



Box 3, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19105

May, 1985

## North Tower Ready To Go

According to Jill Sayre Lawlor, assistant vice president and director of marketing for The Greenwood Group, developers of Independence Place, the North Tower will be completed by December 1986 at the latest.

Subsurface construction on Two Independence Place commonly referred to as the North Tower commenced late last month. This work, in the garage, includes reinforcing and fire proofing the existing load-bearing columns which will support the building's super-structure. The Greenwood Group estimates that this work will be completed in approximately six weeks,

after which time construction on the upper portion of the existing slab will be visible.

Architecturally, the North Tower will be a duplicate of the existing South Tower. It will comprise 25 stories and utilize the same color brick, glass and exterior design. The developers have, however, reduced the number of residential units from 264 to 234. This will result in many more two and three bedroom apartments and a corresponding reduction in the number of one bedroom apartments.

The commercial space has been designed to be entered from the plaza area. The doors, which will be facing Locust Walk (at grade level), are designed for use for emergency purposes only.

At the time of completion the improvements to Locust Walk will be completed. In addition, the artwork which has been approved by the Philadelphia Art Commission will be installed.

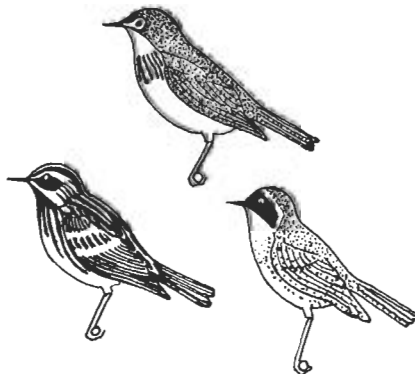
## LET'S STAY CLEAN!

Society Hill's Sixth Annual Clean Up Day was held on Saturday, May 4th. It began at 9:30 when Girl Scouts rode through the area on a balloon-decorated Fairmount Park Trolley passing out cleaning supplies and information to remind neighbors of the day.

Blue ribbons were placed on doors of residents who have made a special effort to keep their homes and streets clean and attractive. Later at the Central Penn parking lot awards were presented to city dignitaries represented by Philadelphia's senior executive Managing Director Clayton Carter Jr., and Harry M. Perks, Commissioner of Streets. Prizes, furnished by the Central Penn Bank, were given for best posters by local schoolchildren and to kids under 12 bringing in litter-filled trash bags. Several of our regular street sweepers were honored for their good work.

At noon a free lunch (courtesy of NewMarket) was served, the children hunted for specially marked "treasure trash" soda cans, and the crowd was entertained by jugglers, clowns and musicians.

To SHCA Clean Up Day Chairperson Linda Blakemore, Coordinator Becky Stoloff, and the committee we offer a salute for a job well done.



## TAKE OUR NUMBER

A new service has been inaugurated by SHCA to speed up responses to neighborhood concerns. Now rather than wait for a reply to a letter to our P.O. Box, you can call our answering service, speak to a real live person, and get a quick response to questions, complaints, suggestions or even compliments. Put this number down on your service list after 911:

Society Hill Civic Association: 561-3844

## EIS STATEMENT IS DELAYED AGAIN

According to Vito Genua of PennDOT, the EIS statement on I-95 will not be available before the end of May. A 45-day response period is mandatory and includes a public information session followed by a public hearing with a lapse of at least two weeks in between.

No firm dates for the release of the EIS statement, the public information night or the public hearing are available at this time. What is certain is that the 45-day response period will go into July, at least, the traditional vacation time.

Interested residents are urged to monitor the local news for information about the dates of these events.

## SHCA Elections

A new board of the Society Hill Civic Association will be elected at the general membership meeting at 8 p.m. on May 15th at the Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard Streets.

Members in good standing (those who have paid dues for 1984-85) are eligible to vote. Please support with your vote those altruistic neighbors who have agreed to serve Society Hill.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The next general membership meeting of the SHCA will be held on May 15th at 8 p.m., Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard.

Officers and quadrant directors to serve through May 1986 will be elected at this meeting.

# LETTERS

## From Our President

We, the officers and directors of the SHCA, solicit your active participation in the civic association as well as your financial support. This year, for the first time in fifteen years, the dues have been raised. The increase was needed to fund the following activities which we hope will make life in Society Hill even pleasanter.

1. A telephone answering service has been activated so that you no longer have to write to a post office box to voice your concerns. A by-product should be more rapid responses to inquiries and problems.

2. The provision of increased services which are beyond the capacity of our volunteer officers and directors. These include professional delivery of flyers and newsletter as well as more frequent communication with our neighbors so that meetings on subjects of concern are widely publicized.

3. The increasing probability that paid legal assistance will be required in the future. One, because we can no longer depend on volunteers to attend meetings of the Zoning Board of Adjustment to represent the position of the association. Two, because with the expiration of the urban renewal contract imminent we can no longer rely exclusively on city government to preserve Society Hill. And finally, if we are to become effective in voicing our concerns to the appropriate public, we must anticipate incurring substantial costs.

We do not plan to hire any permanent employees nor to rent an office. We will continue to rely on volunteers and we urge you to join their ranks by merely advising any officer or director of your interest.

## To Our President

Myrna P. Field, Esq.  
President  
Society Hill Civic Association

Dear Ms. Field:

I am happy to report to you that the Franklin street light on the southwest corner of Second and Spruce Streets is currently being replaced. It is probably more than a coincidence that the new lamp appeared so shortly after your meeting with the Managing Director. Thank you for your prompt attention and effective help in this matter.

Sidney Friedman, M.D.

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# CRIME IN SOCIETY HILL

Chances are you are safer than your automobile is in Society Hill. According to recent statistics, it is five times more likely that your car will be stolen than your home burglarized. Theft from automobiles increases the odds more than three times.

According to Albert Levitt, chief psychologist at the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, there are specific constellations found in car thieves. They are fairly bright males, 18-25 years old who are raised in families with mothers and grandmothers as the dominant figures. They are more dependent and immature than the confronting criminal. They operate in groups, and generally two or three persons will scout the area in an automobile for the cars they want. They frequently have "orders" for certain cars or for certain parts from certain cars. Stereo equipment from BMW and Saab are especially desirable.

Although the car thief can make a key almost immediately on flat type locks, insurance companies claim we can take certain precautions to deter these criminals. Always lock your car and take all valuables from the vehicle. Automobile burglar alarms will cause the criminals some difficulty and certain companies, like United States Automobile Association will

compensate insurers with reduced automobile insurance if their cars are equipped with alarm systems. Discounts range from 5-15 percent depending upon the type of alarm.

The best precautionary measure we can take, however, is to be alert and on the "look-out" for these young people cruising the neighborhood. We should jot down descriptions and license plate numbers and then notify the police.

Crimes in Society Hill  
February 1 to 28, 1985

Stolen cars—5  
Theft (general)—5  
Theft (from auto)—12  
Burglary (residential)—1  
Burglary (commercial)—0  
Robbery—2

*The Resident Newsletter* is anxious to report information relating to crime in the neighborhood as a service to residents. Please call SHCA's new answering service number, 561-3844, to report these incidents.

## Resurfacing of Addison Street

Thanks to the efforts of Councilman Lee Beloff and SHCA Vice-president Liz Ostrander, the Philadelphia Streets Department is scheduled to resurface with Belgian blocks the short stretch of Addison Street running east from Sixth Street along the north side of Mother Bethel Church and another strip of roadway to the side gate of the Old Pine Street Church graveyard.

The new finish should be a great improvement over the present pasteup of patches and potholes.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Pigs and goats ran freely during the 1680-90's through the streets; feasting on the garbage thrown about . . . Front Street between Chestnut and Walnut, the very heart of town, was an undrained sewer . . . Some of our City's first inhabitants found shelter for years in caves dug out along the Delaware River.

Lombard Street or Alley as it was called in 1740 extended from Front to Second, and was considered Philadelphia's financial district because many wealthy merchants lived in the vicinity. It was named after the Lombard Street of London which was that city's center of finance.

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# IF IT'S NOT ONE WALL . . . . . IT'S

Looks like open season on Society Hill's walls again. Last August a section of the historically-certified wall in the 300 block

of Cypress Street was demolished to give access to parking spaces. This wall has since been restored.

All walls are fair game to a would-be artist with a spray can. Other instances of endangered local walls are:

## Southeast Corner Sixth and Spruce Sts.

Recently a resident noticed workmen had scored the wall behind the two houses on the southeast corner of Sixth and Spruce Streets and were preparing to knock it down. Again it was to be sacrificed for access to parking; the sidewalk and curb had been broken up for resurfacing. This time there was no deception over a demolition permit. There had simply been no application for an exterior work permit at all.

The neighbor called the police who stopped the work after they'd checked and found there was no demolition permit. A six week stop order has been issued by the Department of Licenses and Inspections. The developers are now submitting plans for parking to the Design Review Board and the Historical Commission prior to making application for the work permit. The neighbors promise to maintain a close surveillance on the site.



**McCall Schoolyard**

(Photo by Nancy Frenze)

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# ANOTHER



(Photo by Nancy Frenze)

**Wall Scored for Demolition**

## Northeast Corner of Seventh and Pine Sts.

A request for a variance to permit parking on the property at 639 Pine Street which would require a curb cut on Seventh Street, the demolition of a brick wall to be replaced by a garage door and the elimination of two on-street parking spaces is being opposed by neighbors and SHCA. At a meeting attended by neighbors and SHCA's Zoning Committee it was pointed out that the original builder of the two houses on the northeast corner of Seventh and Pine had requested and received a variance to omit parking in order to use the maximum available space for the house.

The neighborhood opposition has been made known to the Zoning Board of Adjustment which had reserved judgment on the application pending a meeting between the applicant and the neighbors under the aegis of the Society Hill Civic Association. The Zoning Board's verdict had not been announced at press time.

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 on the terrace  a mountain  
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# THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

On Fifth Street near Chestnut, one of Philadelphia's treasures quietly carries on a dream envisioned more than 200 years ago. The dreamer? Benjamin Franklin. The dream? The American Philosophical Society, held at Philadelphia, for Promoting Useful Knowledge—to give its full title. Founded by Franklin in 1743 "to improve the common stock of knowledge," the Society is the oldest learned organization in the nation. It has collected and disseminated worldwide nearly three centuries' worth of learning.

It took a while to get started; earliest Society meetings had to be suspended due to a lack of "men of education and leisure" in the colonies. By 1769, however, the Society achieved a permanent organization and has met regularly since then, except for a brief interruption when the British Army occupied Philadelphia during the American Revolution.

The history of the Society is a study of the scientific and intellectual development of humankind from the 18th century. Early members—men like George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and most of the founders of the Republic, as well as doctors, lawyers, clergymen, merchants, and learned artisans and tradesmen—were interested in making the American colonies economically independent by improving agriculture, manufacturing, and transportation.

And because Philadelphia was the first



## **Philosophical Hall**

political capital of the nation and for many years its cultural center, the Society also served as a national academy of science, national library and museum, and even a patent office, until the federal government established appropriate agencies to fulfill those functions.

In 1780, the State of Pennsylvania granted the Society a charter guaranteeing that it "might correspond with learned men and institutions of any nation or country on its legitimate business, at all times." The State also deeded a piece of Independence Square to the Society on which it built a

hall. Philosophy Hall, at 104 S. Fifth Street, has been the site of all the Society's meetings and until 1934 housed its library.

After the mid-nineteenth century, Society members devoted their attention to American paleontology and geology, astronomical and meteorological observations, and Indian ethnology. Among the members of the day were John James Audubon, Charles Darwin, Thomas Edison, Robert Fulton, and Louis Pasteur. The first woman was elected to membership in 1789. The Russian Princess Dashkoff, president of the Imperial

Joanne Davidow and Dolores La Greca

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Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg, was joined by other well-known women members including Marie Curie and Elizabeth Cady Agassiz, founder of Radcliffe College.

Today's members represent a variety of fields of human endeavor. Membership is limited to about 500 resident members representing almost 30 states, and 125 foreign members representing almost two dozen countries. Of the 525 people who have received the Nobel Prize, 185 have been Society members.

The Society carries on its work in four ways. Regular meetings are held twice a year. It publishes scholarly books, monographs, and articles, as well as publications focusing on history and the history of science. Most significant, perhaps, are the Society's extensive Library and research grants.

The Society established a tradition of supporting research when it became the first private foundation to establish a program to assist scholars. The first recipient, in 1933, was Dr. Thomas C. Poulter of the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition for his work to measure the depth of the polar ice cap. Since then, the Society has awarded more than \$12 million for research to over 11,000 scholars and has provided more than twice that sum for other projects.

The Library, with its outstanding collection of scientific publications and manuscripts, is one of the principal institutions in the U.S. for the study of the history of science since 1700. Scholars looking through the Library's single volumes are likely to come across first editions of Newton's *Principia*, Franklin's *Experiments and Observation*, and Darwin's *Origin of Species*. The manuscript collection includes letters and papers from Charles Willson Peale, Darwin, Thomas H. Huxley, and Henry D. Smyth. Thomas Jefferson, a former Society president, gave the Library the original journals of the Lewis and Clarke expedition.

The Library's holdings on the history of American technology, its archives covering the history of American science, its extensive works on the history, customs and languages of the American Indians, and its collections of manuscripts and books have made it a national center of research, attracting scholars worldwide to its conferences and seminars.

The Library has been housed in a number of places in and around Independence Square, most recently in Library Hall at 105 S. Fifth Street. In 1981, the Library bought the former Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank at 427 Chestnut Street. Last October, about 80,000 books moved into the bank building, which should provide enough space to accommodate the Library well into the next century.

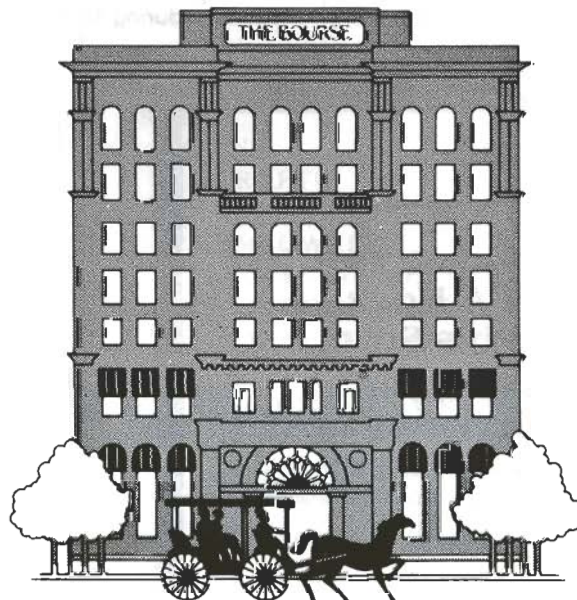
Though the world will be much changed by then, no doubt the American Philosophical Society will be collecting and distributing useful knowledge about those changes.

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# CURB YOUR DOG . . . a practical guide

(Editor's note: The following article appeared in the May 1970 issue of *The Resident Newsletter*. The pooper-scooper had not yet been invented.)

Judging from our sidewalks, it seems some light could be shed on the very necessary act of curbing.

Let's begin with puppies. Now really. A puppy will go anywhere; you simply have to take him there—the same Where every time you take him out. If he is small enough to carry, do just that until you reach a likely spot. It seems best to step into the street with him at first. If you don't, the puppy will spend an inordinate amount of time (even longer, if it's raining) trying to figure out why you are suddenly six inches taller. Plunk the puppy down and let him wander around on his leash. For the next few minutes, you will be the busier of the two of you, actually. You must simultaneously exude confidence that this small tyke that got you up a 6:14 a.m. is performing perfectly, discipline any attempts of his at dashing back onto the sidewalk, prying loose a wad of bubblegum from a truck tire, wading in an oil spot, disappearing altogether under a car, barking or forgetting what he is There for. Hopefully,

by this time there will be some evidence that at least part of the Deed is done. Congratulations are in order at this point. Thereupon you wander along (about four cars worth), step into the street and repeat the whole Thing. About the congratulations: unreserved admiration must be expressed for the puppy after each Event, audibly, if you are not too shy. Actually dog people may frequently be seen with their lips moving and no one has locked any of us up.

Now comes the older, independent, stop-at-anything-vertical country dog who must somehow learn to live in the city. This fellow is going to be resentful, I assure you. *He* will choose where Where is and you should respect his choice. You may bully him afterwards about returning to Where, but let him decide in the beginning. If he really insists on having a variety of Wheres, then let him do so, but make sure he knows you are serious about the expedition. Lady-type dogs sometimes will disgrace you right on your very own doorstep if it is not made clear to them that somehow the street must be reached before the Event.

The advantages of curbing clearly outweigh any human or canine anguish suffered during training. It is really quite

comfortable to walk along and watch with pride as your dog dutifully dives for the street when the Time has come. The street truck sweeps by and all is gone. Curbing is sanitary, responsible and considerate of other people's trees, gates, sidewalks and noses. One can chat with passersby, plan that party, redesign the house across the street (who would put windows there?), think thin, congratulate yourself on your impeccable manners as a dog owner, and be loved by your neighbors.

Could it be more simple?

**Staff for this issue**—Charlie Bangert, Ruth Dugan, Nancy Frenze, Brenda Malinics, Karen Nicholson, Liz Ostrander, and Renee Saul.

**Contributors to this issue**—Myrna Field Baum, and Ellen Miller.

**Business Staff**—Laurette Scherneck and Keith Straw.

Deadline for articles and ads for the next issue is Sept. 9th. 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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At the Playhouse  
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 Close out 25th Season

As the final presentation of its silver anniversary season the Society Hill Playhouse is offering "archy and mehitabel," a musical comedy about a cockroach and an alley cat by Mel Brooks and Don Marquis. The show runs through June 8th on Wednesday through Saturday nights at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the box office (923-0210) from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, at \$8/\$10/\$12 for Wednesday and Thursday performances with special student discounts. Prices on Friday and Saturday nights: \$10/\$12/\$15. Major credit cards and personal checks are accepted.

The Society Hill Playhouse is located at 507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia. Limited free parking is available adjacent to the playhouse.

# DARTS AND LAURELS

**Laurel**—To those persons responsible for the 6:30 a.m. sunrise service that was held at Old Pine Street Church.

**Laurel**—To area donors who gave on Tuesday, April 2 when the bloodmobile came to the Community Center at 4th and Lombard.

**Laurel**—To the city churches and the Red Cross for their coordinated efforts which brought the bloodmobile to our community.

**Dart**—To the person responsible for the repeated graffiti on the McCall School.

**Dart**—To the area residents who SEE and don't SPEAK UP so we can put a stop to this mischief and other crime in the neighborhood.

**Dart**—To the carriage companies who allow their horses to dirty our streets. Will it be diapers or shovels?

**Dart**—To the police officers who drive THROUGH Washington Square crushing flagstone paths. Surely, there must be another place to park.

**Dart**—It's spring and time to CLEAN UP that awful mess on the back door at 6th and Cypress. It is offensive to passersby.

**Dart**—To the "sick" person responsible for the awful mess on the door at 6th and Cypress.

**Laurel**—To the posse of joggers who apprehended a criminal in the act of "pocketbook snatching" April 3 at 4th and Pine.

**Laurel**—To Sergeant Pompei of the 3rd district who arrested the pocketbook snatcher.



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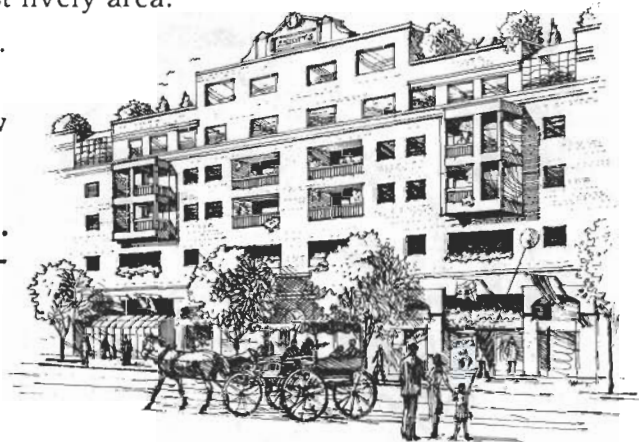
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