

PH LE

Published for the members of the
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

No. 109
Spring 1989

NEWS



Industrial Riverwalk



The present Station Square area in the early 1890s. The Clinton Furnace, with its skip bridge crossing Carson Street, is to the left. At the bottom, center, is the Clinton neighborhood with St. Malachy's Church, which stood about where the Gateway Clipper ramp is now. Between them is the Clinton Iron Works.



The Shenango ingot mold lowered into place (left). Below, from left to right: Charles C. Arensberg, Torrence M. Hunt, Sr., G. Whitney Snyder, Donald C. Burnham, and Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. during the dedication ceremony on December 15.

On December 15, 1988, Pittsburgh Mayor Sophie Masloff unveiled a 20-ton solid cast-iron ingot mold at Station Square in a public ceremony to announce Landmarks' Riverside Industrial Walk. Also participating in the ceremony were Mr. Jonathan S. Spatz, CEO of Shenango, Inc., donor of the ingot mold, and Mr. Arthur Edmunds, trustee of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. The unveiling took place at the west end of the center parking lot near the Sheraton Hotel.

Sited prominently along the Monongahela riverfront of Station Square and running 3,500 feet from Bessemer Court to the historic Lawrence Paint Building, the Industrial Walk will display major artifacts of our region's industrial heritage, including the iron and steel industry, river transportation, non-ferrous metals, heavy machinery, and electrical manufacturing.

In his remarks on December 15, Mr. Spatz said: "For Shenango this presentation does more than preserve for posterity a major artifact of our heritage. This is living history. We still make this product which has been used in the steel industry for over 100 years. Ten years ago America consumed 3-1/2 million tons of these things each year. This year's consumption will be about 20% of that amount as a new technology — the continuous caster — replaces our product.

"So we have a great history of making iron and steel products in the Pittsburgh area which is changing before our eyes. The waves of immigrants who came to this great county and established the mighty American steel industry in the nineteenth century would not recognize Allegheny County to-

day. Shenango is one of the only two remaining blast furnace operations in the county, down from scores only a few decades ago.

"... We are proud of our past history, proud to be part of a new industrial era in Pittsburgh, and proud to donate this mold so that future generations of Pittsburghers will take a strength from our past to build a new and stronger industrial economy in our region."

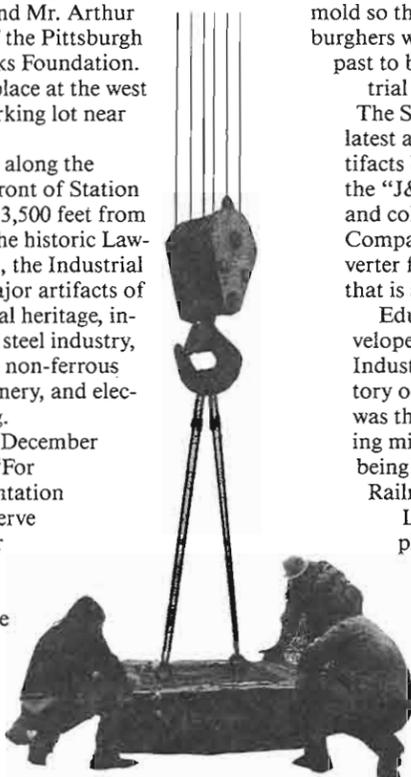
The Shenango ingot mold is the latest acquisition of iron and steel artifacts by Landmarks; others include the "J&L STEEL" sign, blast furnace and coke oven artifacts from the LTV Company, and the Bessemer converter from the A.M. Byers Company that is already on display.

Educational programs will be developed to interpret the Riverside Industrial Walk as well as the history of Station Square itself, which was the site of glassworks, rolling mills, and iron furnaces prior to being the location of the P & L E Railroad Terminal.

Landmarks projects a total planning and implementation budget of \$2 million, and a schedule of six years to complete the Riverside Industrial Walk at Station Square.

The Walk is being planned under the leadership of an advisory committee chaired by G. Whitney Snyder. Donald C. Burnham, Charles E. Half, Eugene A. March,

and Larry G. Smith serve on the committee. The Walk is a public-private venture, with anticipated funding from the City of Pittsburgh, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Landmarks. When completed, it will become a major tourist attraction for Pittsburgh and a unique educational feature for Station Square. Landmarks Design Associates, master architects for Station Square, is the consulting architectural firm for the Riverside Industrial Walk.



RIVERWALK ARTIFACTS

The following industrial artifacts have been acquired by Landmarks by donation or purchase and will be part of the Riverwalk. Some have yet to be moved to Station Square.

- **Bessemer Converter**
Donors: Gerald Peckish and Arthur Silverman. The Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania also contributed \$25,000 for its reconstruction. The Bessemer converter was typically used to make steel from molten iron by means of an air blast that burned off impurities. This converter made wrought iron, however, for the A. M. Byers Company in Ambridge.
- **Hot-metal Car (or Torpedo Car)**
Hot metal is molten iron, carried from the blast furnace at about 2700 degrees. The body of this car rotated to pour the iron into a ladle that would carry it to a steelmaking furnace.
- **1905 Heroult Electric Steel Furnace**
Donor: Crucible Steel Company of America. This was the first such steelmaking furnace in the United States. It employed the heat of an electric arc passing through the hot metal.
- **Blast Furnace Bells and Hopper Ring**
Donor: LTV Steel Corporation. Blast furnace bells at the top and bottom of the hopper ring admit the charge of iron ore, limestone, and coke to the top of the furnace without releasing its heat and gases.
- **Coke Oven Buckstays and Doors**
Donor: LTV Steel Corporation. Coke ovens refined coal into blast-furnace fuel at about 2000-degree heat in the absence of oxygen. The door slid upward to release the finished coke after 16 to 24 hours.
- **"J&L STEEL" Sign**
Donor: LTV Steel Corporation. This sign stood on a rooftop of the South Side Plant of the Jones & Laughlin Pittsburgh Works.
- **Hot Strip Rolling Mill Stand**
Donor: Weirton Steel Corporation. A row of such stands gradually squeeze an orange-hot slab into sheet steel.
- **Vertical Blowing Steam Engine**
Donor: Shenango, Inc. Blowing engines supply the air blast that, after heating in stoves, is forced into the lower part of a blast furnace. The W. P. Snyder Charitable Fund has provided a grant for the purpose of dismantling and moving the blowing engine from Sharpsburg to Station Square.
- **Ingot Mold**
Donor: Shenango, Inc. Cast-iron molds are used to form the liquid steel from a furnace into an ingot that can be rolled into whatever shape is handiest for further rolling.
- **1907 Horizontal Steam Rolling-mill Engine**
Donor: USX Corporation. This engine drove a set of rolling-mill stands at the Clairton Works of U.S. Steel.
- **Blast Furnace Skip Cars**
Donor: RIDC. Skip cars, traveling like incline cars in alternation, feed charges into the top of a blast furnace.
- **Slag Car and Thimble**
Donor: RIDC. Slag thimbles carry away liquefied waste that floats on the iron at the bottom of a blast furnace.
- **Electric Furnace Ladles**
Donor: RIDC. Such ladles carry hot metal to and molten steel from a steelmaking furnace.
- **Steam Forge Hammer**
Donor: RIDC. Steam hammers use steam to raise the hammer, which falls by its own weight. Steel plants aimed at self-sufficiency, and forged their own tools.
- **Fireless Locomotives (Bottle Engines)**
Landmarks purchase. Fireless locomotives received charges of steam from the plant boiler house. This was sometimes more economical than raising steam in the locomotive itself. These belonged to the Mesta Machine Company in West Homestead.
- **Saddle-tank Locomotive**
Donor: Fred Okie, Jr. Carrying boiler water in a tank set saddle-fashion on the boiler itself allowed the locomotive to have a small tender and thus to be quite compact. This locomotive of 1897 was at the Duquesne Works of U.S. Steel.



PHLF NEWS

Welcome New Members

Mrs. W. C. Adams
 Jeffrey Auld
 David Baumbach
 Michael J. Bernard
 Ms. Elizabeth Booker
 Mr. & Mrs. Howard En Dean
 Donald K. Felsing
 Mrs. Esther D. Hartman
 Mr. & Mrs. George Herwig & Family

Ms. Peggy Huber
 Harry D. LeClere & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Merrick
 E. J. Powell
 Ms. Cynthia J. Russell
 Mrs. Lois Scherder
 Ms. Melinda Schnap
 R. Stewart Scott & Family
 Jack R. Zierden

General Fund Contributors

We are grateful to the following members who generously contributed to our 1988 year-end appeal in support of Landmarks' General Fund:

Mrs. M.L. Aaron
 C.L. Albright, Jr.
 Mrs. W. Harry Archer
 Charles Covert Arensberg
 Mrs. Robert F. Barmore
 Miss Ethel E. Belcher
 Mrs. Jeanne B. Berdik
 Mrs. Kenneth S. Boesel
 Charles H. Booth, Jr.
 Ms. Elizabeth R. Bradley
 J. Judson Brooks
 Anthony J. Bryan
 Paul A. Crouch
 John P. Davis, Jr.
 Mrs. James K. Ebbert
 Arthur Edmunds
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Edwards
 Mrs. Leonore R. Elkus
 Mrs. James A. Fisher
 Charles H. Fletcher
 Mrs. David Genter
 Mrs. A. Douglas Hannah
 Mrs. Jean H. Harper
 Roy J. Heinsberg
 Mrs. Robert F. Henninger
 Miss Judy Hoffmann

Thomas O. Hornstein
 Paul R. Jenkins
 Stanley Karas, Jr.
 Mrs. Kenneth K. Kearney
 David Kleer
 Mrs. Alan Lehman
 Gordon MacVean
 Eugene A. March
 Mr. & Mrs. John L. McCain
 Grant McCargo
 DeCourcy E. McIntosh
 Mr. & Mrs. William B. Millard
 Phillip F. Muck
 Robert F. Patton
 Mrs. Evelyn B. Pearson
 Mrs. Nathan W. Pearson
 Mrs. S. Raymond Rackoff
 Dan Rooney
 Richard M. Scaife
 Ms. Frieda G. Shapira
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven J. Smith
 G. Whitney Snyder
 Ms. Jean L. Sommer
 Furman South, III
 Mrs. Ellen Carroll Walton
 Mrs. Alan Wohleber

Donations

Landmarks wishes to thank the following for their gifts:

- Gannon University, Erie, for five books relating to Pittsburgh-area history and industry.
- Varina Craig McGowan and Maryjane Craig Cook of Bossier City, Louisiana, for a copy of the Roto Section of the *Pittsburgh Press* covering the Flood of 1936.
- David Brentzel of Pittsburgh, for a bronze plaque representing an industrial plant.

GOALS of LANDMARKS

To preserve the historic architectural fabric of greater Pittsburgh.

- Individual buildings
- Neighborhoods
- Historic commercial areas
- Parks and public sculpture

To preserve major artifacts that contributed to the industrial development of the region.

- The Steel Heritage Task Force
- The Riverside Industrial Walk at Station Square
- The Transportation Museum

To preserve major engineering monuments.

To educate the public about the history, the historic architecture, and engineering of the region.

- Educational programs for students and for teachers
- Publications
- Tours, lectures, and exhibits
- Visual media

To contribute to the new economy of greater Pittsburgh by developing tourism based on our architectural, engineering, and industrial history, and on the development of our historic riverfronts.

To continue a well managed, soundly financed organization to implement these goals on a long-range basis.

1964-1989
 TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF
 HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 IN PITTSBURGH



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

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. President
 Louise King Ferguson Editor/Executive Director
 Mary Lu Denny Director of Membership Services
 Earl D. James Director of Preservation Programs & Services
 Walter C. Kidney Architectural Historian and Archivist
 Stanley A. Lowe Director of the Preservation Fund
 Susan K. Donley Education Consultant
 Jean Hodak Artist

EVENTS

Featuring Pittsburgh architecture, history, gardens, neighborhoods, and industry. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend all of Landmarks' special events. The member who manages to attend the most 1989 events will receive a free membership in 1990.

Sunday, March 12
 2 pm to 4 pm

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

Mr. Jonathan S. Lane, AIA, AICP, principal of Lane, Frenchman and Associates, and Associate Professor of Urban Design and Planning at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, will present an illustrated slide lecture on the highly successful Lowell, Massachusetts heritage preservation project. The lecture will be co-sponsored by the Mon Valley Initiative and will be held in the music hall of the Carnegie Library of Homestead. Prior to the lecture, Landmarks will present its 1989 "awards of merit" to deserving individuals and organizations.

Saturday, April 15
 10 am to 4 pm

HANDS-ON HISTORY FESTIVAL

History comes to life at our grandest festival of the year, where hundreds of students from more than 60 area schools display projects featuring Pittsburgh's history and architecture.

There will be special events for the whole family to enjoy: you can ride in antique cars or on a horse-drawn carriage; build a straw tower, construct a gargoyle mask, or draw a building and add it to our "mainstreet mural". Try to identify some mystery artifacts; join guitarist Frank Cappelli in a sing-along of Pittsburgh folk-songs; watch a play about legendary steelman Joe Magarac; talk with student actors and actresses who are dressed up as famous Pittsburghers from the past; and admire the many bridges entered in the "Great Pittsburgh Bridge-Building Contest!" All activities are free.

Saturday, May 6
 2 pm to 5 pm

NEVILLE ISLAND

A bus tour will bring us near the iron-smelting, foundry, and coking operations at Shenango, Inc., and to a lock-and-dam control building planned for adaptive use and other places in this often-seen but little-visited island.

Wednesday, May 24
 6 pm to 8 pm

LANDMARKS OF THE 'TWENTY-FIRST' CENTURY

What new Pittsburgh buildings may be called landmarks in the next century? This early-evening stroll, led by Walter Kidney, will assess the chances of artistic immortality for some of our latest downtown buildings. The opinions will be personal, and not all will agree.

Sunday, June 4
 10 am to 5 pm

NEVILLE HOUSE ANTIQUES SHOW

Come browse through antiques and collectibles displayed by 30 antique dealers from Western Pennsylvania, tour the historic house in Collier Township . . . and buy, buy, buy!

Saturday, June 17
 10 am to 4 pm

AUTO FESTIVAL

Join in the fun at the Station Square Transportation Museum Auto Festival. See the annual challenge "race" among some of the area's best one-cylinder cars built in the very early 1900s by Cadillac, Oldsmobile, and a few European manufacturers. Browse through the transportation memorabilia on sale under the train shed then climb aboard an antique automobile and don goggles and duster to have your photograph taken as a souvenir!

Saturday, June 24
 9:30 am to 1 pm

FLORA AND FAUNA

Join Richard Liberto, Station Square landscape supervisor, for an in-depth review of the plantings on-site. Then hop aboard our bus for a visit to the Biblical Garden at Rodef Shalom Temple in Shadyside and a tour of the newly-designed natural habitats at the Pittsburgh Zoo.

Wednesday, July 19
 6 pm to 8 pm

MURDOCK FARMS

Join Walter Kidney for a sunset walk through the gracious residential neighborhood of Murdock Farms in Squirrel Hill. Here the homes are constructed of brick or stone ranging through Georgian to Tudor Revival styles of architecture, dating from the 1910s and 1920s. We will enjoy light refreshments at dusk on the patio of one of the more picturesque houses in the area.

Sunday, September 3
 2 pm to 5 pm

UNCONVENTIONAL VIEWS OF PITTSBURGH

A city so picturesque in its terrain has startling outlooks and little-visited places, and here is a chance to see some of them. Topography, not architecture, is the subject of this bus tour: the hillsides, the valleys, the places passed above or beneath, perhaps never noticed, perhaps idly wondered about, perhaps unsuspected.

Sunday, September 17
 2 pm to 5 pm

25 YEARS OF LANDMARKS HISTORY

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation has accomplished much in its 25-year history. Join us on a bus and walking tour reviewing where we were, where we are, and where we hope to be in the year 2000. Visit Manchester with its ornate Liverpool Street houses, the Mexican War Streets with 100-year old renovated row houses, Station Square, Carson Street, and several historic properties currently being restored through the Preservation Fund.

Sunday, October 15
 2 pm to 5 pm

HOMESTEAD

Remembered for a giant steel plant and a bitter labor dispute, West Homestead, Homestead, and Munhall are also places of vivid commercial architecture and prosperous residential neighborhoods with many churches. A remarkable community stood outside the Works' gates, and we will explore it on a walking tour with staff members of the Mon Valley Initiative Group, the Homestead Economic Revitalization Committee, and the Steel Industry Task Force.

November 10, 11, and 12
 ANTIQUES SHOW

Thirty-one dealers from more than 10 states will display a fine selection of antique furniture, silver, china, and artwork at Landmarks' twelfth annual show.

Sunday, December 3
 1:45 pm to 10 pm

BARNESVILLE, OHIO

Visit the Belmont County Museum, a 23-room Richardson Romanesque mansion, that will be regally decorated in traditional Victorian splendor.

All members will be mailed invitations with complete details and tour/event fees. Call Mary Lu Denny (471-5808) for reservations.

The Early Years:

Recollections of Landmarks

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. Charles Arensberg, our chairman, recalls the early days:

I remember a few things about the early days in the 1960s: Barbara Hoffstot's launching party at the Harvard-Yale-Princeton Club; Helen Frick's gift so that Jamie could write the Liverpool Street monographs and get us to a start on saving that street; Dick Scaife, Arthur Ziegler, and me walking through the doomed North Side Post Office, cold as ice in the winter, water dripping through the magnificent dome. Dick Scaife and many other contributors saved it from the bulldozer.

In those days it was always crisis time. This old house was to be torn down. This building destroyed. Pittsburgh of the nineteenth century was disappearing before our eyes. Arthur wrote letters, proposed ordinances, talked to Congressmen, Chuck Shane took photographs, Ellis Schmidlapp drew sketches and plans and finally the newspapers got behind the whole Pittsburgh movement. After all there's nothing so appalling to many as the thought of the Big Bad Bulldozer smashing an old landmark into dust and stone!

Arthur was so successful in creating the drama and the scene that we were fully launched by the mid-1960s and actually became a power in the city. We showed our gratitude by renting a small space in the Triangle Building, hiring a secretary and paying Arthur and Jamie a small stipend of \$300 a month to continue the work!

The later years are another story for another day, perhaps: Station Square and Dick Scaife's generosity and the Mexican War Streets, the Neville House and Walker-Ewing. Jamie continued to wield his pen which in time became our sword. Walter Kidney has followed his example. We continued to follow Barbara Hoffstot's advice: "When in trouble or you need something, go to the top!"

I recall especially the "Ladies of Stone" and the Burtner House, two episodes in the early story of Landmarks.

Ladies of Stone



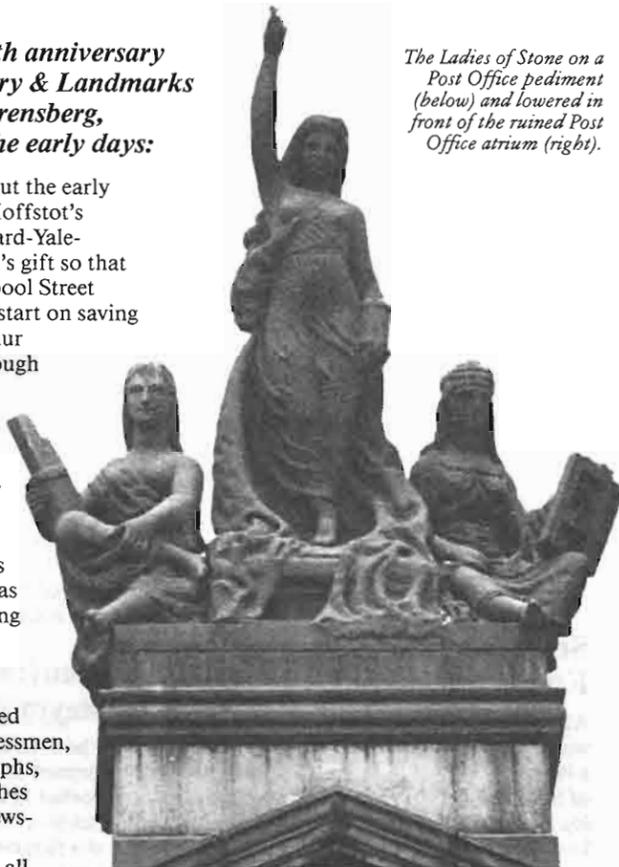
Standing on top of the old Post Office and Federal Courts on Smithfield Street at Fourth Avenue were three heroic groups of three ladies each, sculpted by a little-known federal sculptor [Eugenio Pedon]. Each

group, 90 feet above the street, two on Smithfield Street and one on Cherry Way, consisted from left to right of the Spirit of Railroad Transportation, for she carried a steam engine in her hand; in the middle the standing lady representing Water Transportation, for she carried a ship's rudder in her hand; and to the right a seated lady with an open cylinder in her hand representing the Steam Engine.

The statues were not carved in much detail, since they were to look down on the plebs from 90 feet in the air, but they carried a brooding sense of authority and history.

It was clear in 1966 that the old building was irretrievably doomed as a federal building and so our attention turned to saving

The Ladies of Stone on a Post Office pediment (below) and lowered in front of the ruined Post Office atrium (right).



the Ladies of Stone, for what purpose we didn't yet know.

While we were pondering, the wrecking crews were already at work: they toppled one set of three ladies into the rubble below, smashing them into bits of arms, legs, and heads. Congressman Fulton, we learned, had taken some heads for his collection in Mt. Lebanon. We got in touch with him and Mr. Gray of the GSA in Washington. Jim Fulton and Mr. Gray were very eager and cooperative. Yes, they would allow us to dispose of the remaining ladies, but it was our responsibility to deal with the wrecker and the cranes to lower and transport the statues. We made a contract with the Edge restaurant on Mt. Washington to take one set, and they did, installing one lady in a deep open well of the building and the other two on the street outside their restaurant. One of the ladies lost her foot from contact with an errant automobile, but the three remained at the Edge for years until the enterprise failed, at which time Landmarks offered to take two of them back to Station Square. They are now standing at the Station Square entrance on Carson Street, happy at last in what will probably be a permanent resting place. The ship's-rudder lady is still as far as we know at the Edge.

We lowered the other remaining set to the ground. We transported the lady with the open steam cylinder to the HYP Club's courtyard wall, and we moved the other two to our sculpture garden at the Old Post Office on the North Side, where they still remain. The cost for this lowering and moving was as I remember some \$7,000.

The lady at the HYP Club had an interesting history. I started a solicitation of members to defray partial cost of transportation and installation in the courtyard. The members responded generously to move her, soon naming her "Charley's Aunt." At one time the wrecker came to us and said he was going to take it from us because he had a contract to remove and keep all artifacts and we had thwarted his purpose. We outstared him however, and nothing came of his threats.

She sat for many years in the courtyard. While she was at the HYP Club one winter's eve at Christmas time Miss Olliffe,



The Steam Engine Lady in the HYP courtyard.

the manager of the Club, observed a bedraggled street figure, perhaps weaving a bit from some seasonal imbibition, come into the courtyard, go to the statue, kneel down before her, pray a moment, cross himself and leave, depositing the sum of twenty-five cents at her base. The Madonna of William Penn Place.

Finally, a more practical administration in the Club decided they needed a small fountain to replace her, and she was taken back by Landmarks. She sits now in lone reverie opposite the entrance to the Grand Concourse Restaurant at Station Square. Someday she and her two sisters should be reunited; they are at the Old Post Office on the North Side, now the location of the Pittsburgh Children's Museum.

The only remaining mark of the lady's reign at the Club is a photograph of her with a snow cap on her head, just inside the front door.



Charles Arensberg (right) solicits money to save the Ladies.



The Burtner House and the roads.

The Burtner House

The Burtner House in Harrison Township near Natrona Heights is a handsome Pennsylvania stone house built about 1821 by Philip Burtner and his wife, born Anna Naegele (Americanized to Negley). One of their daughters became the wife of Judge Thomas Mellon, founder of the banking family.

In 1968 the house stood on Burtner Road just off Route 28, which was being rebuilt. The engineers had in their final plans decided that an off-ramp must go right through the site of the house. When we arrived on the scene they had already demolished a charming stone outdoor bake oven on the grounds. Next to go in a week or so was the house itself.

Responding to a call for help from an embattled group of preservationists in the area, we called for a meeting with PennDot officials; Arthur Ziegler led the fight to get a delay of demolition, and after much discussion with the PennDot officials ("go to the top," says Barbara) he convinced them that their plans were not set in concrete, that the ramp could be relocated, and the house was saved. It is now being meticulously restored and maintained by the same group of dedicated citizens who fought for it from the beginning.

Such are two incidents from the early crisis times. Several more I will recount for our readers in the fall issue of this newsletter.

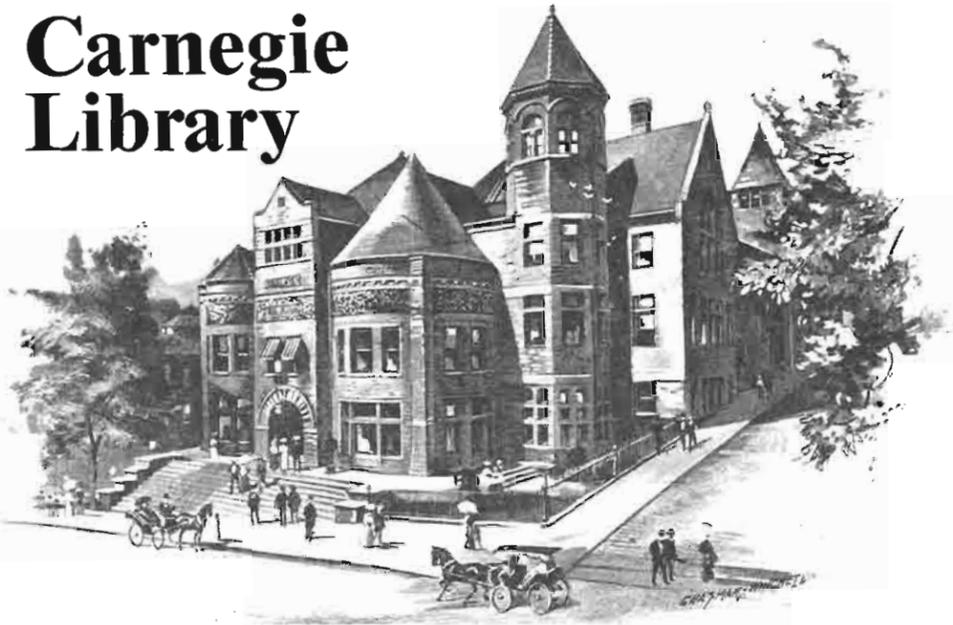
Charles Covert Arensberg
Charles Covert Arensberg
 Chairman

Send Us Your Memories

In the fall issue of PHLF News, we plan to include a special section commemorating Landmarks' 25 years. We invite our trustees, members, and friends to write down their memories of Landmarks and to mail them to Louise Ferguson, PHLF News, 450 The Landmarks Building, One Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Preservation Scene

Braddock Carnegie Library



The Braddock Carnegie Library of 1888 was the first Carnegie Library in the world to be dedicated. One of the less vivid works of the individualistic William Halsey Wood, it received in 1893 an annex by Longfellow, Alden & Harlow that created the first of three such institutions Andrew Carnegie built near his steel works: library, concert hall, and club in one package. To each of these three he gave an endowment, supposed to ensure the future. They did not suffice; the Duquesne Library came down in the 1960s, the Homestead survives though with money problems, and the Braddock Library, without money and much-deteriorated, was closed by the mid-1970s. In 1975 the County requested that Landmarks do a feasibility study; this concluded that the building could succeed, adaptively used for various community functions.

The advent of the Braddock's Field Historical Society in 1983 marked a turning point. The library section has been kept at least partly open since then, and contributions for the ultimate rehabilitation of the whole library have been coming in at an accelerated rate, so that by this January



\$257,000 in grants and donations had been received, along with \$22,000 worth of donated labor and materials.

The work is being done in three phases, of which Phase I is in progress. This includes reconditioning the interior apart from the music hall; much of this work is done already. Phase II will be exterior cleaning and repairs, and Phase III will be renovation of the music hall.

On November 10, 1988 the Trustees of Landmarks visited the Library. There, Richard Mellon Scaife announced a challenge grant of \$35,000 from the Allegheny Foundation, to be met equally from other sources, as well as grants totaling \$2,500 from two Trustees from Landmarks for restoration in the main reading room.

Landmarks is not forgetting the other survivor, the Carnegie Library of Homestead. It has not been as close to extinction as the Braddock Library, yet it needs money, and Landmarks is working with its management at fund raising.

400 Roup Avenue

Last July, members of Landmarks toured the Friendship area and many of us were particularly attracted to an uninhabited but well-kept house of the 1900 period at 400 Roup Avenue. At the time, the neighboring Baum Boulevard Dodge and Shadyside Ford were looking for space for a parking lot and had their eyes on the property for the purpose, though it was zoned residential and had houses near by. In August the dealerships bought the house, and according to residents stripped the house of its decorative work and boarded it up. Early in December, Frank H. McKean of Shadyside Ford responded to an article in *In Pittsburgh*, making the following points: 1) the dealerships needed employee parking space; 2) the "run-down" house was of no special architectural or historic interest; 3) the mature trees on the lot would be kept; 4) the nice new parking lot, once landscaped, would look better than the house; 5) it would be well to improve the neighborhood with even more landscaped parking lots in place of rundown houses. Be that as it may, demolition of the house went on from late November through mid-December.

State Historic Preservation Conference

Landmarks will be a major participant in this year's State Historic Preservation Conference, to be held in Pittsburgh in April. Co-sponsored by the American Fund of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the 1989 conference topic will be Pennsylvania's Industrial Heritage.

All of our staff will be involved in leading regional tours and moderating panels, and on the opening evening of the conference, April 27th, Landmarks will host a reception aboard a Gateway Clipper Fleet riverboat.

McDonald's on Main Street?

South Siders are worried about the proposed construction of a McDonald's at Carson and 23rd Streets just east of the Birmingham Bridge. The South Side's Chamber of Commerce, Local Development Corporation, and Planning Forum have objected to a number of features: appearance; effect on neighboring homes; traffic congestion; and pedestrian hazards. The Zoning Board of Adjustment allowed the project to go through last November, subject to 15 specified conditions, but the SSLDC and three individuals have filed an appeal, claiming that the ZBA's granting of an exception was wrong.

Byers Hall

On December 13, the Community College of Allegheny County hosted a party to celebrate the reopening of Byers Hall, the Byers-Lyon house of 1898 at Ridge and Galveston Avenues. This, one of the last and greatest of the Ridge Avenue mansions, has been fully restored on the exterior and partly restored inside, in the latter instance particularly on the ground floor. On the exterior, the arcaded porches were completely rebuilt, and cast-stone detailing, whose color is expected to darken suitably, was installed to replace badly-weathered brownstone. Byers is to be used as a student activities' center, and some dropped ceilings upstairs were necessary to accommodate air conditioning, but the social rooms on the ground floor were authentically restored. Landmarks Design Associates advised on colors and finishes for the entire ground floor and the upstairs stair and corridor areas. A mantelpiece and furniture from our organization are on loan to the house. We appreciate the efforts of Dr. Frances Holland, a trustee of both the Community College and Landmarks, who ensured an effective role for our foundation in this restoration project.

Fourth Avenue Historic District

At the beginning of the year, nothing further had been heard of the proposed shopping mall between Grant and Wood Streets and Forbes and Fourth Avenues. At the end of December, Landmarks nominated for a City Historic District an area, centered on the remarkable Fourth Avenue bank buildings, that has been a National Register District since 1985. The effect of such a City District designation would be to create a new protected area contiguous with the present Market Square City Historic District. The National Register designation obligates the Historic Review Commission to declare reasonable cause for considering the nomination valid as presented. This, in turn, freezes the issuance of demolition permits and permits for exterior construction until the City Council can consider designation. In the meantime, property owners are notified.

The ordinance protects only exteriors, however, and at most compels building owners, including the mall developers, to incorporate old facades within their new construction. Various urbanistic problems — the heavy bridging-over of Smithfield Street, the presence or absence of street-level shops — thus remain.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

After several postponements, Landmarks was scheduled to testify on the question of a large new church building on the property of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Sewickley. Our position was that, from what we know, we cannot support the building project. Our primary concern was that Sewickley remain primarily a town of homes, and that its desirability as such not be lessened by traffic and parking problems, as they might be in the vicinity of the Church. Furthermore, we were made aware of complaints about noise from within the St. Stephen's property as a result of its active schedule of youth programs. We would have to be reassured on all these matters, we said, before we could support an enlargement of the present facilities.

If we could be reassured, we stated that an architectural solution might be found to mitigate the visual impact of this bulky institutional structure on what is still primarily a residential street. We stated, however, that we would prefer to see retention and rehabilitation of the 1890s double house that now fronts on Broad Street and whose demolition is called for in the plans.

Sewickley Parking Garage

There is controversy over Sewickley Valley Hospital's project to build a parking garage at the corner of Hill Street and Blackburn Road. This would require the removal of 10 early 20th-century houses, none of them distinguished architecture but a very pleasant and well-kept ensemble. Thus far the tall Neo-Georgian hospital has coexisted very well, visually at least, with an environment consisting mainly of small houses. Even the parking garage in the next block of Hill Street is as agreeable-looking as it is possible for a parking garage to be, suggesting a readiness to be a good neighbor. A double block front of garages, however, would undoubtedly be a forbidding affair regardless of brickwork and planting. The trouble is that the hospital is in the wrong place, and there is presumably nothing to be done about it. Those who remember the hospital area of Oakland some 40 years ago will have been through the scenario before: hospitals coexisting with houses, residential streets their only means of access, houses yielding to one expansion after another, and — in Oakland's case at least — a bleak and soulless cluster of big boxes where one can remember homes. It is hard to deny a hospital the facilities it needs, but such an inherently expansive institution should not be put among homes. In Sewickley's case this garage should be rigorously proven to be necessary for the proper functioning of the Hospital, with due regard for traffic and parking conditions in the neighborhood. Zoning limitations will seemingly stop Hospital expansion once a new wing is added, assuming the garage is built. If so, there will at least be the consolation of knowing that the end has come.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

A fire in the main dome of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on Polish Hill caused minor damage that was quickly repaired. The long-range condition of the copper plating of the dome is unlikely, however, to be satisfactory. It has had to be waterproofed with an outer coating that does not respond well to the expansion contraction of the copper, and is thus not very durable.

Mandated Drabness

Frank Lucchino, Allegheny County Controller, published a thoughtful article in *Post-Gazette*, on August 27, on how bridges in this area are being marred visually by PennDOT and Federal Highway Administration requirements. Concrete barriers cyclone fences are mechanically imposed older bridges in place of handsome, individually-designed pylons and balustrades, and while the bold superstructure of the bridges remain inspiring from a distance the close-up view is dreary. It appears that any deviation from this utilitarian norm cuts off State or federal funding, and that imaginative solutions though compatible with safety standards are not encouraged.

Kaufmann Warehouse Reymer Building

The 1900-period Kaufmann Warehouse Reymer Building, in the 1400 block of Forbes Avenue, have been carefully removed as the Forbes Med-Tech Center. Misha Berger's detailing within the opening is tactful, and the fronts of the two brick buildings are clean and handsome again.



Smithfield Street Bridge

The recent closing and re-opening of the Smithfield Street Bridge has cast inevitable doubts on the usefulness of the bridge, especially for a direct bus route out of the Triangle. We note, though, that it was the newer aluminum deck structure, not the original steel trusswork, that led to the emergency closing and the subsequent imposition of a three-ton weight limit. We suggest that the bridge be strengthened to full capacity as soon as possible; that conversion of the trolley side to a third lane be speeded up; and that the bridge be suitably painted to show up its structural lines and decorative portals.

The strengthened bridge with a third lane may serve to overcome a long-standing problem of bus access from town to State Square. When buses came over the Smithfield Street Bridge, the stop in front of the Landmarks Building was inoperative between 4:00 and 6:00 pm on weekdays. In the present, the nearest outbound bus stop is about 700 feet away from our corner on East Carson Street. With a third lane we might be able to have bus service from town at our door at all times.

As to painting the bridge: the aluminum paint long in use never did the bridge justice, and the present coat is in decidedly shabby condition. If the structure were given a positive color — not the ineffectual Aztec Gold so much in use around here — a positive color such as a medium blue-green or a reddish-brown, and if the portal details were painted in appropriate colors, this, city's oldest bridge, would be a gorgeous sight. Right now it looks like a pauper orphan among our bridges.

Neville House

The Neville House Auxiliary, with the help of some very talented friends, has created a hand-made quilt in an original design called Amelia's Garden. The full/queen-size quilt, in pastel shades will be raffled as a fund raiser for further restoration of the National Historic Landmark house in Collier Township. Tickets for the raffle can be obtained from Carol Bernabei (221-5797). The drawing will be held at the Fourth Annual Antiques Show at the Neville House on Sunday, June 4 (see page 3 for show details).

The Neville House will be open to the public each weekend in June with members of the Auxiliary and the Western Pennsylvania Committee of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America on hand to present guided tours. Using the 1794 inventory, the house will be furnished with as much authenticity as possible using decorative arts borrowed from antique dealers, The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and friends.

Old St. Luke's Church

Interior restorations are complete at Old St. Luke's Church in Scott Township, and the restoration committee hopes to begin work this year in the cemetery where some of the tombstones are in need of cleaning and repair. Plans include the creation of a Memorial Garden which will accommodate new cremation burials.

Landmarks' members are invited to the annual Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Old St. Luke's on March 26 at 6 a.m. Also remember that the church is available for weddings, baptisms, special services, and private tours. Contact Edward Reno (373-2184) for details.

Burtner House

Restoration plans for 1989 at the Burtner House in Natrona Heights include re-framing and re-caulking the windows and replacement of the bedroom floor. The Burtner House Society also hopes to rebuild the spring house in time for the Annual Strawberry Festival, scheduled for Saturday, June 17. The festival will include a sheep-petting zoo, a blacksmith, spinning, weaving, and Colonial craft demonstrations . . . and home-made strawberry shortcake!

Rachel Carson Homestead

The Rachel Carson Homestead Association has reorganized its board of directors and recruited over 12 new board members, under the energetic direction of its new chairman, Dr. Joseph R. Panza. Highlights of the board's plans include the establishment of a corporate membership program, the restoration of the Homestead of the 1907-27 period of Rachel Carson's residency, and a wide variety of environmental programs.

Preservation Loan Fund Activity

Currently, Landmarks is involved in nine major projects through its Preservation Loan Fund. A brief description of each is given here; for further details contact Stanley Lowe (471-5808).

Mechanic's Retreat Park

On January 18, Arthur Ziegler and Stanley Lowe of Landmarks presented representatives of the Mexican War Streets Society with a \$2,500 check to establish a maintenance fund for Mechanic's Retreat Park. The park, at the corner of Buena Vista and Jacksonia Streets, bears the original name of the neighborhood. It was laid out, to a design by local residents, on the site of a demolished house donated by Charles Arensberg, Charles Arensberg, Jr., and Walter D. Toole. In mid-January the plan was not fully executed, though trees and shrubs had been planted, and the foundations for the brick walks, making an X in plan, had been laid. The City has undertaken to light the park and install brick walks within and around it. Formal dedication is to be scheduled on completion of the work.

1417 E. Carson Street

The South Side Local Development Company's historic office building at 1417 East Carson Street underwent renovation for commercial and apartment rentals with a \$39,500 Preservation Fund loan. The building has been completely renovated, and the loan has been repaid.

901-05 Western Avenue

Western Avenue Development, a joint venture of the Allegheny West Civic Council, the North Side Civic Development Council, and architect Joe Kranich, is restoring three of the oldest buildings in Allegheny West's National Register Historic District, at 901-05 Western Avenue, for retail and office use. Property acquisition was obtained through an \$80,000 Preservation Fund loan. Restoration work is scheduled to commence in the near future.

852 Beech Avenue

Manchester Citizens Corporation, with the assistance and cooperation of the Allegheny West Civic Council, purchased and is restoring a vacant National Register property at 852 Beech Avenue for single-family home ownership. Restoration and acquisition funds of \$40,000 were provided by the Preservation Fund loan. The restoration is 30 percent complete, and the loan has been repaid.

Federal Street and North Avenue

The renovation of commercial properties in the Federal Street area of the North Side



Mechanic's Retreat in January. Brick sidewalks and lighting were yet to be installed.

was begun with a Preservation Fund loan of \$100,000 to the North Side Civic Development Council. The loan was used to acquire the Masonic Temple at 20 E. North Avenue.

Allequippa Place, Oakland

Oakland Planning and Development Corporation received a \$150,000 Preservation Fund loan to help write down mortgage interest and construction development for the restoration of 24 low-income housing units at Allequippa and Robinson Streets, known as Allequippa Place. This \$1.4 million development is also receiving assistance from Union National Bank and the Vira I. Heinz Endowment.

Braddock Carnegie Library

Braddock's Field Historical Society received a \$2,500 pledge from the Preservation Fund to help develop a fund-raising strategy and brochure for restoration of the old Braddock Carnegie Library.

Brighton Road, North Side

Landmarks' Home Ownership for Working People Program has expanded to include home ownership through housing cooperatives for low-income tenants. The Preservation Fund will support the North Side Tenants Reorganization, Inc.'s plan to rehabilitate buildings located on Brighton Road and Brighton Place. These restored buildings will contain units of low-income housing cooperatives. Ms. Harriet Henson, NSTR executive director, explains that the proposed development cost will be approximately \$3.8 million, with predevelopment costs of \$110,000 being provided by the Preservation Loan Fund.



852 Beech Avenue, Allegheny West

Good Neighbor Policy

Allegheny General Hospital, 13 North Side neighborhoods, and Landmarks Preservation Fund staff have been negotiating with AGH to resolve several issues that are of a major concern to North Side residents regarding the Hospital's plans for future development, expansion, and growth on the North Side. A working agreement signed on January 17 calls for the Hospital to establish a board to investigate residents' concerns regarding new construction, height of new buildings, long-term space/land needs, a North Side Educational Program, a residential mortgage program, health assistance program for senior citizens, and neighborhood employment. The Hospital is thus instituting a good-neighbor policy with implications for the revitalization of nearby historic districts.

Our work with Allegheny County neighborhoods continues with success, helping the citizens and assisting currently in the preservation of several dozen buildings from modest houses to places of distinction.

Creative Preservation: Ensuring the Good Life of a Community



The Cathedral of Learning, from Panther Hollow.

One of the useful, though dangerous, functions of historic preservation is to set up an inertia toward undesirable changes within a community. At its best, such inertia keeps buildings and neighborhoods that we long have known, though perhaps in a better, fresher state than we have grown accustomed to. At its worst, such inertia opens the preservationist to accusations of freezing the history of a place at some arbitrary bygone date, denying the natural historical process and inhibiting desirable or necessary new development.

It is important to see historic preservation as one special aspect of a whole process of ensuring the good life of a community. We need to understand more deeply what is good about the place where we live, its physical environment not least of all, and continue this good into the future. To preserve a building, a block front, or a neighborhood is sometimes "indicated," to use medical jargon. But change *will* occur, whether on the scale of an industrial park or of a new business in a small shop. It is the adaptation of a community to new demands or the seizure of a chance to improve things. To control change, make it a positive contribution to the community as a good and distinctive place to inhabit, is

preservation also. The public needs to have a sense of what will and will not contribute in this way, and make itself heard. One unprecedented building, like the Cathedral of Learning, may dominate the skyline, stand aloof, yet be accepted as part of the city. Another, like the large downtown mall of which we have heard so much and so little, may prove to be an oppressive presence however many standard commercial amenities it packages; if this is apt to be so, we should sense it in time to protest, but at this point we approach it with an open mind.

Our educational courses, our tours, our publications look largely to the remoter past, and in any case depend mainly on extant places for their illustrative content. They can serve though to impart a sense of what a new building or other place can be: not by presenting an architectural vocabulary never more to be deviated from, but by showing what architects and other designers have done for our community, the standards they established and met. It is up to us to see that such standards will be maintained, in whatever specific terms, in the future. This is, so to speak, creative preservation, looking forward as well as backward, looking for permanent values to maintain.

Education News

• **Inservice Course Offerings**

This spring Landmarks will be offering Exploring Architecture, a four-day, two-credit teacher inservice course taught for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit by Susan Donley, on April 1, 8, 15, and 22, 1989. Susan Neff will be teaching the three-credit teacher inservice course Pittsburgh Heritage again this summer for Landmarks from June 21-30. Susan Donley will lead the three-credit Hands-On History: An Introduction to Research Methods in Local History teacher institute from July 12-21. Interested teachers can register for any of these three courses by calling the Allegheny Intermediate Unit at 394-5761.

• **Woolslair Elementary Gifted Center**

Pittsburgh Public Schools' Woolslair Elementary Gifted Center continued its tradition of inviting Landmarks' education consultant Susan Donley to conduct workshops on local history and architecture this year for a record 20 days! So far this school year Sue has helped a fifth-grade class learn oral-history interviewing skills and created illustrations of neighborhood architecture for their annual local history magazine, The Woolslair. For a third-grade class studying archaeology, she led a workshop on "Interviewing an Artifact." Fifth-graders studying the future of transportation looked back at the transportation systems that shaped Pittsburgh's past. Finally, Sue presented Portable Pittsburgh to first- and second-grade classes as inspiration for their Pittsburgh time-line mural — a one hundredth-birthday gift to Equitable Gas Company, the school's business partner.

• **Banksville Gifted Center**

Eighth grade students at the Pittsburgh Public School's Banksville Gifted Center are creating a school museum on the theme of energy in Pittsburgh. Susan Donley is assisting them with this project on behalf of Landmarks. The students are taking a multi-disciplinary look at how Pittsburgh has affected and been affected by various methods of tapping all the sources of energy at its disposal throughout the years. Science and history themes will be investigated in their research and science courses, and the results will be communicated as part of their writing and art classes in the form of museum exhibits. Sue is visiting the school three times during the year-long project to teach research and museum exhibit techniques.

• **Architecture Apprenticeship**

For the seventh year, Landmarks has been sponsoring an Architecture Apprenticeship for the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. This year 20 tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students with career aspirations in architecture are taking advantage of the opportunity this program provides to learn basic principles of design, talk with architects on the job, visit important landmarks in Pittsburgh, attend undergraduate architecture classes at Carnegie-Mellon, and solve such problems as designing a building to fill an empty lot downtown and determining a plan for using vacant land at Station Square. The goal of the program is to help students decide if architecture is an appropriate career choice for them.

• **Majesty Wins Award**

James D. Van Trump's book Majesty of the Law has received a "Best of Category" award from the Western Pennsylvania Printing Industry Association, the category being that of case-bound books in three or fewer colors and judgement being based on verbal content, graphics, and press work. The book was entered by Hoehstetter, Inc., its printer.

• **Thank You Gay Kowal**

Landmarks extends its sincere thanks to photographer Gay Kowal, who has volunteered her time and talents to Landmarks since September, 1988. She has photographed our tours, antiques show, and many of our preservation loan fund projects. Thank you, Gay.



HANDS-ON HISTORY FESTIVAL

- Watch the opening parade of antique cars and school bands
- See hundreds of student exhibits featuring Pittsburgh's history and architecture
- Talk to student actors and actresses dressed as famous Pittsburghers from the past
- Ride in antique cars or on a horse-drawn carriage
- Build a straw tower
- Construct a gargoyle mask
- Draw a building and add it to our "mainstreet mural"
- Identify mystery artifacts
- Join guitarist Frank Cappelli in a sing-along of Pittsburgh folk-songs
- Watch a play about legendary steelman Joe Magarac
- Admire the many bridges entered in the "Great Pittsburgh Bridge-Building Contest"

Saturday, April 15

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Station Square Festival Tent
Admission donation:
\$1.00 per person

Festival '89

The 1989 Hands-On History Festival will be a day filled with fun for the whole family, celebrating Pittsburgh's history and architecture. More than 60 area schools have already signed up to exhibit student projects, and dozens of students are at work building bridges that will be judged in the "Great Pittsburgh Bridge-Building Contest."

Members of Landmarks are encouraged to come to the Festival. Our staff can use lots of volunteer help throughout the day, so please call Mary Lu Denny (471-5808) if you are interested in lending a hand. Call Cathy Broucek (471-5808) for exhibit registration or bridge-building details.

All activities free

Bring the Whole Family

HANDS-ON HISTORY INSPIRATION



Hands-On History Inspiration, published in January by Landmarks, presents 12 tried-and-true recipes for school projects that enrich the study of art, history, social studies, and literature . . . and generate lots of student, teacher, and community enthusiasm. The handsomely illustrated 16-page booklet is intended for elementary and secondary school teachers, and may be ordered by calling Shirley Kemmer (471-5808). The projects featured in the booklet were developed by teachers and created by their students for the 1986 and 1988 Hands-On History Festivals sponsored by Landmarks. There are recipes for curving apple-head dolls; "reading" artifacts, old photographs, and documents; creating timelines; touring Allegheny Cemetery and "rubbing" tombstones; interviewing community residents and publishing oral histories; creating a Monopoly game out of your community; and lots more. Hands-On History Inspiration was funded by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and by Landmarks' Revolving Fund for Education, established through a grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Unpacking Pittsburgh

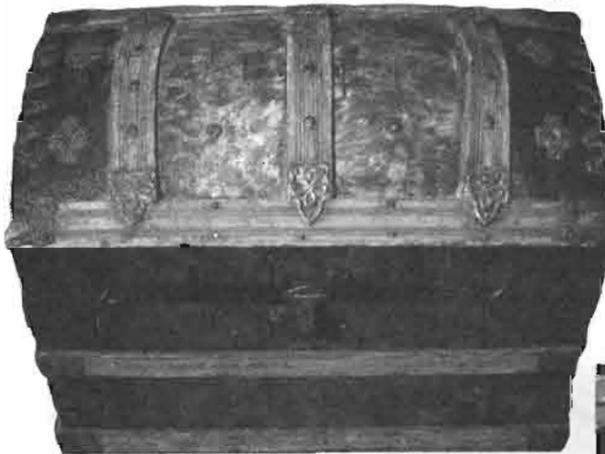


These photos show Landmarks docent Susan Mead delivering 200 years of Pittsburgh history in one hour, as she presents *Portable Pittsburgh*.

Since *Portable Pittsburgh's* debut in November 1988, students, teachers, and parents have received the educational program with enthusiasm. *Portable Pittsburgh* has already traveled to more than 40 elementary schools in the Pittsburgh area, and MaryLu Denny continues to receive phone inquiries and reservations daily.

Portable Pittsburgh consists of an antique trunk packed with artifacts representing six eras in Pittsburgh's history: Forks of the Ohio; Fort Pitt; Gateway to the West; Iron City; Steel City; and Renaissance City. The artifacts include dried corn, a rush lamp, potato masher, steamboat life saver, lump of coal, electric toaster, fireman's hat, and a computer chip. There is also a 100-foot scrolling timeline that vividly illustrates how brief the white man's stay has been in this region in comparison with that of the Indian. Teachers are provided with a guide that suggests activities with students before and after the docent's visit, and students are given an outline of the Pittsburgh Point at the conclusion of the program . . . and encouraged to draw their city in the year 2050.

You may reserve *Portable Pittsburgh* for your school or community group by calling MaryLu Denny (471-5808); the fee for the program is \$35 per session, and there is a class limit of 35 people. There is no better way to pack in a lesson on Pittsburgh.



Artifacts, documents, and photographs representing 200 years of Pittsburgh's history are packed in this treasure chest and then unpacked for the *Portable Pittsburgh* school presentations.



Left: The six eras in Pittsburgh's 200-year history take up about four feet of the 100-foot scrolling timeline, and the other 96 feet represent 10,000 years of Indian life in this region. Below: Docent notes for *Portable Pittsburgh*.



Events at the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

SATURDAY, APRIL 1 8:00 pm
Donald R. Sack, dealer in fine American antiques, will present "Fakes and Forgeries" at the Fourth Annual Museum Benefit. Admission by ticket only

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 7:30 pm
Michael P. Weber will discuss "The Mellon-Lawrence Liaison" in the Spring Lecture Series "A Board Room with a View." Admission: free to members of the Historical Society; \$2 for non-members

SUNDAY, APRIL 9 2 pm
Film Series "Industrial Heritage of the Region"

SATURDAY, APRIL 29
National History Day Regional Judging of student projects

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3 7:30 pm
Richard O'Connor will discuss the glass industry of Western Pennsylvania in the Spring Lecture Series "A Board Room with a View." Admission: free to members of the Historical Society; \$2 for non-members

SUNDAY, MAY 7 2 pm
Film Series "Industrial Heritage of the Region"

SATURDAY, MAY 27
Monongahela River Cruise

SUNDAY, JUNE 4 2 pm
Film series "Industrial Heritage of the Region" includes a panel discussion and clips of documentaries in the making.

All lectures will be held in the Historical Society building at 4338 Bigelow Boulevard in Oakland. Reservations may be made by calling 681-5533.



Tour docents and *Portable Pittsburgh* docents from left to right: Carol King, Marianne Martin, Helen Simpson, Bob Jacob, Albina Senko, Audrey Menke, Susan Mead, Lois Scherder, Art Weixel, and Marianne Barnes.

Volunteers for Landmarks

Docents for Landmarks' tour program and for *Portable Pittsburgh* met in February to review plans for the new year. Although not everyone was able to attend the meeting, we are proud to acknowledge our 14 hardworking docents who lead bus and walking tours of the city for convention groups, women's clubs, schools, etc., and our eight loyal docents who present *Portable Pittsburgh* to school children.

Our tour docents are: Regina Belle, Marion Campbell, Genie Ferrell, Constance Fox, Mary Ann Graf, Frances Hardie, Carol King, Marianne Martin, Audrey Menke, Jean O'Hara; Francie Robb, Susan

Rosenberg, Albina Senko, and Helen Simpson.

Docents for *Portable Pittsburgh* are: Marianne Barnes, Jean Davis, Robert Jacob, Alina Lao Keebler, Susan Mead, Lois Scherder, Art Weixel, and Dorothy Younkens.

Our staff offers docent training programs each fall, so if any of our members are interested in presenting tours of the city or *Portable Pittsburgh*, call MaryLu Denny (471-5808). All you need is a love of Pittsburgh, a bit of time, a car, and we will help you become a Pittsburgh historian, architectural critic, and confident speaker in front of any age group!

Planning Your Summer Vacation Already?

Then sign up for *Pittsburgh Heritage*, an eight-day adventure in Pittsburgh that is repeatedly described by participants as a summer vacation in the city.

Pittsburgh Heritage is offered to elementary and secondary teachers each June. Students and their parents in grades 4 through 8 may sign-up for *Pittsburgh Heritage* each July. There is a registration fee.

Call Landmarks (412) 471-5808



Homestead, the Homestead Works, and the High Level Bridge, c. 1980.

Landmarks has received a matching grant of \$5,300 from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for work toward nomination of areas of West Homestead, Homestead, and Munhall as a National Register Historic District.

With the exception of the original Mesta Machine Company buildings, the places of the District will be non-industrial: stores, civic buildings, parks, churches, and houses of all kinds from mansions to simple worker's homes. Landmarks and the Steel Industry Heritage Task Force are attempting the preservation of an important portion of the U.S.S. Homestead Works as well.

The District has an irregular outline whose final boundaries are yet to be determined, but it runs, very generally, from Seventh Avenue close to the Works southeastward and uphill to include the oldest parts of the three boroughs that have not been too greatly altered. In this area are about 875 buildings, of which about 600 are expected to be found to be of a period and in a condition to contribute to the historic and architectural character of the District.

Status as a National Register District would benefit the boroughs in both tangible and intangible ways. Owners of commercial properties who renovated historic buildings so as to maintain or restore their character would be eligible for investment tax credits of up to 20 percent. The Eighth Avenue merchants might also be able to benefit from the National Trust's Main Street Program, which makes a variety of consulting services available to commercial streets of historic character. In addition, the effect on the reputation and pride of the town should be very beneficial, creating both a national and local awareness of this area as something remarkable, a place to see, a place to live in.

The Homestead National Historic District

The Architectural Legacy

Should the Homestead National Register Historic District come into being, it will frame and label a generally pleasant but not quite true picture. The houses, churches, and stores suggest a time of prosperity, but the source of the prosperity, the Homestead Works, will very largely have vanished, and the prosperity itself, for the time being, has as well.

Yet, with suitable interpretation, the District will be history in concrete form. Not much will survive from the pre-1892 period, the time before the lockout and strike; only the Bost Building, union headquarters during the strike, will represent that earlier time and that traumatic event forcefully, aided we hope by preserved remains within the Works.

Rather, what is preserved will suggest the paternalism and the stability of the later years, when a Carnegie Library, a Schwab Industrial School, and even a Frick Park were donated to a more docile community, and the churches, first Protestant, later ethnic, arose on the hillside.

Out of the prosperity, and out of the accumulated savings of the not-so-prosperous, came some remarkable architecture. In 1893 a horse drowned in the mud on Eighth Avenue, the main street of the three boroughs; but, shortly thereafter came paving, trolley service from Pittsburgh, and a busy mercantile life expressed in the fashionable succession of architectural styles, of which Romanesque is most notable. The streets further uphill are in many cases middle-class, with Tenth Avenue a special surprise for its numerous churches, some imposing, some little larger than the adjacent houses. Here are a few:

St. Mary Magdalene Church, fronting on Frick Park, began in 1893 as a large example of the humdrum art of Frederick Sauer. It burned badly in 1932, however, and an inspired architect — the name is remembered at the church as Graves — took the old design as a basis for a handsome recon-



St. Mary Magdalene Church, Homestead.

struction with detailing in mellow red brick, red terra cotta, and sandstone: Victorian in effect but with a richness and vividness lacking in the original.

A short distance down Tenth Avenue, at Ann Street, is St. Anthony's Church, too small to be conspicuous and a little too new to be a landmark, having been built in the early 1940s. It is however a very refined and charming Gothic work in dark red brick with pantile roofs, probably by Lamont Button.

At Dickson Street and Tenth Avenue in Munhall is St. John's Byzantine Catholic Cathedral, built in 1903. Since a remodeling the inside is extremely plain, but the exterior is the most intriguing work of the meteoric Titus de Bobula, who designed it in a blocky Art Nouveau of the kind favored in Italy and Central Europe. It is a most extraordinary building for the Pittsburgh area. The rectory down Dickson Street, though simple and domestic beside the Cathedral's towered facade, is a worthy companion.

Further east, at Ninth Avenue and Library Place, is the St. Michael Archangel Church of 1927 by Comes, Perry & McMullen, a mixture of Italian Romanesque and Moderne whose tower is crowned by Frank Vittor's statue of St. Joseph the Worker. This account by no means exhausts the number of churches on or near Tenth Avenue, set among houses of the 1900 period.

The District begins and ends on notes of lavishness. West Homestead has the George Mesta house, sprawling white Colonial Revival by an unknown architect: not the most sophisticated design imaginable but a sumptuous house, looking down from its Doyle Avenue perch, in the old industrialist tradition, on the yellow-brick Mesta Machine Company.



Homestead Carnegie Library, Munhall (left).



George Mesta house, West Homestead (right).

At the Munhall end, the Homestead Carnegie Library rises benignly over a little hillside park. A building of 1896-98 by Alden & Harlow, its golden-brown exterior half-conceals, half-reveals its triple function of concert hall, library, and community club behind a facade not quite symmetrical. It is a gravely charming building, a work of gentle architecture that for 90 years has looked outward to the raw, crashing pragmatism of the Homestead Works. Beside it, once, was the Plant Superintendent's House, a kind of chateau, but that went in 1961. Two division superintendent's houses, Shingle Style more or less, remain behind the Library. This northerly part of Munhall was owned almost totally by the Carnegie Land Company, which besides these pres-

tige dwellings built worker's houses regarded as superior for their price.

The District will be not so much a textbook example of an industrial town as a small town that developed on a vigorous economic base, and that expressed its prosperity in architecture that in some cases is distinguished. A future in commerce and light industry will gradually seem more of a reality than the heroic industrial past, which will survive in a few preserved structures, artifacts, and displays, and in fading memories. The District will be judged on its merits as a present-day commercial and residential area. As such it should be attractive, particularly if investment tax credits and the appeal of District status stimulate restoration and preservation activity.

Steel Task Force

The Steel Industry Heritage Task Force has selected Ms. Jo L. Harper as its new chairwoman, following David Bergholz's move to Cleveland to head the Gund Foundation. Ms. Harper is director of the Mon Valley Initiative, a Homestead-based, non-profit organization which focuses on assisting local community development corporations and municipalities in the Mon Valley in their economic revitalization efforts.

Task Force priorities for the new chairwoman and members include negotiations with the Park Corporation, owners of the historic Homestead Works, to allow Task Force consultants and committee members to conduct formal feasibility studies for the potential reuse of portions of the Carrie Furnaces and Homestead Works as a

historic site; expanded community liaison activities to inform citizens, borough and county officials, state and federal legislators of the values of the project to the community; and extensive fundraising.

The current federal fiscal year appropriation of \$350,000 to the Task Force will be used to support:

- architectural/engineering analysis of structures and buildings, which will be carried out by Landmarks Design Associates;
- historical research and photographic documentation of the Homestead Works and numerous other historic steel sites in the region, to be carried out by the Historic American Engineering Record (NPS); and
- financial and marketing analysis of the proposed historic site.



Bost Building, Munhall.