



Powelton Post

FEBRUARY 1961

POLICE "GETTING TO KNOW YOU" PROGRAM WELL RECEIVED BY NEIGHBORS

According to the enthusiastic reaction at the January PN meeting, the evening proved to be as informative, entertaining, and helpful as anticipated. Throughout the varied program, we were introduced to the broad activity and responsibilities of our Philadelphia Police Department and to the fact that they, too, have problems. In his introductory remarks, Inspector Payne provided valuable insights into some of the unwarranted criticism of the police and pointed out the need for the community to support the Department if it is to have the tools which it needs to perform its duties.

The scope of the many concerns of our police force was well indicated through the use of slides. This was followed by a more specific discussion of our own Police District and our immediate neighborhood. Captain John Quinn pointed out that although the 16th District is smallest in size, it is high in police activity. The organization of the area was explained, showing the need for detailing available staff to the more troublesome sections. It was pointed out that although Powelton Village cannot be patrolled as heavily as we would like it to be, immediate help can always be obtained by calling the police radio room, LO 7-5100. For police matters of a less urgent nature, the 16th police district can be reached by calling MU 6-9700 and asking for same. Captain Quinn reminded us that communication between the police and the community is essential and urged us to feel free to visit the District office, 39th and Lancaster, or call whenever necessary. The meeting itself provided an opportunity for direct communication, as the assembled group was divided into four smaller units in order to discuss problems and have questions answered by four Lieutenants and representatives of the Gang Control and Police-Community Relations Units.

At the opening and closing of the meeting, as well as during several intermissions in the program, most enjoyable entertainment was provided by "The Pastimers", a group of musicians from the Police and Fireman's Band. They added much to a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Profile

THE REILLYS

BY SARAH PARKER

The bright kitchen opens into the playroom making housekeeping a cooperative enterprise, and romping imaginative play a shared experience. Four-year-old Susie, proud when "all by herself" she brings some order amongst rocking horse, express wagon, blocks, drawing material and boats. Three-year-old Timmy on hobby stick demonstrates across the kitchen fast and slow speeds of horses, and holds up for admiration his painting in drippy splashes of green and blue of "A great big giant so fat he can't run."

Fortunately, there's room on the third floor for a studio where John, after days spent on commercial art at TV Guide, can work at his true profession. For John is a creative artist. His paintings, deeply expressive of his reaction to contemporary life, are of substance, originality and significance respected by artists and critics. Each time a painting is sold, Doris says, something of themselves leaves their home. Yet there's delight in seeing again one of his richly colored paintings in the house of a Philadelphia connoisseur, at the Academy, or cherished in the home of a Powelton friend.

On the walls in the Hamilton Street house there is reminder of Doris's talent, too--imaginative and exquisite execution of detail. For her, schooling at the Museum School of Art and five years in advertising art preceded her career of gracious competence in marriage and family.

On leave from army service at Stuttgart, John was able to visit galleries in Paris, Amsterdam and London. Since then more than one travelling fellowship has made it possible for Doris and John to share memories of magnificence in the Uffizi Gallery, music in the gardens of the Pitti Palace, Rembrandts in Amsterdam, and of a happy way of life far simpler than ours in the Irish homeland of the Reillys.

When children in pajamas, replete with ice cream and pretzels, have disappeared upstairs for prayer time, singing, and sleep, there is quiet in the simple living room. A music box "picked up at Shannon" may tinkle an Irish folk song on the mantle shelf or the hi-fi play softly. A little more than three years ago the Reillys bought this house because they liked Powelton streets and trees, and individuality and diversity in architecture. When they heard Jerry Bye and John Marshall on Frank Ford's program, they suspected they might like the people. Now they are very much Powelton Neighbors in action. Nursery school and sponsorship of Friday evening women's volleyball at the University gym are part of Doris's activities. With Lore Levitt she guided the Mural Committee with understanding and diplomacy to the successful completion of its unique project. John finds McAlpin Playground a fine place to exercise with Bob Young and to make friends with Mantua boys, for like Whitman Burress they believe participation in boys' activities the natural approach to juvenile problems. With modesty John says, "I got a late start in Powelton Neighbors, but I'm trying to make up for it." He contributes know-how, contacts and interest to our landscaping project, our reactivated Planning Committee, and as TPN Co-Chairman. And when this spring six panels in decorative tile are unveiled at the Samuel Powel school two of them will long remind us that the Reillys have added something of beauty to Powelton Village.



FEBRUARY MEETING TO STUDY PROBLEMS
OF HOUSING CODE AND ZONING

The February meeting of Powelton Neighbors will concern itself primarily with the work of the Housing Code and Zoning Committee. In an effort to determine what role this Committee can play in the future, Barry Freeman will interview its past and current Chairmen, deriving a brief, historical account of the activities of the group. It is hoped that the review of past and current situations will stimulate a lively discussion from the floor so that the Committee can find its direction for the future.

During the second portion of the meeting, Mr. Daniel Ellick, West Philadelphia Consultant on Housing, will discuss the multitudinous problems which come to his attention. He will cite examples of problems brought to him and will be prepared to answer questions which you might have concerning remodeling, financing, standards for plumbing and electrical work, etc. So come armed with questions -- and with ideas and proposals for the Housing Code and Zoning Committee, one of the most vital and necessary groups to the future of Powelton Village.
MONDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 6th, 8:00 PM
at ST. ANDREW'S, 36th & PEARL STS.

Powelton Post

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Powelton Village was transformed into a candlelit wonderland on Dec. 18th as 50 Neighbors of all ages visited ten convalescent homes in the area to serenade with Christmas carols. The group was so well received and had such an enjoyable time that it has been suggested we join together at Easter for the same purpose. Easter carols are less familiar, so two rehearsals will be scheduled in March. If you are interested, call Marge Scott at EV 6-5997 or Mrs. Lopez, EV 6-3835.

POST

BOX



Dear Editor:

In the spirit of self-evaluation, as manifested in the ad hoc committee which is looking at what we would like Powelton to become, I have turned my attention to a phenomenon which seems to be a peculiar liability of Powelton. One can detect evidences of it here and there at Powelton Neighbors meetings. One catches it often in the current gossip. I would like to see if anyone else shares my concern.

All of us are proud that Powelton attracts "high-minded" people who move here due to its reputation and who contribute to the well-being and improvement of the area. However, I feel that many newcomers arrive with the belief that Powelton is a utopian community where all residents and property owners are supermoral beings. The expectation seems to be that all citizens will act always in a spirit of loving brotherhood. No one is expected to behave in a mean, expedient, greedy or petty manner. All citizens are expected to participate steadily and effectively on several committees. All landlords are expected to respond immediately to every complaint of their tenants -- but are supposed to do this without expecting any profit on their property.

You may ask: "What's wrong with this illusion? It seems harmless enough." I disagree. This fantasy causes many of us (I claim no immunity) to have unrealistically high expectations of friends, neighbors, landlords or tenants. When affected by this illusion, any behavior short of perfection is judged to be complete failure rather than something that needs to be recognized and coped with in a realistic manner. Human relationships are sometimes broken off prematurely and the anger over the tarnished dream projected against the person's action which elsewhere might be accepted as average human behavior.

I'm glad that all Poweltonians aren't as perfect as they sometimes seem to expect their neighbors to be. Why can't we learn to accept Powelton as a neighborhood which will always be full of imperfect people who are the same wonderful mixture of good and bad that is found everywhere else on earth. Perhaps we would be more able to work together; be less self-righteous as a group; and be more effective in solving problems if we saw Powelton and each other more realistically, rather than as we fantasied them to be.

(Name Withheld Upon Request)

Your Committees



SCHOOLS

BY ROSEMARY MARSHALL

The Schools Committee, as old as Powelton Neighbors itself, was formed at the very first gathering, when Neighbors divided into various interest-action groups. After a period of organization and analysis, we felt ready to approach the Board of Education with our needs. We found that since all Board members are appointed, citizens seldom have any contact except at the annual Budget Hearings, when written speeches can be presented. We took advantage of this opportunity in 1958 and made a public statement at the yearly hearing.

Subsequently, the work of the Committee began to snowball. Emboldened by our address, we invited Miss Golden, a senior Board member, to tea at the home of one of the Committee members. Miss Golden brought with her administrative officials and the tea resulted in a friendly terse discussion on the subject of over-crowding at our local public schools, Drew at 38th and Warren and McMichael at 35th and Fairmount. Clearly, more facilities were needed. The Committee continued to have monthly teas for Board members and by May the discussions were centering not only on general questions but on the size of a new school to be built at 36th and Powelton.

The Schools Committee, requesting to be included in the planning of the new facility, was given the opportunity to consult with the architect. The Mural contest was held, with funds raised through the combination of a variety of money making projects and with \$1000 provided by Powelton Neighbors from prizes which had been awarded to the association. The latter awards were given with the provision that the amounts be put to use in the community and this use seemed a symbol, as well as a source of beauty for our neighborhood.

With the opening of the Samuel Powel School in February, the primary goal of the Schools Committee will have been attained. A large part of our Committee and community energies will turn to working in the Home and School Association. Of equal concern will be our participation in the newly created West Philadelphia Schools Committee, which will be endeavoring to obtain other necessary new facilities in the area, as well as improvements in the existing ones. Our local Committee will continue to operate, however, to work with problems of education which might arise in our immediate area. If you are interested in joining us, we will be glad to add your name to the long list of individuals who have, and will continue to work constantly for the betterment of the education of our children.

WELCOME, NEIGHBORS!

A warmest welcome to all of these new members of Powelton Neighbors:

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Aycox, 3619
Powelton Avenue
George Berison, 410 N. 34th Street
Harry Covvin, 3414 Baring Street
Jacob Getz, 4708 Chestnut Street
David Hays, 3620 Baring Street
Morris and Pat Hostetter, 3611
Hamilton Street
Miss Leah Jaynes, 3505 Baring St.
Melvin and Margaret Johnson, 3434
Warren Street
Jim Kennedy, 3513 Hamilton Street
Jean Marsh, 3420 Powelton Avenue
Clara Miller, 3602 Hamilton Street
Frank and Katie Moore, 3329 Spring
Garden Street
Jane Moseman, 412 N. 34th Street
Mrs. Elizabeth Shipherd, 230 East
32nd St., New York 16, N.Y.
John and Nona Shumacher, 216 North
35th Street
Bruce and Joyce Webb, 3201 Powelton
Donald and Emiko West, 3615 Baring
Janney and Emily Wilson, 3417 Baring

LADIES AND TEEN-AGE GIRLS !!!

Volleyball - Basketball - Swimming

Every Friday Night
Weightman Gym-Pool
34th & Spruce Sts.



Must enter as a group -- so come to Sybil Holtzer's home, 3502 Hamilton Street for transportation - or meet at the gym at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

We need equipment! A volleyball -- a basketball. And someone to serve as lifeguard.

REAL RE-CREATION

The Neighbors have overwhelmingly subscribed interest and money to the Community Landscape Project, outlined in the last edition of The Post. All hands were high at the PN meeting when we asked for volunteers to work, come spring, and about 30 people, representing over 20 school children, showed up for a meeting at the Melamed's on January 23rd. Douglas Sampson and Karl Linn from the University of Pennsylvania presented a masterful plan financially feasible, and excellent in the way that it takes all age groups into account. Mr. Connor, architect of the Powel School and Mr. DiTorro, the principal, were at the meeting and provided a realistic atmosphere to the animated discussion of the plans. We are all now hoping for an early approval by the Board of Education so we can enjoy the fruits of our labor as soon as the buds appear on the beautiful Kentucky coffee tree in the schoolyard.

Last year's highly successful dance classes for youngsters are going to be resumed shortly. The March Post will carry full details but advance registration is being taken now by Lanie Melamed, EV 6-5987.

Over the Fence Post



By BOB YOUNG

Good fence posts make good neighbors, and good neighbors are often a chip off the old block in a new way. Here's the story of one of those blocks.

It was April in 1959, the Powelton Neighbors Membership Drive was in full swing, and Clifford and Mary Adams were seated in the dining room of their well-kept home at 420 n. 32nd St. They were wondering how they could help the people on their block to have the same feeling about Powelton as they felt. "I've lived here a good number of years," Mr. Adams said, "but I've made more new friends here in the time since Powelton Neighbors, than ever before. People seem to know me now, and it makes me feel better."

Mrs. Adams, I think it was, who first came up with the idea of a block group, related to the parent body, Powelton Neighbors, and yet reaching out in a way that was more person to person.

They spoke to Mrs. Margaret King up the street, and Mr. Robert Riley a few doors the other way, attended a PN general meeting to talk it over some more, and then they decided, "Let's go ahead." The response was warming. Lots of the folks had heard of PN and not quite known how to become a part of it. Others were members but somehow felt isolated. Still others were meeting each other for maybe the first time.

They invited George Funderburg to show some slides on Powelton Village and demonstrate how this was a neighborhood that had life. John Sennott came along to tap from his years of experience in block work, and throw the weight of his belief in this kind of thing their way -- and they were off.

They decided to call themselves the "Powelton 400" because the 400 block of N. 32nd St. was headquarters. They were an elite, not in the stand-offish sense of the social register, but in the feeling of being together that they were coming to know.

Every third Thursday they met. They opened with prayer. Sometimes Mrs. Delva Mansfield or Mrs. Eva Knight would sing. Once in a while Rev. Glover would play his guitar. Mrs. Mary Conway took notes. Mrs. Adams the block captain and Mrs. Aletha Riley suggested that Mrs. Maud Robinson, as Secretary, contact the Dept. of Streets and Sanitation, and that the Powelton 400 become a "clean block."

There was one problem. Mrs. Essie Caldwell peeked at the treasury and wondered where the money for clean-up, fix-up, paint-up would come from. Someone suggested a dinner, and a dinner they had -- 50 plates of yummy chicken and \$63 plinked into the treasury. With the money, with 23 clean block hats for the kids (the "Jr. 400"), some official push brooms, and lots of oomph, they painted the curbs, numbered the pavements, and kicked off a sense of pride that still grows stronger.

Over on Napa Street the word was out and Mrs. Mary Smith showed up to head a committee on that block. 31st St. too wanted to get into the act and Mrs. Leroy Harris volunteered to take charge there. Here were neighbors getting together, believing in their block, in their village and thereby even more in themselves.

Meanwhile, back at the general meeting, a committee that grew out of the discussions on the future of Powelton Village was suggesting the importance of all of us getting together with our near neighbors on a block basis. The Powelton 400's can teach us much in this effort. Each new block might be somewhat different than theirs in what it does -- cake sales teas, game days, landscaping and designing on a block basis -- for each has its own identity. But the underlying value in getting to know one another and really feeling a part of this area we call Powelton Village can well be brought home to us through more blocks like the Powelton 400.

A little birdie told me that the stork visited the Hawk family and brought along Conrad Michael to Conrad Sr. and Hannlis. Powelton's Kennedy's (Bob and Chris) had their own inaugural ceremony ushering Thomas John into the office of being.

Nice to see: So many Neighbor's activities at Saunders House and neighborhood nursing homes; the Hiefertz's visiting from Puerto Rico; Mrs. Rodek from the Poconos; 70 Poweltonians at Georges Hill for sledding during January's snow. Afterwards at the Byses there was always rum for one more.

Whatever your feeling about the Beat Generation, it's good to have the six 16th District Police Officers to say, "Powelton is my beat." Let's get to know officers Farrel and Johnson from 8 AM to 4 PM, Chandler and Moore to midnight, and Brown and Sonensky in the witching hours.....Good Fence Posts make good neighbors.

UNIVERSITY CITY TO BE FEATURED ON SEVEN WEEK RADIO SERIES

"University City - West Philadelphia" is the title of a series of programs on WXPB-FM (88.9 mc) beginning Monday, January 30th, 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. and continuing every Monday for seven weeks. Individual program titles are:

- West Philadelphia Corporation, January 30th.
- Some Social Services in University City, February 6th.
- Pioneering Civic Organizations (with a panel of civic leaders) February 13.
- A Stimulating Place to Live (with a panel of residents with talents in art, music and letters) February 20th.
- University Students Serve A Community (with three students who have given either leadership or consultation to community groups) February 27th.
- Planning and Coordinating Social Services (with a panel of citizens involved in planning for Housing, Health, and Recreation in West Philadelphia) March 6th.
- A Rich Cultural Life (with a panel of people involved in providing cultural activities for University City residents) March 13th.

Powelton people in the above programs will be Annabelle McDaniels on February 13th, Anna Smirnoff on February 20th, Doug Sampson on February 27, Brad Fraley on March 6th, and Lanie Melamed on March 13th.

The Powelton Village Co-op Nursery will be holding its annual rummage sale on a Saturday either late in February or early in March. We need clothing, children's toys, and popular miscellaneous items. The labelling of sizes would be helpful, particularly on adult clothing. Contributions can be taken to the home of Jeannine Herron, 3400 Pearl or brought to the next PN meeting; or contact Sybil Holtzer, EV 2-5753 if you'd like them picked up.

Powelton Neighbors supports this effort each year in order to raise money toward a contribution to the Crime Prevention Association, in appreciation for the use of their facilities for the nursery school.

Drew School cordially invites you to attend discussion meetings every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m., at the School. Some of the topics are:

- "Shall we help our children with homework?"
- "Are parents worrying about the wrong things?"
- "Should children watch TV?"
- "How can we create good family relations with our children?"

WEST PHILADELPHIA SCHOOLS COMMITTEE SETS SIGHTS -- MORE AND BETTER SCHOOLS!

At its second monthly meeting, Tuesday, January 3, the newly-formed West Philadelphia Schools committee set up two important sub-committees to work out plans in relation to the group's goals: a new junior high school and three new elementary schools in that part of West Philadelphia represented by the Committee. Two of the three elementary schools, McMichael and Leidy already exist; the Committee is proposing replacement by new school buildings. The third school being proposed would be a brand new one at 46th and Market Streets, near the site of a new housing project being constructed. The location of the junior high has not been determined. The sub-committee groups will meet independently, work with organizations and individuals in the community to obtain necessary facts, and draw up plans to present to the general Committee for action.

Formed in December, the West Philadelphia Schools Committee is comprised of people from some eight civic organizations in the following area: Parkside Avenue on the North to Chester Avenue on the south, 52nd Street on the west to the Schuylkill River on the east. Its purpose is to coordinate the work of these various groups in regard to the school needs of the area. Participating civic organizations are: Parkside Neighborhood Civic Association, Belmont Council, Mantua Community Council, Powelton Neighbors, Spruce Hill Civic Association, Garden Court Civic Association, and Mill Creek Civic Association. Also taking part are the West Area Health and Welfare Council and the Citizens Committee on Public Education. Co-Chairmen of the group are Dr. Seymour Feshback, GR 4-7374 and Mrs. Jolly Robinson, EV 2-3476. Both would be glad to hear from anyone with ideas pertaining to the work of the Committee.

P.V.D.A.

BY LOIS BYE

Because Powelton Village Development Associates is a company dedicated to the social goals of neighborhood renewal and integrated housing, many questions arise among Powelton Village residents about its operation and the ways in which it is achieving these goals. In the next three issues, PVDA Executive Vice-President, George Funderburg will answer three questions most frequently asked:

Relationship to Powelton Neighbors: PVDA and Powelton Neighbors are completely separate organizations with no financial ties between them. PVDA is a private-profit business enterprise organized in 1956 to purchase and rehabilitate rental housing to be leased on an open-occupancy basis.

Capital for purchase of property by PVDA came from people interested in an investment that would provide safety for their principal a fair return, and would demonstrate to other people who owned and operated real estate that good housing on an open-occupancy basis is good business.

Powelton Neighbors was organized shortly after PVDA as a non-profit, non-partisan civic group. The idea for this new civic organization was part of the thinking of the initial PVDA group, who felt that the renewal effort would fall far short of its potential no matter what was done with houses, unless Powelton residents were involved on a community-wide basis.

There are a number of people who are involved in both organizations and see them as complementary to attaining the common goal of making Powelton Village a better place in which to live.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED

Despite the weather, spring and the election of officers are just around the corner. In accordance with the By-laws, a three-member Nominating Committee is being formed to prepare a slate for the April elections. The Executive Committee has selected Hilary Henninger to be its representative, and the two remaining members of the Committee will be selected at the February meeting. We bring this to your attention so that you may give the matter careful consideration prior to the meeting.

HELP WANTED: Someone to mimeograph minutes of PN meetings--machine and instruction provided. Requires 2 or 3 hours a month, night or day. Call Betsy Van Camp, EV 2-1629.

LOST AND FOUND

1 pair purple socks, left after the December caroling - 1 ladies umbrella --fancy--left at the Oct. meeting.

Owners can retrieve by calling Rosemary Marshall, BA 2-3326.

OPERATION

ALPHABET

- a new civic project designed to aid some 800,000 illiterates in Pa. and N.J., began a 20 week TV series January 30th. Broadcast each weekday morning from 6:30 to 7:00 over WFIL-TV (6); the program consists of instruction to be taken at home or in one of the special centers located throughout the area. You can help by passing on this news to anyone you know who would benefit by the service, and by volunteer help. Call The Board of Education-LO 4-3400-for details.

DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE FEBRUARY 17th

Please submit material to: Kay Tatnall, 3420 Powelton Avenue.