



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

# THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

Box 3, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19105

July, 1982

## The results:

### Election of SHCA's 1982-83 Board

On May 19th at Old Pine Community Center the new board of the Society Hill Civic Association, as proposed by the nominating committee, was elected by acclamation.

Officers of the 1982-83 year are: Stephen Miller, president; Aaron Beyer, vice-president; Tony Schneider, treasurer; Ron Abrams, corresponding secretary; and Loretta DiNardo, recording secretary.

Northwest Quadrant Directors are Beth Siniawsky, Diane Shecter, and Bob Holtz.

Northeast Quadrant Directors are Jim Straw, Rosalie Thompson, and Karen Weisbord.

Southeast Quadrant Directors are Fred Edelstein, Joy Lindy, and Rebecca Stoloff.

Southwest Quadrant Directors are Tom Gould, Arthur Smith, and Bob Breading.

The Continuing Director is immediate past president Michael Willmann.

(See Page for biographies of board members and telephone numbers.)

## **Parking and Traffic Now Being Studied Public Meeting on Transportation**

A public meeting conducted by the Society Hill/Queen Village Transportation Management Study was held on May 25th at Old Pine Community Center. The consultants involved in the Study include Cambridge Systematics, Inc., of Boston, a pioneer in transportation systems management; Kopple, Sheward and Day, a Philadelphia firm of architects and urban planners; Portfolio Associates, Inc., a Philadelphia consulting and com-

munications firm; Vista Systems, Inc., Princeton, New Jersey and Wagner-McGee of Washington, D.C.; the former are experts in traffic engineering and the latter are experts in the design and implementation of innovative traffic control and management concepts. John Brophy, a former public parking administrator for the U.S. Department of Transportation and Dr. Vukan Vuchic, a professor of Transportation at the University of Pennsylvania will also serve as consultants. The Study is budgeted for \$140,000, of which 80 percent is funded by the federal government, is 30-35 percent complete and is scheduled for completion in November of this year.



David Fogel, chief of Transit Operations and Planning Division of the Philadelphia Department of Public Property, introduced the speakers: Lance Neumann of Cambridge Systematics and Norman Day of Kopple, Sheward and Day. The two experts reviewed preliminary suggestions for alleviating the problems of resident parking and the competition among residents, short-term parkers and commuters for on-street parking spaces.

Considering the magnitude of traffic and parking problems in the communities involved, there was a poor turnout. Despite this, there was a lively dialogue between the study group and the audience.

(continued on page 7)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next general membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 21st, at 8 p.m., Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard.

SHCA President Steve Miller will introduce the new board. The agenda will include a 15 minute period for the introduction of issues from the floor for consideration by the '82-'83 board. The major portion of the agenda will be devoted to

transportation management. (See article, *Public Meeting on Transportation*.) Lance Neumann of Cambridge Systematics and a representative from the City will be the speakers, and a discussion will follow.

There will be a board meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Old Pine. All members of the SHCA are eligible to attend board meetings.

# MEET OUR NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS . . .

## *President:*

**Stephen W. Miller** is a partner in the law firm of Clark, Ladner, Fortenbaugh & Young. He was a SHCA NE quadrant director for the past year, active in Town Watch and on the advisory committee for Parcel A-4 (Bookbinder's Lot). He served as president of the Society Hill Towers Owners' Association from April 1980 to April 1982.

## *Vice-President:*

**Aaron Jay Beyer** is a partner in the law firm of Meltzer & Schiffrin. He and his wife Francine have been area residents since 1977. This is Aaron's second term as V-P, and he served one earlier term as a NW quadrant director. He is active in Town Watch.

## *Recording Secretary:*

**Loretta DiNardo** has lived in Hopkinson House for nine years. She served as a quadrant director from the NW this past year. Loretta is a registered O.R. nurse at Jefferson Hospital.

## *Corresponding Secretary:*

**Ronald B. Abrams** is a lawyer specializing in litigation. He was a SHCA director from the SW quadrant during the last year. Ron and his wife Eva have lived in Society Hill for five years with daughters, Zoe and Gabriella.

## *Treasurer:*

**Tony Schneider** is president of General Resources Management Corp., an oil and gas exploration company. He has lived in Society Hill for 4 years, and is beginning his second year as our treasurer. He has also been chairman of the Parking and Traffic and Real Estate Tax committees, represented SHCA on ACCEPT and served on the advisory board for the center city parking study and Society Hill/Queen Village transportation management study.

## *Continuing Director:*

**Michael Willmann** is the immediate past president of SHCA, who served in that capacity for three years.

## *Quadrant Directors*

### *Northwest:*

**Robert J. Holtz** is an attorney and CPA specializing in tax law and practicing with the firm of Laven-thol & Horwath. He has served on the SHCA Board for the past two years as a quadrant director and as corresponding secretary. He lives in St. James Court with his wife, Sally, a clinical psychologist. Bob is currently treasurer and member of the board of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Philadelphia.

**Diane Shecter** works and lives in a house at 226 S. 4th Street built in 1800. She is a psychotherapist in private practice. Her husband of 16 years, Howard Shecter, is a lawyer. They have two children. Diane believes as a resident of Society Hill that this is the most wonderful area in the city and it is important that the neighborhood retain this very special character.

**Beth Siniawsky**, a native Philadelphian and 12 year resident of the Society Hill area, is currently special assistant at Century IV, Philadelphia's 300 birthday celebration agency. Before that she was appointment secretary to the mayor. A Penn State graduate, Beth is a Town Watch V-P for community and public relations and has been involved with the Concerto Soloists, Philadanco and various cultural and charitable groups in the city.

### *Northeast:*

**J. B. Straw** is an architect and urban designer and a partner in DACP Associates, a firm that specializes in large-scale development planning, urban design, new town planning and design. Jim is a member of Old Pine Street Church, is married, and plays the flute and amateur tennis. He has served as a director on SHCA's previous board and is a member of the Penn's Landing Square homeowners' group.

**Rosalie Thompson** is a corporate planner with the Blue Cross of Greater Philadelphia. She holds a MBA degree in Organizational Management from Temple University and has been a financial analyst and an administrative and business manager with hospitals in the area. Rosalie writes: "I have lived in Society Hill and have been a member of the Civic Association for 6½ years. I believe that my education and work experience as a corporate planner and business manager can be useful to the SHCA. I am enthusiastic about this opportunity to serve my community."

**Karen Kress Weisbord** is an attorney and partner in the firm of Weisbord & Weisbord with offices in Society Hill, where she has lived for 12 years. Her husband Richard is currently council president of the Society Hill Towers Owners' Association. Karen has held positions as a lawyer for local and federal governments and has been in-house counsel to a major corporation. She hopes to put her professional skills as a problem solver to use for the SHCA, and in that way contribute to, and help protect, the community in which she lives and works.

### *Southwest:*

**Robert P. Breading** is a partner in the firm of H2L2 Architects/Planners. He has been a resident of Society Hill since 1962, a homeowner since 1970. In the late 1970's Bob served three terms as a SW quadrant director on SHCA's board.

**Tom Gould** is senior vice president with Gimbels Department Store. Since moving to Philadelphia in 1977, he has held a position as co-chairman of the WHYY corporate fund-raising committee and in 1981 he founded the Society Hill Town Watch. Tom believes that if our environment is to improve, we must each take individual responsibility to see that positive action is taken.

**Arthur K. Smith** is a doctor in family practice and on the medical staff of Pennsylvania Hospital. He is a graduate of Jefferson Medical College. This is his second term as a quadrant director from Society Hill's southwest section.

#### *Southeast*

**Fred Edelstein** has lived in Society Hill for 13 years. He currently resides in the 100 block of Pine with his wife, Karen, and their two children. A former president of the Society Hill Synagogue, he is now a director of St. Peter's School and is active in a number of business ventures.

He has rejoined the SHCA board after an absence of several months because he feels that direct involvement of the residents is necessary to maintain and improve the character of the neighborhood.

**Joy C. Lindy** is director of public relations at Dayton, Kahn, Heppe, Hancock & Co. Joy claims "enlightened self interest" as the

reason for the degree of her involvement in Society Hill. She writes: "I truly love the neighborhood and wish to see it be the best it can become — the quality of life enhanced and heightened. And I do not believe it is either fair or productive to leave all the necessary work this entails to 'others' . . . we all need to get involved."

**Rebecca Stoloff** is director of administrative services for the Taylor Lock Company, hardware manufacturers. She is a life-long area resident who has lived in Society Hill since 1974. She is married to Milton Stoloff, a management consultant and has one child, a student at Oberlin College.



## SHCA BOARD HOT LINE

If you wish to discuss business with an officer of the Association, you may call him/her at the numbers listed below.

Miller 925-7033 (h), 241-1822 (o)  
Beyer 925-4288 (h), 665-5520 (o)  
Schneider 923-1911 (h), 925-3233 (o)  
Abrams 925-6239 (h), 735-2714 (o)  
DiNardo 627-8348 (h), 928-7575 (o)  
Siniawsky 923-9479 (h), 686-8684 (o)  
Shecter 922-2262 (h)  
Holtz 928-1809 (h), 299-1714 (o)  
Straw 925-7399 (h), 561-1050 (o)  
Thompson 925-9188 (h), 448-5126 (o)  
Weisbord 923-6317 (h), 592-1111 (o)  
Edelstein 925-2703 (h), 922-5396 (o)  
Lindy 922-4042 (h)  
Stoloff 627-4910 (h), 223-7766 (o)  
Gould 574-9484 (h)  
Smith 925-5464 (h), 922-5180 (o)  
Breeding 925-0714 (h), 925-5300 (o)  
Willmann 925-9283 (h), 922-1415 (o)  
and 592-9750

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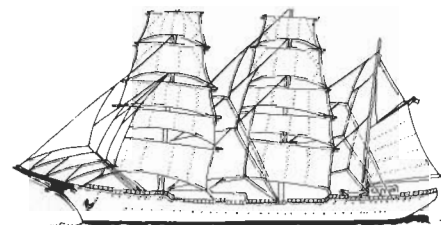
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## TUN TAVERN

Vote on a proposal from the Tun Tavern Historical Association was deferred by the SHCA membership at the May 19th meeting, pending receipt of more information. Speaking for TTHA, Mr. Frank Grimm promised that his group would landscape the site at Mattis and Spruce Streets in return for SHCA's written support for their obtaining a site, cost free, at Penn's Landing or on Front Street, for a reconstruction of Tun Tavern. The original Tavern was on Front and Chestnut Streets. The group's plans for the replica have outgrown the Mattis/Spruce site; it would now include a private, for-profit, eating club (serving tradi-



tional colonial alcoholic drinks) as well as a Marine Corps Museum. Mr. Grimm further asserted that unless a new Tun Tavern was approved, a high-rise Marriott Hotel would be built on the site.

In answer to questions raised by Mr. Grimm, Public Property Commissioner Joseph Brown told us that the City has reclaimed the Mattis/Spruce site and that it would be cleaned up for the Tall Ships celebration. The SHCA has gone on record urging that the corner be incorporated in I-95 park, an action Commissioner Brown wrote us last November he would recommend.

### Supermarket Express

Manny Brown, proprietor of the Thriftway Supermarket at 6th and Federal Streets, announces a second Shoppers Special to take area residents to the store. Effective now, a bus will leave Hopkinson House on Saturday mornings at 10:45. This bus is in addition to the regular Thursday run. For further information, contact the Thriftway store at 6th and Federal, 271-8400.



(Photo by Leonard Rovner)

**Puzzle Picture:** This was taken on the SHCA Spring Clean-up Day. See if you can identify Ed Braun, manager of Central Penn's 2nd and Pine branch who donated the poster prize, Mayor Bill Green and SHCA ex-prexy Mike Willmann. Hint: None of them is holding a balloon.

### THIRD ANNUAL VERNAL PRETTY-UP A SUCCESS

The Third Annual Society Hill Vernal Pretty Up and Great Historic Balloon Race, sponsored by SHCA, was held on April 24th under brilliantly sunny skies. Kids, clowns, and clean-minded adults gathered at the Head House to hear words of encouragement from President Michael Willmann, Mayor Bill Green, Managing Director Wilson Goode, and Councilman James Tayoun.

President Willmann presented Councilman Tayoun with the Second Annual SHCA Golden Scoop (with Bucket) Award in recognition of Mr. Tayoun's work on the passage of the city's pet litter laws.

Students from four area schools, McCall, Meredith, Masterman, and St. Mary's, submitted over sixty entries in the First Annual Clean Up Day Poster Contest. Bonds and cash prizes were awarded.

### A Scottish Celebration

#### Robert Smith, Dalkeith's Lost Son

Two committees in Edinburgh and Dalkeith, Scotland; titled patrons, including the Duke of Buccleuch, and other dignitaries are getting ready for a big event. A party of American architectural and history buffs will arrive on July 29th to visit the home grounds of Robert Smith, a notable Philadelphia architect and builder of colonial times. Three days of festivities, walking tours, banquets, receptions, visits to special buildings will culminate in the dedication (accompanied by music, flags, flowers and appropriate speeches) of a memorial to Robert Smith.

Nobody in Dalkeith or nearby Edinburgh had ever heard of Robert Smith until Society Hill's Charles Peterson began investigating him. In his role as historian for The Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia, Peterson became curious about Smith who had left no portraits of himself, no correspondence, no reports and only a few drawings. It was known that he had built Carpenters' Hall, Benjamin Franklin's house, the steeples of St. Peter's and Christ Church in Philadelphia, Nassau Hall in Princeton and the hospital in Williamsburg. (Some of Peterson's friends think he recently admitted himself to Pennsylvania Hospital in order to probe the archives for proof that Smith built *that* hospital.) Peterson tracked Smith to Dalkeith, where he was born in 1722, and believes that Smith worked with the famous Adam family of architects and designers before striking out for America. Now that it knows about its noteworthy son, tiny Dalkeith has raised £3000 to help honor him.

A very few spaces for the July 29-31 Smith celebration are still available. For information, consult Travel Anywhere, 925-2123.

## The Food Front

**Ross House, NewMarket, 2nd and Pine** — Present plans call for a lease to H. T. McDougal's for 10,000 square feet on the basement and first floors. Projected opening date is October with the intervening time to be used for renovations. The menu will be family oriented toward burgers and light-style Mexican food. Were you expecting Le Bec-Fin?

**A&P** — The Civic Association has not been formally advised concerning any projected plans for the A&P. We have advised the City of our desire to be helpful in securing a new retail food outlet and Tony Schneider and Michael Willmann have attempted to pin down the ownership of the parcel. The land and the lease are held by two different entities and we have been led to believe that the lease, if it is assigned, requires the operation of a retail food outlet. How about a McDougal's?

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# TOWN WATCH BEGINS SECOND YEAR

Society Hill Town Watch continues its active contribution toward a safer neighborhood and a safer city. On May 22nd, 1982, SHTW participated in a city-wide rally with Mayor Green, Managing Director Wilson Goode, Police Commissioner Morton B. Solomon, District Attorney Ed Rendell, City Representative Dick Doran, City Councilman John Anderson and a committee of Town Watch and Neighborhood Crime Prevention officers including SHTW President Loren LaViolette.

The purpose of the rally was to create a partnership between the city and neighborhoods in an effort to deter crime. The city pledged \$50,000 to Town Watch groups during the 1981-82 year and has pledged an increased amount for the 1982-83 year.

SHTW has also been collecting statistics involving crimes in the neighborhood by reporting all crimes to "Grace" at its Community Line — 629-1323.

### Reported Crimes During the Past 3 Months:

- Vandalism — 4
- Muggings — 2
- Burglary — 6
- Auto Theft — 7

These are conservative figures because not all crimes are reported. PLEASE, call the Community Line — 629-1323 when a crime takes place in the neighborhood so that we are able to keep more accurate records. NOTE: Call the Community Line only after the police have been notified.

\* \* \*

During the last weeks of school the children of Society Hill will be provided with educational assemblies focussing on "How children can help to make their neighborhood safe." Officer Wiley Redding and SHTW President Loren LaViolette will lead the meeting.

\* \* \*

For the sports-minded, the SHTW Softball Team (Coed) plays at Starr Garden, 6th and Lombard Streets, each Sunday afternoon. Call 928-1354 for more information, or join us at the park.

\* \* \*

Finally, if you are not involved in Society Hill Town Watch, do join and participate. Patrollers walk one 2-hour shift per month. A small price to pay for your security. Day or evening patrols are open. Call Grace at 629-1323 and let her schedule you today. If we all pull together, **we can stop crime.**

### Annals of Crime

### Roll Up Your Sidewalks

Over in Camden, workmen unfurled a sign that read "Rooster Construction Company." When they departed ten days later, they had taken away some 7,000 bricks, worth from 8¢ to 14¢ a piece. Police are holding a suspect, charged with theft of property valued at more than \$500, and residents are holding the bag for repaving costs.

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## TRANSPORTATION . . .

(continued from page 1)

David Williamson, the Mayor's Transportation Coordinator, pointed out that few of the problems can be solved, they can only be alleviated. He said that the changes we will see in Philadelphia (where only 27 percent of the traffic tickets are paid) will be better ticketing procedure, more meters, higher meter rates, resident permit parking, better tow trucks and better enforcement of parking restrictions. Most of this is an effort to force non-residents to use mass transportation or available off-street parking. Williamson emphasized that there is up to \$5 million available to implement the changes proposed by the federal study.

The next public meeting for traffic planning conducted by Transportation Management Study team is scheduled for sometime in September. No definite date has been set yet. If you want your piece of the millions of dollars that will be spent on traffic and parking improvements in center city, watch for the September meeting date. This meeting is independent of the July 21st SHCA meeting which will be devoted to traffic management. (See *Mark Your Calendars!*, page 1).

In the meantime, you can visit the Transportation Management Study offices at 320 Walnut St., Suite 601, which is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. You may also call 627-3660. Your questions and concerns are welcome.





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BONELESS STUFFED BREAST VEAL  
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# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Associates,

I read with interest your letter of May, 1982, in which you question and show disapproval of the eat-in-facilities at the Bagelworks. I seem to remember seeing some young people, not too long ago, who bought their food and went out on the steps just south of the store and ate their food picnic style, leaving the wrappings behind for the wind to carry off.

It is so much more pleasant to see someone eating food in a contained area and one which is cleaned properly when they leave.

Since Bagelworks has only eight stools, how unsightly can this look? I believe that we should encourage them to allow "eat-in," or we may find that the cure is far worse than the illness.

Let's learn to accept some things. This is not only progress, it is also bringing happiness to someone that wants a Bagel and the works.

Thank you for listening to me.

Sincerely,  
Ann S. Prince

Editor's Note: See article, "What's Going On Here?" on page 10

## Getting into the Delaware

### CORC Wants You to Know Your River

Did you know that Atlantic shad swim up the Delaware to spawn in shallow water near the Ben Franklin Bridge? Or that canvas-back ducks linger there on the weedy shore during their north and south migrations? Or that Philadelphia had its own Tea Party in 1773 three weeks before Boston's? Or that today a minimum of 40,000 jobs are dependent on the health of our port?

These are some things the Coalition of Riverfront Communities (CORC) wants us to know and use in evaluating the future of the Delaware waterfront. CORC was formed early this year when it became clear that approval of the City Planning Commission's projected riverfront renaissance was far from unanimous. The representatives of eight waterfront communities from Fishtown on the north to Whitman Park on the south are working to coordinate development plans that will answer neighborhood concerns for the area. A project CORC wants begun without delay is the improvement of Delaware Avenue to alleviate traffic congestion within the neighborhoods.

CORC will hold a series of "Know Your River" events to acquaint residents with the social, mercantile, industrial and natural history (and future) of the river. The first of these will be an evening boat ride between Packer Avenue and Penn Treaty Park on the *Rainbow* on July 14th. A more-or-less parallel riverwalk is being planned for a weekend in September. Watch for the announcement.

If you want to join in CORC's activities, or would like more information, please call WA 2-3195.

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Tax Shelter Chart Total Income Tax Savings-Reporting \$2,000/year				IRA Growth Table				
Years	Tax Bracket			Depositing \$2,000 per year	110%	112%	114%	116%
	30%	40%	50%					
10	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$10,000	10 years	\$ 31,880	\$ 35,100	\$ 38,680	\$ 42,640
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## What's Going on Here? Independence Place

There has been no reply from the developer of Independence Place to date as to why the restrictive covenants affecting retail space in the South Tower have not been honored. As we reported in the last issue of the *Newsletter*, the developer confirmed that: "Bagelworks has been advised that eat-in facilities are not permitted within their space. Please be advised that our lease does not permit this type of activity."

There appears to be a misunderstanding as to what the actual problem is as far as the retail space at Independence Place. (See Letters to the Editor.) The argument of the neighborhood representatives is not with Bagelworks, but with the developer. There were a number of restrictions that the developer agreed to during lengthy negotiations before the South Tower was built. They included the following:

1. no eat-in facilities shall be situated in either the North or South Tower,

2. all doors on the north side of the North Tower and the south side of the South Tower will be used for emergency egress, opening from the inside only,

3. all ground floor windows in the area above shall have curtains or other like window treatment installed inside of same, and

4. retail or office space on the first floor of the buildings (North and South Towers) facing Locust St. and Manning Walk will have window treatments which are consistent with the upper residential floors of the towers.

The concern of the neighborhood and their representatives has to do with having the developer live up to his agreement. However, if the lease with Bagelworks does contain the restriction against eat-in facilities, as the developer contends, why is it not enforced? Why are other restrictions not enforced?

A lot of residents are waiting for an answer.



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## REDEVELOPMENT MATTERS

The Redevelopment Authority is advertising for bids on 736-738 Pine Street, two buildings known as The Commodore Barry. Consideration will be given to plans for a maximum of ten apartment units. There will be parking for four cars and although the stores along 8th Street will be retained, they are not to be used for commercial purposes. The bed and breakfast inn idea which caused such a neighborhood stir in March and April has been rejected in accordance with the wishes of both the Wash West and Society Hill Civic Associations.

\* \* \*

The proposed demolition of RDA properties at 6th and Delancey Streets was disapproved by the State Historical Commission. RDA plans to appeal this ruling and will not advertise this parcel until the situation is resolved.

## RED HOT RUMORS:

**Item**—Acme is taking over the Borgia Cafe and plans to open an underground supermarket.

**Item**—The State Store will not renew its 5th Street lease due to a shortage of drinkers in Society Hill.

**Item**—The Visitor Center, 3rd and Chestnut, closed by Ronald Reagan's budget cuts, will be reopened as an adult theater.

**Item**—Lee Richards has signed a contract with a Cherry Hill entrepreneur to raise money for St. Peter's by installing a fundamentalist disco in the parish house at 313 Pine.

**Item**—Pennsylvania Hospital has secured rights to permanently close off Spruce Street for its new leprosarium.

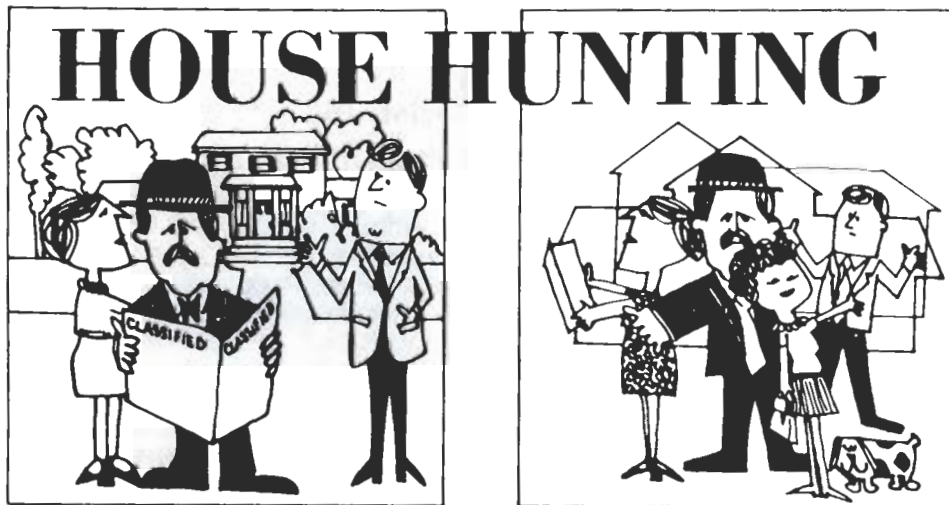
**Item**—Society Hill architect-historian Charlie Peterson, a patient at Pennsylvania Hospital, has been thrilling nurses by modeling his new kilt.

**Item**—The interior of Dubliner Irish Pub is going to be repainted a lovely shade of orange.

**Item**—Pat Tancredi has been seen working in his drugstore.

**Item**—Spoonman will be giving a concert with the Philadelphia Orchestra this fall. He will play selections from "Spoon River Anthology."

**Item**—Catering for next Philadelphia Contributionship annual meeting will be handled by Famous Deli.



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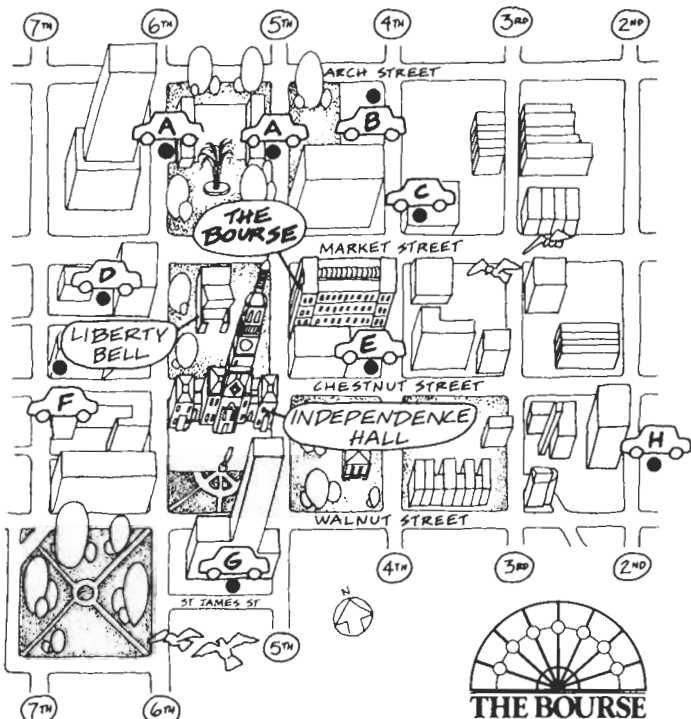
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- D. 7th & Market Streets. (11 S. 7th Street.)
- E. 4th & Chestnut Streets.
- F. 615 Chestnut Street. (Entrance on 7th Street.)
- G. Penn Mutual Garage. (Entrance on St. James Street.)
- H. Philadelphia Parking Authority. 125 S. 2nd Street. (2nd & Sansom Streets.)

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(Photo by Miki Mahoney)

## Society Hill or Samoa:

### COMING OF AGE IN 6-PACK PARK

What a shame that Margaret Mead never had a chance to turn her anthropological gaze on Society Hill's 6-Pack Park.

Here, on the shores of the Delaware, is played out a nightly ritual by pubescent tribes groping to attain adulthood. The young braves (some appearing to be only 10 or 12 years old) are recognized by their costumes of cutoff jeans, white knee socks with garish orange horizontal stripes, tee shirts — and, weather permitting, bare chests. In Nikes, Adidas and K-Mart footwear, they sneaker into their campground — the coverlet of I-95 on Front St., between Spruce and Delancey.

With deep-throated radios as large as steamer trunks, 6-packs and quart bottles of beer, they begin claiming the territory at nightfall.

Not far behind are the maidens — twitching their shoulders, bumping their bottoms, chewing their gum and screeching what passes for language.

In just a few years, when womanhood and motherhood have overtaken them, these same flowers of the night will be following their braves up Broad Street in a lifetime of Mummers' Parades.

(A Mummer, as almost everyone knows, is a daddy who turns into a one-day transvestite flaunting satin skirts, parasols and combat boots to walk on the tops of

parked cars heading back to Two Street.)

But, let us return to the growing-up games of 6-Pack Park. There are, unfortunately, few eye-witness accounts of the fertility rites since the park is lighted only on alternate nights. However, Front Street neighbors — those tolerant folks who are paying taxes on the adjacent \$300,000-plus properties — have become accustomed to the audio assaults: sonic booms of rock music, breaking glass, language to make a longshoreman blush, and fistfights.

Has anybody looked at the little park recently? Almost every morning under the sea of weeds is a carpet of broken glass. The play equipment — seemingly indestructible when installed two years ago — has been vandalized and cannibalized. The water fountain is gone; a towering light standard has disappeared, and benches are beginning to lean. Concrete walls and trash containers are covered with warpaint, graffitied by an unartistic boor known as "Solar" and a band of imitators.

But the worst incursion (and almost in the shadow of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society!) has left maimed and missing trees. At least 10 small trees have been uprooted since the park was originally planted. Most of those surviving have broken lower branches, a savage method of pathmarking. (In fact, almost every street tree in the area has a lower branch wantonly twisted and hanging limp.)

Soon — very soon — 6-Pack Park will be picked clean of grass, benches and other amenities and succumb to the plight of most of the other pocket parks in urban blightsville.

In the meantime, the all-season rites continue; neighbors whisper about possible drug dealings and wonder if the long-fought battle for a cover over I-95 wasn't waged in vain.



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## Summer Entertainment Begins at NewMarket

## LET'S TALK REAL ESTATE . . .

The longest and deepest housing depression since World War II has caused home sales volume to drop more than 50% from the peak of 1978 to the lowest level since 1970. Existing home prices have remained stable with very little appreciation during the past year. The median price for a home increased by \$200 per month which is far less than the \$500 to \$1,500 per month increases of previous years. High interest rates, the cause of all this reported gloom, are the primary restraining factor for buyers in today's market.

Drastic declines in home values have not occurred because those home owners, who recognize the cause for buyer restraint, are offering below-market interest rates as an inducement, rather than take a price reduction. According to a real estate survey, owner financing occurs in 60% of all existing home transactions. Until such time as the economy allows lending institutions to charge a respectable rate of interest, home owners are and should be utilizing their own resources. A new expression has emerged called "people-to-people funding." Owner financing can earn many dollars for the seller and save many dollars for would-be buyers.

Some of the financing techniques are first and second mortgages, mortgage assumptions with or without seconds, wrap-around loans, buy downs, contracts for sale and lease purchases. An owner's existing low interest rate first mortgage, coupled with a second mortgage, can yield as much as 12% to 15% interest on the reinvested equity while affording the potential buyer a low 10% to 12% rate of interest. Each transaction is unique. The point to realize is that realistic pricing together with tailored seller financing can result in a more expedient sale. Time is money. The longer a home remains on the market, the more it costs a seller in lost interest on reinvested equity derived from a sale.

Society Hill is a microcosm of the real estate market. It is very important to maintain the "for sale" property in the same good manner that is consistent with the quality of the neighborhood. Society Hill is still the most desirable neighborhood in the city. Let's keep our best foot forward. Display the pride of owning here and when the economy in general does move, Society Hill will move first.

—Abner Green

Summertime in Philadelphia wouldn't be the same without the open-air entertainment at NewMarket. This summer's talent will include a group of magicians, Dave Gillies' Jugglers and Jimbo the Clown, just off the train from Ringling Bros. The street show runs every Friday from 6 p.m. till midnight, Saturday from noon till midnight and Sunday from noon till 6.

Brightest star of the street musicians is virtuoso Jim Turner who plays the glass harmonica (tumblers filled with water). His most impressive repertory includes Beethoven's "Ode to Joy."

## Very Crafty Weekends

The Head House Crafts Fair has begun its 14th summer beneath the Shambles on 2nd Street. Thirty-seven exhibitors will offer for sale a variety of handmade items in leather, needlework, stained glass, jewelry, sculpture, prints, pottery, etc. over a period of 12 weekends. The Fair will be open on Saturdays from noon to midnight, Sundays from noon to 6 pm, and will close out the season on Labor Day.

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• Suburban Square, Ardmore  
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(349-7644)

**Staff for this issue** — Ruth Dugan, Nancy Frenze, Alan Halpern, Miki Mahoney and Peggy Robb.

**Contributors to this issue** — Hilary LaViolette, Ellen Miller, Elizabeth Ostrander and Mike Willmann.

**Business Staff** — Laurette Scherneck and Donna Thomas.

Deadline for articles and ads for the next issue is August 31st. Articles may be delivered to staff members or mailed to The Resident Newsletter, Box #3, Philadelphia, PA 19105. For advertising rates and information, please address Laurette Scherneck at The Resident Newsletter, Box #3, Philadelphia, PA 19105.



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## DARTS & LAURELS

**Laurel**—To Boy Scout Troop 176, who, as a community service project, freed the brick-bound tree roots on Seventh Street in front of McCall's School.

**Dart**—To the users of 500 block of Cypress Street who insist on driving in the wrong direction. PLEASE NOTE THE SIGNS!

**Laurel**—To Stu Miller who was instrumental in getting the Streets Department to re-cobblestone the 100 block of Naudain. The neighbors hope he is as successful in helping them ban the vendors south of Head House, between Lombard and South Streets.

**Dart**—To the tree owners who haven't weeded the tree base and who haven't loosened the soil so that water and air can get down to the tree roots.

**Laurel**—To Fred Stein, executive director of the Century IV celebration, for organizing and providing support for the tastefully-done activities. Continued success on the back stretch.

**Dart**—To the people and dogs who couldn't care less about wrecking the plants in the public gardens and walkways.

**Laurel**—To Mr. Farley of A & P's Customer Services who kindly arranged for the lights to be put on so the Lawrence Court parking lot would be illuminated.

**Dart**—To our rude, one-issue neighbors who came to SHCA's political forum evening on April 21st. After they expressed their feelings about the Commodore Barry matter, they abruptly left the meeting room, stranding our seven political candidates to address only a handful of interested neighbors.

**Laurel**—To all those homeowners who generously shared their lovely homes for two days with visitors from Philadelphia Open House and to our many neighbors who volunteered as hosts and hostesses as well as a special thanks to Elizabeth Haines, Helen Rodgers, and Jan Stephano, co-chairpersons of POH and their committee: Suzie Auten, Margo Bartle, Mary Gregg, Margo Greig, Tricia Hogue, Ann Jacovini, Martha Levy, Ellen Miller, Liz Ostrander, Sizie Pattison, Mary Schilly, Irene Schrink and Edna Wenk.

**Dart**—To the Valvardi Funeral Home for the sorry state of their parking lot at 4th and Manning — still rough and rubblestrewn after all these years.

**Laurel**—To NewMarket Management for cancelling (we Hope) the lease of the Wax/Paper Shop for their flagrant display of pornographic cards.

**Dart**—To Pennsylvania Hospital for usurping all of Spruce Street's traffic lanes for construction equipment month after month, and to the City departments concerned for allowing the endless obstruction.

**Dart**—To Stan Godorov, developer of the John Clement Stocker house (402 S. Front St.) for installing a cheap "stock" frontispiece and front door on the facade — not according to architect's approved plans.

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