

NOVEMBER 2022

HERITAGE is the newsletter for Pabst Mansion, Inc., a historic house museum dedicated to the restoration of the Pabst Mansion and the preservation of the Pabst family legacy.

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Elsbeth A LIFE OUTSIDE THE HOME

House museums, through the preservation and recreation of the home as it was for the family who once lived there, can give valuable insight into a world of which we have inherited only vestiges. As a snapshot of the past, just like the physical home, individuals too can become frozen in time within the recounted memory of the space. This holds particularly true for those whose childhood rooms come to entirely represent them. Within the Pabst Mansion, the Pabsts' eldest granddaughter, Elsbeth, remains forever a child with remnants of her adolescence imparting impressions that elicit both sympathy and envy for the "poor little rich girl."

With Elsbeth's time at the Pabst Mansion bookended by the death of her mother, Elizabeth, when she was six-months old and the deaths of her grandparents in her early teens, to the hundreds of thousands who visited the museum her life seems defined by these tragedies. Yet, while her early years were indeed veiled by these events, her story is not confined to the walls of her former bedroom.

In a brief memoir she wrote in 1954 as a Christmas gift to her grandchildren, Elsbeth remembers her time in the Mansion and what came after. The memoir begins with Elsbeth stating: "The very first memory I have is standing on a white fur rug holding a large bouquet of flowers and loving hands turning my head this way and that to get the right pose." This scene may seem familiar to many Pabst Mansion visitors, as it is immortalized in the portrait painted by Caesar Phillip that hangs above the mantel in Elsbeth's bedroom.

She goes on to describe cherished memories of watching carriages pass while in her grandfather's room, as well as the loneliness resultant from an overprotective grandmother who never recovered from the loss of Elsbeth's mother. From an outside perspective, one can easily sympathize with the actions Mrs. Pabst took to protect the only child of her beloved daughter, particularly as Captain and Mrs. Pabst lost multiple children in infancy. In Elsbeth's view, however, this caution cost her a childhood of wonder and discovery.

Continued on page 2



A photo of Elsbeth posing for her portrait by Caesar Phillip in 1894.



Elsbeth in the windowsill of her bedroom in 1895.

Elsbeth A LIFE OUTSIDE THE HOME *continued from page 1*

After the death of her grandparents, Elsbeth succinctly outlines finishing her studies in Switzerland, a debut into Milwaukee social life, two marriages, and the life she created for her children. Breaking from the privileged American female mold of debutante to wife to mother with which Elsbeth's adult life began, her divorce from her first husband individualized her and seems to have ignited something from deep within. During the summer after her divorce, Elsbeth and her children lived on the Isle of Wight where she vowed, "The children were to have all that I missed."

So, from summer travels abroad to backpacking the American West and riding bareback in Greenwich, Elsbeth provided her children with the childhood adventures she was denied due to fear of disease or accident. Through and with her children, childhood gained a new meaning and life became what she wanted it to be.

Although Elsbeth lived another 18 years after the death of her second husband,

Harry O. Comstock, it is at this time that she decided to write her short memoir which she ended by saying, "Now that all my children are married and [Harry] gone, I shall enjoy nothing better than having my grandchildren around me." With these parting words written from her home on Lake Tahoe, Elsbeth seems contented with the life she chose and shared with others. Perhaps taking inspiration from her grandfather, Elsbeth braved waters unknown from Lake Michigan to Lake Tahoe to find something only she could discover — herself.



(Above) Elsbeth and her second husband, Harry O. Comstock, at their home, Brockway, on Lake Tahoe. (Right) Elsbeth in Xochimilco, Mexico, c. 1941.



Elsbeth's children, Elsbeth, Douglas and Margaret Parmentier (and a puppy), riding bareback in 1927.



'Tis the Season for Christmas

AT THE PABST MANSION

OPENING RECEPTION

November 16, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Tickets: \$50 member/\$60 non-member

Beer Baron level membership & above receive two complimentary tickets (must RSVP). A grand evening on Grand Avenue! Be the first to experience *Christmas at the Pabst Mansion* during the official opening reception. Join us for an evening of glittering trees, champagne toasts, tiers of classic holiday treats and seasonal melodies played on the grand piano in the music room.

DAILY SELF-GUIDED TOURS

November 17, 2022 – January 8, 2023, Monday-Saturday, 10am – 4pm

Sunday, 11am – 5:30pm (Closed on holidays)

Tickets: Adult: \$20, Senior/Student/Military: \$18, Child (6 & over): \$13, Child (5 & under): Free, Member: Free

A holiday tradition the whole family can enjoy! Delight in the wonderment of *Christmas at the Pabst Mansion* where no two Christmases are the same. From glitz and glam to train tracks and teddy bears around the tree, each room is decked from tip to mistletoe.

TWILIGHT TOURS

Thursdays – Saturdays, 4:30pm – 7:30pm

November 25 – January 6 (exceptions of Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve)

Tickets: Adult: \$26, Senior/Student/Military: \$24, Members: \$11

A self-guided evening tour with twinkling lights, live holiday music, and drinks for purchase like glühwein and pecan whiskey cider to give you that warm Christmas glow!

FATHER CHRISTMAS VISITS THE MANSION!

Sundays, 3:30pm – 5:30pm • November 27 – December 18

With his lantern, walking stick and red cloak with white trim, a whimsical Father Christmas travels south to visit the Pabst Mansion each Sunday during the holiday season. Create magical memories with holiday treats, letters to Santa, and room after room of enchanting Christmas displays.

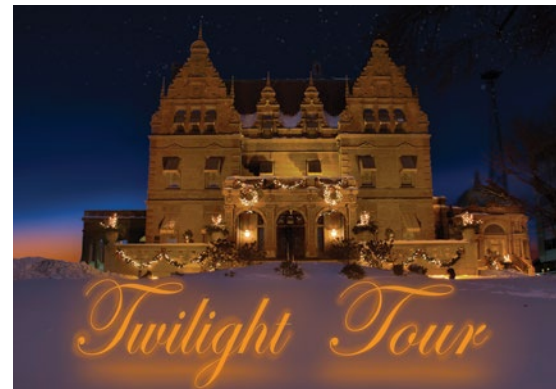
HOLIDAY MIMOSA TOURS

Fridays & Saturdays, 9:30am; Sundays, 9:30am & 10am

November 20, 2022 – January 8, 2023 (Closed on holidays)

Tickets: Adult: \$26, Senior/Student/Military: \$23, Member: \$11

The only guided tour during *Christmas at the Pabst Mansion*...with a mimosa! This tour is for those wanting a guided experience during the holiday season with a little something extra. Cheers to making special holiday memories!



Special Thanks

TO OUR COMMUNITY SPONSOR

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A HAPPY HOMECOMING FOR The Golden Wedding

After years in the dark not knowing the fate of Otto Erdmann's *The Golden Wedding*, the piece that once hung in Mrs. Pabst's parlor miraculously showed up at an auction house in Dallas. Having only viewed the painting through black-and-white prints and engravings, seeing it in color only added to the excitement of the find. One of multiple works by Erdmann owned by the Pabsts, *The Golden Wedding* sweetly depicts the celebration of an elderly couple's wedding anniversary. Known for collecting joyous genre paintings, this piece fits soundly within the Pabsts' collection. Thanks to contributions from John Eastberg, Augie Pabst, Jim Pabst and Adam Arndt, Erdmann's masterwork will return to the Mansion this November.

Otto Erdmann (German, 1834-1905),
The Golden Wedding, c. 1890



'The Golden Wedding' come to life in color.

'The Golden Wedding' hanging on the wall of Mrs. Pabst's parlor in 1897.



Give the Gift OF MEMBERSHIP

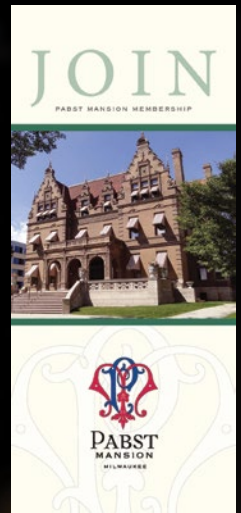
*Give the gift that
keeps on giving!*



Membership in the Pabst Mansion includes:

- Free year-round admission to the Pabst Mansion
- 10% discount in the Pabst Mansion gift shop
- Subscription to our *Heritage* newsletter
- Discounts on special tours and events
- Join or renew at the Brewmaster level [\$175] or above and you will automatically be enrolled in NARM [North American Reciprocal Museum Association]. This enrollment provides you access to free admission and discounts to over 1,000 arts, cultural and historical institutions across the United States, Canada and Mexico through the North American Reciprocal Membership (NARM) Association.

For more information on membership levels or to purchase a membership online, visit pabstmansion.com/memberships



Yes, I want to be a member of the Pabst Mansion!

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comet | \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Brewmaster | \$175 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Circle | \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Ribbon | \$95 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beer Baron | \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> First Mate | \$50 |

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Please make checks payable to Pabst Mansion. To pay securely by credit card, visit www.pabstmansion.com

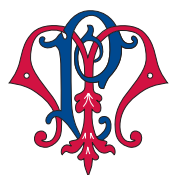
☐ I am interested in volunteer opportunities, please contact me.

I would like to make a contribution to the Mansion.

Enclosed is my contribution for \$ _____.

Detach and mail to: Pabst Mansion
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A PABST MANSION *for Every Tree!*

Put a little Pabst on the tree! The new Pabst Mansion ornament is a sleek, elegant rendition of the Mansion manufactured by Beacon Design, the company that makes the yearly White House Christmas Ornament. Handcrafted in the USA from solid brass and finished in 24 karat gold, available onsite or at pabstmansion.com



Christmas

AT THE PABST MANSION

HOURS/ADMISSION

November 17, 2022 – January 8, 2023

DAILY SELF-GUIDED TOURS

Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm • Sunday 11am-5:30pm
Last Entry 45 min. to close

Open Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve 10am-1pm

Closed: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day

Adult: \$20 • Senior/Student/Military: \$18

Child (6-17): \$13 • Child (5 and under): Free

Member: Free

Prices and hours subject to change.

TWILIGHT TOURS

Thursdays – Saturdays 4:30pm-7:30pm

November 25 – January 6

Adult: \$26

Senior/Student/Military: \$24

Member: \$11

Located on 20th and Wisconsin Avenue.

Limited parking is available. Wheelchair accessible.