



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

# THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

Box 3, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19105

MAY, 1986

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The next general membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21st at 8 P.m., Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard. The main purpose of the meeting is to elect the 1986-87

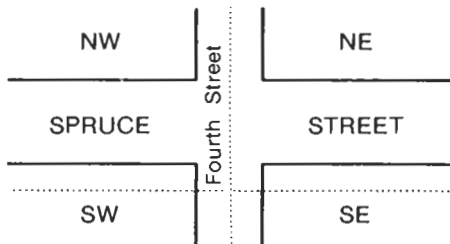
SHCA Board of Directors. All members in good standing will be eligible to vote. Other topics on the agenda include the historical certification project and I-95.

## SHCA Elections To Be Held This Month

The 1986-'87 SHCA Board of Directors will be elected at the general membership meeting at 8 p.m. on May 21st at the Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard Streets.

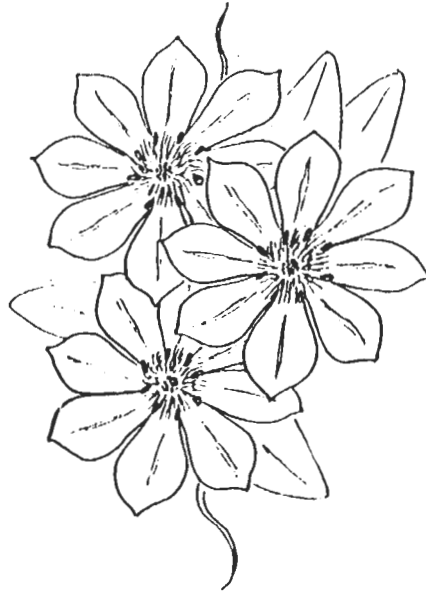
Members in good standing (those who have paid dues for 1985-86) are eligible to vote.

The diagram below indicates Society Hill's eastern and western quadrants and how the northern and southern quadrants are divided by Fourth Street. Please note that the northern quadrants include all residences on Spruce Street including those on the south side of the street. Quadrant directors will be designated as representatives for the NW, NE, SW or SE, according to their address and the boundaries of the diagram.



### SHCA QUADRANTS

Residents who wish to be placed on the ballot may do so by submitting a petition to one of the co-chairman of the nominating committee by May 7th. Chairmen are Stu Miller and Mike Willmann, c/o Box #3, Philadelphia, PA 19105. Petitions for listing as a candidate for officer must contain the signatures of 10 members from any quadrant, but petitions for quadrant directors must have 10 signatures from the candidate's quadrant.



## I-95 Ramps — Decision Expected Soon

In early March, the Managing Director, James S. White, held a meeting of the riverfront communities to discuss the I-95 ramps. In December, Mayor Goode sent a letter endorsing Option 7 which includes the so-called "Double Slide-Under" and Mr. White's meeting was a follow-up to that endorsement. None of the civic associations with the exception of Old City supported the Mayor's endorsement although none actively opposed it.

At that meeting a new plan was proposed to create an entity—the Philadelphia Land Management Corporation that would oversee the commercial use of PennDOT lands abutting the I-95 Expressway from Whitman Park to the Vine Street interchange and west on Vine Street to 16th. The SHCA representatives, Liz Ostrander and Stuart Miller, as well as those from Queen Village

## Historic Survey Under Way

At the March 19th general membership meeting, Joyce Cole, SHCA director and inventory project coordinator of the historical district project, announced that the architectural firm of Kise, Killinger, Franks and Straw had been named to conduct the 1,500 home survey of Society Hill necessary in order to apply for certification as an historical district. The survey was begun on April 16th although only 20 percent of the total funding necessary is in hand. Total cost of the project is \$20,000.

In an effort to raise the remaining \$16,000, the SHCA seeks donations from the residents who will be listed in the publication when it is completed. A tax deductible contribution of \$20. will buy you a copy of the page that your home is listed on and a contribution of \$100. will buy you the certification book. All contributors whose donations are received by June 15, 1986, will be acknowledged as sponsors in a special section of the publication.

Your checks should be made payable to the Society Hill Fund and sent to the Treasurer, SHCA, Box #3, Philadelphia, PA 19105, on or before June 15th.

It is in the interest of every Society Hill homeowner that this survey proceed on schedule.

and other communities were concerned about control of such an entity and who would make the final decisions about commercial use in the several neighborhoods. The Managing Director promised to address those issues and come back to the group.

In late March, the Queen Village Neighbors Association held a press conference at which it proposed a new ramp configuration it called the "Direct Connection". It includes two ramps connecting Vine Street to Delaware Avenue thereby adding two more ramps to the ten that are a part of the Vine Street interchange to be completed by 1989. After a special meeting called to look at the proposal, the remaining riverfront communities — Society Hill included — voted to oppose the proposal and to send a letter to that effect to PennDOT and all other concerned officials and organizations.

(Continued on Page 6.)

# Seventh Annual SHCA Spring Clean-up

The Seventh Annual SHCA Spring Clean-Up was held on Saturday, April 26. The day was highlighted by a parade of Cub Scouts and Brownies led by a horse-drawn carriage and accompanied by the music of the Tootsie Pops, an old fashioned oom-pah-pah band.

After the parade, the participants gathered at the Central Penn parking lot for the traditional awards ceremony. Once again, Central Penn donated the cash prizes given to the poster artists from McCall School. Managing Director James S. White was the 1986 winner of the SHCA New Broom Award and Councilman Leland Beloff was given the SHCA Golden Scoop Award in recognition of his help in passing the ordinance requiring carriage horses to be diapered. Three street sweepers, Charles Diggs, James Pitts, and Gary Aguilar, were honored with plaques and Super-Fresh Manager, Bob Bethell, was given a special "Blue Ribbon Neighbor" award.

This year, SHCA gave a new award to Ed Braun, Central Penn vice-president and manager of the 2nd and Pine branch. Called the First Blue Ribbon Neighbor Hall of Fame Award, it was given in recognition of Mr. Braun's wholehearted support of the SHCA and its clean-up efforts over the years.

For the second year, NewMarket hosted a picnic for the neighborhood. Everyone was invited to the Market for an hour of food and fun.

Clean-Up Day has become a neighborhood tradition and the officers and board of the Society Hill Civic Association are most grateful to all those who helped make the day a success. From the Mayor and his cabinet officers who made it a point to come on what was for them a busy day; to Clayton Carter and Thelma Anderson in the Managing

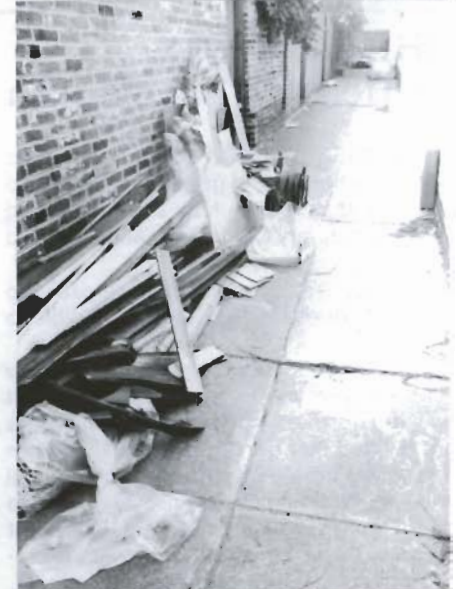
Director's office who coordinated the special equipment; to Bob Bethell, Manny Brown of Thriftway, the folks at John Paul's, and Pat Tancredi of Tancredi's Apothecary who gave us the clean-up goodies; to Joan Simon of Domsy Simon Agency who arranged the NewMarket picnic; Leonard Rovner and Lovett Hines of McCall School who supervised the young artists; and to Ed Braun who donated the prizes AND blew up balloons. And special thanks to the Cubs and Brownies, their parents and leaders, and all the folks who came out to sweep, clean, wax, wane, spit and polish and generally clean up.

Now let's make every day a Blue Ribbon Neighbor Day.



(Photos by Nancy Frenze)

Before the Spring Clean-up our sidewalks were a disgrace.



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## YOU NEED YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION — OR DO YOU?

We, the select few who by default do all of the work of the Society Hill Civic Association, have noted that even our slim numbers are declining. We know not why except that our neighbors seem to think that they can get a multitude of services for a very small price, their annual dues.

We all work full time at a real job. We all support other organizations besides SHCA.

We all do our SHCA work in our "free time." We all have families and other, more personally pleasing tasks to perform in our "free time."

We all volunteer time and effort to the SHCA because we all know that if we do not—the quality of residential life in a historic district of a very large city will decline rapidly.

**HOWEVER, WE ALL ARE VERY TIRED AND WE ALL BELIEVE THAT YOU LIVE HERE AND YOU MUST ACCEPT SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING THE QUALITY OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.**

Therefore, we ask that you come forward and volunteer to give up some of your "free time" to the civic association. Contact any officer or board member or write to our box office number and let us know we can count on you—or very soon you will discover that you can no longer count on us.

Myrna Field Baum  
SHCA President

## A Facelift for Washington Square Park

With the release of more than \$100,000 from the capital budget, the initial improvements to Washington Square Park are underway. The slates have been lifted, broken ones replaced, and reset in cement along the south side of the park on Washington Square and along the south end of 6th Street. This is only a beginning and costs for total repair of the paths and sidewalks could exceed a million dollars. The Washington Square Association exerted much pressure before these funds, which were held specifically for improvements to the Square, were put into use.

There are plans with the horticultural arm of the Fairmount Park Commission to have perennials planted and the monument cleaned. Landscapers familiar with city golf courses are scheduled to plant grass that would be hardy enough to withstand the trampling and hard wear the park receives constantly. Some of these plans will not go into the effect until next spring.

It is the hope of the Washington Square Association that money will be allocated each year for improvement to the Square until the job is completed. However, there are no immediate plans for annual dispersal of money for this purpose. As interested neighbors and supporters of Washington square, we can help by writing to the president or director of the Fairmount Park Commission stating our concern and desire to have money put forth each year for



(Photo by Nancy Frenze)

improvement and up-keep of Washington Square Park.

The president of the Fairmount Park Commission is Fitz Eugene Dixon and the director is Alexander Hoskins. They can both be reached by mail at the following address:

Memorial Hall  
West Park  
Philadelphia, PA 19131

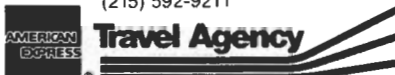
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**Joanne Davidow**

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# Report on our Playgrounds

## Starr Garden . . .

### Trying to Rise and Shine Again

For families with young children who have outgrown the Three Bears playground on Cypress Street, the main alternative for recreational pursuits is Starr Garden at 6th and Lombard Streets.

This facility boasts a rich historical past as the oldest continuing playground in the City. Situated amid the thriving communities of Society Hill, Queen Village, Washington Square West and Bella Vista, it provides programs and activities for many area youngsters.

Currently, it is suffering more from years and years of constant use and little upkeep, than from abuse or vandalism. The first priority items according to neighbors, have been defined by Vernon Roessler, playground supervisor, as the replacement of the activity building roof, playground area security lighting and complete replacement of dated and poorly designed playground equipment.

A list of improvements was prepared by the Starr Garden staff and forwarded to the Recreation Department and neighboring civic associations.

The only item to receive attention so far has been the new roof. An allocation of funds for the roof was accomplished through the efforts of the community, Starr Garden and the direct intervention of City Councilman Leland M. Beloff.

At this time, there have been no improvements in the tot and play area which has suffered the most wear and tear. In the opinion of neighbors, it would be better to restore the existing equipment than wait for the City to replace all the playground equipment that is needed. A great lift to the area could be provided by the addition of new matting and several properly applied coats of paint.

The second priority is coping with the problems caused by a substantial increase in the number of adult baseball leagues using the field at Starr Garden. These leagues cut into the time the field can be used by area youngsters, they use vital parking spaces, generate trash and litter and high volume noise, especially acute during the early morning hours on weekends, damage the playing field itself, and create the serious safety hazards fast-flying balls pose to motorists, pedestrians and homeowners.

According to community representatives, the best hope for gaining attention and workable solutions to these problems rests with the hope for gaining attention and workable solutions to these problems rests with the formation of a coalition of neighborhood civic groups, schools, churches and families to work together toward up-

grading, revitalizing and reestablishing Starr Garden as a *neighborhood* facility. Interested parties should contact Ed Scherneck at 923-4249.

### IMPROVEMENTS REQUESTED TO BE MADE TO STARR GARDEN.

1. Eight outside doors plus frames and locks \$2,500.00
2. New roof on building \$5,000.00
3. Picnic area, tot area, and play area refurbished. \$250,000.00
4. Playground landscaped with removal/replacement of existing trees. \$25,000.00
5. Two outdoor water fountains replaced, plus addition of one other water fountain. \$3,500.00
6. Outdoor lighting installed on grounds. \$20,000.00
7. Players benches installed on softball/baseball field. \$400.00
8. Interior of Building painted. \$2,500.00
9. High fire ceramic kiln plus adequate electrical wiring installed. \$2,000.00
10. Areas of chain link fence and gates replaced. \$3,500.00
11. Thirteen outdoor wall lights on outside of building to be replaced. \$2,000.00
12. Small refrigerator for kitchen area. \$200.00
13. Interior doors (wood) refinished. \$450.00
14. New office furniture. (desk, executive chair, side chairs, filing cabinet, clock, typewriter.)
15. Light fixtures in mens and ladies room replaced. (Ten fixtures) \$1,000.00

## Three Bears Park . . . Budget Priorities

In these days of budget crises our children love to play They run and jump and climb and swing and search for parks to make their day. What's found is Three Bears Park their island in the sun Buried in trash, litter and some decay . . . That billion dollar budgets prefer to leave for yet another rainy day.

Arthur K. Smith



(Photo by Nancy Frenze)

Trash always overflows the receptacles at Three Bears Park.

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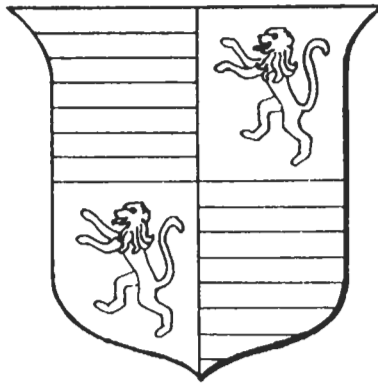


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## Sheraton Hotel Plans Nicholas More Room

Nicholas More is coming back to Society Hill (in spirit, at least) when the new Sheraton Hotel honors him by naming a public room next to the front entrance after him. This extraordinary man deserves it! Already a doctor of physic in London, he arrived here with his family and 60 employees in 1682 as president of The Free Society of Traders in Pennsylvania, which owned all of Society Hill between Spruce and Pine Streets. A close friend of William Penn, Dr. More went on to a distinguished career, however short, in the provincial government and became the first Chief Justice of the Courts of Pennsylvania. He was also made a baron, the only grant of its type in Commonwealth history, but happily for us, this intelligent and somewhat temperamental man never reverted to his feudalistic privileges, preferring to remain a loyal supporter of Penn and his egalitarian principles.

On March 25, the anniversary date of the proprietor's charter to the Free Society, members of the hotel's management team, distinguished guests and some of your neighbors met for lunch at the City Tavern and then donned their hard hats for a tour of the hotel construction site at Number One Dock Street. Resident Manager Michael Whipple and Marketing Director Richard Meara gave assistance through the maze of studs and scattered masonry to the spectacular skylighted central atrium,



*Nicholas More's Coat of Arms*

then nearing completion. Your current and former SHCA presidents, Myrna Field Baum and Michael Willmann were there, as were Faith Lemmer, Alan Halpern, Ruth Dugan, Charles Peterson, Eve Taylor, Ellen Miller, Berthe von Moschzisker and Hilda Sanchez, along with Mrs. Edward Leisenring Jr., Winterthur trustee, Mrs. Frank Piasecki, chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and Judge Nicholas Sellers, who picked their way carefully to the shell of the proposed Nicholas More Room.

Dr. More, we hope, smiled down over the centuries of history upon this fine gesture to remember him as the first citizen of Society Hill.

## I-95 Ramps

*(Continued from Page 1.)*

In addition, Society Hill representatives have sent a letter restating the SHCA position to all those receiving the joint letter from the riverfront communities.

1. SHCA opposes new ramp construction until Delaware Avenue and the Vine Street Expressway have been completed and the new traffic patterns studied.

2. SHCA asks that through truck traffic be banned on all its major streets to help ease present traffic loads resulting from the I-95 Expressway.

3. Until the problems of the maintenance and security of the I-95 cover have been dealt with and a mutually satisfactory written plan for the care of the cover has been agreed upon and signed, SHCA is not willing to discuss the matter of new ramp construction.

SHCA feels that the City and the Commonwealth have not lived up to their minimal responsibilities in reducing the impact of the expressway with its present points of access and egress on this and other riverfront neighborhoods. We feel, therefore, that discussions of new ramps and/or additions to the cover are premature.

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## Immigrant-Refugee Volunteer Tutoring Program

In 1981, the Philadelphia Council of the International Reading Association established the Immigrant-Refugee Volunteer Tutoring Program to teach foreign born and non-English speaking Americans the necessary skills to adapt to our culture. Since that time, more than 124 tutors and 174 students have participated in the program.

Tutors include elementary education teachers, teachers of English, foreign languages and English as a Second Language (ESL), as well as non-professionals who have had previous experience with this form of instruction.

Each volunteer must attend a three hour training session, demonstrating hour training session demonstrating the methods of teaching ESL. Suggestions are given for subject matter and skills to be taught, such as how to use our currency read a calendar or a train schedule, give information about emergency situations, and participate in informal conversations.

Tutors are matched to their students and there is a chairperson available for consultations and procurement of materials. The tutor may teach a single student or a group, and may state his or her preference for teaching an adult or a child ranging in ability from preliterate (no written form of their native language) to those holding graduate degrees, and for those with no

## Town Watch Walkie-Talkie Center

The first edition of *The Lampost*, a publication of Society Hill Town Watch, announced its new system for volunteer walkers.

As of April 1, 1986, Society Hill Town Watch equipment will be housed permanently at the Society Hill Club, 250 S. 5th Street. This central location was offered by the SHC so that volunteer walkers can stop at the club before their walk, pick up a walkie-talkie and sign it out after presenting proper identification as a Society Hill resident. The volunteer is expected to return the equipment to the SHC after his walk.

Several training sessions for use of the walkie-talkie were given in April. For further information on training, please call the official Town Watch phone number, 629-1323.

knowledge of English to those fluent in English but requiring specific academic, conversational, or job related skills. The student population represents more than 34 areas of the world.

For more information about the program, contact Perky Cohen at 242-0294.

## Garden Party Site



(photo by Nancy Frenze)

Garden Party planned by Powel House Preservation Committee of Landmarks Society will take place on Thursday, May 22 from 5-8 p.m. Tickets are \$20.00. For an invitation or further information, call Landmarks Society office, 925-2251.

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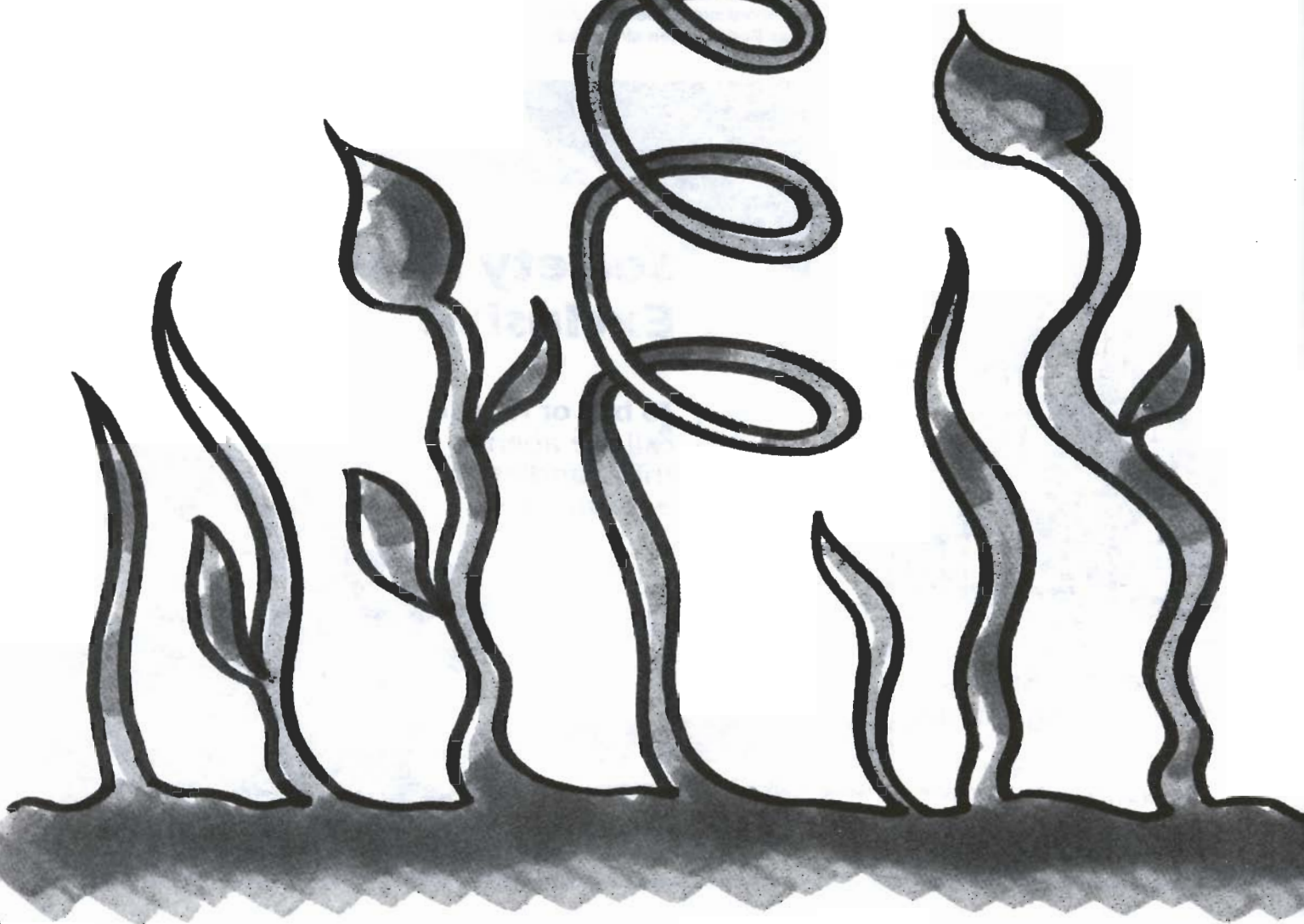
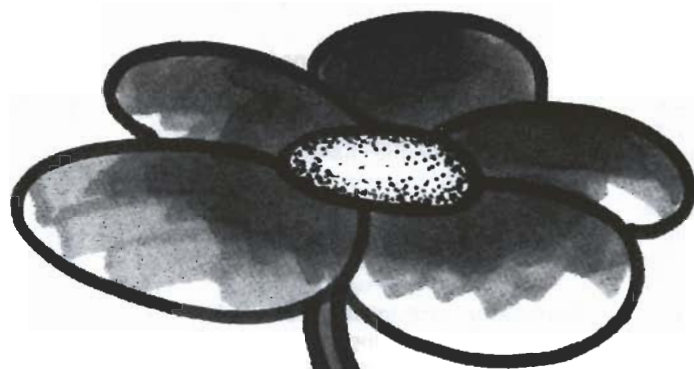
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# s Springing... for se. Sunday June 1

relaxing Sunday afternoon, from 12 Noon til 6 P.M., of complimentary spirits and a  
of bite-size entrees and hors d'oeuvres prepared by our chef for this Gala Open House.

celebrating the coming of Spring and the meeting of our Society Hill neighbors. This  
on is for the people of the "Society Hill Resident's Newsletter" and their guests only!  
Return the information below by May 24th to receive your invitation of confirmation to



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

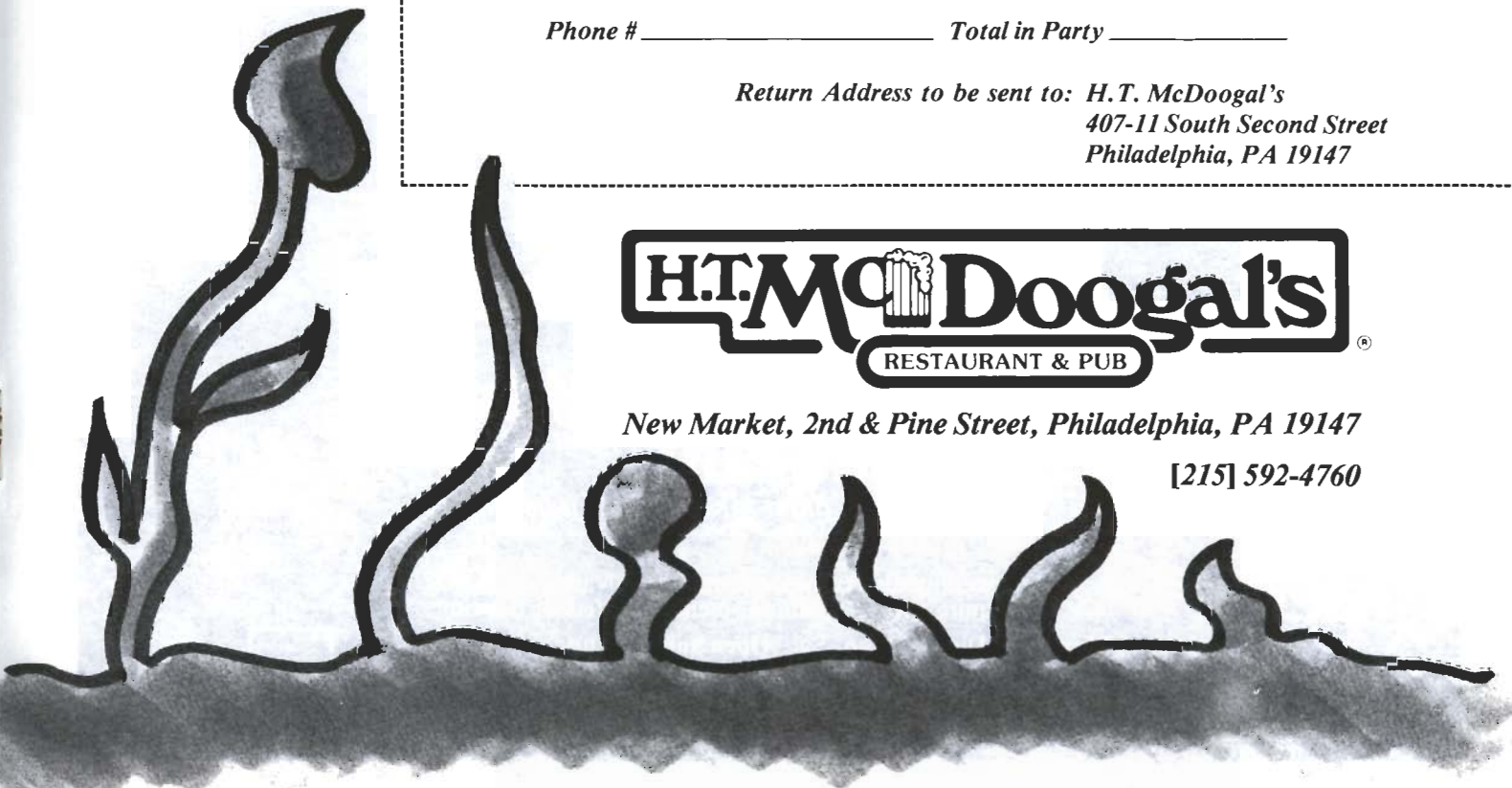
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Return Address to be sent to: H.T. McDoogal's  
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Philadelphia, PA 19147



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## Another Bicentennial

# Philadelphia – Mecca in 1787 . . . And 1987

In 1987, the United States Constitution will be 200 years old. It is the document ordained at the convention which met in 1787 in the Pennsylvania State House now known to us as Independence Hall.

This unique charter which has endured longer than any other constitution in history and the extraordinary 55 delegates who established it as the law of the land will be celebrated through five themes that will incorporate historical presentations, exhibitions, educational programs, cultural and artistic events, civic workshops and international gatherings.

INHP began planning for the Bicentennial of the Constitution in 1982. The Park is working with four key organizations on this event: *The Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution* whose membership was announced by President Reagan in June of 1985, *The Bicentennial Committee of the City of Philadelphia* known as *We The People 200*, composed of Hobart Cawood, superintendent of INHP and chairman of the Committee, Dianne Semingson, City representative, Barbara Fenhagen, deputy City representative, Fred Stein, executive director of *We The People 200* and Mary Kimmitt, INHP representative and assistant manager, *The Friends of Independence National Historical Park* represented by Thomas McCallum and *Project '87*, a joint undertaking of the American Historical Association and the American Political Science Association.

Many events are planned; the exact format and date of some are not yet in final form and we will tell you more about them in a subsequent Newsletter. Several of the most exciting events that are definite as of now are:

On September 17th, *Miracle at Philadelphia* at the Second Bank of the United States will open a 15 month exhibit and will feature the four original drafts of the Constitution as well as James Madison's journals of the proceedings of the Convention. Mrs. John Duckett is project director of this exhibit. There is a possibility that President Reagan will open the bicentennial year observance on the 17th.

*"The Great Fabric of America"* opening April 23rd at the Park's Visitor Center will feature interactive computers to challenge visitors by testing their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution with an emphasis on 19th and 20th century evolution of the Constitution and constitutional law. This will be a permanent exhibit.

*All Roads Lead to Philadelphia* will open with a celebration on May 23rd and 24th commemorating the convening of the Constitutional Convention on May 25, 1787 and feature the gathering of the original 13 states through delegations led by each governor, with numerous conferences and ceremonies.

*The Joint Session of U.S. Congress* will take place on July 16, 1987 at Independence Mall – the first time since Congress left Philadelphia in 1800 that a joint session will be held outside of Washington, D.C.

*Constitution Day*, a national holiday on September 17, 1987 will feature a Grand Federal Procession throughout Philadelphia. The President, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and representatives from each of the 50 states have been invited. The above are just some of the highlights of a commemorative celebration that will begin on September 17, 1986 and continue through December 1987.



## Colonial Trivia . . .

In colonial times artificial illumination was very expensive and remained so until the mid-1800's when the introduction of kerosene or (coal oil) lamps became cost effective for the average household use. Prior to the availability of kerosene, only the wealthy could afford the use of candles or whale oil lamps for illumination. Eighteenth century candles were not only expensive but gave less than half the light our present day candles provide due to improved wicks used today.

Whale oil lamps with a patented cylindrical burner known as Argand lamps (named after its inventor Francois-Pierre Ami Argand) were introduced in 1784. Argand lamps were a tremendous improvement over contemporary candles. Each Argand lamp gave a white smokeless light the equivalent of about twenty candles of that time, or the same as today's 25 watt electric light bulb. Argand lamps were the greatest advancement in artificial illumination since the ancient float lamp – a clay dish holding fuel oil with a free-floating wick burner – dating from 2000 to 5000 BC in both Egypt and China.

Although the Argand lamp was a great improvement, whale oil in the eighteenth century cost \$2 per gallon and the lamps cost about \$20 each. This during a period when a good weekly wage was five dollars.

\* \* \* \* \*

## JOIN US

Tear off and mail to:

Society Hill Civic Association  
P.O. Box 3  
Philadelphia, PA 19105  
attention: Frank Ongaro, Treasurer

Please renew my (our) membership in the Association.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 person \$12.50 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 persons same address \$25.00

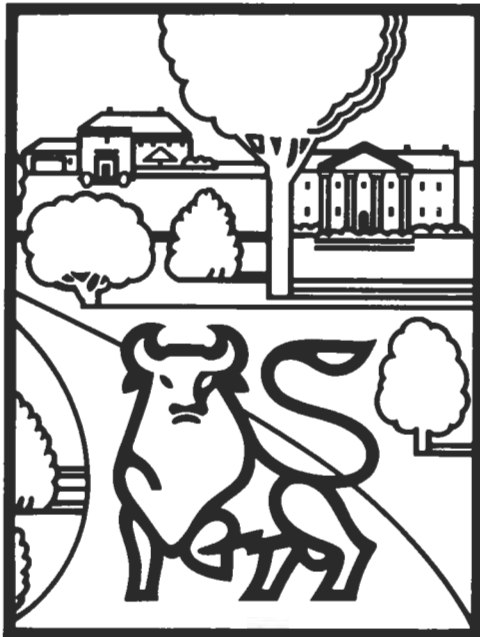
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## Budco Theater Expansion

*The following is a copy of the letter sent by Hobart Cawood, superintendent of Independence National Historical Park to H. Donald Busch, president of Budco Theaters Inc. concerning the expansion of the Budco near 2nd and Walnut Streets.*

Mr. H. Donald Busch  
President, Budco Theaters, Inc.  
111 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19105

Dear Don:

As you know, I have written to my supervisors and to a number of interested parties concerning your proposal to double your theater operation at the Second and Sansom Parking Facility. In turn, you would work with the Parking Authority to provide bus parking facilities at your property on Front Street.

For a variety of reasons, none of those who I canvassed responded positively to the proposed arrangement. Objections included disapproval of buses being parked on Front Street, a commitment to Congress to have bus parking in the garage, concern for more theaters in the neighborhood, additional traffic and quality of films that would be shown. I know that some of the comments are not valid or could be mitigated, however, I feel that because of the advice I have received, I cannot support your new proposal. If circumstances change, I would be pleased to reconsider at some future date.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Hobart G. Cawood  
Superintendent

## The Athenaeum Needs Volunteers

The Athenaeum, a private library at 219 S. 6th Street, is collecting material on the history and restoration of Society Hill. This material includes Redevelopment Authority documents, SHCA meeting minutes, SHCA Newsletters, information from preservationist groups in the area, and a variety of proposals and publications that relate to Society Hill.


Volunteers are needed to sort and arrange this material during the summer months. Initial sorting and arranging does not require any special talent or ability. The talents of volunteers with archivist or library experience will be especially appreciated for the work to follow the initial sorting of the collection.

For further information, call Dr. Roger Moss, Jr., executive director of the Athenaeum at 925-2688.



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# LETTERS . . .

Mr. Jack W. Blumenfeld  
 Jack W. Blumenfeld & Co.  
 1500 Locust Street  
 Philadelphia, PA

Dear Jack:

For almost a year your company has been promising to remove the mountain of dirt and debris that faces Third Street, Lombard Street, and Gaskill Street. One broken promise has followed another.

Meanwhile, you are said to be preparing a request for permission to build a health club, possibly with a liquor license. This, or virtually any other proposal except the originally designed townhouses, would require new licenses, permits, or approvals.

By copy of this letter, I am suggesting that the Queens Village Neighbors Association, the South Street Neighbors Association, and the Society Hill Civic Association, as well as my fellow neighbors on the 300 block of Gaskill Street, on Third Street, and on Lombard Street, all oppose any licenses, permits, or approvals for the site until the site has been completely cleaned up.

Any license, permit or approval would increase the market value of the site, without assuring that the site would be immediately developed. Therefore, I suggest that clearing the site should be an absolute precondition to giving further proposals by Abbots Square or Blumenfeld & Co. sympathetic consideration.

I regret having to assume a combative position, but leaving a mountain of debris

is hardly evidence of the good neighbor policy that Blumenfeld & Co. announced when it began this project.

Sincerely,

Arthur M. Kaplan

Arthur M. Kaplan, Esq.  
 Fine, Kaplan and Black  
 23rd floor, 1845 Walnut St.  
 Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Arthur:

I received your letter of March 27, and I have no idea as to all of these promises you have spoken of and have no idea from whom you got those promises.

It is our intention to remove the excess dirt and balance of the debris in the very near future.

Arthur, I have struggled through this job and have extended ourselves greatly to be a good neighbor to the community. I find your letter and threats uncalled-for. We have done everything humanly possible to help the area including only renting to fine stores, cleaning up as much as we have possibly been able to, meeting with the police on an on-going basis to assure that crowd control is being very carefully monitored, and partaking in as many of the area functions with the Associations as we have been able to.

Very truly yours,

ABBOTTS SQUARE DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Jack W. Blumenfeld  
 President

*EDITOR'S NOTE - Copies of the foregoing letters were sent to SHCA, the Queen Village and South Street Neighbors Associations as well as to neighbors on nearby blocks of Gaskill, Third and Lombard Streets. We thought the exchange would interest all our readers.*

*The Resident Newsletter welcomes opinions from our neighbors. Please write to us at Box 3, Phila., PA 19105. And please sign your letter; we won't print your name if you don't want us to.*

To the Editor:

Washington Square, our square, is being edged with new paving stones. What else is in store? Repeated phone calls to the Fairmount Park Commission have elicited only a busy signal.

Our square needs more than trimming. Compared with its cousins—the other city squares—it is flat, it is dull, it is badly kept. It contains an important monument, a plaque, and a central fountain as well as other structures; but no relationship exists between them.

All of these faults can easily be mended by landscaping. If more than exterior paving is planned we should know now so we can be in on the planning.

Yours,

Ruth Luborsky

**stephen d. cohen, d.d.s.**  
**steven a. graubard, d.d.s.**

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 philadelphia, pa 19106  
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 (215) 238-0800





# DARTS AND LAURELS

**Laurel**—to Rosanna D'Alessandro and the Washington Square Association for making their persistent efforts work bringing about the first stages of improvement in Washington Square Park.

**Laurel**—to the owners of the apartments on Spruce Street who "covered up" and made a difference to their neighbors on Cyprus Street.

**Laurel**—to area residents who host visiting performers; like those from the Philadelphia Opera Theatre, and the Opera Company of Philadelphia with their young winners of the Pavoratti competition who come to this city from all parts of the world.

**Dart**—to the mounted police officers who allow their horses to pile manure on the island at 4th and Lombard. It could be a sweet smelling, well planted area providing a welcome respite for the area residents and visitors who frequent this busy commercial street.

**Dart**—to the motorists driving through our neighborhood streets too fast for conditions knocking down street lights, stop signs and anything that happens to get in the way.

**Laurel**—to the Department of Sanitation for the new trash basket seen at the corner of 7th and Pine.

**Laurel**—and best wishes to The Town Watch for their first edition publication. Printing information relating to area crime should alert residents thereby increasing our safety and protection.

**Laurel**—to those people who volunteer and WALK or even RUN with Town Watch.

**Laurel**—to those people who plan to do something about stopping the soliciting of circulars and advertisements on street corners in the center of town. These offensive offerings often end up littering our sidewalks while ruining our image and turning away out-of-town visitors.

**Laurel**—to Joyce Cole, SHCA Historic District director and inventory project coordinator for her work preparatory to an application for Society Hill to be recognized a local historic district.

**Laurel**—to Judy Alden who will prepare the significance statement to accompany the inventory for the Historic District application.

**Laurel**—to Ellen Gesensway upon receiving the Maxwell Award on March 25th for her herculean preservationist efforts and their success - saving Lit Brothers Department Store from demolition and insuring its long life as part of the Gallery East project.

**Staff for this issue**—Charles Bangert, Sally Buell, Ruth Dugan, Nancy Frenze, Liz Ostrander and Renee Saul.

**Contributors to this issue**—Ken Cundy, Ellen Miller, Charles Peterson, Laurette Scherneck and Arthur Smith.

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

Deadline for articles and ads for the next issue is September 1st. 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, *The Resident Newsletter*, Box #3, Philadelphia, PA 19105. For billing information, please contact Keith Straw at the above address.

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