Box 3, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19105

September 1981

A Stormy Membership Meeting

There was plenty of action at the general meeting of the Society Hill Civic Association last July 8th. City Representative Richard Doran began the meeting by complaining about an article in the *Resident Newsletter* that he felt implied he had been less than open with neighbors about plans for the development of the A-4 parcel, the lot across from Bookbinder's.

The city had made a great effort to be fair in this matter, he said. (A fuller account of the attempts to develop the parcel appears elsewhere in this issue.)

The meeting also saw presentations of two competing plans to develop the tract by representatives of the two finalists. The parcel, bounded by Dock, Walnut, and 2nd Streets, is earmarked for a hotel. The Stouffer's plan featured 300 rooms

and 240 parking spaces, while the Radisson plan had 322 rooms and either 234 or 275 parking spaces, depending on the size of the parking grid used. Each development team answered questions from SHCA members.

(Since then, the Radisson plan—subject to certain modifications—has been selected by the city.)

Attention next turned to a candidate's forum for the vacant spot in the Third Congressional District. Office-seekers David Dorn, Libertarian, David Glancy, Democrat, and State Senator Joseph Smith, Republican and Independent, addressed the membership and answered questions about their political positions.

(Joseph Smith has elected to fill the seat by Ray Lederer after Lederer was convicted of taking a bribe in the ABSCAM affair.)

Watching the Town Watch

Society Hill Town Watch is making great progress in refining the operational aspects of the organization. President Tom Gould reports that there is close cooperation between the fledgling neighborhood anticrime patrol and Independence National Historic Park. With the help of the National Park Service electronic resources, Town Watch will be able to greatly expand its patrol coverage and operate its communication system more effectively.

Town Watch members have mentioned that already they have a heightened awareness of things occurring in our neighborhood. Two members on Spruce Street reported that they heard scuffling outside their house one recent evening, and went out to find a neighbor having her purse snatched. Their quick appearance frightened away the assailant. They indicated that before they had become involved in Town Watch, they might have thought nothing of that noise, or perhaps not even noticed it.

Society Hill Town Watch organizers and police expert Wiley Redding of Community Relations, 6th District will be holding a training session and meeting at the Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard Streets, Thursday, October 1st at 7:30 p.m. All members and interested neighbors are urged to attend. Together we can make the system work even better.

continued on page 2

Mark Your Calendars!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard. Next Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 and the General Membership Meeting at 8 pm. On the agenda is:

Low Income Housing update. A chance to learn more about the city's resident sticker parking program, and an update on possible changes in the Radisson Hotel plan for the new hotel to be built across from Bookbinder's.

In addition, the heads of most of the SHCA committees will be present and it will be a golden opportunity to sign up to do something about zoning and design review, traffic and parking, relations with NewMarket, cable television, low income housing, real estate and taxes, clean streets, ad hoc committees to monitor the various development sites in the neighborhood, the Newsletter, or any of the many other areas in which the SHCA is active.

There will also be an opportunity to sign up for our neighborhood's town watch.

—There will also be a general meeting at 8 pm at Old Pine Community Center October ●. ♥

Membership Meeting

continued from page 1

At the moment, Town Watch is raising funds to purchase a VHF walkie-talkie system that will be infinitely more efficient than the marginally effective C.B. units now in use in the neighborhood. They connect patrol teams with a base operator who can phone for police assistance when needed.

The major fundraising activity for the year will be held Tuesday, October 6th. Lisa Halterman, vice-president and chairman of the fund-raising committee, explained that the evening would begin at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails at the First Bank of the U.S., at Third above Walnut. From there, guests will be transported by Fairmount Park Trolley to their choice of one of six neighborhood restaurants—each group hosted by a Philadelphia celebrity. The evening should be a novel change from the usual fund-raising dinner.

For more information on Society

Hill Town Watch, please call 923-3159.

Seen a crime? Pass it on.

Society Hill Town Watch is compiling its own crime statistics in the neighborhood because the Police cannot give us this information. To report a crime (after notifying the police, of course), please call 629-1323.

Zoning Update

531 Cypress (through to 530 Spruce). The variance to change a single-family lot to a double single-family lot by building another dwelling on the same lot was opposed by SHCA and reported in our last newsletter The Zoning Board approved. Neighbors contiguous to the property, however, are sympathetic to the development.



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Selling your house? Call Barbara. Want to buy one? Call Barbara. That's Barbara Greenfield of the Greenfield Company. A professional real estate lady who specializes in residential real estate. Want to know just how effective Barbara is? Ask any one of the hundreds of satisfied clients she's either bought or sold a house for. They'll let you know.

You just can't argue with success. And success is what Barbara is all about. She knows this area like no other real estate broker in town. She'll find you that charming town house in Society Hill or sell your gracious home on the Main Line. Or vice versa. So if you're looking to either purchase or sell your property, look for the pro, Barbara Greenfield. You'll recognize her. She's the lady who wears the hats.

Call 215-854-1613 and ask for Barbara.



Centre Square, 1500 Market St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102

Old Pine Center: Something For Everyone

The Old Pine Community Center plans to offer the following programs this fall. If you are interested, you may obtain more information from the Center by calling 627-2493.

Afterschool Program: For children in grades one through four.

Basketball League: Program to begin mid-October for 8-to-13-year-olds.

Exercise: Monday mornings from 8:45 to 9:45.

Gymnastics: For children age 4 years and up.

Library: Will be open from 2 to 5 p.m. for preschool through fifth grade children to borrow and return books. Story hours are also scheduled.

Music and Movement: Classes for preschool children will start in October.

Saturday for Seniors: This popular lunch program is presently booked to capacity. Add your name to the waiting list.

Three Steps Nursery School: A cooperative program for 3-and-4-year-olds.

Volleyball: Organizing adult teams for a league to play Monday or Sunday nights.

Aerobic Dancing: If interested, call 449-2525.

Sky Yoga: For information call WA 3-5946.

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Sunday 1:00 - Open Monday 1:00 - Open Monday 7:30 - Rookie 0-20 Tuesday 8:00 - Open Wednesday 1:00 - Open Thursday 8:00 - Open Friday 1:00 - Open Friday 8:00 - Open Saturday 1:00 - Open

Lessons for individuals and groups

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Center City Bridge Club 563-3734
Gail Rust 627-7829
Becky Durvea 233-0002

BRIDGE FEVER -CATCH IT AT CENTER CITY

Dock Street Revisited

In the interest of clarifying the record, here is a quick capsule of the history of the Dock Street site—sometimes known as "Bookie's parking lot" and officially called the A-4 parcel.

As early as 1966, the Redevelopment Authority (RDA) offered this parcel for motel/hotel use; between 1966 and 1978, there were only three bids, none of which survived. In 1979, RDA divided the parcel into two segments, the smaller one to remain a parking lot for Bookie's. The other was scheduled for a planed modification to change its zoning from "general commercial" to "mixed residential." In August of 1979, the Mayor and City Council approved the zoning change. In October of '79 the property was then advertised for development as a site for mixed residential use. In late 1979, Ray Posel, who lives in Society Hill and is owner of the shopping complex at Second and Walnut, sued RDA for changing the zoning because he felt the change would adversely affect his investment (his complex had been vacant since 1976). Meanwhile, residential developers bid for the parcel and came up with plans to build houses on the site.

In December, five developers presented "the best plans to date for a single parcel in SHCA area," according to the SHCA board. But later that month Judge Lawrence Prattis issued a preliminary injunction preventing the RDA from awarding a residential contract until Posel's suit could be heard. Afterwards, he ruled that RDA had to readvertise to see if there were any commercial developers interested in the whole site as originally proposed. This time there were eight. In February, 1980, RDA returned all deposits to the residential developers. The first of two committees was appointed by Richard Doran, Philadelphia's newly-named Director of Commerce. It was chaired by Craig Schelter, Deputy Director of the Planning Commission, and comprised of Walter D'Alessio, Executive vp of PIDC, the marketing agency; Joe Egan of the Department of Commerce; Ralph Trichron, a representative of Olde City Businessmen's Association; Mike Arno, Executive Director of RDA; developer Jerry Parker, former TLA owner A. Malmfelt, and neighbors Michael Willmann, Lynn Roberts, Paul Weinberg, Stanhope S. Brown and Gobart Cawood.

In the absence of representatives from properties contiguous to the Dock Street site, and at the request of those immediate neighbors, SHCA president and A-4 committee rep., Mike Willmann asked for the addition of two representatives, one from the Society Hill Towers and one from the

At this writing, it looks like the neighborhood will be getting a Radisson hotel on the site and that the city administration has been forthcoming. But the delays and backing and filling that marked this project are not particularly heartwarming.

adjacent Pei houses on the selection committee. Only one was permitted—a representative from the Towers, Steven Miller, who was also president of the Towers Resident Council. By mid-November, 1980 the eight hotel developers submitted plans for erecting a motel/hotel on the site to the City Planning Commission with bids ranging from \$1.2 million to \$5½ million.

Here is a quick rundown of these developers and their proposals: *The Hyatt Group*—a luxury hotel; *Radisson Hotel Corp.*—300 rooms with 300 parking spaces underground; *Ralph Heller*—300-room

bed/breakfast inn with conference rooms, consulate headquarters and 250 underground parking spaces; A-4 Development Corp.—390 rooms with a health club (parking not mentioned); Penn's Landing Inn Assn.—200 suites, pool and parking; Stouffer Corp. - 300 rooms, restaurant, health club and 230 parking spaces; Greenwood and Cadillac Fairview Corp.—lower level commercial, offices, hotel and some residential units; Wolfington Corp.—plan A has 130 guest suites, 112 condo units, 260 parking spaces, restaurant and commercial uses; plan B required a height variance (which is in opposition to the Urban Renewal Plan) 260 rooms, 310 parking spaces and 112 condo units.

Narrowing down the field would be the job of the selection committee and the first of a two-stage procedure.

The first A-4 parcel committee was dissolved and a second was formed. That committee had the same city representatives and only two neighborhood reps, Willmann and Trichron.

Requests from the SHCA for the neighbors at large to look at the eight developers' plans were refused. The reason given was that public viewing could hurt them in the early stages of the competition. The SHCA board, though, reviewed information from the eight sets of plans. Once the board completed its review of the plans, the second committee selected two developers or finalists-Stouffer and Radissondespite requests from the SHCA board and selection committee representative Mike Willmann to include the Wolfington plans preferred by the SHCA board in the second and final stage of selection.

In our last issue of the Resident Newsletter, we reported that, "Up until now, the developers have expressed reluctance to allow the public access to the plans, and have requests to come before a general membership meeting of the SHCA." At the continued on page 4

Dock Street

continued from page 3

last general membership meeting on July 8th, City Director of Commerce. Richard Doran, charged that the above statement was not true. The editors of the Newsletter stand by their original report: At the time the Newsletter went to press, June 15th, the neighborhood had not yet seen the plans; therefore, the Towers and the SHCA requested that the A-4 parcel selection committee defer selection of a developer at their meeting on June 17. That did happen and the community eventually had an opportunity to view the finalists' plans at the general membership meeting on July 8th. Separate viewings for the boards and owners of the Towers and Pei houses were arranged.

At this writing, it looks like the neighborhood will be getting a Radisson hotel on the site and that the city administration has been forthcoming. But the delays and backing and filling that marked this project are not particularly heartwarming.

In the interest of expanding the record, we invited Citizen Doran to make a statement and to summarize the development of the site for presentation here. He did not return the phone call.

To clear up any questions our readers may have about how your newsletter is written and edited, the editors offer this statement of editorial policy. (reprinted from the July 2nd and Dec. 1978 issues ... "The Resident Newsletter encourages written contibutions and suggestions from neighbors. Articles are edited by a staff of volunteers—two of whom are working journalists, and two of whom are former

journalists. All articles are edited to some degree. Headlines are written by the staff, though authors are free to suggest their own. No articles in the Resident are signed (except the president's and treasurer's reports and Ms. Israel's interviews). This allows us to rewrite contributions and to combine them in the interest of brevity and clarity." Almost all articles are read by the president of the SHCA for accuracy before the Resident goes to press. "We try to be accurate and fair, to represent the position of the SHCA, and to provide a balanced, lively and useful community service. We will consider printing dissenting views, subject to the same space conditions that apply to other articles." If you care to comment or contribute to future issues write to The Resident Newsletter, Box 3, Phila. PA 19105.

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DARTS & LAURELS

Laurel: to the neighbors who have decided *not* to put their daily trash at the corner of Seventh and Pine Streets.

Dart: to all those who daily abuse Carpenter Hall and Independence Hall parks with their dogs.

Laurel: to the Lawrence Court neighbors who weeded, cleaned and mulched the walkway adjacent to the A&P.

Dart: to neighbors who put out their unwrapped trash too early.

Laurel: to the small group who brings their clippers at 9:30 on Tuesday mornings to prune, clup and mulch the churchyard at St. Peter's.

Dart: to the neighbors who continually drive the wrong way on one-way streets—Delancey. Cypress and Manning.

Laurel: To Joan Simon, the ad agency executive for NewMarket. After receiving a request for help from neighbors, she got tour busses to stop loading and unloading in the 100 block of Pine Street.

Laurel: To Le Bistro near Second and Pine for promoting the cause of classic jazz by bringing in scat singer Donna Jean to brighten the weekend evenings.

Dart: To the genius who eliminated at least one legal parking place at the northwest corner of Second & Pine Streets for a needlessly expanded pedestrian crosswalk.

Laurel: To the A&P for giving us a choice between paper and plastic bags.

Dart: To the vandals who brutally hacked the large tree in St. Peter's Way between Spruce and Cypress and also the tulip tree in a private garden near Cypress.

Laurel: to Mrs. Ann Koss, who is retiring after many years as our volunteer Newsletter mailer.

Many thanks to Lisa Halterman, Liz Ostrander and the staff for articles in this issue. Please send letters or articles to Box 3, Phila. 19105. Deadline for articles is October 12.



Looking For A Tree



Here's an item of interest from the May Newsletter of the Center City Residents Assn: "Now's the time to plan for fall tree planting. M.J. Doyle Landscaping is offering the following: 2-2½" caliber 10-14' high street trees planted, staked, wrapped, mulched, fed and guaranteed for \$135. The choice of trees may change due to availability at planting time, but presently the choice is as follows: Willow Oak, Red Oak, Norway Maple,

Red Maple, Littleleaf Linden, Kwansan Cherry (tree form). Additional costs: concrete removal \$25; tree stump removal 2-6" caliber (caliber measured 6" from ground) \$20. Have a second tree choice in mind in the event your first choice is unavailable at planting time. Other landscapers also offer this service. Check your Yellow Pages and order a tree for your sidewalk today. Keep Society Hill shady!

Neighbor's Fair at Old Pine Community Center

While munching on samplings from a diversity of neighborhood restaurants and moving to music, old time and new, learn about the resources in your community. The neighborhoods of Bella Vista, Olde City, Queen Village, Society Hill, and Washington Square West, will join together at a neighbor's fair at the Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard Streets, on Saturday, October 3rd, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entertainment for everyone including story telling and a clown for children accompany an introduction to neighborhood resources. Come join us!

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Our Readers Write . . .

To the Editor:

Since you accept advertising from the new Jefferson Bank (back page, July issue), it is only appropriate that you accept criticism of them as well. Their new office at 2nd and Naudain features a very large blue neon sign inside and a bright white one outside. Other merchants (including banks) have wooden signs, unlit letters, handmade graphics or other name designators in good taste.

If Jefferson Bank wants to be accepted as a good neighbor, I suggest they either get a new sign or at least stop the night-time neon.

Bonita L. Perry

To the Editor:

I am writing with reference to the final "Dart" item on Page 9 of your July, 1981 issue. I think you are correct

in awarding a "Dart" to "Dick Doran and his City Hall cronies" for their lack of maintenance of our neighborhood's newest park. I feel. however, that you do the entire neighborhood a disservice when you suggest that "if they can't maintain it decently, why don't they just pave it over." This overstatement, in the name of sophisticated, sarcastic humor, does disservice to the hundreds of neighborhood residents who work so hard and so long to achieve something other than pavement. Instead, why not tell Mr. Doran and his "cronies" what the community will do to them if they do not live up to their responsibilities. Please remember when you publish unsigned articles that The Resident Newsletter speaks for every member of the Society Hill Civic Association. William M. Morris



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Responsible Bicycling

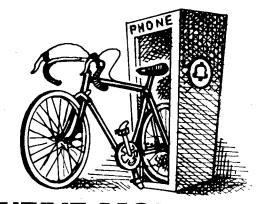


Bicycles offer a cheap, convenient way to get around center city, but there are some things you should consider before setting out.

Bicycles are vehicles under Pennsylvania law, with all the operating rights and responsibilities of motor vehicles. This means that on a bicycle you have a right of way and are entitled to a full lane. It also means that you must ride on the right side of the road, obey stop signs and red lights,

signal when you turn or change lanes, and use a light and reflectors if you are riding after dark.





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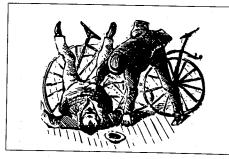


Ride on over!

SOUTH STREET BICYCLE SHOP

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Ride predictably and signal your moves. Don't cut in and out of traffic and don't try to make three lanes of traffic when there are only two. Watch for people opening car doors into the right of way and beware of inattentive motorists. If you are over 12 years of age you have no business riding on sidewalks. Keeping the



proper pressure in your tires will make riding very much easier and more pleasant (the right pressure should be indicated on the tire sidewall).

Bicycle theft is one of the most common crimes in Philadelphia. If you don't have a Citadel or Kryptonite lock (the kind with a U frame), you don't have a serious bike lock. Put your padlock or cable lock on your



wine cellar; they won't even slow down a bike thief. Even the best lock won't do you any good if you don't use it to secure the frame and the rear wheel of your bike to something solid EVERY time you leave your bike; even for a few minutes. For more information write Philadelphia Bicycle Coalition, P.O. Box 8194, Phila. 19101.

Sound Off

We'd like to start an Op-Ed page in the next issue. If you'd like to make a suggestion, vent your wrath or even recall an interesting incident about the neighborhood, put it on paper—50 to 500 words—and mail to The Resident Newsletter, Box 3, Phila., Pa. 19105. Do it today.

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! That is what the Friends of Independence National Historical Park will be saying at the stroke of midnight to welcome in Philadelphia's most exciting year—the Tercentenary.

The fabulous Port of History Museum at Penn's Landing, which will officially open on January 2, is the location for this celebration. There will be fireworks, good food, champagne and wonderful music. Honored guests and celebrities will help us celebrate William Penn's landing 300 years ago at this site on the Delaware River.

If you want to be there where history will not only be toasted—but made—we cordially invite you and your New Year's Eve party to join us. You may receive an invitation by writing to the Friends of INHP, 313 Walnut St. Philadelphia, PA 19106 or by calling 597-7919.





We have learned that there may be money available for new street signs and have been asked by the City Administration to let them know where signs are needed. Tony Schneider, 923-1911 will coordinate gathering information.

JOIN US

Tear off and mail to Society Hill Civic Association, P.O. Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105, attention: Milton S. Schneider, Treasurer. Please renew my (our) membership in the Association.

Name:	1 person, \$6
Address:	2 persons at same address
Address:	2 persons at same address,\$10
	I request waiver of dues numbered SHCA parking sticker; include a

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Around the Neighborhood

He was there—clowning around. Dressed in the prescribed regalia—grease paint and all; he mimed, he pranced and brought smiles to the faces of the Society Hill residents toiling to clean up and beautify the streets during the annual Civil Association spring sweep.

Who was this masqued marvel? None other than the Rev. William Pindar, pastor of the Old Pine Street Church, who has studied and taught the art of clowning for 10 years and utilizes it as a "therapeutic art form for observer and performer." He performs during the Special Olympics (for the handicapped), in hospitals, in senior citizen residences and even in worship, he says.

Rev. Pindar described his religious orientation as "fundamental at heart, with liberal expressions. This community I prize," he says. "The interfaith acceptance and dialogue is unique. We have a network here of historic congregations. This group has been meeting for 10 years now. It consists of Catholics, Protestants and Jews and it adds richness to this neighborhood."

The Rev. Pindar runs through the history of Old Pine with great relish and particularly enjoys describing how a heavy chain was put up to keep carriages (and the noise) off Pine Street during early services. The first pastor was George Duffield; William Pindar is the 13th.

The Old Pine Street Church is the only Colonial era Presbyterian Church still standing on its original site in Philadelphia. Built in 1768, it was captured by the British during the Revolutionary War. They stabled

their horses in the church and burned the pews for warmth. There are 10 Hessians buried in the churchyard.

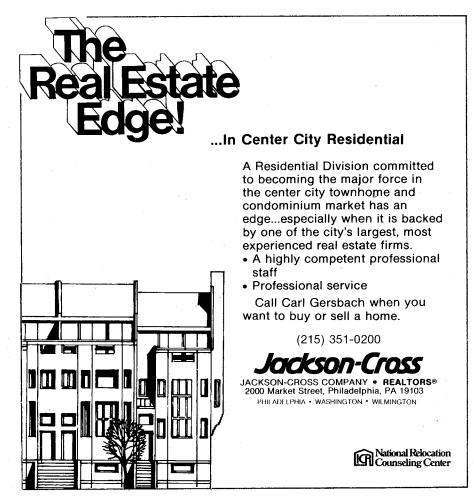
The church took on its "slapped on" Greek Revival look between 1830 and 1850. "The purpose," Rev. Pindar said, "was to modernize it so as to attract people in the neighborhood. It started out as a handsome brick building."

In addition to the minister's pride in the growth of the church in the 10 years he has been there, he is gratified by its commitment to the community. "We helped build the Community Center (at 4th and Lombard) and the ultimate responsibility for running the Center is ours. Thirty different programs or groups are engaged there in drama, art, Cub Scouts, gym, wheelchair basketball and Saturday for Senior Citizen activities all year around.

"I'm big on this kind of activity," Pindar says, "and this kind of community support will go on as long as I'm here." He's for everything that opens up the neighborhood: open houses, open gardens and people open to each other. He cites the South Street merchants who ante up \$350 each to sponsor activities for minority groups like the basketball program at the Center—"to keep kids off the streets."

Bill Pindar, as he is known to everybody in the neighborhood, lives with his wife and daughter in the church manse. It took a long journey to reach it. He was born in Baltimore, the son of a minister, but was raised in Ohio. He started out as a pre-med in colleae, but switched to religion. He got a BA from McCormick Seminary in Chicago and an MA in Christian Education. His first parish was in New Zealand where he conducted services every Sunday in four separate out-stations. He came back to the States, he said, by way of Fiji. His first appointment in the Delaware Valley was in the suburbs, but then he "spotted Old Pine." The rest is history.

-Fran Israel



Handguns for Home Defense

Increasing numbers of your neighbors of both sexes have firearms to use for home defense. If you've wondered about doing this, here are a few things you should consider.

More gun owners and their family members are killed by guns purchased for home defense than are burglars. If you have small children, if a member of your household drinks immoderately, or takes drugs, or is given to violent behavior, or is mentally unstable, you are almost certainly safer *not* having a firearm in your home. Also, firearms are among the most desirable things for burglars to steal.

You'd do better to make sure there are good quality locks on all the entrances to your home. A dog, any dog, is something of a deterrant and a warning system. If you feel you need something in case you are backed against your bedroom wall, get a can of teargas.

If you decide to get a gun, by all means learn how to use it properly. Get qualified instruction at a range and fire several hundred rounds of whatever kind of ammunition you'd use in your house before you even consider keeping it loaded in your bedroom. Practice with it regularly. Shooting is a skill that requires practice. Most ammunition expended by policemen in combat is fired at ranges of 20 feet or less—and most of it misses its intended target. Keep your firearm unloaded, locked up, and out of sight when your store it. And keep your ammunition locked in a separate place.

The Philadelphia Indoor Pistol Range at 2nd & Spring Garden Sts., has NRA certified instructors who can teach you gun safety, the legal implications of firearm ownership and use, and how to shoot.

Remember, if you fire a handgun

bullet at an assailant in your home, and miss, the bullet will keep going 'till it expends all its very considerable energy. That could be right through several plasterboard walls and doors and out into the street. Think about that for a minute.

If you are skilled with shotguns and use one for defense don't use buckshot—it has way too much penetrating power and is a threat to people several walls beyond you. Fine birdshot (7½ or smaller) will do

the job and not present as much of a threat to your neighbors in the next block.

Remember, the only excuse for shooting a human being is to protect your life or the life of someone else. Bullets, once fired, can never be recalled.

If you carry a loaded gun on the street you are committing a felony, unless you have a license personally signed by the Commissioner of Police to do so.

FALL SESSION

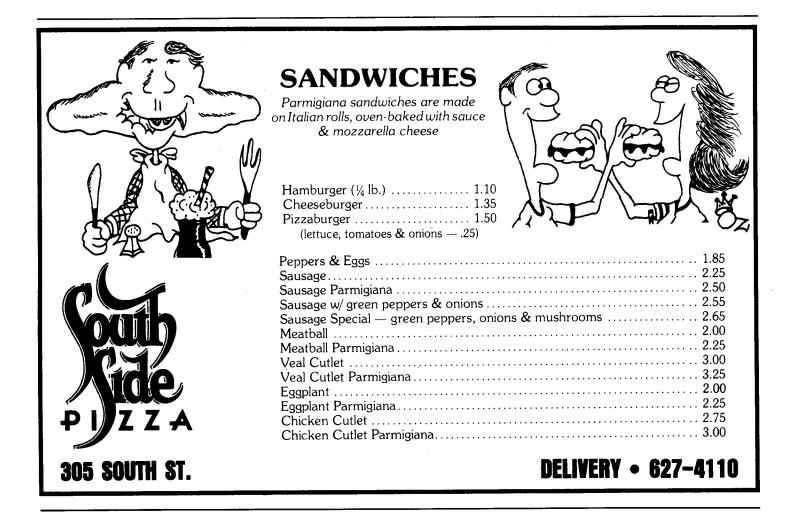
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