evosevich, proprietress of Sarah's Ethnic Restaurant on the South Side of Pittsburgh, has done just that. Her life story, *Sarah*, will be available from the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and local bookstores in October. The 192-page publication, illustrated with more than 50 photographs and original drawings, is an inspiring story of the evolution of a Serbian farm girl into an American businesswoman.

An intensely personal account, *Sarah* also speaks to the struggles which thousands of Eastern European immigrants faced while building a new life in America. Indeed, it is a landmark publication, documenting the life of an immigrant woman and creating one of the few published oral histories of life in Pittsburgh from the 1930s to the present.

Sarah Evosevich asked Landmarks to publish her life story in 1983. A grant from Sarah herself has provided the major portion of funds needed for publication. The memoir is based on extensive reminiscences which Sarah recorded in the early 1980s. They have been transcribed and edited into a narrative, amplified by Sarah's own words, which colorfully describes her life. She remembers her girlhood on a farm in Croatia, the rigors of World War I and the 1920s, and her marriage to a widower which brought her to Pittsburgh in 1931. She

records in touching detail her difficult married life and the joys and struggles of raising four children alone in the ethnic atmosphere of the South Side. (Her husband died in 1937.) She describes working hard to survive and her eventual success as a restaurateur.

Included, too, in the publication are a collection of recipes by Sarah adapted for home use. There are appetizers, dinners, side dishes, and desserts: spinach pita; bread; cabbage roll; nut roll; apple-nut pita; moussaka; stuffed peppers; roast lamb; stuffed grape leaves; bean and sauerkraut soup . . . these are just the beginnings of a feast prepared by Sarah.

Sarah felt compelled to write her life story: she believes that her success, achieved by an independent spirit through faith and hard work, can be an example for other women faced with hardships. "I did it, and they can do it, too . . . Maybe this little bit of wisdom I have learned, maybe it will help somebody. You have to try to help." Sarah chose to dedicate the book to her late daughter Bosanka, an accomplished educator who had been active and honored in local and national public affairs — as well as a trustee of Landmarks.

In *Sarah*, the reader will discover an incredible depth of experience, emotion, hardship, and persistence. Out of this life emerges a person whose set of values, convictions, and wisdom can touch each of us and influence our lives for the better.



### Special Membership Offer

Valid through December

## Order Form for Sarah

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Make check payable to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and mail the completed form to us. Books will be mailed in early October. Gift copies available upon request. Call Shirley Kemmler (412) 471-5808 for further information.



### Words from Sarah

"What I did, I think I would do again: to marry someone in order to come to the United States . . . and sacrifice just as I did, I suppose. I had a family to live for. But to get that close to suicide . . . that is a question mark. I'd have to straighten that situation out somehow. I would come to the United States and start a life here and do the same things I have been doing: working, helping to raise my family, and helping those who need help."

"Suppose I could live my life over. First, I would have a bunch of kids, more than four, and give them my love whether I had a husband or not. Struggle the way I did; it was pleasant, struggling. We didn't know where the next dollar was coming from, but we always managed to have good hot food on the table. I loved the children and they loved me, so it was a warm home."

"I want to be remembered just as me, Sarah. Only as a mother, grandma, and sister. Just Sarah, a normal and wise person, a hard worker. Not in any other way. I don't feel any different now than when I was handling horses and a wagon and working hard on the farm . . . I want to be remembered as a human being, a Christian who loves God. My nature is to love people."

# PHLF NEWS

## Welcome New Members

Mrs. Joseph Adamson  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Argentine  
Gary R. Baker  
Ms. Audrey J. Bishop  
Ms. Terry Laine Braune  
Ms. Margaret Brennan  
William A. Burgunder, Jr.  
Mrs. Sandi Danner  
DeBolt-Somerset Bus Company  
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Ms. Anne M. Egly  
Mrs. Toby Frank  
Ms. Judith E. Garrison & Family  
Gateway Upper Elementary School  
Ms. Carol Gettings  
Hugh G. Hachmeister  
The Jack Hartman Family  
Ms. Barbara R. Hiquet  
Ms. Joyce Hochard  
Mrs. David Hopton  
Warren J. Hoye  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Jones & Family  
Miss Josephine Josefick  
Dr. & Mrs. Michael S. Kavic  
Larry Kreger  
Rick Landesberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Lawrence  
Ms. Deborah A. Liotus  
Ms. Anna Mae Litman  
Ms. Colleen Managnello  
Eugene Manasterski  
Ms. Joyce Martini

M.F. McGrew  
Mrs. Julie Milechman  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Mima  
Miss Pauline Mima  
Bob Muzik & Family  
Mrs. Jean Ann Niethamer  
Mrs. Martha Orringer  
Mrs. Esther Palkovitz  
Ms. Evelyn M. Patterson  
Ms. Janet Petrone  
The Pittsburgh Hilton & Towers  
Ms. Rose Lynn Rednock  
Wallace F. Reimer & Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Rhine  
Edward E. Rieck & Family  
The Richard Rizzo Family  
Ms. Janet Rohrman  
Ms. Anne A. Schempp  
William A. Schmid  
Herman G. Scott, III  
Sheraton Inn-Greensburg  
Ms. Carol Skinger  
Ms. Michele A. Smith  
United Methodist Home  
Ms. Nancy Vaughan  
Vista International Hotel  
Ms. Eileen G. Wayne & Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Weiss & Family  
Ms. Robin Weiss  
Ms. Betty M. Williams  
Ms. Virginia M. Witney

## Plaques Awarded to Six Historic Properties

Landmarks' Historic Designation Committee, chaired by trustee Richard M. Scaife, has awarded plaques to six historic properties this year. Nineteen years ago, Landmarks initiated the plaque program in order to recognize the architectural merit and historical significance of sites in Allegheny County. Since 1968 the Committee has awarded over 200 plaques. This year, the properties determined to be eligible are:



- **1133 Penn Avenue Building**, 1133 Penn Avenue, Strip District (1892). Attributed to Frederick J. Osterling, this is another example of the Romanesque influence applied to commercial architecture, with large arcades framing an extensive window system designed for maximum interior illumination. Recently renovated inside and out by UDA Architects, the building is also listed on the National Register.

- **First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood**, 120 East Swissvale Avenue (1917-18). Thomas Hannah, architect. The only church in Edgewood, this Gothic design makes a strong and unique architectural statement with two very large, square towers (with gable roofs!). These towers flank a huge pointed-arch window, with tracery over the church entrance.



- **Shouse House**, 451 Main Street, Glenwillard (c. 1840), was the home of Peter Shouse, boatbuilder and founder of Shousetown (now Glenwillard). The original building was a three-bay structure. Five more bays were added later with original detailing and materials; the porch is probably an even later addition.

- **The Atlantic Financial Building**, 313 Sixth Avenue, Downtown (1889-90). Designed by Charles Bickel and J. P. Brennan, this building is one of the finest Romanesque designs in Pittsburgh. It was originally called the German National Bank, and later the Granite Building — before recent renovations and a renaming by Dover Historic Properties (Philadelphia). John Milner of Philadelphia is the architect of the restoration.
- **St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church**, Fifth and Bayard Streets, Elizabeth (1851). Although the recipient of three 20th-century renovations, this Victorian Gothic church retains its 1851 windows and Stations of the Cross. It is currently the subject of a preservation struggle between the Diocese and a large group of the church's parishioners.
- **St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church**, Bloomfield, 4712 Liberty Avenue (1886-87). Designed by Adoulf Druiding, this large red-brick church was originally erected for German immigrants in what became a solidly Italian neighborhood.

## Artifact Donations

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation wishes to thank the following for their generous donations:

- The Shenango Furnace Company, for two Schwartz brass-melting furnaces;
- Howard Etzel, of McKeesport, for 56 photographs of Pittsburgh-area steamboats, late 19th century through the early 1950s;
- Ronald G. Oelette, of Wexford, for a postcard, c. 1910, of workers waiting for a train at the East Pittsburgh Station;
- The Port Authority, for donating an early Pittsburgh Railways Company PCC trolley. The trolley, in temporary storage through the generous assistance of the Arden Trolley Museum, is from the mid-1940s and is an "air" car: that is, one of its braking systems is air-powered. Other distinctive features are bowl-like ceiling lights and large, crank-operated windows. The car needs restoration of its controls. The PCC trolley was designed for the Electric Railway Presidents' Conference Committee as a radical response to the threat of bus competition, and was first shown in 1934 in the second year of the Chicago Century of Progress Exposition.

## Pittsburgh in Your Pocket

A miniature guide, *Pittsburgh in Your Pocket*, will soon be published by Landmarks. About 60 places in and around Pittsburgh will be illustrated, described, and put in historic context in a text by Walter C. Kidney. The guide is just a sampling of the local architectural attractions of course, but it does give a sense of the city and the region to those unfamiliar with it. The pocket-guide was funded in part through a grant from the Historical Foundation of Pennsylvania.

Please call Shirley Kemmler (471-5808) in October if you would like us to mail the pocket-guide to you. The cost of the guide is \$4.75 plus \$1.75 in postage and handling. *Pittsburgh in Your Pocket* will also be available at the Cornerstone in Station Square.

**Correction:** Three gifts credited to Mary Wohleber in our Summer issue — a United Motors Service certificate, a United Service Motors sign, and a Divco sign — were in fact donated by Robert G. Koch, Sr., of Pittsburgh. Thank you Mr. Koch.



## Volunteer Profile: Meyer Parker

One of our most loyal volunteers — for all sorts of jobs — is Meyer Parker. Meyer first volunteered to assist Walter Kidney in the James D. Van Trump Library; since then, he has enthusiastically donated his time to a variety of events: the Antiques Show, Hands-On History Education Fair, and Station Square Transportation Museum Auto Festival.

A native of Pittsburgh, Meyer has spent the years since his retirement from the construction industry serving Landmarks, the Jewish Community Center, Children's Hospital, and the University of Pittsburgh's Israel Heritage Room. Meyer's next venture with Landmarks is to become a tour-guide. Given his extensive knowledge of architecture and love for his hometown, we are confident that Meyer will be an excellent guide. Thank you Meyer, for all your involvement.

If any members are interested in offering their volunteer services, call Mary Lu Denny (471-5808). Antiques Show work is now underway!

## Historic Property News

### Old St. Luke's

Interior restorations are complete at Old St. Luke's Church in Collier Township and the facility is available for weddings, baptisms, special services, and tours. Please contact Rev. Victor Zuck (835-7935) for further information.

### The Burtner House

Fall is fund-raising time for the Burtner House Society at the 1821 stone house in Natrona Heights. On Saturday, October 10, Landmarks' members are invited to the Burtner House for the Third Annual Harvest Day. There will be pioneer craft and skill demonstrations, craft sales, and bake sales with homemade soups to buy by the bowl or quart, fresh cider, ham barbecues, and delicious homemade funnel cakes. The house will be open for tours during Harvest Day from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no admission charge. Directions to the Burtner House: Route 28 north about 20 miles out of Pittsburgh to Exit 15, where you will see the stone house.

### The Rachel Carson Homestead

The Society of Women Geographers presented an engraved plaque honoring Rachel Carson at the 80th Anniversary Birthday celebration held on May 27 at the Rachel Carson Homestead in Springdale. Over 300 people attended the ceremonies and vintage fashion show. Two of the rooms in the Homestead have been decorated to look as they did when Rachel Carson lived there. The house is open by appointment for tours by calling Evelyn Hirtle (274-5776).

### The Neville House

On Saturday, October 31, plan to attend the noontime luncheon and fashion show sponsored by the Neville House Auxiliary at the Station Square Sheraton. The event is being planned to raise funds for the continuing restoration, furnishing, and operation of the historic property in Collier Township. Tickets are \$15 per person; reservations can be made by calling Mrs. Jean Davis (279-4565).

PHLF News is a quarterly publication of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

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# EVE & NIGHTS

## Preview

Call 471-5808 for complete details and reservation information.

### Sundays, Sept. 20 & 27 2-5 p.m. The Legacy of Four Architectural Offices

If you have not yet attended one of our Sunday walking tours in September, plan to join our group on Sept. 20 & 27 to discover the architectural legacies of Henry Hornbostel and Benno Janssen. The Sept. 20 tour, led by architect Leonard Perfido, will feature the work of Henry Hornbostel and his ability to handle Beaux-Arts forms. Buildings featured include the Smithfield United Church, University Club, City-County Building, Rodef Shalom, Bureau of Mines, and CMU. The Sept. 27 tour, led by architect Syl Damianos, will feature the work of Benno Janssen, including Pittsburgh's most fashionable civic designs and institutional buildings. Featured buildings include the Twentieth Century Club, houses in Schenley Farms, William Penn Hotel, Buhl Building, and Point Park College.

Fare per tour: \$8 members; \$12 non-members

### Sunday, Oct. 4 10 a.m. -6 p.m. Ohio River Cruise to Sewickley

This tour has it all: a river journey, tours of restored buildings and private homes, and food and drink. Travel with us on the Gateway Clipper, down the Ohio to Sewickley. There Mary Beth Pastorius of the Sewickley Valley Historical Society will lead us on a bus tour featuring one of three historic neighborhoods, the Village, Old Post Office, Shields Church, the grounds of architect Frank Alden's home of 1894, and the interiors of the Walker House (formerly a tavern) and a private residence. Then to the Alphorn, where French pastries will be served before our return bus ride to Station Square.

Fare: \$55 members; \$70 non-members

NOTE: If you prefer to meet the group in Sewickley, and not ride the Clipper, the fare is \$30 members and \$45 non-members.

### Sunday, Oct. 11 2-4 p.m. The Sculpture of Schenley Park

Vernon Gay, photographer for *Discovering Pittsburgh's Sculpture*, will lead Landmarks' members and friends on a walking tour of the little-known and well-known masterpieces in Schenley Park. Sites include the Christopher Lyman Magee Memorial, the Schenley Memorial Fountain, and the George Westinghouse Memorial. This event is one in a series focusing public attention on the need to ensure restoration of Schenley Park, as the park approaches its centennial in 1989.

Fare: \$2 members; \$4 non-members

### Sunday, Oct. 18 7 a.m. -11 p.m. Columbus, Ohio and German Village

By bus we will travel to Columbus, where we will have lunch at and tour the Ohio Historical Village. Ed Lentz, director of Columbus Landmarks Foundation, will then lead a tour of the Palace Theatre, the tunnels under City Hall, and the ethnic neighborhoods. Then to German Village — a 50-block area of narrow brick streets lined with quaint brick homes and attractive gardens, first settled in the early 1880s and still a functioning community. After touring the Village, we will enjoy an ethnic dinner at Schmidt's, the first sausage and kraut restaurant. Then we will return home.

Fare: \$95 members; \$115 non-members

### Friday thru Sunday, Nov. 13-15 Tenth Annual Antiques Show

Yes, it's here again . . . for the tenth consecutive year: Landmarks' prestigious antiques show. Join us at the membership party on Thursday, November 12 to preview the period furniture, art, china, silver, etc. displayed by 30 antique dealers from the eastern, southern, and mid-western states. Once again, the show will be in the Ballroom of the Station Square Sheraton.

### Tuesday, Nov. 17 7:30-9 p.m. Distinguished Lecture on Historic Preservation

Landmarks Design Associates, architects, is sponsoring our 1987 Distinguished Lecture to be presented by Elizabeth Barlow Rogers. Ms. Rogers is the Administrator of Central Park in New York and author of *Rebuilding Central Park: A Management & Restoration Plan*. Her experience and advice will be of value since Landmarks, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and the City of Pittsburgh share the ambitious goal of formulating a master restoration plan for Schenley Park.

Fare: Members are free; \$2 non-members

### Sunday, Dec. 6 11 a.m. -9 p.m. Holiday Tour in West Virginia

Celebrate the holiday with us! By bus we will travel to Wellsburg for a tour of and lunch at the Vandergrift Mansion designed in 1901 by Alden & Harlow. Then it's off to the Olgebay Mansion and grounds for dinner and the Festival of Lights tour. Finally, we will travel to Wheeling, where we will have a candlelight tour (while sipping sherry) of Independence Hall.

Fare: \$80 members; \$95 non-members



St. Mary's Priory was also toured, and tea was served in the handsomely restored courtyard.



*This has been our busiest tour season ever, and the response from our membership and the public has been outstanding. Since our last report in the Summer newsletter, we have led tours of the South Side, North Side, and Westmoreland County. The photos here are from the North Side tour on June 7. Thanks to the efforts of Tom and Mary Beth Pastorius, beer soon will be brewed in the Eberhardt & Ober Brewery. Restoration plans for the c. 1880 buildings at the base of Troy Hill were described . . . and members sampled Pennsylvania Pilsner.*

### Member's Endowment Fund Benefits Tour Program

Helen Simpson, a member and tour guide of Landmarks, established an endowment fund in 1985 in memory of her brother David Simpson. Since that time, income from the endowment fund (and Helen's annual matching gift contribution) has provided support to our education department. This year, though, Helen requested that we purchase a much-needed portable microphone system for the education and tour programs. We are now pleased to report that we have an excellent lightweight Mini-Vox portable microphone system that is making the job of our tour guides much easier. Thank you, Helen, on behalf of the Landmarks' staff, docents — and event patrons.

### Tour Business

It is encouraging to speak with program organizers who have used our tour and lecture service many times in the past, and continue to invite us back. Countryside Book Club of Bethel Park, who enjoyed their "all-city tour" featuring the sites of many Pittsburgh authors last spring, is challenging us this fall to plan a tour that will complement their 1987-88 mystery-story collection. We are hoping that the morning of October 29 will dawn grey and bleak to create the proper mood for a guided tour through Allegheny Cemetery. Following the Cemetery tour, a luncheon will be served at St. Mary's Priory on the North Side. Lunch at St. Mary's Priory has become a popular feature of our tours. Staff members at The Priory have been congenial and imaginative in their meal creations, offering a full luncheon for our National Trust Advisors last spring, a light summer repast for our ladies' tours this summer, and Victorian tea specialties for our membership tour on June 7. Also this fall, the Jewish Community Center of Oakland has requested a repeat of our All-City Tour for a group of their members.

Our private tour services are available on an appointment basis for groups of all sizes. We hire bus or van transportation as needed, and arrange access to churches and selected private properties. Any members wishing to learn more about our tour services may call Mary Lu Denny (471-5808).

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### Events at The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

Call 681-5533 for further information.

Sept. 23: **Frontier Democracy: Teaching the Constitution** 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Oct. 7: **A More Perfect Union: Lecture 1 in a Series** 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 24: **Public Forum: Does Pittsburgh Need a History Center?** 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sept. & Oct.: **Homewood-Brushton: A Century of Community-Making**, an exhibit.



# Preservation Scene

## News from the Courthouse



A conservator from Greensburg, Christina Daulton, is restoring the five murals by Vincent Nesbert at the foot of the grand stair in the Courthouse on Grant Street, downtown. Painted in a bright Pointillist style, perhaps to offset the lack of daylight in the cavernous spaces, the oil-on-canvas murals will be even brighter after their cleaning. The work, which will cost \$67,000, is expected to be ready this September. The mural restoration is being sponsored by the Allegheny County Bicentennial Commission, chaired by James Knox. The murals have themes of justice, peace, industry, and local history, and were painted in the late 1930s. Vincent Nesbert was born in Poland but spent the greater part of his life in Pittsburgh, where he died in 1976. The space itself was the original entrance lobby, whose direct contact with Grant Street was cut off, partially in 1913 by the lowering of the Hump, then completely in 1927 when the widening of the street forced the removal of an outside stair built in 1914.

- A flag display is also to be installed in the space, similar to the United Nations display once set before the former central doorway but in this instance consisting mainly of state flags.

- A pavement has been chosen for the exterior of the Courthouse, a warm gray brick similar in hue to the Youghiogheny stone of the architect's specifications. Some interior painting is under way.

- The \$370,000 restoration of Room 321, the former Small Orphans' Court, to its 1888 appearance was expected to start in mid-July.

- A landscape architect, Larry Ridenour, has been studying modifications to the Courthouse Courtyard Park.

- Different problems remained to be solved in early summer: what to do about the mountainous, leaky roof; what to do about the County records stored higgledy-piggledy under the roof; what to do about haphazard ceiling and lighting installations, chaotic signage, and other chance accumulations that violate the character and harmony of the interiors. Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., chairman of the Committee on the Restoration of the Courthouse, has been looking for exemplary restorations of courthouses and other governmental buildings to show County officials.

**Call us with Preservation News**  
We need your help in covering the county. Please call Walter Kidney (471-5808) and report what you know.

### Penn-Liberty Historic District

On May 29, Landmarks sent a letter to the Historic Review Commission and the City Planning Commission supporting the creation of the City's Penn-Liberty Historic District. The letter stressed both the preservation of old commercial buildings and the revitalization of the area as an economic entity. On June 16 the City Planning Commission voted to recommend approval by the City Council of the City district. The area has also been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, which will make rehabilitation tax credits possible.

### Kaufmann's Department Store

Kaufmann's downtown department store was given an exterior cleaning and remodeling this summer, including the cleaning of terra-cotta and marble work, and the installation of new, energy-conserving sash. Among other things, the famous clock, bracketed from the Fifth and Smithfield corner of the 1913 Janssen & Abbott section of the building, was removed for clockwork repairs and refinishing of the bronze work; it remained down for the greater part of the summer. Some interior alterations were to be done as well, but no details were available.

### Fort Wayne Bridge

On April 23 the *Post-Gazette* quoted Donald Carter of UDA Architects as advocating demolition of the Fort Wayne Bridge, the 1903 bridge across the Allegheny River at Union Station. Landmarks replied to this unfortunate suggestion, pointing out that the bridge is a major engineering monument of the city listed on the National Register, and that its removal would discourage passenger train travel; a new station, remote from the Triangle, would then be necessary. This magnificent bridge must remain as the last example of the major railway bridges that once carried trains into the Triangle.



### Mechanic's Retreat Park

The Mexican War Streets Society has submitted a general plan for the Mechanic's Retreat Park, at Buena Vista and Jacksonia Streets, to Landmarks and Landmarks Design Associates for approval. If approval is given, Landmarks will pledge \$1,000 for the park maintenance fund. The Society is collaborating with the Architects' Workshop and other organizations to get the plan put into detailed form and realized.

The park, the cost of whose completion is estimated at \$38,000, is conceived as a square with diagonal paths from the two streets and the street corner. The street sides will have low metal and wooden fences between masonry piers, with formal gateways. The corner away from the streets will rise as a small mound. The ground areas will be thickly planted with trees and shrubs, with ground cover in the open areas.

The land for Mechanic's Retreat was donated to Landmarks by Charles C. Arensberg, Chairman of Landmarks; Charles S. Arensberg; and Walter D. Toole. We have now made the land available to the Mexican War Streets Society.

### Eberhardt & Ober Brewery

The Eberhardt & Ober Brewery project continued to progress in early summer, with \$300,000 still to be raised of the \$3.5 million total. Landmarks Design Associates, architects, were making working drawings, and had done an application for placing the five-building complex on the National Register of Historic Places. The anchor tenant, the Brewery, was legally enabled to operate a brew-pub — making and selling beer and ale on the same premises. Thomas Pastorius, the proprietor, is planning to offer several varieties of beer at any one time, with seasonal changes, and to offer food as well as drink. The theme of the Brewery's decoration is to be the German-American heritage.



### Pennsylvania Canal

The uncovering of a large section of the old Pennsylvania Canal, in the course of site preparation for the East Street Valley Expressway project, aroused public attention this June. Wooden beams and flooring in two locks, an intact lock gate, and large sandstone blocks forming the canal walls came to light, prompting hopes that a lock chamber could be reconstructed on another site. By mid-July arrangements had been made to send the wooden elements to a University of Pittsburgh research facility in Harmarville for conservation, and to put the masonry in storage. North Side civic groups had shown interest in reconstructing the lock chamber outside the Expressway area but as close as possible to the original location.

The Canal, opened locally in 1829, was part of a rail-canal system from Philadelphia that was completed in 1834. With through rail service on the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1852 the Pennsylvania Canal became obsolete, and was closed to local traffic in 1864.

### Main Street on East Carson

*Main Street on East Carson* reports that, between September 1 of last year and the end of June, 40 new businesses started up in the East Carson district, 18 businesses expanded, and 18 closed. Of the new businesses, 65 percent are retail, 18 percent restaurants, and 17 percent offices and professional services. Forty-seven facades have been altered, with an expenditure of nearly \$1 million. Forty-seven building rehabilitations have occurred, aside from facade changes, with an expenditure of nearly \$4 million. Also, \$862,000 has been spent on public improvements, and there has been a net gain of 80 jobs.

## Two Properties Preservation



### Anderson Manor

Landmarks has lent the Women's Christian Association of Pittsburgh Allegheny \$103,000 for repairs and renovations of Anderson Manor, at 1423 Liverpool Street in Manchester. This was the home, built in the 1840s, of James Anderson, the industrialist and philanthropist who founded Allegheny's first public library and encouraged working boys — Andrew Carnegie among them — to educate themselves from his private collection.

The Women's Christian Association founded in 1868, uses Anderson Manor as a personal-care home for 18 residents whose average age is 87. The greater of the money will be used to improve convenience and safety of the home to enlarge its capacity, but about a third will be used for architectural restoration including removal of exterior fire escapes, painting, brick cleaning, and reconstruction of the front porch to original design. The WCA is planning



### John Massey Rhind Sculptures

Prospects looked excellent this summer for the John Massey Rhind sculptures on the Forbes Avenue front of The Carnegie. The Women's Committee had more than surpassed their expectations in raising money for the work, and Dennis and Craine, conservators from Cambridge, Massachusetts, were scheduled to begin a month's work restoring the four street-level sculptures. The result, as regards color and texture, is not foreseeable early this summer. The bronzes are pitted from air-borne chemicals — it is this chemical action that has turned them green — and the conservators, as nearly as possible, will try to establish and restore the finish intended by the sculptor. The four roof-level statues will be restored next summer, when the stonework is to be cleaned. The sandstone facing of The Carnegie is expected to show up tannish with an orange tint.



## Benefit Through n Fund



become a Landmarks member, and to apply for a Landmarks plaque.

### 1417 E. Carson Street

Landmarks' Preservation Fund has pledged the South Side Local Development Company \$42,500 for the rehabilitation of 1417 East Carson Street. This is a typical commercial property in the *Main Street on East Carson* project area, a Mid-Victorian corner building of brick with a much-resurfaced shop on the ground floor and a third-floor mansard roof: not an outstanding building, but a modest contribution to the street scene. It is now vacant, as so many properties are in this particular stretch. The ground floor will be offered as retail space, the second floor will be SSLDC's own offices, and the third will be a two-bedroom apartment. This is to be the first in a series of such developments by the SSLDC in the Carson Street Historic District.

### Renovations at Carnegie Library

Some changes are being planned for the entrance area of the main Carnegie Library in Oakland. Early this summer details were only beginning to be worked out, but it appeared that the lobby and corridor area within the entrance would benefit. The present charge booth, disruptive to the space and out of keeping in finish and lighting, will probably go. So, probably, will the cheap-looking security gates, though some kind of security system would be installed. Two side doors to the main reading room, now covered, will almost certainly be re-opened. Lighting levels will be increased, but with due regard to the character of the space, we can hope.

### Gwinner-Harter Mansion

As of early July, nothing had been determined on the fate of the Gwinner-Harter house, the Second Empire mansion at Fifth and Amberson Avenues. The house was undergoing its second restoration, after the fire of last October, when Dr. Leo Harter, the owner, died this spring. Early this summer no work was taking place but the condition of the house was stabilized, with plastic sheeting for protection and electricity and heat available. The estate was being settled, with no indication of when a decision about the house would be made.

### Register 200-Year-Old Trees

As a bicentennial project, Allegheny County wishes to register all trees in the county 200 or more years old. It is at least possible that there may be white oaks, native to Pennsylvania, that can be as much as 600 years old. At least a few trees are known to exist in the county, despite industry and all the other developments of two centuries, that will meet the age standard. The age of a tree can be estimated from its circumference by formula, with no harm to the tree itself. Each tree accepted will be registered both locally and with the State through the Old Tree Committee of Pennsylvania. For applications, measurement formulas, and general information, write:

Richard Liberto  
Landscape Supervisor  
Station Square  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

### Duquesne Heights Incline

New construction at the upper station of the Duquesne Heights Incline was expected to be complete by late summer: the observation deck, an office wing beside the deck, and two mansard-roofed turrets overlooking the tracks that recall those on the station in its original two-storied form. The war memorial, designed by the local architect Harry Levine, is still to be constructed in front of the station.

### Schenley Park Up-date

Research of the history and conditions of Schenley Park continues as the Environmental Planning & Design study (begun in 1986 and delayed for more detailed soils analysis) nears completion, a vegetation inventory is in progress, and Landmarks proceeds with its NEA-sponsored investigation of Panther Hollow.

The first volunteer work-day was held in the park on June 13, organized by Volunteers for Outdoor Allegheny (VOA). Approximately 30 volunteers participated in this all-day event, planting 25 hemlocks, mountain laurel, and rhododendron in strategic sites in Panther Hollow, and cutting the wild grape that threatens to overcome Panther Hollow's trees. The City of Pittsburgh Department of Parks and Recreation assisted by providing a truck, driver, and tools for the day. With the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, co-sponsor of the Centennial Restoration Project, Landmarks is investigating the potential for a volunteer work program on a larger scale in Schenley Park for the summer of 1988.

Landmarks greatly appreciates the recent \$1,000 gift from the Vesuvius Foundation for the Schenley Park project. The gift will assist in matching the \$20,000 grant received in 1986 from the National Endowment for the Arts. Nine thousand dollars is still needed to match that grant.

The restoration of the Panther Hollow and Schenley Bridges by the City of Pittsburgh is scheduled to begin in the spring of 1988. Landmarks has provided advice in several aspects of the restoration, including methods of cleaning, color of the bridges' steel truss, and restoration of the Panther Hollow Bridge's sandstone balustrade.



### 315 Oakland Avenue

In July, Landmarks was notified that the future of 315 Oakland Avenue was under discussion by its owner, Children's Hospital. The house is a villa of c. 1860, in a stylistic mixture of Gothic and Italianate typical of the time. This is the last of the large houses to survive from Oakland's earliest phase as an upper-class suburb — a phase that began in the 1830s and placed mansions and near-mansions, in ample grounds, where the hospitals now stand. Of the later Oakland of row houses, double houses, and small detached houses, much remains: but this villa is unique.

Landmarks promptly wrote a statement of significance for the use of the City's Historic Review Commission, in the hope that a demolition permit, should Children's Hospital apply for one, might be delayed while a further use for the house, possibly residential, could be sought. The City is conducting an Oakland survey that might lend at least moral support to preservation. The Oakland Planning and Development Corporation is also interested in the house, and may advocate saving it.

### Awards of Merit

Call Earl James (471-5808) if you would like to nominate an individual or organization for achievement in preservation. Awards will be made on November 17.

In the living room, a pair of English arm chairs flanks a tea table in a room finished with reproduction wall-paper and "furniture check" fabric.



## Visible Progress in the Neville House Restoration

Restoration of the Neville House in Collier Township has been an on-going process for over ten years. Since its acquisition by Landmarks in 1976, the house has had its porches repaired, all new electrical, heating, plumbing, smoke, and burglar alarm systems installed, and a new roof installed, all under the direction of the Neville House Auxiliary.

Most recently, the restoration has taken a direction that is dramatically affecting the appearance of the house. Thanks to the volunteer assistance of an Advisory Committee, the living room, dining room, and hall have been restored to their original 18th-century condition. Scientific color analysis has revealed the original paint colors, including a bright verdis gris (green) for the dining room which was popular during the last 15 years of the 18th century. Period furnishings on loan from the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania approximate those originally used in the house. The Neville House Advisory Committee is pleased to have on loan several fine Western Pennsylvania pieces such as a tall case clock, a slant front desk, and a Hepplewhite bureau, as well as a number of other good period pieces. All of the fabrics used are documents of authentic 18th-century fabrics, some of them from the collection at Mount Vernon.

Recently, the Committee discovered 39 rolls of a discontinued reproduction wall-paper that exactly replicates one used in the house prior to 1800. The paper will be held for later use.

The next project to be addressed will be the nursery, where a new crown molding and a color-accurate paint job will recall the room's 18th-century finishes. The nursery will be used as a museum and archive room, featuring 19th-century memorabilia, Neville, Cowan, and Wrenshall family artifacts, and genealogy materials.

According to Anne Genter of the Committee: "What is extraordinary about the Neville House is the amount of 18th-century evidence that survives. We're really very fortunate and therefore felt obliged to restore the hall, living room, dining room, and nursery to the original."

On the exterior, the Committee decided to restore the house to its appearance at the time the trellised porches and Gothic dormers were added in the mid-19th century. A paint analysis revealed layer-upon-layer of yellow paint with green and white trim. The paint job, which included much meticulous preparation of the deteriorated wood surfaces, is now complete. Yet to be done are the outbuildings.

Of particular usefulness in the restoration has been General John Neville's inventory for "Bower Hill," the house which he built as a successor to the Neville House and which was destroyed by fire during the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794. From clothes to clocks and saddles to silver, it lists all of the property that General Neville lost in the fire. Presumably the contents of "Bower Hill" came from the earlier house, so the inventory is being used as a guide for furnishing it. The inventory has focused the Committee's search for furniture and accessories; most recently they have commissioned two Pennsylvania Windsor chairs

for the dining room based on the listing of "one and 1/2 dozen Windsor chairs."

The Committee is still looking for additional items to round out the inventory and fully furnish the house. Among the items still needed are 18th-century black and white engravings, early maps (specifically Howell's maps), and over two dozen chairs.

"Our goal for the Neville House is to make it self-supporting," says Mrs. Genter. "The plan is to rent it for meetings to groups interested in its ambience and sympathetic to its delicate condition. We would also like to maintain the property as a museum and develop a docent program to host small groups with a particular interest in the house and the history it represents."

The Advisory Committee is well-equipped to achieve those goals. Its members represent a broad spectrum of expertise: Anne Genter, a trustee of Landmarks and Chairman of the Allegheny Committee of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America; Ellis Schmidlapp, President of Landmarks Design Associates, Architects; Raymond Shepherd, Executive Director of Old Economy Village; Richard C. Smith, an interior designer and artist; Harley and Nancy Trice, representing the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania and serious antique collectors; Kitty McKee, a member of the board of the Neville House Auxiliary; Dr. Ronald Carlisle, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Pittsburgh; Phillip M. Johnston, Acting Director of The Carnegie Museum of Art; Betsy Martin, President of the Neville House Auxiliary; and Michael Malley of East End Galleries.



Friends of the Neville House had an opportunity to admire the progress of the restoration at the Second Annual Antiques Show at the Neville House on Sunday, May 31. The show raised nearly \$4,000 for the restoration to augment the \$14,000 raised during Landmarks' 1986 Fall Antiques Show at Station Square and donated by the Colonial Dames for restoration of the dining room. Additional funds are needed, however, to move on to the next phase of the restoration. A portion of the proceeds from Landmarks' 1987 Antiques Show this November will benefit the house.

Depending upon the success of the fund-raising efforts, the restoration project could take five years. All of which seems like a relatively short time in the context of the Neville House's 200-year history.

## Student and Teacher Projects

# Ripples from Hands-On History

*Last year's Hands-On History workshop continues to inspire great work from area students. Many classes and individuals became so involved with their projects that they continued working all year long, well past the deadline for participating in the Hands-On History Education Fair in December 1986. Here is an update on some of the worthwhile projects that have been brought to our attention:*

### Memorial School

A letter from Nancy Dudley, third-grade teacher at Memorial School, Bethel Park:

"I decided to save the project for the end of the year when a change of pace would be needed. Since we are still in school (until July 1) in this unbearable heat, the project has been a life-saver.

"One of our first steps in uncovering our school's history was to list possible candidates for interviews. The kids felt sure of their abilities to interview because I had taken them through interviews of each other and then of family members. It all fell together beautifully! They trotted off with their pencils and clipboards with the confidence of a Mike Wallace or Barbara Walters.

"Fortunately, we were able to come up with family members, some quite extended, who were available, along with present staff in the building who had experience and were knowledgeable of the school's past. It is difficult, though, to arrange permission and transportation for a few students at a time to leave for out-of-school interviews. However, some were able to come to the school and some were able to be taped.

"While all our collecting was going on it was fun to watch the adults getting caught up in the project. The principal would sometimes appear, trailing dust and cobwebs, with things out of forgotten trunks in the boiler room (which was a favorite 'field trip'). Since the display has been up, every day someone will stop by — the night janitor, a cafeteria lady — with remembrances and vows to go home and dig up 'stuff.'

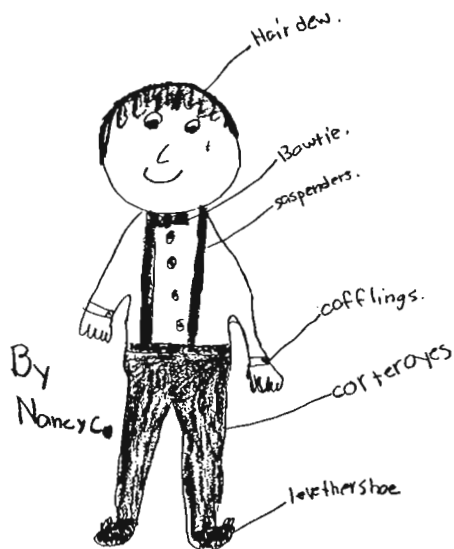
"Some interesting sidelights developed. A girl in class discovered that her aunt, who is a present member of the School Board, is a direct descendant of an original school director from when the township was founded in 1886, and that her aunt's grandfather was president of the Board when our school was built in 1948!

"But, of course, the biggest kick of all has been the enthusiasm of the kids. Each in their own way could now expound upon the history of Memorial School — after all, they are now 'historians.'

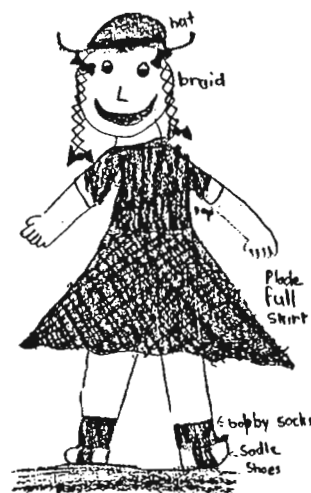
"As you may guess, the teacher has enjoyed the project thoroughly. I'm full of ideas — things to add — how to do some things differently — and am wondering what to do for next year's project.

"Thank you so much for your inspiration."

*This is what we wore in 1947*



*OLD  
by Time Girls  
Chrissy*



*After conducting interviews and browsing through old school pictures, two third-graders drew these diagrams of how students of Memorial School dressed in the past. Students worked with such enthusiasm that they were encouraged to spell phonetically rather than break their train of thought. Corrections would be made later.*

### Woolslair Elementary

Fifth-grade students at Woolslair Elementary Gifted Center in Lawrenceville published a literary magazine as a result of their local history research. Their teacher, Dee Weaver, chose the theme of community history to provide a meaningful goal for the research and writing skills she teaches. Dee teaches that writing is a process, not just a finished product. Four steps are involved in this process:

1. Draft (writing down what is known in prose format)
2. Revise (for form and content; at this point prose may change to poetry)
3. Edit (correct punctuation and spelling)
4. Publish.

Throughout the year, students collected school photographs and history, interviewed senior citizens at Canterbury Place, explored the Arsenal and the Allegheny Cemetery. And they wrote, revised, edited, photographed, and drew. At the end of the year, student editors compiled written pieces and illustrations into a beautiful magazine that impressed Geyer Printing Company so much that Geyer printed it for the school. The following excerpt is from the printed booklet:

"On Christmas Eve, my brother Joe was born. Back in those days, babies were born at home. My dad went down to the wine cellar and brought up a barrel of wine he made for the blessed event. He tapped it, and then set it up on a wooden ice box. He then cooked homemade sausage in large frying pans. Then, we went to Christmas Eve Mass. When we got back to our house, we sang Christmas carols in Italian. I sang along with them, because I knew all the songs my dad taught me. When we're through visiting our relatives' homes, we went to our friends homes to get treats. It was the custom of the Italians."

Ben Gherman wrote the following description of his tour to Allegheny Cemetery:

"On a snowy and cold November 13, 1986, we explored the Allegheny Cemetery. Our guide said that there were 167,000 people buried there. I truly thought the cemetery was immense. Touring the cemetery, I could not believe that it took only an hour and thirty minutes. But we still got many rubbings, epitaphs, and black-and-white photographs.

Exploring the Allegheny Cemetery our little guide sheet said to look for the earliest grave and most recent grave. It also asked us to look for angels, hearts, and other symbols.

There were many mausoleums, towers shaped like the Washington Monument, and thousands and thousands of graves. That is why I liked touring the Allegheny Cemetery."

## Education News

### Portable History

Thanks to a grant from the Henry C. Frick Educational Commission, Landmarks is now able to make Pittsburgh history portable! This fall, our staff will be creating Pittsburgh activity kits, containing old photographs, artifacts, maps, city directories . . . hands-on materials that make Pittsburgh's history tangible. We will then train docents to take this kit on the road, visiting schools and community groups throughout Allegheny County. Portable Pittsburgh will be ready for schools and groups in the fall of 1988. If you wish to learn more about being a docent, call Susan Donley (471-5808).

### Fall Programs

This fall, Landmarks will be offering a special workshop for junior high students at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. The course will be offered in conjunction with The Carnegie's Pittsburgh: Pieces of the Past exhibit, based on archaeologist Verna Cowin's recent excavations downtown. Students taking the course on Saturday mornings, October 3 through 24, will learn how to piece together clues from primary sources to reconstruct the past like a puzzle, and will take walking tours of the Golden Triangle and Oakland to put their new detective skills to work. Call The Carnegie (622-3283) to register.

- Other educational programs to be offered this fall by Landmarks include:
- Exploring Your City, a teacher inservice, October 6 through 27, from 4:45 to 8:30 p.m. Call the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (394-5761) to register.
- Architecture Apprenticeship for high-school students. Call the Gifted and Talented Program of Allegheny Intermediate Unit (371-8484) to register.

### Traveling Exhibits

After two years of extensive traveling, Landmarks' educational exhibits are still very much in demand. Architecture: The Building Art, is scheduled now through February of 1988. Starting in late August, the exhibit will begin traveling to the following schools for one-month visits: Centennial School, George Washington School, Poff Elementary, and Penn Hills School. The exhibit will be available again in February.

Landmark Survivors made its debut at PPG Place in August, before traveling to LaRoche College for the month of September. In October, the exhibit will be featured at the 1987 Artist Showcase for Education, to be held at Bidwell Training Center, on the North Side. Landmark Survivors will be available again in November. Call Mary Lu Denny, (412) 471-5808, for complete rental information regarding either exhibit.

### Showcase for Education

Susan Donley, Director of Education, will be a featured speaker at the Pittsburgh Fund for Arts Education's first Artist Showcase for Education, scheduled for October 9 through 11. Sue will be leading a workshop on "Reading a Photograph," demonstrating how art skills such as observation and visual thinking can be used in history classes and other disciplines.

### Two New Curriculums

Susan Donley, director of education, has written, designed, and illustrated two new curriculums: the Pittsburgh Heritage Supplement (\$2.50) and Exploring Architecture (\$5.25). Members can purchase copies of the curriculums by calling Shirley Kemmler (471-5808). The Pittsburgh Heritage Supplement contains worksheets, exercises, and art activities, including directions for an architecture scavenger hunt, making gargoyle masks, hometown T-shirts, and mainstreet murals. The worksheets and exercises in Exploring Architecture provide information on space, structure, styles, land use patterns, and site planning. Both curriculums are excellent aids for teachers or parents wanting to explore the local environment with kids.

## Save Our School: A Student's Ambition



Heather Morgan, a Peters Township High School sophomore, participated in Landmarks' Architecture Apprenticeship this year with an ambitious goal in mind: she wanted to save a school. When the one room Thompsonville Schoolhouse in Peters Township went up for sale recently, Heather became concerned that the 1905 landmark might be altered insensitively. She went to the Borough Council for help and proposed to restore the building to its original state to serve as a community center and a resource for teaching about education at the turn of the century. The Council has offered to help Heather raise funds for her cause.

Heather's project has gained national attention through her prize-winning entry in the eighth annual National History Day competition at Washington D.C. Her slide-tape presentation chronicling her efforts to reclaim the school was entitled "S.O.S. Save Our School." The presentation placed third in a competition with 1800 national finalists, selected from state-wide competitions whose participants are in turn chosen from

winners of local competitions.

Each year junior and senior high-school students research and prepare historical papers, table-top exhibits, live performances, and media presentations related to an annual theme. This year's theme, "Liberty: Rights and Responsibilities in History," encouraged students to explore Constitutional history as related to other issues. Heather's presentation raised the issue of a citizen's responsibility to preserve architectural treasures from the past. She made the point that future generations have the right to their heritage. Heather researched state and national preservation law and interviewed preservation specialists as part of her effort.

If hers was simply a History Day project, Heather's work would be over. But until an appropriate future for the Thompsonville School is assured, she will continue applying her considerable enthusiasm and dedication to S.O.S. Heather is setting an excellent example for other students to follow.



# Explore Pittsburgh by taking a City Safari



Do you yearn to adventure to far-off places, to spy wild creatures lurking overhead, search for signs of lost civilizations, or cross a quivering bridge suspended high above the water? Forty grown-ups and children of various sizes did just that on June 6 without leaving Downtown Pittsburgh. They participated in Landmarks' first family outing, the City Safari. Led by Susan Donley, Director of Education, the explorers fearlessly looked for high adventure in the steel and stone of our city.

The intrepid group began the safari by hiking over the Smithfield Street Bridge, which quivered underfoot, searching for gargoyles. Participants compiled a list of gargoyles staring down from buildings on the bridge, Smithfield Street, and Fourth Avenue; they designed gargoyles of their own; investigated clues to Pittsburgh's earliest settlers at the Trinity Cathedral burial ground; and, made rubbings of the gravestones to bring the evidence back home.

Activities for the City Safari were based on materials recently developed for Landmarks' "Pittsburgh Heritage Supplement." Landmarks plans to offer more family programs in the future since this event was such a success. Just in case you and your family missed out on the June 6 Safari, we have reprinted some activities below. Try these out with your family when next walking Pittsburgh's streets!



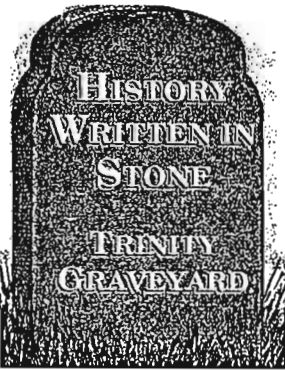
List all the gargoyles you find lurking on city streets:

What did you find	Where
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____

Now draw your favorite gargoyle from this expedition in the space below . . . or invent one of your own.

Return your gargoyle drawing to Susan Donley at Landmarks and we will reprint it in a future newsletter!

Spend some quiet time exploring the Trinity graveyard between Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and First Presbyterian Church on Sixth Avenue Downtown. This little patch of ground is all that is left of a much larger cemetery that had its beginnings as an Indian burial mound. Later it was used as a cemetery for soldiers serving at Fort Duquesne and Fort Pitt and later still for Pittsburgh's first citizens. Most of the graves were moved to Allegheny Cemetery through the years to make way for a growing city, but the tiny graveyard remains to remind us of the first brave settlers of Pittsburgh, the pioneer outpost.



During your visit find...

...the oldest grave  
belongs to \_\_\_\_\_  
who died in \_\_\_\_\_

...the most recent grave  
belongs to \_\_\_\_\_  
who died in \_\_\_\_\_

...the person who died at the oldest age  
was \_\_\_\_\_  
who was born in \_\_\_\_\_ and died in \_\_\_\_\_

...the grave with the longest epitaph  
belongs to \_\_\_\_\_  
What story does it tell?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

...all the people buried here who had Pittsburgh places named after them (streets, neighborhoods, buildings...):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Make a "rubbing" of your favorite gravestone. Attach a piece of tracing paper to the stone with masking tape. Rub over the top of the paper with the side of a soft crayon. The crayon will pick up the textures, sometimes making difficult carvings easier to read.

## Investigating Two Familiar Subjects

# Surveys of Scheibler and Steel Industry Now Complete

*This June, Earl James and Walter Kidney of Landmarks completed two surveys funded through matching grants from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The surveys were titled "The Works of Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr." and "The Steel Sites of Southwestern Pennsylvania." In both surveys, Walter and Earl had the privilege of looking into a familiar subject more deeply than is given to most people. The following article by Walter Kidney describes the survey experience and summarizes the findings.*

## The Works of Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr.



Collection of Gillian Behnke

The Scheibler Survey was conducted with a thematic nomination for the National Register of Historic Places in mind, the theme being "The Works of a Master" and the master himself being Frederick Gustavus Scheibler, Jr. We documented some hundred Scheibler buildings, omitting three outside Pennsylvania but documenting one in the Philadelphia-area town of Wynnewood; took some 400 photographs; and commented on the present state and National Register eligibility of each building. Two Scheibler works, Old Heidelberg and Highland Towers, are already on the Register, and we recommended 32 others.

The Survey will assist Scheibler research; give moral support to official and popular acts to preserve Scheibler buildings; and provide a basis for National Register nomination. In the latter connection, we understand that the State's Bureau of Historic Preservation will make actual nominations next year.

Scheibler has a quiet, persistent reputation. He never did a real glamour job; his practice was very largely domestic, and included nothing that could quite be called a mansion. His work centered on the East End, and outside Pittsburgh hardly anyone has ever heard of him. He wrote no books or polemics, gave no lectures that we know of, and got very little publicity. He seems to have been content with obscurity. Yet local architects have a respectful awareness of his work, an occasional family is proud to live in a Scheibler building, and many, to judge from talks with residents, enjoy the amplitude of his floor plans and the spirit of his detailing and ornamentation.

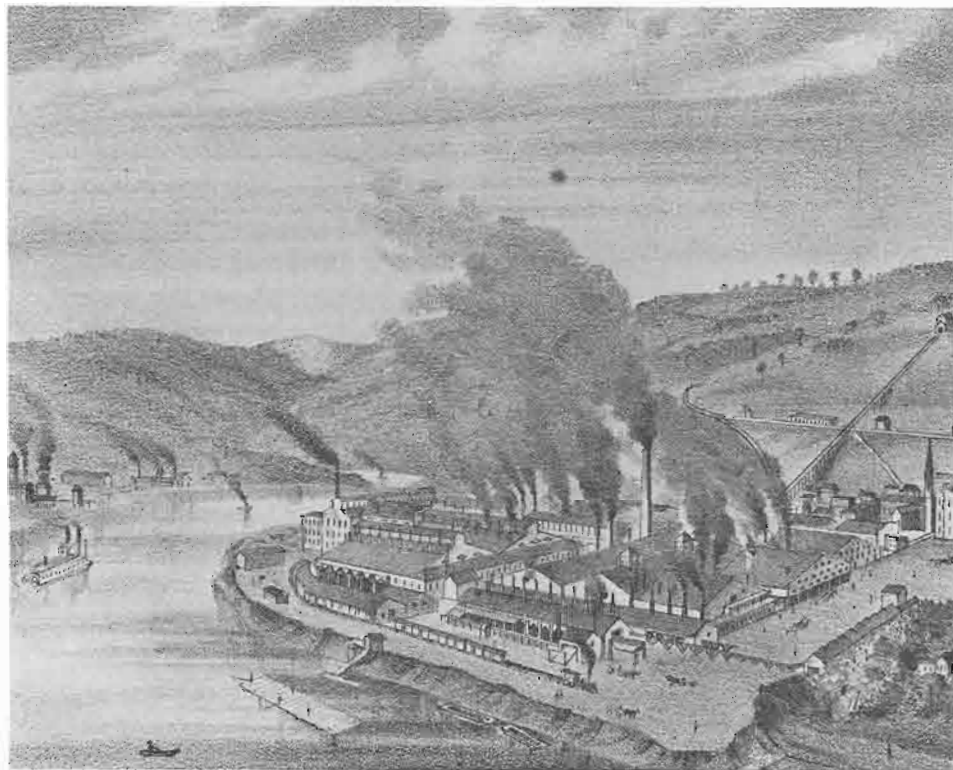
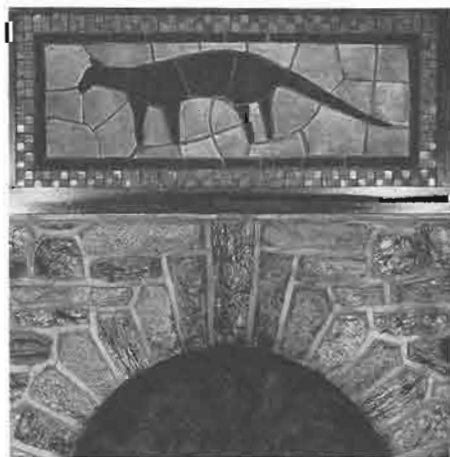
Giving objectivity and factual detail to his career was bound to dispel a few illusions as well as enrich the meager prevailing state of Scheiblerian knowledge. We found that his career can be divided, rather neatly, into five phases, which we arbitrarily labeled First, Early Modern, Mature Modern, Picturesque, and Final. From the start of his independent practice in the late 1890s through 1904, his designs had no distinction whatsoever. In 1905, with Old Heidelberg, he suddenly became a Modernist, under manifest influence from Secession Austria, Jugendstil Germany, and various progressive trends in Great Britain. Between 1910 and 1915 he found his own expression, with not much debt to others; by this time, with the notable exceptions of Highland Towers and the Hellmuth house in Swissvale, he was designing speculative

builder's houses with restricted budgets, and the consequent discipline combined with his own growing independence made him a more original Modernist than heretofore. After 1915 his clientele changed again; now he tended to design freestanding houses, and his designs tended to be more conventionally suburban: seldom without personal touches, but more concerned in the 1920-period manner with roof composition and rustic wall materials than with art glass, bold fenestration, and small but striking details as he had been before 1915. After 1930, he took anything he could get, and only a house of 1937 in Monongahela showed what his last decade of practice might have been like under better conditions as Modernism as a whole gained respectability in America.

We found that he was neither a restlessly-creative architect nor an infallible one. The design of Vilsack Row, which we recommended for the Register, was re-used elsewhere. There is quite a bit of Meado'cotts, in a different face brick, at Hamilton Cottages. One row-house design of 1910 is used in four different developments. Even a private house of 1915 has all the appearances of being executed from a design made and never used, say, around 1907. We have, then, a pragmatist ready to accommodate a thrifty client with a stock design as well as an artistic creator. He had his slack moments, too, and his technical failings. There are one or two houses that seem positively banal, a few roofs that do *not* look watertight, and a couple of fenestration schemes that make for visual artistry but were probably not appreciated by those inhabiting the rooms behind. At least one modern owner, loving Scheibler nevertheless, complains that his joinery tends to fall apart.

So we have a man whose oeuvre, seen objectively, goes along with his own non-interest in self-advertisement to keep him from becoming the basis of a heroic legend.

Regardless of which, there is nothing quite like him in this area. You have to fall in love with his tastes, much of the time. You have to like his art glass, and like where he puts it. If he sets a dinosaur in tile inlay over your fireplace, there it is. If your ideal of living space is a suite of neutral boxes and fate lands you in a Scheibler residence, your choice is surrender or vandalism. He is apt to make his presence felt, if only in the paneling of the doors. But the surrender may not be an oppressive one at that: his touch is almost always delicate, intelligent, if sometimes a little pixyish. You are living in something out of the ordinary, and you may be rewarded by studying it and making its acquaintance.



An artist's rendering of J&L's Pittsburgh Works, c. 1876.

## Steel Sites of Southwestern Pennsylvania

The Steel Survey had us on the road much of the time: two, sometimes three, non-experts looking at plants in a five-county area, deciding what to photograph, soliciting works plans and company histories. Sometimes getting inside, more often getting only as far as a guard by the gate. Then back to the office, and a hunt for old photographs, lithographs, engravings, a search through old plat books and Sanborn insurance atlases for plans of a half-century or more ago. We had to work quickly, use whatever was ready at hand, confine our attention to plants that were still operative at the end of World War II, and at that we had 32 plants to document.

One discovery we made was that, in a large plant at least, an ideal plan was likely to become impossible early in the plant's history, if not be so from the very start. Once coke rather than charcoal became the blast-furnace fuel of choice in Southwestern Pennsylvania, the furnace moved out of the woods and down by the rivers as part of an integrated operation — ore into one end, I-beams and so on out the other. Such large complexes had to be fitted into areas of river plain — iron- and steel-making is a thirsty affair — with railroads and towns taking up part of such space as was available. The organs of the plant might be disarranged already by such corsetting. Add to this increased customer demand for extant products and customer demand for new products; add to this new technologies such as those of by-product coke ovens, seamless-tube making, and basic oxygen furnaces, and you got a spectacle of new sheds inserted wherever they would fit while leaving space for the rail lines that had to go everywhere. There might also be a certain lack of coordination from the beginning. On the one hand, Carnegie's Edgar Thomson Works opened in 1875 as a new installation on ample land, presumably with an ideal works plan. On the other hand, J&L's Pittsburgh Works was a combination of three geographically separate companies: the American Iron Works on the South Side (itself a combination of two plants that had acted in coordination) and the Eliza Furnaces and the Soho Furnace on the north shore of the Monongahela. Much the same at Homestead: two original, interacting plants in Homestead and Munhall, and the Carrie Furnaces across the river in Rankin. At J&L, pig iron had to be ferried across the river for some 30 years until a bridge was built.

A steel plant, then, was apt to be a mixture of elements, some in the manifestly wrong but expedient places, with management weighing the costs of demolition and

reconstruction against the possible profits. A steel company faced the same problem that the military does: today's state-of-the-art equipment is tomorrow's obsolete equipment, and the more you buy today, the more you are stuck with tomorrow. One plant engineer told us that today, by the time new equipment is installed, it is obsolete. The tendency, then, was to hold on to what you had. At the J&L Aliquippa Works the old, air-fouling beehive coke ovens were still at work in 1948, at the opposite end of the Works from the newer by-product ovens that spared the atmosphere somewhat and recovered saleable chemicals: a mixture caused no doubt by economics and considerations of space. At Aliquippa, too, Bessemer converters were still firing up the sky until 1968, long after they were commonly assumed to have gone out of existence; in the latter days there was a process called duplexing, in which steel was begun in Bessemer, then finished in open-hearth furnaces. Now neither is in use.

The attitude we sensed in the people we talked with was revealing too. These were mostly middle and lower management, to be sure, beneficiaries of labor-saving devices and safety campaigns, and some of them of unionization; still, we had no scent of the hellish quality in the work environment that we might have expected, no oppressive feeling of disaster in ambush. These people were matter-of-fact, but seemed quietly fond and proud of their plants. They admitted that accidents happened, and we could see how they might: they spoke of spills of molten steel from electric furnaces, with water mains not far below the floor that the steel might reach and explode. But the main feeling was of order and routine, imposed on places and objects of colossal size. We remember one plant where workmen, wearing no safety clothing but heavy gloves, were casually feeding red-hot metal into and pulling it from roll stands, dragging it around the floor with tongs as it was reduced from a three-foot billet to a 20-foot rod.

*In both surveys we had the mandate to investigate our subjects in such detail as the 10-month period allowed, and it was a happy experience doing so. While we did not exhaust these subjects by any means, we did compile an excellent file of photographs, historical/architectural information, and data that will aid future researchers. Any members interested in taking a closer look at our findings may call Walter Kidney (471-5808).*