



Powelton Post

JANUARY 1962

"JUST US" WORK SESSION PLANNED AT POWEL SCHOOL

Committee reports, questions, and discussion will lend a town meeting flavor to Powelton Neighbors' monthly assembly in the POWEL SCHOOL, 36th and POWELTON, on MONDAY, JANUARY 8, at 8:00PM.

A variegated collection of shells, carefully identified and catalogued by Neighbors Randy Bye and Chris Marshall, will be displayed as PN's first hobby exhibit.

Bob Coleman will preside over the new year's first gathering. Come offer your talents in constructive brainstorming, renew old acquaintances, and meet new faces.



SALAD AND SONG SPARK POTLUCK

Crescendos of enthusiasm resounded from the walls of the Metropolitan Baptist Church, 35th and Baring, at high points of Powelton Neighbors' annual Potluck Supper on December 4.

The ingenious contributions of Neighbors with culinary gifts resulted in a wide assortment of delicious meats, salads, vegetables, pies, and miscellaneous food items, including several foreign dishes. A special program for children successfully entertained younger Village residents while adults participated in the evening's program after supper.

Spotlighted in the entertainment bill were folk singer Kenny Snipes, the Metropolitan Baptist choral group, and a vocal, enthusiastic audience. Kenny swung the night into gear with vibrant folk songs, including "John Henry." The choral group rendered energetic versions of four spirituals. Christmas carols from the lips of combined Neighbors flooded the church with musical sounds.

Children's books, puppets, and other items displayed for sale caught the attention of many parents hunting for stocking-fillers. Additional food ranging from spaghetti to fruitcake passed into possession of Neighbors as Diana Crawford conducted a sparkling after-supper sale at reduced prices.

Profile

"MISS O"

BY SARAH PARKER



In the December dusk over a cup of tea Hortense Oudesluys was persuaded to tell gaily the story of her life. It began in Baltimore in 1913 when an imaginative and adventurous mother took her only daughter from high school and set sail on a small boat, the Graf Waldersee. With another mother and daughter they landed in Boulogne so excited that Hortense and two new friends from shipboard walked arm in arm down the middle of the street. Carefree, light of heart, without schedule or itinerary, they made their leisurely way through Belgium and Holland to Dresden for Christmas and to Zuoz near St. Moritz with its "liege halle," pastry shops and tobogganing. There were long friendly weeks in Florence and journeyings to Venice, Rome, Naples, the Amalfi Drive and the Austrian Tyrol.

Nothing less than World War I a year later ended this idyll. From Cortina they hurried to Genoa to join the frantic struggle for passage home. In Baltimore they paused long enough for Hortense to finish high school; then across the continent to the San Francisco Exposition. In southern California they stayed for three years by the sea in Bluebird Cottage at La Jolla. There in her church kindergarten class Hortense found an interest which led to the first of her several careers.

For two years she studied at Los Angeles State Normal School and came to New York to graduate from the Ethical Culture Normal Training School. She taught kindergarten and first grade in three of the finest progressive schools - Miss Beard's at Orange, Shady Hill in Boston and the Country Day School in Rye. Drafted from this by her mother's illadvised attempt to run a tearoom in Bronxville, she was in time diverted to very different work for the Travelers Aid in Grand Central Station and at Ellis Island followed by five years with the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor. Their move to Philadelphia to keep house for a cousin in Germantown led to Hortense's third career, fifteen years as secretary to Mr. Wistar, a Philadelphia broker.

It is her good fortune now to live next to the Hilary Henningers and by coincidence Gertrud Henninger's mother came to America on that small German boat of happy memory, the Graf Waldersee. In the Baring Street apartment to which Hortense came with her mother fourteen years ago, high ceilings, African violets on window sills, soft green walls and a few fine mahogany pieces from her Baltimore home give dignity and naturalness characteristic of Hortense. Over her protest I quote in translation the motto on her family coat-of-arms, "Ease With Dignity."

As Clerk of the Board of Elections in the 5th Division, 24th Ward, as staunch, incorruptible Republican, in the affairs of St. Andrews Church, she is effectively busy. For Powelton Neighbors she served for three years as our incomparable treasurer. For her spontaneity, her forthrightness, her integrity we love and respect "Miss O."

EDITORIAL

Out of the trees and down to earth.
Powelton Neighbors is dying:

There are thousands of people living within the confines of Powelton Village. In our membership list of May 1959-May 1960 there were 221 memberships listed. In November of 1960 the list contained 260. In November of 1961 there were 268. There are thousands of people living within the confines of Powelton Village.

Within the confines of Powelton Village there were two civic organizations. Now we are three. Why was there no place in Powelton Neighbors for those who formed the third?

Powelton Neighbors has a bad case of "Double Committeitis." On the one hand, committees appear dramatically, disappear without sound. Our Ad Hoc committees have Ad Hoc committees. What are they doing? Or what did they do? What was it we finally decided about public housing in Powelton? What ever did happen to that committee interested in social services for those in our community who need them?

While, on the other hand, those committees which do continue to operate -- or mysteriously disappear and then come back -- do so on the strength of two or three people; sometimes one. Most of our committees would have an impossible time finding a fourth for bridge at their meetings, even if everyone played. That is, if they meet in the first place. Do they? Do you care?

Nothing seems so urgent anymore. We have our school, our FHA 220, our zoning bill. What about the problem of absentee landlords? Of individual housing improvement? Of clean streets? Of Community spirit? They're little things. They haven't grabbed our interest. We're plodding along in a deep, deep rut, eyes straight ahead, oblivious of the many possible goals which line the hills on either side. Apparently, we need a crisis to bring us together again. That next crisis may well be a big hole of finality in our deep rut -- and our own momentum will push us into it. Nothing seems so urgent anymore.

No new horizons. No reaching out. The same few, old names carrying the burden of the many. The trunk getting tired. The branches having no real reason to reach out. The twigs having nothing vital to attach themselves to.

But worst of all is the silence. Worst of all is those who care saying quietly "Yes, the tree is dying," but not feeling the need to say it generally in The Post, to the Executive Committee, at the monthly meeting. And not feeling the need to do something about it. Worst of all is the silence.

Powelton Post

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EDUCATION TO BE LEAGUE TOPIC

The Powelton Unit of the League of Women Voters will meet on Thursday, January 11, at 8:15 PM at the home of Miss Helen White, 3414 Baring Street.
ALL POWELTON RESIDENTS
ARE WELCOME.

Education is the subject being investigated by the League this month. Come and find out how our educational services in Philadelphia are affected by what happens in Harrisburg. If you already know, please come and help to inform your neighbors.

Chairman's Corner

Sho Maruyama Chairman
3409 Baring Street EV 6-0465

You have read in The Post what your committees are doing. This is to inform you of what your Chairman is doing, besides hammering a gavel and getting meetings started and ended on time.

I have grouped my activities, for convenience, into three groups: individual, neighborhood and city wide. By individual, I mean letters and phone calls that come to me with either information or requests. A letter came to me recently asking for a car and driver to take shut-ins to a monthly party. I haven't found anyone for this. A fire occurred and a call came for assistance. After making additional phone calls I determined what could be done and saw that it was done.

In the neighborhood I have spent a great deal of time with the Samuel Powel Home and School Association and the Powelton Village Tenants League. Any good neighborhood needs a good school. To improve the neighborhood we must give the Home and School Association and Powel School all the help we can, and they in turn will help us. The Tenants League, also a new organization, needed information and some assistance. I hope they will become a part of Powelton Neighbors. In any case, I am sure they will become constructive factors in the improvement of Powelton.

Outside of Powelton I have been trying to establish information channels between the West Philadelphia Corporation and Powelton Neighbors, the Department of Health and Powelton Neighbors. Some people are interested in the purported discrimination policy of Plays and Players and how this reflects on Powelton Neighbors since we bought a block of tickets for the Drama Guild which uses their facilities. I have written to the interested people, telling them that the producer of the Drama Guild came to an Executive Committee meeting and explained that our purchase of tickets supported only the Drama Guild, which is non-discriminatory.

We have never had an office, a social worker, or paid secretaries. We need the help of everyone to improve our neighborhood. Any resident, new or old, who puts forth a little effort will soon find himself as active as he desires to be. We encourage all Neighbors to join us in an activity that is of interest to them. If our present program does not hold interest for them, we will try to help set up that activity which does.

I have heard, many times over the years, comments that Powelton Neighbors is run by a clique. This is not true and never has been. The many new and active people are sufficient testimony to this fact. I agree with the idea suggested to me that many of the people who say that we are run by a clique are using it as an excuse for not participating.

We welcome participation. The list of committee chairmen has been printed in The Post previously. If anyone wants things to do or has ideas to present please call me.

PLANNING

by Nancy Sennott

The Planning Committee has been working for a considerable period of time on the future plans of Powelton Village. It endeavors to keep abreast of the plans put forth by the City and the West Philadelphia Corporation. Far too often, however, we become aware of proposed plans only after they have become "finalized," and are able only to accept or reject them as an entirety. We would appreciate an opportunity to be involved in the making of the plans that bear heavily on our area.

In order to work out some method of communication between ourselves and the City Planning Commission and the planning section of the West Philadelphia Corporation, we are asking for some professional advice. On January 4, 1962, the Committee will meet at Felix Morse's home, 3620 Hamilton, at 8 PM. Dick Watson from the Redevelopment Authority, Brad Fraley of the West Area Health and Welfare Council, Carla Cohen from the Philadelphia Housing Association and, we hope, Dorothy Montgomery, also from P. H. A., will meet with us. We hope that this meeting will lead to some clearer understanding of our responsibilities and privileges in the over-all planning for this area, and a procedure for working more closely with the other interested groups. As always, all are invited to attend this meeting.

THE POST BOX

December 17, 1961

Dear Trunk,

For a twig like myself the editorial in the December Post demands a response.

The question is whether a tree will die. To live it must grow, yes. But to grow this tree must sense again the beauty of its purpose. So, at least, it seems to me.

Let us change the image slightly. The purpose of a tree is to send its branches as welcome shade to those under a blazing sun. It is to break up the rocky soil by its roots, that which has become hard after the pressure of accumulated years. And it is with those same roots some - times to hold together soil which otherwise would be washed away.

I've heard rumors of growth in this tree of ours. There was word that it had sent out its branches to those living just south of us, those threatened by the sun's glare reflecting off stainless steel. There was news that a root from this tree had gone out along Highway 40 in Maryland, breaking up rocky soil so that new life could begin. And something was said of a swimming pool being planned which would be a recreation center open to everybody in the community, a kind of root working to hold our diverse patch of land together. And these are only a few of the rumors.

I myself have been served by some of the roots and branches of this tree. I came to live in Powelton Village because I heard that a tree was growing there -- a growing tree. I want to be a part of that growth. In fact, if that Powelton Pool Association is nearby, I think I'd like to sign up.

If there is no growth a tree becomes little more than an upright log. A tree's beauty lies in the way it grows, reaching out with its roots and branches.

It seems to me there are signs of growth in our tree -- signs, at least.

Respectfully,

Jim Bakeman
3610 Hamilton Street

December 19, 1961

Dear Editor:

I agree with your editorial in the December Post on the need for greater participation by Neighbors. I don't believe the "tree is dying."

We do have a high degree of participation and membership and activities are increasing. In the face of normal urban patterns, this is a great accomplishment for a voluntary organization. In a normal urban pattern, one out of five families and individuals move each year. Consequently, to sustain our membership we must recruit new members at the rate of 100 per year. To grow, we need more. Typically urban dwellers do not join or become active in neighborhood organizations. This apathy, indifference, or even repugnance must be overcome by Powelton Neighbors to get Neighbors to help improve the neighborhood.

Many of the Neighbors participate periodically -- monthly, yearly -- perhaps longer. They are active for awhile and then they take their energies elsewhere and come back at a later time. This is to be expected. This is why I believe the tree is not dying. This is why we need greater participation by almost everyone at sometime.

Some explanation may be needed for many people who are new to Powelton Neighbors. Our full and varied program (including this excellent paper) is totally conducted by volunteers. The first advances which some make to us may be overlooked unintentionally by our active members. I am working on and need people to work on various other projects such as: producing a documentary on Powelton for possible national distribution; promotion of the Mantua By-Pass to relieve traffic on 34th and 33rd Streets; moving United States Highway 13 from Powelton Avenue to Market Street; encouraging the Free Library to put a branch at 40th and Haverford.

Sho Maruyama, Chairman
Powelton Neighbors

December 18, 1961

Dear Editor,

I am not myself convinced the tree is dying. However, if it is dying then let me suggest that it might be because we are neglecting an important responsibility -- the RESPONSIBILITY to let our Elected Officers and Committee Heads know what is on our minds. Now many times it can't stop there, for if we have suggestions and ideas it takes PEOPLE (in number often) to carry them out. I sometimes think that's why we stop with complaining to a friend, for underneath we realize that if we carried our gripes to the appropriate source and pursued it -- we very well might have to get INVOLVED.

We all must think seriously about this involvement question and examine it in terms of ourselves. Whether we take on a job like visiting the new neighbors on our block to welcome them and invite them to a PN activity, or whether we give an hour to the Powel Book Fair, or give new life to a dying Committee, it is important we DO SOMETHING.

For we, all of us, make PN what it is, and if we fall down then PN can't help but fall with us. But remember it is everyone of us who shares the responsibility for this -- not some nebulous "Powelton Neighbors." Powelton Neighbors is us.

Sincerely,

Emily Young
3626 Hamilton Street

December 2, 1961

Dear Editor:

We were very much interested in the PVDA column appearing in the December Post, particularly in view of the light which it throws upon the responsive relationship that has existed between PVDA and Powelton Neighbors. We feel

that the column itself is a valuable one, since real estate growth is such an important aspect of Village development. For this reason, we wonder if you might consider a broader reporting of general real estate news which would include all worthwhile activity of the several brokers who are working in the Powelton area. Urban Developers, for example, would like to have the opportunity to introduce new home owners who have purchased in Powelton Village through it and who identify with the civic activity of the Neighbors. We would also like to keep Neighbors informed of our work in purchase and restoration of Village homes. We feel that such an extended column, available for the use of brokers concerned with the development of Powelton Village, would be helpful and of interest to your readers.

Very truly yours,

URBAN DEVELOPERS
by George Funderburg

ED. NOTE: The Editor agrees that the suggestion made by Mr. Funderburg can be applied to the benefit of all. Consequently, we hereby invite interested brokers to submit brief items pertinent to homes sold in the Village, improvements underway, or other material of a personal and informative nature. As The Post does not presently function in an advertising capacity we cannot, of course, accept listings or information which is solely promotional in intent.

Are you interested in the crucial issues of peace and disarmament? Are you perplexed by the complicated and involved national and international situation? No one has all the answers, but if you are interested in discussing these questions with other people and an authority in the field, you are invited to do so on January 14th, 1962, at 8:00 PM at 3600 Powelton Avenue. Dr. Otto Nathan is the guest speaker at this forum sponsored by the Powelton Branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The League, for fifty years, has been promoting such discussions in the areas of peace and international affairs.

Dr. Nathan is especially qualified to speak on these topics, for he has served on the faculties of several American and European universities as an economist. He worked closely with Dr. Albert Einstein and became an executor of his estate. He was an economic advisor to the Federal Government of Germany from 1920 to 1933, and acted as that country's delegate to the League of Nations. In addition, he has been an advisor to President Hoover, consultant to U. S. National Defense Commission, analyst to the U.S. Treasury Department, and a consultant on Economic Literature for the Library of Congress. Powelton Village is indeed privileged to have such a man come to our community.

A donation of \$1.00 will be asked to cover costs of this exciting and important meeting.

Over the Fence Post



BY BOB YOUNG

Good Fence Posts make good neighbors

I think that I shall never see
A village dying like a tree...
Fence Posts are made by fools like me
But only an editor can make a tree.

That ain't necessarily so. J. Howard Cooper and the Tree Committee can make you one... and recently did at 37th and Hamilton, 306 N. 37th and 36th and Baring. Howard's gone out on a limb in predicting that come Arbor Day the combined resources of the Forestry Service, the four neighborhood Boy Scout Troops and the community lumberjacks will em-bark on a tree-mendous planting program. Call him at EV 2-1483 for specifics...

Through the cooperation of Mr. DiToro, Mr. Fromuth and the School Extension Division, the Powelton Neighbors have arranged to have the Powel School rec. room available to the community every Wednesday evening from 8:00 to 10:00 PM for basketball and free play. Call Bob Young BA 2-4391 or Sho Maruyama EV 6-0465 to sign up for the January 3rd tap off... Recreation activities continue Friday evenings for women at Weightman Hall -- Call Em Young BA 2-4391 for details; Sunday afternoons for men at Hutchinson gym -- Call Jim Davis EV 6-6601.

The word overheard at the scrumptious Pot Luck Supper was that the gal who fed that home made bread was Helen Michaud. We were awed, or does your name rhyme with "take a bow?" Anyway, to anyone interested the recipe is available.

The O'Shana's, the Peeples and the Levitts had ample reason for Thanksgiving the last weekend in November as a wee bonnie Leslie, Suzannah and Joshua made the pilgrimage to their birthright. A most unfowl deed... Meanwhile, back at the Sheraton in Chicago, Richard Rappaport, favorite son of the 36th and Powelton "Harry's" was married December 17th to Lynn Dissen. Mazeltov.

On November 14th Mr. & Mrs. John Diamond, 3210 Winter Street, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary... this being the Silver Thread among 25 golden years on a Winter Street made warm, if not by a sun, then by daughter Phyllis, a fifth grader at the Powel School. Mrs. Diamond's parents, Rev. & Mrs. John L. Timmons, have Winter-ed 27 years there also.



Frank and Anne Crump singlehandedly put a dent in the cold war as they entertained four Soviet students touring the United States, and guests locally of the National Student Association. Jo and Bruce Cameron and lots of egg nog and guitars left everyone in the non-political pink.

Bill Hinton was heard on the Frank Ford show November 8th debating the "agin" the McCarran Act, following an open forum on the question at the Ricketts'... The Ricketts, too, will be hosts January 14 to an Otto Nathan address "What Can We Do For Peace Now?" All welcome.

The convalescence of Geneva Davis following surgery at Presbyterian Hospital and her need for a number of blood donors brought response from several neighbors and brought the possibility of developing a community blood bank. David Smith of the U. of P. hospital would be happy to discuss and to help us coagulate the details of such a program. Get in touch with me and we'll work out a meeting with him.

Henry Moultrie of 37th and Baring marched home this month via the North Carolina A & T drill team performing at Convention Hall.

Lillian Lopez again had the Christmas Carolers all keyed up as they no-eld thru the co-eld Sunday November 17th eve. Barry and Janie Freeman, John Larberg, Warren Bodek, Helene Hirschler, Perry Tripplett, Jim Bakeman, Fred Fry, Lillian Lopez, Beryl Radin, Wilson Minton, Ingrid Wallace, Art Melville, Randy and Alan Bye, and Matt Marrone brought "joy to the world" where'er they sang. En tour they stopped at Oncologic Hospital, Golden Years Home, Sunderland Court, Powelton and Lexington Apartments, Dominican Sisters Home, etc. ... and our house!

In Powelton nearly everyone
reads the Fence Post.



Your Committees

Ed. Note: This issue of The Post inaugurates a new feature designed to improve communications between you and your committees. All Chairmen are requested to submit each month a brief report of their current committee activities. In this way, they may keep you informed and you may keep in touch with the work which they are doing.

TRANSPORTATION: Concentrating on getting the PTC to extend the present D-1 route to include Powelton Village. This would mean that for a 10¢ fare we would have transportation to Penn, Drexel, P.G.H. etc. and that with an exchange we could take route 40 East and 42 or D East or West. Also working on obtaining transportation to the Dell for the summer.

Ida Langman, Chairman

TREES: Four new trees have been planted recently to add to the eight previously planted. Now investigating an opportunity to buy 1,000 seedlings next Spring. This means trees for almost nothing but to do it we need everyone's permission to plant in their gardens. We also need 50 to 100 workers to replant, space, prune roots, water and feed the plants. In four years we should have at least 100 trees which will meet City requirements for planting on the sidewalk. We are looking for volunteers who like this idea of growing your own. J. Howard Cooper, Chairman

PLANNING: See special article.

HOUSING AND ZONING: Current activities include our routine checking and evaluation of complaints. Our major project is still the condition of 3511 Baring. The owner, Mr. George Davis of Broomall has been fined every month for the last three months for numerous violations. We would like to encourage all area residents to report complaints and fill out forms on any violations they might know of.

Bob Rommel, Chairman

MEMBERSHIP: At last count, there are 295 paid members of Powelton Neighbors (family units counted as one). It is reported that this is the largest membership recorded for PN. We were happy to invite over forty new members this year into our community. The Committee's drive to sell University City News subscriptions resulted in sixty subscriptions, with PN getting 40% of each.

Sustain the Holiday Season at the
next monthly

POWELTON FOLK PARTY
January 12th, 8:30 PM, in the
Samuel Powel School

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE
JANUARY 19th

Please submit material to
Kay Tatnall, 3420 Powelton Avenue