

TRIPS A WHEEL

Where to go and
How to get there



Our Cycle Route No. 35 A RAMBLE THROUGH FAIRMOUNT PARK.

Various Means of Access. Old-Time Attractions and Improvements.

The completion of the new bridge across the Schuylkill at Strawberry Hill (reported in these columns on Monday) suggests another ramble through our lovely Fairmount Park. Our Trips Nos. 16 and 17 took us along the eastern bank of the river, and from the mouth of the Wissahickon to Andorra Nurseries.

Let us direct our course this time towards West Fairmount Park.

TWO WAYS TO GET THERE. If we start, as usual, from our central point at the Public Buildings, our first objective is Spring Garden street, which we follow westward until it is intersected by the reservoir and the river.

Have you ever ridden over the fine new macadam drive now completed from Mantua avenue to the Park gate opposite the Zoo? Yet a little while and the western bank of the river between those two points will be so entirely metamorphosed as to be unrecognizable by those who were familiar with the wilderness that existed there up to this very year.

Go and see it. Cross the bridge. Just beyond it turn R into Thirty-first street, or, to avoid one block of uneven cobblestone, into Thirty-second street and it immediately brings you to beautifully asphalted Mantua avenue. You follow the latter as far as Thirty-fourth street, cross R over the railroad bridge, and the new driveway takes you to the Park gate, exactly one mile from Thirty-first and Spring Garden. Just before you come to the Girard Avenue bridge, nearer to us, higher up, is that erected by Rhode Island on our World's Fair grounds.

To reach the same entrance by way of Girard avenue bridge let us make our way into East Fairmount Park, as we did in Trip 16, pass Washington's monument on R, and the waterworks on L, and at Lincoln's statue bear left on L.

If, by any chance, you don't feel in the humor for uphill exertion, bear into this straight clay road on R; it would probably be called Thirty-second street if it had a name or a number.

uel Brock, the author of the bill for the establishment of the common school system in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Brock lived here till 1833, when he moved into town, complaining of the ague that the building of the waterworks dam had induced hereabouts, and died only fifteen years before the Centennial.

The house goes further back than Brock's time, however; it was erected by a Philadelphia merchant, a Mr. Ross, 106 years ago.

BY MEMORIAL AND HORTICULTURAL HALLS.

On the summit of West Briar Hill, let us keep to the right, and leaving on L that sharp turn which would bring us to the Concourse in front of Memorial Hall, wind around Sweet Briar Vale, with its popular sweep, down there on R.

As we near (the back of) Memorial Hall, just a mile from Lansdowne drive entrance, particularly fine view of the Schuylkill, as this date unimpaired by the foliage of intervening trees, presents itself to us.

A few yards farther, notice the restoration to something like its former state, of the ravine that lay here in its primitive beauty before the Centennial Exhibition. The bridge that carried so many thousands across from this point to Horticultural Hall has been removed, but the four sets of pillars that ornamented each of its corners are still there, holding to your gaze the suggestive date 1876, as a memento of "the glories that were."

BELOMONT AVENUE.

When we strike Belmont avenue we have ridden 1 1/4 miles from Lansdowne drive entrance; strange as it may seem, the distance between the two points by way of Forth and Girard avenue is just the same, the connecting drive-ways being mostly straight lines.

We turn R into Belmont avenue and a few whiffs of our wheels bring us to the cross-road at the foot of Belmont Hill.

Instead of going straight up the hill, as we have done before, let us take either turn, R or L; both routes can be made to converge above Belmont Mansion (see map).

(1) AROUND GEORGE'S HILL.

Did you know that the Guard House here on R was the Ohio State building at our Exposition in 1876? Turn L around M; the asphaltum pavement you ride over for a while is a relic of that time, too; further on our way we ride up in the British building, nearer to us, higher up, is that erected by Rhode Island on our World's Fair grounds.

What think you of the view from the pavilion on the summit of this George's Hill, 210 feet above high tide? Don't misname it "St. George's Hill," as some people do. Jesse George and his sister, Rebecca, were large-hearted enough to present these lovely 83 acres to the city for a public park in 1863.

Their respected name should be guarded from the blunders of Anglomaniacs.

From this point you might run down to Fifty-second street, or to the Cathedral grounds; the cycling patronage extended to it during its short existence this season was very large, but what will it be next year, with the new means of access just supplied to it.

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Do you see, a short distance ahead, a turn R down hill, which, a sign-post at present tells us, is the "drive to the River Road." It is in reality the modernized Ford Road of other days, when they did ford across the Schuylkill, down there; but, now, it leads you to the new, just completed, Strawberry Hill bridge, and a beautiful new road takes you thence up to the Dauphin street entrance; the distance from the corner of Thirty-third and Diamond to this place (Woodside Park) being practically two miles.

TO CHAMOUNIX (MT. PROSPECT). And now having enjoyed the most up-to-date kind of highways, would you care to be suddenly transported to surroundings that will bring you back in spirit to the days when the primeval forest spread its glory over the land?

Let us keep straight ahead along

the distance from bridge to bridge is exactly one mile.

HOMEWARD BOUND.

No Buildings, along the straight course of Trip No. 16.

Should you care to vary it, remember that Fairmount Park has in its every nook and corner a mine of historic lore ever ready for whoever will but take the trouble of glancing at it.

If you wish to bring home a few more mementos of your ride to town, bear L at foot of Strawberry Hill; its daily patronized fountain and the new bridge near it make it an unimpeachable landmark on your way.

WOODFORD AND STRAWBERRY MANSIONS.

Climbing this hill is easy nowadays; still, don't do it if you "don't feel like it," and for your dear sweet sake put your pride in your pocket, no matter who may have the vulgar imperipience of commenting on your walking.

On its summit, Woodford and Strawberry Mansions, on your L, are worthy of notice. Each of these were built in the early years of last century, and harbored as their guests many of the makers of our city.

All this land was once known as Swanson, the property of the Swanson family, after whom Swanson street, below Christian, was named. The Swansons, like Swan Lom mentioned above, were among the Swedes who landed on our shores long before William Penn came near the place.

"Swanson" is, of course, the English adaptation of their real name, "Swenson." Here's an extension of the original patronymic, "Sven."

EDGELEY. Let us retrace our course to where we turned L to come here on top of Strawberry Hill, and wheel R around a tongue of land labeled "Edgeley."

You may have seen it designated "Edgeley," "Edgley," "Edgelle," "Edgely," perhaps. This beautiful un-

der, Philip Syng Physick, the father of American surgery.

Dr. Physick was not always in a position to own such a country home as this was in its better days. We have his own statement for it that three years after his return from Europe, a full-fledged Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of London, he walked the streets of Philadelphia without making as much by his practice "as would put soles on his shoes." Let this be said, by way of encouraging others.

His town residence was the "Physick House," or "Hill House," on Fourth and Union streets, originally built by Henry Hill, a well-known physician, as well as a patriotic citizen, a member of our Committee of Safety in 1776, etc. Did you ever come across the old-time lines:

"Now stir the fire and bring the wine;
'Twas bottled Anno ninety-nine,
And bought of Henry Hill,
Four or five hundred years ago;
To those on earth we love the most
And those who love us still!"

ORMISTON, ROCKLAND. At the police hut on the north side of the East Park reservoir we turn R again, and a little more than half a mile brings us to Ormiston. Its unaltered colonial aspect is striking.

Prothonotary Edward Burd, who purchased the place in 1786, bestowed upon it the name of the Halliburton homestead in Scotland (viz., Ormiston) in honor of his wife, nee Jane Halliburton.

Take next turn to the right again, past Rockland, another typical relic of times ago (see its roomy porch at the back overlooking the Schuylkill) most pretentious of our landmarks to day, Mount Pleasant, at one time the property of the traitor Benedict Arnold, best known to cyclists as The Dairy.

MOUNT PLEASANT.

It was purchased by the city in 1868, previous to which it had been a beer garden called Washington's Retreat. The mansion, however, was erected as far back as 1781 by Sen. Captain John McPherson, a scion of the McPhersons of Clunie in Scotland, who christened his new residence "Clunie."

The name does not seem to have been very generally adopted, for I never found in a newspaper of the year 1786 an advertisement of his own in which he described himself as John McPherson, of Mt. Pleasant.

It appears he was then in quest of "A Gardiner," who was to be "well recommended for his Honesty, Sobriety and Industry and a Single Man, of proper Resolution, Discretion

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ART NEWS

Events Among the Picture Makers—Exhibitions Here and Elsewhere.

Tuesday, November 30.—Lecture by Mr. Sidney Dickinson, at the Drexel Institute, at 8 o'clock.

Lecture by the Rev. T. B. Neely, at the Plastic Club, 430 o'clock.

Weekly meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Academy Fellowship, 8 o'clock.

Wednesday, December 1.—T-Square Club's regular meeting. Drawings due for Forestry Association's seal, at Washington, D. C.

Thursday, December 2.—Organ Recital at the Drexel Institute, 8 o'clock.

Friday, December 3.—Lecture by the Rev. C. P. H. Nason, at the Drexel Institute, 8 o'clock.

Saturday, December 4.—Date for sending in of entry blanks to the Academy of the Fine Arts.

The Academy of the Fine Arts has just had prepared a new catalogue of its permanent collection, somewhat similar in appearance to the old pamphlet, but much more comprehensive in its arrangement. The preface to this catalogue was written by Mr. Edward Coates and is as concise and direct an account of the history of the ancient art institution as has so far been written.

Exhibitors at the forthcoming annual exhibition must send to the Academy a list of their pictures or statues, entered in proper fashion on the card before Saturday of this week. Collections will be made in this city by the Academy's own draymen, before December 18.

A meeting of the Fellowship of the Academy of Fine Arts was held in the lecture room at Broad and Cherry streets, on Monday evening of last week. It was decided on that occasion that an associate membership be established to which all persons interested in art might belong.

Announcement was made that a study meeting would be held in the lecture room every Tuesday evening. The attending members, many bring to this meeting examples of their work which will be criticized by the Lecture Committee and by the students and artists themselves.

Mr. Talcott Williams most entertainingly addressed the members of the Fellowship on the subject of "Newspaper Illustration as a Field for Art." Mr. Williams, who has made a thorough and complete study of this field of art, gave his listeners some interesting statistics concerning the salaries paid to the "newspaper artists" in this country, their numbers, their style of work and the possibilities for the infusion of a real artistic influence into the rapid journalistic illustration now so much in vogue.

Williams' talk was appropriate, and timely, and it was received with appreciation by his listeners.

Mr. Will S. Robinson has resumed his perspective classes in the Academy Schools. The sessions are held weekly. Mr. Robinson comes from New York to give his periodical criticisms.

At the Art Club last week Mr. J. L. Jerome Ferris' picture, "Off Duty," was bought by Mr. Harrington Fitzgerald. Mr. Fitzgerald has himself two pictures in this exhibition, one a small interior, catalogued as "The

subject of the program.

At the meeting announcement will be made of the decision in the re-reading contest, and a gold medal and mentions will be made according to the advice of the jury.

Arrangements have recently been completed by the Memorial Hall Committee of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the exchange of the Alexander Harrison now in the Willits collection and pictures—"The Mystery of the Night," for the large painting of that artist, "Le Grand Miror."

The latter canvas was exhibited here last year in Pittsburgh last year and is one of the finest examples of the able marine painter's skill.

On Tuesday afternoon of this week the Rev. T. B. Neely will speak before the members of the Plastic Club on "The Conduct of Meetings." Dr. Neely will in his talk describe the proper conduct of a deliberative body, with a particular consideration of the methods of procedure in club meetings.

Mr. Sydney Dickinson will on Tuesday evening of this week deliver the first of two lectures at the Drexel Institute. His collection, the subject will be "The Moors in Spain."

On Thursday evening there will be an organ recital in the auditorium, given by Mr. David Edgar Crozier, of Harrisburg. The program will treat upon the "Abandonment, Martyrdom and Glorification of the French Soldier, Patriot, Martyr, Saint."

Philadelphia designers who may contemplate sending drawings to Washington for the Forestry Association's seal are reminded that competition for the seal must be in the hands of the association's secretary before Wednesday of this week, December 1.

In the catalogue of the Baltimore Water-Color Exhibition there are the names of several artists who have exhibited. Miss Burr has sent pictures, as have also Mrs. Susan H. Bradley, Collin Campbell Cooper, Mrs. Emma Campbell Cooper, Alice Cushman, Miss Burr, Margaret Redmon, Margarette Lippencott, Mary Sinnickson and Henry Thouron.

Some of Mr. Elliot Dangerfield's water-colors, which were seen here in last year's Academy exhibition, are entered in this Baltimore exhibition.

An exhibition in New York city which is creating much interest contains a collection of twenty-five pictures by the Norwegian landscape painter, Fritz Thaulow. M. Thaulow's pictures have been seen several times here in the Academy exhibitions.

He is a painter of great strength and masterful technique, and a collection of his works in this country ought to be an event of uncommon importance.

Mr. William M. Chase, who has gone to Chicago for a month's stay to execute some portrait commissions, was given a reception at the Art Institute in that city last Tuesday.

