

SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

Newsletter of the Society Hill Civic Association
Issued October 1, 1997

"Our parks are not inheritances from our parents but loans from our children!"

— Seen on a T-Shirt along the Botanic Trail

Parks, the environment, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the American Way of Life, our treasure of architecture, literature, art, music — truly anything of value we must preserve and protect for future generations. This issue of THE REPORTER wants to focus on Preservation and Quality of Life concerns.

Reprinted here is a letter from Bernice Hamel, Vice President of the Society Hill Civic Association and Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee. Bernice is a founder and president of the Head House Conservancy, which saved that building from deterioration several years ago.

Our beautiful city has its economic future tied to the tourist industry. But some city officials do not seem to recognize the difference between a zircon and a diamond. We have acres of diamonds at our door — the genuine article, the real McCoy. They must be preserved, and the time to fight is now. We want tourists who can appreciate the real thing, who do not want a reproduction like Williamsburg or the ersatz experience of Euro-Disney. This is where we live and it has the very personal and private sacredness of home, but it is also our legacy to leave to all future generations and share with the world.

Editor's note: Michael Karp, Republican but generous Rendell supporter, wants to add a three-car garage to an architecturally significant home at 245 S. 17th St., demolishing half the facade in an historically certified neighborhood and creating the dangerous situation of having someone backing out of a garage onto a narrow and busy artery of traffic in Center City.

Dear Mayor Rendell and Members of the L&I Review Board:

The community of Society Hill has been seeking protection of its infrastructure under Philadelphia's Historical Preservation ordinance for many years. We applauded the fact that the Rittenhouse-Fitler Square area became the first such historical district, and we have been looking forward to beginning the process of becoming the city's second officially designated historical neighborhood.

Therefore, we were quite disturbed by the recent decision made by the Historical Commission, against the recommendations and advice of its own Architectural Committee and against the recommendation of the City's Planning Commission, which would allow a requested facade modification at 245 S. 17th Street.

There has been much written in the press about this unfortunate decision. This, we believe, does not bode well for trust in our city government or for the other pending historic districts in the city. We ask: Why go through the complex and costly process of becoming an Historic District — expecting some level of maintenance and care of its historically certified buildings — when, in fact, such preservation efforts can be undermined due to the whim of a property owner with political or financial influence? We believe the action taken by the Historical Commission undermines the entire meaning of this historical ordinance. In addition, we are also particularly concerned that the requested curb cut allowing cars to back out onto the busy and narrow S. 17th Street would interfere with the flow of traffic and become an accident waiting to happen.

We hope the recent decision on the part of the Commission will be reversed so as to protect the one resource our city is so proud of — its preserved historical buildings and wonderful streetscapes — which, needless to say, are our city's unique feature and tourist attraction. To allow this ill-advised decision to go forward and destroy the facade of 245 for the convenience of a garage when there are several commercial garages in the area would set a dangerous precedent — making a sham out of a law that we citizens had relied upon.

— Bernice T. Hamel

Groups to join for the fight:

The Society Hill Civic Association's
Historic Preservation Committee – 629-1288

Next meeting is Thursday, October 9, 7:30 PM,
at The Physick House, 321 S. 4th St.

The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia – 546-1146

The Foundation for Architecture – 569-3187

The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks – 925-2251

Mark Your Calendar

**Ed Bacon,
City Planner,
speaks**

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 8 PM

**Down Town Club
6th & Chestnut Sts.**

(Entrance on 6th)

See story on page 14.

Here Comes the Judge!

Saturday, July 19, saw the first Night Court session dealing with "nuisance crimes" in this area. Held at the Justice Center from 11 PM until the early hours of Sunday morning, forty arrests were quickly dealt with by Judge Seamus McCaffery. A few thousand dollars in fines were handed down by the judge but, more important, the word was out that if you make trouble on or around South Street on Saturday nights, you *will* pay for it Sunday morning.

Night court is not new to Philadelphia. Begun in May, 1996 as an experiment, it has been an effective tool to handle late-night rowdiness in many parts of the city. The crimes are what Judge McCaffery calls "quality of life" crimes, including: curfew violations by juveniles; underage drinking; obstruction of the highway; public drinking; and public urination. It also includes excessively-loud boom-boxes, which are often the subject of competition to determine who has the loudest. McCaffery told one defendant that he'd won his particular competition and fined him \$147.50!

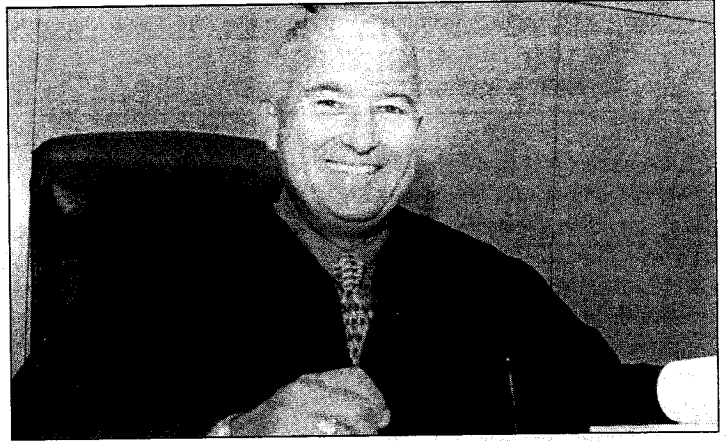
Defendants, some accompanied by parents, receive prompt review of their cases. McCaffery will also fine parents if they knowingly—and illegally—permit their kids to be out on the streets past the midnight curfew. One woman was given 200 hours of community service when her three young children, ages 8 to 13, were out on the street while she was "asleep."

70% of the arrests involve non-residents of Philadelphia, according to the judge's preliminary statistics

Why so tough? There are too many rules going unpunished, out-of-line behavior, too much disorderly conduct and harassment of decent people, according to McCaffery, who insists the only way to deal with it is to put pressure on. "We cannot let the abnormal become the normal," he adds. Interestingly, 70% of the arrests involve non-residents of Philadelphia, according to the judge's preliminary statistics.

McCaffery, a Major in the Air Force Reserve, ex-Marine, ex-cop and no-nonsense advocate of justice, is one of seventeen judges who hold night-court sessions in the city. He's also the toughest. By August 9, three more night courts had been held: July 26 (103 arrests); August 2 (75 arrests); August 9 (48 arrests). Judge McCaffery dealt with the 103 arrests for the second night court between 10PM-5:30AM, exhausting defendants, family members, public defenders, town watch residents and on-lookers.

Night court was one of the solutions the South Street HeadHouse District was seeking. Steve Kujolic, Chairman of the District's Board and owner of J-Brite Cleaners, wanted to combat the increasing amount of late-night problems in the area. "It not only offends residents but keeps law-abiding visitors away... it's a real quality-of-life issue for everyone here. And most of these crimes lead to other, more serious problems."



Judge Seamus P. McCaffery presides over a real Night Court.

Photo Credit: Julia Lehman, City Paper

Jon Foy, of Bridget Foy's South Street Grill and head of the District's Public Safety Committee, rode with the local police until 3AM one night and saw first-hand how the process works. Once arrested, the defendants are taken to a district police station, recently at 11th and Wharton, and put in a cell until called before the judge. As a precaution, belts and shoelaces are removed. Additional steps are taken to ensure appropriate treatment of juveniles during the process. Dr. Marvin E. Wolfgang, a professor of criminology at the University of Pennsylvania, has studied juvenile delinquency in Philadelphia and believes the night courts could have a positive effect because "a juvenile gets the impression that if I'm picked up, nothing is going to happen to me."

While the future of night courts is uncertain, if people like Judge McCaffery, Councilmen Jim Kenney and Rick Mariano, who introduced the Parental Responsibility Act, have their way, the crackdown on crime will continue. There is talk of bail commissioners being permitted to hear summary offenses, federal funds for lawyers to serve as judges *pro tempore* in neighborhoods, as McCaffery says, to "saturate the city with law and order, to help volunteers and other people who care about Philadelphia."

—William Hawkins

Homeless car needs shelter.

Professional couple in 100 block of Pine St. seeks long-term parking as nearby as possible.

Call 735-1908.



In Memoriam

Maureen Murdoch, first president of the pioneer Society Hill Area Residents Association (SHARA), passed away July 14, 1997 at Rancho Vista, California, at the age of 92. Maureen was the daughter of naval engineer William Murdoch of Belfast, North Ireland, who finally brought his family over here as his business with the Philadelphia Naval Yard continued. Maureen, educated at Belfast Academy, became a writer for the N.W. Ayer advertising agency on Washington Square. She was one of the earliest of the new breed of settlers on the Hill, buying and restoring the Joseph Wetherill House (built 1811) at 233 Delancey Street.

SHARA was organized in 1957 by residents "to make and keep Society Hill a safe, attractive and friendly place in which to live and work." Maureen was involved in all the preservation activities, and there were lots of battles to be fought.

In the words of Charlie Peterson, neighbor since 1952 and first staff architect for Independence Hall, "The Society Hill movement began in the early 50's by private citizens and eventually spread all the way to the banks of the Schuylkill. We have to thank Maureen Murdoch for her leadership. As president of SHARA she worked hard to promote appreciation for the neighborhood's architecture during the threat of Urban Renewal. Few today remember the long campaign to save so many valuable houses ignored by all our City Planners who called our area *Washington Square East*."

Maureen moved to Nantucket to care for an invalid sister, Isabel. At Isabel's death, she moved to Oceanside, California to be with her other sister, Consuelo V. Roy. For those who want to write, Charlie has Consuelo's address.

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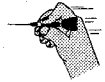
CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOMED

Next Deadline: October 18

Mail contributions to above address
Fax to (215) 925-0877
or E-mail to: hamelbt@aol.com



DARTS & LAURELS



Henri Rousseau Dart - To **Tony DePaul and Sons** for turning the neighborhood into an asphalt jungle during the *Welcome, America* Celebrations! Hopefully they have done an excellent and well needed overhaul of our streets, but what bird-brained project planner scheduled it for the biggest tourist week of the summer in the most historic area — taking out blocks of street parking with no back-up plan?

Edvard Munch Dart - It is too much to expect the anguish of *The Cry*, but who *were* those people who continued nosing after that poor soul committed suicide in the lobby of the Sheraton Hotel? And who were those shoppers at the SuperFresh who checked out around the body of the guy who came in to “rescue” his buddy, handcuffed by the guard to the counter for alleged shoplifting? When the checked-out hoodlum slashed the face of the store security guard with the knife, he may have gotten his just desserts, but it would have made me lose mine. What wine do you order with blood and guts? Maybe the new slogan for Society Hill should be, “Pass the pâté, please.”

Warhol Laurel - To all those wonderful neighbors who came out to paint the Franklin Lamps on that warm Saturday morning, July 19. We think Andy would have appreciated the constant repetition of the same form and color up and down the streets. If you see them, thank **Dale and Lee**

Truscott, Matt DeJulio, Mel Buckman, Norman Tissian, a mystery woman from 7th Street, Perry Whyte, Michael Czeredarczuk, Richard Bost, Tom Moore, and Chris Clark, who is thinking of expanding into fire hydrants. They all worked together for the good of the neighborhood although many are bitterly divided on the Cafe at the Shambles issue. So double laurels all around.

Mondrian Dart - to the Streets Department for those garish white lines marking the crosswalks. Peevishly, we admit traffic is moving better in morning rush hour now that Spruce is marked clearly for **two** lanes of traffic - so a grudging laurel for showing some moronic drivers the way.


Van Gogh Laurel - to **Sgt. Bob Mc Carthy** who spotted the potted planters from the HeadHouse in front of some South Philadelphia punk's home. After an earful from Sgt. Bob, the punk returned the planters. Punk, next year try sunflowers: they're cheap, grow like weeds, and you can eat the seeds even if you can't paint a lick.

Dilly Dali Dart - to me for losing that *Letter to the Editor* from the resident at the Hopkinson House, who painted such a pathetic portrait of himself, laid up after a fall in Washington Square on those perilous pavers. He was taking one of our contributors to task for her opinions in an article on the plans to restore the Square. Maybe *karma*, maybe not, but when I went to give it to our writer, she was also laid up after a fall — that happened in a private garden on a two inch step. Stuff happens everywhere and anywhere and at anytime, **so be careful out there**. Doctor, (there is no end to the irony of this story) please keep in touch.


Clean Canvas Laurel - to **Councilman Frank DiCicco** for keeping his word and getting all the graffiti cleared off the site for the Tun Tavern. However, we know blank walls - especially on vacant lots - attract vandals. Any creative ideas for using the space?

Ingres Outré Dart - to **Eddie Robinson**, who usually strives for sartorial splendor. A fashion cop reported he was not a sight for sore eyes, but an eyesore as he performed his duties as chair of liquor control by photographing TGIF's creeping cafe invasion of sidewalk space. But I'm not sure even Eddie's outfit could put our neighbors or tourists off their feed given what's been happening. Now that you know we have fashion cops, please pick your outfit for Clean Up Day carefully. The style squad will be out in full force. Maybe something in a smoky soot color with matching straw broom or any item in that palette.


Landscape Laurels - to all those neighbors who have painted, pointed, caulked, repaired, reshuttered, polished, planted, watered, pruned, scrubbed, swept, picked up and generally taken care of their properties or paid to have it done. We appreciate it and know we see the exteriors of your homes more often than you do. For those who have neglected their properties, let this be a gentle reminder! The next dart could be carefully aimed at you.




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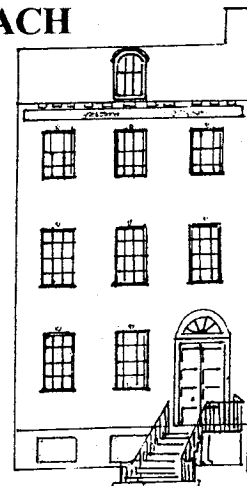
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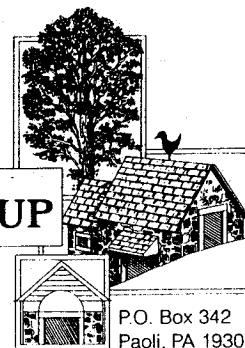
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President's Corner

A balmy evening in a large city. An historic plaza in a crowded area. We sit at an outdoor cafe sipping wine. A gypsy violinist entertains us. The cafe is full and many strollers are on the street. Men in uniform with pillbox caps patrol the area, enforcing the laws against noise, littering and other nuisance crimes. Beggars and street sleepers are made to move on. Tour buses discharge their passengers at a restaurant and stay parked with their engines running. A policeman tells them to move on and they do. The surrounding streets have light traffic — only persons living in the quarter or having business there are allowed. Parking is restricted to residents. Public facilities abound for natural needs.

I indulge this dream on the eve of a trip to France, imagining what the sidewalk cafe scene is like in Paris. Could we have the same thing here? And if we could, would we have the same objections to the proposed use of HeadHouse Square for an outdoor cafe? And if all that were promised, would the neighbors believe it? My answers to these questions are yes—yes—and probably no.

My view of the basic grievances of the neighbors close by HeadHouse Square is that they would have little if any objection to the outdoor cafe if all these conditions were to exist. And there is no reason that they cannot. Policemen enforcing the laws is not a new idea — just rarely seen with respect to the quality of life laws in Philadelphia.

Paris, London, and many other large cities have conveniences for the public. Cities in Italy and elsewhere forbid tour buses from clogging the busy streets while waiting for passengers to return. And Florence and Boston, among others, limit parking to district residents. Closing the streets altogether to outsiders? It happens all the time in Philadel-

phia. Just try to get into the streets north of Veterans Stadium when there is an event there.

But would our residents believe promises of such conditions? Hardly. The promise of public toilet facilities has gone unfulfilled for years, except for the dingy installation currently at Second and South. Enforcement of quality of life laws outside the South Street corridor is virtually non-existent, and there is no real promise of any improvement. So far as limiting traffic and parking are concerned, the City fathers are more interested in pumping more people here, without any expressed desire to protect the nearby residents from the excesses of their visitors.

It is easy for Mayor Rendell to put it all down to NIMBYs and BANANAs. He should try the harder task of keeping the neighborhoods tranquil and secure at the same time as he encourages additional business activity a stone's throw away. If he would make that effort, I believe he would be pleasantly surprised at the change of attitudes of many of the neighbors.

— Mel Buckman

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Committee Updates

Continued from page 7



Center City Services District Street Sweeping Crew and trainees on August 25th Clean Up

bished by Patti LaBelle at 415 South Second Street. For information about theatre times and prices, call 925-3769.

SHCA plans a fundraiser at this new venue. Matt DeJulio and Nancy Hallman are chairing the event with details to follow.

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for more information!



A. Library Committee
The committee has a new name, *The Philadelphia Coalition for*
the Arts. Their mission is to garner political support to es-
tablish a new branch east of Broad Street. The coalition includes
the Green Village Neighbors Association, Washington
Neighborhood Association, Old City Civic Association, and, of course,
the Center City Library Association. Liza Seltzer is spearheading SHCA's ef-

Committee Updates

Zoning Matters

Outdoor Cafe at the HeadHouse Shambles

Michael Harwood of the Dickens Inn has applied for a regular liquor license, not the special outdoor license with a two-year limit as previously reported. After the hearing, the executive committee of SHCA met on whether to join an *ad hoc* coalition of South Street Neighbors, Pine Street Neighbors and Blackwell Court/Stampers Street Neighbors in legal actions to oppose granting the license. The executive committee decided to reopen communications with Harwood on the three major concerns about the cafe: toilet facilities and sanitation, noise, and security. A letter signed by Michael Harwood addressing these concerns was received. The Board of Directors at their meeting on Wednesday, September 17, voted not to join the coalition at this time, but to pursue getting a legally binding covenant with Harwood. Norman Tissian is heading the committee.

This proposal has been an emotionally charged and highly divisive issue. Please take the time to fill out the survey on this page so the board can get a feel for the desires of the neighborhood. Please include your name and/or address to eliminate concerns about ballot stuffing.

Simon DeBartolo Entertainment Complex at Penn's Landing

Councilman Frank DiCicco continues to hold meetings with all the community representatives about this mega-project. Stan Eckstut presented preliminary sketches on August 13 to general enthusiasm. Simon DeBartolo has excellent financial resources and an impressive roster of developments. Other developers have joined the feeding frenzy as publicly held REITs flood the market with money for commercial projects. SHCA will host a meeting for the general membership next year where the developers will be asked to present their plans. In addition, a representative of the Botanic Trail will also be asked to speak as another viewpoint on the development of a riverfront.

Hyatt Hotel at Penn's Landing

Mel Shralow, counsel for the Society Hill Towers, filed suit this July in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania against HUD, the City of Philadelphia

and others challenging the use of \$10 million of HUD funds to build the hotel. They allege the City and HUD have failed to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, and failed to do an adequate environmental impact study. This is the second lawsuit brought by the Towers. The SHCA board was divided evenly on the issue to support or oppose this development.

Society Hill Club

Next hearing for the safety issues, particularly in regard to the leaking pool, are scheduled for October 29. By that time Hal Wheeler of Wheeler Development should have title. He plans on leasing the property to a health club facility.

Tun Tavern

The directors asked Councilman DiCicco, who

attended the board meeting, to review the lease that the Tun Tavern Association, a non-profit fundraising group made up of former marines but not officially tied to the Marine Corps., has with the City. The property at Spruce and Front Streets continues to attract homeless people and graffitists. The Councilman did get the area cleaned up, but that is only a temporary fix. The lot needs development. The marines have had ample time to do something.

Theatre at NewMarket

NewMarket Cabaret Theatre will re-open October 15, 1997 to January 1998. Producer Philip Roger Roy will present "Family Secrets," an off-Broadway comedy with Alice Manning of *The Guiding Light*. Roy, former operator of Grendel's Lair and producer of *Grandma Sylvia's Funeral*, moves into the space refur-

Continued on page 8

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Continued from page 7



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Noteworthy Neighbors

James Bennett Straw

Society Hill is unique as an urban enclave, says architect and local resident James Bennett Straw. "It's an extraordinary collection of America's domestic architecture dating back to the 1600's - and you can't find that anywhere else in the country."

Jim Straw is well-placed to make that assertion. A graduate in urban design from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, he worked all over the country developing new town projects in such far-flung spots as Radisson in Syracuse and Peach Tree City in Atlanta. He even spent a couple of years in Egypt, creating a new town - Sadat City - half-way between Cairo and Alexandria.

Even though he acquired a master's degree in urban design at Columbia, Jim turned his attention increasingly to architecture, moving to the prestigious Philadelphia firm David A. Crane and Partners in the early '70's. In architectural practices, principals and partners come and go. So after few years, Jim says, "I became an 'and,' and the firm of Kise, Franks & Straw evolved." With the imminent departure of Philip Franks, the new firm of Kise, Straw and Kolodner with all forty-five employees will move into the Fidelity Building.

The major focus of the firm now is the \$30 million restoration of and additions to the Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts, at the impressive but derelict Ridgway Library on Broad Street. The project will be completed next month.

The original 45,000 square foot Greek neo-classical building has been renovated, and a new structure, three times the size of the original, grafted on. The challenge, says Jim, was to make the new edifice historically compatible with the original - without simply duplicating it. Thus, the new structure picks up aspects of the refurbished one to make for a seamless whole.

In fact, that is what the firm does best, according to Jim. Employing in-house architectural historians has led to a corporate commitment to developing and nurturing an "historic preservation practice," ensuring that projects such as the Performing Arts are faithful to their history even as they assume modern dress. Or, as Jim puts it, "We say the building is respectful of its historical antecedents, but in a contemporary vernacular."

Another project in this vein was the \$60

Continued on page 10



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Noteworthy Neighbors

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Jim believes that Society Hill has exhibited "genuine care" in the restoration of most of its older buildings, and that it offers its residents a real sense of community.

Jim, a pepper-and-salt haired, fifty-one year old with horn-rimmed glasses and an earnestly engaging manner, has lived with his wife, Keith, an interior designer, on the one hundred block of Spruce Street since 1978 when they first married.

Childless, the couple have taken the resources, energy and finance normally expended on children and focused them on community activity. He is an elder at Old Pine Street Church, works for the Church's community center, serves on the boards of the Philadelphia Opera Company, the Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, the Samuel S. Fleisher Art Memorial and the Philadelphia Flower Show.

He is also a vice president at the Union League as well as being a very serious amateur flutist. Wife Keith, besides being an interior decorator and member of the Physick House management committee, owns an espresso bar in the Bellevue Hotel.

Of Philadelphia architecture in general, Jim expresses particular enthusiasm for City Hall, the Bell Atlantic building, the Academy of Music, Liberty Place, the Academy of Fine Arts and the Four Seasons Hotel and its Logan Square environs.

Penn's Landing? What people don't realize, he says, is that Penn's Landing was actually designed for development. The fact that nothing has been built there for twenty years has given rise to the idea that it's a community open space resource.

He muses that if the Benjamin Franklin Bridge were about to be built, people would object because it would obstruct their view of the upper reaches of the Delaware River. Even so, he adds, it's regrettable that the high-rise part of the development hasn't been concentrated at the foot of Market Street ... where it was originally supposed to be.

- David Woods

Rein in the Carriage Trade!

This fall City Council will review changes to the current rules and regulations that govern the city's carriage horse industry. Hearings were held by Council's Licenses & Inspections Committee in May, during which a variety of issues were raised.

Of concern to many residents of Society Hill are the lack of enforcement of the current regulations, the odor issue, as well as the working conditions of the horses, particularly in the hot, humid temperatures.

Residents have put up with carriages traveling illegally and in the wrong direction on their side streets, the inevitable clean-up of mess, plus traffic problems and near-accidents. Some of the complaints are identical to those that prompted a law suit by Society Hill residents ten years ago.

Following are some of the recommendations submitted to Council:

- Enforce current and proposed regulations, as well as fine for violations (both enforcement and fines appear to be completely ignored);
Prohibit passengers from sitting alongside driver (children have been seen holding horses' reins in traffic);
Improve working conditions for horses:

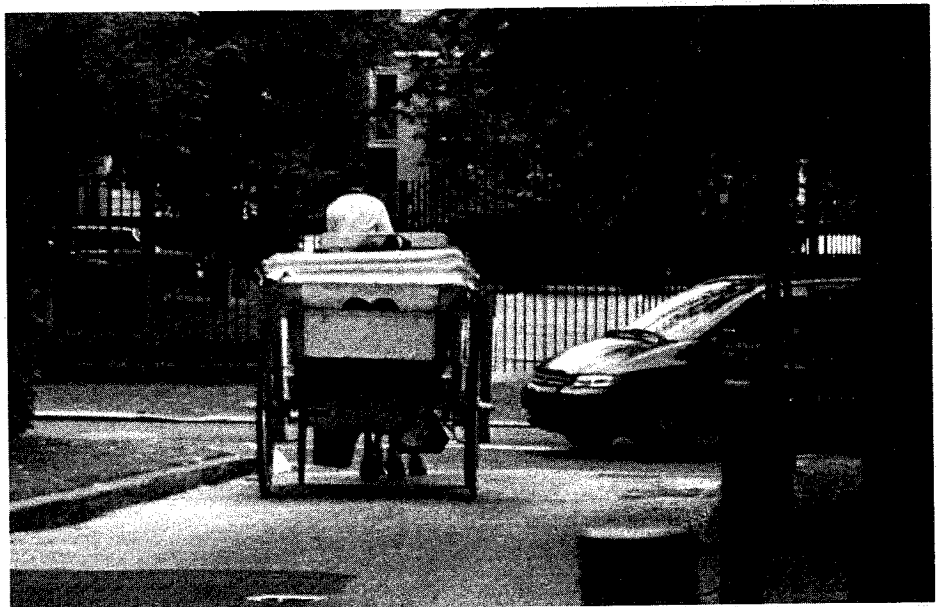
Adopt a Heat Index threshold of 94 when horses are sent back to the stables, instead of the current 94-degree temperature, which does not allow for humidity;

Reduce hours worked from a maximum of 10 to 6 or 8; and

Improve care with physical exams of horses and stables by a qualified veterinarian twice a year.

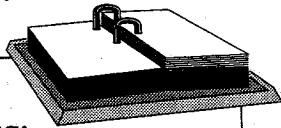
To voice an opinion on this issue, contact as many members of City Council as possible, especially: Frank DiCicco, district representative (686-3458/fax 686-1931); James Kenney (686-3450/fax 686-2013); Council President John Street (686-3442/fax 563-3162); Frank Rizzo (686-3440/fax 686-1929); Marian Tasco (686-3454/fax 686-1938). Also, inform local police and Bob Pili at L&I (686-2487) of any violations.

For additional information on this issue, call William Hawkins at 592-8734.



Carriages add an old world ambience to the neighborhood, but just like bikers, skateboarders, rollerbladers, and motorists, they have to obey the rules of the road. Not only is the carriage going the wrong way, but it is causing a car to back out onto a major roadway. That's not the horse's fault.

Mark Your Calendar!



Next SHCA

General Membership Meeting:

The Down Town Club
6th & Chestnut Streets (entrance on 6th Street)

Wednesday, October 15

7:30 PM, Refreshments
8:00 PM Program
Edmund Bacon, Speaker
Police Capt. Brian Korn will be introduced.
6:30 Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, October 4, 11 AM to 3 PM

300 Block of Delancey Street
Three Bears Park Fall Festival
(Rain Date: October 5)
Kids Activities, Food, Bake Sale, Silent Auction
Proceeds support the park maintenance.
Information: Jody Sageman at 238-1481

Saturday, October 4

Classical Vespers Series at Old Pine Church starts 5 PM
412 Pine Street, Information: 925-8051

Thursday, October 9, 7:30 PM

Historic Preservation Committee Meeting
The Physick House, 321 S. 4th St.
RSVP 629-1288

Sunday, October 12, 1 to 4 PM

Friends of Old Christ Church Preservation Trust, Open to All
2nd and Market Streets
Reception, Refreshments (Wine, Beer, Sausage)
Information: Roger Hall at 922-1695

Tuesday, October 14, 7 PM

Committee on Homelessness Meeting, 224 Locust Street
RSVP 625-9849

Wednesday, October 29, 6 to 8 PM

Police Mini-Station Celebrates 5 Years, 917-A South Street
Good food & beverages from local restaurant
Donations appreciated.

October is Edgar Allan Poe Month

Call the Park Service at 597-0060 for dates and times
Activities Free at the Poe House, 532 N. 7th Street, Scare the Kids!

Saturday, November 22, 7:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Clean Up Day, Rain or Shine!
Look for the flier in your mailbox.

Town Watch Dates

Meet Under the Shambles at Second & Pine Streets
Amble & Ramble with Your Neighbors
Tuesday, October 14, 7 to 8:30 PM
Thursday, October 30, 7:30 to 9:30 PM
Monday, November 10, 7 to 8:30 PM
Friday, November 21, 8 to 9:30 PM
Saturday, December 6, 8 to 9:30 PM
Tuesday, December 16, 7 to 8:30 PM

Information:
Barbara Bagileo
629-1288

SHCA Action Phone Numbers

Clip and save for reference:

EMERGENCY **911**
Sixth Street Police Station 686-3060
South Street Police Mini Station 922-6706

MUNICIPAL

Anti-Graffiti Network Hotline 685-9901
Police Anti-Graffiti Hotline 685-1174
City Hall 686-1776
Mayor's Office for Information (complaints) 686-3000
Fairmount Park Commission (trees) 685-1835
Historical Commission (Dr. R. Tyler) 686-4543
Illegal Dumping & Litter Enforcement (Sanitation) 686-3082
Parking Authority Enforcement (9 am - 5pm) 693-9600
(evenings & weekends) 683-9773
Pennsylvania SPCA (animal control) 426-6300
Recycling Office 685-1779
Recycling Hotline 685-7329
Resident Parking Permit 683-9730/9731/9732
Sanitation - Rubbish Removal 685-1770/1771
Streets - Lights 686-5516/5517
Repair & Potholes 686-5507/5508
Trash Collection/Bulk Trash Pick-up 686-5560
Water Inlet Cleaning (storm drains) 685-6300

POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES

Frank DiCicco (City Council District #1) 686-3458
W. Curtis Thomas (State Rep.) 232-1210
Vincent J. Fumo (State Sen.) 468-3866
Thomas M. Foglietta (U.S. Rep.) 925-6840
Robert Borski (U.S. Rep.) 335-3355
Arlen Specter (U.S. Sen.) 597-7200
Rick Santorum (U.S. Sen.) 864-6900

COMMUNITY

Society Hill Civic Association/Town Watch 629-1288
South Street Headhouse District 413-3713

HOMELESS INTERVENTION

Kathy Rose at Hall Mercer (in the neighborhood) 829-3461
Will O'Brien (outside the neighborhood) 232-7272



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- 415 Spruce** Sophis floor plan, sep guest quarters, elevator, 2 decks, 2 CAR GARAGE, FDR, 5BR, adn patio, state of art Kitchen \$1,375,000.
- 426 Pine** Wonderful 4E **SOLD** g quarters, 2c GARAGE \$539,000.
- 274 S. 3rd** Orig features, hi ceil, beaut fps, Libr, nice gdn \$425,000.
- 402 S. Front** Contemp 3BR, 3.5b, gdn, deck, 2 car PKG avail \$395,000.
- 327 S. 2nd Street** 3BR, 2.5b, gdn, deck, PARKING! \$295,000.
- 237 Spruce** Fab location, 4br. 2.5b, great gdn, PKG \$279,000.
- 131 Pine Street** Lc **SOLD** R, 2.5 baths, garden, deck \$250,000.
- 236 Stamper** LR/fp, DR, fab interior gdn, 2BR, 2b, c/a, PKG \$235,000.
- 536 Lombard** Contemp 3BR, den, gdn, deck, GARAGE \$219,000.
- 410 Lombard** Exceptional space, 4BR, c/a, PKG \$189,000.
- 639 Addison** Large 3BR, 2.5b, fp, garden, wood flrs \$173,000.
- 535 Delancey** Location, Location! Shell w/garden \$169,900.
- 700 Locust** Spectac 2BR, 2b. 12' ceilings, PKG. Mint! \$159,000
- Hopkinson House** 1BR **SOLD** ng Square. Upgraded. \$120,000.
- 636 Panama** Fab 2BR, 1.5b carria **SOLD** gdn, c/a \$119,000.
- 410 S. 7th** 2BR, wd flrs, great east windows, jst painted \$105,000.
- Independence Pl** Great **SOLD** R, balcony South exp \$115,000.

ALSO SOLD in SOCIETY HILL! -1997!

(Midtown has participated in the sale this year of each-either Listed, Sold, or Listed and Sold)

- 500 Addison Court
- 307 S. 3rd Street
- 504 Addison Court
- 512 Addison Street
- 518 Delancey Street
- 527 Delancet
- 644 Pin
- 247 ...'s Way
- 25 ... Joseph's Way
- 26 ... Joseph's Way
- 281 Locust Street
- 261 S. 3rd Street
- 248 S. 3rd Street
- 279 S. 4th Street
- 319 S. 6th Street
- 16 St. James Court

- Independence Pl #2402
- Independence Pl #2502
- Independence Pl #304F
- 109 B Lombard Street
- 502 Addison
- 500 Pine
- 527 ... Street
- 50 ... ey Street
- 525 ... Spruce Street
- Pier 3, #330
- 510 Delancey Street
- 536 Delancey Street
- 125 Elfreth's Alley
- 245 Delancey Street
- 222 Delancey Street
- 315 Spruce Street
- 318 St. James Street
- 1 Willings Alley

- Hopkinson House, #817
- Hopkinson House, #115
- Soc Hill Towers, #10C
- 441 Gaskill
- 226 Locust
- 234 ... et
- 10 ... rd Street
- 23 ... e Street
- 502 Pine Street
- 521 A Randolph Ct
- 518 S. Randolph Ct
- Soc Hill Towers #6A
- Soc Hill Towers #12E
- 261 S. 3rd Street
- 515 Spruce Street
- 308 Spruce Street

- 912 Spruce Street
- 413 Spruce Street, #6
- 627 Spruce Street
- 614 Spruce Street
- 267 St. ... Way
- 236 ... et
- 43 ... Street
- 5 ... ancock Court
- Soc Hill Towers, #9F
- Soc Hill Towers, #18H
- 130 Spruce, #29B
- 513 Spruce Street
- 238 Spruce Street
- 330 S. 3rd Street
- Soc Hill Towers, #20C



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Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur: The High Holidays

An explanation for non-Jews



The existence of diversity is meaningless without interaction. So for Christian and other non-Jewish neighbors who have had little social interaction with Jews, here is a brief explanation of what is going on.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the High Holidays, are the two most sacred observations in the Jewish tradition. Just like Christians who only show up at Easter or Christmas services, even not particularly religious Jews will go to Temple for these holidays.

This year, Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on Wednesday, October 1 and concludes at sundown on Friday, October 3. Yom Kippur begins at sundown on Friday, October 10 and concludes at sundown on Saturday, October 11. The ten days in between are known as the Days of Penitence. It is time to get the act together and return to God. Yom Kippur is like a communal act of contrition.

Rosh Hashanah is the New Year. Usually a big, festive meal for friends and family is held. Greeting cards are often sent. The blessing is

"L'shanah tovah tikatevu." A simple "Happy New Year" would be appropriate.

After sunset on Yom Kippur, there are twenty-four hours of prayer and fasting. Most families have a tradition of enjoying a "breaking of the fast" meal together with friends.

These are the BIG holidays, so just as for other religions' important holidays, don't expect Jews to be at work, school, or play. Don't plan activities or meetings where you want Jewish members to attend.

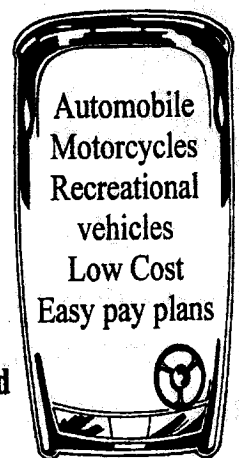
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Bringing Home Bacon



Edmund N. Bacon
will address the SHCA
meeting on
Wednesday, October 15

at

The Down Town Club
6th & Chestnut Streets
(entrance on 6th)

7:30 Refreshments
8:00 Program



The Society Hill Civic Association
would like to have a slogan.

Any ideas?

Bring them to the next meeting:
Wednesday, October 15 at 8:00
The Down Town Club

Edmund N. Bacon, architect, city planner, author and educator, will address the Wednesday, October 15, General Membership meeting at 8:00 PM at the Down Town Club.

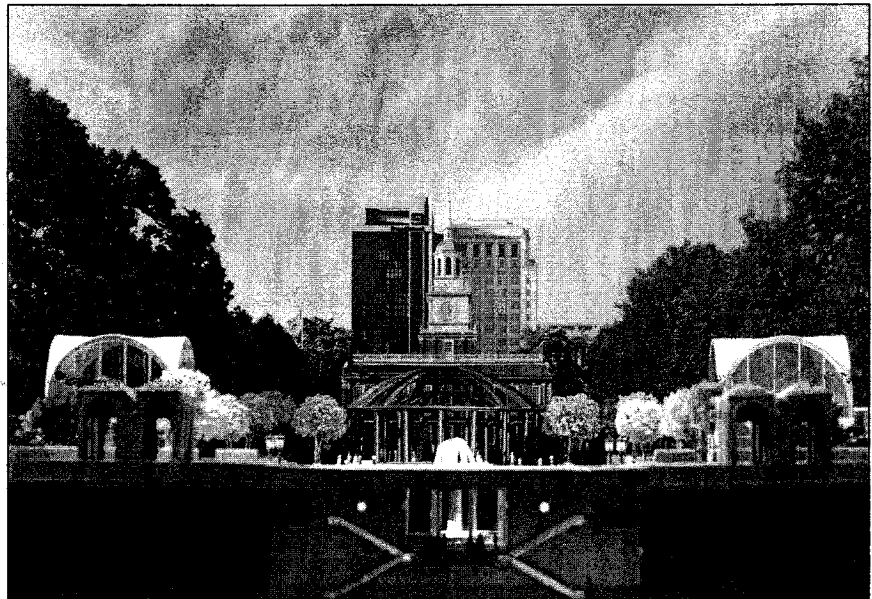
A native Philadelphian, Ed served as Executive Director of the City Planning Commission from 1949 until 1970. He instigated and presided over the destruction of the Chinese wall that opened up the Penn Center development, wrangled with officials over the development of an urban mall which became the Gallery, and oversaw much of the redevelopment of Society Hill. The silver ball over the compass at City Hall is another of his many gifts to the City.

Educated at Cornell in architecture and Cranbrook Academy of Art in city planning, he has worked from Beijing, China to Florence, Italy. Author of the book *Design of Cities* and film *Understanding Cities*, Ed is still hard at work. In his living room is a model for the Constitution Center, completely lighted and wired for sound.

Widowed now, he and his wife had raised six children in the city, several who have achieved international recognition in their fields. Come hear a giant in his field talk about his passion.

The new police captain for the Sixth Police District, Brian Korn, will also be introduced.

Refreshments will be available at 7:30 PM.



**Scale model of Ed Bacon's proposal for
the Constitution Center**

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These sales include:

- #'s 2, 3, 4 & 7 Blackwell Place, 426 Pine St.
- 222 Locust St., 709 Lombard St.
- 305½ Delancey, 249 S. 7th St.
- 604 Addison St., 249 and 254 S. 3rd St.

Properties currently available include:

- * 413 South 3rd Street, \$565,000. Outstanding corner Federal Townhouse with English conservatory and excellent views.
- * 99 Pine Street, \$625,000, at the corner of Front and Pine. A spectacular river front contemporary, 4/5 bedrooms, a custom designed townhouse.
- * A Society Hill Towers Penthouse at 210 Locust, \$450,000 with wonderful waterfront views.
- * 518 Spruce Street, \$895,000. A gracious, historically certified home with garden and 4-car parking.

Time is of the essence when selling real estate. The average time on the market for Izzy's last two sales was twelve days. Count on the experience that Izzy Sigman has gained to help you sell your home.

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★★★★★

JUST SOLD:

639 Pine St- SOLD in 21 Days! \$375,000
222 Delancey St- SOLD in 45 Days! \$339,900
504 Addison Ct- SOLD in 21 Days! \$289,900
205 Delancey St- SOLD in 10 Days! \$299,900
419 Spruce-\$299,900 303 Spruce-\$300,000
304 Lombard 1- \$145,000 627 Pine-\$345,000

★★★★★

NEW LISTINGS:

119 Elfreths Alley- Impeccable! 3 bdrm, 3.5 bath & fireplaces! Modern kitchen, tiered garden! Sitting room. Historical integrity! \$329,900
802 Pine St- Bright, dramatic 3000 sq.ft. 4 bdrm, 4.5 bath, 2 dens, 2 car parking! State of the Art kitchen. Cathedral ceiling. \$444,444
417 S. Perth St- (7th & Addison) Charming 2 bdrm, 1 bath, h/w floors, wood burning f/p, nice eat in kitchen, brick patio. Reduced \$125,900

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Project StreetSweeps Emergency Fund

Like this clean neighborhood?

Two months of sidewalk cleaning are left unfunded for 1997. This issue of THE REPORTER does not have a membership form. The 1998 membership drive will start shortly. The goal is 800 members to fund Project StreetSweeps completely for 1998.

In the meantime, please take the self-addressed envelope included in this issue and mail in a donation to keep the program going.

Make checks payable to the Society Hill Fund - Project StreetSweeps.

If the envelope is missing, mail to

The Society Hill Fund

c/o David Stevens

116 Delancey Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106

Contributions are tax deductible.

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Just got a computer, but not sure what to do with it?

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Watch for CityKids!

Next issue, CityKids will appear in this space, a new column for parents who are raising children in Society Hill.

In this column, we'll explore some of the things you can do with your children with all that extra time you have with them since you're not parked on the Schuylkill Expressway for an hour or more a day. We don't know of another forum for parents in Society Hill to learn about the many activities going on specifically for children, so we thought we'd try to fill that information gap.



For example, where can you take your children out for dinner on a weekend night? What are the best museums for children under the age of four? What neighborhood stores are friendliest when you show up with a stroller. When and where are concerts held especially for children?

You may know that these and other perks of urban living are out there for your children, but are you taking advantage of them? We'll try to make it easier for you to access the diverse resources for kids that are available within minutes of Society Hill.

From time to time we'll also use the column to discuss issues of special concern for parents of children under the age of ten. What do different Society Hill parents do about the school issue? What child care options for very young children exist in the neighborhood? What kinds of special safety precautions should parents who live in the city take? We'll interview parents who live in the city to get real solutions to these and other issues.

If you're a parent or a grandparent, or if you just like kid stuff, keep an eye on this column. If you have ideas to share with us or if there are specific topics or issues you'd like us to cover, just let us know. We can be reached at:

CityKids,
c/o The Society Hill Reporter
P.O. Box 3
Philadelphia, PA 19105

Phone 629-1288 or e-mail:
LizaNicker@aol.com

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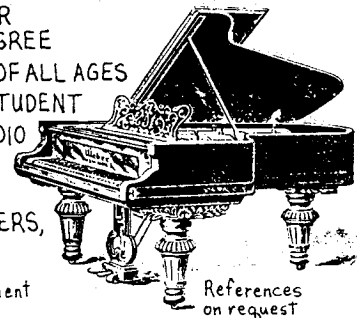
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Upcoming exhibition of new works by Philadelphia artist Burnell Yow!

Saturday October 25th – Friday November 21st
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Where Are You? You Are Here! But Where Is North?

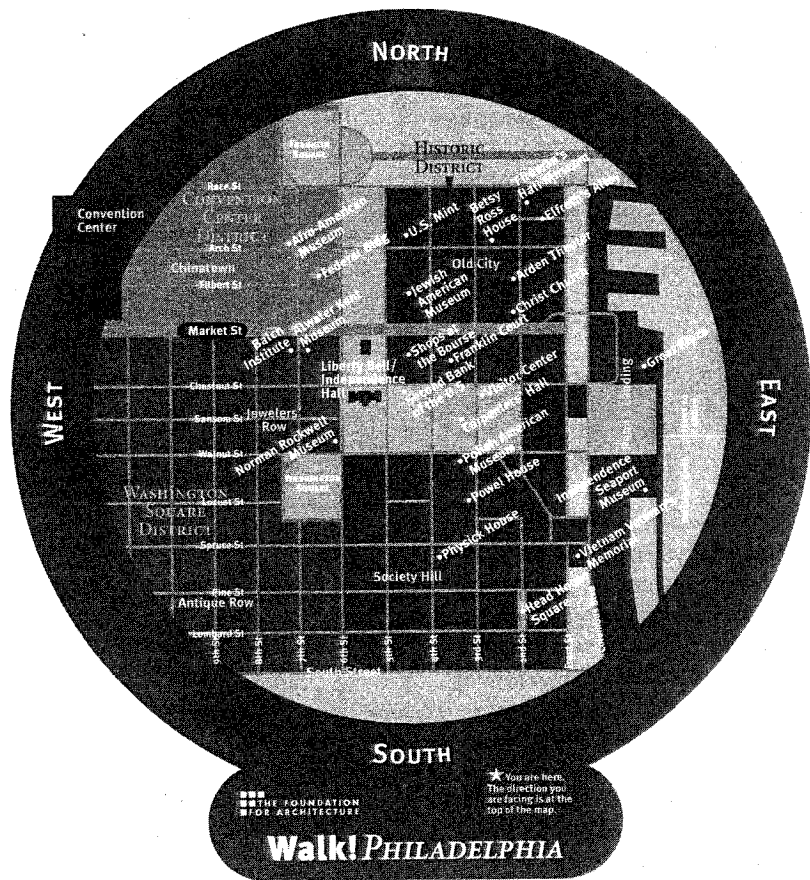
These colorful "You are Here" signs as shown on this page will direct pedestrians throughout the historic district. The most visible part of the *Walk! Philadelphia* program from the Foundation for Architecture, these and similar signs can be seen throughout Center City and the Art Museum area.

Installation in Society Hill will be Spring, 1998, just in time for the next big tourist season. Joel Katz Design Associates did this design, innovative because it directs the pedestrians from their viewpoint. Ever watch a tourist struggling with a visitor's map, trying to figure out which way is North and where they are in relationship to North?

Joel Katz Design Associates also created the new interpretative signs for the HeadHouse, which should be installed early in 1998.

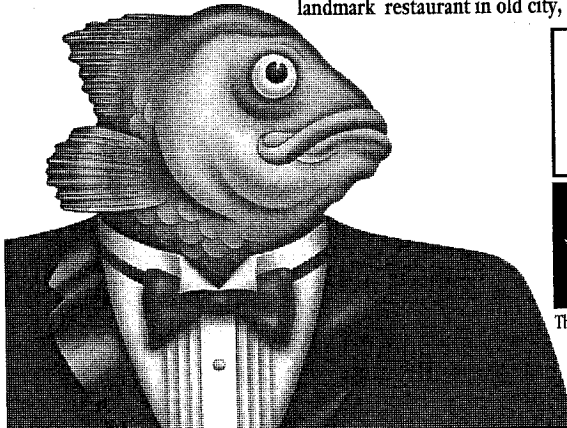
The Head House Conservancy provided the money and background information for these destination markers, which will welcome visitors to Society Hill and tell the story of the Head House and the Second Street market.

The one on the north side of the Shambles will tell the story of Society Hill while the South side will focus on Queen Village.



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Sunday, October 12
RAIN OR SHINE

1:00 P.M.

to

4:00 P.M.

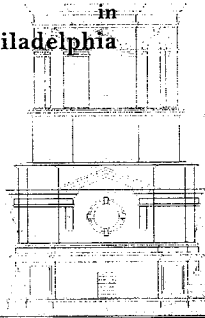
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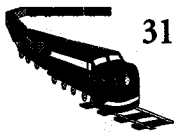
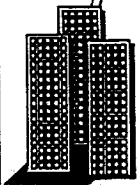
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One bedroom deluxe, southern expo-
 sure, 1,003 sq. ft. \$85,000

One bedroom high floor, Washington
 Square view, balcony, over 1,050
 sq. ft. \$102,500

Two bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, southeast view
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Independence Place

233-241 S. 6th Street

One bedroom, high floor, river view **SOLD** 789
 sq. ft. \$74,900

One bedroom, high floor, park view,
 balcony \$115,000

Three bedrooms, high floor with
 panoramic & River views, eat-in
 kitchen, customized closets, formal
 dining room \$419,900

Three bedroom with den, formal dining
 room, 2,594 sq. ft. \$425,000

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 ized, 1,963 sq. ft. \$365,000



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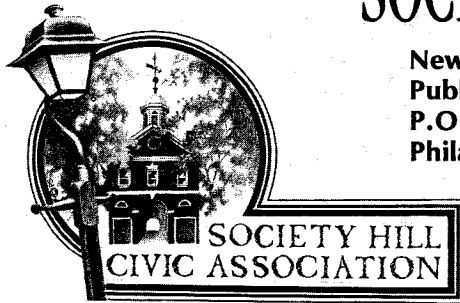
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