Update
The Bookbinder’s Lot Hotel

The Bookbinder hotel on 2nd Street is one hotel which was at
most unanimously favored by the mem-
bership at SHCA’s January 12th meeting.
The hotel offers a variety of rooms and
catering services. The hotel’s restaurant
features a wide selection of Pennsylva-
nia-inspired dishes.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- There will be a general membership
  meeting of the Society Hill Civic Asso-
  ciation at 8 p.m. on March 18th, at the
  Old Pine Community Center, 4th and
  Lombard Streets. There will be a dis-
  cussion of the proposed <i>The Society Hill
  Civic Association</i> and its impact on the
  community. It will be held at the Old
  Pine Community Center, 4th and
  Lombard Streets. There will be a dis-
  cussion of the proposed Meeting)

- The SHCA has received a grant from
  the Philadelphia Cultural Affairs Com-
  mittee to support the restoration of
  Society Hill’s historic buildings.

- There will be a special event at the
  Society Hill Cultural Center on June
  1st. It will feature a special lecture on
  the history of Society Hill. There will
  be a special exhibit on display. The
  event is free and open to the public.

- The SHCA will be hosting a book
  signing event on May 1st. The event
  will feature local authors and will
  include a reading of their works.

- There will be a community clean-
  up event on April 20th. Volunteers
  are needed to help clean up Society
  Hill. It will be held at the Old Pine
  Community Center, 4th and
  Lombard Streets. There will be a dis-
  cussion of the proposed Meeting)

- The SHCA has submitted a critique
  of the City’s traffic study. The study
  is being reviewed by the City Planning
  Commission. It will be held at the Old
  Pine Community Center, 4th and
  Lombard Streets. There will be a dis-
  cussion of the proposed Meeting)
Notes from the President

The SHCA board voted in January to institute a "block captain" system with Ron Abrams, Dave Stevens and Jim Straw as prime organizers. By establishing a broader grass roots organization, we hope to increase participation, better disseminate information about the Association’s activities and improve our effectiveness in handling zoning and other City Code violations, trash and security problems and unannounced actions of the Streets Department and the Parking Authority.

This will provide opportunities for many who have wanted to get involved in the community, but have only limited time to give, and also for those who suffer from civic burnout for past activities, but would still like to make some contribution. Call Ron Abrams at his office (735-2714) if you’re interested in participating.

On February 3rd the Logan Square Neighborhood Association hosted a meeting of representatives from several center city civic groups, including China-town, Franklin Bridge North, Society Hill, Center City Residents, Spring Garden and Logan Square. Foremost among the subjects discussed was pending legislation to give the Parking Authority new broad powers over on-street parking, and possible means of assuring community interests are protected in the new organization. Problems with code enforcement by the Department of Licenses and Inspections and trash pickups were also discussed.

The groups plan to compile notes regularly and to be prepared to act jointly in dealings with City agencies, when they have similar concerns and as circumstances warrant.

In our efforts to preserve the residential character of our neighborhood, we surprisingly often overlook the fact that Society Hill is historically the most significant neighborhood probably in the entire country. Society Hill is on the National Register of Historic Places as a National Historic District. When the application for that designation was filled several years ago, it indicated there are over 575 historically certified 18th and 19th century commercial, residential and religious structures within its borders.

Essentially by default, maintenance of the integrity of this historical zone as a whole falls on the shoulders of the present residents. This is all the more reason for resisting actions which adversely impact the area for commercial or development purposes.

Many residents were encouraged by the flier entitled "Society Hill—a Neighborhood in Turmoil” distributed in December and "sponsored by the Committee for the Preservation of Society Hill," whose members remain anonymous. Several of its points were well taken and it is difficult to quibble with its principal thesis—that in the last few years the community "has grown complacent due to a lack of neighborhood concern."

There are, in fact, many individual residents who are concerned and many of them are active in the Association, but greater participation (including by the "Committee" members) is needed to effectively tackle problems as they arise and to more forcefully let decision-makers know that Society Hill is not principally a commercial destination point or a thorough route to other commercial areas.

What can you do for starters? Send in the membership application in this issue. Try to make Association general meetings and board meetings. Send your comments or concerns to the Newsletter or to me at P.O. Box #3, Philadelphia, PA 19105.

—Steven Miller

BUYERS/SELLERS!!!

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CALL: 545-1010
Penn’s Landing: Watch the Sun Rise Over Camden

They are banging the drums again for Penn’s Landing. With only a few months left on its City Hall lease, the Green administration has announced a major effort to find developers for the 37-acre waterfront property. The City is budgeting $50,000 to spread the word via ads in newspapers and trade journals and to send salesmen around to places where the big-time developers hang out: Dallas, Houston, California, New York and Hong Kong.

They are hoping each other with superlatives. Ope-Linder Associates’ design for Penn’s Landing will make it the city’s “crown jewel,” a “symbol of the birthplace of American liberty,” a “friendly gathering place like a New England town green,” a “maritime showplace,” and “one of the world’s most impressive waterfronts” exuding “charm, dignity.” One enthusiast suggested the Great Plaza could “watch the sun go down without peering between towering man-made peaks.” (Actually it sits behind Society Hill Towers.)

The game plan now is to sell the Landing in two phases. Phase One would see the construction of 450 to 600 luxury condominium units at the southern end of the site, near the soon-to-be-built Chestnut House Restaurant. Also in Phase One are a $15 million, city-built viaduct connecting Chestnut and Market Streets to the Great Plaza, three acres of wide steps that will descend from the proposed hotel and office building to the river. They say the viaduct and Great Plaza will be completed next summer (that’s 1983, Jack) when bids will be put out for Phase Two, the commercial development north of Chestnut Street.

Hype aside, the immediate prospects for Penn’s Landing are not rosy. There is a glut of office and condominium space in Philadelphia today. Access to I-95 has to be solved to the satisfaction of the neighbor- ing communities. And developers are notoriously distrustful of promises made by lame duck administrations.

For Society Hill, the proposed Chestnut-Market Street viaduct may ease the Pine-Spruce Street traffic, but residents might be more sanguine about the project if the Pine Street label on the Ope-Linder model of the “crown jewel” were placed in the right location.

How to Give Clothing, Food to the Needy

Clean, warm, used clothes and non-perishable canned and packaged food are needed by agencies in the Philadelphia area which help needy people. If you deliver any of the above items to Christ Church neighborhood house, 50 North American Street between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays, they will be turned over by the Outreach Committee to the proper agencies for distribution to the needy.
Travel Anywhere
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Property Management Division, sent letters to the tenants regarding some of these matters.

At its December meeting, the SHCA Board voted in favor of insisting that the developer strictly and fully observe the restrictive covenants. A letter stating this motion and also suggesting that the most effective means to assure the observance of the restrictions is through a verbal incorporation of the restrictions in each lease, was sent to Joel Woolsein by President Miller on January 6th. As we go to press, there has been no response from the developer on this firm stand by the SHCA.

Greenwood Sues Its Partner, Cadillac Fairview

It was only December 9th, when the neighborhood representatives were assured by the Woolsein brothers, Joel and Raymond who is in charge of marketing, that all was well between Greenwood Properties, Inc. and Cadillac Fairview, despite reports in newspapers and business journals that Cadillac Fairview, a Canadian developer, had defaulted to Citibank, New York, on a record $84 million mortgage and would no longer be involved in residential real estate in the U.S.

On December 30th, Greenwood Properties, Inc., a partner of Independence Place Associates, filed a complaint in U.S. District Court here against four Cadillac Fairview corporations, alleging that Cadillac Fairview violated the partnership agreement by which they allegedly agreed to loan (in the ratio of 90% Cadillac Fairview Society Hill and 10% Greenwood Properties Inc.) funds for the development of the South and North Towers. Greenwood Properties, Inc., also alleges that Cadillac Fairview reneged on an agreement to be co-developer on an 8th and Walnut Street project (condominiums and parking garage on the parking lot opposite the Walnut St. Theatre) rendering Greenwood unable to furnish the City with proof of ability to finance and thus losing the project.

The complaint filed by Greenwood demands judgment against the Cadillac Fairview corporations in the amount of $25 million.

SUPPORT OUR SUPPORTERS

Revenue from advertising in this and other issues of The Resident Newsletter makes it possible for the Society Hill Civic Association to publish the paper. We urge our readers to patronize our advertisers and to mention to them that you appreciate their support.

WELL, IT'S BETTER THAN A CLOTHESPIN, WE GUESS

Overall plan for the site-specific sculpture environment for the outdoor plaza at Independence Place, Sixth Street and Locust Walk. According to sculptor Barbara Nejima, the plaza is "people-space which ties into the city fabric, creating an integrated public art statement."

(Photo by Lawrence S. Williams, Inc.)

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United Cab Company 854-0750

Philadelphia Gas Works CE 6-7000
Philadelphia Electric Company 561-6161
Electric (Emergency) 841-4141

Water (Emergency) MU 6-3000

Jefferson Hospital 926-9500

Pennsylvania Hospital 829-3000

Casa Tennis MU 6-2778 or MU 6-7699

Bulk Trash, Dead Animal Removal, Garbage Collection problems or questions MU 5-5560

Animal Control (stray) 426-6300

Animal Control (Cruelty) BA 5-4500

Fire Hydrants (out of order) Ext. 127262 MU 6-1776

Community Home-Health Service 568-7570

Heat (Emergency Service-tenants) MU 6-2590

Tenant Action 735-8261

Mayor’s Office MU 6-7595

Consumer Services MU 6-2250

Information and Complaints MU 6-3000

Potholes, broken curbs, etc.

(Streets Dept.) MU 6-5508

Rats, Insect Control MU 6-5152

Sanitation Problems (District 1 Office) MU 6-5560

Sewers (clogged, etc.) Ext. 282845 MU 6-3900

Street Lights broken, burned out

or request for add’l MU 6-7526

Street Signs (missing or request for add’l) MU 6-5590

Traffic Lights (broken or request for add’l) MU 6-5530

Tree Problems

(Trimming, spraying, etc.) Ext. 81229 MU 6-1776

Vacant Lots & Buildings (complaints, questions) 689-2463
A Graveyard with Lights

Seems that anytime there’s anything new on Washington Square it is difficult to determine whether something is being done for the Square or to it. Take this new cinderblock storage shed. Please! There it sits built without the blessing of or knowledge of the SHCA, let alone the Washington Square Association. It is supposed to house gardening equipment so let us hope that something good will come of it.

It was a little more than a year ago when Independence Place offered to beautify Washington Square, assuming that the neighbors and the SHCA wanted Washington Square to be more like Rittenhouse Square. To their chagrin, they found that the neighborhood was in agreement with the philosophy of the Washington Square Association, a group of businesses situated around the Square who have raised money for its maintenance for the last half century, and who believe that the Square’s improvements should be in keeping with the fact that it is actually a historic cemetery. The neighborhood groups did agree that repair of the statuaries, sodding, additional lighting and the replacement of dead trees and shrubs would be appropriate. For any granite to survive dry spells, the old underground watering system should be restored to working order. So they got stuck with a dumb-looking shed.

A lot of things could be built on the Square, but what should it be? Some feel the answer is, “anything that you would normally build on a cemetery; it’s the Arlington of the Revolutionary War.”

John Adams wrote in 1777: “... The sexton told me that upwards of 2000 soldiers had been buried there; and by the appearance of the grass and the trenches, it is most probable that he speaks within bounds.”

It was abandoned as a burial ground about 1795; in 1816, grazing cows were shoed and it became a park shortly thereafter. It remained primarily a quiet place of light and shadow and high-arched trees, both before and after the 1870 pedestrians to locate the new city hall, there.

Statue of Washington stands in front of a memorial plaque engraved with the words, “Freedom is a light for which many men died in darkness.” (Photo by Nancy Francis) which Washington Square (18% of the way) is 51,623 to 32,885.

In 1952 history bestowed itself, and, with money raised in and by the Washington Square Association, this was added:

— a peripheral brick wall modelled after those often built around the burial grounds of Colonial churches, - the memorial to the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution with Washington’s statue overlooking a sarcophagus in which reside the bones exhumed from the northwest corner of the Square, presumably of a soldier, and —lights patterned after Franklin’s improvements on London lighting of the time.

Since then many arguments were heard as to what should be added or subtracted to what, before 1825 was appropriately called Southeast Square. Most of the arguments have subsided, and many residents and Washington Square Association members would be grateful if Washington Square could be put in the care of the awesomely meticulous National Park Service.

Whatever its future, let its severe mood contrast with the busy coming and going of the streets that surround it.

NEEDED: FLAGS, FLOWERS, FRIENDS

Put out the flags, hang the May baskets, and help the Friends of Independence National Historical Park and the Society Hill Civic Association extend gracious, neighborly hospitality to the visitors of Society Hill as part of Philadelphia's Open House, the week of April 29th to May 8th. Society Hill tours will be May 5th and 7th from 1 to 5 p.m. and May 2nd from 5 to 9 p.m.

Anyone interested in acting as a host or hostess for these tours, please call Molly DeLaurentis (923-2444) or Sue Paterson (925-8813).

For P.O.H. brochure call or write P.O.H. office: 313 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106. Phone: 928-1188, 928-1553.

Scouting a Spaghetti Orgy

Boy Scout Troop 8176 will hold a community spaghetti supper March 11th at the Old Pine Community Center. Tickets ($3) are available from any neighborhood scout or at the door. The food will be served cafeteria-style (all-you-can-eat) starting at 6:30 and continuing until 8 p.m. Proceeds from this annual dinner are used to purchase troop camping equipment and to support other scout activities.

A Tuneful Afternoon

The Carpenters’ Company Candlelight Concert on Sunday, March 8th at 4:30 p.m. will highlight members of the Savoy Opera Company. Their repertoire includes selections composed by Gilbert and Sullivan and Broadway show tunes. Tickets are $12.50. Refreshments will be served after the concert. Make your reservation with Jennifer Lord at Carpenter’s Hall 925-0167.
traffic study (continued from page 1) oughtare and, at the same time provide more parking spaces, the SHCA recommends closing Spruce entirely between Front and Delaware Avenue and using the space for resident and tourist parking. This course would make it 95 inaccessible from Front Street, as well. The SHCA response clearly states that the community will only afford a plan that reduces the present traffic flow on Front and Spence Streets and prevents them from continuing to be east-west corridors of through traffic. The SHCA also favors the closing of the east side of Second Street between Pine and Lombard.

Finally, the SHCA refers to Queen Village, on Bainbridge Street improvements, but states unqualified opposition to the proposed partial closing of South Street to traffic and sees no benefit from expensive "traffic restraint measures" on Delancey Street or any other street in Society Hill.

Since the consultants' management report is in its preliminary stages, it is hoped that the final report will address this community's traffic and parking problems more adequately.

Bookbinder's Lot (Continued from page 1) difficulty in obtaining City Council approval; and Pidc is expected to apply for a $5 million Urban Development Action Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on behalf of the City of Philadelphia. Sheraton told the SHCA membership that Sheraton has constructed $50 million in hotels in the past few years, and that financing for this project (estimated at $35 million) was virtually in hand.

There is still one more obstacle in the way. Bookbinder's John Taxin has appealed the ruling of the Common Pleas Court favoring commercial, i.e., hotel, use for A-4. A decision had not come down at the time of this writing. Should Mr. Taxin's appeal win, it could at least cause some delay. If the appeal fails, the hotel could open as early as 18 months after financing has been secured.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BIRDS

Three delightful winter backyard birds which roost in Society Hill are from left to right: House Finch—Similar to a sparrow, except the male has patches of raspberry–rose color on its chest, and gray on the vent. Sings beautifully.

State-colored Junco—Dark gray with a white tummy and conspicuous white outer tail feathers, especially when it flies away.

Tuffed Titmouse—Large blue-gray bird with peach-colored sides. Looks rather like a tiny blue jay. Sometimes hangs upside-down briefly, and has a very fast takeoff.

Got Some Time? Volunteer

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia needs volunteers Monday through Friday, 9:30 to 5:30. Women in both patient and non-patient areas four hours each week can be very rewarding. Please call Miss Vera V. Wheeler, Director of Volunteers, 996-9173 or 9174, to 4 p.m., or stop at the office for an application, 34th Street and Civic Center Boulevard, Monday through Friday.

One of the current volunteer projects of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania is extracting names from the marriage and death columns published in the Philadelphia Ledger newspaper beginning with 1836. These names will be alphabetized to aid genealogical researchers. Since vital records were not kept in the City of Philadelphia prior to 1860, this type of data is very valuable. Volunteers meet every Monday evening at 7:30. Anyone interested may contact Mrs. Rita Schive Mower 545-0391 or just introduce yourself at 7:30 a.m. on any Wednesday morning in the 3rd floor office of The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia.

Get out the blindfolds... "Philadelphia Compania" Moves to the Neighborhood

All neighbors are welcome to come and celebrate the installation of Red Grooving "Philadelphia Compania" at the Viscol Center, 3rd and Chestnut Streets, on March 24. This spectacular environmental sculpture which depicts the abundance of Philadelphia's cultural heritage and features the Founding Fathers on board the Ship of State, can be enjoyed for the first time in this location at a cocktail party, the proceeds of which will go toward the purchase and installation costs. For an invitation, call or write the Friends of INHP, 310 Walnut, Philadelphia, PA 19106, 597-7919.

All The Shrimp You Can Eat

$5.95 and this coupon entitles you to our Special Weekend Seafood Special—over a glass of chablis. It's so nice.

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1720 Sansom St. • The Bourse, at Independence Hall • 4040 Locust St. (267-3749) • Willow Grove (294-5343)

Sabadine Sports, Armathwaite • Willow Grove Park (267-3465)
Reviewing Neighborhood Schools

Society Hill parents of school-age children heard presentations from representatives of seven Philadelphia schools at SHCA’s School Forum organized by Ron Abrams, assisted by Karen Kress Wellibord. For those who missed the forum, here is a summary of the presentations, highlighting the programs of each participating institution.

Meredith School (public), 5th and Fitzwater Streets. Kindergarten through 8th grade. Principal Bronica advised that Meredith has a teacher-student ratio of 1 to 33, a magnet performing arts program, and a mentally gifted program as well as a complete curriculum. Application for a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation for the Arts has been made. Meredith will accept children as young as 4 years, 7 months by September 1st.

St. Peter’s School (private), 4th and Lombard Streets. Nursery (3 years) through 8th grade. Headmistress Caroline Seaman said enrollment will be kept to approximately 215 students although facilities have been expanded and those of Old Price Community Center are utilized. Historically significant, the school draws pupils from all over Philadelphia and the suburbs. It is nonsectarian but includes religious aspects—morning prayer and grace before meals. It has a structured curriculum with emphasis on humanities, offers computer training and a good sports program.

Philadelphia School (private), 25th and Lombard Streets. Kindergarten through 8th grade. Headmaster Martin Brown said this 10-year-old institution has a teacher-student ratio of 15 to 1. The student population is 125 which may be increased to 165. The school, which has no religious affiliation, is structured around an open classroom. It has a music department, physical education and all students spend one day a week at the school’s farm in Ambler. Tuition ranges from $2,300 for kindergarten to $3,300 for 8th grade.

McCall School (public), 6th and Delancey Streets. Kindergarten through 8th grade. Principal Roper spoke of McCall’s special program for children to whom English is a foreign language. The school has programs for the mentally gifted, offers computer training and music, including an orchestra.

Greenfield School (public), 21st and Chestnut Streets. Kindergarten through 8th grade. Principal Scherterman discussed Greenfield’s use of city facilities (art museums, etc.) to educate its 800 students. They have both open and contained classrooms, a program for students to whom English is a foreign language, and a mentally gifted program. EH-36 applications for students living outside Greenfield’s geographic boundaries may be obtained at the school.

Friend’s Select (private), 17th and Park way. Kindergarten through 12th grade. Admissions Director Harkins and Lower School Principal Greenberger pointed out the advantages of having a child remain at one school throughout his/her formative years. Nonsectarian, Friend’s Select adheres to Quaker principles of responsibility for community, holds a silent meeting once a week. It combines traditional and open schooling.

Durham School (public), 16th and Lombard Streets. Infants (one month minimum) through 5th grade. Principal Shirley Wingham explained that Durham is a child development center, caring for infants from one to 18 months, toddlers 17 to 36 months, and with a full-day kindergarten. Its small size and special curriculum, including a mentally gifted program, give it the advantages of a private school.

All the speakers stressed that parents should visit and pay a visit to the schools in order that they might select the program that is best suited to their child.
The War of the Signs

Instructions in December's Resident Newsletter to neighbors sighting and wishing to fight objectionable advertising signs couldn't have been better timed. As the issue was being delivered, NewMarket was getting ready for Christmas by installing two large sidewalk shop directories on both sides of Second Street. The one on the west side, in front of the Country Market, takes up half the width of the walk and nearly obscures the Stamper Street sign.

Following the Newsletter's instructions, this reporter phoned 686-5500. A lady identifying herself as "Highways" answered sympathetically recorded my complaint. Next, the NewMarket management told me that "nobody else has complained." They suggested a lot more neighbors had to weigh in, and that they expected an official complaint from the President of SHCA.

The efforts of all of us were not enough; two months later the signs still remain, solidly embedded in concrete. The delay, according to NewMarket's General Manager Joseph A. Laconova, is because he's waiting for Licenses and Inspections to tell him where the signs can legally be placed. Laconova doesn't want to move them more than once. He named his man at L&I as Inspector Robert Boothroyd.

Daily calls for a whole week have failed to put me in touch with Inspector Boothroyd. Yes, there is an inspector Boothroyd, but he's never in and he doesn't return calls. The office of District Engineer Pioncowicz, Boothroyd's superior, yielded the information that Highways knows about the Second Street sign violations, but that their inspectors have been too busy to take action so far.

Nothing in the instructions said that getting rid of objectionable signs would be easy, after all.

steven d. cohen, d.d.s.
steve a. graubard, d.d.s.

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PARTY OF THE YEAR

Despite the dismal weather and snow, we had a very exciting turnout for our Society Hill Civic Association party on February 6th. Among the guests were Congressman Tom Foglietta, Candidate for Mayor Frank Rizzo, Chairmen Jim Tayoun, and State Representative Sam Rappaport. Diane Shecter wants to thank Joan Simon of Dromaky and Simon Advertising Agency, Inc., the Society Hill Cheese Shop, Tim's Restaurant, the Poster Shop and Beth Sawicky for their assistance.

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DARTS & LAURELS

Dart—To the real estate brokers/home owners who think “For Sale” signs have to be as large as billboards and to the real estate brokers/home owners who leave the “For Sale” sign up well after the sale papers have been signed. Take a hint at The Resident Newsletter instead.

Dart—To City Council who made the dog-litter law but has made no provision for enforcement. Suggestion: How about giving meter maids ticketing authority for dog-litter owners?

Laurel—To SUPER FRESH for being there with helpful staff and well-stocked shelves.

Dart—To Redevelopment Authority for operating a luxury pigeon condo's at the southwest corner of Locust and Seventh Streets.

Laurel—To Old Pine Presbyterian Church for continuing to sponsor the Boy Scout Troop 116. (Please see announcement in this issue.)

Dart—To the paint manufacturer for having struck the City again. The black paint applied to oblige the white street lines has not proven as weather resistant as the white paint which is now showing through.

Laurel—To the residents who put the unfailingly flyers and papers through their out-of-town neighbors' mailslots. Doing so makes the house look occupied and keeps burglars away.

Dart—To the people who let their dogs run free around the neighborhood, not realizing how likely unleashed animals are to terrorize leash-bound pets.

Laurel—To Laurens/Cafe Borgia for fresh and elegant flowers in their windows all the time.

Dart—To Cafe Borgia for charging six bucks for a belt of brandy. Maybe they should switch to artificial flowers or else get a mask.

Dart—To the Fairmount Park Commission for the hideous out-building they put behind the quaint little maintenance house in Washington Square Park. Obviously more storage space was needed—but there must be better ways. 

Laurel—(February 10) To God, for giving us such a mild winter.

Dart—(February 11)

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PIER 30

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