



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

# THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

313 Pine Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

March, 1972

## Our New Look -

THE RESIDENT - our old publication back in a new format, infinitely easier (and a lot less costly) to produce and hopefully more timely and informative. This is the first of what we hope to make a regular news report to members about the activities of SHCA. Its quality will depend on news and for that we are dependent on YOU! If you have news, send it to our Secretary, Mrs. Peggy Duckett, at 335 S. Second Street.

## BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Chairman Theodore Newbold reported at the January Membership meeting on Committee efforts to develop a positive program for neighborhood participation in the Celebration. Because Society Hill is adjacent to Independence National Bank and because of the historic interest of the neighborhood itself, our community will be greatly affected, no matter where an Expo is located. Consequently, the Committee feels we should participate in the planning stage for such things as zoning, use of public spaces, traffic patterns and parking, new building, police protection, public transportation, tours, housing and concessions. It recommended that a non-profit corporation be formed to direct our participation. Any money which is made from the corporation's activities would be used to fund worthwhile projects in this and adjacent neighborhoods. This proposal was presented to the Executive Committee of the Bicentennial Corporation and received with enthusiasm.

Further endorsement was given to an Expo in Philadelphia and to the Mayor's Committee efforts to find a suitable site. Money for a citizen's advertising campaign was authorized. The Board reports that \$250 from the treasury was matched by \$250 in individual gifts. No monies were contributed from the Society Hill Fund.

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## OCTAVIA HILL TENANTS DISCUSSED

A frequently lamented aspect of urban renewal is the eviction of people from their neighborhoods. This is the situation for seven families who have been long-time tenants in the houses owned by Octavia Hill Corp. in the 600 block of Lombard. These houses are slated for extensive renovations which would make them

too expensive for the current tenants. The relocation of these families has been the study of a SHCA committee headed by Philip Price. The committee, working with Redevelopment Authority, OPDC, FHA, and other agencies, is considering several proposals, to solve the problem. The proposals will be presented for membership consideration when completed.

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NEWS ABOUT THE METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL SITE IN NEXT ISSUE

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CRIME, GANGS and COMITTEES

As an outgrowth of the open discussion of gang activities held by the McCall Home and School Association recently, a community crime committee has been formed, headed by John Nelson.

At the open meeting members of the community heard representatives of the Department of Recreation, Police Department, Juvenile Court and the Youth Study Center describe gang activity and their roles in dealing with it. Panel members outlined the structure of the 93 organized gangs in Philadelphia (with a membership of about 8000!). Each gang has its own leaders, rules, weapons, boundaries, and internal system of justice. Gangs, too, vary in agressiveness. For example, the gang at 13th and Fitzwater was described as more agresive than the passive Fifth Street gang.

Panel members stressed the community's obligation to be alert to the existence of the gangs and to report any suspicious activity.

The newly formed community crime committee is divided into four committees, all of which are actively seeking members:

Town Watch - Chairman, Marjorie Niblock, WA 5-0656

Volunteers are needed to educate people to be "busybodies" - to learn what to look for and when to call police.

Fund Raising

Chairman, Deborah Newbold  
WA3-0766.

Volunteers needed to raise funds through foundations, individuals and business for recreation and education programs already in progress in neighborhoods to the south of us.

Recreation

Chairman, Rev. F. Lee Richards  
WA 3-7147

Job Procurement

Chairman, Edmund DePaul  
WA 5-4403

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FILM NIGHT

- at Old Pine Presbyterian Church -

All residents are invited to view two excellent films: IT'S ABOUT THIS CARPENTER and PARABLE, on March 15 at 7:30 p.m. These films were used in the Religion Favilion at the New York World's Fair and are especially suited for all ages. The films run 35 minutes and will be followed by discussion and a pot-luck dessert table - each family is to bring a favorite dessert.

IF YOU DIDN'T. . . YOU SHOULD HAVE. . . AND YOU STILL CAN SEE

"The Selling of the President"

- a musical version of Joe McGinnis' bestselling book. Co-produced by Franklin Roberts, a past prexy of SHCA, the show goes to Broadway the week of March 15. Society Hillers turned out en masse Monday night, March 6, when a percentage of the proceeds from tickets purchased through the Association went to our Society Hill Fund - thanks to Frank!

STUDY OF URBAN PROBLEMS

The Human Resources Center of the University of Pennsylvania and a group of residents organized by Mrs. Palmer Fletcher are jointly sponsoring an educational program on urban problems. The program consists of a series of two-hour meetings held locally, and the second session is currently underway. Such topics as crime and safety, housing, race relations, transportation and traffic, educational problems and city government are discussed. Persons interested in participating should contact Martha Lavell at the Human Resources Center, 3810 Walnut Street, or call 495-7903.

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WANTED: Adults with one hour free time to spark young minds at McCall School. Join others who are currently sharing their talent in music, art, drama, writing, first aid, mechanics, gardening, cooking, sewing, photography, architecture and current events.

CALL Mrs. David Stevens,  
at WA 3-1349.

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WANT TO JOIN US?

See last page for unmatched offer!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR  
MENTAL HEALTH

An urgent call for volunteer help has gone out from the Hall-Mercer Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center of Pennsylvania Hospital, 8th and Locust. Volunteers are needed for jobs ranging from swimming instruction to "Big Brothers." Specifically needed:

- Swimming teachers on Tuesday mornings from 10 to 12. Good swimming skills are necessary, but Red Cross Senior Life Saving is not required.

- Knitting instructor to teach basic knitting and crocheting to adults at the Center, three Friday afternoons each month.

- Assistants to work with the Recreational Director on Saturday mornings from 9:00 'til noon in a physical fitness program.

- Big Sisters and Big Brothers are needed to work on a one-to-one basis with a retarded individual. The volunteer is given individualized training and is required to spend some time with his little sister/little brother at least three weekends each month.

CALL Mrs. Virginia Fineberg,  
Coordinator of Volunteers, Hall-Mercer, at 829 5275. Office open weekdays from 9 to 5.

## BASEBALL OR TRACK, ANYONE?

Spring is approaching rapidly, when young men's hearts turn to sports! There are many youngsters around Starr Garden Recreation Center, 6th and Lombard, eagerly awaiting baseball and track season, needing only a coach or coaching staff to guide them.

If you have such talents or just would like to help coach a bunch of kids on Saturdays or in the late afternoon

CALL Mrs. Jean Smith at Starr Garden, MU 6-7550, to get in on the athletic action!

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## UNEMPLOYED GREEN THUMBS!! SIGN UP!!

The Women's Committee of the College of Physicians, 19 S. 22nd Street, has placed high on its list of priority projects the freshening and replanting of the medicinal herb garden adjacent to the College.

Mrs. Frank Elliott, chairman of the Committee, has issued a call to any "unemployed green thumbs" who would like to devote both time and talents to the project. She can be reached by mail at the College.

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### JOIN US!

This first issue of the THE RESIDENT newsletter has broader circulation to inform non-members of our activities and hopefully attract new members. Membership is open to residents in the area bounded by the middle lines of Front, Walnut, Eighth and Lombard Streets. Dues are \$4.00 per person; \$6.00 for husband/wife.

### JOIN US!

## NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD

The January Membership Meeting was our annual business meeting and a new Board was elected to serve one year. They do the regular work of your Association. Get to know them and keep them informed of your concerns.

Mrs. Joanne Denworth, President  
(Mrs. Raymond K., Jr.)  
200 Locust Street

Carter R. Buller, Vice President  
241 Delancy Street

Mrs. Margaret Duckett, Secretary  
335 South Second Street

George Schall, Treasurer  
518 Spruce Street

Alan Halpern  
518 Spruce Street  
Robert W. Hill  
631 Addison Street  
Marshall D. Meyers  
200 Locust Street  
H. Laddie Montague  
239 South Fourth Street  
Theodore T. Newbold  
256 South Third Street  
Miss Gretchen S. Neidermayer  
514 Spruce Street  
Joseph Praissman  
238 South Third  
Harry K. Schwartz  
322 South Lawrence Court

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March Staff: Gan Meers, Anne Leitch,  
Jana McCallum

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## Membership Application THE SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Special Interests? \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed to George Schall, Treasurer, 518 Spruce Street.