



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

## THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

313 Pine Street

April, 1978

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

### NEXT MEETING--MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next general membership meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19th at the First Bank of the United States, 142 South Third Street. The nifty building once housed Stephen Girard's legendary financial empire and has been restored by the U.S. Park Service. An awesome place indeed to conduct our run-of-the-mill business. So we put together a program worthy of the setting. The Greater Philadelphia Partnership's executive director Dick Doran, himself a Society Hill resident, and Dr. Howard Perlmutter, director of the International City of Philadelphia project, will talk about a study they are making with the Wharton School to turn Philadelphia into an international trading and tour center. And if this isn't enough, you'll hear updated committee reports from our own bubbling board, plus Save Spruce Street's latest strategy vis-a-vis Pennsylvania Hospital (Give 'em hell, Charley). Be there. In the unlikely event the meeting turns out to be a bore, the building itself is guaranteed to turn you on.

### LOOK WHAT YOU MISSED

The March 1st general membership meeting began with the announcement that the Redevelopment Authority had approved the plans to develop the lot at 3rd and Spruce Sts. drawn by Barry Eiswerth, one of the three architects whose proposals had been approved by the SHCA membership at the previous general meeting. Twelve single family units will be built.

The three candidates for the State Senate seat vacated by Henry Cianfrani then spoke and answered questions. (Vincent Fumo was subsequently elected. The Fumos have a son at St. Peter's.)

The main item of business was the proposed "compromise" Pennsylvania Hospital offered the neighborhood in the battle to save the fine historic buildings at 700-714 Spruce Street. Readers of this publication will recall that the neighborhood had offered the hospital a proposal that involved preserving the front portions of the buildings in return for allowing the hospital to build up to a height of 64 feet (with reasonable setbacks). The SHCA also offered to approve the addition of two levels to the parking garage at 8th and Delancey.

The hospital responded by offering to save just the facades if the SHCA would go along with an 80-foot height limit for the block in question, approve a bridge across Delancey at 8th St., approve a 250-space garage on the 700 block of Delancey, agree to drop the SHCA's suit against the illegal construction of the new Hall-Mercer building at 8th and Manning Sts. (which we have won, so far) and to attempt to get all people living in the immediate area and the Washington Square West PAC to sign an agreement approving the compromise by March 27th. In addition to the above, the

hospital wants our agreement to the enactment by City Council of an Institutional Development District (IDD) so that it would never have to go before the Zoning Board for a variance or for a certificate with respect to any building within the perimeter. If such an IDD were enacted, any institutional facility and use permitted by the general IDD ordinance, approved by the City Planning Commission, and permitted by City Council in the special IDD ordinance enacted for the specific district could then be developed by the hospital without further city approvals. Changes to any such special ordinance could be made only with the approval of the City Planning Commission (and with the approval of City Council, if certain pending city legislation is passed).

It was decided the Save Spruce Street Committee would draft a reply to be made by the Association.

#### THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S REPLY TO PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL

After literally hundreds of man-and-woman hours of study and discussion, a general SHCA meeting, several Board meetings, meetings of the Save Spruce Street and neighbor's committees, the SHCA has replied to Pennsylvania Hospital's proposals of March 1st. Here is a summary of the letter sent by SHCA President Joe Bright to John Clark, Chairman of the hospital:

While the hospital talked of saving just the facades, the SHCA wants to save the front 75 feet of 700-714 Spruce Street, which could provide usable space for the hospital. As the existing height of these buildings is 55 feet, we agree to allow the hospital to build to this level all along the 700 block of Spruce Street to a depth of 61 feet south of the building line. We cannot agree to the hospital's proposed 80-foot height proposal on Delancey Street between 7th and 8th Sts. Even HUD has said such a height would have a deleterious effect on the neighborhood. We will allow the hospital some additional space above the present 40-foot limit, but suggest that any such higher buildings be placed at the west end of the block opposite the hospital's garage at 8th St. We agree to the additional two levels to this existing garage, subject to environmental conditions being met. The hospital will be allowed to build a walkway from its 8th St. garage to the north side of Delancey and to build an underground tunnel connecting the 700 and 800 blocks.

The neighborhood will consider an IDD zoning plan only when the hospital shows us a master plan with the precise outline of the location, height, loading docks, ramps, proposed uses, and all other particulars of new and proposed buildings and open spaces. In addition, we would want an enforceable agreement with the hospital that changes must have the consent of the neighborhood, and that 701-705 and 717 Pine St. be excluded from the IDD.

Since we agree to the expansion of the garage at 8th and Delancey, and with the upgrading of the 500-space garage at 9th and Spruce, and since the neighbors and McCall School oppose the proposed garage at 7th and Delancey, the SHCA cannot agree to this.

Assuming that the hospital and SHCA reach a satisfactory agreement about the 700-714 Spruce St. properties, the plaintiffs in the Hall-Mercer litigation agree to dismiss the suit.

The SHCA will make its best efforts, should a satisfactory agreement be reached, to win the approval of the various city and neighborhood agencies outside of the SHCA for the agreement. We request an agreement that the hospital's March 27th deadline be extended ten days following the return from vacation of Craig Schelter, Deputy Director for the Planning Commission, who has been deeply involved in negotiations.

Finally, the Association makes it clear that we will strictly enforce the 40-foot height limit of the urban renewal plan. The additional height being offered is expressly conditional on the preservation of the Spruce Street houses and upon our reaching agreement on all other points.

#### GETTING TUNED IN

You can still call Society Hill "Television Row," despite the fact that Mike Douglas sold his guest house at Third and Delancey and Jessica Savitch moved on to Washington and New York. We've still got Jack Jones, Matt Quinn, Malcolm Poindexter and Tony Hernandez. One of the newer additions is Channel 12 boss Jim Karyan who's been living in digs near Head House.

#### RHYME TIME

The Painted Bride Art Gallery, 547 South Street, hosts the Active Poets' Theater on Sunday evenings at 8. Free admission. April 2: Marilyn Quantros/Alfred Grant; April 9: Anthony West/Joan Logue; April 16: Lynn Dierdorf/Myron Ayessentz. After the readings, there will be an open forum for discussion or an original work presentation.

#### CLOTHES ENCOUNTERS OF THE SECOND KIND

Brother Alvey of Old St. Joseph's, 321 Willings Alley (WA 3-1733) (9-5:45, M-F) will be happy to accept your outgrown clothing. Besides saving these items for the regular Thanksgiving Drive, he welcomes the opportunity to have an extra coat or suit on hand for the down-on-their-luck. Brother Alvey can make arrangements for a drop-off at another time for your convenience.

#### WHEN LILACS FIRST IN THE DOORWAY BLOOM

Welcome spring like the Romans who placed floral offerings on their doors. Attach a May basket to your door or gate on May 7th and 8th and fill it with cut or dried flowers or rooted plant material which you can buy at the Hill-Physick-Keith House plant sale on April 29th and 30th. If you miss that, get in on the discounts at neighborhood florists: In NewMarket The Four Seasons (20%) or The Crimson Daisy and The Flora Seasons, 618 S. 2nd St. (both 15%) and pick up a basket (at 20% off) in NewMarket at the Wicker

Basket. Then join in the fun by entering the Penna. Horticultural Society's May basket competition (order blanks at the PHS at 325 Walnut St.). Since this is a Phila. first--we're following in the footsteps of Annapolis and Boston--grab a suburban friend and purchase a \$5.00 ticket from WHAT (Walking Historical Architectural Tours) and tour private and public gardens, May basket decorations, outdoor sculpture and historic landmarks. (A portion of the ticket price will go to the SHCA and the Hill-Physick-Keith House.) Call WHAT at 925-2629 for reservations.

#### COMING DISTRACTIONS

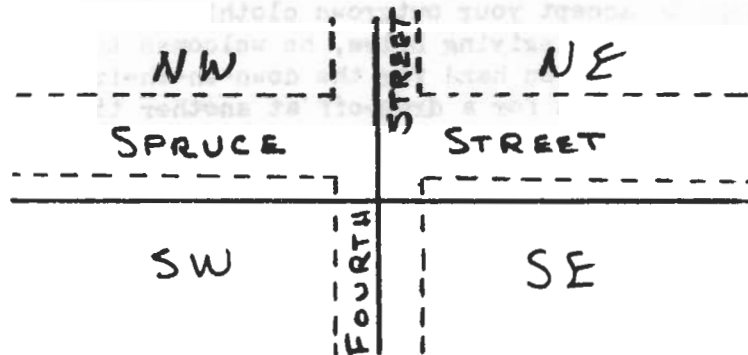
After you finish the Sunday Times on April 16th, head over to the Athenaeum, 219 S. 6th St., from 2-5 for another Save Spruce Street Committee gala. John Francis Marion, author and former editor-in-chief of the Chilton Book Co., will speak on "Romance of Philadelphia Architecture." Also on hand will be a woodwind ensemble provided by students of the Settlement Music School, Shirley Curtiss coach. Plus a short film entitled "Make Way for the Past," plus wine and cheese. You can get tickets at the door for \$5, or from Milt Kenin, 245 Pine St. (Wa 5-9287).

#### CARLINO'S FOLLIES

Come and be heard on April 5th at the RDA meeting, 1234 Market Street, 8th floor, 1:30. The agenda includes some important issues for our neighborhood: announcement of the developer for 712 Locust, the extension of an RDA contract to the developer of 130-132 Delancey (who is in default for over 10 years!) and certification to Head House for the completion of parcels 5a and 5b, the garage on Lombard and the commercial properties that face Second Street.

#### VOTE EARLY AND OFTEN

Unlike ancient Gaul, all Society Hill (and its coterminous PAC) is divided into four parts for the election of directors (illustration below shows the location of each quadrant). Officers may reside anywhere within the area.



The election will be held on May 17th. In order to be nominated for director and listed on the written ballot, you or your candidate must have a nominating petition signed by ten members of the Association from your quadrant. Submit it to the following members of the nominating

committee; Northeast: Harry Goldberg, 240 S. Philip Place; Mary Lou Floyd, 245 S. Philip Place; Northwest: Ted Robb, 236 S. 7th St.; Sue Wanink, 630 Spruce St.; Southeast: Lee Richards, 4 Blackwell Place; John Bartle, 247 Pine; Southwest: Dick Ostrander, 408 S. 6th; and Sam Tanz, 533 Pine St.

If you or your candidate is running for an officer position, any ten members of SHCA can sign. Petitions are available at the above addresses.

The Nominating Committee will be responsible for reviewing the petitions received and making nominations for officer positions and, where there are insufficient director petitions, for directorships. This work will be performed by the Nominating Committee on or before April 28th. The final notice of election will contain a brief statement about each candidate, however nominated.

In order to vote on May 17th, you must have become a member no later than midnight on May 12th. Join now! Send checks to Ruth Dugan, treasurer, 237 Pine Street. Singles \$6, two people at the same address \$10.

#### CHERNOCK ROW

Rather than sign the agreement and time-table drawn up by the Redevelopment Authority to finish developing the properties at 717-723 and 729 Spruce St. (which he acquired in 1972), Joel Chernock submitted his own proposal with a request for an extension. The Redevelopment Authority has decided to reject the Chernock counter-proposal and resume litigation which has been dormant for a few years.

#### SENIOR SERVICE

The Coffee Cup, 248 S. 11th St., a social center for senior citizens, needs people to volunteer, even as seldom as once a month, to bake and deliver or to work as a host or hostess. Call Melinda Buurma at KI 5-4042 if you can help Monday to Friday from 12:30-3 p.m.

#### READERS NEEDED

RICB--the Radio Information Center for the Blind--broadcasts texts of newspapers, magazines, and books 13 hours a day, seven days a week to over 2500 listeners within a 50-mile radius of Philadelphia. If you would like to audition as a volunteer reader, call Brook Hanson at 922-5450 at RICB, 919 Walnut St., Monday to Friday between 9 and 5.

#### ACH, DU LIEBER LIEDER

Enjoy a rare musical experience--come and hear Pro Musica in its final concert of this season on Sunday, April 23rd, 4:30 at Old Pine Street Church. Tickets are \$3.50 at Wanamaker's or write PPM, 4816 Beaumont or call 727-5819. English and German lyric poetry of the 16th and 17th century in musical settings from Byrd to Purcel and Hassher to Bach--now that's eclectic!

THE OFFAL TRUTH

Spring seems to have sprung at last, and with the flowers come the dogs. This would not be a problem in the countryside, and it need not be one even in so densely populated an area as ours. But it is a problem, as anyone who has walked around Society Hill can tell. There used to be a children's game that required participants to avoid stepping on cracks in the pavement. The modern version is not a game at all, and provides a disgusting and instant penalty for all who allow their attention to wander even for a moment. Pretty soon one will have to wear hip-boots to be safe. All dog owners are tarred with the brush of the inconsiderate ones. The City Code (Chapter 10, sections 101, 102, and 107) requires all animals except cats and horses to be kept on a leash when they are not on the owner's property, forbids owners to "knowingly or negligently" permit an animal to "commit any nuisance" on any sidewalk, wall, or private property (other than property he owns), and provides for a fine of \$25 for a first offense.

Is this a problem for you? Write the Resident Newsletter at 313 Pine St., and let us know what you think.

DODSON UPDATE

A motion for reconsideration by the Federal Court of Appeals of its most recent action in the Dodson litigation is now being filed by counsel Olan Lowrey. The appeals court had affirmed an earlier decision by Federal District Court denying a group of area residents the right to intervene in the controversy which centers around building 18 units of public housing near 6th and Pine Sts.

The decision will have no direct effect on related litigation being brought in District Court by the SHCA. Lowrey said that the appeals court indicated in questions from the bench that a reason for denying intervention may have been the possibility of litigating the issues in the Society Hill suit.

Lowrey said he will continue to assess the situation in light of the appeals court action and other decisions rendered recently on similar questions, and keep the Association informed.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Members of the Traffic and Parking Committee met with Captain McGeehan, head of the 6th Police District on March 10th. Until some sort of sticker parking program can be worked out, the best solution, if an imperfect one, seems to be consistent enforcement of existing regulations. In the past, enforcement has been erratic, and has often hit residents rather than the non-Society Hill people who cause most of the traffic problems in this increasingly commercial neighborhood. People who park illegally frequently block what would otherwise be almost enough right-of-way for traffic, especially around NewMarket and the A&P. The captain, a perceptive and candid man, offered to do what he could to help.

It was suggested that increased enforcement, if regular and publicized, would not hurt residents, who would know that certain areas would be heavily

policed at specific times, but would get the message across to non-neighborhood people who seem to think that parking laws don't apply to them. What do you think? Unless we get a strong negative response, we will ask the police to begin strict enforcement at peak traffic hours on selected streets (you will be notified of specific streets and times at a general membership meeting and in the next issue of this newsletter). Write Malcolm Strickler, 209 Delancey or Tim Lemmer, 236 Pine, or the Resident Newsletter, 313 Pine.

#### FIRST AID FOR MEDICAL CONSUMERS

The Health Systems Agency of Southeastern Pennsylvania was created under U.S. laws 92-603 and 93-641 to contain the rapidly rising costs of health care while insuring, and, if possible, improving its quality. It's supposed to eliminate the expensive duplication of facilities and unnecessary expansion by individual hospitals (which have done so much to push up medical costs) and to take a more rational regional approach to health care.

Consumer education and input are part of the plan. The HSA/SP needs YOU, the consumer, to offer your opinions on the quality, the cost, and the efficiency of the health care delivery system here. At the moment it's the hospital administrators who are effectively represented in the ranks of the HSA. While consumer representatives are learning what's what, hospital representatives are able to get all sorts of expensive projects approved. The hard questions--"Is this really necessary?" and "Can this be done better somewhere else?"--are not getting asked.

Consumers need to learn the issues involved. There will be an open meeting where you can address the HSA/SP Sub-Area Council on Thursday, April 6th, from 3:00-5:30 and 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the YM/YWHA, Broad and Pine. Comments are invited on any aspect of health or medical care, including your thoughts about Pennsylvania Hospital, Jefferson Hospital, or any other hospital in central Philadelphia.

Call Ellen Burger at 546-1616 and get yourself put on the agenda as a speaker. Or you can walk in at the beginning of either session.

Applications for general membership, including a subscription to the HSA/SP newsletter, can be made by stopping by the HSA at 1616 Walnut St., or by calling 546-1616.

#### DARTS & LAURELS

Laurel--To the Newsletter newspersons--that energetic crew of neighborhood ladies and gents--who did hundreds of knee bends to get the last issue to your mailbox.

Laurel--To Lerner's Restaurant, 134 Market Street, and to Colonel Melvin W. Ormes, a neighbor and proprietor of the Gourmet Bar, 310 Market Street for their cheese, crackers and party donations for the Save Spruce Street Committee's Open House on February 25th.

Dart--To NewMarket for permitting their wooden fences to topple down,  
thereby exposing their seedy maws.

Laurel--To Joe the Barber for running a shop that's not a clipjoint. He's  
now in the former Time and the River location on the 100 block of  
Naudain. Legend has it he invented the DA haircut.

Dart--To those people with a slum mentality who put their house trash and  
garbage in the street receptacles.

BUILDING A BIGGER MASTHEAD

The ranks of the Newsletter are bulging with talent. A salute to Richard  
Biddle, Cindy Cargus, Louise Jacobs and Peg Robb for copy in this issue.

If you'd like to work on the next issue, or have a news item included,  
contact Jan Stephano (WA 3-4921), Tim Lemmer (923-7142), or Alan Halpern  
(WA 5-3431), or mail it to the Resident Newsletter, 313 Pine Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106.