Rehabilitation Clinic

The first rehabilitation clinic of SHARA met at 321 South Fourth Street on Monday March 17th, 1958. Among those present were a dozen inquirers and an equal number of the committee. The meeting was opened by asking for questions from those who had come for information.

The range of questions covered many subjects; from "What shall I do if my house is to be condemned?" to "What heating system is best for a restored house?" Some questions were answered and the committee is working to make available more complete information. (The most important problems were those dealing with the first steps to be taken toward restoration. The answers were: (a) No authentic items on a house should be removed or destroyed; (maintains values and will allow the finest future restoration; (b) Brickwork should be cleaned, not painted, (the most distinctive feature of the area) (c) Woodwork and metalwork should be painted light colors to brighten up the neighborhood.)

The second step toward restoration would be the replacing of missing authentic doors, windows and shutters. This is of such importance that the advice of an architect is recommended.

The solution to the improvement of Society Hill is not complete restoration by all owners, but the cleansing of brickwork, the painting of woodwork and the retention of authentic elements of the older houses. This would be a beginning in the restoration of the neighborhood and augment the city's redevelopment program.

The committee is planning to hold another open meeting on May 12th, at 321 S. 4th Street at 8 P.M. Mr. Preston Andrade, architectural consultant of the Redevelopment Authority, will speak on the general problems of restoration in the area. Come and hear an authority on this subject.

Early in June a series of conferences will be held at which individuals will have answers given to them on specific subjects. Please register at the May meeting for your conference in June.

Damon Childs.

Plans of our Annual Meeting on Monday April 28th are well under way and we know you all will have an interesting and exciting evening.

Under the Chairmanship of Mrs. George Diehl a committee of ladies is preparing for a Reception to precede the meeting proper. This will be held in the ballroom of the Keith-Physick-Syng Mansion where the Annual Meeting will be held --- and Society Hill residents are invited to come for dessert and coffee at seven o'cloke. This will let us all have a pleasant social get-together before the serious business of elections and reports.

Voting will be by printed ballot which will be distributed to all members who have paid their current dues.

For a complete Program of Annual Meeting see Page 2.

Scenes from SHARA's First Rehabilitation Clinic
Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
Residents of Society Hill

Animal Party
Society Hill Community Association

Monday, January 29 — 521 S. Fourth St.

Program

7:00 P.M. VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

In lobby of the clubhouse. A special occasion to meet the current and executive board members of SHCA. Plan to hire your dinner, dessert of coffee and cake with your neighbors in the ballroom.

The Reception Committee

Miss Selma Levin
Mrs. Joan Fawley
Mrs. H. Gondorf
Mrs. Ida Ruggen
Miss Theresa Barrance
Mrs. Lillian Hall
Mrs. Robert Lovins, Sr.
Mrs. Katherine Kelly
Mrs. Edith Sten
Mrs. Henrietta Silverstein
Mrs. Tessa Cathcart

8:30 P.M. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

In the Boardroom — No Reports or Speeches

XXX — Vote of Membership on Amendments of Incorporation
XXX — Report of the Nominating Committee
XXX — Election of Officers and Board Members for 1958-59

9 P.M. THE UNIT ONE STUDY — A REPORT — MR. FREITZ ANDRADE, F.I.A.

Discussion — Questions and Answers

XXX — The Public Relations Committee will have an extensive series of exhibits, photos and models of Society Hill on display in the 321 S. Fourth Street Library.
Spring has arrived in Society Hill—and everywhere folks are to be seen painting and sprucing up. Now is the time to get those window boxes painted and planted...to get busy in your own garden. It's amazing what can be done even if all you have is a corner of cement behind the house. Rose of Sharon or geraniums or other flowers or shrubs can be set or low hedges laid across bricks and make a place at green and flowery corner to enjoy this summer. MR. CHILDS at 690 Spruce has just such a garden that is a veritable box of vines and flowers—all growing in pots and planters! It would be too long before we'll have Society Hill Garden Faye. Maybe next year!

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SOUTH 2ND STREET INN

The following resolution will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting:

RESOLVED, FURTHER RESOLVED, and HEREBY RESOLVED to incorporate as a non-profit citizens association in accordance with the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, that the Board of Directors therefor are hereby authorized and hereby are empowered to take such steps as are necessary to achieve the aforesaid incorporation.
No single event could have pleased more the members of the Society Hill Area Residents' Association (SHARA) than Mayor Dilworth's decision to join us as one of our active neighbors.

We have noticed since the increased interest city officials are taking in this area, our policing has been better (the red cars come faster when they're called), the streets get extra brushing-ups, there's no fooling about trash collection.

In fact, we wish to announce that since the Mayor has become a SHARA neighbor, Society Hill has become well-nigh a paradise in embryo.

And we're doing our part to assure Mayor Dilworth that he is thrice welcome. On the very day the Dilworth family arrived in their tasteful dwelling on the east side of Washington Square a group of SHARA residents, headed by Maureen Murdoch, our capable president, journeyed to the Dilworth doorstep to sing them the best we had in Christmas Carols. The time was Christmas Eve, 1957. Aside from the fact that Arnold Nicholson, famed Associate Editor of Saturday Evening Post, who sang slightly off-key, the event was a salubrious success.

As we were caroling...to our utter surprise...the Dilworth family appeared in person to welcome us, plus their two wonderful poodles, who added their barking welcome. Moreover, as we suspected he would, the Mayor invited us in and, lo and behold, there was a flowing bowl of holiday eggnog awaiting us plus some might wonderful fruit cake.

Ye Editor had stuffed in his back pocket the manuscript of a welcoming speech (three hours planned delivery) but, in the confusion, this tradition was forgotten and the mast. now rests in the majority wastebasket...a great loss to history, but we excerpt some of its details here.

The residences of this town's mayors are nothing new to Society Hill. Most of 'em have lived here. The city's first mayor under Penn's charter (1701) was Edward Shippen who build himself a stately residence they called the "Great House" on the west side of Second Street, north of Spruce. Of this hearty fellow it was said "He had the biggest house, the biggest coach and the biggest belly of any man in the Province". (Incidently the Shippen family once owned the ground south of Walnut Street and 6th Street, where Mayor Dilworth's house now stands.)

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A grandson of Edward Shippen, bearing the same name, was the town's mayor in 1744. His stately house stood on the west side of 4th Street near Walnut.

From this home on April 9, 1779, Judge Shippen staged a magnificent wedding for his daughter, Margaret (Peggy), when she married General Benedict Arnold who disregarded himself as a traitor to his country.

Other residents of Society Hill who served as Mayors included such ancestral dignitaries as Joseph Wilcox, Richard Hill, Jonathan Dickinson, Clement Fumstead, Charles Read, William Allen, Benjamin Showmaker, Charles Willing, Samuel Powell, Jacob Duche and all the way down the line to the late J. Hampton (Hammy) Moore who lived, not so long ago, at 269 S. 4th Street.

Mayor Dilworth's home has been built on the site of two ramshackle mid-Victorian houses at 225 and 225 S. 6th St., between the stately library building of the Athenaeum and the office building of the ancient Lippincott firm, book publisher. From May Dilworth's bedroom window he can look across the square to the sarcophagus of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution over whom stands guard the bronze statue of George Washington. When the surrounding apartment houses and residences are either built or restored, the square area will be completely charming with its gardens and shade trees.
An interesting study in public psychology could be written, even now, in a history of the growth and development of the Society Hill project in all its phases of urban renewal.

Today, when you say that you are living in Society Hill, many people ask what's happening down there? We used to call that neighborhood 'the bloody Fifth Ward' and now we see how it is regarded in the public's mind!

There is a long, long history behind all this; many people's half-realized dreams, many ideas, projects, a stack of dust-covered blueprints; endless official reports. But, in the long run, the astounding growth of Society Hill is the result of a number of dedicated people who worked and wrote the unfolding story of an area that decided to come alive again.

No one person can claim the full credit; but there are a trail of civic-minded citizens who have done more than their share; some of whom have been either forgotten and who have passed on. The name SOCIETY HILL is a valuable one, a catchy one hinting of ancestral grandeur when actually it designated a strip of land between pratically Spruce and Pine, from river to river, purchased by a humble group of Quaker land speculators known as the Society of Free Traders who sold off their land grants often with scant profit.

The so-called Hill is immortalized by this newspaper's masthead—a knoll overlooking Dock Creek around Front and Second and Pine. Here the mighty evangelist, George Whitefield of Colonial Days shouted his fiery speeches, as the thoughtful Dr. Benjamin Franklin paced