

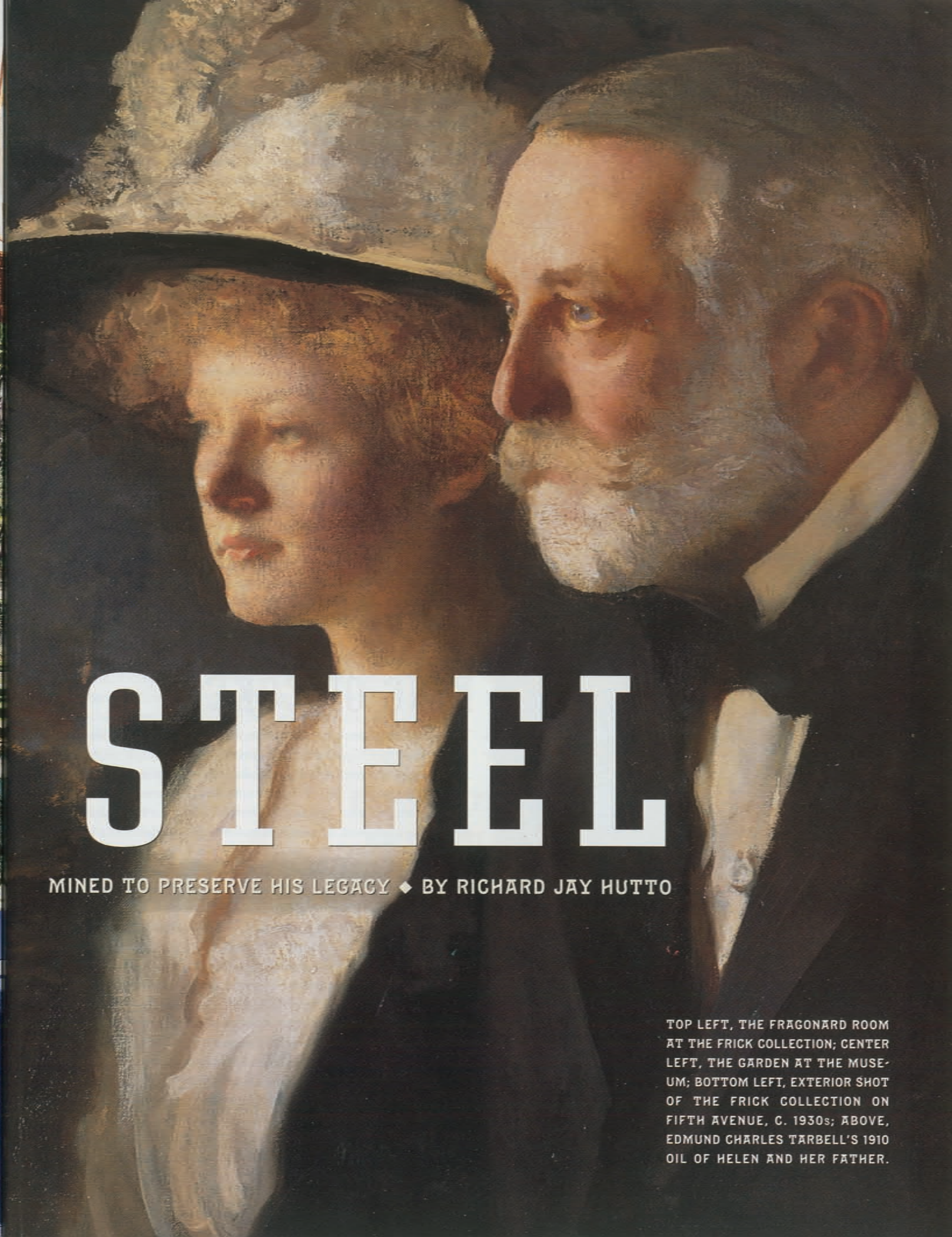
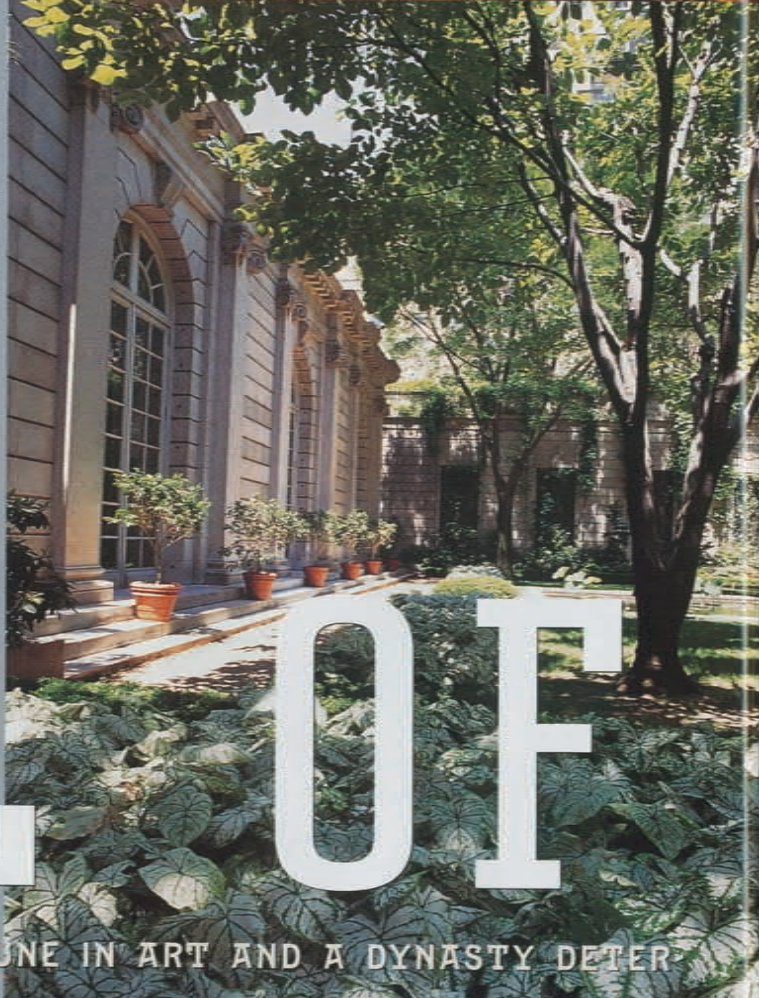
Every day, thousands of New Yorkers pass the imposing stone palazzo on Fifth Avenue designed by Carrère & Hastings that houses the renowned Frick Collection. An architectural masterpiece, the museum stands serenely, between Seventieth and Seventy-first streets, one of the last great Gilded Age castles that graced the boulevard a century ago. The Frick remains New York's quintessential symbol of respectability—a status, ironically, that its namesake, steel magnate Henry Clay Frick, was never able to achieve in his lifetime. Today, the Frick thrives as a citadel of culture, offering art lovers and scholars one of the finest, if not *the* finest, single collections of art in America. On September 15 its director, Charles Ryskamp, stepped down after ten years at the helm, to make way for his successor, Samuel Sachs II, from the Detroit Institute of Arts—a move that is being closely watched. Upon his appointment, Sachs stated, “The Frick is New York’s tiara, and I want to see what I can do to polish it even more.”

Considering the museum’s international prestige, it’s uncanny how little is known about the man who built the landmark; and even less about his heirs, many of whom are still actively involved in the running of the Collection, the “Clayton” museum

WILL OF STEEL

MOGUL HENRY CLAY FRICK LEFT A FORTUNE IN ART AND A DYNASTY DETERMINED

in Pittsburgh and various other family foundations. While nowhere near as well-off as the descendants of the other “steel millionaires,” Carnegie and Phipps (at his death, Frick gave away five-sixths of his \$150 million fortune), today’s Fricks have inherited much of their progenitor’s iron will. Most jealously guard their privacy. The family’s senior member, Henry Clay Frick II, requested that *QUEST* not print this story, and several of the Fricks willing to talk to us would only do so anonymously. Such reticence might have to do with the dustbowl of controversy



STEEL

MINED TO PRESERVE HIS LEGACY ♦ BY RICHARD JAY HUTTO

TOP LEFT, THE FRAGONARD ROOM AT THE FRICK COLLECTION; CENTER LEFT, THE GARDEN AT THE MUSEUM; BOTTOM LEFT, EXTERIOR SHOT OF THE FRICK COLLECTION ON FIFTH AVENUE, C. 1930s; ABOVE, EDMUND CHARLES TARBELL'S 1910 OIL OF HELEN AND HER FATHER.



TOP LEFT, ABRAHAM AND MARIA OVERHOLT; TOP RIGHT, THE 1838 OVERHOLT HOMESTEAD; CENTER, HENRY AT 15; BOTTOM, AT A FAMILY PARTY AT HENRY PHIPPS' ENGLISH COUNTRY HOME, KNEBWORTH HOUSE, HENRY CLAY FRICK CONFERES WITH PHIPPS, EXTREME LEFT.



swirling around one of the most prominent of Frick's descendants, Arizona's former governor, J. Fife Symington III, who was forced to resign on September 3, having been found guilty of seven of 21 counts of fraud and extortion in a real-estate scandal of monumental proportions. Most of the Fricks, who all descend from Henry's son, Childs, have prospered in areas as diverse as medicine, environmental conservation, psychology and politics (some have a decidedly arch-Republican bent). While many are collectors and scholars, they do not perceive their Frick heritage as the awesome responsibility inherited by their parents. And yet neither have they shirked their duties. "They are amongst our most active members of the board," Charles Ryskamp says. "Four of

our nine members are from the Frick family." Of the original Frick board, Ryskamp adds, "It never represented old Knickerbocker society like the New-York Historical Society's board did for generations, but the board was enormously distinguished, even if comprised of new money. They represented the most powerful and wealthy men in the city. Proportionately, I don't think even the Metropolitan

Museum board could equal its discernment."

Absent, too, are the "trust fund wastrels" prevalent in so many American dynasties. Perhaps that is Henry Clay Frick's most lasting contribution to his heirs. When asked whether it was a burden to grow up with the Frick name, a young member answered, "The only question I was always asked by my classmates was, 'Are you related to Ford Frick, the Baseball Commissioner?'" They had no idea who Henry Clay Frick was."

Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919)

KING OF COKE

Railroads are the Rembrandts of investment," declared Henry Clay Frick, a collector of both. Aspersions cast upon his methods of obtaining his fortune have now been largely forgotten. His daughter, Helen, labored ceaselessly through letter-writing campaigns and lawsuits to replace the memory of the deadly Homestead strike in which her father played such a heavy hand, with a more pleasant recollection, that of a generous family man and aesthete. That was no small feat, considering his reputation as a ruthless capitalist in an era of robber barons. Richard T. Wilson, of New York's "400," once re-monstrated his daughter, Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, for having received Frick for tea in front of her family, stating, "Such a man should not be permitted in the same room with children."

Frick's was not a rags-to-riches story. His maternal grandfather, Abraham Overholt, was a Mennonite and third-generation American of German heritage whose distillery earned him a half-million dollars. When Overholt's daughter married a farmer from Ohio, John W. Frick, it was assumed that her father would have to support them since it was a step down for the bride. So the young couple set up a lodge next to her father's mansion. When a first son was born in 1849, their Whig tendencies led them to the name of that party's leader, Henry Clay, as their son's own.

At 6, Frick was taken to Ohio to visit his paternal grandfather

and there contracted a fever which lasted two months. His health was always precarious after that, and he never enjoyed the physical stature or strength of his peers. He was given only a total of 30 months schooling and, at 16, went to work in his uncle's general store. Three years was enough to teach him that his future did not lie in storekeeping. He borrowed \$50 to buy a new suit and a train ticket to Pittsburgh, where he knew fortunes awaited. Frick sold notions at White & Co. and became its top salesman. But his walk to work across the dirty streets was a daily reminder that the manufacturing around him depended on coal, and he knew that his grandfather's fields were full of the stuff. He returned home to work as a bookkeeper, where his \$1,000 per year was three times his store salary.

But Frick had far greater plans. Borrowing funds from friends, including retired Judge Thomas Mellon, who invested \$10,000, Frick built 50 ovens to provide "coke," a carbonized form of coal which, combined with iron ore, was essential to the "Bessemer process" of converting pig iron to steel. At the time, two of Andrew Carnegie's partners—his brother Tom and Henry Phipps—were trying to convince Carnegie to build their own coke plants. But Frick acted sooner and quickly became known as the "King of Coke." By 1879, Frick employed a thousand people and shipped 100 train cars of coke per day. At 30, he was a millionaire.

The process had not been easy, nor had it been achieved without a fierce belief in the bottom line. Frick had been able to buy out one rival when an explosion buried 30 miners alive. Wages were paid in scrip that could only be exchanged in a Frick store. In effect, Frick owned his employees and their families. He began to import eastern Europeans to toil in his mills, who arrived indebted to him for their passage. They spoke little or no English and had small hope of breaking free of Frick's control.

In 1881, brushing aside the grim reminders of the source of his wealth, Frick left on a four-month tour of Europe with a new friend and confederate in the pursuit of art, Andrew Mellon, the highly cultivated son of Judge Mellon. Reaching New York, the two took a carriage up Fifth Avenue, where Frick admired William H. Vanderbilt's house. (Years later, Frick would live there while building his own mansion further up the avenue.) In London, the two were amazed by the Wallace Collection and even made a few modest purchases themselves (Mellon, who was to become U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, later endowed the National Gallery of Art).

Upon their return to Pittsburgh, Mellon introduced Frick to Adelaide Childs. Within three months, the couple were married, with Mellon as best man. Their European honeymoon included a stop in New York, so Tom Carnegie arranged for an introduction to his brother, Andrew Carnegie. There, at an historic luncheon, Frick arranged to become the sole supplier of coke to Carnegie's factories. A new venture, H. C. Frick Coke Company, was capitalized at \$2 million, replacing Frick's older entity. In 1889, Frick was made a director of Carnegie, Phipps & Co., at the same time buying an interest in Carnegie Brothers and becoming its chairman.

Frick's tough management methods differed markedly from Carnegie's; Frick took a much harder stance against labor. But



HENRY AND ADELAIDE ON FIFTH AVENUE IN NEW YORK FOR THE EASTER PARADE, 1915.

no one could argue with Frick's results, as he gradually increased annual profits from \$2 million to \$40 million. Yet he and Carnegie continued to fight. Frictions would reach a fever pitch over the infamous Homestead incident.

In 1892, the company was unable to overcome union control at its Homestead plant in Pennsylvania. Everywhere else, the union had been "busted" and retained no power. With tensions

building, Carnegie traveled to Scotland for his annual retreat, leaving Frick in charge. On July 6, a battle took place between the employees of Homestead and 300 armed Pinkerton guards hired by Frick. Ten people were killed and many injured before the governor sent 8,000 National Guardsmen to maintain order. The union was defeated, and Carnegie was nowhere near, ensuring that he could

maintain, disingenuously, that he knew nothing of Frick's plans.

Meanwhile, a Russian-born anarchist and lover of Emma Goldman's, Alexander Berkman, entered Frick's Homestead office and fired a shot into Frick's earlobe and another into the right side of his neck. A visitor in the office jumped up and knocked the revolver from Berkman's hand. When Frick joined the visitor in attempting to subdue Berkman, the assailant stabbed Frick repeatedly with a sharpened file. Bleeding profusely, Frick held the man down until a deputy ran in and tried to get a clear shot at Berkman. Frick cried, "Don't shoot, leave him to the law. But raise his head and let me see his face!" Only then did they notice that

**A BLEEDING FRICK CRIED,
"DON'T SHOOT, LEAVE HIM
TO THE LAW. BUT LET ME
SEE HIS FACE!"**

PREVIOUS SPREAD: TARBELL (DETAIL); NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY/ART RESOURCE; FRAGONARD ROOM, THE FRICK COLLECTION, NEW YORK; FRICK GARDEN, M. TAMM/REIN/FFG; THE FRICK COLLECTION; FFG
OPPOSITE PAGE: TOP FOUR: WEST OVERTON MUSEUM, KNEBWORTH; COURTESY OF RICHARD HUTTON; THIS PAGE: CORBIETT/MAN

Berkman was trying to bite a capsule which contained enough explosive to destroy them all. As they dislodged the capsule, another worker ran in to beat Berkman's head with a hammer, when Frick declared, "Don't kill him, I tell you—let the law take its course!"

Still bleeding heavily from his wounds, Frick would not leave his desk. He cabled to his mother and to Carnegie that all was well, then he refused anesthesia, insisting that he could assist the doctors in locating the bullets that had to be removed. After releasing to the press a statement that his stance concerning labor would not change, he worked the remainder of the day before being taken to his house. During the ten days he worked at home, his newborn son, Henry Clay Frick, Jr., born during the Homestead strike, died. It was another shocking blow. Berkman was later sentenced to 13 years in jail.

In a life often touched by personal tragedy, Frick was devastated in 1891 by the loss of a second child, his daughter Martha, who died one week prior to her sixth birthday. Each year thereafter, on the anniversary of her death, her father would note at the breakfast table what age she would have attained on that day had she lived. He had special checks printed bearing her likeness for charitable contributions.

Even with spectacular profits at the company, Carnegie and Frick continued to bicker. In a fit of pique after Carnegie named to their board a former adversary of his, Frick resigned the presidency, and Carnegie accepted his resignation. Hen-

"IF THE PUBLIC EVER BECOMES ART CONSCIOUS, THE LIBRARY WILL BE READY TO SERVE IT," HELEN SAID.

HELEN CLAY FRICK AT A BENEFIT FAIR FOR ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IN BEVERLY, MA, 1915.



ry Phipps, Carnegie's boyhood friend and partner, wrote Carnegie a letter reminding him, "Mr. Frick is first, and there's no second, nor fit successor. With him gone a perfect Pandora's box of cares and troubles would be on our shoulders." Frick was reinstated, this time as chairman of the overall company.

In 1898, even Phipps could not avert the long-delayed but inevitable battle between the two magnates. In a loud confrontation overheard by many, Carnegie demanded to his face that Frick be bought out based upon absurdly low evaluations of his stock. Frick shouted at Carnegie, "For years I have been convinced that there is not an honest bone in your body. Now I know that you are a goddamned thief!" The two men never spoke to one another again. But Frick had his revenge—he took his case all the way to court and was awarded a fair and equitable payout. When the steel company was finally dismantled and sold to the Morgan interests, only Carnegie and Phipps received more money than Frick.

With his newfound wealth, Frick began investing heavily in railroads while further indulging his tastes for great art. As his home at Seventieth and Fifth Avenue was being built (he paid \$2.4 million for the site and demolished the Lenox Library which stood there), he purchased works by Gainsborough, Bronzino, Titian, Velázquez, Turner, Corot, Van Dyck, Rembrandt, Whistler, Rubens, Reynolds and Lawrence. Many were purchased with the personal assistance of the esteemed connoisseur Sir Joseph Duveen. The mansion was designed by

Carrère & Hastings and its public rooms decorated by Sir Charles Allom, whose decoration had pleased King George V enough to earn him a knighthood. The upstairs family rooms were decorated by Elsie de Wolfe, who took Frick to Paris to view the sale of the extensive holdings of the Wallace Collection. Frick bought everything in sight, making de Wolfe wealthy in the process as he offered her ten percent on everything he purchased. At Morgan's death, Frick bought from his estate the 11 Fragonard panels commissioned by Louis XV for Madame Du Barry that line the Fragonard Room today. Shortly after moving into his new residence, Frick was said to remark, "Now I can go up and laugh at that shack of Carnegie's."

Carnegie, who was considerably older than Frick, sent an emissary late in life to ask Frick to visit him. He wanted to erase their years of anger and make amends before his death. Carnegie's representative was told to take this message to his master: "Tell Carnegie that I will see him in hell, where we are both going." By August of 1919, Andrew Carnegie was dead.

Although frail himself, Frick insisted upon motoring out to Long Island to see his new namesake, Henry Clay Frick II. His wife, daughter, and nurse begged him not to make the trip, but he did so nonetheless. Upon his return, he took to his bed and never recovered. At his death, he left his home and paintings to the City of New York as a museum (after his wife's death) with a \$15 million endowment. If, indeed, Frick met Carnegie in hell, then surely Frick quickly secured the exclusive right to provide Satan with the coal for his furnaces.

Helen Clay Frick (1888-1984)

DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL

Helen was her father's favorite child and responded by vigorously protecting his name all her 96 years. His reward to her was to leave her the one-sixth share (\$25 million) of his fortune reserved for the family (he had given Childs, discussed below, a large legacy during his lifetime). After graduating from Miss Spence's School, she founded the Iron Rail Vacation Home for Working Girls in Wenham, Massachusetts. She financed a Red Cross hospital unit in France during World War I and volunteered in repatriating refugee families.

In 1927, she financed the Henry Clay Frick Fine Arts Department at the University of Pittsburgh and presented the university with a building to house it in 1965 (although she withdrew all support in 1967 because the University refused to abide by her demands). She gave \$5.8 million to restore Clayton, the Pittsburgh estate which was her home during her first 17 years. But perhaps her most lasting achievement was the founding in 1920 of the Frick Art Reference Library adjacent to the Frick Art Collection. Not only did she become intimately involved with the day-to-day operations of the Library, but she turned away men who arrived to conduct research without coat and tie and banished the first female researcher who dared to wear slacks.

One of the many lawsuits she instigated to protect her father's



TOP, RED CROSS SHOP, 1918, WITH ITS PRESIDENT, HELEN, SEATED IN FRONT; CENTER, DETAIL OF BRONZINO'S PORTRAIT OF LUDOVICO CAPONI; BOTTOM RIGHT, REYNOLDS' GENERAL BURGOYNE; LEFT, INGRES' COMTESSE D'HAUSSONVILLE AND CLODION'S ZEPHYRUS AND FLORA.



OPPOSITE PAGE: UFFICORIS-BETTMANN; THIS PAGE: HELEN FRICK; UFFICORIS-BETTMANN; PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURE: THE FRICK COLLECTION, NEW YORK



TOP, CHILDS FRICK, 1915, ASTRIDE HIS POLO PONY; CENTER, ADELAIDE BLANCHARD; BOTTOM RIGHT, FRANCES BURDEN; BOTTOM LEFT, MARTHA FRICK SYMINGTON, 1939, AND BELOW, HENRY CLAY FRICK II WITH CHARLES RYSKAMP, AT THE LIBRARY, IN FRONT OF A PORTRAIT OF ANDREW MELLON.



name concerned a history of Pittsburgh's steel millionaires (Carnegie, Phipps and Frick). She thought it unfair to her father's memory and sought an injunction against its release. Although the author volunteered minor changes, the court refused Helen's requested sublimation of the book, finding in part: "Miss Frick might as well try to enjoin publication and distribution of the Holy Bible because, being a descendant of Eve, she does not believe that Eve gave Adam the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden."

Famously shy (she refused to answer her census questionnaire because it was too personal), Helen Frick had reason to worry about reports of her fortune. In 1940, after reading an account of the enormous income tax she paid on her \$25 million inheritance, Lillian Beggs, a Canadian-born mental health nurse, demanded \$50,000 from Helen, or else "everything you have will be bombed."

Beggs, who lived in a two-room apartment in Lyndhurst, New Jersey, wanted the money to buy a house and a boat. Her second extortion note spoke of "what had happened to Lindbergh," whose son was murdered in 1932. (Helen had worked behind the scenes trying to get Col. Lindbergh the Republican nomination for President.) A third letter warned that the bombs were ready and ordered Helen to bring the money, in small bills, to the Fulton Street terminal. When Beggs arrived to collect it, she was arrested by the FBI and confessed.

Helen supplied the \$850,000 to build the John Russel Pope-designed Frick Art Reference Library in 1920 and took a proprietary interest in it as well as the Frick Collection. A frieze in the Library's main reading room showed her favorite dogs, Bobby and Pat (a field spaniel and an Irish terrier). Despite the board's objections, she insisted on keeping family furniture in the museum and maintaining roped-off walkways for visitors. When Sir Robert Witt, on whose London library Helen's was based, came for a look, he criticized aspects of her management. His trip was cut short. In a similar case, Helen was sued in 1935 for slander by her father's private secretary, who first felt her wrath when he described her father's knowledge of art as amateurish. Helen had him fired. Later, when he applied for another position, he called himself the former curator of the Frick Collection. Helen told his would-be employer that he was "just an employee whose business it was to show people through the galleries." He filed suit for \$250,000 and lost. Helen invited the judge and the jury to view the Collection. She was once told that her philanthropic endeavors benefited only a select public. Her response was that this was certainly not her fault: "If the public ever becomes art-conscious, the Library will be ready to serve it."

Though she had homes in Pittsburgh and New England, most of Helen's time was spent on her farm in Westchester with Pauline Wells from the research department of the Library and a few other close friends. There she gave small dinners and invited guests to ride her horses and swim in her 90-foot pool. She strolled the property with Bobby the spaniel at her heels and Pat the terrier in a special wagon she had made for him when he grew too weak to walk. His death sent Helen into mourning for three months. During World War II, Helen assisted the U. S. Defense Department by offering the resources of the Frick

to map out the artistic sites of Europe, so that pinpoint bombing could be achieved while leaving art treasures undamaged. One example, the Pisa tower in Italy, was unscathed, while railroad yards and munitions depots across the road were obliterated.



THE FORMAL GARDEN AT CLAYTON, CHILDS FRICK'S 180-ACRE ESTATE IN ROSLYN, NY.

to map out the artistic sites of Europe, so that pinpoint bombing could be achieved while leaving art treasures undamaged. One example, the Pisa tower in Italy, was unscathed, while railroad yards and munitions depots across the road were obliterated.

When Helen died in 1984, never having married, her \$150 million inheritance passed to the Helen Clay Frick Foundation. The foundation was to donate money to charities, although the Henry Clay Frick Birthplace in West Overton, Pennsylvania, and the Westmoreland Sanctuary could "request" funds. Since she had been a staunch Republican (she worked behind the scenes to defeat FDR, gave \$10,000 to the Committee To Re-Elect the President during Nixon's 1972 campaign and waged a letter-to-the-editor attack against his critics), she'd have been pleased that several descendants followed in her footsteps. Ironically, when Helen died, she bequeathed nothing to the Frick Art Reference Library. Charles Ryskamp had to raise a \$34 million endowment to keep her legacy alive.

Childs Frick (1883-1965)

THE LINE OF DESCENT

Henry's son Childs began a family tradition by graduating in 1905 from Princeton, where his father would become a life trustee and benefactor. Childs' passion was paleontology, and he served as a trustee of the American Muse-

um of Natural History from 1921 until his death in 1965, establishing there the Frick Laboratory of Vertebrate Paleontology. He also was a trustee of the New York Zoological Society from 1932 until his death. In 1912, he led an expedition to Abyssinia and was the author of numerous articles in scientific journals, including a book entitled *Horned Ruminants of North America*. He served as president of the board of trustees of the Frick from 1921 until his

HENRY GAVE HIS SON CHILDS \$12 MILLION BEFORE THE WEDDING; A \$2 MILLION CHECK TO THE BRIDE.

death. (Helen sought a declaratory judgment in 1948 to prevent the other trustees from accepting art contributions from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., which she thought inferior; she resigned from the board 13 years later over that issue but remained in charge of the Library; she and her brother maintained little mutual affection for their remaining days.) In 1913, Childs Frick married Frances Shoemaker Dixon.

Childs' father gave him \$12 million before the nuptials and, afterwards, presented his new daughter-in-law with an envelope containing a \$2 million check. They lived at "Clayton" in Roslyn, and had four children: Adelaide, Frances, Martha and Henry.

Dr. Adelaide H. C. Frick (1915-1956)

THE BLANCHARDS

Adelaide married Peter P. Blanchard, Jr. in 1941. He graduated from Princeton in 1935 and Yale in 1939. She was a pediatrician and died of a virulent form of cancer when only in her for-

ties. Her husband has not remarried and lives in Short Hills, New Jersey. They had one child, **Peter P. Blanchard III**, who lives in New York and Maine and is an environmental activist.

Frances D. Frick (1916-1971)

THE BURDENS

In 1939 Frances married I. Townsend Burden, Jr., who was descended from the founder of iron works in Troy, New York. The senior I. T. Burden built his New York City home on land purchased from Andrew Carnegie, and bought the Newport home of Levi Morton (governor of New York and U. S. Vice President) and there presided over Bailey's Beach. The Burdens had already twice married into the Vanderbilt family. Frances Frick Burden served on the board of the Frick and was one of the first dog owners to introduce the King Charles spaniel to America. She and her husband lived in Locust Valley. She died in 1971; her husband later married Anne Martin Redmond, who died in 1995. The Burdens had five children: Frances, Townsend, Childs, Henry and Frick:

◆ **Frances D. Burden** was a Sacred Heart nun before marrying and divorcing Hilaire J. O'Malley. She has a masters degree in education and lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts (O'Malley has not remarried and lives in New York City), where she runs retreats for Jesuit priests and conducts spiritual counsel-

MARTIE SYMINGTON'S DAUGHTER MICHELE, PLAYING POLO IN JACKSON, WY, 1995.



GOVERNOR SYMINGTON WAS CONVICTED ON SEVEN OF 21 COUNTS OF EXTORTION, FRAUD AND PERJURY.

ing. Her daughter, **Justine B. O'Malley**, graduated from Northwestern and teaches in a rural area of South America, while Frances' younger daughter, **Alixine F. O'Malley**, is a student at Denison College in Ohio.

◆ **I. Townsend "Townie" Burden III** married Valerie H. Knauer. They live in Washington, DC; their children are **Frances** and **Virginia**, both students at their parents' alma mater, UPenn.

◆ **Childs F. Burden** graduated from UVA and married Elaine C. Siker. They live at Seven Springs Farm in Middleburg, Virginia (recently featured in *House & Garden*) where he serves on the boards of several environmental organizations. He is in the investment business with his brother, Townie. There are no children.

◆ **Henry Sheedy Burden** and his wife, Lisa Weeks, graduated from Colorado College. They live in Seattle and Friday Harbor, Washington, with their son, **Henry**, and daughters **Elizabeth**, **Alice** and **Hathaway**.

◆ **D. Frick Burden** and his wife, Tammy J. McMillan, are Duke graduates who live in Telluride, Colorado, with their children, **Thomas** and **Katherine**.

Martha Howard Frick (1917-1996)

THE SYMINGTONS

Martha ("Marsie") gave birth to the most visible descendant of any of the Fricks: Arizona's embattled former governor. If the Frick men were known for Princeton and philanthropy, then the male members of the family of Marsie Frick's husband, **J. Fife Symington, Jr.**, are known for politics and financially fortunate marriages. In 1909 the senior Jack Symington, Marsie's father-in-law, had married Arabella Hambleton of the Baltimore investment banking family that financed Pan American Airlines (for whom the junior Symington later worked). The son then married Marsie Frick after her graduation from the Greenvale School and Foxcroft, and they made their base in Baltimore. Symington departed from his family's usual Democratic affiliations (his cousin was a Democratic senator from Missouri) and ran unsuccessfully as a Republican for Congress in 1958, 1960 and 1962. Marsie Frick Symington was the driving force behind her husband's campaigns and, in 1964, she ran for Maryland's at-large seat because her husband, as state campaign director for Barry Goldwater, was precluded from doing so. The Watergate investigation uncovered that Symington had contributed \$100,000 to Nixon's campaign with the expectation of an ambassadorship to Holland that never materialized. Instead, he was appointed ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago in 1969 (where Marsie designed an orchid garden for the ambassador's residence in Port of Spain). Herbert Kalmbach, Nixon's personal attorney, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor for offering the Dutch ambassadorship to Symington in exchange for the large contribution.

Marsie Frick Symington was an avid horticulturist and served as a board member of several related organizations. She was a trustee and member of the acquisitions committee of the Frick Collection from 1961 to 1981 and, in the mid-1970s, worked closely with Russell Page to design the Frick's adjoining garden on Seventieth Street (which necessitated the demolition of the

George Widener house next door). In 1988, after 50 years of marriage, she divorced her husband and lived both in Arizona and Lutherville, Maryland, until her death in November 1996 (a stroke in 1993 left her too ill to look after her own affairs). Fourteen months before her son, Fife Symington III, filed for bankruptcy, his mother changed her will, making him the beneficiary of an art trust (he sold one painting for \$3 million immediately after her death) but leaving him no money or property other than a portrait of himself and his share of irrevocable trusts that bypassed her estate. She had lent him more than three million dollars for such things as his gubernatorial campaigns and payment of bank debts to prevent foreclosure of his failing real-estate ventures. The governor's wife purchased those 29 notes for \$10 and then forgave them. Marsie Symington created generation-skipping trusts which benefit the governor's two eldest children and made modest bequests to her three daughters. Her former husband lives in Glyndon, Maryland. Their children are Helen, Arabella, Martha and Fife:

◆ **Helen Clay Symington** married Minturn de S. V. Chace; they live in Mt. Kisco, New York. She is a Radcliffe graduate, and he, like his father and grandfather, graduated from Harvard. She is a volunteer docent at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she is a medievalist and specializes in leading children through the Cloisters. She serves on the board of the Frick Collection. They have two children, Martha and Suzzara. **Martha S. Chace** teaches secondary school. She is married to Tom Loring, and they have one son. **Suzzara "Suzi" F. Chace** is married to John F. Durocher. She is currently working toward her PhD in psychology.

◆ **Arabella H. Symington** married Edward N. Dane, a descendant of a delegate to the Continental Congress who founded Dane Hall at Harvard. They live in Center Harbor, New Hampshire. She is an internationally acclaimed horticulturist and floral arranger who was recently invited to St. Petersburg, Russia, for demonstrations of her work. They have three children, Natalie, Edward and Charles. **Natalie S. Dane** is studying business management at the Thunderbird School in Arizona. **Edward H. Dane** married Heather Harmon, and they live in Manchester, Massachusetts, where he is involved in real estate. **Charles "Brook" E. Dane's** wife is Melissa; he is a banker.

◆ **Martha "Martie" Frick Symington** first married Marshall W. Jenney, a horse breeder, and lived in West Grove, Pennsylvania. After their divorce, she married Michael Sanger (eldest grandson of Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood). They are now divorced, and she lives in Stevenson, Maryland. She is writing a biography of Henry Clay Frick, to be published in 1998. A former owner of steeplechase champions and master of foxhounds, she facilitates study groups in Jungian psychology. Her children by her first marriage are: **Anne Jenney Darrow**, a Stanford graduate who directs its alumni travel organization (she is married with one child); and **Laura Jenney Roe**, who is a veterinarian in Bozeman, Montana. Martie Sanger's daughter by her second marriage is **Michele Sanger**, an all-star polo player at the Garrison Forest School who was on the polo team of the University of Virginia before transferring to the (Continued on page 98)



TOP, MARTHA FRICK SYMINGTON'S RUSSELL PAGE ROSE GARDEN, 1983; CENTER, MARTIE SYMINGTON WITH COLONIAL CUP WINNER, INKSLINGER; BOTTOM RIGHT, J. FIFE SYMINGTON, JR., 1962; BOTTOM LEFT, HIS SON, 1987, AND ELAINE AND CHILDS BURDEN'S SEVEN SPRINGS FARM IN MIDDLEBURG, VA.



OPPOSITE PAGE: MICHELE SANGER; COURTESY OF MARTHA FRICK SYMINGTON; THIS PAGE: MARTHA SANGER; INKSLINGER: BOB GARBER; AND MARTIE SANGER; COURTESY OF MARTHA FRICK SYMINGTON; FIFE SYMINGTON, JR.: AP/WIDE WORLD; MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA: COURTESY OF CHILDS FRICK

CORRECTION

In the article "The Southampton Story" that appeared in the July/August 1997 issue of *QUEST*, an error was inadvertently made regarding an evening at Mitty's bar in which LSD was reportedly dropped in people's drinks. The event cited actually occurred in 1970, not in the '60s, as stated in the article. *QUEST* also erroneously linked Pony Duke, the son of the late Ambassador Angier Biddle Duke, to the incident.

QUEST has since been informed that Mr. Duke was in Wyoming at the time the incident took place and had absolutely nothing to do with the events described in the article. The editors of *QUEST* offer their sincere apologies to Mr. Duke and his family.



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WILL OF STEEL (From page 75)
University of Montana, where she is a sophomore. She is a certified EMT and a volunteer firefighter.

◆ **J. Fife Symington III** followed in his father's footsteps, entering politics. First elected in 1991, Symington attended Harvard and served in the U. S. Air Force. He married Leslie Marion Barker in 1968, and they divorced in 1972. (She married architect Gary Jones and lives in Carefree, Arizona, where she intervenes with children who have been involved in domestic violence.) Their two sons (below) received in their grandmother's will all her tangibles, jewelry, and residences, while their younger half-siblings received far less and their cousins by their father's three sisters were completely disinherited.

Then in 1976, Governor Symington married Ann Olin Pritzlaff, heiress to two family fortunes (she has already paid more than \$1 million of her husband's legal bills and "loaned" him \$650,000 in campaign funds—despite persistent rumors of his affair with a former aide). Ann recently said of life with Fife: "He's cute. I love his intelligence. It's never boring."

In September 1997, Symington was convicted on seven of 21 counts of fraud, extortion, and perjury (he was acquitted of three counts, and the jury deadlocked on the remaining charges) in a criminal trial brought by Federal savings and loan regulators, who accused him of bank fraud in excess of \$200 million. Other criminal investigations have brought charges on additional counts, although some were settled in 1994. Shortly after his re-election, he declared bankruptcy, claiming \$24 million in liabilities and only \$61,000 in assets (not including family trusts or his wife's sizable estate). He is to be sentenced on November 10 and faces a separate Federal bankruptcy trial on charges that he gave false financial information to pension funds to secure a \$10 million loan. His children by Leslie M. Barker are **J. Fife Symington IV**, who wed a Texan, Marcella Billups, and lives in Phoenix; and **Scott H. Symington**, who lives in Scottsdale, Arizona. His children by Ann O. Pritzlaff are: **Whitney O. Symington**, a daughter, at college in California; **Richard E. Symington**, 18, attending school in New Hampshire; and **Tom Symington**, 15, at school in Phoenix.

Dr. Henry Clay Frick II (b. 1919)

THE FRICKS

Dr. Frick, a 1942 Princeton graduate, is retired after a medical career specializing in gynecology at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. Many of his patients were terminally ill of cancer, and he volunteered his services at a free clinic for women who could not afford a doctor's care. He shares his Aunt Helen's conservative Republican politics. He married Jane Allison Coates (whose sister is married to Rhode Island's U. S. Senator John Chafee) and for many years has lived in Alpine, New Jersey. Once their children were older, the Fricks divorced, and Allison married Najeeb Halaby, the retired chairman of Pan American Airways, who is the father of Jordan's Queen Noor (the two enjoyed a warm relationship, and Her Majesty sent her own plane to retrieve Allison when she had a heart attack while vacationing in the Mediterranean). Dr. Frick then married Emily "Pemmy" G. Troth (the former Mrs. Richard S. duPont, Sr.), who has enjoyed a higher social profile than the first Mrs. Frick (Emily has two sons by her first marriage). Dr. Frick had five children, all by Allison: Jane, Elise, Adelaide, Frances and Henry. **Jane Frick** took her own life while in her twenties. **Elise Frick**, who is unmarried and lives in New York City with attorney Jack Garraty, a partner at Kelley, Drye and Warren. They have a weekend home in Connecticut. This year she represented her family at a Save the Children dinner honoring her mother (who died last year) and her stepfather. **Adelaide "Tookie" H. C. Frick Trafton** lives near Portland, Maine, where she is a psychotherapist. Her husband works with handicapped children. Their family includes quadruplet daughters and one son, Will. **Frances D. Frick** "needs to be in retreat," according to a cousin, and the family respects her wishes. Although her last known address was in Bellingham, Washington, the family can only contact her through an attorney. She sent notes of condolence to her Symington cousins when they lost their mother last year. **Henry Clay Frick III** lives in Eagle River, Alaska, where he is at the University of Alaska at Juneau. He and his wife are pilots. ◆