



THE RESIDENT

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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 400. Only a few weeks ago we became a Pennsylvania non-profit 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 PRICE, 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 5th Street shopping area, 2) the Metropolitan Hospital site, 3) the new Alcoa 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 McCall School Auditorium. Please plan to attend.



(This poem was scheduled to run in our ill-fated January issue. We print it belatedly because we think it's too good to hold for another year. The Editors)

Greetings, Friends

*Greetings, friends, New Yorker style,
We've holiday fun 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 pooches
We're sending over a hundred smooches.
And speaking of Peggy, don't forget Davies,
Rodie and Skorsten and those two little babies.
We're surrounded by people whose name 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 Clara, they live up on Spruce.
Sym-Smith are as British as ha'pence and pound,
Last Norman and wife and sweet Basset Hound.
We wish all you Smiths big holiday cheers,
And we wouldn't forget the William Mears.
To Newbolds and son and two baby daughters,
Lots of luck in your great big new quarters.
To Eiman and Taylor, to family Zambelli,
To Mrs. Bok, whom many call Nellie
We raise our eyes with a look to heaven
And wish you the best all through sixty, seven.*

*There's Peiton Place, known to all as the Towers
For William Stewart a bouquet of flowers.
To Andre Gregory and charming Chiquita,
Your theatre has brought us all dolce vita.
For all the grand people remodelling shells,
If we could we would ring Penn Mutual's bells.
Cheers to the Griswolds and exotic birds,
For you we have only the pleasantest words.
Good people who've worked on the "Resident"
For Franklin Roberts, past President,
For Lemmer, and Latta, for Spiros and Kises,
May the New Year be full of joyous surprises.*

*Stems up to the enterprising Tancredi
They minister to all forms of the needy:
Internal, external alcohol rub,
Prescriptions are filled at drugstore or pub.
For family Prock of grand "Hapwood Farms",
We pray no more clanging of fire alarms.
And down at that end is the couple Benzell,
Perhaps '67 is the year that you'll sell.
Good wishes Matt Millers and boa constrictor,
Best luck down on Pine to a fellow named Dichter.
Presently housed after endless long time,
Are John and Ann Wagner in their Grand Design.
Wish well Mr. Koci, all our rabbis and preachers,
The same to be said for Mr. Tobias and teachers.
Hear, hear for our doctors and lawyers and, yes . . .
For all of our talented architects . . .
But none of our listings could really suffice,
Without New Year's wishes to Pres. Phillip Price!*

Marylou Kavalier

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 ^{do not} 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 with outside speakers, orchestra groups, and classes within the school performing. Walking field trips to the Atwater Kent Museum, Independence Hall, and ~~there~~ ^{offers} are a natural part of McCall's life, with its unique historical setting. Busses 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 32, and no class has more than 39.

At McCall's, the slow achievers 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 afternoons, fifth to eighth graders are accepted into the Achievement Classes for Academically Talented Children. They may elect the language and arts program, 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 28th.

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. McCall 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; have a long, informative chat with Abraham Tobias, dedicated principal of the McCall School for some 16 years, and you'll 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 educator 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 finished 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, through the courtesy of the Department of Recreation, classes are offered in puppetry, arts and crafts, ballet 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 terse 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 Kotlar, 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-5-9980).



Playful bear marks transition from old to new building, brings a touch of the wild to center-city McCall's School.



New addition more than compensates from ^{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 long-time 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 1760, while the French and Indian wars still raged, 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 1767 and was used as four tenement houses rented to seamen. The rest of the Court was composed of five minuscule dwellings but now houses three families.

At this time, Philadelphia was still the capital of Pennsylvania, with a population approaching 40,000; 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 throbbed with activity. Seamen's houses, of course, did not approach the elaborateness of the merchants' homes, and so Drinker's Court had charmingly simple architecture. The Nicholson's tried to keep it as intact as possible, but time and abuse had taken their toll. A store front, added in 1890, 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, Jafes Thackers, was born here. His son, William Wood Thackers, preserved a journal in which was recorded that "in 1771, William Thackers (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 28, 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. Hay, 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

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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 108 Delancey Street
Treasurer	Mae W. O'Neill 120 Delancey Street

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stanhope S. Browne 210 Locust Street	Samuel Maitin 704 Pine Street
Arnold Nicholson 241 Pine Street	Charles E. Peterson 334 Spruce Street
G. Martin Pyle 244 Delancey Street	Franklin S. Roberts 222 Delancey Street
David A. Stevens 116 Delancey Street	William B. Surasky 325 Pine Street

WORKING COMMITTEES AND THEIR CHAIRMEN

Arts—Joseph Praissman
238 South Third Street

A series of three open-air concerts are being planned for the late spring and early summer.

Liaison—Paul W. Putney
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. Putney
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. Riordan
511 Pine Street 234 Delancey 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
308 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
314 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 McCall 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 OPDC to supply information to prospective home owners about restoring houses.

The Resident—Mrs. William G. Mears
108 Delancey Street
and E. 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 Glockner
220 Delancey Street

A comprehensive report with recommendations has been approved by membership, and is being forwarded to the city, the Redevelopment Authority and other interested parties for action.

Zoning—Arnold Nicholson
236 Delancey Street

This committee will keep us informed about proposed variances, and we will shortly be asked to give suggestions to the Citizens Council on City Planning about a proposed redrawing of the zoning map for our area.

A New Committee—William C. Cullen
235 Spruce Street

A committee, which is still to be named, is being formed to organize forums on matters of general public 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 resides 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, please send your name, address and phone number to Mrs. Stanhope Browne, 210 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pa.