



Powelton Post

JANUARY 1964

JANUARY MEETING

The January meeting of Powelton Neighbors will be held on Monday, January 6th, 8:00 p.m., at the Powel School, 36th and Powelton. Business will include the second reading of the proposed By-Law revisions and discussion of a Youth Worker for the Powelton-Mantua areas.

On the lighter side, Inez Greenberg and her Powel School Puppeteers will entertain us with "The Magic Onion". Start the New Year right; come to the P.N. Meeting!!

Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 9th:

Powelton Neighbor's Schools Committee, 8:00 p.m., at the Bedells', 3309 Hamilton St.

League of Women Voters, 8:15 p.m., at Cleo Coleman's, 3710 Hamilton St. Topic: United Nations.

8:15 p.m., Fleisher Auditorium, Broad & Pine - A Tribute to Linus Pauling, Nobel Peace Prize recipient. Dr. Pauling, the first American to be awarded the Nobel Prize on two occasions will be honored. Dr. Pauling will speak; Singing City Choir will pay him tribute as well as well known speakers. Donation is \$1.00. Sponsored by SANE, WILPF, WSP.

Wednesday, January 15th:

Powelton Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 8:30 p.m. at Adele Rickett's, 3600 Powelton. Agenda: Report on local Peace Groups' efforts to take action on the Defense Budget Cuts, Report on WIL local study groups, review of last 2 months' projects, planning for future.

MERRY CHRISTMAS POWELTON VILLAGE

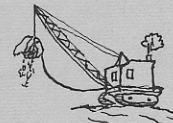


Christmas Eve, on my way to retire,
I hung my stocking by the fire;
And next day when I opened my sock,
I was hardly prepared for such a shock.



First, a letter from Drexel & U. of P.
Addressed to residents of old P.V.
"We thought we'd tell you we won't expand;
We've decided we really don't need the land."

Then came a note from the Board of Ed.
This, in essence, is what it said:
"We're building a Jr. High in Powelton
And reducing class size to twenty-one."



Next was one from the Stadium group.
(And this really knocked me for a loop.)
"We feel we must save your Village for you;
We're going to build in Timbucktoo."

This one is really worth sharing -
From the Dept. of Streets re: 37th & Baring.
"We're going to fix your caved-in street -
Our gift to you..." Now isn't that neat?

And then from somewhere came this letter:
"We're going to make your Village better -
Trash cans to make your streets look snappy,
And a playground to make your children happy."



But best was a note from the Mayor of the City
Who was glad we've made our Village pretty.
"City Council is grateful for your advice,
And we think your petitions are very nice!"



"We want to say how much we've appreciated
That you're Urban-Renewed and integrated.
We're proud to see how you organize,
And pleased that you don't hesitate to advise."

"You're a tribute to the City of Brotherly Love
And deserve the recognition of
All of us at City Hall.
Merry Christmas to you all! "

Chairman's Corner

Revision of the by-laws is necessary. This we all know. But, as chairman, the prospect of conducting an interesting meeting devoted primarily to this purpose caused me no little concern before November 1st. Thanks to Kay Tattall, I need not have had any doubts, for it turned out to be one of the warmest, liveliest, and most efficient sessions of the year.

I am also happy to report that one of the most serious gaps in our committee work has now been filled. Jerry Bye has agreed to take over as chairman of the Police Committee. This is an extremely important though often very frustrating task. We all owe Jerry a vote of thanks, but even more the fullest cooperation. The Police Committee can only function well if it has the active participation of interested members and the support of the whole community. One thing we urban dwellers never seem to learn is that it is a neighborly act to tell the police when we see someone walking off with our neighbor's TV or high-fi set. If all of us would only be willing to assume a certain amount of responsibility and report any suspicious activity, the tremendous problem of robberies in this area would be greatly reduced.

The plot continues to thicken in regard to the stadium. We are a long way from justifiable optimism but it does seem now that the Pennsylvania Railroad and its companions are no longer as formidable as once was feared. To begin with, it is very clear that the stadium promoters have not been able to raise the \$25,000,000 in private funds needed to build the stadium. In fact, they are asking the city to establish a Stadium Authority to furnish \$12,000,000 which, in addition to the \$4,000,000 they expect to obtain in write-downs from the Redevelopment Authority, will leave only \$9,000,000 for them to raise. Furthermore, it would seem from articles in the Daily News and Inquirer that the Eagles are not as enthusiastic about the stadium on stilts as Mayor Tate would have us believe.

No report from the chairman this month would be complete without mention of the spectacular job done by Lois Bye and her co-workers in organizing a round of Christmas activities which began with a beautiful performance by the Renaissance Singers under the direction of Marge Scott at our house on the 11th. At this writing, the Christmas tree sale is in progress and we are looking forward to the carol singing and open houses on Christmas eve. Indeed, December has been a hectic but a very good month. Merry Christmas to all.

Powel School Corner

Powel School took on an enchanted look this Christmas Season. The walls and windows were covered with brightly colored decorations, and the faces of the children with happy holiday smiles. Activity and anticipation were everywhere. The highlight of the season was the Christmas Program presented at the Home and School Association meeting on December 7th. Children from the first and second years, from the sixth grade, and from the After-School Puppetry Class delighted a room full of proud and happy parents. Beautifully wrapped door prizes were presented to lucky ticket holders, and punch and cookies were served to all. Andy Melamed and Jolly Robinson invited the group to join in songs of the season. It was a warm and happy meeting.

This month we interviewed Mrs. Barbara Gadon. Mrs. Gadon is a Philadelphia-born, raised, and educated teacher. A graduate of West Philadelphia High School, she went on to West Chester State Teachers College, and to Temple University where she obtained her degree. She and her husband (who is a Tax Attorney) live in Wynnefield with their two children - Richard, 8, and Susan 5. Baking, cooking, and entertaining are high on the list of things she loves to do, but cleaning up - before or after - are at the bottom. Mrs. Gadon likes to read, and the whole family are avid "board game" players. They are looking forward to moving to a new home shortly.

Mr. Freddie Cody is one of the three "men around the house" at Powel School. He, too, is a native Philadelphian, and a bachelor. He is "enjoying the remaining fruits of bachelorhood." We somehow got the idea that marriage is just around the corner for him. Mr. Cody graduated from Temple University where he is now doing post-graduate work. He enjoys reading, writing, spectator sports. His activities are, as he puts it, "quiet and reserved, like the individual." He likes teaching at Powel and finds this area very interesting.

We thank you, Mrs. Gadon and Mr. Cody for being interested in our school. We also welcome Mr. Harry N. Miller, our new custodian.

Powelton Post

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LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Here I go on the Stadium again, but somehow people will not use valid facts in their appraisal of its worth or disservice to the community. Ida Langman is inclined to look kindly on the Stadium because Franklin Field does not congest our streets badly when in use and it is bigger. She proposes use of our streets during games by specially selected traffic with most of it barred. Not a very simple solution for two hundred days of use yearly.

When I first head of the over the track proposal for a stadium I thought how nice to be able to come in the train, and just walk upstairs, until I saw some up to date statistics. It appears that in the 1920's eighty per cent of the people traveled by train. Now ninety per cent go by private car, three percent by train and slightly more by bus and the other few percent accounts for all other forms of conveyance.

Franklin Field is not bigger - the proposed stadium will hold 60,000. Franklin Field does cause terrific interference for five or six hours every time there is a game to Powelton but five or six weekends is their season. Franklin Field is a good five blocks further south and away from Powelton. The fringes of Powelton Village virtually rub elbows with the Stadium area. The proposed Stadium is mostly private capital and they will have agents roaming the country over, - they will line up Hockey, Prize fights, wrestling, volleyball, basketball, baseball and football games not to mention La-Crosse and tennis, they will freeze it for Ice Frolics, Follies, and Ice Hockey and cover it with turf for Horse affairs. Two Hundred Seventy Five days a year of use will make it a terrible burden and an unwarranted nuisance for all the time from Monday morning till late Saturday night

every week with an occasional Sunday affair thrown in for good measure.

When you want to squeeze a population as big as the City of Camden into and out of the Stadium within four hours, and you have to handle up to thirty thousand cars, and a few hundred buses, it is going to take forty lanes in and forty lanes out to do it efficiently and all the streets we have if everyone were bridged over would not provide that much room.

Is our two million of improvements within the last decade with three million more planned for the next decade all to be sacrificed on the altar of four wheeled transportation needs. Is it up to Powelton to be sacrificed on the altar of profit so that a sick and ailing railroad can recoup a few million in profits that no longer exists in transportation.

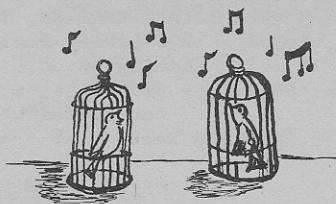
It is not economic, it is not practical, it is not good sense, and the city is going to kill the goose that has been laying the golden tax egg in Powelton. In fact if there is much more stadium talk I am thinking of spear heading a campaign to cut every assessment in Powelton in half the day the Stadium is approved.

If the railroad needs money that bad let them go into the grocery business or the mens clothing business and we won't mind helping them out, perhaps even being regular customers.

Suppose council did pass an ordinance limiting traffic to certain essential types (for 275 days a year when there was an affair at the stadium) how many million would it take to enforce it, and how many hair splitting rules of road use would be needed. Sorry, Ida, you can't sell me the Stadium.

J. Howard Cooper

CHORAL GROUP TO MEET WEEKLY



The Powelton Neighbors choral group has already begun making beautiful music together, and will continue to do so on a weekly basis. Rehearsals will be held every Wednesday evening beginning promptly at 8 p.m., and all are welcome! For the entire month of January, rehearsals will be at the Marshalls', 3508 Hamilton. Why not give it a try?

Special Letter

Dear Joan,

Last time I wrote, I mentioned how some people go about showing very subtly what they do, or have: the labels on their trash bags. Veblen might have called it "conspicuous disgorgement". There are some other pretty good ways of letting your artifacts do the shouting while keeping a kind of modesty or impartiality about yourself.

One of my favorites right around here is the quiet way of leaving foreign licenses sort of peaking out from behind the dirty blue and yellow Keystone plates. Now I know that some of those overseas ones sort of get bolted in so that it's hard to take them off. But I'll let you in on a secret. The only ones which even vaguely impress me are the really legit types: a couple of T's on a French plate (especially if white and red) just tells me it's bought by a nouveau tourist ("Transit Temporaire").

Speaking of cars, I just can't believe so many drivers are religious. I'm talking about those dashboard graven images. I guess in my cynical way I just think religion is private and should not be a part of a gimmick to avoid parking tickets.

Of course, I sin in the same way, now that I think of it. I try to make sure the man at the airport counter leaves on at least the baggage ticket stub. The case I use shouts louder than I ever would want to: "Here's one who's been around." Sort of like putting stickers from the Poconos and Niagara Falls on the bumper.

Another idea on subtle ways to find out what one's been up to - - and there's real profit in it. You know, there are more than a hundred of us here in Powelton in the teaching business. I think we should print up a couple of thousand little stickers saying "Our Teachers Deserve More Pay". We hand them out to all the school kids. Those who know how to butter up the boss will put the slogan on their books. The teachers get a bit of free advertisement; what's more, each cavant gets the savvy on which tyke really can be counted on in a pinch to come out for education (or at least for teachers). Obviously, we'd have a way to spread the good word on how important teaching is, and how great the teachers. Once we get this thing rolling, then we're ready to go one step further. Why don't we make a deal with the teacher's union, and set up a new category: Fraternal Member. Sell this membership for 15¢ a kid. Maybe get the local business (the corner candy store) to chip in 15¢. With each membership, we could give a nice, oval plaque - just the right size to tack on the briefcase. Isn't this a great way to get propaganda for teacher's good works; and, once more, can you think of a better way to find out which kids are on the up and up? I know what'll happen, but I don't think it should bother anyone. When you catch a youngster in the wrong seat, or over-staying in the playground after recess, I bet the teacher will first look to see if that sticker is on the books and the oval button on the briefcase. Not much chance of punishment if these are all in order. But then, I guess we teachers don't have to worry too much about the immorality of it all - just look at some other professions(?) who push this system for the benefit of all.

Well, so much for now. I bet there are lots of other ways of showing without talking, so I'll close for this time.

Yours,
Tom

WEST PHILADELPHIA SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

The West Philadelphia Schools Committee is planning visits to five elementary schools in January. They are: Drew, McMichael, Lea, Wilson, and Rhoads Schools. All five have classes of junior high school pupils held in the elementary schools because of the serious shortage of space in the junior high schools of West Philadelphia.

Last year, the overcrowding amounted to 1,980 pupils, and the situation has since become worse. Holding classes in the elementary schools creates severe problems because these schools are already overtaxed. In visiting the schools, the committee wants to inquire about the effects of this situation on pupils, teachers, and administration, and to explore constructive alternatives.

School officials are talking of building new junior high schools - as they have been talking for the past few years - but no official steps have been taken. Even the most optimistic observers concede that it will take at least two years to get even one more school, although three schools are needed now.

Every neighbor and parent is urged to join in the school visits and to help speed up action. Find out for yourself what your children and their teachers face next year and what can be done about it.

For information: Rosemary Marshall, BA 2-3326, and Jacqueline Gregory, EV 6-4006.

THE FENCE POST



by maggie funderburg

Several years ago Powelton Neighbors had the pleasure of serenading MRS. LUELLA PARKER with Christmas carols. This year the carollers hope to serenade again and it will be particularly appropriate for December 24th will mark her 99th birthday! SARAH PARKER and her mother have lived at 35th and Pearl for 24 years. MRS. PARKER remembers MRS. SCATTERGOOD who lived with a companion, MISS WISTER, in the lovely old Scattergood House with the magnificent garden, until she died in 1950. In ill health the last years, she was taken riding every afternoon by her chauffeur in such a long car that it had to be backed around several times in order to get it into the garage. FATHER DEVINE made an offer for this house before he bought the Hotel Tracy, but it became a Blind Home until the house was torn down and the POWEL SCHOOL was built on its land and the land of another large house with stables on Powelton Avenue and 35th, originally owned by a MR. STRATTON who made his fortune marketing ice!!

MRS. GARWOOD, who owned the house where the Parkers live, was a driving force in the neighborhood until her death when the KANGIANS, GEORGE AND MARY, bought the house. MRS. GARWOOD as a young girl used to sled down 36th Street from Lancaster Avenue to Market Street. I'd like to see anybody try it now! Best wishes and a very Happy Birthday to our eldest and spryest Powelton Neighbor, MRS. PARKER.

Our next oldest member is WALTER WESCOTT (father of MARJORIE AND LUCILLE) now aged 93, who at the age of 18 was travelling via Pennsylvania RR from Peach Bottom in Lancaster County to Utica, New York, when he got caught in the Blizzard of 1888 and was marooned for five days in the Broad Street Station where the Penns provided him with a pillow and bench or floor space to sleep on and something to eat until the trains ran again. When he got to New York City he spied a fruit stand with bigger oranges than he'd ever seen before and he made up his mind he was going to buy one and eat it on the train only to open it up and find it the sourest grapefruit he'd ever tasted, so he deposited it in a snowdrift outside the window. The worst part of the trip was walking across the fields after leaving the train, trying to reach his grandfather's house, and the crust of top snow giving way and his sinking into 5 and 6 foot of snow, but finally making it, frostbitten and weary, to the first house he could see.

Several weeks ago an article appeared in The Bulletin about MRS. LILLIE E. POTTEIGER'S 103rd birthday. Turns out she has lived at 200 n. 34th Street most of her life (our PN membership committee is slipping!), with time out at age 70 to travel all around the world. "I even like scrubbing the kitchen floor," she said recently, "except I have a lot of trouble getting up when I'm through."

A great time was held by all 14 who came to the first rehearsal of the Powelton Neighbors Choral Group. KAY TATNALL as conductor and whip lasher lost at least 5 pounds lashing us into shape, CLIFTON JOHNSON was outstanding in his support of pulsating rhythm, HOWARD MATHEWS in his explanation of where the group should go, ROO SCOTLAND's support of English Contemporary Music -- it was fun, why don't you join the group next time!

JOEL CROCE, KIRK WATTLES, and SUMI MORRIS appeared on Channel 12 in a new arithmetic methods program. Afterwards MISS ROBY and MRS. WATTLES took them to Whitman's to celebrate with sundaes (and banana splits for the adults). The children so impressed the manager with their tales of this adventure that he presented them with little boxes of chocolates as mementoes of the occasion.

I had hoped that just one month I could avoid the prolific nature of the Village, but what better time than Christmas to announce the arrival of a baby boy, born a few weeks ago to CONNIE and ADRIAN RAKE.

MADRIGAL CONCERT

The cheery hospitality of the Ricketts and the blended voices of Marge Scott's Renaissance Singers opened the holiday season in Powelton with a festive evening, Wednesday, December 11.

Fifty Powelton neighbors and friends enjoyed the 14th to 16th Century masses, madrigals, and carols sung by the group of six women and five men, including Poweltonians, Helga Ziegler, Liz McKinney, Dena Goldberg, and Ed Levin.

Christmas cookies made by the Bye children and hot punch and cider provided by Lois Bye, Inez Greenberg, Bea Howard and Jeanette Ray raised spirits even higher. A group gathered around Scott Gillam at the piano and sang a round of Christmas carols.

Thanks to all who made the zestful evening possible.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

A new group, Friends of the Library, West Phila. Branch, was recently formed. Membership dues will be \$1.00, \$5.00, \$10.00 - regular, contributing and sponsor memberships. Those interested may contact Frank G. Bradley, Librarian, 40th & Walnut, EV 6-5242, or Mrs. Robert K. Richards, 4400 Spruce St., EV 2-3831.

A reception, sponsored by West Phila. Corp. and Friends of the Library will be held on January 29th, 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to introduce the book about University City written by Leon Rosenthal.

MEMBERSHIP LIST CHANGES

(If you need a copy of the original list, you may pick one up at the January meeting.)

Greenberg, Linda - 209 North 36th St.
Maxin, Nick - 34th & Hamilton Sts.
Radin, Beryl - 1600 Lanier Place,
Washington, D.C.
Tallon, Phillip - 518 S. State St.,
Dover, Delaware
Ziegler, Roy and Helga - EV 6-7352.

NEW BUSINESS MEMBER

Village Cleaners
3239 Powelton Ave., BA 2-0338

DEADLINE

Deadline for the February issue will be Friday, January 17th. Please submit material to the Editor, Joan Maruyama, 3409 Hamilton St., Ev-6-0465.