



THE RESIDENT

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



You know . . . it may never happen again in your lifetime. You may never again have the opportunity you have today in Society Hill. Today the decisions are being made that will shape your public school facilities, your recreational facilities, your parking and traffic codes, the shops, taverns, entertainment and highway systems that will serve you.

Tomorrow, when the decisions have been made . . . when the work has been completed . . . when the mold and climate of the community have been established . . . will be too late for you to inject your ideas, your hopes and your energies.

All of us have ideas about the kind of community we want to live in. The unique aspect of Society Hill today is that now your opinions can be heard, can be considered and can be incorporated into the Society Hill of tomorrow.

You know . . . you may never again have an opportunity to put your own personal stamp on the community you've chosen as your home. Come, be part of the decision making and the building of the grand design. There's plenty of work to do!

FRANK ROBERTS

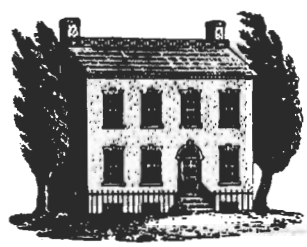


NEXT MEETING

The next general meeting will be held September 13, at 8:00 P.M. in the Penn Mutual Building at 6th and Walnut Streets.



BLOCK BY BLOCK



Join us for a block by block tour of our fast changing neighborhood. See what's being built, who's moving in, what new stores and shops have come to serve us. Did we leave something out? Probably! Let us know what's happening in your block for our new "typographical" tour of Society Hill.

DELANCEY STREET

The MARINER Theater—The developers report that they officially took title to the property at the end of May after a series of revisions to their plans to fulfill all the obligations of the Redevelopment Authority. Currently their designs are being detailed and they expect to begin construction around the first of the year. Their target is to open during the summer of 1967. The design will retain the facade of the historic building, subject to the regulations of theater design. Present policy thinking calls for first run quality features.

#220—Mr. and Mrs. William Glockner are developers of this property. The facade has been completely replaced and work inside is nearing completion. The Glockners currently live at 232 Pine Street.

Delancey Park—a most delightful addition to the 300 block and the scene of much youthful activity. Dedicated during Society Hill Week, the park is under the direction of Commissioner Crawford of the Department of Recreation. A caretaker is on duty Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and after some initial difficulties with the fountains, they now play daily until 8:00 p.m. Chlorine dispensers have been installed in the fountains to assure safety to the many children playing there.

RESIDENT

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PINE STREET

#133—the restoration project of Mr. John Dichter who currently resides in Society Hill Towers. Mr. Dichter is doing the major part of the re-construction himself.

#255—A new facade has been completed on this property. Dr. Charles I. Oller is the owner and plans to conduct his practice from this address.

#241—the pioneering Arnold Nicholsons have moved from this historic John Drinker House to its equally historic servants' quarters—Drinker's Court on Delancey Street. Their residence is the entire east side of the Court which they have handsomely restored. The new owners of the Pine Street house are Mr. and Mrs. John Bracken, who plans to move in shortly.

#500 block—Addison Court—the first new residents have moved in. Mr. Blair Henry is the owner of #500 and Mr. Edwin E. Tuttle of #514.

#517—Mr. and Mrs. Norman Smith recently completed reconstruction and have moved in.

#519—the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kavalier which is nearing completion. The Kavaliers currently live in Hopkinson House and plan to move mid-August. The design includes an office for Mr. Kavalier's law practice.

SPRUCE STREET

#419 and #423—two houses which will be refurbished starting very soon. Mr. Oscar W. Koenig is the owner of both and plans have been drawn by Joseph Praissman, AIA. #419 is historically certified and its facade will be faithfully restored; the facade of #423 was "modernized" about 1920 and will require more extensive renovations.

#413—the historically certified home of William O. Feltelson where work was started just recently to restore its elegant facade.

#515—work has been started by owners Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shusterman. Mr. Shusterman is his own architect.

THIRD STREET

Over 25 properties in the area are about to get their long awaited garden parcels of land. OPDC reports that it has worked out the details

in conjunction with The Redevelopment Authority and are currently in the process of contacting the property owners. Primarily affected are those houses in the 400 block of South Third Street and an Stamper Street, where property lines here-to-fore prohibited development of garden areas and deprived the owners of the advantages and increased value these garden areas provide.

FOURTH STREET

#226 and #228—Mr. and Mrs. Carl Massara are the owners and redevelopers of both properties. Mr. Massara is his own architect.

#257—Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Edmunds have moved in after lengthy reconstruction problems. Dr. Edmunds, D.D.S., plans to conduct his practice from this address.

#309—reconstruction into four apartments is just being finished up by owner Mark Glick. Joseph Praissman is the architect.

HEAD HOUSE

Great news! The corner property on the west side of the market is rapidly being transformed into a tavern, circa, 1780. The developers hope to recreate in Philadelphia a unique old "Ale House" similar to Chowning's Tavern in Williamsburg. The carpenters visited Williamsburg and consulted on measurements for interior mouldings, benches and paneling in order to accurately reproduce some of its elements.

Rudolph Tancredi, a relative of the Tancredi's who operate the Pharmacy, is the Manager, and together with Van Arkel and Moss is developing the property.

George Mason, known to many Philadelphians, is advisor for the interior design, and is personally seeking the furnishings from antique shows, attic haunts, and other unusual sources to further enhance the eighteenth century atmosphere. Good news for gourmets: George Mason will also be silent advisor on the menu and kitchen.

Operation is intended to start early in the fall . . . a welcome addition to the Head House complex!

More great news! Society Hill Tavern hopes to stay in the neighborhood!

The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mauro, have expressed interest in the property on South Front Street between Pine and Lombard. This is the only house which is left standing in that block and is a part of the Head House Development.

Historically certified, the house is one of the most important houses of its day. A great deal

of historical data is available, as well as photographs.

Nelson Anderson, AIA, has been engaged to draw up preliminary plans, which hopefully will prove satisfactory to all concerned. They expect to restore the facade to its original, but certain liberties on the inside will be necessary to accommodate a restaurant. Expansion to include the two properties to the north is being considered.

Society Hill Tavern has been operated by the Mauros for twelve years. Hopefully they will stay in the neighborhood!



Make Way for the Expressway



A major source of entertainment for the past few weeks has been the demolition of the Quaker City warehouse at Front and Spruce Streets. This formidable cold storage plant was built in 1928-29 in what was then the center of the produce market. Its demise was brought about by the redevelopment of the area, the relocation of the food processing industry, and the pending arrival of the Delaware Expressway. It was built of concrete with steel reinforcing bars. The floors were 16 to 18 inches thick. The Quaker City Storage Company, which was founded in 1905, is now operating one warehouse at Delaware and Snyder Avenues and another one across the river in Camden.

The skillful swinging of the big ball fascinated everyone who ventured near—salesmen, office workers, residents, policemen, children, etc. At least two demolition parties were held at the

site and they drew friends from all parts of the city and suburbs. Over the weekends it was not unusual to see fifty people observing the action at one time. Speculation on the salary of the crane operator ranged from \$5 to \$27 per hour. Robert Hawthorne, Inc. reports \$6-\$7 per hour is closer to the right figure. Hawthorne also provided the following facts: 1) the ball is made of steel and weighs about 3 tons, 2) the crane is 270 feet high and costs about \$190,000 new, 3) the scrap was sold to dealers and the rubble was dumped in New Jersey. Robert Hawthorne, Inc. is a Philadelphia firm that was founded in 1919.

Sometime this fall, Pier 16 at the foot of Spruce Street will be demolished. With this much advance notice, the local sidewalk superintendents should be able to plan a whopping party (hot buttered rum on the waterfront?)



Society Hill Swings!

A series of exciting activities has been planned by Society Hill Towers for residents of Society Hill and their guests.

If you're interested in modern dancing, be sure to stop at the pool Saturday afternoon, August 20, when there will be a dance demonstration for your pleasure. All are invited to attend.

Beachcombers beware! Monday, September 5, is your evening—dinner and dancing—at the Towers pool. Tickets available at the pool—\$3.50 per person.

Want to learn the ins and outs of horse racing? Friday evening, September 29, Ken Muggler's lecture and movie on Atlantic City Race Track will be shown in the Hospitality Penthouse in the Towers West building. Everyone invited.

If football is your game, how about joining your neighbors at the Eagles-Giants game on Sunday, September 25. Buses will leave from the Towers plaza. Time and ticket prices to be announced.

If films and lectures aren't enough to please, spend a day at Atlantic City Race Track. Buses will leave the Towers plaza on Saturday, October 8. Admission price, which will include transportation, Club House admission, lunch and a reserved table, has not yet been announced.

Further details on all the above mentioned activities are available at Society Hill Towers office or pool, 210 Locust Street.



Marking the formal dedication of Delancey Park are (left to right) Rev. Joseph Koci, Rector, St. Peter's Church; Franklin S. Roberts, President, Society Hill Civic Association; City Councilwoman, Virginia Knauer; Mayor James H. J. Tate and Robert Crawford, Philadelphia Recreation Commissioner.



Mayor James H. J. Tate presents the Second Annual Society Hill Medal to Lady Bird Johnson.



ARTS COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES GREAT BOOKS PROGRAM

There will be a Great Books Discussion Program this fall and winter under the auspices of the Arts Committee. The first meeting will be held Monday, September 19 at 8:00 P.M. in the Society Hill Towers hospitality penthouse. The discussion leader will be Mr. Emil Bix who has completed the training program conducted by the Great Books Foundation. No special educational qualifications are necessary to join the group—only the desire to learn and a willingness to read the selection in advance of the meeting. The cost is \$8.80 for 16 paperback books that will be covered during the program. Among the authors in the first year's program are Plato, Shakespeare, Adam Smith and Tolstoy. Enrollment is limited to about 20. Those interested should call Mrs. Charles Schober (WA 2-4097) or Mr. Joseph Praissman (WA 2-7737).



Colonial Field Day during Society Hill Week tested the brawn of area youngsters, as well as their watermelon eating capacity!

TRADING POST

Any member who has something to sell or swap is invited to submit a description to the *Resident*. We hope to have several items for this column in the next issue.





Welcome Captain O'Shea

The Society Hill area is indeed fortunate to have another outstanding commander in charge of the Sixth District at 11th and Winter Sts. Captain Peter J. O'Shea has both the experience and the drive to handle one of the most testing responsibilities in Philadelphia. The Sixth contains not only most of the oldest homes and historical buildings in the city, but many of the largest and most modern—for example the Towers, P.S.F.S. and Wanamakers.

A well-informed Society Hiller checking on Captain O'Shea's record would note at once a very significant fact—he is a 1962 graduate of the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) Police Academy. This is a special mark, because a policeman cannot simply apply at the FBI Police Academy. He must be selected by the leadership in his department and nominated for the Academy.

Earlier, Captain O'Shea had attended the Fels Institute at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also proud of his attendance at West Philadelphia High School (class of 1936).

Captain O'Shea was accepted on the police force December 31, 1941. Naturally, he had much more urgent duties to perform about that time and spent three and one half years in the United States Navy before he ever got a chance to launch his career in police work. By 1953, he was in the detective division, a very important stepping stone in a policeman's career. By September of 1954, he became a captain at thirty-eight.

The captain is understandably proud of his family. He and the former Kathleen McSorley have four children—Kathleen, at Rosemont College; Barbara, at the Philadelphia Musical Academy; Peter, at St. Thomas Moore High School and David, at the Gompers School. They live in Overbrook.

SORRY, CHIEF

At 1:30 A.M. recently a resident on Delancey Street reported that somebody on the street was making bird noises. Four police cars responded to the call and quickly located the culprit in a tree. A mockingbird!

JULY MEETING

At the general meeting of the Civic Association in the Penn Mutual Building on July 13, the membership took the following actions:

- 1) Voted not to oppose the expansion of Pennsylvania Hospital, but urged that consideration be given to alternate sites in order to save historic homes on the site presently proposed.
- 2) Endorsed two applications for liquor licenses: southwest corner of 2nd and Pine Streets for a colonial tavern; 511 South 2nd Street for an Italian restaurant.
- 3) Approved a Redevelopment Authority proposal for temporarily renting vacant ground bounded by Walnut, Dock and Front Streets to the General Services Administration for a parking lot for the Customs House, with the condition that trees be planted around the lot.
- 4) Voted to support residents of the 7th and Pine Street area in deploring any nuisance created in the area by Boslover Hall, and requested Board of Directors to make full report at next Association meeting.
- 5) Reaffirmed a previous policy statement of the Association opposing the establishment of a playground and/or school at 5th and Marshall's Court; requested Redevelopment Authority to respect its original proposal, per letter of 8/17/64, for the location of a convent with garden, playground and school; and welcomed these facilities in the specified locations.



SOCIETY HILL WEEK

Society Hill Week of 1966 was enjoyed by residents and tourists alike. There were fireworks, concerts, and art shows. The historic churches held special services. An antique fair was held in Head House Square. This year's recipient of the Society Hill Medal, Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, dedicated the new park at 4th and Walnut Streets. Mayor Tate and Recreation Commissioner Crawford opened the new Delancey Street Park. An innovation this year was the Colonial Field Day in which over 100 children participated in competitive games, including potato sack races, tug-of-war and a watermelon eating contest. At the end of the week the general response was "more, more, more." Planning next year's program will be a real challenge.



REPRESENTING SOCIETY HILL...

Society Hill, bounded by the middle lines of Front, Walnut, Eighth and Lombard Streets in Philadelphia, lies in the city's fifth ward, the second councilmanic district, the third congressional district and the eighth legislative district.

This will be the case only until next November 30 when the area will be subject to an overall district re-alignment.

Until then, however, the political representatives of Society Hill are as follows:

Ward Leaders:

Peter J. Camiel (D.)
810 New Market Street
Paul Silverstein (R.)
520 Pine Street,

Councilman:

Gaetano P. Giordano (D.)
Room 408, City Hall

State Representative:

Henry J. Cianfrani (D.)
State Capitol
Harrisburg, Penna.

State Senator:

Benjamin R. Donolow (D.)
State Capitol
Harrisburg, Penna.

U.S. Representative:

James A. Byrne (D.)
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

What Is The Society Hill Civic Association?

As stated in the by-laws, the purposes of the Association are "to promote the improvement of the Society Hill area of Philadelphia, including its cultural, educational, and civic activities, and the preservation and restoration of its historic buildings; to represent the residents of Society Hill in matters affecting the City of Philadelphia generally and Society Hill in particular; and to interpret the value and significance of Society Hill to the public."

Membership is open to anyone 18 years of age or older who resides in the area bounded by the middle lines of Front, Walnut, Eighth and Lombard Streets in Philadelphia. Annual dues are \$2.00 per person or \$3.00 for a husband and wife.

If you know someone who would like to participate or if you are not a member yourself, please fill in the information below and mail it to Mrs. Stanhope Browne, 210 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Please contact me (or person listed below) about membership in Society Hill Civic Association.

Name

Address

Phone No.

Signed

SCHOOL DAYS

McCall's School will hold open house to show off their new and renovated buildings in early October. All residents of the area are invited.

Adult evening courses will start at McCall's on Thursday, September 29. Registration will take place in the gymnasium on September 19, 20, and 21 between 7:00 and 9:30 P.M. Courses being offered are painting and sketching, French, physical fitness, workshop, gourmet cooking, and sewing for the family.