PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Your civic association has come a long way in the two years since HORA (Home Owners' and Residents' Association of Washington Square East) and SHARA (Society Hill Area Residents' Association) merged to become Society Hill Civic Association. Just last year, 200 new members joined to bring the total membership to 600. Only a few weeks ago we became a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation.

With our doubled membership and continuing growth, we can take giant steps forward this year if we put our minds to it. 1967 challenges each of us to seek fresh approaches to current plans—getting a high school in Center City, improving local recreational facilities, maintaining close cooperation with the police, adding more parking space, and expanding our cultural opportunities, such as setting up open air concerts and art shows and securing our own branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia. This year we should also work closely with neighboring civic groups, e.g., Washington Square West Civic Association, Queen Village Neighbors' Association, and Hawthorne Community Council, to combine our strengths toward common goals. In addition, we plan to have outside speakers at meetings and forums on air pollution and other problems which affect the city generally.

If every one of our 400 members would give one full hour a week to a community project we would be a tremendous force—over 20,000 working hours in the course of a year.

So, right now, before you put down this newsletter, look at the next page and choose the subject which most interests you. If you have suggestions for ways to improve Society Hill or for further projects we might tackle, contact any board member or bring it up at the next meeting.

It is your civic association and what we accomplish in 1967 is up to you.

PHILIP FINKE, JR.

PARKING REPORT

The Parking Forum on November 15 was successful in bringing attention to and defining the parking problem in Society Hill. In response to the Forum, the Parking Committee drafted a program which was endorsed by the board of directors and approved by the membership.

The proposal recommends four major off-street facilities: 1) the 8th Street shopping area, 2) the Metropolitan Hospital site, 3) the new Alcon Towers at 5th and Locust, 4) the block west of Front Street between Spruce and Delancey.

Final implementation of the 1965 on-street parking plan is being pressed. Except for the streets adjacent to Metropolitan Hospital, parking meters will be removed sometime this spring. One or more Yellow cab stands may be expected in the area sometime this month. And finally, curb cuts for garages are usually permitted on Addison, American, Chancellor, Cypress, Lawrence, Lombard, Manning, Panama, Philip, St. James, Stamper Streets, and Willings Alley.

NEXT MEETING

The next membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, at 8 P.M., in the McCell School Auditorium. Please plan to attend.

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Greetings, Friends

Greetings, friends. New Yorker style. We're holiday foo for the rank and file of Society Hillians who may have missed seeing their names on Frank Sullivan's list.

To Stanhope Browne and his wife Libby
Thanks for your work with the Gateway Committee.

To Peggy Walsh and her two little poodles
We're sending over a hundred smoothies.
And speaking of Peggy, don't forget Davies, Hodde and Skostons and those little babies.

We're surrounded by people whose nose ends in Smith
They start down on third and end up on sixth.
There's Robert and Jerry, with Leslie to Bruce.
Then Donald and Clare, they live up on Spruce.
Smy-Smith are as British as his' pence and pound,
Lisa Norman and wife and sweet Ramet Head.
We wish all you Smiths big holiday cheer.
And we wouldn't forget the William Mc farne,
To Neuholland and me and two baby daughters,
Lots of luck in your great big new quarters.
To Rina and Taylor, to family Sambolds,
To Mrs. Buh, all the best.
We raise our eyes with a look to heaven
And wish you the best all through sixteens.

There's Peiton Place, known to all as the Poorens
For William Stewart a bouquet of flowers.
To Andre Gregory and charming Chiquita,
Your theatre has brought us all dolce vita.
For all the great people rattling sets
If we could we would ring Penn Mutual's bell.
Chews to the Griswold and exotic birds.
For you we have only the pleasantest words.
Good people, we've worked as the "Resident"
For Franklin Roberts, past President.
For Lennar, and Lotta, for Spire's and Kvens,
May the New Year be full of joyful surprises.

Stones up to the entering Pancreas
They minister to all forms of the nasty:
Internal, external alcohol rub.
Prescriptions are filled at druggists or pub.
For family Frock of grand "Hapswood Farmhouse,
We prep no more changing of fire alarms.
And down at that end in the couple Rencell,
Perhaps '07 is the year that you'll sell.
Good wishes Matt Millers and too constrictor,
Best luck down on Pete to a fellow named Dickter.
Presently housed after endless long time,
Are John and Ann Wagner in their Grand Design.
With well Mr. Keel, all our rabbi and preacher.
The same to be said for Mr. Tobias and teshuva.
Here's hear for the townies and listeners and, yes ...
For all of our talented architects ... but none of our upstarts could really suffer.
Without New Year's wishes to Peri, Phillip Price!

Mary Lou Kastner

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THIS IS McCall's

Built in 1907, the original school building is not too exciting architecturally. But the recent renovations and the new auditorium and gym give evidence that McCall's is facing the future. Inside are wide, clean halls, good lighting, big windows, stimulating colors, attractive classrooms with no-glare blackboards, comfortable desks and chairs. In short, a good climate for learning.

There are two distinct teaching programs at McCall's. One is a standard elementary program which takes children from kindergarten through the eighth grade. The 347 children in this group come from the area between Broad Street and the Delaware River and Market and South Streets. The other is a special program for about 300 children from various parts of the City who can't speak English. Although children from both programs are in school at the same time, they don't attend the same classes because of the differences in language skills.

A new library has recently been opened with children having access to it once a week. Teachers may order any books they need which are not in the library. There are movie projectors and screens which teachers use for any films they think will be beneficial to the class. A special teacher operates the closed circuit educational television. Weekly assembly programs are scheduled outside speakers, orchestra groups, and classes within the school performing. Walking field trips to the Academy of Natural Science, Independence Hall, and these are natural part of McCall's day with its unique historical setting.

Buses are at the school three days a month to take groups on more distant expeditions.

The classrooms in Philadelphia public elementary schools are to have no more than 50 pupils. The average number in a McCall's class is 25 and no class has more than 30.

At McCall's the show choristers are put in their own classroom from as early as first grade. They are not frustrated in a group that moves too quickly, nor are the brighter children held back. In the afternoon/night to eighth graders are accepted into the Achievement Classes for Academically Talented Children. They may elect the language and arts programs where creative writing is emphasized, or the science and mathematics program where they try experiments usually given to junior high students.

McCall's has seen vast changes in the community since 1907. The future is full of promise. Come see for yourself on the 26th.
ONE VIEW...

It stands over there on Sixth Street looking like a substantial dowager. You walk up a handful of steps and through a door, over which the words "General George A. McColl Public School" stand in metallic glory. Another school? A qualified yes. It's our neighborhood school and that alone makes it worthy of additional thought. Take a tour of the school; it's a long, informative chat with Abraham Tobias, dedicated principal of the McCall School for some 18 years, and you will walk away impressed and with an almost unidentifiable eagerness. This school is something special.

"Make the home a part of the school!" is the credo of Tobias. He tries to establish a sense of alliance between parents and educators to the benefit of the children. Paramount in this concept is the need for parents to realize and accept that the school cannot "go it alone" in shaping the child's future. Efforts begun in the classroom must be continued and encouraged in the home. The child must sense a relationship between his achievements in school and out of it. This is not realized when schooling is considered a baby-sitting service or, worse, a substitute for the home and the experience and values which can only be got at home. It must be noted that children are often much more sophisticated than their elders think and that they are quick to perceive a real lack of interest in their development; they are usually not deceived by lip-service, even from mother's lips.

Tobias has unbounded enthusiasm for the teachers. He insists that he has the cream of the crop. There are eleven teachers for grades one to eight. There is a librarian, an art teacher, a nurse, a technician who handles the closed-circuit television, a physical education instructor and a music teacher. Among these is a fifth grade teacher whose hobby is Italian opera and who will, at the slightest request, lead his class in singing, a capella, any of a number of arias. And, they sing in beautifully enunciated Italian! These aren't special children except that they have a teacher who is willing to share his special love with them.

We have heard much criticism of our educational system for its alleged failure to turn out children fluent in any tongue other than English. Well, at McCall there is a nearly student language laboratory, where assisted by tape recorders and private booths, children in second to fourth grades will soon be able to learn another language. In this wide spectrum of extras see also the school band, the choir, and Tobias' frequent impromptu flute and chess lessons. There are shop and cooking lessons, too. According to Tobias, the boys are more imaginative cooks than the girls! Five days a week, though the courtesy of the Department of Recreation, classes are offered in pottery, arts and crafts, bullet and Indian folklore.

Just another school. Hardly. Walk through our school with Tobias—he knows 98% of the children by name—and their responsive hellos to him are not tese or formal, but rather overwhelming delight at seeing a friend. The discipline is excellent, the responsive classes quiet and orderly. This is a good school. This is our school. Come over to McCall's housewarming on the 28th, but be prepared to be impressed. We were.

BEHIND THE SCENES

The physical rejuvenation of McCall's school will be evident to all who attend the open house on February 28. But there has been an equally important behind-the-scenes rejuvenation which has been carried out by the Home and School Association (known as P.T.A. elsewhere).

Mrs. A. Sherwood Platt, President of the Home and School Association, and mother of 2 children in McCall's, credits Mrs. Chico Keltner, former President, with bringing the organization to its present level. The Association has about 200 members and is directed by a Board of 12 members, 3 faculty, and the Principal, Mr. Tobias.

The basic objective of the Association is to develop cooperation between home and school in order to make the school a better place for learning. In addition, the members get involved in community liaison, evening courses for adults, and after school recreation activities for children. They sponsor a Cub Scout pack and a Girl Scout troop for children in the community. There is a committee of Room Mothers who assist teachers with their non-teaching duties. They are also actively supporting the drive for a center city high school. High on their list of priorities is the Dues of $1.00 per year are supplemented by drives for funds for specific needs, such as books for the library. In this connection, a film festival is being planned for the spring which should be of interest to many in the community.

Membership in the Association is open to parents or anyone else who has an interest in the school. If you would like to participate in the activities of the Home and School Association, please contact Mrs. Platt, 927 Clinton Street, Philadelphia (WA-5-9890).
Playful bear marks transition from old to new building, brings a touch of the wild to center-city McCulloch School.

New addition more than compensates for undistinguished architecture of old building.

New gym auditorium, a handsome addition to recently renovated 1907 school building.
DRINKER'S COURT

Drinker's Court, in the 200 block of Delancey Street is among the earliest pre-Revolutionary houses still standing in Society Hill. The eastern half of the court has recently undergone extensive, face-lifting restoration under the tutelage of longtime resident, Arnold Nicholson. He restored the other part of the court, some ten years ago, when Society Hill, as we know it, was still a dream.

The land was originally purchased in 1768, while the French and Indian wars were still raging, by John Drinker who seems to have been a prime entrepreneur of Colonial days. The Nicholson's house is thought to have been finished by 1787 and was used as four tenement houses rented to seamen. The rest of the Court was composed of five miniscule dwellings but now houses three families.

At this time, Philadelphia was still the capital of Pennsylvania, with a population approaching 49,000; streets had been broadened and lighted, and the first turnpike had been built...the 69 mile cobblestoned road linking Philadelphia with Lancaster. Philadelphia was then the leading center of American philosophy and science. Benjamin Franklin had founded the first college and hospital which later developed into the University of Pennsylvania, And, Franklin's "Pennsylvania Gazette" was a thriving newspaper.

Other colonies dubbed Philadelphia the "city of houses" and the city prided itself on its port which thrived with activity. Seamen's houses, of course, did not approach the elaborateness of the merchant's homes, and so Drinker's Court had charmingly simple architecture. The Nicholson's tried to keep it as intact as possible, but tone and abuse had eaten their toll. A store front, added in 1809, had to be replaced with a proper window. Fireplaces were bricked-up (there are now three operable), most of the original hardware had disappeared, but an original kitchen crane and some of the two-panel doors survived. When the house was put under a new roof, Mr. Nicholson was delighted that many of the original beams could be used.

Original records on Drinker's Court are scarce. There's an insurance survey from the late 18th century, and we know that an early engraver, John Thacker, was born here. His son, William Wood Thacker, preserved a journal in which he recorded that "in 1771, William Thacker (his grandfather) came from England, with wife and child, and rented on Union St."—an earlier name for Delancey.

The Nicholson's have carried their hallmarks, historical accuracy and, on a more frivolous note, their handsome blue shutter color with them, from their original house on Pine Street—the house of John Drinker, by the way. Seven charming rooms, a jewel of a garden—that completes the picture...the picture of another prize historical house that has been saved, for Philadelphia, by people who cherish their heritage.

December 20, 1966
The Resident.

OPEN HOUSE AT MCCALL'S SCHOOL

On Tuesday, February 26, at 7 P.M., the McCall's Public School will have an open house to show off the new addition and renovations to the old building. The evening will start in the auditorium with a welcome by Mr. Charles K. Hoy, District Superintendent, followed by remarks by Mr. Richardson Dilworth, President of the Philadelphia Board of Education. Refreshments will then be served in the new gymnasium, after which visitors will be free to inspect the rest of the building at their leisure. All residents of the area are invited.

Mr. Robert Smith, Chairman of the Civic Association's School Committee and father of 4 children at McCall's, thinks that those who are not familiar with McCall's will be pleasantly surprised by what they see on the 28th. "We are fortunate to have good facilities and an excellent faculty at McCall's. This is a diamond in the rough, and all parents should consider enrolling their children at McCall's. Please come to the Open House and see for yourself.

RESIDENT

Editor: Richard Miller
Staff: Michael Berman, Frederick Brown, Martha Kaseler, Frederick Martin, Deirdre Moore, Jeanne O'Connor, Eunice O'Neill, Jen Potthar, Dorothy Stevens, Nancy Zambelli
Design: William Stansby
Address correspondence to David Stevens
116 Delancey Street
1967 DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS
The board of directors consists of 12 members, of whom 4 are the officers.
President  Philip Price, Jr.  275 South Third Street
Vice President  Arnold M. Blumberg  430 Pine Street
Secretary  William G. Mears  106 Delancey Street
Treasurer  Mae W. O'Neill  249 Delancey Street

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Stanhope S. Browne  Samuel Maitin
210 Locust Street  704 Pine Street
Arnold Nicholson  Charles E. Peterson
241 Pine Street  244 Spruce Street
G. Martin Pyle  Franklin S. Roberts
244 Delancey Street  223 Delancey Street
David A. Stevens  William B. Zawsky
116 Delancey Street  325 Pine Street

WORKING COMMITTEES
AND THEIR CHAIRMEN
Arts—Joseph Praisman  238 South Third Street
A series of three open-air concerts are being planned for the late spring and early summer.
Liaison—Paul W. Potnow  209 Delancey Street
This committee is providing liaison with neighboring civic and community groups so that we can be
kept informed about current projects and work together on matters of common interest.
Library—Mrs. Paul W. Potnow  209 Delancey Street
This group will work to bring a branch of The Free Library of Philadelphia into the area.
Membership—Mrs. Stanhope S. Browne  210 Locust Street
Our membership is up to 400, and we are growing daily.
Police—Mrs. Meyer D. Gansky and Leo T. Ricker  511 Pine Street
We can always improve citizen cooperation with the police, and this committee will work toward that
end. We now have a new head of the 6th District—Captain John McHugh. He will be written up in the
next issue, and will be invited to speak at a members' meeting in the spring.
Recreation—Michael R. Malickson  335 Delancey Street
Overseeing the existing facilities, e.g. Delancey
Street Park and Washington Square, is an important function of this committee, along with attempts to
get additional facilities, particularly for children.
School—Robert L. Smith  214 South Third Street
This most important committee has joined with other neighboring civic groups to work toward the
establishment of a high school in center city. It also maintains close contact with McColl School.
Society Hill Week—Barbara Leff  220 Locust Street
Plans for a full week are being made, and Barbara needs additional volunteers who will help to implement
them.
Streets and Houses—G. Martin Pyle  244 Delancey Street
and Peter A. Zambelli, II  271 South Fourth Street
This committee is concerned with neighborhood problems, such as the adequacy and type of street
lighting, tree planting and care of trees, general upkeep of the neighborhood and working with OPJC to
supply information to prospective home owners about restoring houses.
The Resident—Mrs. William G. Mears  335 Delancey Street
and R. Matthew Miller  251 South Third Street
The Resident will continue to report on activities of the Association and on matters of interest to the
membership.
Transportation and Parking—William Gleckener  220 Delancey Street
A comprehensive report with recommendations has been approved by membership, and is being for-
warded to the city, the Redevelopment Authority and other interested parties for action.
Zoning—Arnold Nicholson  238 Delancey Street
This committee will keep us informed about proposed variances, and we will shortly be asked to give
suggestions to the City Council on City Planning about a proposed redrawing of the zoning map for our
area.
A New Committee—William C. Cullen  335 Spruce Street
A committee, which is still to be named, is being formed to organize forums on matters of general pub-
lic interest such as air pollution and noise abatement.

JOIN US
Membership in the Society Hill Civic Association is open to anyone 18 years of age or older who res-
ides in the area bounded by the middle lines of Front, Walnut, Eighth and Lombard Streets. Annual
dues are $2.00 per person or $3.00 for a husband and wife. If you would like to join, phone and send your
name, address and phone number to Mrs. Stanhope Browne, 210 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pa.