

SOCIETY HILL NEWS

VOLUME 1 - NO. 3 - APRIL 1958 -

PUBLISHED EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE

SHARA ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 28th

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 inquirants 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 now, 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.

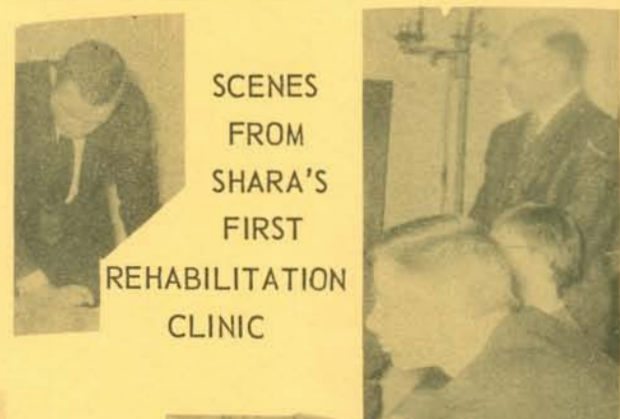
DAMON CHILDS.

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'clock. 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.

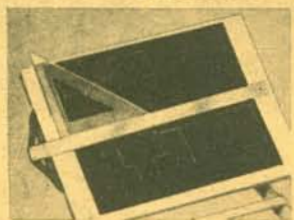


SCENES FROM SHARA'S FIRST REHABILITATION CLINIC

REPAIR
your home



REPLAN
your neighborhood



RENEW
your community and city



ACTION

American Council To Improve Our Neighborhoods

Spans continued by your Transportation Advertising Company at a public service



HEAR YE! HEAR YE!
RESIDENTS OF SOCIETY HILL

ANNUAL MEETING

SOCIETY OF WOMEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MONDAY, ~~MAY 28~~ 1958 321 S. FOURTH ST.

PROGRAM

7 - 8:00 P.M. PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

In lobby of the 401-Pyramid Sing Mansion an opportunity to meet the officers and executive board members of SHARA. Plan to have your dinner desert of coffee and cake with your neighbors in the ballroom.

The Reception Committee

Miss Selma Levin	Mrs. A. J. Spause
Mrs. Joan Pawlen	Mrs. Isadore Rugowitz
Mrs. Eliz. Schoenfeld	Mrs. Florence Gansky
Miss Theresa Barranca	Mrs. Eliz. Nicholson
Mrs. Lillian Hall	Mrs. Bertha Martin
Mrs. Robt. Levins, Sr.	Mrs. Helen Buerklin
Mrs. Katherine Kelly	Mrs. P. Patterson
Mrs. Edith Stern	Mrs. Kay Riordan
Mrs. Henriette Silverstein	Mrs. Tressa Cathcart

8:30 P.M. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

In the Garden - No Reports or Speeches

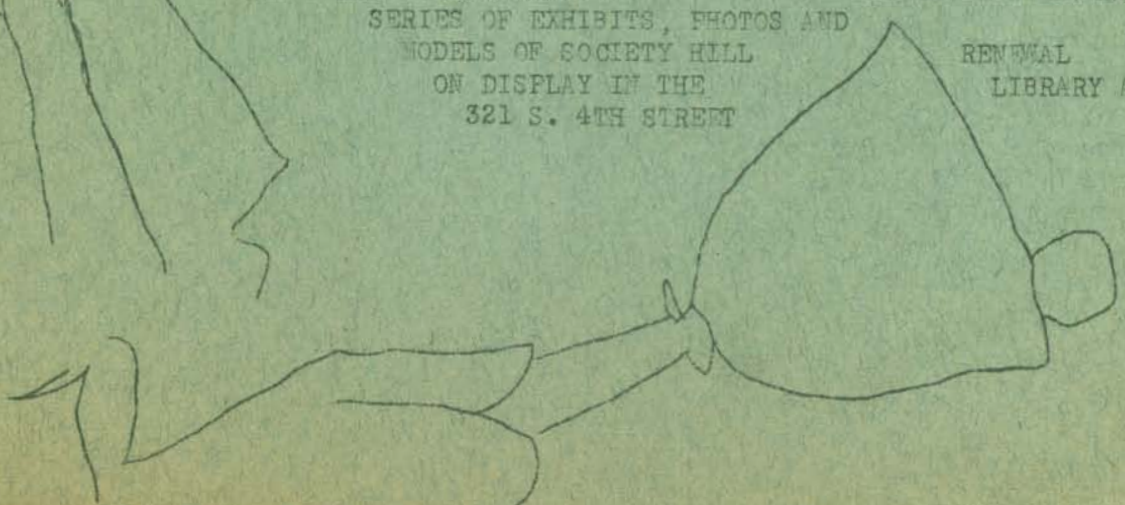
XXX - Vote of Membership on Articles of Incorporation
XXX - Report of the Nominating Committee
XXX - Election of Officers and Board Members for
1958 - 59

9 P.M. THE UNIT ONE STUDY - A REPORT --- MR. PRESTON ANDRADE,
A.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. 4TH STREET

RENEWAL
LIBRARY AT



Spring has arrived in Society Hill-- and everywhere folks are to be seen painting and sprucing up. Now's the time to get those window boxes painted and planted...to get busy in yard and garden. It's amazing what can be done even if all you have is a square of cement behind the house. Lots of lettuces or geraniums or other flowers or shrubs can be set on low boards laid across bricks and make a pleasant green and flowery corner to enjoy this summer. MRS. GIBSON at 825 Spruce has just such a garden that is a veritable tower of vines and flowers-- All growing in pots and planters! It would be too long before we'll have a Society Hill Garden Day! Maybe next year!



One of the most important things that came out of the recent SWARM Rehabilitation Clinic was the reminder that if everyone in the area would do two simple things, Society Hill would take a big step toward an attractive and inviting appearance.

Mr. Barton Childs, young architect, who has volunteered his services to SWARM Rehabilitation Clinic, points out that if everyone had the front of his house washed down and woodwork, doors, windows, trim, shutters, etc. - painted (preferably with white or light paint), the area would immediately perk up.

Shining example is the house at 620 Spruce Street, that has all shutters and woodwork painted white and looks so beautiful. It is a handsome house now and should encourage many of us to do likewise!

SWARM INCORPORATION RESOLUTION -

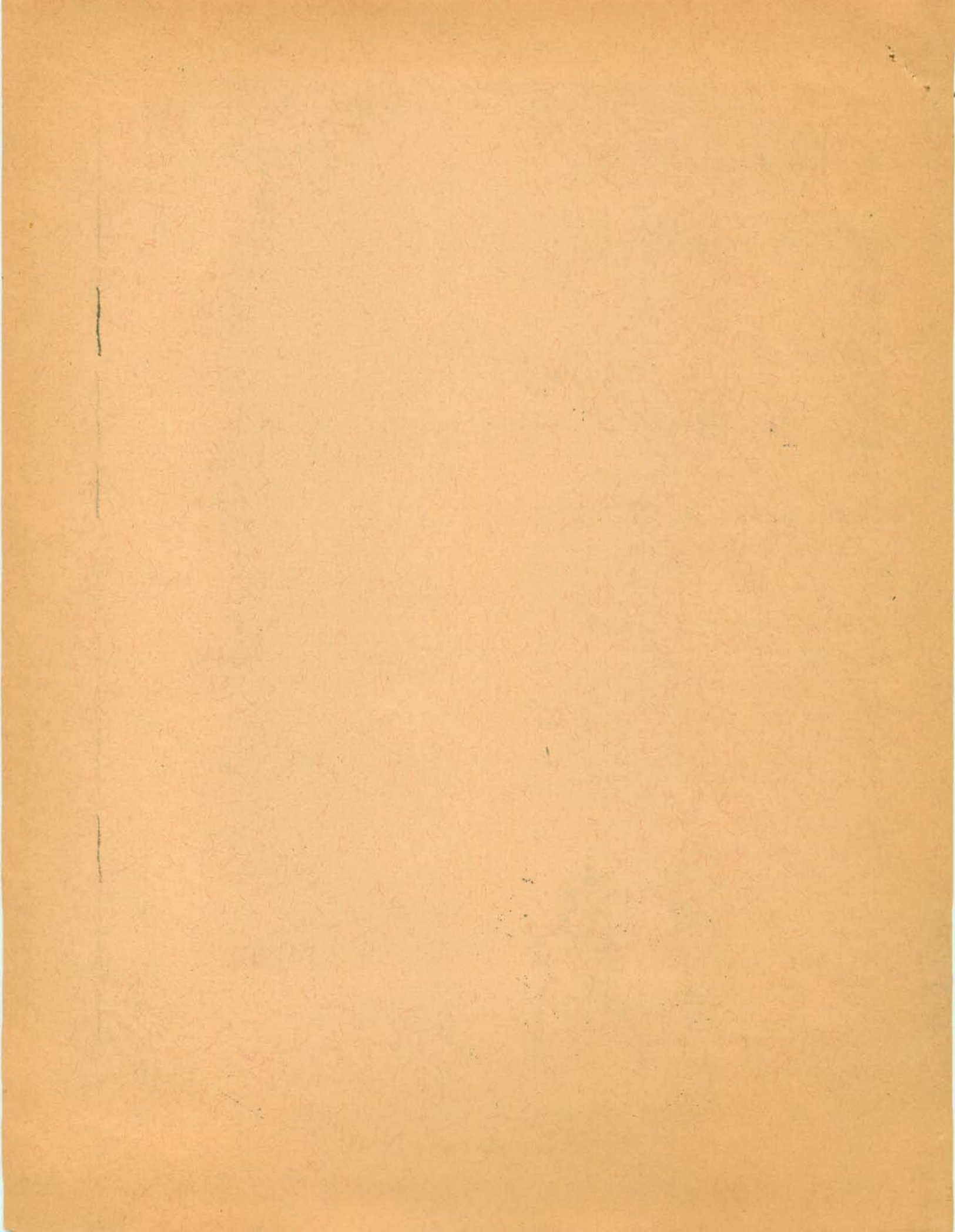
The following resolution will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting:

RESOLVED, THAT THE SOCIETY HILL SWARM REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION be incorporated as a non profit citizens association in accordance with the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, IF that the Board of Directors thereof are hereby authorized and hereby empowered to take such steps and execute such instruments as may be necessary to achieve the aforesaid incorporation.



It has been represented at two important zoning board meetings. One was concerned with the Pennsylvania Hospital's plan to build a new nurses' home at the corner of 9th and Spruce streets. The other concerned the re-zoning of certain of certain commercial and industrial areas for part and residential uses. SWARM supported both these as being for the improvement of the area.





WELCOME MAYOR DILWORTH

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 is 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, journey 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 egg-nog 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 mss. now rests in the mayoralty wastebasket...A great loss to history, but we excerpt some of its details here.

The residences of this town's majors 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". (Incidentally the Shippen family once owned the ground south of Walnut Street and 6th Street, where Mayor Dilworth's house now stands.)

SHARA-FACT

XXX Post Old American
Legions Office
These words are used
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work... activities. Thanks
again to the outstanding Community
Service Association.



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AT THE ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 28TH

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 disgraced 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 Pumstead, Charles Read, William Allen, Benjamin Showmaker, Charles Willing, Samuel Powell, Jacob Duche and all the way down the line to the late J. Hampton (Hampy) Moore who lived, not so long ago, at 269 S. 4th Street.

Mayor Dilworth's home has been built on the site of two ramshackled mid-Victorian houses at 223 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.

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SOCIETY HILL NEWS
 GAZETTE OF THE SOCIETY HILL NEWS
 RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

George F. Kearney, Editor

Chairman, SHANA Public Relations Com.

Daisy Primo, Secretary

Elizabeth Schoenfeld,	Harry Altman
Selma Levin,	Pat Reid
Bertha von Koschzisker,	Raymond Gogolski
Catherine Phillips,	Judge Buerklin
Howard Silverman,	Danny Primo
Edward Scherneck	Anne List
Bernard Sokolick	Ed. Sobel
John Sennott,	Staff Aide SHANA

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 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 dustcovered blueprints; endless official reports. Out, 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 practically 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 mast-head -- 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

off his book in rhyme.

Probably the great reviver of Society Hill was the older John Frederick Lewis, who prepared a beautiful volume entitled "An Old Philadelphia Land Title," which is a picturesque account of the various owners of the land around Mr. Lewis' law office at 321 South Fourth Street (at its widening) and, incidentally a fine history volume of this Society Hill area was actually completed and published by his son, John F. Lewis, Jr., who succeeded his father as president of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

John F. Lewis, Jr., so far as Society Hill is concerned, played his usual role as a far-visioned initiator of vast projects of civic betterment. He initiated the refounding of Benjamin Franklin's Junio as a flourishing adult school which now has an "alumni" of over 150,000 students. He has encouraged many civic projects of significance and then bowed out. He and his lovely wife serve on a total of 21 cultural and civic boards in this city and devoting hours of work and planning to each of them.

Early in the history of Society Hill there emerged a frustrated idealist, the late Charles Abbel Murphy, who devoted his later years to promoting a replica of the old boarding house which once stood on the southwest corner of Seventh and Market Streets, where Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence. Here is a dream yet to be accomplished. Then along came George E. Nietzche, retired Recorder of the U. of P., who started people a-talking about an Independence Hall in front of the State House.

Other people have followed these early pioneers: Judge Edwin O. Lewis, now president of the Colonial Philadelphia Historical Society, Harry E. Batten, Albert A. Greenfield, Judge Harold E. Saylor, Grant A. Simon, Edmund C. Bacon, and a host of other city planners, too numerous to mention.

There is another generation of ardent Society Hillites coming along: Charles Patterson of the National Park Service; Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Nicholson; Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Schoenfeld; Maureen Burdoch, our capable president; Frank Graham, Damon Childs; Benjamin Sokolock, Earl A. Lovelance, Anne List, Bob Tromp, Alexander Koss, Rev. Joseph Cawley, S.S., Ralph Ottaviano, Mr. and Mrs. George Diehl, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Riordan, Mr. and Mrs. Lin Martin. To keep on mentioning the people prominent in this movement would keep us breathless. See subsequent issues for list of other persons who have earned a place in Society Hill's Hall of Fame.