



SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

A newsletter of the Society Hill Civic Association

Issued January 3, 1995

Notes from SHCA President

DICK OSTRANDER

You can bet on this...

Riverboat gambling: Yes or No will be the main subject of the next membership meeting. It starts at 7:30 with a social half-hour of coffee and chat on **Wednesday, January 18th**, at the **Society Hill Sheraton**, 2nd and Walnut, followed at 8:00 by a panel discussion on the pros and cons of floating slots, blackjack and more.

Speaking as panelists will be deputy mayor **Ted Beitchman**, SHCA member and political activist **Peter Hearn** and **Rev. Neale Secor**, director of the Seaman's Church Institute. Afterwards the audience will be able to question the panel and give their own opinions on the subject. Seven-will-get-you-two that this will be one of the most interesting meetings of the year. So mark your calendars and be prepared to put in your two chips. See you there.

* * *

Another January community meeting is planned by the **South Street/Headhouse District** as its board looks at and discusses the **Delta Group's** plans for a new South Street streetscape on Thursday, January 26th at the 4th and Lombard Community Center. I've seen some of the plans and urge you to come take a look.

And, speaking of South Street, by mid-January it should be basking in new and brighter lighting plus observing the effects of revamped traffic regulations on Friday and Saturday nights. Deputy mayor (and neighbor) **Herb Vederman** told the September SS/HD board of the changes—and also indicated that two public toilet facilities were being planned for operation by spring.

If the printing schedule of this newsletter goes as planned, you should be reading this in time to check out the Saturday, January 14, Greenpeace open house at 226 South Street; it's scheduled from 3 to 7 pm. EPA administrator **Peter Kostmayer** will be among the guests.

We hope to have good news for you about Franklin Lamp replacement by our March general meeting. A source has apparently been found for replacement lamps at one-third the previously estimated cost.... And speaking of improvements, the playground modifications to Three Bears Park have been made—except for the promised sign, which should appear before warm weather returns.

* * *

How would you like to help improve the neighborhood? You can get a chance by giving your name or the name of a neighbor to the SHCA nominating committee—currently putting together a slate of directors and officers for the May election. The people to see on the committee are **Mel Buckman, Miffy Coonley, Howard Lander** and **Rosemarie Scarpulla**.

Finally, get your membership renewal in the mail soon—using the adjacent coupon!!! Otherwise you won't be able to participate in the February 21st members-only reception (time and place to be sent to you by mail).

Ciao!

JOIN THE SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION FOR 1995

(if you haven't already done so)

HELP PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY'S INTERESTS AND PRESERVE OUR FUTURE

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP CODE _____

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HOME PHONE _____

- New Membership
 - Renewal Membership
 - Household Membership \$25
 - Business Membership \$50
 - Additional Contribution \$ _____
- (Greatly appreciated!)

I (We) would like to work on the following committees:

- Clean-Up Day
- Tree Tenders
- Historic Preservation
- Town Watch
- Liquor Control
- Zoning
- Society Hill Reporter

NOW, WHILE YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT IT! MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

and mail to
Society Hill Civic Association
P. O. Box 3
Philadelphia, PA 19105

THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

SHCA Calendar

Tues., Jan. 17, 7:30 pm
Oversight Subcommittee Meeting
Historic Preservation Committee
Physick House, 321 4th St.

Wed., Jan. 18, 8 pm
General Membership Meeting
Society Hill Sheraton
Board meeting 6:30
Refreshments 7:30

Thur., Jan. 26, 7:30 pm
South St. District
Old Pine Community Center
4th & Lombard
Meeting to discuss changes in street-
scape proposed by Delta Group.
Public welcome

Oil Price Spill

SHCA Reporter staffer **Lois Sigel** reports there is a way to save as much as \$200 (based on '92-'93 prices) on your fuel bill if you use oil to heat your home.

PIRG Fuel Buyers, the Delaware Valley's largest fuel-buying club, has assembled 20,000 consumers to negotiate for lower fuel prices. Last year the average cost for oil was 98¢/gallon. PIRG buyers dispensed it for 84¢—a 14% savings.

Typical members saved \$112 last year.

Interested? Call 829-0808 for more information.

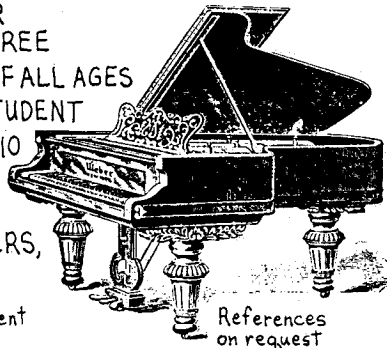
SHCA NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PHONE NUMBERS

Clip & Save for Reference

EMERGENCY	911 (& pray!)
Sixth District Police Station	686-3060
South St. Police Mini Station	955-0981
S.A.V.E. (auto sticker protection)	686-3063
Resident Parking Permit	977-7200
Parking Authority Enforcement: (9 am-5 pm)	977-7221
(evenings & weekends)	977-7223
CITY HALL	686-1776
Streets Dept. Customer Service	686-5560
Street Repair & Potholes	686-5508
Recycling Hot Line	1-800-807-3292
Recycling Office	686-5504
Streets Dept. Sanitation Division	685-6062
Bulk Trash Pickup	592-6060
Illegal dumping & litter enforcement ...	686-3082
Street lights	685-9184
Water inlet cleaning (storm drains)	592-6300
Anti-Graffiti Network	686-1569
SPCA (animal control)	426-6300
Fairmount Park Commission (trees)	685-1835
Historical Commission (Dr. R. Tyler)	686-4543
Councilman Joseph Vignola	686-3458
W. Curtis Thomas (State Rep.)	232-1210
Vincent J. Fumo (State Senate)	468-3866
Thomas M. Foglietta (U.S. Rep.)	925-6840
Robert Borski (U.S. Rep.)	335-3355
Arlen Specter (U.S. Senate)	597-7200
Rick Santorum (U.S. Senate)	412-882-3205
Society Hill Civic Association	629-1288
Society Hill TownWatch	625-9255
South St./Headhouse District	413-3713

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SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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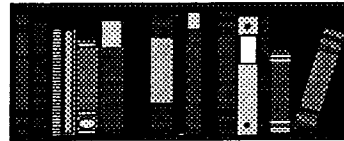
Norman Kline

CAR 64, WHAT ARE YOU?



Proposal for a bike patrol in Society Hill was discussed at a SHCA board meeting last fall attended by 6th District Captain Joseph O'Donnell (not shown) and a bike patrol officer from South Street who brought along his vehicle.

Board voted to approve a \$1500 appropriation to equip a bike patrol officer for Society Hill. Project is still in limbo: Police department brass have yet to approve a manpower appropriation.



BOOK ALERT:

HISTORY BUFFS/PHILAPHILES

Browsing in the newly opened Rizzoli Bookstore at the Bellevue (Broad and Walnut Street), we stumbled upon a coffee table book published in 1992, titled *Classic America: The Federal Style and Beyond*, which was reduced in price from \$75 to \$40. This classy, two-inch-thick book, which is liberally illustrated with four-color photos, puts Philadelphia, and especially our little corner of the city on a pedestal. Here's just a brief excerpt to whet your appetite:

"Philadelphia: The Athens of America:

During the middle decade of the 18th century, the rapid growth of Philadelphia and its cultural institutions and the tolerance and diversity of its citizens produced a galaxy of talented and learned men unequaled elsewhere in the colonies. In their curiosity about the secular world, their addiction to science, their habit of experimentation, their confidence in reason and improvement, their humanitarianism and their versatility, they were very much like the European philosophes."

The praise for our city and neighborhood goes on and on. It almost makes you glad you're not living in Paris!

—Matthew DeJulio

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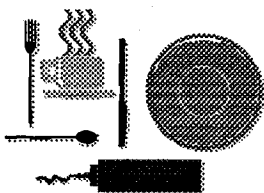
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The South Street Boulevardier

BIRD-WATCHING: Spotted at Tower Books in mid-fall was the rosy-breasted Lauren ("You know how to whistle, don't you?") Bacall — there to sign her new book. The lines outside were long and considerably less noisy than the lines last spring waiting to get their books signed by Howard Stern. Which best selling authors will be next? Fay Resnick? John Paul? Barbara Bush?



JAVA, THE HUT: Opening next to Montserrat Restaurant between 6th and 7th is a new coffee house, **South Caffee**. We spotted a group of young architects putting the place together well into the evening.

NOLA-LA-LAND: South Street is alive and well midweek, thanks in large part to **Tower Books**, **Tower Records** and, especially, **Café Nola**, the long-running success story founded by New Orleans expatriate **Bill Curry** and **Judy De Vicaris** at 326 South (627-2590).

Nola, for the uninitiated, is an acronym for New Orleans, La., and the food is authentic French Quarter cuisine at two-thirds the price. As a regular business visitor to The Big Easy, I put it right up there with Commander's Palace, Emeril's, Mr P's and Cafe Luna.

I dined there recently on a mid-weekday night with one of my uptown friends. I'm pleased to report that my Cajun-blackened salmon came with

a creative medley of zucchini, figs and mushrooms over a bed of spiced rice. My country salad was a version of Caesar with the crispest greens and a blue cheese vinaigrette. My apprehensive dinner companion raved about the moderately spiced (rhymes with "moderately priced") Louisiana Chicken.

Success breeds success so we can't wait to try Bill Curry's newest restaurant venture—**Tutto Misto** (Italian for "all mixed up") at 605 S. Third (just below South) which opened Christmas Eve. The first floor features noisier bistro-type atmosphere while the second floor has quieter, more elegant dining. The menu includes dishes native to countries around the Mediterranean—Italian, Spanish, Greek, Lebanese and Egyptian specialties.

Of interest to history buffs is that the new restaurant is in the old empire-style Lehman Lighting Company building. Before that—from 1888 to 1933—it was the Rosenbaum Private Bank and Steamship Company, and most of its customers were newly arrived immigrants when Philadelphia was the port of entry for so many of our ancestors.

Keep Tutto Misto in mind. If all goes according to plan, Bill Curry has offered it as the venue for SHCA'S annual February membership social.

— *Matthew DeJulio*



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**GREAT WEATHER + GREAT COOPERATION
= FALL CLEAN UP SUCCESS**

Spring-like weather made the Fall Clean Up the best yet. The clean Up Committee — **Jim Covello, Linda Perry, Alex and Stephanie Seldin, Jan Stephano and Ann Eiseworth, David Stevens, Peter Whitehouse, Ruth McKevitt, Gail Biemiller, Jerry Deye, Marion and Joe McKone, Susie Bodine, Milly DeLaurentis, Mel Buckman, Dick Ostrander, Nancy Hallmam, and Bernie Cleff** — got the signs and fliers out. Every street corner had piles of bags of leaves that the Streets Department recycled.

Once again, **Frank Dicicco's Citizens' Alliance for Cleaner Neighborhoods, the National Park Service for Independence Hall, the Center City Special District, Pennsylvania Hospital and Thomas Jefferson University and Hospital** brought professional savvy and equipment to the task.

The City provided the signs, brooms, and two street sweepers. **Waste Management of North America** provided a dumpster, which was filled to overflowing. **The Morning Cup** gave out coffee and the City's brooms to volunteers.

Pennsylvania Hospital hosted the picnic, organized by **Eric Blumenfeld**. **Pizzeria Uno** sent the city's best pizzas, **TGIF** made hoagies, **Bridget Foy** provided soda, and **Montserrat** baked those incredible brownies. **Nookies** did their cookies, and **Downey's** sent their nationally known desserts.

Pennsylvania Hospital also had printed the fliers with all the information for the neighbors.

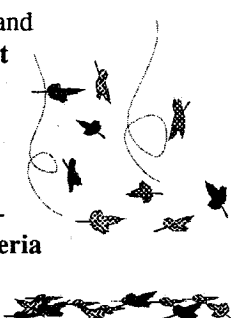
In addition, committee chairs **Miffy Coonley, Larry Meehan, and Mary Sturdivant** would like to thank...

- **General Accident, the Philadelphia Contributionship, and the Green Tree Group** for joining the other banner sponsors this year
- **McCall School** for allowing the dumpster on their parking lot
- **PhilaPride and Philadelphia More Beautiful** for bags
- **Society Hill Sheraton** for hosting the planning session
- **Philadelphia Police Department, especially Officer Jim Drumm and the mini-station on South Street,** for their cooperation.

Apologies to anyone who was erroneously ticketed Friday night. Please call the office so that can be rectified.

See everyone the first Saturday in May for the Spring Clean Up.

—Mary Sturdivant



50% "CABIN FEVER" DISCOUNT 50%

When the weather outside is frightful (And public schools are officially closed and/or Septa is not running) you will get a 50 per cent discount off any ENTREE at

Cafe Nola, TUTTO MISTO or COPABANANA

during January or February of 1995 with this coupon only.
Not valid with any other discount.. Also good for Sandwiches at Copabanana. (Not valid Feb. 14 & 28) LIMIT 2 TO A COUPON

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Bernice Hamel testifies in support of creating local historic districts

“...my neighborhood, Society Hill, where a great, modern experiment in urban living was launched! It was the late 1950s, a time when people fled the city for the suburbs.”

After many years and thousands of hours of volunteer effort, Philadelphia stands poised to nominate its first large local historic districts. Creating local historic districts stabilizes property values and serves as a rallying point for community preservation and revitalization. Philadelphia lags behind other cities which have many local districts—for example, New York has 66, Washington, D.C., 22, Baltimore, 18, and Boston, 7.

Public hearings in support of Philadelphia’s six nominated districts will occur in the order of their nomination: First, Rittenhouse-Fitler, then Society Hill, then Spruce Hill, Girard Estate, Penn-Knox Wister, and Strawberry Mansion South. The first, for Center City’s Rittenhouse-Fitler District, took place at City Hall on November 9th. The following is an excerpt from testimony by Bernice Hamel, chairperson of SHCA’S Historical Preservation Committee:

Good morning. I’m a Society Hill resident and president of the Head House Conservancy, speaking on behalf of the Society Hill Civic Association, which has been lobbying for many years to become a designated Residential Historic District.

Each of the six neighborhoods seeking historic designation represents its own grass-roots movement. It’s the blood, sweat and tears of property owners who invested their talents and hard-earned dollars to preserve a sense of the past that living in a historic neighborhood conveys.

The “built environment” of historic homes, churches and commercial structures is a sum greater than its parts. A community is diminished by the irretrievable loss of a historic structure if it is razed or incongruously altered—because each is a unique “individual” that suffers its own kind of mortality.

I’d like to say a few words about my neighborhood, Society Hill, where a great, modern experiment in urban living was launched! It was the late 1950s, a time when people fled the city for the suburbs. Society Hill’s redevelopment was achieved with the help of visionary city planners and architects. But it could not have been accomplished without the enthusiasm and financial resources of adventurous individuals, who purchased properties, rehabilitated and restored them at personal cost—and with the caring guidance of professionals from Philadelphia’s Redevelopment Authority. These urban pioneers created a harmonious district, rich with history, in the heart of our city.

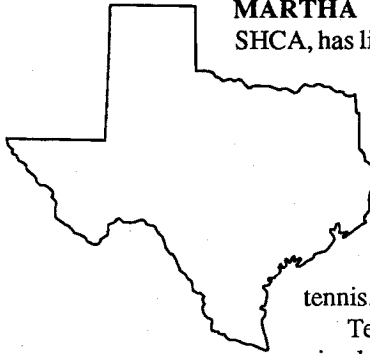
This beautiful residential neighborhood fulfills William Penn’s original concept for a “greene countrie towne.” For visitors, our neighborhood is a place to visit, a tourist attraction. But it’s also home to families who live, work and worship here, who pay taxes here.

What had been an old and eroding district in the 1950s became a jewel in the city’s crown. Forty years later it could be lost due to the encroachment of commercialism on many sides (witness South Street and The Delaware riverfront explosion). In addition, there is the gradual erosion of important architectural elements on the façades of buildings—not by design, but because property owners need guidance to prevent making hasty or unsympathetic alterations. Guided by standards established by the Historical Commission, the prevention of incompatible new construction, unnecessary demolitions and inappropriate façade repairs will help maintain the integrity of our community—now and into the future.

Society Hill residents believe that historic designation status for these six distinct and distinctive communities can help save historic structures—and, by so doing, we can help save our city.

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD

**Profile of Martha Moore:
Deep in the Heart of Taxes...**



MARTHA MOORE, treasurer of the SHCA, has lived in armadillo-free Society Hill for seven years—a long way from her native Beaumont, Texas. She enjoys moseying around the neighborhood, enjoying the city's special kind of beauty. She also enjoys a sharp game of tennis.

Texas born and raised, she received her bachelor's degree in accounting at the University of Texas in Austin. After graduating, she traveled to Dallas to work for the accounting firm of Peat Marwick (from 1972 to 1980) as a tax advisor and then she struck oil by moving to Philadelphia to serve in the tax department of Sun Oil.

After hours, she went for a Masters in taxation at Villanova Law School. Two years after getting her advanced degree, Sun advanced Martha to London for a two-year stint.

Martha is currently Sun's Manager of Tax Compliance, working in the firm's corporate office in the city and keeping this Association in the black in her spare time.

—Lois S. Sigel

**NEWS OF SOUTH STREET/
HEADHOUSE DISTRICT**

The South Street/Headhouse District is moving ahead in its efforts to improve the area. Executive director **Peter Whitehouse**, reports some of its current projects:

- The District has hired The Delta Group, a prestigious design firm, to prepare a master plan for streetscape improvements. The plan will include new sidewalks, decorative lighting, public art installations and trees. The Delta Group has worked on several projects in the area, including the "greenway" that winds from St. Peter's Church to Independence Hall, as well as past and current improvements to Market Street. Look for public meetings to update you on the planning.

- District sidewalks are currently cleaned six days a week. A District committee is looking into methods that will improve cleaning, particularly on weekend nights.

- Additional pedestrian lighting will brighten South Street in the near future—thanks to funding arranged by **Deputy Mayor Herb Vederman**, **Councilman Joe Vignola**, and **PECO**.

The District, whose offices are now located in historic Head House, is working to improve the area for businesses, residents and visitors. Peter Whitehouse, who is also a SE quadrant director of SHCA, hopes neighbors have enjoyed the District's holiday decorations. He reminds us that the District's Board of Directors meets on the **second Wednesday of every month—at 8 am at Downey's Restaurant** (Front and South). Community participation is welcome. Questions? Phone: 413-3713. Fax: 627-7035.

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You too can be a director of SHCA, or even president!

Nominating petitions should be presented to the Board a month prior to the May 17th election meeting.

Nominating SHCA officers and directors for a May 1995 election may not seem a high priority, but that process started before the end of 1994. Here's how you can become involved.

SHCA By-Laws provide that any member can be nominated as a director by getting ten other members to sign a petition so requesting. The quadrants—Northeast, Northwest, Southeast and Southwest—are demarcated by imaginary lines down the middle of Spruce Street and 4th Street. Officers may be nominated by petition signed by ten members from any quadrant. Nominating petitions should be presented to the Board a month prior to the May 17th election meeting.

Provision is also made for a nominating committee to prepare a slate, and the president has named the outgoing directors to that committee at the November 1994 Board meeting: May 1995 retirees *NOT* eligible for reelection include the president, Richard Ostrander; NW quadrant director, Howard Lander; SW director, Mel Buckman; and SE quadrant director, Miffy Coonley.

All their seats represent vacancies which must be filled at the May election. (NE director, Rosemarie Scarpulla *is* eligible for reelection.) Terms are limited to three years, with at least a one-year hiatus required between terms. **GO FOR IT!**



Latest Phlash

Shuttle bus service from 2nd and Pine to 18th and the Parkway

That large purple vehicle that cuts across our turf is neither a People-Eater nor a dinosaur named Barney. It is a shuttle bus service (there are up to four busses in service day and night) run by City Hall (i.e., paid for with your tax dollars) and maintained by SEPTA.



The idea is to keep auto traffic out of the neighborhood and encourage tourism by connecting all the city's hot spots. Busses run every fifteen minutes and cost \$1.50 one way or \$3 for all-day off-and-on privileges (no tokens or transpasses accepted). There are about 25 stops between 2nd and Pine (or Front & Spruce) and The Four Seasons at 18th and the Parkway. It's also a neat way to get to Reading Terminal, Dave & Busters, City Hall or the Main Library.

Laurie Phillips

just sold six more properties on the restoration list.

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DARTS & LAURELS



LAUREL: To **John Lawson**, local architect and SHCA's official lobbyist to the City's Recreation Department whose efforts resulted in modifications of playground equipment at Three Bears Park. His peace-keeping skills, infinite patience, and tenacity are rewarded by playground equipment that is now more aesthetically compatible with the neighborhood.

LAUREL: As well to the City's Recreation Department for cooperating with our community's wish to improve the appearance of Three Bears Park—thus throwing oil on the troubled waters of Delancey Street. Now if only they could make all those toddlers more aesthetically compatible! (Just kidding, Moms and Dads.)

LAUREL: To **Debbie** who runs the fish department at the Fifth Street Superfresh making it the Fifth Avenue Superfresh for lovers of fresh fish. The seafood is invariably handsomely displayed and bountifully iced. For the ichthyophages in the neighborhood, she's our patron saint.

LAUREL: To the landscapers at **Society**

Hill Towers who have made the property a must-stop to ooh and ahh for the rest of us land-poor flower lovers...on the other hand

DART: To the **Society Hill Towers** for recently installing those super-bright beacons atop the towers. The blinding lights, nearby neighbors gripe, shine through their bedroom shades at night, keeping them awake and untranquil.

LAUREL: To **Pat Tancredi**, Society Hill's old original pharmacist who runs the Tancredi Apothecary on Second below Pine. Forced to compete with the Thrift megadrugstore-chain operation which recently opened down the block, Pat remains unruffled and even has managed to keep his prices competitive. He's also fought back by cramming a fully-stocked vitamins and health products department into his mini-store.

LAUREL: To **Pennsylvania Hospital** for not only providing some fifty or more able-bodied staffers for neighborhood Clean-up Day duty, but also hosting a Coke-

and-hoagie buffet afterwards for the rest of us. Also a tip of the hat and a branch of laurel to the following firms who contributed to the successful clean-up and party: TGI Fridays, Jack Downey, Montserrat, CoreStates, Bridget Foy's, Morning Cup, and The Society Hill Sheraton.

DART: To the editor of this column, **Alan Halpern**, who has not been able to round up the usual number of dart suspects for this issue, although he's an admitted professional crank.

NOTE: Last issue, we gave a dart to **The Welcomat** for refusing to stop dropping their unwelcome publication—with its ten pages of steamy sex ads—on our doorstep, after we phoned them to cease and desist (563-7400). Last week—either by design or oversight—the dreaded rag never arrived.

Do you have a pet peeve or plaudit for an unsung hero or heroine?

Let this column know. We're an equal opportunity grouch.

A PRIVATE PARKING SPACE: GOING, GOING, GONE!

When you read this, it will be too late to bid, but we thought you'd like to know the going price for a private parking space in Society Hill.

The Parking Association of Third Street, located at 311-327 South 3rd Street, is for the exclusive use of its members—homeowners whose properties are located within the area bounded by the west side of 2nd Street, the east side of 4th Street, and the north sides of Spruce and Pine.

The Association, a nonprofit corporation, is reconfiguring the parking area so that it will now accommodate 31 cars instead of only 30. In connection with the reconfiguration, a security fence and gate will also be installed.

The Parking Association has given all eligible owners of residential properties, within the boundaries described above, the opportunity to bid on the one additional share in the Association, with the terms of the bid as follows: The minimum acceptable sale price to be \$30,000, and the maximum sale price, \$65,000.

The bids were to be postmarked by December 20th, with a deposit check of ten percent of the bid price. By now, the deposits of unsuccessful bidders may have been returned. But it's nice to know how fair the Association has been in making available this one parking space. Our congratulations go to the lucky bidder. We'll let you know the price paid next issue.

SOCIETY HILL CRYPTOGRAM

XRR BXMO RFFZ WEXS DV

MJP UXEZ

—KPV NEXVZRDV

The solution can be found somewhere in this issue. Seek and ye shall find!

GREEN DRUGS

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OPEN 8 AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT

922-7440

Police coverage & visibility increased throughout the neighborhood

A Neighborhood Awareness Night will be scheduled in the near future by the petition's initiators. Keep an eye out for their flyer.

The verdict is very good for our neighborhood.

Mayor Ed Rendell has had plenty of law enforcement problems recently. Prior to contending with the tragic results of the 911 fiasco, he had to contend with some feisty Society Hill neighbors who distributed a petition requesting additional police coverage and greater police visibility throughout the neighborhood. The petition, sent also to Police Commissioner Dick Neal and the Sixth Police District, specifically requested that a second foot police officer be returned to Society Hill.

Liz Kries, who is well-regarded by residents and who really knows our neighborhood, had been transferred to Chinatown during the summer. The neighborhood was then left with only one officer—the vigilant but understaffed patrolman Ron Habeth.

City officials were also petitioned for more police presence in patrol cars—only Car 63 was occasionally visible. Meanwhile, crime was on the rise, autos were being broken into and visiting tourists were unsafe, the petition averred.

The good news is that a meeting with City Hall and police officials was convened in November, with the following positive results:

1. Liz is back with us (with no ill effects from

overdosing on MSG).

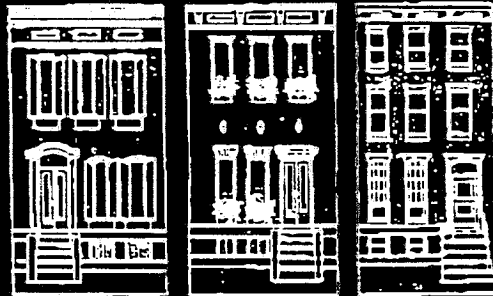
2. A special undercover team (ACT) is in the area to address the still-roiling issues of car break-ins and thefts.

3. Additional uniformed manpower has been deployed in the area on a regular schedule; they've been pulled off South Street and the Penn's Landing detail.

4. We've been promised two new bike patrol officers by early summer.

Your neighbors who met with City Hall officials on behalf of all the petition signers included Barbara Bagileo, Miriam Mandell, Joe Misunas, Jose Pumarada, Eddie Robinson and Lee Truscott. Good work, gang! And mighty prompt action, Mr. Mayor! Now we know why they call you "Fast Eddie."

A Neighborhood Awareness Night will be scheduled in the near future by the petition's initiators. Keep an eye out for their flyer. They want your input to help make Society Hill one of the safer neighborhoods in the region.



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SECOND CHANCE

*As a community
which shares these
national
treasures, it is our
responsibility to
keep this visible
history alive for
future
generations.*

With the passing of the late, unlamented real estate speculator and vandal, Sam Rappaport, SHCA preservationists see a tremendous opportunity to restore another bit of our neighborhood's glorious history.

Victims of Rappaport's ownership and neglect were two magnificent townhouses (712 and 714) on the south side of Walnut St., which, along with the adjacent property, were once the headquarters of the now-defunct PSFS. Rapport subsequently acquired them.

The townhouses, originally known as York Row, were built in a combination Georgian-Federal style in 1807—and the adjoining PSFS Italianate structure was built in 1868 (with several major additions and renovations in 1883, 1897 and 1930).

The townhouses, then in the city's outskirts, were built by Joseph Randall, carpenter, who also built portions of the Walnut St. Theatre just a block away in 1809-11.

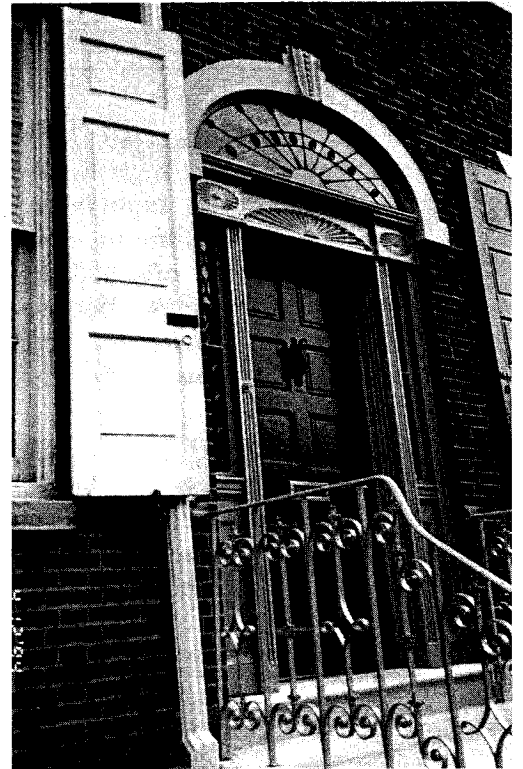
The fanlights above the 1807 townhouse doorways are original and signified the affluence of the occupants. Similar ones are to be seen on many Fourth St. houses. In one of them—429—lived James Madison, soon to be the nation's fourth president.

Hard days would soon face even the more affluent occupants of Philadelphia townhouses. The War of 1812 and the fear of re-occupation by the British loomed. Then, in 1816, an Indonesian volcano, Tamora, exploded and temporarily enveloped the earth with a layer of ashes. Snowfall hit the city in June and July.

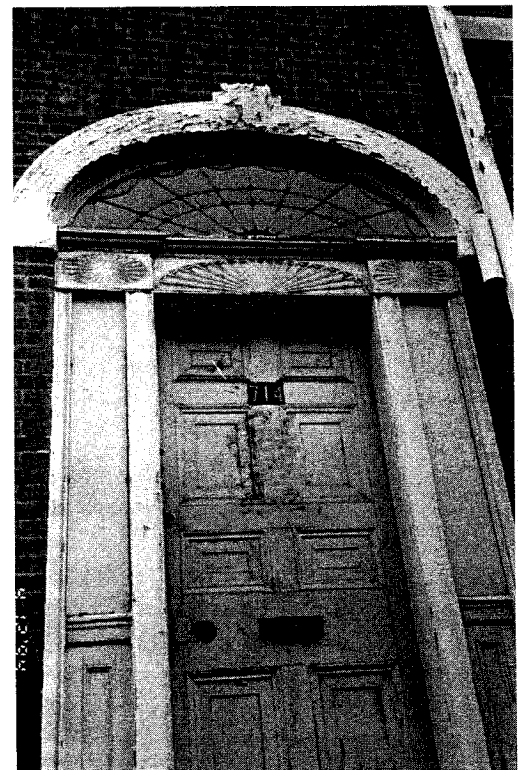
As a community which shares these national treasures, it is our responsibility to keep this visible history alive for future generations.

—Matt DeJulio

Before Rappaport



After Rappaport



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— BEN FRANKLIN

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One bedroom, one bath, south view, with terrace.....\$72,500
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