

The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette

Preserving Our Neighborhoods

February 2000

Director of Historic Greenville Foundation at Feb. Meeting

Ed Ritts, Executive Director of the Historic Greenville Foundation, will attend our monthly neighborhood meeting to bring us up to date on the plans for the Greenville History Museum that will soon rise at the corner of College and Atwood Streets. In addition to filling us in on the immediate plans for the site and the facility, Ed is prepared to update us on the other activities that are planned for the old Coca-Cola Building and the rest of Heritage Green---such as the new main library and the children's museum. Phil Hughes, the local developer who has been a moving force associated with these projects, was an invited guest for the meeting. But unfortunately, cannot attend because of an out-of-town commitment. He has indicated a willingness to attend another one of our regular meetings in order to keep us informed. As usual, the meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. at Central Baptist Church (activities room - Lloyd Street entrance) on **Tuesday, February 1st.**

The January meeting consisted of a presentation by George Bell on the Hunley. (See related article about this fascinating discovery!)

Thanks for attending the January meeting: George Bell and Betti Wright, Bishop Simpson, Becky and Larry Boyd, Bob Lloyd, Kathleen Crispin, Robert and Judy Benedict, Margie Montgomery, Michael Hoffman, Claudia Price, Eric and Sara Dellinger, Deborah and Keith Rodgers.-bl & jb

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RaiseThe Hunley!

There are those who might think that George Bell's areas of expertise are limited to insurance and backyard squirrel hunting. They may be the ones who didn't attend the January neighborhood meeting to hear about the efforts to raise the Hunley submarine from the floor of Charleston Harbor. And, more interestingly, the story about how it got there. Those who did attend were treated to a first rate presentation complete with slides that was worthy of the A&E channel.

Tracing efforts by the Confederate Navy to break the Union naval blockade of southern ports and to construct an operational submarine to help do that, George shared some of the details about:

- ◆ the loss of crews who tested it ("The Hunley killed more Confederates than Union sailors");
- ◆ their final resting place ("Under the Citadel football stadium");
- ◆ the Hunley's sinking of one of the Union blockade ships (the U.S.S. Housatonic); and
- ◆ the mystery about the subsequent loss of the submarine after it completed its mission.

The facts that the submarine remained undiscov-

ered during the intervening 130 or so years since its sinking and that it is intact and can be raised in that state combine to make it "the most significant technological artifact of the 20th century" according to most archeological experts.

If you missed the presentation and would like to know more about the submarine and its history, the Friends of the Hunley, the group that is raising funds for the recovery, has a website: www.hunley.org. The recovery is targeted for mid-July, 2000. In the meantime, the Friends of the Hunley are sponsoring a full-scale model traveling exhibit which may be able to be obtained for display during the Hampton Pinckney 4th of July celebration this year. -bl

Use The Internet To Help Care For Your Historic Home

Did you know that there is an abundance of helpful information on the internet that is available to historic property owners? For instance, the National Park Service has provided technical and practical preservation services for over 25 years that is now on the internet. Take a look at www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/care to learn about the National Park Service and preservation planning, grants/tax credits, training and the battlefield protection program. Another useful site is www.old-houses.com which covers everything from restoration tips to historic properties to buy or sell. This site has great links to other preservation links including other historic districts. Probably the most popular preservation website is the home page for the National Trust for Historic Preservation at www.nationaltrust.org with links to National Trust Forum Online, an online information service available with Forum membership. The list goes on and on with specialized websites on everything from barns, cemeteries, main streets, etc. For a list of preservation related websites go to National Center for Preservation Training's homepage at www.ncptt.nps.gov. For a more "hands-on" website, check out wwwtraditional-building.com which is one of my favorites with online data and links for approximately 500 suppliers of restoration products and services. The best part is that the information is all free (except National Trust Forum). Happy surfing!! -rb



Hooking Up With The Southern-side

Several Hampton-Pinckney residents attended this month's Southernside Pot Luck supper at the new Greenville Rescue Mission on January 13 and came away extremely well fed and with a better connection to

our neighbors in that community. They took advantage of an open invitation from Mary Duckett, who is President of Southernside Neighborhoods in Action (SNIA) and a member of our Traffic Calming Committee and from Bishop Alfred Simpson of Pentecostal Move of God Church who stays active in the doings of both neighborhoods.

In addition to a hefty spread of food, the monthly Southernside meetings serve as a means for these neighbors to hear about local government and business developments that affect the community. Not surprisingly, there are a lot of issues that Hampton-Pinckney and Southernside have in common and where joint effort could and should be pursued.

One of Southernside's on-going activities is the computer literacy project for neighborhood kids sponsored at the Within Reach community center at 813 Hampton Avenue. The project accepts donations of computer hardware, software and instructional materials. If you have recently upgraded and are wondering what to do with your still-operational but no-longer-used computer components, Within Reach would welcome the gift. To make arrangements for a donation contact Mary Duckett at 235-5785 or Within Reach at 467-4305.

City Staff To Attend March Meeting

For our March 7 meeting, two key staff members of the City of Greenville will attend to tell us about major project plans that we've been anticipating for several years.

Thurman Norris, the City's Community Development Administrator, will be on hand to brief us about the plans for West Washington Street revitalization. Some neighbors will remember attending a public meeting at the Webb Settles Funeral Home in late 1998 when these efforts were launched. Since that time, the City has undertaken a series of studies concerning, among other things, traffic and small business development. Limited details about the results have appeared in the Greenville News and the City's own citizen newsletter but Thurman is the right person to ask about what is really going on.

Norm Gollub, the City's Economic Development Planner, will also attend to discuss the review he has conducted of the impact of the upcoming Western Corridor project on adjacent city neighborhoods. The project involves widening and re-routing of S.C. Highway 183 (Buncombe Street and Cedar Lane Road) from Academy Street to Highway 253 (Blue Ridge Highway). Many neighbors have been monitoring this activ-

ity for several years with varying degrees of frustration. Norm's efforts have been a welcome sign that City elected officials and staff are concerned that this significant transportation project can have adverse effects unless it's planned and implemented properly. -bl

The History Corner



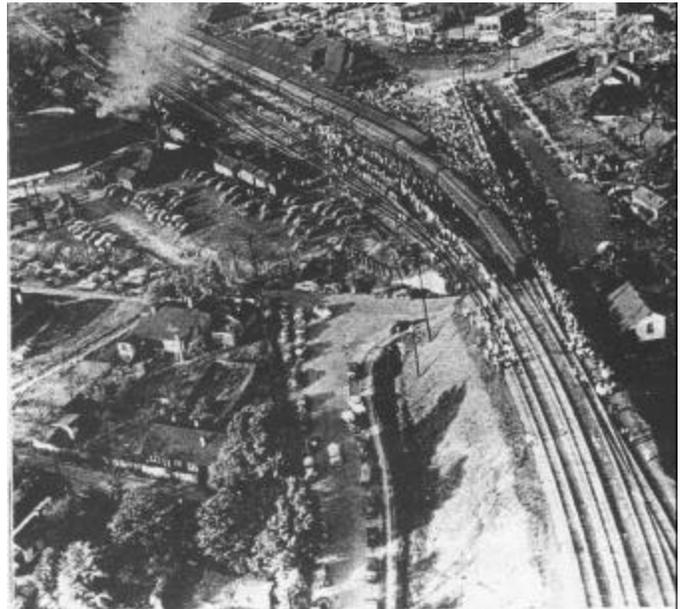
The Southern Railway Station was one of Greenville's most architecturally distinctive and historically significant structures. Located at the end of West Washington Street, its close proximity to the Hampton-Pinckney neighborhood enabled a number of residents to work for Southern Railway or related businesses. The station was built in 1890 in a Romanesque Revival Architectural style with a prominent tower resembling a church steeple. Unfortunately, the station was demolished in 1988.



During its 100 year life, the station provided thousands of travelers their first impression of Greenville. During World War I, it provided the primary means of transportation for soldiers stationed at Camp Sevier. In 1918, there was a severe outbreak of Spanish influenza and a Greenville resident recalled the soldiers' coffins stacked like cords of firewood awaiting a final trip home. Another fateful time for the station was in April, 1945 when the funeral train carrying Franklin Delano Roosevelt arrived in Greenville. President Roosevelt died April 12, 1945 in Warm Springs, Georgia. The funeral train slowly worked its way to Washington D.C. where FDR's body later rested in the East Room of the White House (like Lincoln's body had 80 years earlier). Several brief stops were made along the way. First Atlanta and then here in Greenville where *Newsweek* reported: "...at Greenville, South Carolina, where thousands packed the station area, someone passed aboard a wreath from Mrs. Kate Finley, whose son had been killed in the war." After the President's body laid in state in the

White House, another leg for the funeral train carried his body on to Hyde Park, New York for burial. The outpouring of emotion that April afternoon in Greenville was stirring as grief-stricken crowds lined the tracks.

In the photograph below you will recognize several buildings on West Washington near the Southern Railway Station. (Background information on the FDR funeral train supplied by Bob Lloyd.) -rb



Car 54, Where Are You?

Every month, if we have anything to report for our Crime Report, our resident Mrs. Kravitz (you know, the one from the show *Bewitched* that was always spying out her window), Anne Meyer, otherwise known as our Crime Watch Officer, will report it in this column. This is what she has for this month:



During the months of December and early January, several Hampton-Pinckney garages and basements were broken into and various tools were stolen. One day the Rolfe's handy-man (yes, the one who is hand-scraping the paint off of their house) saw another man selling tools on Rutherford Road and thought he recognized some of the Rolfe's tools that were stolen. The two jumped into Charlie's truck to investigate and indeed viewed this man holding in his possession some of Charlie's tools. Then the man jumped into a car which drove toward Poinsett Highway. After this the car turned into the Church's Fried Chicken on Poinsett and Charlie, in his car, called Eric Lewis, who promptly arrived and arrested the thief. Way to go Charlie!

Other crime reported included a disturbance on Hampton Avenue from a loud party. -jb

Of Personal Interest

- ◆ The Rescue Mission is in need of paper products—paper towels, toilet paper, diapers. Please bring any of these items to the February meeting of the Hampton-Pinckney Historic District and we will see that they are delivered.
- ◆ Anyone who didn't read about Eric Lewis in *City People* missed a great article. Eric commented that it was a little heavy on the SWAT team information and it did leave out that he is one of the few "Bicycle Police". Eric makes a great effort to attend our monthly meetings, as well as the Southside meetings and we certainly appreciate his efforts. -jb

Important Reminders

- ◆ The next neighborhood meeting will be Tuesday, March 7, 2000 at Central Baptist Church. Thurman Norris, the City's Community Development Administrator, and Norm Gollub, the City's Economic Development Planner, will be our featured speakers.
- ◆ Important phone numbers – Eric Lewis, Community Police Officer: Pager: 217-3188, Work: 271-5333, Mobile: 616-2275.
- ◆ By invitation only—City Council Workshop Meeting with the SCDOT on the Western Corridor and other traffic engineering issues surrounding the Hampton-Pinckney/Southernside area is scheduled to take place Feb. 21st. -jb

Letter From the Editor

When I was in graduate school I had a professor who, on the first day of class, informed us that he did not believe in recycling, parks or preservation of any kind. He believed that we should utilize all natural resources any way we pleased and did not see any reason to save them for his children and grandchildren. At first we thought he was joking but as the quarter wore on we actually saw his personality emerge to quantify his views. He wouldn't last long in our neighborhood, where we are working hard to restore these homes that someone else built. It makes us feel more closely connected to our surroundings when we learn something new about the previous owners of our house and the others in and around our neighborhood, City and

County. It gives us a sense of belonging as bits and pieces of each individual start to emerge from our woodwork. This reminded me of a poem (the author of which is unknown) I found in high school, which I then dug up out of my old stuff:

Bits and Pieces

.....I believe in God's master plan in lives. He moves people in and out of each other's lives, and each one leaves his mark on the other. You find you are made up of bits and pieces of all whoever touched your life, and you are more because of it, and you would be less if they had not touched you. Pray to God that you accept the bits and pieces in humility and wonder, and never question, and never regret.

Judy

"Some old buildings practically vanish all at once. Others, like the Cheshire Cat, vanish beginning with the end of the tail and ending with the grin, which remains some time after the rest is gone." - Allen Freeman, *Architecture*, November 1983.

Thanks to Our Sponsor

This issue of *The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette* is sponsored by Anne and Jim Meyer. Our newsletter delivery service this month is donated by Keith Lloyd. -jb

Contributors this issue: Bob Lloyd, Robert Benedict, Judy Benedict

The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette is published 10 times a year. All information to be included in the newsletter must be submitted in writing no later than seven days prior to the first Tuesday of each month. Editor:

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I live in the Hampton-Pinckney Historic District and I am in the 7th grade.

Give me a call at: 271-4381
Reference: Judy Benedict