

HISTORIC RESOLUTIONS FOR 1994

by John A. Herbst, Executive Director

ARRIVAL OF the new year brings with it time for reflection on what has been, and for many, a list of our best intentions for the year to come. I decided that for this Director's Gallery, I would poll some of the leaders of Pittsburgh's historical community to discover resolutions being made on behalf of heritage in Western Pennsylvania.

Lu Donnelly, Chair, Committee on Pittsburgh Archaeology and History

"To obtain funding to build a canal park along the Allegheny River. This would contain a section of the nineteenth-century Pennsylvania Canal which was salvaged a few years ago and placed in storage."



Historical Society's new building in the Strip District will open in 1995 as the Pittsburgh Regional History Center.

Arthur P. Ziegler, President, Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation

"To focus even further on linking historic preservation, economic development, restoration of city neighborhoods, and minority participation in all these efforts to improve our quality of life."

Dr. Thomas D. Carroll, Assistant Director for Research and Collections, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

"To further existing ties, and develop new ones, with the diverse communities served by the Historical Society, and to begin to identify ways that our thinking as professionals can be shaped and informed by our constituencies' thinking as inhabitants of the region. I further hope that our staff can use the insights gained from these ties to develop collections and research methods with

the ultimate goal of effecting a seamless and, ideally, organic relationship between ourselves and the people of the region."

Roy Sarver, Executive Director, Washington County Historical Society

"To continue to build upon the successes of our education programs serving school districts in Washington County. We will also explore the feasibility of a military history museum."

John DeSantis, Chair, Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission

"Having kept our 1993 New Year's Resolution of adoption of the Pittsburgh Register of Historic Places, the commission will ambitiously tackle two resolutions in 1994: to complete the public process of drafting a new preservation ordinance, assisting city council and the mayor in adopting the legislation; and to work with community-based organizations and preservation organizations to initiate public space clean-up and enhancement, targeting signs, signals, lighting, and street furnishings in the city's historic districts."

Robert J. Trombetta, Director, Fort Pitt Museum

"To enlarge the size of our military reenactments — our living history programs about the French and Indian War. Fort Pitt is actively recruiting new volunteers to participate and seeking to increase cooperation among the different groups in the region who do reenactments. Most importantly, we expect to begin replacing the museum's roof."

Daniel J. Freas, Site Administrator, Meadowcroft Museum of Rural Life, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

"To see greater strides made in the preservation of heirloom variety vegetables from Western Pennsylvania. We will begin a garden area to plant historic seed types that people help us collect, and make this part of the visitor's experience at Meadowcroft."

As for myself, I hope that 1994 brings all of the financial resources we need to create the best urban and regional history center in the nation, and that everyone in the Pittsburgh region participates. With renovation of our 1899 ice warehouse beginning this year, our 160,000 square-foot facility, when transformed into the Pittsburgh Regional History Center, will house a multitude of changing and long-term exhibits, educational spaces, and our library and archives. We will finally have a structure well-suited to all of those functions.

I hope it is a great year for history in our region. This will take the concerted efforts of not just community leaders polled here, but the support of government, business and the general public. Good luck! ❁