NIAGARA SAILS AGAIN

175 years have passed since the United States flotilla of nine vessels, commanded by Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, fought a squadron of six British warships near Put-In-Bay in western Lake Erie on September 10, 1813. In that battle, Perry’s flagship Lawrence was disabled and the commodore was transferred to the Niagara where he hoisted the famous “Don’t Give Up the Ship” battle flag. The Niagara then sailed through the enemy battle lines, forcing the surrender of the entire British squadron.

Following the battle, which saved the Northwest Territory from British domination and helped secure a settlement of land disputes along the Canadian-American border, Perry sent his classic message of victory, “We have met the enemy and they are ours...”

Since her victory over the British in 1813, the flagship has faced other enemies. Without proper maintenance, age and decay are the inevitable foes of wooden vessels like the Niagara. Scuttled in Misery Bay in 1820, her remains stayed submerged until 1913 when they were raised by a group of Erie citizens and rebuilt to celebrate the centennial of the Battle of Lake Erie. Since then, years of repairs and patching had compromised her original design, and by 1987 the Niagara was clearly in need of a full-scale restoration.

Under the direction of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), master ship designer Melbourne Smith was hired to return the Niagara to her original design. Work began with the complete dismantlement of the ship in September 1987. Over 100 original elements were salvaged and stored for reuse in the restoration.

The keel of the Niagara was laid in a ceremony on the Erie waterfront in May, 1988. Fifty-six hull frames, the stem and sternpost were erected and attached to the keel, after which the hull was planked, inside and out, the deck installed and the vessel caulked and painted to make the hull watertight.

On September 10, 1988, the Niagara was launched into the west Canal Basin in Erie. A spectacular day offered a full schedule of events including a memorial service, parade, official launching ceremonies, regatta, military encampment and ball. An estimated 20,000-30,000 people witnessed the launching and listened to Governor Casey speak in eloquent terms of the newly designated “Flagship of the Commonwealth.”

Thomas Hagen, president of the Erie Insurance Group and vice president of the Preservation Fund, has been deeply involved in the restoration and in planning for the gala September launching. “The launch is just the beginning for the Niagara; there is still a lot of work to be done,” said Hagen. “It is important that we don’t give up the ship. We want to make the Niagara a fine sailing ship and an ambassador for both the City of Erie and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania throughout the Great Lakes.”

This winter work will continue on the Niagara's masts, rigging, sails and main armament. By spring she will be ready

continued on page 6

Flagship Niagara on Lake Erie (before current restoration).
Governor Robert Casey has signed legislation reauthorizing the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The Commission—which is composed of 14 members including the Secretary of Education, nine members appointed by the governor, and four members of the general assembly—is responsible for the conservation of Pennsylvania's historic and natural heritage and the preservation of public records, historic documents and objects of historic interest. The Commission also oversees the identification, restoration and preservation of architecturally and historically significant sites and structures. The Bureau for Historic Preservation, which handles the state's preservation programs, is a division of the Commission. The process to reauthorize the Commission was required by the so-called "Sunset Act" of 1981.

Citizens Preserving Pennsylvania's Past is a newly formed coalition seeking citizen and community input on state financial support for historic sites and buildings in the Commonwealth. Several organizations, including the Preservation Fund and the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations, met recently to discuss two proposals pending introduction in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Both bills target funds for restoration of historic properties which are open to the public. For more information or to volunteer your time, ideas, and support for the coalition, contact: Jean Cutler, executive director, Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations, P.O. Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026, 717-787-3253.

Kurt Zwilk, director of Community and Public Affairs at Merchants Bank in Allentown, has been named to the fourteen-member Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. A native of Allentown, Zwilk was a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1973 to 1984, where he served on the Appropriations Committee as Vice Chairman, the Finance Committee, the State Capitol Preservation Committee, and as a legislative member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. He also serves on the Allentown Downtown Improvement District Authority; Pennsylvania Keystone State Games Board of Directors; Cedar Crest College Board of Associates; the Lehigh County Historical Society; and as chairman of the Pennsylvania Economy League, Lehigh Valley Committee. Zwilk will also represent the PHMC on the board of the Preservation Fund.

In June, 130 bridges from across the state were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This represents the largest group of bridges placed on the register at any one time. Both the Bureau for Historic Preservation and PennDOT were involved in the selection of historic bridges, all of which are state-owned. The oldest bridge included in the listing is the Frankford Avenue Bridge in Philadelphia. It is reputed to be the oldest stone arch bridge in the country still carrying traffic.

"The Implications of Change: A Vision 2000 Survey", conducted for the American Institute of Architects by Louis Harris and Associates and released in July, identifies "renovating built America" as one of the most significant trends that will impact our built environment into the early years of the 21st century. The survey questions were put to 201 people from inside and outside the design and building industry. 14 trends, identified prior to the survey, were explored in the questions posed. The trend most likely to have a major influence on 21st-century architecture is the "urbanization of suburbia", as indicated by 53 percent of the respondents; 52 percent identified "renovating built America" as also likely to have a major influence. Environmental and social trends were viewed as having less of an impact. Fifteen of the survey participants are Pennsylvanians, including Grace Gary, executive director of the Preservation Fund. For more information contact: American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

Do you need your slate roof repaired, your iron fence mended, your ceramic tiles replaced? If so, then you should plan now to attend the Fifth Annual Philadelphia Restoration Fair to be held Saturday, October 29 at the 1st Bank of the U.S. in Independence National Historical Park, 3rd and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia. Cosponsored by the Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia and the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion, the Fair is a tradeshow of craftspeople who specialize in restoring historic houses. It provides an opportunity for homeowners to discuss their restoration problems and concerns with experts, and, if needed, find someone who can do quality work for them in their homes. Architects and contractors will also find the fair a source of information for their projects. Nicholas Gianopoulos, of the structural engineering firm Keast & Hood Company, will speak at 1 p.m. on structural stabilization of historic residences. The Fair runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and admission is free.

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PRESERVATION FUND AWARDS GRANT TO STUDY OPTIONS FOR EASTERN STATE PENITENTIARY

The Philadelphia Historical Commission has received a grant of $10,000 from the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania's Philadelphia Intervention Fund to undertake a study of Eastern State Penitentiary. The study will evaluate the condition of the building and make recommendations for future uses.

Vacant since 1971, this National Historic Landmark is the object of mounting interest from developers. Intervention by the mayor has held any decision on future development pending the results of the study.

Eastern State was constructed between 1823 and 1836 from plans by noted 19th-century architect John Haviland. It stands as the first architectural expression of the Pennsylvania system of penalogy and as the realization of the concepts in prison design of 19th-century reformer Jeremy Bentham. Eastern State served as a model for some 500 prisons and, in the 19th century, was the most influential prison in the world.

"The future of Eastern State is important not just to Philadelphia and the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the prison, but to the entire nation," said Grace Gary, executive director of the Preservation Fund. "This complex is extremely important in the history of penal design and the study being conducted by the Historical Commission will provide the basis for the city to make a well-considered decision on what should be done with the property. Preservation must be taken into account in determining its future."

The Philadelphia Intervention Fund, which is providing the funding for the study, was established earlier this year with a grant to the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania from The Pew Charitable Trusts. For more information on the Philadelphia Intervention Fund contact the Preservation Fund.

INTERVENTION FUND AWARDS GRANTS TO STRENGTHEN PHILADELPHIA PRESERVATION EFFORTS

Through its Philadelphia Intervention Fund, the Preservation Fund has also made grants to the Philadelphia Historical Commission and the Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia to meet two critical needs of the city's preservation movement.

A $5,000 grant was made to the historical commission for a study of policy and procedures necessary to the efficient operation of the commission under the 1984 historic preservation ordinance.

The study will result in a document that establishes rules for the conduct of public meetings and the requirements for permit applications. It will define guidelines for compliance with the hardship and economic provisions of the ordinance and will also establish criteria for significant, contributing and non-contributing buildings in historic districts. Procedures for permit review by classification within districts and for...

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Grace Gary................Executive Director
Susan Shearer................Editor

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For information on becoming a member of The Pennsylvania Heritage Club, contact the Preservation Fund.
As the turmoil and desolation of the Great Depression swept across the United States in the early 1930s, Pennsylvania's southwestern coal region was especially devastated. With the closing of the mines, vast numbers of workers joined the unemployed; and living conditions for miners and their families, which had always been difficult in the mine-owned "patches", became even worse.

The election of Franklin Roosevelt in 1932 and his New Deal programs brought hope to stranded miners and their families. With the help of the Quakers, serving first in the Roosevelt administration and later operating independently, two towns were created to give miners, stranded by adversity beyond their control, an opportunity to build new lives. Each family would have a house and a plot of land for growing food. Each community was also planned to include an industry that would provide employment for the residents.

Norvelt, in Westmoreland County, was the only community planned in Pennsylvania by the federal Division of Subsistence Homesteads, created by Roosevelt in the first days of the New Deal. Originally called Westmoreland Homesteads, the town was renamed for Eleanor Roosevelt after she visited the community. Today, Norvelt is hardly recognizable as a product of the depression. The tree-lined streets and charming little cape cods, now interspersed with later houses, give the impression of just another suburban development. The Homestead Laundromat and the Roosevelt Room restaurant are only slight reminders of the town’s heritage.

Penn-Craft, on the other hand, seems to have changed little since it was built. Conceived and begun by Quakers who had been involved in the establishment of Norvelt, Penn-Craft was an attempt to create a model self-help subsistence community without the bureaucratic interference and red tape that had plagued the earlier federal projects.

Both towns were oases of hope in an era of desperation for many American workers. Eleanor Roosevelt’s comments about Penn-Craft convey the goals of the New Deal and the American Friends Service Committee that lay behind the establishment of the communities, "...the value of the Penn-Craft project would be only partly realized if we view it as just an adventure in community development. We must see that its basic motivations of respect for the human spirit and faith in human resourcefulness, have deep meaning for every area of economic and social life, not only in America, but in all lands."

Indeed, the idea of self-help communities, begun with towns like Norvelt and further tested at Penn-Craft, became the model for ventures in both rural and urban areas of the United States during the 1950s and again during the "war on poverty" of the 1960s. Today, the model is still being applied in developing countries, as a proven way for people to build their own lives and their own communities with a sense of dignity and integrity.
FIVE PROPERTIES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER

The following properties were added recently to the National Register of Historic Places, the official listing of buildings and sites significant in the history and culture of the United States.

BUCKS COUNTY

Belmont (Bensalem), built around 1850, is one of only a few purely Greek Revival style houses in Lower Bucks County. Although not as ornate or high style as the county’s supreme Greek Revival landmark, Andalusia, Belmont is a fine example of the middle ground between vernacular houses and those with high style Greek Revival detailing.

Riverside Farm (Erwinna) was an important local resort in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Catering to urban visitors seeking rustic, rural summer retreats, the inn, which operated from 1870 until 1930, attracted visitors from the Philadelphia/Trenton area who traveled by train to Frenchtown, New Jersey, and from there by coach to the Farm. In 1982 the Farm was reopened by its present owners under the name Everyman-on-the-Delaware.

INDIANA COUNTY

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church (Blairsville), constructed in 1830, is significant as a fine local example of Gothic Revival church architecture. The rectory, built in 1889, shows the influence of architectural pattern books and high style architecture on vernacular homes of the period.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

The First Church of Christ Scientist (Scranton) is a superb example of the large public buildings constructed in downtown Scranton between 1880 and 1930. Designed by Albert J. Ward, a locally prominent architect who designed both public and private buildings during the early 20th century, the church is considered an outstanding example of the Neo-Classical revival style. The congregation held regular services in the church until 1985 when the building was sold to the Lackawanna County Library Board. The Board converted the building to library use in 1987.

MONTGOMERY/CHERSTER COUNTY

The Oaks Reach Section of the Schuykill Navigation Canal (North and East Bank of Schuykill River from Rt. 113 to Lock 61, Upper Providence Township and Phoenixville) is a well-preserved representative section of a canal which, between 1824 and 1887, was of major importance in transporting raw materials from central Pennsylvania to manufacturing centers in the southeastern part of the state. The canal also played a significant role in the development of the southern anthracite fields in Pennsylvania. As the only section of the canal in northwestern Montgomery County, the Oaks Reach Section provided the economic stimulus for the growth of numerous villages in this portion of the county. Today it is one of only two sections of the canal in which a controlled flow of river water is still maintained.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Grays Road Recreation Center (2501 Christian St., Philadelphia) was established in 1926 by the Richard Smith Family Trust, Philadelphia’s first and largest charitable institution created solely to provide for the recreation and educational needs of children. The philosophy of the Trust was based on using play to mold the character and social relationships of children. The Grays Road Recreation Center, designed by architect John Torrey Wildrim, is the last surviving example of the four Smith Family Trust play areas for neighborhood children in Philadelphia. The center recently underwent rehabilitation for residential use.

Established by the National Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register safeguards designated properties from federally funded or assisted projects which may endanger them. Listing also makes owners who rehabilitate certified historic commercial properties eligible for federal tax benefits. According to Brenda Barrett, director of the Bureau for Historic Preservation, more than $500 million in federal tax incentives have been granted to property owners since the program’s inception.

Pennsylvania has, to date, approximately 2,000 entries in the National Register, more than 190 of which are historic districts. Several districts include hundreds of buildings, both residential and commercial.

Contact the Bureau at the address/phone below for additional information on the commonwealth’s historic preservation program.

APPLY NOW FOR 1989 PRE-DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

The Bureau for Historic Preservation announces that the application package for FY89 pre-development grants is now available.

Provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior, these funds are part of the BHP’s comprehensive preservation program designed to encourage local efforts to preserve historic properties and buildings so that Pennsylvania’s rich and diverse man-made environment will stand for future generations.

Pre-development projects include the preparation of architectural plans and specifications, feasibility studies, historic structures reports and engineering studies which will assist in the preservation of National Register listed properties.

Grants require a fifty percent cash match and will be awarded for a twelve-month period to begin April 1, 1989. It is anticipated that typical grant amounts will range from $10,000 to $20,000.

To receive an application package contact the BHP, Attention: Grants manager, at the address below or phone 717-783-9923.

The deadline for applications is December 1, 1988.
The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania is preparing a major exhibit entitled "Homestead: The Story of a Steel Town" to open in early 1989. The Society is asking anyone with old family photographs, labor union memorabilia, mill tools, and stories about life in Homestead who would be willing to lend them to the exhibit to contact Curt Minter at 412-681-5533.

With the successful renovation of Philadelphia's historic Lit Brothers Department Store, attention now turns to the John Wanamaker building. Said to be the site of the first "white sale" in the United States, the building is best known for its atrium with pipe organ and eagle and for the ninth-floor Crystal Room restaurant. In the redevelopment scheme, only five floors will be retained for commercial use; the remainder of the building will be converted into office and conference space, with parking and a multi-screen theater in the basement. Concerned citizens and preservationists are hopeful that the significant interior spaces will be retained in the renovation.

The Institute of Museum Services announced in August the recipients of the 1988 Conservation Project Support grants. There were over 400 applications for the almost $3 million in grant support. 219 awards were made including 22 to Pennsylvania institutions. Among the Pennsylvania grants were awards to Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater in Mill Run to perform a comprehensive analysis and study of the reinforced concrete and masonry in order to determine condition and make recommendations for treatment and repair; to Hope Lodge and Mather Mill in Fort Washington to perform general surveys of the condition of the collections and environmental conditions of both exhibition and storage spaces, and to formulate a long-range conservation plan; and to the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in Strasburg for the restoration of the Pennsylvania Railroad Coach #1651.

Philadelphia's newly adopted Center City Plan includes many hopeful signs for maintaining the historic character of this important urban area while allowing for inevitable development in the downtown. The plan calls for placing height limits on sites around city hall with its famous William Penn statue, until recently the highest point in the downtown landscape. Protected view corridors with height limit overlays will also be established. Other preservation elements in the plan include more expeditious listing of significant properties and districts and the transfer of development rights allowing owners of historic properties to sell unused development rights on historic properties for use on other sites. The plan also presents a separate plan for each of the downtown neighborhoods focussing on neighborhood conservation and the importance of compatible development.

Do you know someone who has helped care for your parks, trails, water, wildlife or historic sites by raising money or public support, or by doing general maintenance or cleanup? If so, the Department of Environmental Resources invites you to nominate them for an award in the "Take Pride in Pennsylvania" program. The program honors individuals, businesses, government agencies and civic groups involved in projects to preserve the Commonwealth's natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources. Nominations must be received by October 1, 1988. Contact: Take Pride in Pennsylvania, Dept. of Environmental Resources, Bureau of State Parks, P.O. Box 1467, Harrisburg, PA 17120; 717-787-89-80.

The Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site at the intersection of Spring Garden and Seventh Streets in Philadelphia has been named a National Literary Landmark by the Literary Landmarks Association. Poe was born in Boston in 1809 and died in Baltimore in 1849. He moved often throughout his life and his years in Philadelphia were among his most productive. The Philadelphia site includes the house rented by the author and a neighboring property.

The Lebanon County Historical Society is seeking materials pertaining to the Pfaltzgraff Pottery Company from the early 19th century to the present. Photographs, early catalogues, company records, and other historical documents and memorabilia including fine and unusual examples of pottery are wanted. Contact the Society at 924 Cumberland St., Lebanon 17042.

A study conducted recently in Allentown concludes that sales prices of properties in the city's two historic districts rose at a rate of 46.5 percent above citywide prices between 1978 and 1985. The report, issued by the city's planning bureau, also showed a marked increase in private investment in the two districts following historic designation. Opponents of designation often fear that it will bring financial hardship or arbitrary decision-making on the part of the Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB); the report shows that neither has happened in Allentown. The city will continue to track the success of the Old Allentown and Old Fairgrounds districts.

Sails Again (continued from page 1) for sea". She will then divide her time between travelling around the Great Lakes under her own sail as Pennsylvania's flagship ambassador, and being docked in Erie and open for visitation.

"I can think of no better way for the public to capture a sense of these vessels that fought in the Battle of Lake Erie than through this restoration", said ship designer Melbourne Smith. "She will be the only sailing vessel of her period in full operation in the world."

Visitors to Erie are invited to visit the Niagara Restoration Facility on West Front Street where they may view a short video on the history of the Niagara and an exhibit on the Battle of Lake Erie and the Niagara. Visitors also have the opportunity to see restoration work in progress.

A detailed account of the history of the building of Perry's fleet is contained in the recently re-issued The Building of Perry's Fleet on Lake Erie, 1812-1813. The publication is available for $4.95 plus 6% sales tax and $1 for postage and handling, from the Publications Sales Program, Friends of the PHMC, P.O. Box 11466, Dept. SC, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1466, tel. 717-787-2407.
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- Individual $15
- Family $25
- Associate $50
- Patron/Professional $100
- Benefactor $500
- Pennsylvania Heritage Club* $1000 and above
- Nonprofit Organization $35

*Includes special membership benefits. For information contact the Preservation Fund.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Preservation Director for Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County. Responsible for architectural surveys, research and evaluations, and National Register nomination preparation. Strong communications skills, M.A. in architectural history, preservation or related field desirable. Send resume and salary requirements to Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, 123 N. Prince St., Lancaster 17603.

Field Representative, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office (Philadelphia). Duties include responding to constituent requests, assisting in planning and execution of workshops and seminars. Requires a B.A. in discipline relating to historic preservation and two years preservation-related work experience. Contact: Linda Ellsworth, Director Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 6401 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia 19114.

FUNDING SOURCES

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has $1.3 million available for below-market rate loans to non-profit organizations and state and local governments to help finance preservation projects. Loans are available to help acquire or purchase options on historic properties and to finance their rehabilitation. Properties must be listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or must be contributing structures in a National Register district. Loans must be matched locally. Contact: Office of Financial Services, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; 202-673-4054.

The Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania is a tax exempt, charitable 501(c)3 organization. All membership contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Please make payable to:
The Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania
2470 Kissel Hill Road
Lancaster, PA 17601
DINE AND DANCE

ATOP THE BELLEVUE

Recently Cunard Hotels and Resorts announced that the official opening event for the new Hotel Atop the Bellevue will be a gala weekend benefitting the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania and the Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia. To be held the weekend of March 31-April 1, 1989, the event is a very special opportunity to experience the spectacular new hotel atop a Philadelphia landmark and support preservation efforts in the city and across the state.

"This exciting news reconfirms the preservation commitment of Cunard and the developers of the Bellevue project," said Fund president Hyman Myers. Speaking for Cunard, managing director of the Hotel Atop the Bellevue, Michael Duffell said, "We are delighted to be able to work with these two important nonprofit groups to showcase both our new hotel and preservation in Philadelphia and across Pennsylvania."

Weekend activities will include a cocktail reception, dinner dance, Sunday brunch, special tours and raffle for a round-trip ticket on the Cunard Lines Queen Elizabeth II. If you wish to be included on the Preservation Fund's invitation list, please contact Vicki Georges, Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania, 2470 Kissel Hill Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601; 717-569-2243.

Calendar

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct.4-5</td>
<td>Administering the Historic District. 2-weekend workshop sponsored by Preservation Fund and PA Dept. of Community Affairs. Glenside Motor Inn, Shamokin. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Contact: DCA, 717-787-5177.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct.9</td>
<td>Pittsburgh Industrial Heritage Tour. Bus to Hazelwood, Homestead, Braddock and South Side. 2-5 p.m. Contact: Pittsburgh History &amp; Landmarks Foundation, 412-471-5808.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct.12</td>
<td>Administering the Historic District. Holiday Inn, Bristol. (See description above)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov.4-6</td>
<td>Antiques Show. Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation. Contact: 412-471-5808.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov.5</td>
<td>Recent Trends in Historic Preservation. West Chester Annual Conference cosponsored by the Chester County Historical Society and West Chester University. Contact: 215-692-4800.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov.19-20</td>
<td>Colonial Crafts Sale and Train Festival. Lebanon County Historical Society, 924 Cumber- beland St. (Rts. 422 &amp; 72), Lebanon.</td>
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1989

March 31- April 1 (see announcement, this page)