Greetings

This "Update on Olmsted" is a supplement to the regular N.A.O.P. Newsletter, to share with you the good news and progress reports from our N.A.O.P. affiliates across the country.

Communications from around the country indicate the exciting range and degree of historic landscape preservation action underway at the community, municipal and state level involving local activists, elected and appointed officials, scholars, landscape designers—all of the members of the N.A.O.P. preservation network who continue to initiate and implement park preservation programs nationwide.

To those of you who read this update whose "news" is not included—please JOIN the N.A.O.P. and become part of the historic landscape communications network. We all have stories, case studies, strategies and techniques to share. The more information we receive—the better we can strengthen our collective capacity to preserve and protect the historic landscape—everywhere.

If you did not receive our Summer/Fall 1984 issue of the N.A.O.P. Newsletter and would like one, please contact: N.A.O.P., 51 Stelle Road, Belmont, MA 02178.

Atlanta, GA

The proposed "Presidential Parkway" with Jimmy Carter's Library incorporated into a roadside park, is three steps closer to construction since the Summer/Fall 1984 Report, and tainted by a recently discovered scandal.

The Council on Environmental Quality ruled that the issue was not of national importance and refused to review it.

U.S. District Judge William C. O'Kelley ruled in favor of Georgia Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) and the Federal Highway Administration. This ruling is on appeal and is scheduled to be heard on February 11.

Fulton Court Judge Joel Fryer denied a motion for a restraining order filed by attorneys for two area residents, arguing that the City of Atlanta had no right to transfer land from city parks to the State Department of Transportation for "parkway" construction. Part of the parkland in question is Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.'s linear park along historic Ponce de Leon Avenue, in Druid Hills.

Harry Beadle, investigative reporter for radio station WGST has recently discovered that Atlanta City Council President Marvin Arrington, a successful attorney with no construction experience, had been qualified as a "disadvantaged business enterprise" (D.B.E.) with Georgia D.O.T. and was listed as the largest D.B.E. subcontractor with Shepherd Construction Company, convicted of bid-rigging in 1982. Shepherd Construction Company won the largest of the "Presidential Parkway" contracts. Since becoming involved with the Shepherds, Arrington voted in favor of the "Parkway" twice, without following City Council rules that require a council member with a personal interest in the outcome of a vote to reveal his interest before the vote is taken and to be absent when the matter is considered.

On February 27, 1984, before he went into the "construction business," Mr. Arrington gave an impassioned speech opposing the "Parkway" before the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

The State Attorney General has indicated that although Marvin Arrington was involved in a conflict of interest, the votes and contracts authorizing the parkway were not thereby invalidated. There should be further developments.

—Mary Dabbe
Newsletter Editor
Olmsted Parks Society of Atlanta

Biltmore Estate
Ashville, NC

Biltmore Estate is a National Historic Landmark property which includes Biltmore House, designed by Richard Morris Hunt and grounds and gardens designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. The Estate was created by George W. Vanderbilt (1862-1914) and originally consisted of 125,000 acres.

Today Biltmore Estate is comprised of 8,000 acres and is operated by George Vanderbilt's grandson. The property is open year-round with an annual visitation of one-half million people.

While Olmsted helped Vanderbilt with a master plan for the entire property, the 500 acres of gardens and parks surrounding Biltmore House are the primary areas of design. These are the areas which are being maintained and for which future restoration is planned.

The restoration project will begin with a master plan for the whole estate. This is being prepared in conjunction with the firm of Cobham Resources of Oxford, England. Cobham has done a great deal of planning for large estates, including Blenheim. Their holistic approach to our problems decided us on their selection.

In beginning this project, we are gathering together all available plans, letters, photographs and documents relat-
ing to Olmsted's work at Biltmore. There are many records in the collection at Biltmore and the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site has also been very helpful. However, it is quickly evident when comparing the plans to the site that many decisions were made on the ground by Olmsted and his foreman and that original plans can serve as a guide only. Therefore, one of our first tasks will be documentation of what is on the site as we grub out stumps and remove weak or old plants.

In Olmsted's lush planting, an abundance of plant material was employed, much of it from the nursery of several million plants which was maintained at Biltmore in the 1890's. As buying them all would be too costly, the only way we can possibly come close to this richness is to raise plants ourselves. Thus, a large nursery has been started on the estate to propagate replacement plants. Many of the plants that Olmsted tried did not prove suitable for this climate; naturally, we will not replace these.

We hope to take several approaches to the restoration. One or two of the gardens immediately surrounding the house such as the Ramble and the Italian Gardens may be returned to their exact 1890's appearance. However, larger roads and park areas can only be approached by a broader palette, respecting Olmsted's intentions.

In a landscape as large as Biltmore, difficult choices must often be made; we hope to make them with Olmsted's advice.

--Susanne Brendel-Pandich Curator, Biltmore Estate Asheville, N.C.

Buffalo, NY

The Buffalo Friends of Olmsted Parks, together with preservation groups, block clubs and community leaders, are continuing to rally support for the preservation of Martin Luther King Park. The Park is part of Buffalo's Olmsted Park and Parkway System which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places with national significance.

A plan has been proposed to build a 1400-student science magnet school in the park adjacent to the Museum of Science which would turn the park into a school campus.

The coalition of groups formed to save the Park has recommended that an alternative site near the museum be considered which would meet educational needs and not take parkland. The effective methods of the Coalition—petition drives, meetings, press conferences, letters to the editor, etc.—resulted in a packed auditorium for the public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement held in December 1984, four days before Christmas.

In addition, letters and telegram were submitted from Olmsted scholars, landscape architects, park preservationists and community leaders across the country, from Seattle, Boston, Atlanta and Washington, D.C., to Buffalo, New York City, and other cities with groups actively working to preserve Olmsted legacies.

The support of the National Association for Olmsted Parks network has proven to be our most effective tool in interpreting the significance of Olmsted-designed public spaces as well as building public support for preserving our beautiful Olmsted parks.

The Buffalo Friends are also proposing that a plan to develop Buffalo's Olmsted waterfront parks (Front and River-side) be integrated with the City of Buffalo's Waterfront Master Plan. Olmsted originally designed Front, Riverside and South Parks with a water orientation. The Friends would also like to see a public right-of-way extended along the waterfront which would enable bike and hike paths to connect to the Riverwalk and the other Olmsted parks in Buffalo.

From July 12-15, 1985, the Buffalo Friends will welcome members of the N.A.O.P. who attend the Niagara Reserva-

--Tupper Thomas, Administrator Prospect Park

Chicago, IL

From Chicago comes news of unfortunate developments concerning the politics of this city's historic park system. An editorial of January 24, 1985 in the Chicago Tribune notes the serious problems of administration besetting Chicago's parks—problems of appointments (or lack thereof) to the Chicago Park District Board and a chronic lack of a master plan to address issues of management, such as maintenance, restoration planning, land acquisition and finances. The editorial concludes "Chicago's park system, once the finest in the country, is a civic disgrace." It won't improve until it's run by professionals, and that won't happen until this expired do-nothing board is replaced with people who care about the parks.

In the private, non-profit park advocacy sector, the problems are economic. The Chicago Historic Parks Survey, completed in 1984, has been put on hold. Budget cuts to the National Endowment for the Humanities caused the cancellation of a grant to the Illinois Humanities Council. This grant had been slated to provide matching funds for the editing and final preparation of the Survey. Without matching funds, the private donations and grants cannot cover the expenses to produce this important document.

The Friends of the Parks continue their work, protesting the more outrageous abuse and quietly helping neighborhoods to negotiate for better conditions in their parks. The Museum of Science and Industry is building a new Space Center in Jackson Park and the protests from the Friends of the Parks helped to limit the amount of acreage taken.

Our Chicago correspondent hopes for a more upbeat news report at some future date.

--Victoria Post Ranney Associate Editor Frederick Law Olmsted Papers Chicago, IL

Essex County, NJ

The South Mountain Reservation is a 2,048-acre tract of natural landscape in the densely urban environs of Essex

(Cont. pg. 7)
GUIDE to the Olmsted Papers and Records at the Library of Congress

The Frederick Law Olmsted Papers and the Olmsted Associates Records are located in the Reading Room of the Manuscript Division in the Madison Building, Library of Congress. This newest Library of Congress building is at the southeast corner of the intersection of First Street SE and Independence Avenue.

Frederick Law Olmsted Papers (60 microfilm reels). The papers have been microfilmed, and the Library of Congress has prepared a guide to them entitled, "Frederick Law Olmsted: A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress" which is available in the Manuscript Reading Room. The papers span the years 1777 to 1952 and are divided roughly into four categories: Correspondence, which is arranged chronologically ( reels 1-23); Subject, which is arranged topically by type of landscape design project ( reels 24-41); Speeches and writings ( reels 41-47); and Miscellaneous ( reels 48-51). Reels 52-60, containing material added to the collection since it was first deposited, have financial records (1855-1903), correspondence relating to Central Park, Louisville parks, Mount Royal, Niagara Falls Reservation, and the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, as well as miscellaneous documents and writings, Individual reels of the Papers, or the full set, may be purchased from the Library of Congress or ordered on interlibrary loan.

The Frederick Law Olmsted Papers editing project has prepared computerized correspondence lists which also serve as guides to the Olmsted papers. The lists include all post-1865 letters to and from Olmsted as well as third-party letters. The lists contain the following information: sender; recipient; date of the letter; landscape design project with which it deals (by job number); repository; location (if the letter is located in the Olmsted papers, the reel and frame number are included); and a letter code of Olmsted signed the letter in the name of the firm. The lists can be sorted and searched by any of the above fields.

Olmsted Associates Records. A register to the Olmsted Associates Records similar to that provided for the Olmsted papers can also be consulted in the Manuscript Reading Room. The Olmsted Associates Records span the years 1870 to 1950 and are the records of the Olmsted landscape architectural firm. They include correspondence, letterbooks, memoranda, reports, plans, specifications, lists, clippings, and other related material. The records are divided into eight series.

Series A: The Letterbooks, 1864-99 (76 Volumes). The letterbooks are bound copies of letters sent, chronologically arranged, and fully indexed by name of recipient. They contain business letters, cost estimates, planting procedures and instructions, and various requests for information.

Some personal correspondence is occasionally found in business material. From 1900 on, outgoing letters are filed in the B series job files. The ink has faded so badly in volumes 22 through 29 (June 1892 to Sept. 1893) that they are virtually illegible. The indexes in the volumes have been microfilmed, and are on two reels, shelf number M35 18,274. They can be purchased, or ordered from the Library of Congress on interlibrary loan.

The Olmsted Papers editorial project has compiled a computerized list of all correspondence in the A series through August 22, 1895 (volume 41). This list gives the correspondent's name and the numbers of A series volumes with letters to that person. There is a separate entry for each design project about which the firm wrote a correspondent. The list may be searched and searched alphabetically or by job number, producing either a listing for all the jobs with which a correspondent was involved, or an alphabetical listing of all correspondents for a particular job in the letterpress volumes. The researcher can then take this list of volumes and use the microfilmed indexes of the letterpress volumes to locate the page numbers for letters to a given correspondent.

Series B: Job Files, 1871-1950 (523 Containers). The job files are arranged by job number and may range in size from one folder to over two hundred. The folders are stored in containers numbered B1-B523. Correspondence and other material for each job is arranged in rough chronological order. These files contain letters received and (after 1899) sent, as well as information about landscape designs and work arrangements, as well as notes, diagrams, and other printed matter.

There are two sets of indexes available for the job files. The first is a set of job books which serves as a numerical index. It includes all jobs undertaken by the firm for which job numbers were created, as well as jobs in which the firm was interested, created a job number, but did not perform any work. This list consists of photocopies and is located in container B1. The second index is a microfilm copy (shelf number M35 15,216) of the firm's index cards for the job files and lists the jobs undertaken by the firm alphabetically, geographically, and by category. These microfilm indexes are all incomplete to some extent, and vary in completeness. The alphabetical index—reels 1 through 6—is the most complete; the geographical index, on reel 7, is nearly as complete, while the index arranged by category of work is incomplete and unreliable.

In the Manuscript Reading Room there are also two oversize volumes that are a copy of the master job book at the Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, These volumes list the projects undertaken by the firm, by job number. (A number of projects done by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. did not receive job numbers, but have now been assigned numbers by the editors of the Olmsted Papers.)

For anyone seeking information about any of the firm's landscape design projects, series A and B would probably be the most useful.

Series C: General Correspondence, 1884-95 (4 containers). The correspondence in this series is largely routine in nature. It contains work requests and comments about park and estate development.

Series D: Special Correspondence, 1874-99 (4 containers). Most of the correspondence in this series relates to the landscaping of the World's Columbian Exposition. In addition, five letterbooks contain material relating to the US Capitol Grounds dated 1874-91.

Series E: Business Records, 1868-1950 (19 containers). This series contains reports of visits to job sites as well as quarterly and monthly reports, nursery orders, journals, ledgers. The material is arranged by type of record.

Series F: Scrapbooks and Albums, 1893-1917 (13 containers). This series contains bound newspaper clippings arranged alphabetically and by chronological arrangement within each volume. It also contains photograph albums.

Series G: Miscellaneous, 1890-1950 (2 containers). This series contains miscellaneous letters, letter fragments, resolutions, and deeds that are arranged by type of material or by subject.

Series H: Family Papers, 1868-1903 (9 containers). This series contains journals, account books, letterbooks, family photographs, personal letters. The material is grouped by type of material, with each group having either a complete chronological arrangement, or a combination alphabetical-chronological arrangement.

---Prepared by Charles E. Beveridge P.F.O. Papers Project
Letter from Seattle

Spring beckons in Olmsted parks across the country. The Friends of Seattle’s Olmsted Parks continue to plan projects and tours that will awaken people’s interest and awareness of their Olmsted landscape heritage in the Pacific Northwest.

Our reprint of John C. Olmsted’s 1903 report to the Board of Seattle Park Commissioners has been sent as a complimentary gift to key Washington State legislators and civic leaders, as well as to principals of Seattle secondary schools, for their libraries. This eloquent report followed Mr. Olmsted’s survey of the city in 1903 and contained his recommendations for our city’s parks and boulevards system, the start of our Olmsted legacy.

We have written our legislators to take notice of and voice support for the proposed Olmsted National Landscape Act.

We have widely distributed our brochure, “Seattle’s Olmsted Parks, History and Guide.” It is on the racks at the Seattle Visitors & Convention Bureau.

A new signboard will be added to each of our Olmsted parks, playgrounds and boulevards this year, which will give its historic background and include the Olmsted Brothers logo.

Several Friends continue to research Olmsted landscapes in other parts of our state as well as the Seattle area, including private estates and gardens.

Our parks inventory committee is hard at work.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the Olmsted quest is what lies in wait to be discovered in other cities and towns all over the United States. Our members have come up with some proposals we would like to share with all the Olmsted groups.

(1) An Olmsted hospitality network. The purpose? Representative in cities and towns who will give visitors help and information on Olmsted parks and landscapes to tour; and, even more, a bed-and-breakfast listing. Many of us would be happy to offer accommodations at a reasonable price. For Seattle, write Nancy Becker, 1907 14th E, Seattle 98112.

(2) Each chapter can contact appropriate postcard companies, to issue color-photo postcards of the Olmsted landscapes that are the pride of the area.

(3) Let’s unite to propose to the U.S. Postal Service a commemorative stamp series, of P.L.O. and famous Olmsted parks, public grounds, landscapes.

The Show Must Go On... And On

The Art of the Olmsted Landscape Show which opened in September 1984 during the “Olmsted Parks of the West: The Future of a Tradition” Conference in Seattle has had its closing date extended through March, 1985, due to its great popularity. Over 29,000 have visited the show through January.

The show was developed to highlight the design and humanistic principles that guided his work.

The exhibit consists of two very distinct parts. One is about the Olmsted work in New York City, while the other focuses on the continuation of his work in Seattle by his sons after his retirement from the firm.

Both the New York and Seattle chapters of the Olmsted story are combined in this exhibit to direct attention not only to the beauty and utility of his work, but to the larger questions: What are we to do with our Olmsted legacy and towards what human values and contemporary needs should it be directed?

If we are to “build on the shoulders of giants,” we must first understand the principles by which they guided their craft. This show was designed to allow us to turn to the past as the initial step in locating the future of the Olmsted tradition.

This exhibit is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Vaux Project

As mentioned in the N.A.O.P. Summer/Fall 1984 Newsletter, the Frederick Law Olmsted Association is preparing a much needed book on Calvert Vaux, the architect and landscape gardener who was the partner of both Andrew Jackson Downing and Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. This publication plans to contain biographical essays, selections from Vaux’s writings and design work, as well as a chronology and bibliography.

The Association is pleased to announce that it has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for the publication of the Calvert Vaux book. While a definite date for publication cannot be announced at this time, it is expected that all material will be on hand by late 1985. The authors of the individual essays on Vaux are the following: George B. Tatum, Frank Kowsky, Charles E. Beveridge, David Schuyler, Arthur Channing Downs, Jr., and Joy Kentwell. Each of the authors will contribute a section on Vaux’s contributions to the fields of architecture, landscape architecture or town design.

—William Alex

Frederick Law Olmsted Association

“The Greening of Cities”

A SHORTER REGIONAL TRADITION: PROJECT SUPPORTED BY THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Since its inception during May 1984, the Project’s main goal has been the identification of representative or typical large urban park that has undergone significant change over time, with the aim of organizing and completing a major revitalization effort in that park which might then be used as a demonstration project region-wide. Respect for the past, the special historical character of the site, it was recognized, must be combined with appropriate adaptive reuse to endow such parks with contemporary vigor that will carry them through their second century of public use. Not simply preservation or conservation, but reclamation seems the challenge. This demands an act of creative salvage marked by historical sensitivity, that will be conducted with considerable community participation. Such a demonstration, it is anticipated, could offer a model for wider application and significantly advance efforts to revitalize landscape parks and their related urban fabric.

At this writing, the Project is in the fourth of six planned phases. The three already completed are:

I. A survey of representative parks and evaluations of preservation efforts nationwide.

II. Presentation of these findings at the July 1984 Liverpool Congress on “The Reclamation of Cities” and a follow-up colloquy on parallel British efforts at the Dartington Institute.

III. Incorporation of the British and American experiences in the form of criteria leading to a design competition, with a presentation of same at the September 1984 Seattle Conference “Olmsted Parks of the West: The Future of a Tradition.”

Phases of the selection of that demonstration site, as well under way, as negotiations proceed between the Project and the Foundation for Recreation & Parks and the City of Baltimore. The Project staff currently involved in this phase are: Paul E. Stuhr, Project Director; William Potts, landscape architect and local representative; Dan Durett, preservation specialist; and Dana F. White, urban historian. Upon the completion of this phase, the two remaining phases are:

V. Organizing and conducting the design competition.

VI. Presentation of the final competition results during late 1985, with discussions and recommendations concerning worldwide implications and applications.

(Cont. pg. 5)
News From Around The Country

Massachusetts

Landscape Conference — The Massachusetts Historic Landscape: Preserving the Legacy.

Boston University and the Massachusetts Association for Olmsted Parks are sponsoring a conference on "The Massachusetts Historic Landscape—Preserving the Legacy" to be held on Saturday, April 27, 1985. Issues concerning the identification, preservation, and enhancement of the Massachusetts public landscape will be addressed in lectures and workshops. The conference will take place at Curtis Auditorium in the Boston University School of Nursing, 635 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts. The registration fee is $30 in advance or $40 at the door, with a $15 student registration available to those with a current school I.D. Further information and registration materials may be obtained by writing to LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE, c/o American and New England Studies Program, 225 Bay State Road, Boston, Massachusetts 02215.

This conference reflects the growing interest in the historic landscape as evidenced by the $15 million Massachusetts Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program, a statewide model project for the documentation and rehabilitation of twelve major urban parks, and significant pending Federal legislation, the Olmsted Heritage Landscapes Act.

Conference activities will include lectures by Laurie D. Olin and Gordon Abbott, both of the Harvard Graduate School of Design; Keith Morgan, Director of Boston University's American and New England Studies Program; and Charles Beveridge, editor of the Frederick Law Olmsted Papers. Workshop sessions will cover such topics as landscape restoration, park advocacy, defining and documenting the historic landscape, and the application of historic preservation strategies to the landscape. A panel discussion summarizing and evaluating the workshop findings will conclude the day-long conference.

Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program

This program is the first statewide initiative in the nation to undertake restoration of the public open space legacy of America's premier landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted. Few individuals have contributed to the changing face of our urban landscape so broadly, particularly in Massachusetts where we enjoy approximately 200 public parks designed by the Olmsted firm. While the artistic and social principles upon which these parks were designed are as valid today as they were a century ago, deferred maintenance, intrusive additions, and the inability of most municipalities to fund major periodic rehabilitation have left Olmsted's legacy in an extreme state of deterioration.

The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs through the Department of Environmental Management has identified twelve Olmsted Parks (see below) which are most historically significant, serve a broad regional constituency, and are no longer able to provide the urban recreational experiences for which they were designed. Parks restored through the Preservation Program remain in city or town ownership, but the Commonwealth will secure its investment through comprehensive administration of the program, providing historically accurate design controls, strict construction supervision and effective long-term maintenance agreements.

Each park authorized can anticipate approximately $1 million in rehabilitation funding. This program will ensure that these parks can once again become important recreation areas for these cities and surrounding regions, and contribute to renewed vitality in surrounding urban neighborhoods into the 21st century.

PROGRAM SYNDOPSIS:
--Funding Authorization:
  $15 million; F.Y. 1984 Capital Outlay Budget
--Municipalities Designated for Rehab:
  1. Boston & Brookline: Franklin Park, Olmsted Park, Jamaica Pond, the Riverway, the Back Bay Fens.
  2. Brookline: D. W. Field Park
  3. Fall River: Kennedy Park
  4. Lynn: Lynn Woods, High Rock Reservation
  5. New Bedford: Buttonwood Park
  6. Springfield: Forest Park
  7. Worcester: Elm Park (Change to parks—E. Christopher Scott Program Director)

The Boston Park Ranger Program

The 1985 Boston Park Ranger Program promises a total of 50 rangers covering the length of the Emerald Necklace from Boston Common to Franklin Park. This includes the addition of a new site, the Natick Reservoir. There will be 11 mounted and 39 foot rangers. At least 25 rangers are returning from last year, which speaks highly of Yvonne Irvine and the 1984 Ranger Program. Their role will continue to be one of a uniformed presence offering information and programs in the parks. The rangers will also continue to work closely with the Boston Police Department to help make the open spaces safer.

The City is committed to funding the approximately $300,000.00 program this year with the program's future remaining uncertain. The Ranger Advisory Committee has been working hard lobbying the City to save the ranger's line item in the budget as well as to increase the overall Park Department's budget. A continued public/private partnership may continue to offer the brightest future for the 1986 Boston Park Ranger Program.

(From pg. 4)


--Dana P. White
Atlanta, GA
Washington, D.C.

Olmsted Papers Project

We at the Olmsted Papers are nearing completion of two volumes, and have a substantial amount of work finished on two others. Jane Turner Censer returned in September from a year's fellowship at the National Humanities Center at Research Triangle Park in North Carolina. During that year her book North Carolina Planters and Their Children, 1800-1860 was published by Louisiana University Press. She is now in the last stages of preparing Volume 4 of the Olmsted Papers, Civil War and the US Sanitary Commission: 1861-1863, of which she is the editor. The manuscript will go to Johns Hopkins University Press for copy-editing in February, with publication scheduled in early 1986.

Following a successful research trip to California in the spring of 1984, Victoria Post Ranney, with research associate Gerhard Rauluk, is completing preparation of Volume 5, The California Frontier: 1863-1865. Meantime, transcriptions have been made of four hundred documents from which the contents of Volume 6, The New York Years: 1865-1878 will be selected. We hope to secure funds that will enable David Schuyler, the editor of that volume, to take a leave of absence from Franklin and Marshall College in 1986 in order to devote full time to editing. He is serving as consultant to the Long Island Historical Society for the upcoming exhibition "Art and Nature: Views of Prospect Park 1870-1935" which will open early in the fall. But in the spring of 1984 our skillful New York researcher Joy Keestenbaum found the original plans of streets and public spaces for much of the Bronx that Olmsted prepared with the engineer JEB Cross in 1876-77, and that were adopted for that section of the city. Borough Mayor Stanley Simon is most interested in this discovery, and has kindly offered to have the plans photographed for us. The plans will play a part in the observance this year of the centennial of the park system of the Borough of the Bronx.

Unfortunately, not all of our news is so pleasant. Since this is the third year of a three-year grant period, we are coming on financial hard times. The generosity of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with important assistance from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, sustained us at full staffing during the first two years of the grant period. But our efforts to raise the additional money necessary to carry us through this third year have not been successful. We have had to cut back our staff already, and unless additional funding comes in we will have little or no money to pay editors or staff during the summer months of 1986.

It is even sadder we have to report that the Olmsted Papers' editor in chief, Charles McLaughlin, has been ill since last May and is now on sabbatical leave for the current academic year. At the time of writing (mid-January) he is in southern California for testing, hopefully, treatment. We earnestly hope that by the time of publication of this newsletter his health will have markedly improved.

During the past year we have also been active in landscape education and preservation. In October 1983 Charles Beveridge served as historical advisor and narrator for the film "Olmsted and Central Park," produced by the Metropolitan Museum of Art for cable television. During the following months, David Schuyler prepared the historic landscape and structures reports concerning the Lake and Perimeter Lands sections of Prospect Park, as part of the restoration project being planned by Friedman Walsmeay & Co. At the same time, Charles Beveridge prepared historical reports for the landscape firm EDWA in connection with restoration work at the National Zoo, and for the Massachusetts Conservation Lands Trust concerning the future of the Olmsted-designed estate "Moraine Farm." In 1984, Charles McLaughlin was informally addressing the advisory board for the Olmsted-firm park restoration work being undertaken by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management.

Our ongoing letter search has gained us no new and startling discoveries of late (although Victoria Ranney's careful research did uncover a full run of a Civil War newspaper in California that has escaped earlier scholars in the field). But in the spring of 1984 our skillful New York researcher Joy Keestenbaum found the original plans of streets and public spaces for much of the Bronx that Olmsted prepared with the engineer JEB Cross in 1876-77, and that were adopted for that section of the city. Borough Mayor Stanley Simon is much interested in this discovery, and has kindly offered to have the plans photographed for us. The plans will play a part in the observance this year of the centennial of the park system of the Borough of the Bronx.

Seattle, WA

Seattle Passes $28,000,000 in Park Renovation Bonds

In the wake of the successful Olmsted Park bond issue, the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks are once again looking to local voters for funds to help preserve their beloved parks. As Seattle residents, we have the opportunity to cast our votes in support of a bond measure that will provide $28 million for the renovation and improvement of our city's parks and open spaces.

The Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks and the University of Washington have sponsored a series of meetings and public forums to discuss the need for this bond. The Friends are supported by a dedicated group of citizens who are committed to ensuring that our parks are preserved and maintained for future generations.

The bond issue includes funds for long-term maintenance, modernization of facilities, and the enhancement of existing parks. It will also support the development of new parkland and the expansion of existing green spaces. With this bond, Seattle will be able to address the challenges of urban sprawl and the need for accessible green spaces in our increasingly dense city.

The Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks are calling on all Seattle residents to consider the value of these parks to our community and to vote yes on this bond issue. By doing so, we can ensure that our parks remain healthy, vibrant, and accessible for all to enjoy.

It is widely believed that the national attention and favorable local publicity on the Olmsted Conference as well as the support of the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks were a major factor in the success of the bond campaign. The Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks and the University of Washington have hosted two speakers of national repute to give free public lectures. In October Patricia O'Donnell, historic preservationist of the American Society of Landscape Architects, presented her paper on the development of Olmsted's work in Seattle. This spring, Jeff Leblanc, a noted historian, will speak on the same subject.

The Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks and the University of Washington have also sponsored a series of lively garden walks and outdoor tours of Olmsted-era landscapes in the Greater Seattle area. These events have been a popular way to learn more about the history of our parks and to appreciate the beauty of these iconic places.

Unfortunately, not all of our news is so pleasant. Since this is the third year of a three-year grant period, we are coming on financial hard times. The generosity of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with important assistance from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, sustained us at full staffing during the first two years of the grant period. But our efforts to raise the additional money necessary to carry us through this third year have not been successful. We have had to cut back our staff already, and unless additional funding comes in we will have little or no money to pay editors or staff during the summer months of 1986.

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Robert Becker, husband of the founding president of the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, was recently appointed as a loaned executive to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Trust will hold its national conference in Seattle next fall and the Friends are looking forward to participating in the conference and showing off local parks and landscapes in the larger context of the historic preservation movement.

—Donald M. Harris
Director, Project Development
Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation
Hartford, CT

Established less than four years ago, Hartford's Bushnell Park Foundation has been the prime mover behind the restoration of the Insurance Capitol's and the Nation's first municipally built park. Begun in 1984, and named after Hartford Theologian Reverend Horace Bushnell, the Park is the first of an illustrous series of pastoral landscapes to be conceived, all purchased, planned and built with public support by an American City for its citizens.

The Foundation's first accomplishment was the preparation of a 5-year Improvement Plan for the Park. Working with restoration and urban planning professionals, the non-profit Foundation successfully completed an award-winning (National Association for Olmsted Parks and News Paper Advertising Bureau, Inc.) newspaper fund-raising campaign in 1982, raising nearly $300,000 in grants and contributions for the Pond Area Project. Additional funds have been raised and work has been completed to renovate the Park's Corning Fountain, the Hoolme Entrance Way, a new State-funded brownstone gateway, the Capitol Entrance, new Park benches and 26 flowering cherry trees to landscape the restored reflecting pond. During the summer of 1984, nearly three dozen cast-iron and lexan globe light poles were installed. Since its inception, the Foundation has been instrumental in raising over $1.6 million in public and private monies for the Park.

Currently, the Foundation is undertaking a $100,000 restoration project utilizing a 1940 Tudor Style structure located in the eastern end of the Park. The Pumphouse Gallery, as it is now named, will open in the fall of 1985. This is a major grant from the Hartford based United Technologies Corporation. Currently housing a functioning pumping station for flood control (Park River originally flowed through the Park until it was cut off by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the mid 1940's), the Gallery will be housed in a wing of the red-brick and half-timber structure. It will be operated by the City as a mini-art gallery, information and meeting facility featuring area artists.

Other restoration projects scheduled for completion in 1986, when Hartford will celebrate its 350th anniversary of its founding, include: two brownstone gateways, one located at the Union Station, and the other, the Fox Memorial Entrance; perimeter paving and landscaping improvements; and additional benches. The most ambitious project yet in the effort to restore Bushnell is the restoration of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch.

The Arch, located in the center of the Park, opposite the State Capitol Building, is an historic landmark and symbol for all the Veterans in Connecticut. Dedicated in 1886, in honor of the 4,000 Connecticut Veterans who served in the Civil War, it has stood over its 100-year history as the ceremonial gateway where tens of thousands have been honored in Memorial events and special ceremonies at the Arch.

Connecticut's Governor William O'Neill is serving as the Honorary Chairman for a statewide campaign to raise $1.5 million needed to restore the 70 feet by 120 feet tall gothic and romaneseque revival stone landmark. Serious cracking and deterioration of the brownstone-work has weakened and marred the heavily carved and sculptural landmark. The Bushnell Park Foundation, working with the State Legislature, was instrumental in passage of a $750,000 State Bonding bill which will provide one-to-one matching funds for the Arch. Currently, the Foundation is working with area television, radio and print media to publicize the fund-raising campaign to area citizens. If plans go as scheduled, the City and the Foundation will rededicate the Arch as part of the 350th jubilee celebration in 1986.

—Sanford Parisky, Parisky Associates Project Management Consultant to the Bushnell Park Foundation

Louisville, KY

The Olmsted firm worked in Kentucky and a survey effort to identify the landscapes designed by them within the Bluegrass Region is currently underway through a federal grant from the Kentucy Heritage Council to the Lexington Council of Federated Garden Clubs. Several landscapes in this area have been identified and documented as being Olmsted designs. These include the Kentucky State Capitol grounds in Frankfort designed in 1910, the Eastern Kentucky University campus in Richmond designed in 1925, the University of Kentucky Campus in Lexington designed in 1919, and even Transylvania and Ashland Parks in Lexington designed in 1918. Carmann and Powell, a Lexington landscape architectural firm, is conducting this survey and may be able to document even more Olmsted designs in the Bluegrass area.

—Excerpted from a publication of The Kentucky Heritage Council, Fall 1984

CHECkEE BR ukE 3:
Louisville's Cherokee Park, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1891. The park contains nine stone bridges, built between 1900 and 1930, which span Beargrass Creek which traverses the park. Over the years, several bridges have fallen into disrepair and are deteriorating because of deterioration and cutline potential remedies. Metro Parks has contracted (Cont. pg. 8)
Rhode Island

News from our N.A.O.P. affiliate; the Rhode Island Association for Olmsted Landscapes (R.I.A.O.L.) concerns their efforts to build their membership and develop an active and vocal constituency for landscape preservation in Rhode Island. To that end, they are working toward an inventory and assessment of the Olmstedian landscapes in their state which number, at present count, over 30 public and semi-public projects, not including the private residential work of the firm.

Rhode Island currently has an inventory model in the recently executed "Roger Williams Park Historic/Landscape Factors Inventory," funded by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and the Providence Office of Community Development, through "in-kind services" from the Providence Parks Department. The planning team for this project includes David Riley and Joel Boodon from the Providence Department of Public Parks, with Sara Bradfield, Colgate Searle, David S. Winsor and Eleanor McPeck as consultants.

A recent article by Iris Chinoy in the Providence Journal and Evening Bulletin gave coverage to this project and noted that Riley and Boodon wanted Roger Williams Park to be thought of, "...as a work of art in a 19th century masterpiece of man-made hills, dales, lakes and islands designed by a landscape architect whose name evokes head-nodding reverence from modern-day planners."

Phase I of this project, submitted to the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, contains voluminous information to serve as the basis for the environmental designs and economic development issues which will be addressed in Phase II. Phase III will produce a publication covering the park history and planning processes, and will act as a guide for the identification, inventory and preservation of the historic landscape throughout the state.

Activities of R.I.A.O.L. include a winter lecture series and two tours, one scheduled for May, "H.W.S. Cleveland's Providence Parks," and one for July, "Olmsted Designed Military Forts in Lower Narragansett Bay."

--David Riley
Roger Williams Park
Providence, R.I.

Portland, OR

Charles Jordan left Portland in September to become the Superintendent of the Austin, Texas park system. Commissioner Mike Lindberg was appointed by Portland Mayor Bud Clark to be Commissioner in charge of the Park Bureau. Mike's staff has requested information on N.A.O.P. so we know there is interest.

Portland Parks will be applying to Oregon State Parks for a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to initiate a Phase I restoration project of Peninsula Park. Peninsula was designed by Emil Mische in 1909. [Emil Mische was an assistant in the office of Olmsted Brothers. He left in 1905 and later became the superintendent of parks in Portland.] The Portland Junior League is currently preparing a series of self-guiding history tours that will highlight a number of Portland parks. Several parks attributable to Mische as well as Tawilller Parkway, designed by the Olmsted Brothers and implemented by Mische, will be in the brochures. This project will help boost visibility of our local Olmsted heritage.

--Marlene Salon
Department of Public Affairs
Bureau of Parks and Public Recreation
Portland, OR

'Beveridge List' Revision

The Massachusetts Association for Olmsted Parks, in cooperation with The National Association for Olmsted Parks, is working on a project to revise, expand and republish the so-called "Beveridge List," The Legacy of Landscape Architectural Design: Volume I, Public Designs. This useful document presently provides a list of the public design work of the Olmsted firm throughout the country, noting name of project, state, city and job number. The new edition will correct many earlier errors and will expand the present listing to include other categories of a public or quasi-public nature. The categories to be used (arranged in approximate order of public significance) are as follows:

1) parks, park systems, parkways, playgrounds;
2) city and regional planning;
3) subdivisions and suburban communities;
4) academic campuses;
5) non-academic residential institutions;
6) public and semi-public buildings;
7) private residences and estates;
8) cemeteries and memorials;
9) miscellaneous projects.

So far as current information permits, these lists will be cross-referenced to indicate changed use from one category to another (as in private open space in subdivisions which become public parks).

In addition, in its revised form this publication will expand the current level of information provided for all entries in the list, so as to include the following:

a) name;
b) city;
c) state;
d) job number;
e) time-span of work on project;
f) evidence, or lack of it, of plans at FLOREH;
g) evidence, or lack of it, of documentary material at Library of Congress.

The Massachusetts Association for Olmsted Parks is pleased to announce that it has received a major grant from the Hubbard Educational Trust, in addition to several private donations towards the funding of this project. Although full funding is not yet in hand, these grants will enable the work to begin on the revisions of the old list and the processing of data for the new categories.

--Arlyn A. Lawee, Vice-Chair
Massachusetts Association for Olmsted Parks
The Olmsted Bill Is Alive And Well In Congress — Again

The Olmsted Heritage Landscapes Act of 1985 was introduced in Congress on January 3, 1985, the first day of the session, by Congressman John Seiberling in the House with HR 37 and by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan in the Senate with S 194. Last year's bill passed overwhelmingly in the House, but failed to come up for a vote in the Senate. This year we hope for success in both houses, but that will require the concerted efforts of N.A.O.P. members and their friends.

This year's bill is similar essentially to last year's bill. Olmsted heritage landscapes includes "any Olmsted-designed landscape, park, forest, parkway, college campus, planned community, institution, cemetery, or recreational area, including, on a case by case basis, Olmsted-influenced sites identified by the Advisory Committee."

The purpose of the bill is to produce an inventory and evaluation of Olmsted heritage landscapes through the National Park Service, which has responsibility for historic preservation and park work in the federal government. First, a listing of all Olmsted landscapes will be made within 18 months of the bill's passage and then within 6 years an evaluation of the landscapes, including documentation on design intent and design implementation, criteria for protecting the historic integrity of the landscapes and evaluation of their influence and significance. The National Park Service, within 6 months of bill's passage, will prepare standards for the preservation of historic landscapes, including, but not limited to, Olmsted landscapes, and within 3 years a thematic study of historic landscapes qualifying as national landmarks. Also the Park Service will encourage Fairlawn to be used as a center for research, fellowships and related activities, and, most important, will provide "technical assistance" to public and private agencies.

The role of private Olmsted organizations and supporters has been recognized as vital to the success of such a national effort of landscape inventory, the first and critical step in landscape protection. Therefore, the bill sets up an advisory committee composed of seven members from Olmsted landscapes and historic organizations; and park conservation and recreation organizations.

This year the bill includes a $2.5 million appropriation authorization. That amount was determined to reflect the cost of the inventory and related work in this bill, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The bill has 53 cosponsors in the House, but only 6 in the Senate on February 7. It is important to get as many cosponsors as possible. We must get more support in the Senate. We need cosponsors from both House and Senate, and especially in the Senate and from western Republican senators!

Write or call your senator and congressman and urge them to cosponsor the bill. Identify which Olmsted parks exist in their districts, the importance of these parks in those cities and towns, and the numbers of people benefitting from those parks. If you know contributors or friends of your senator and congressman, have them speak directly to the legislators. Get the local chapters of A.S.L.A., A.I.A., A.P.A. and park organizations to write their representatives in Washington. We need all the help we can get.

In Washington there has been strong support from national organizations like National Recreation and Park Association, the National Trust for Historic Preservation Officers, Preservation Action, and American Society of Landscape Architects. However, a show of support from chapters of these groups or their supporters from around the country is essential.

Last session the National Park Service was opposed to the Olmsted bill, but we have had several meetings on landscape evaluation with N.P.S. this fall and winter and hope N.P.S. will look more favorably on the bill this year.

We are pressed for time this year as the bill must be reported out by May 15. We hope hearings will be held in both the House and Senate in late March to coincide with the national meetings of Preservation Action and State Historic Preservation Officers.

Coordination for this legislative educational effort is being handled in Washington by Ann Satterthwaite (202-342-0203) while Loretta Neumann (202-226-7730) is coordinating the work for the Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks' efforts and Gray Maxwell (202-224-9573) is handling the bill for Senator Moynihan.

---Ann Satterthwaite Environmental Planning Consultant

U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, (202) 225-2761

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