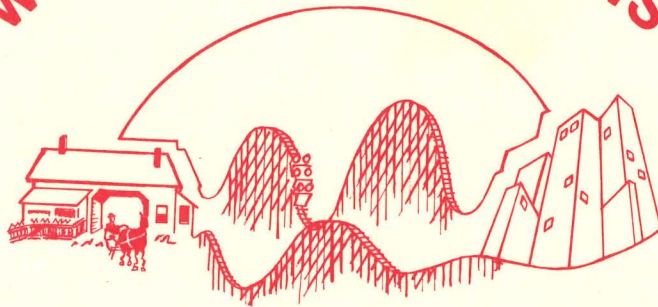
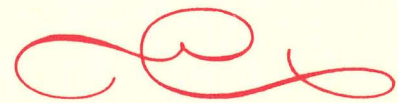


# 75th Anniversary

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1905 — 1980



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**WEST VIEW, PENNSYLVANIA**





# Borough of West View

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Fellow Citizens,

It is my privilege to extend warmest greetings and best wishes for a successful Diamond Jubilee Celebration.

Each child from birth - - through joy, sorrow and daily experience - - develops into a creative being. West View, like that child, has, through its first Seventy-Five Years of happiness, sorrow, trials and accomplishments, developed into a Borough of which we are justly proud. West View Citizens and Officials have proved that we can live together amiably and support good local government.

As we enter into our next Twenty-Five Years, a great deal of responsibility will fall on our shoulders. The problems of law enforcement, inflationary times, environmental protection, welfare reform and taxation, as well as other problems will need our attention.

It will be only through the cooperation and dedication of our people that we will come safely through the next Twenty-Five Years to our Centennial Celebration. It is to you that future generations will look back and say:

*"They did their share to make West View A Good Place  
to Live - - Now, let's do our share!"*

Sincerely,

Richard E. Powell  
MAYOR





*Iron City Light*  
*makes any place the light place.*

Pittsburgh Brewing Company Pittsburgh, Pa.



# HISTORY OF WEST VIEW

Any history of anywhere must go back to the time of unrecorded history, to the time before man, when the land belonged to the animals. The buffalo herds first found the narrow corridor of long, regular, connecting ridge tops with intermittent springs that provided a dry route for their migrations.

When the redmen came they made use of these beaten and deeply worn thoroughfares to travel incredible distances. The northern Indians, the Susquehannocks, the Delawares, and the Shawnees of Pennsylvania, as well as the Iroquois of New York followed these trails in their continuing wars with the southern Catawba and Cherokee nations.

When white explorers and traders first found the juncture of the two rivers that form the mighty Ohio to the west, the Senecas, Onendagas and Cayugas were traveling down from the Lake Country by way of French Creek, Venango, through present Evans City to Shannopin's Town (in the Lawrenceville Section of Pittsburgh). This Venango Trail crossed through East Liberty to the mouth of Turtle Creek and on down to Cumberland, Maryland; Winchester, Virginia, and along the Shenandoah Valley to North or South Carolina.

The Venango Trail becomes a part of the history of West View because the Perry Highway follows in general the early route of the buffalo and Indians.

The French at Fort Duquesne and the British at Fort Pitt used the Trail as a connecting route to forts on the Great Lakes and in Canada.

Col. Henry Bouquet marched a small army of his famous Royal Americans (British Regulars) down the trail in the summer of 1760, the year after the building of Fort Pitt. Edward G. Williams, author of the Bicentennial history of Ross and West View, quotes a journal of Thomas Hutchins who made the trip with Bouquet. Lt. Hutchins was an engineer and his journal is very detailed. According to it, the troop camped the night of July 7, 1760, on the hillside near the present location of the Ross Municipal Building, close to the West View line. Hutchins reports the camp was "by several springs."

During the Revolutionary War and for some time thereafter, all this land north of the rivers was Indian land. There were tribes living on islands in the river.

In order to keep soldiers in the Revolutionary army, the Pennsylvania Assembly promised to

donate land to the soldiers after the war. The army pay in continental money depreciated so rapidly that it became practically worthless. The inflation that we have today was nothing compared to that period.

After the war, a schedule was set up to adjust the army pay to its correct value. Certificates were issued to the soldiers in compensation that were redeemable in gold or silver or for the purchase of land.

The state set up a large tract of western land, including the area of Ross and West View as Depreciation Land. To finance the redemption of the certificates, land was sold at auction in Philadelphia.

Originally, this area was part of Pitt Township, Westmoreland County. Allegheny County was formed in 1788.

The original Act provided that a tract of 3,000 acres fronting on both the Ohio and Allegheny rivers should be reserved for later use of the State.

In 1796, the western part of the area, on a north-south line running through the mouth of Pine Creek was partitioned into Pine Township and in 1803, Ohio Township was formed including all of the western tier of townships and boroughs on the Ohio River. This partition left Pine Township with a strip of land six miles wide and sixteen long, from the rivers to the Butler County line.

In five years, the land in the southern part of Pine Township had been taken up rapidly. The Venango Trail had become the Franklin Road. Thirty residents of this southern area petitioned the court on November 15, 1808, asking that the township be divided by a line from the eight-mile tree on Franklin Road, running east and west.

Their petition was approved at the November term of 1809 and the new township was named Ross in honor of an eminent Pittsburgh attorney, James Ross.

The Borough of Allegheny was formed in 1828 from part of the Reserve Tract and in 1835, Reserve Township was taken from Ross and part of the Reserve Tract.

Shaler Township took away about two miles from the eastern side of Ross and a larger area of Indiana Township in 1847.

Ross remained the same size from that time until the formation of West View Borough in 1905.

So much, then, for the geographical history of the area. It is people who make an area grow.

Congratulations  
to  
West View  
Borough  
on your  
75th Year.

**The  
West View  
Volunteer  
Fire  
Department**



All that virgin land across the river was very attractive to the settlers of Fort Pitt. As early, perhaps, as 1760, James Boggs had settled on the north side of the river. Indian wars and the troubles of the Revolution forced him to leave his home. He was permanently established there by a grant of land in the Reserve Tract in 1783. Boggs died soon after getting the grant. His widow married James Robinson, who moved to the Boggs holdings. Boggs obtained a charter to operate a ferry from Pittsburgh to the Venango Trail and built a house which became an inn.

At this time, Casper Reel, reportedly the first settler in Ross and West View, enters the story. Casper was a skin dresser by trade. He came to Fort Pitt from Germany, by way of Baltimore and Lancaster. His father died on the voyage from Germany and his mother and brother were killed by marauding Indians in Lancaster.

Casper came to Fort Pitt in 1773 at the age of 31. He is reported to have been the bearer of the news of the fighting at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. His news roused the people at the fort to become part of the Revolutionary movement.

There were two factions in Fort Pitt, Pennsylvanians and Virginians. Reel joined a Virginian company commanded by Capt. John Gibson. When St. Clair's 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment was formed, Reel marched with it to Canada and Ticonderoga. He survived battle, hunger, weather and disease to return home. In another enlistment, he fought the Battle of Brandywine to turn back an invasion of Pennsylvania.

He joined General Hand's command at Fort Pitt in 1778 and remained there until the end of the war.

After an absence of 10 years, he returned to Lancaster and married Elizabeth Wise. He returned to Pittsburgh with his wife and their first child in 1784. During the next ten years, the couple had four more children and Reel bought two fine lots on Fifth Street between Smithfield and Wood. He sold the lots at a profit and decided to buy a farm.

Traveling out the Venango Trail, he found the land he wanted in the next valley beyond where Bouquet and his army had camped. His land included what is now the western fifth of West View, including West View Park, Highland Country Club and the Gass Plan.

The sale of this Depreciation Land had not been successful. The average price had been 34 cents an acre, with some going as cheap as eight cents. As a result the government had suspended the sale of the land until in 1782, a fixed price of \$20

per hundred acres was set by the legislature.

Reel surveyed the lines of his own property, staking off 727 acres. He built a small cabin along a creek between Cornell Avenue and West View Park. In 1792, Indian attacks drove him back to Pittsburgh for the country was still Indian land.

It was not safe to return to the land north of the river until Gen. Anthony Wayne had defeated the Indians at Fallen Timbers in 1794 and the Treaty of Greenville signed in 1795.

Reel had a new log house ready for his family by the spring of 1795. Twin sons, the first white children born in this area, named David and Casper Jr., were born January 22, 1798.

This first home, its log walls covered with clapboard, still stands at 148 Georgetown Avenue.

The Reel family became outstanding members of the new area. Casper himself, was the first Collector of Internal Revenue for an area that reached from the Allegheny River to Lake Erie. His son, Conrad, followed him in this post and was also the first postmaster at Perrysville, the first Post Office north of the river. Conrad also established the first woolen mill in Allegheny County.

David and Casper both became farmers. David was a member of a Methodist group which later became the Bellevue Methodist Church and Casper Jr. was one of the group that founded the Hiland Presbyterian congregation.

David built his farm house which still stands on Courtney Mill Road. Casper Jr. built his farm house on a hill that is now part of Highland Country Club golf course. It was moved to be incorporated into the present clubhouse.

Another brother, John, was killed in action on the Maumee River in Ohio, during the War of 1812. Casper Sr. went to Ohio to bring back his body for burial in the family plot that is now surrounded by the country club golf course.

Preservation of the burial plot was part of the sales agreement with the club. Casper Sr., his wife, several other members of the family and a servant are buried there.

There are many tales told of that original settler. One is that he was out hunting one day during his first attempt at settlement. An Indian arrow barely missed him and he barricaded himself in the cabin to fight off an attack. He was running out of ammunition when a passing troop of soldiers drove off the Indians. The troops were reportedly scouring the countryside for Simon Girty, a notorious renegade and outlaw.

Girty, perhaps, has no place in this history, except that his name was given to the stream that



## EARLY RESIDENTS OF BORO — 1895





runs from West View into Millvale. Girty sided with the British during the Revolutionary War and teamed up with a group of renegade Indians. They terrorized white settlers and peddled their scalps to the British for \$10 apiece.

According to legend, the ostracized Indians and Girty would kill the white settlers, taking anything of value to be traded or sold at a later date. They roamed the area as far as Richland Township.

Girty double-crossed his Indian allies and took the plunder from its hiding place. He reportedly buried it along a tributary of the Allegheny River.

The Indians returned from their raiding party sooner than expected and discovered Girty's treachery. They trailed him to the spot where he was burying the spoils, but his instincts saved him from the ambush they had planned.

Girty was able to elude the Indians by his famous run through the creek bed located in Ross, along Babcock Boulevard that bears his name. He disappeared into Indian country and apparently died, blind and infirm in Canada.

Later historians claim, however, that Girty's Run got its name, not from Simon's escape, but in honor of another brother, Thomas, who remained loyal to the American cause and who eventually settled his family in the extreme southeast corner

of the township. He had been a ranger and scout in the Westmoreland militia and was all all-round good citizen.

In the fall of 1795 Barnabas Hilands came to the area and built a cabin, followed in 1796 by Richard Morrow. Morrow settled on land opposite Hiland Presbyterian Church and extending to Perrysville.

The Venango Trail became the highway of travel north to the new town of Franklin, growing up at the mouth of French Creek, where Fort Venanco once stood. The trail soon became known as Franklin Road. As settlers wagons streamed northward, it became necessary that inns be established.

The Four Mile Inn and the Five Mil House were landmarks in Ross that continued until recently. The Four Mile Inn was built about 1819 and was operated by the Ivorys, who gave their name to the intersecting road. It was torn down to make way for the long-delayed Interstate Route 279. The Five Mile House, built around 1830, was operated by Williams. It was destroyed by fire in 1970.

One of the earliest of these taverns was built by Balzar Good. In 1797 or 1800, he built a log structure on the west side of the path, north of

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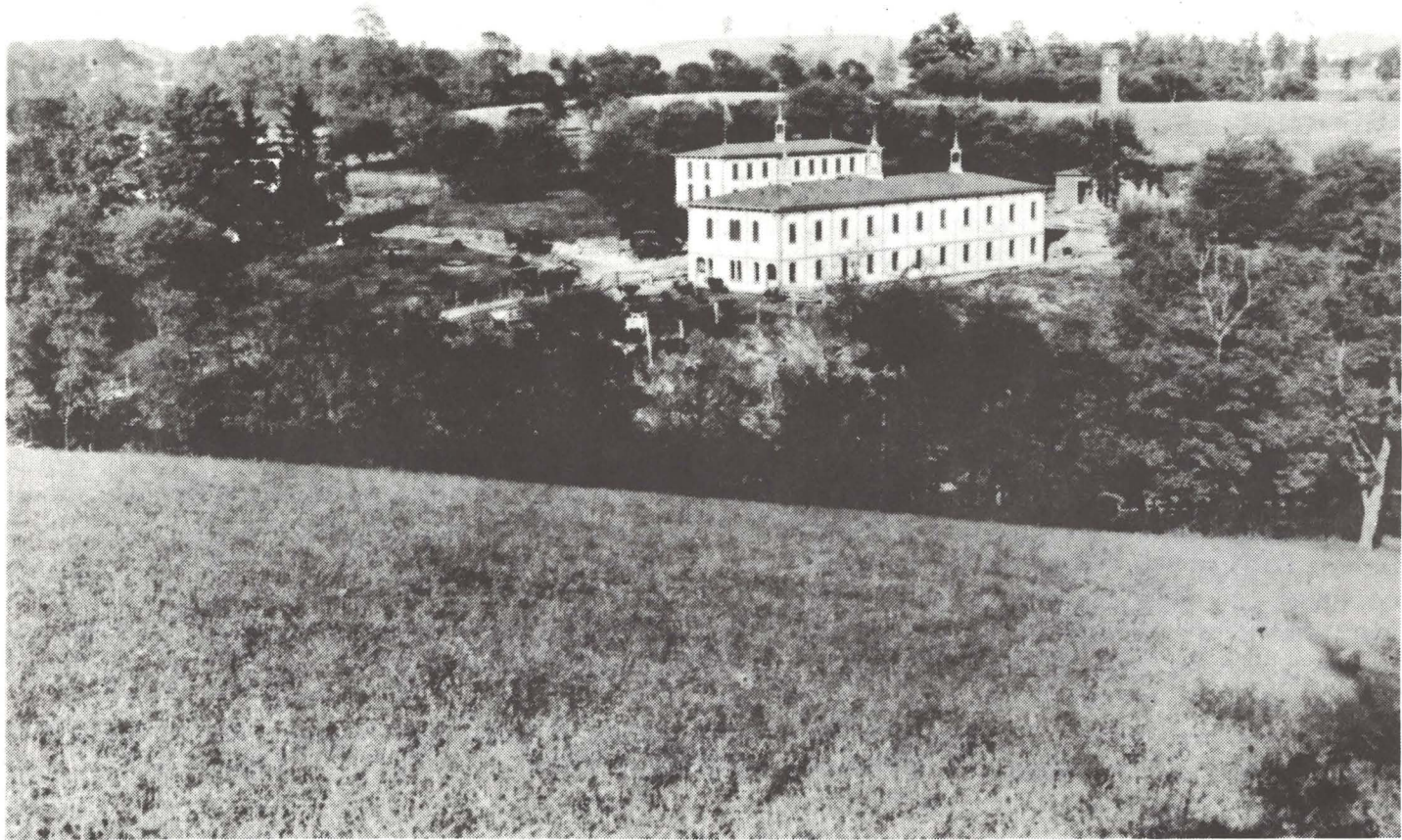
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# SCHWITTER'S FARM





Perrysville at the intersection of Three Degree Road and Perry Highway. The log tavern was replaced by a frame building in 1852, operated by Billy Keown, grandson of Balzar Good Jr. Keown's hotel had a four-furlong track where the owner exercised and raced his stable of horses.

The West View Hotel was another inn that offered a race track as an attraction. The hotel flourished in the 1870s and 1880s under the ownership of Wilt and Deimling. It stood on the eastern side of the road and the track was near Cemetery Lane.

Farmers to the north drove their cattle, sheep and hogs along the Franklin Road, that later became the Perrysville Plank Road and the Perry Highway. Herds would be driven from Mercer or Crawford counties or even from Ohio, for sale in Pittsburgh's slaughter houses.

Of a necessity, the inns along the road, provided large fenced enclosures where the animals could be penned up over night.

The poorer farmers who could not afford the price of lodging at the inns, used open meadows along the road to bed their herds and flocks. One of the favorite spots, because of the supply of fresh water available in a pond, was at the corner of the highway and Highland Avenue, in what is

now Wellington Heights.

In 1849, the Franklin Road became the Perrysville Plank Road when planks of wood were laid to eliminate the mud. Only one half of the road was planked. The loaded wagons rode on the planks and the empty wagons rode on the mud side.

Installation and maintenance of the planks turned the road into a toll road, and toll gates were set up at intervals to collect a fee for the privilege of traveling on the improved surface. Toll gates were located at Waldorf Street on the city line, near the present Ross Municipal Building and at Rochester Road. A fourth toll gate was located near the present entrance to Highland Pines.

West View's famous Horseshoe Bend was constructed at the time of the 1849 improvements. Prior to that, the road had run from the intersection of Bellevue Road down the steep hill to West View Park entrance.

The Plank Road was the only road north until the road was paved with bricks as far as Keown's Hotel on Three Degree Road in 1911.

The automobile made the bumpy road obsolete and a macadam surface smoothed the way until concrete arrived. It was 1929 before a \$40,000 30-foot wide reinforced concrete road was constructed from the Five Mile House to the City line.

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**Chapter 2211**



All of these improvements were far in the future and the early settlers of the area had no dream of the busy highway the Venango Trail would become.

Stage coaches ran regularly on the Franklin Road to Mercer, Meadville and Erie. Stage relay stations were established in Perrysville, Wexford and Warrendale. Mail was delivered weekly as early as 1801. By 1818, mail came twice a week and three times by 1824.

Franklin Road became Perry Highway following the War of 1812 when supplies for Commodore O. H. Perry's fleet in Lake Erie were transported along it.

Evergreen Hamlet, a Utopian village, was founded in 1851 in the southeast corner of Ross. William Shinn and Associates established a society of refinement and culture in the style of the English aristocracy. The plan ended in financial failure following the death of Shinn in 1865. Matthew Cridge, an Englishman, came to the Hamlet that year, built a home and became the leader of a new group of residents. Cridge also built the Evergreen Hotel, a fine hostelry in that day.

The new owners organized their own transportation company under the name of Evergreen Ham-

let Passenger Railway for a narrow gauge railroad, pulled by a horse in the beginning. The men would operate their own engine between the Hamlet and Bennett's Station in Millvale. They would park their little engine on a siding and ride the Pennsylvania Railroad into the city to work.

A disastrous flood wiped out the bridges and much of the roadbed of the little railroad. Repairs were so expensive that the railroad was sold to A. G. Hatry who conducted a horsedrawn operation long after the engine became unrepairable.

The little railroad became very important as the large railroad magnates fought for service rights to Pittsburgh. Henry W. Oliver was building a line to reach New Castle and Youngstown, by way of Mars. He was blocked from crossing the Allegheny River into Pittsburgh because he could not cross the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks.

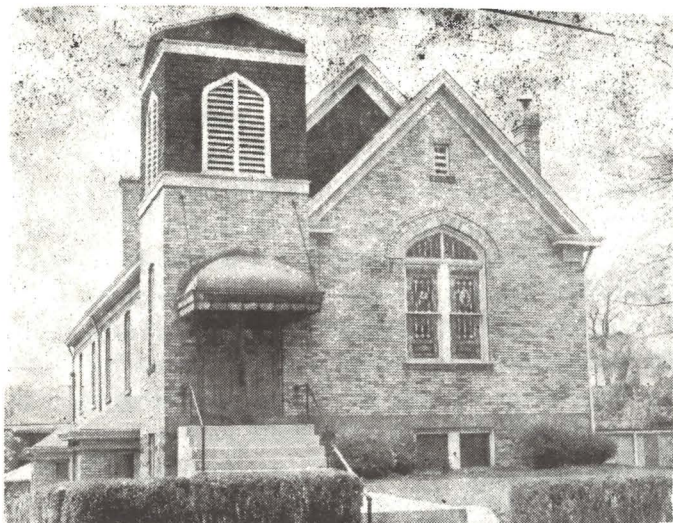
The franchise granted to the Evergreen Railway Company gave it the right to cross any other railroad at grade. Oliver bought up the Evergreen franchise, crossed the Pennsylvania tracks and so got into Pittsburgh. Oliver later sold his Pittsburgh and Western line to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The most important link of that railroad's line to Chicago and the west was the franchise of the narrow gauge railroad in Ross.

## PERRY HIGHWAY & CENTER AVENUE

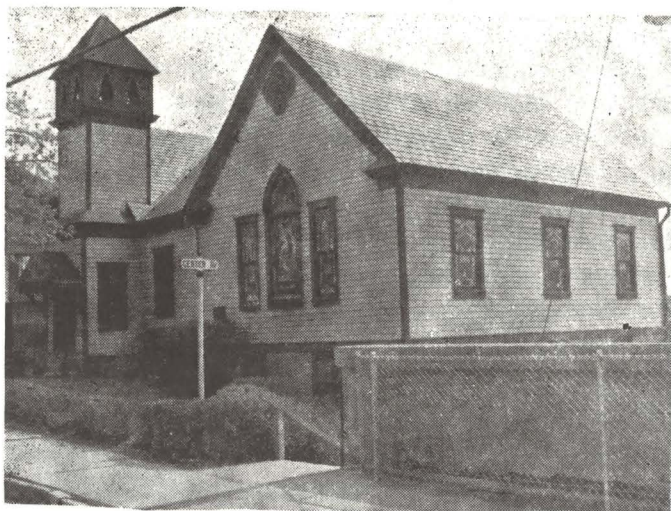




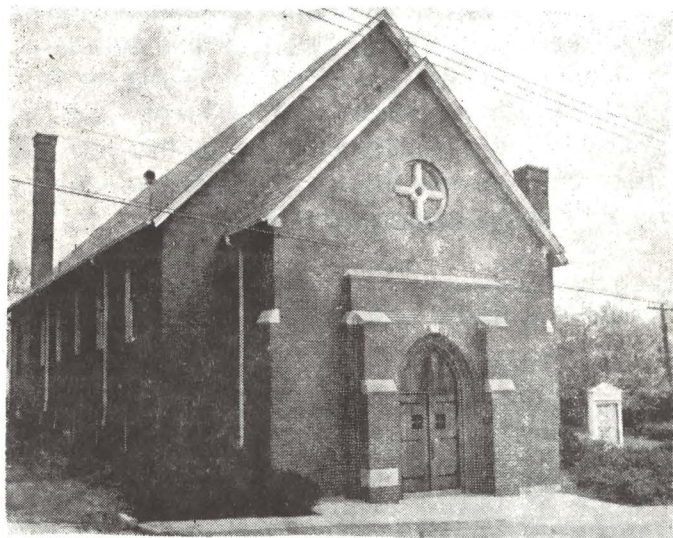
WEST VIEW METHODIST CHURCH



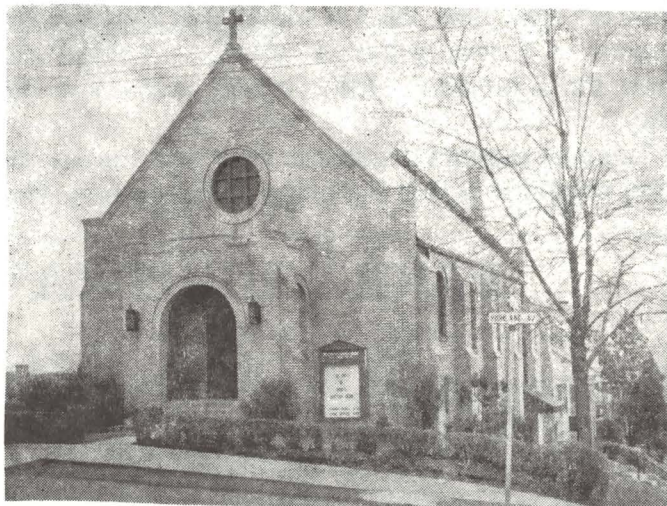
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF WEST VIEW



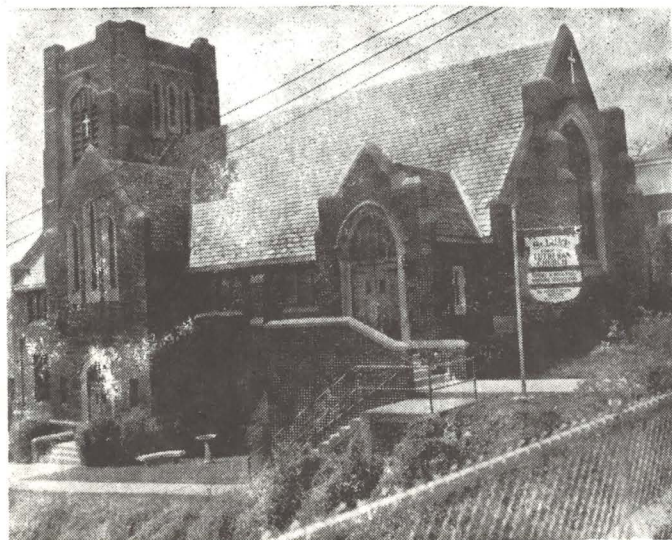
WEST VIEW U. P. CHURCH



MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



ST. LUKE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH



ST. ATHANASIUS R. C. CHURCH





The early settlers brought their deep religious beliefs with them to the new land. As early as the 1790s, a group of early settlers were meeting under the trees atop a hill along the Franklin Road. Most of them were Scotch-Irish and Presbyterians by faith. Later they secured a tent for shelter.

They had erected a log cabin church by 1807, called Hilands Church, because it was next to the Martha Hilands' land. The first regular pastor was the Rev. Robert Patterson, who later became head of Pittsburgh Academy, which grew into the University of Pittsburgh.

Because it was the only church in the area, people came from miles around - - as far away as Emsworth - - to attend services. These hardy settlers adopted a system known as tie and walk to cover the distance to the church. One member of a family would leave home on a horse, while the others walked. The rider would go a specified distance, tie the horse and proceed on foot. When the others reached that point, another would mount and ride and tie and walk. In this manner, each member of the family rode a part of the distance. The brick structure was erected in 1836.

Other denominations began to organize. There was no Catholic church in this area and Catholic families traveled to St. Alphonsus in Wexford or

St. Peter's in Allegheny. The cornerstone for St. Teresa in Perrysville was laid in 1866.

A German Lutheran Church of Perrysville was organized in March, 1867, and about 1880, a group of Methodists met to organize the Evergreen Methodist Church.

The West View Churches were organized at about the same time or later than the formation of the borough.

One more story in which this area figured prominently before we discuss the formation of West View.

Sometime shortly after the turn of the present century, two brothers, Ed and Jack Biddle and an accomplice, Walter Dorman, were arrested, tried and sentenced for the murder of a Mount Washington grocer and a policeman, who tried to arrest them.

While imprisoned in Western Pennsylvania Penitentiary on the North Side, they were visited frequently by Warden Soffel's wife, Catherine, the mother of four children. She managed to smuggle hacksaw blades, guns and clothing into the prisoners.

They broke out of their cells on the night of January 30, 1902, through sawed bars. They captured the guards by a ruse, wounding two of



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them as they shot their way out. Using keys furnished by Mrs. Soffel, they finally walked out through the front door.

Mrs. Soffel accompanied them. They hid in the city during the day and that night rode a street car to the end of the Perrysville line at Blind stop. Then they walked through a blinding snow storm to Perrysville.

There was a two-room school on the corner of the Hiland Presbyterian Church property, which they broke into for shelter. The two men started out to look for food and went in to the White House Hotel in the center of Perrysville, which was operated by Chris Weller Sr. They ordered a half dozen sandwiches and a bottle of whiskey.

The Biddles were recognized by Mrs. Weller and one of the patrons. There was only two telephones from West View to beyond Perrysville and the nearest was at Billy Keown's hotel. Everyone was afraid to leave the White House to get to the telephone, but Weller managed to send a boy down the hill to Keown's to report the incident to the police. The call from Perrysville was the first inkling police had of the Biddles' whereabouts.

After they left the hotel, they tried to saw off the lock on the barn of Joseph Cunningham on the outskirts of Perrysville, but were frightened away. They managed to saw the lock off the barn of John Gass, but were again driven away.

The brothers went out the Perry Highway to Three Degree Road where they found the barn of Herman and Chris Schwartz. The Schwartz barn was located just about where McKnight Branch Post Office now stands. They were able to steal a good horse and sleigh.

They drove back to Perrysville School to get Mrs. Soffel and then drove through the snow and bitter cold until they reached Mount Chestnut, Butler County about noon. They rested there and then started toward Prospect.

In the meantime, Pittsburgh City and County Police had spread the alarm by every way possible in this time when there were no radios or radio-equipped squad cars. Pittsburgh police and detectives, led by County Detective Bucky McGovern (who later became a county commissioner), picked up the trail in Perrysville. They finally caught sight of the sleigh and opened fire with high-powered rifles. The brothers were riddled with many bullets and died in Butler. Mrs. Soffel was wounded, but recovered. She served 10 months of a two year sentence for her part in the escape before she was paroled.

The barn where the Biddle boys stole the horse was a well-known landmark in Ross until McKnight

Road was constructed.

At the turn of the 20th Century, many Pittsburghers were moving out of the city to get away from the smoke and dirt of the mills. The area of Ross near the city line was experiencing a building boom.

The Allegheny-Bellevue Land Co. purchased several large tracts of land, among them the Keating, Schwitter and Jackman farms.

Frederick Schwitter had come to this country from Switzerland. He built a home along the Perry Highway where the West View Junior High School stands and began a very successful dairy farm.

Eventually he built another home on his property on a knoll just a little farther north and farther back from the road. Both houses were built in the same style, said to be a replica of the president's mansion in Switzerland. The original home became the Donegal Inn and was widely known. Legend has it that Mary Robert Rinehart used it as the location of one of her mystery novels.

Schwitter also donated to the congregation of St. Athanasius the property for the first church building and \$10,000. The church was built and dedicated June 6, 1909. School on the first floor of the building opened September 1 of the same year.

The Allegheny-Bellevue Land Co. divided up the estates, constructed sewers and laid gas and water lines. Streets were laid out, electric lights installed and a street car line started to operate from the city Blind Stop, just above the present Ross Municipal Building.

One of the early builders in the area was Frederick C. Martsolf who came to the area in 1904 and constructed 50 homes. In the spring of 1905, he conceived the idea of forming a borough and took an active part in its organization.

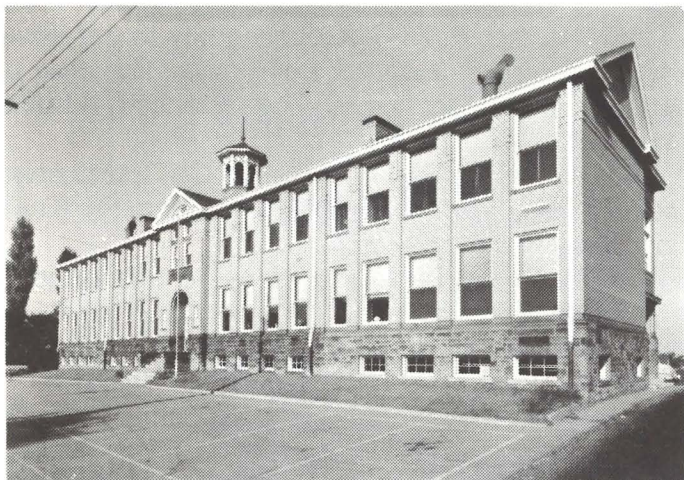
Quarter sessions court ordered the incorporation of the borough of West View, March 20, 1905. The holdings of the Freehold Real Estate Company, which had acquired hillside and farm lands that had been part of the original tracts of Reel, Hilands and others, were incorporated into the borough. The new borough had 640 acres in a sprawling plan, but a square mile nevertheless. The court ordered the first election to be held May 16, 1905. Walter Nixon was appointed judge of election and W. J. Martsolf and Frank McManus, operator of Donegal Inn, were named inspectors.

The years from 1900 to 1910 were exciting years for the area full of change and growth.

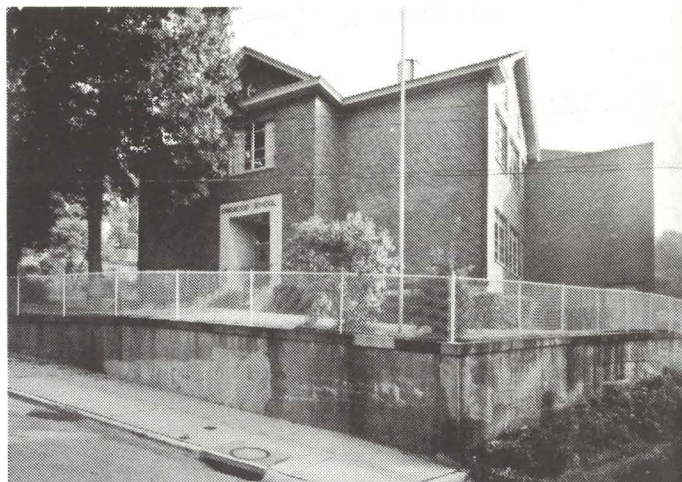
West View's first newspaper was born in the throes of that first political campaign. It was called



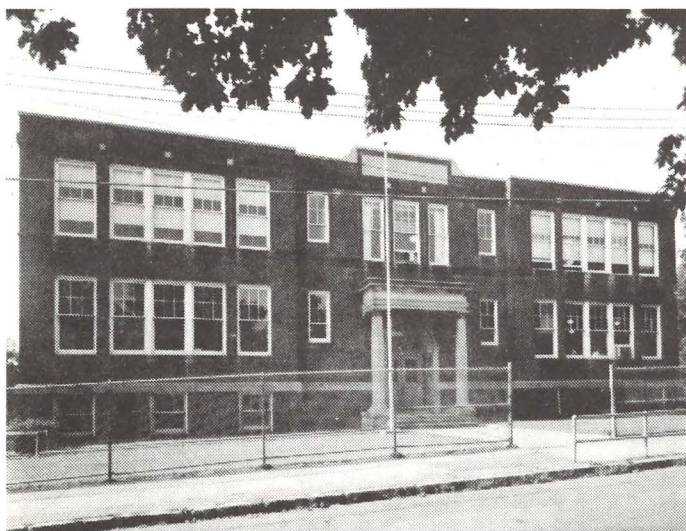
HIGHLAND



OAKWOOD



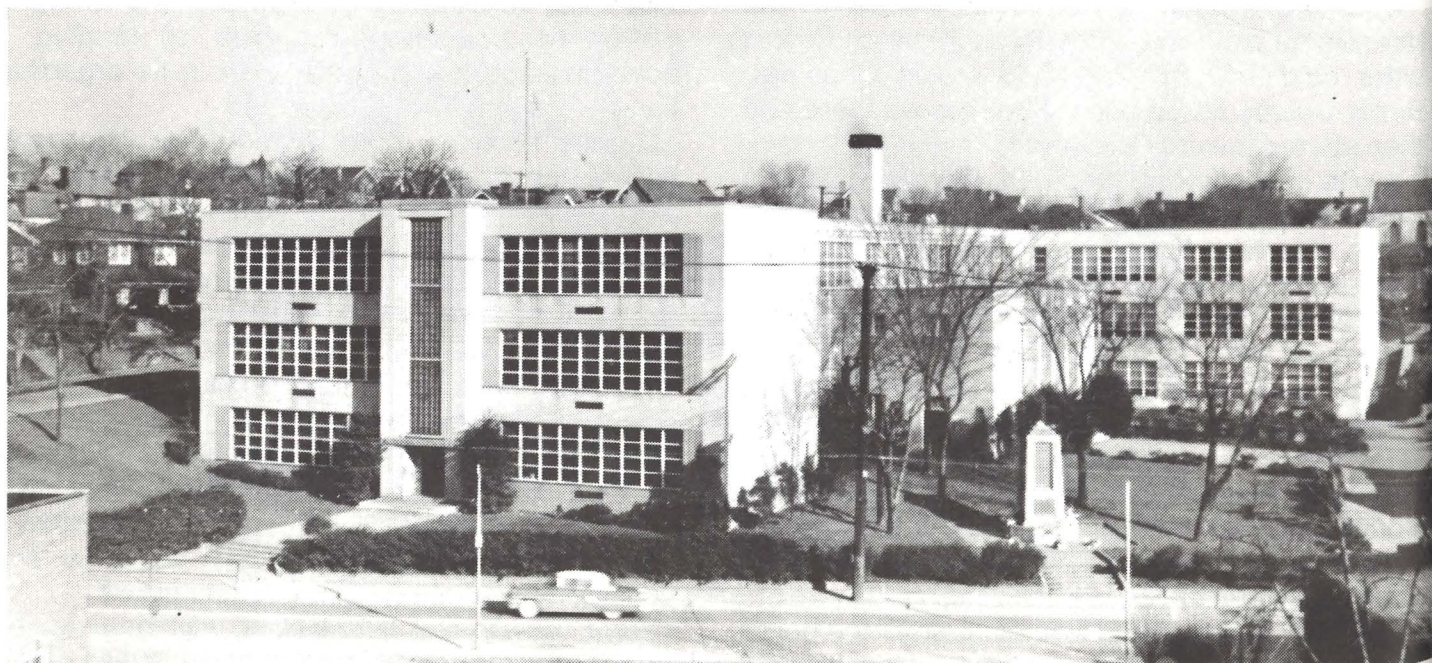
RIDGEWOOD



ST. ATHANASIUS



WEST VIEW JR. HI.





the West View Republican and made its first appearance May 13, 1905, three days before the election. W. E. French was editor of the paper which claimed to be the official organ of the party. Associate editors were W. S. Nicholson, W. W. Nixon, Dr. D. A. Atkinson, George J. Knight, Charles E. Wigginton with Mrs. M. B. Nixon and Mrs. F. D. Saylor in charge of the Ladies Department. The price was 5 cents a copy or \$1.00 a year.

The first issue was full of pictures of the candidates on the Peoples Ticket and statements from each one. The second edition reported the sweeping victory of the Peoples Ticket. There were only about 100 votes in the borough.

W. S. Nicholson was elected the first burgess, polling 68 votes. Council members elected were F. C. Martsolf, John Muzzio, and J. W. Beers (3 year terms); J. W. Schmitt and Lorenz Heyl (2 year terms) and H. C. Galbraith and A. H. Mullins, (1 year term).

The first school board included B. Catley, G. A. H. Hendler (3 years); R. G. Armstrong, Dr. D. A. Atkinson (2 years) and Frank D. Saylor and Charles E. Wigginton (1 year).

J. A. Schar, G. J. Knight and W. E. French were elected auditors with staggered terms of 3, 2 and 1 year respectively. Other men elected included H. A. Steffler, tax collector; Charles Youkers, constable; Thomas McGowan, high constable; W. W. Nixon, judge of elections, and E. N. Stalker and D. J. Cotter, justices of the peace. F. C. Martsolf was elected the first president of council when that body organized. Although he died December 14, 1907, he is considered the Father of West View.

Charles K. Robinson was elected solicitor of both council and the school board.

With its third issue, the newspaper changed its name to The West View Bulletin.

The first published ordinance of the fledgling borough related to the licensing of dogs and warned that "no bloodhound shall run at large within the borough without being securely muzzled or any dog known to be of cross or vicious habits nor any dog showing signs of rabies, nor any dog belonging to house in which smallpox exists . . ." etc. The ads including building contractors Martsolf and J. W. Beers; W. H. Brant & Bro. largest and most complete grocery at West View Avenue and Perrysville Road, and Blind Brothers, florists. The Freehold Real Estate Company was advertising lots at Schwitter Avenue.

When there wasn't enough news, prominent citizens took to writing articles for the paper.



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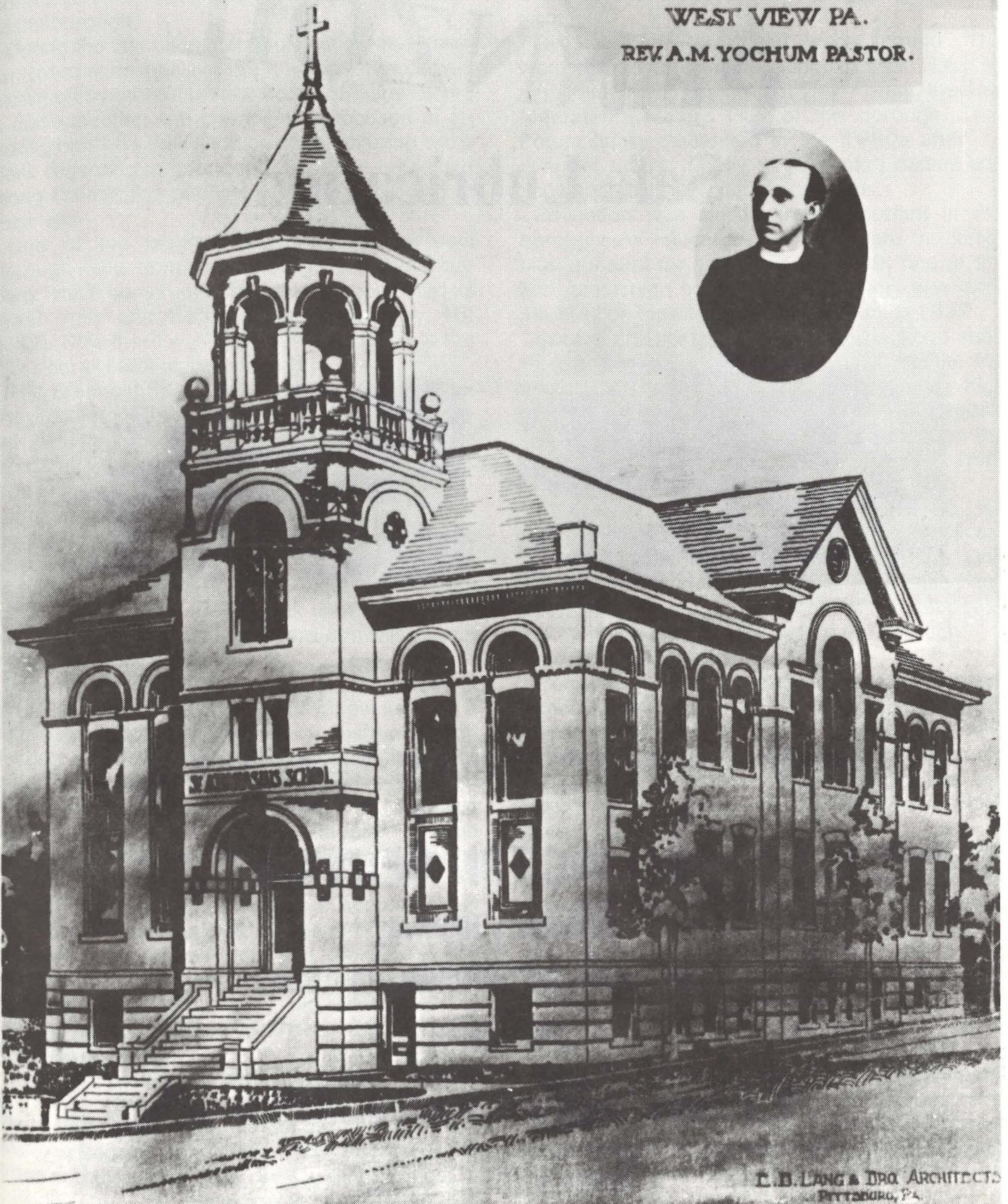


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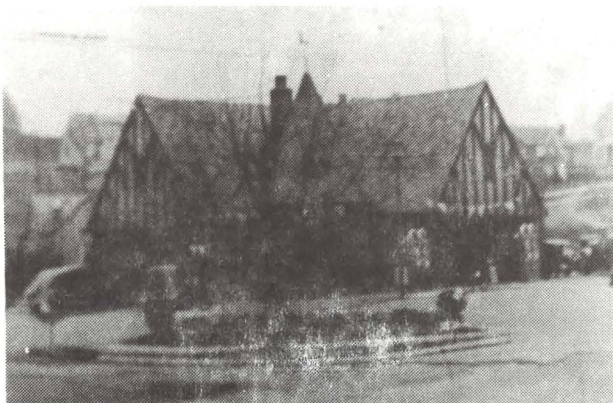




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The West View Publishing Company sold the paper in June, 1908, and it was published by a Pittsburgh printer until it ceased publication in early March, 1911. Thereafter, the City and Suburban Life, a Bellevue newspaper published by John Vickerman, became the official newspaper of the borough.

During the last days of its publication, the Bulletin hinted at scandals in the borough. The lid was blown off by the West View Board of Trade calling a mass meeting and council was accused of ignoring bids on a new filtration plant, entering into a deal regarding a proposed 60 foot boulevard along the car line and generally not attending to business.

One of the biggest boosts given the new borough came from the Pittsburgh Railways Company which constructed bridges and combined its West View and Bellevue routes on May 15, 1906. Now there was public transportation to the city from all parts of the borough.

The Freehold Real Estate Company, agents for the Allegheny-Bellevue Land Company, presented several lots on Oakwood Avenue to the borough for a school. The school building was opened to the public Monday, October 2, 1905.

Prior to the organization of West View as a borough, children attended school in a small shack on Ridgewood Avenue. The building was poorly lighted, badly heated and had no sanitary conveniences. The school was under the supervision of the Ross School Board and Miss Elizabeth Boal was the teacher.

The new West View School Board floated a bond issue for \$8,500 to build a new school. A four-room brick building was constructed, although only two rooms were used in the beginning. Miss Boal and Miss Dunn were the first teachers. A third room was opened in 1906 and C. D. Coffey became principal with Miss Boal and Mrs. Ella Carroll as assistants. Miss Kittie Spence succeeded Mr. Coffey in 1907.

When it was found necessary to open a school on the East Bellevue side of the borough, a suitable room was rented there and about 30 pupils received instruction from Miss Josephine McGaw. A six room school and auditorium was built of yellow brick at the corner of Highland and Columbia Avenues.

Highland School was dedicated Friday, October 8, 1909. Ceremonies included a parade from West View Park to the school led by the Swift's Mission Brigade and Assistant City Solicitor H. M. Irons presented an American Flag to the school.

Soon after the school was completed, the

people of the section felt a need for a gymnasium. The idea became a community project. The men enlarged the basement area of the school. The women held suppers and bake sales and raised the money for necessary supplies. It was an exciting time as they watched the gymnasium take form.

Gym classes for adults were formed. The women enjoyed the friendship of their class so much that they formed West View Forum, the only federated women's club of the borough. The Forum finally disbanded in the 1950s after 30 years of raising money through card parties and shows for many charitable purposes.

Education was always very important in the borough. As educators moved toward the junior high concept for grades 7, 8, and 9, one of the first junior high schools in the county was constructed on the site of the Donegal Inn in 1927.

Special art, home economics and a wood shop were added to the curriculum of basic studies and music. During the early years of the junior high school, Elizabeth Schornhorst Hunter, the music teacher, directed an annual operetta that was the highlight of the year. Basketball and track were the only varsity sports.

After students completed the ninth grade, the school district paid their tuition at Perry or Oliver High Schools in the city or at Bellevue High. Gradually the 10th and 11th grades were added and in 1938, an addition to the school made it possible for a complete senior high in the borough. Another addition was built in 1958.

Pennsylvania was moving toward larger merged school districts. In July 1948, West View and Ross formed the North Hills School Jointure, with a single system, administration and operation but retaining the separate school boards. The two boards met together as an operating board, which in itself had no taxing power.

The jointure came to an end June 30, 1965, when the two districts merged into the North Hills School District with a nine-member board elected at large. During the years of the jointure and merger, McIntyre, Highcliff, Northway, and a new Seville elementary school, a North Hills Senior High, Ross Junior High and the Morrone Intermediate School have been constructed - - all in Ross.

As West View approaches its 75th anniversary, there is a movement afoot to phase out the older West View elementary school buildings. Although additions (indeed another building at Ridgewood to form Oakwood-Ridgewood), were added to the first building in 1918, 1929 and 1933 and to



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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 2, 1980

Mayor Richard E. Powell  
Borough of West View  
West View, Pennsylvania 15229

Dear Mayor Powell:

I want to extend my congratulations to you and all of the citizens of West View on this day of celebration, the *75th Anniversary* of West View Borough.

The people of West View should be justly proud of their community and of their local elected officials who are committed to West View's future. It has been a great pleasure for me, as your Congressman, to meet and exchange ideas with the thoughtful and committed residents of West View.

I look confidently to the future as West View continues forward into the 21st Century and its *100th Anniversary*. I am honored to represent West View in the U.S. Congress.

Sincerely,



Doug Walgren  
Member of Congress



Highland in 1928, the buildings are expensive to maintain. Faced with declining school populations, the school board is considering busing West View children to more modern schools in Ross.

With the same community pride that has marked West View through the ages, parents are banding together into an organization, Save Our Schools. They hope to maintain the concept of neighborhood schools that has marked the history of the borough.

Religion has also been an important part of life in West View.

The same year the borough was founded, the Rev. G. E. Simen of St. John Lutheran Church in Perrysville saw the need for a new church within the area of new development. As a result, a building was dedicated April 26, 1906, named the Evangelical Lutheran Charity Chapel, on land between Ridgewood Avenue and the car line on Center. Gas lights on the walls were an added modern touch. The congregation organized in 1909 and the name of the church was changed to St. Luke Evangelical Church in 1916.

The borough was only a year old when a group of residents in the East Bellevue Plan began meeting at the home of James Partington for Sun-

day School. This group, which eventually formed the West View Methodist Episcopal Church, met then for 14 months in a room at Gerber's Store. The borough then offered the use of Firehouse No. 2 for the group on Sundays. The group was chartered in December, 1907.

The first service in the new building at the corner of Cornell and Princeton was held in December, 1909. The church was enlarged in 1923 and rebuilt with a large wing in 1956. Through denominational mergers, it is now the West View United Methodist Church.

Even older is the First Presbyterian Church of West View, now West View United Presbyterian Church. It was organized July 9, 1904, with 24 members. Meetings were held in a remodeled land office until a building committee was empowered to build, spending up to \$2,500. The church was erected for \$1,400 on land in the Keating Plan, across a valley from the Lutheran chapel.

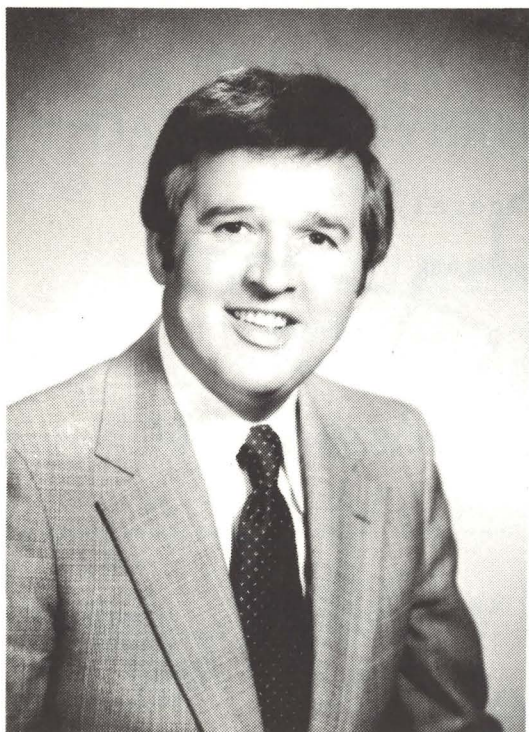
These three Protestant congregations and St. Athanasius Roman Catholic Church, founded in 1907, gave the fledgling borough a round religious footing.

The Catholics of the borough had met during the winter of 1906-1907 to consider ways and

## *Best Wishes*

### *Senate of Pennsylvania*

*May 27, 1980*



*West View Borough  
442 Perrysville Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15229*

*Dear Borough Members,*

*Please accept my personal best wishes to you as you celebrate your 75th Diamond Jubilee from July 4 thru July 12, 1980.*

*Having graduated from West View High School, the borough has always been close to my heart.*

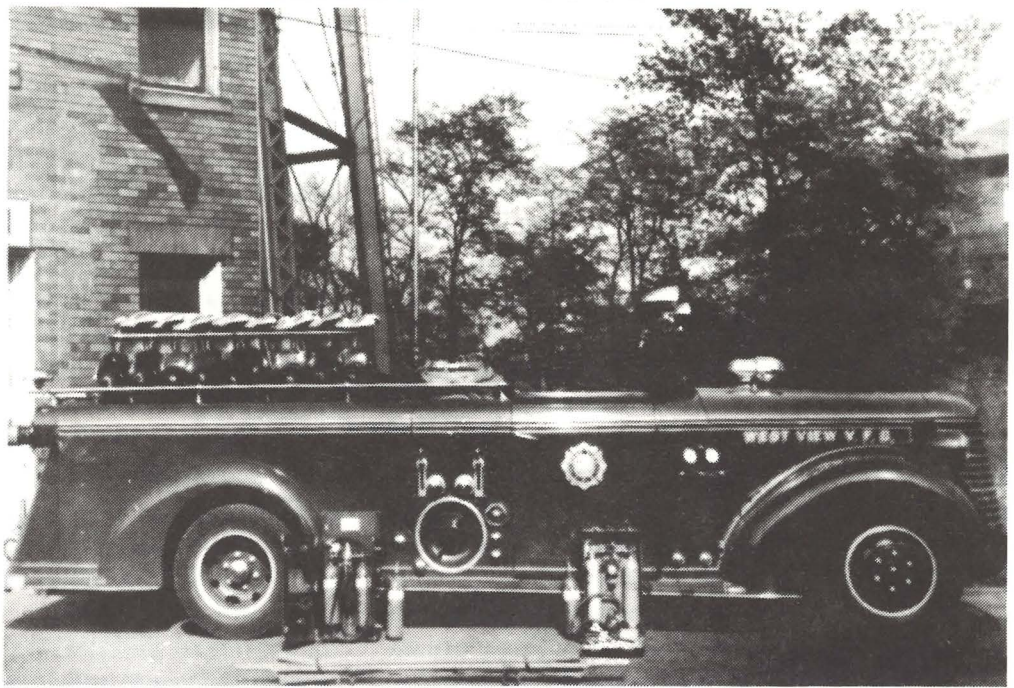
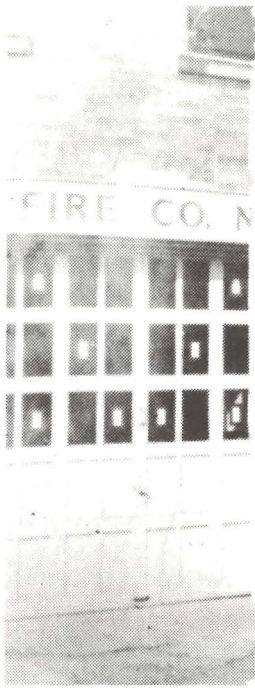
*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed M. Early".

*Edward M. Early,  
State Senator*



## BORO HALL — 1905



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means to build a local parish. The Rev. A. M. Yochum, who had been pastor at St. Teresa in Perrysville for eight years, was offered the new parish. A meeting was held July 8, 1907, in the auditorium of the Donegal Inn. F. J. McManus, proprietor, offered use of the Donegal Inn for services until a suitable meeting place could be found. The first Mass was said July 14, 1907.

The Allegheny Bellevue Land Company donated four lots, two facing Wentworth Avenue and two facing Chalfonte Avenue, as a site for the Catholic church. Mr. and Mrs. Schwitter purchased 120 feet of adjoining property on Wentworth and three adjoining lots having 90 foot frontage on Chalfonte and donated the property to the church. The entire plot then contained an acre bounded by Wentworth, Ashford, Chalfonte Avenues and Enon Alley. The cornerstone was laid on June 28, 1908.

The Sisters of St. Benedict became teachers in the school on the first floor of the church building which opened September 1, 1909. The new church building at 10 Wentworth Avenue was dedicated May 2, 1943.

Lutherans belonging to the Missouri Synod began meeting in a vacant storeroom on Perry Highway. The congregation organized as Mount Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church. The first church was built at the corner of Highland and Bronx Avenues and dedicated in October, 1931. The present building was dedicated in the spring of 1957, as growth required expansion of the first church.

Mount Calvary was the last of the churches built in West View. Three years earlier, the Board of American Missions built a church at the corner of Bellevue and Chalfonte Avenues to provide a permanent home for a mission group meeting in a store building along Perry Highway. Originally the West View United Presbyterian Church, it became the North Hills United Presbyterian Church with the merger of the Presbyterian and United Presbyterian Churches. The name West View United Presbyterian Church was given to the older First Presbyterian Church of West View on Ridgewood Avenue.

Almost simultaneously with the recognition of a need for school and churches, the new community turned its thoughts to a fire department. There had been two fires caused by "ladies who insisted on burning trash on a windy spring day," according to the bulletin. A mass meeting was held at the school house January 27, 1906, for the purpose of organizing a fire company. Chief McGraw presided and Henry Miller acted as secretary.

The fire committee of council had drawn up a set of by-laws and three companies were organized. No. 1 company, in the Keating Plan elected Captain Isaac Hartung and Lieutenant Ed Hamburg. No. 2, in the East Bellevue Plan, elected Captain Horten Penrose and Lieutenant R. F. Enzian. Officers for No. 3 located in the center of the borough in the Schwitter plan were Captain F. J. McManus and Lieutenant T. J. Schaub. The No. 3 company immediately began holding oyster suppers at Donegal Inn to raise money for equipment. The engine house for No. 2 company was dedicated September 20, 1907, at Amherst and Stanford Avenues.

While all the other organization and building was going on, West View felt the need for a municipal building to house its government. The building, which also housed No. 1 fire company was located on Ridgewood Avenue. A detailed account of the dedication June 1, 1906, still remains.

A parade of the three fire companies preceded the ceremonies. There were the customary red flares to light the route of the parade and a band played "Everybody Works But Father." Cheering citizens lined Ridgewood Avenue.

The solemn ceremony included presentation of a gavel to Council President F. C. Martsoff by D. J. Cotter, justice of the peace. Councilman A. H. McMullen presented the American flag to fly over the building.

Fire Company No. 3 presented a large portrait of Mr. Martsoff. Harry Goehring made the presentation speech while Miss Lottie Chambers and Miss Rose Muzzio stood on either side of the picture which was draped with an American flag.

The West View Mandolin Club played "The Volunteer," composed by Harry Galbraith and W. C. French and dedicated to the firemen. There were a few remarks by other citizens. Refreshments were served. The audience sang "America" and the ceremony was over.

The young borough was booming. Four churches, two schools, three fire companies and a borough hall all in those first five years. But the people themselves were rugged individualists and they did not always see eye to eye. There were thorns on the roses of progress.

The Pittsburgh Railways Company had extended the loop of service to the city but whichever direction the West View people rode, they paid a fare upon getting on and a second fare was charged when the cars reached the park, midway point of the loop.

The West View people were upset. They said that in addition to the extra fare charge, there



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**WEST VIEW**



were breakdowns, not enough cars at the rush hour and the company had a general "public be damned" attitude. As a public protest, three prominent men got on the street car, paid their fare and then refused to pay the second fare at the park. The conductor threw one man off and the other two then left under their own power.

For many years the fare was a nickel. Sometime around 1920 the Railways Company began issuing tokens, raising the fare to three tokens for 25 cents.

Shortly after founding, West View Park came along. It opened in 1906 and immediately met with the disapproval of many residents. For one thing, it was open on Sundays and it brought crowds of people out to the quiet suburb. During its first year of operation, young men were fighting on the streets of the borough, outside the park limits.

This problem was solved by putting on more officers and appealing to the park to increase its police force and to insist that customers of the park stay inside the grounds.

West View's young council spent many hours of discussion about the park. Some residents wanted to try to close the park altogether. Cooler heads decided the park was there to stay and they might as well learn to live with it. A delegation met with Mr. McCann, the park manager, to see if anything could be done to curtail some of the Sunday activities. The park management agreed that the two most popular amusements, the roller coaster and the flying horse, would operate on alternate Sundays only, instead of both running at the same time.

In addition, piano music was substituted on Sunday for the raucous calliope being used and the Katzenjammer Building, shooting gallery, paddles and balls and the dance hall would stay closed on Sundays.

The term juvenile delinquency had not been invented yet, but the early residents realized that idle boys get into trouble. To combat such possibility, the West View Cadets were formed in 1908. The Cadets met every Thursday evening in a building in the rear of the Presbyterian Church. G. N. Mereness, who had military experience in regular service, drilled the boys for the first hour, and the second hour was spent playing basketball or other sports. The boys paid 5 cents a meeting in dues.

The office of burgess was hotly contested in the election held February 18, 1909. Nicholson was not up for re-election. T. A. Hey was opposing J. W. Blair. Early in the day, supporters of Hey

began challenging the right to vote. The Blair forces quickly followed suit and nearly every man who went to the polls had to produce a tax receipt or made affidavit that he had one.

Hey beat Blair, 126 to 114. Nicholson was elected to council. The election set the tone for hot-headed politics that marked much of the borough's early history.

Social life revolved around neighborhood clubs. In the files of the City and Suburban Life reports of these club meetings are recorded in a column by a "country correspondent."

Among the names of the clubs were The Primrose Club, the Narcissus Club, Stanford Avenue Residents Club, O. N. O. Club, The Neighborhood Club, Swastika Club, Oakwood Club, Jolly Bunch Club, Wahnetah Club, Kewpie Social Club, Blue Bird Club, Community Birthday Club, Hungry Bunch Club, The Jolly Sixteen and The Cosmos Club.

Perhaps the first social club formed and certainly the best known, was the Needle Tea Club. The original members were wives of officials prominent in the early history of the borough. The club met every month at each other's homes and held occasional theater parties at the Davis Vaudeville house or the Alvin and picnics in the summer time. The club continued meeting well into the 1920s.

Another of the clubs that survived was the Community Birthday Club. It was organized in the East Bellevue Plan by Mrs. Casper Reel. All the women whose birthday fell in the same month were entertained by the others. Its purpose was to enable the women to get better acquainted and to help each other.

The old newspaper accounts tell of a party held September 11, 1913, at Mrs. Reel's home, which more than 100 women attended. The party had a gypsy motif with the hostesses in gypsy costumes. There was a camp fire, one lady played gypsy songs on a guitar and two others performed gypsy dances. Mrs. Shelton, wife of Dr. George Shelton of the Second Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, spoke on "Courage."

This group of women was sufficiently well organized to be of service during World War I. They did Red Cross work, sold Liberty Bonds and had many other projects.

Some of the men were forming clubs, too. A Tennis Club organized in June, 1913, built a court on Chalfonte Avenue, opposite the Catholic Church. The club had 50 members and officers were Theo J. Schaub, Charles Bacher and Thomas Emminger.

The summer of 1916 a Yale Quoit Club flour-



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ished with Daniel Weissenstein as president; William Sprague, vice president, and George Ruelle, secretary.

There was also a Lakewood Tennis Club and some years later an active hunting and fishing club. On the purely social side was the Lost Legion and a number of small euchre clubs.

Recreation consisted of church affairs, family reunions, courses of entertainment provided by the Redpath Amusement Company and others.

By the late 1920s many of these smaller groups had disappeared with most of the women involved in the work of the Suburban Hospital Club and later, the West View Forum, which was the best known cultural group in the community.

While early council sessions were devoted to sewers and street paving, the entire community was united in its desire for free mail delivery.

Stephen G. Porter, later a Congressman, was solicitor of the borough in 1910. He worked untiringly on the free delivery problem and was finally told it might be possible if it were proven that enough mail went through the local post office. Every one passed the word not to carry letters to Pittsburgh to mail but to drop them into the local box. A deluge of mail poured in as people sent letters to even forgotten relatives.

The plan worked and free delivery was established July 1, 1913. Residents were notified to put up mailboxes. The southern half of the borough was serviced by Observatory Station, the western half by Bellevue Station on a twice-daily basis.

West View, like Rome, was built on a number of hills. It became necessary to construct bridges to connect various parts of the borough to others. In March 1914, the Wheeler Construction Company of Harrisburg was awarded a contract for two bridges in the borough at a cost of \$11,800. Early history of the borough mentions these bridges as something of a hazard. To quote one report: A horse belonging to Fred Winters attempted to walk over the trestle bridge at Blind Station, but did not succeed. He fell through to the ground below and was pretty badly bruised. The date, June 1912.

A powerful and active Board of Trade was organized. When the board held a contest in 1925 for a slogan for the borough, Mildred Reuter, 12, won with "West View . . . The Scenic Garden of the North Hills," a slogan that was used for many years.

The Board of Trade was active in trying to promote a highway to connect Bellevue with the Perry Highway. It also played a prominent part in the

celebration which opened the new High Bridge from Bellevue to the North Side. More than 300 autos with West View decorations took part in the parade to open the bridge.

In the early days there was a wide open field along Highland Avenue known as Boggs' Field. It was later split up to provide an expansion to the golf course at Highland Country Club with the rest developed into Wellington Heights.

At some point there had been a plan to build a large Catholic convent on the property, a plan that was abandoned after the foundation had been dug. The foundation filled with water and provided an ice skating rink for children during the 1920s. Up on the flat part of the area, a baseball diamond was built and the Board of Trade sponsored a big family picnic there every year on the Fourth of July.

Picnics included foot races, a baseball game and finally, fireworks. Everyone attended.

At the height of the picnic in 1927, the fire bells began to ring. The firemen were all at the picnic and immediately left for their engine houses. A carelessly thrown firecracker had set fire to the roof of St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church. By the time firemen arrived, the fire was beyond control and the church was destroyed.

The West View Board of Trade went into action. A big banquet was held at the Pines July 25, at which Sen. David A. Reed was speaker. More than 500 people attended. A plan was presented for the sale of bonds to finance a new church.

Church services were held in West View Junior High School for a year until a new Sunday School building was erected.

The street car tracks wound through the borough, through the East Bellevue Plan, crossing Perry Highway at the Park entrance and on through the Keating Plan to the city. Although a 1918 political promise had been to open Center Avenue throughout the borough nothing of the sort had been done. Through most of the East Bellevue Plan the tracks ran through undeveloped land. There was a path for school children along side the tracks through the "cut" from Bronx to Columbia Avenue and on to Cornell.

Most of the commercial development had been along Perry Highway, north of the car tracks. There were small areas with stores on Center Avenue, but, by and large, there was no way to get from one end of the borough along Center Avenue, except on foot. This condition continued on into the Depression Era.

The Depression hit West View just as hard as it did the rest of the country. Everyone was broke.







The one consolation was that everyone was in the same boat.

When President Roosevelt made WPA funds available, West View received enough money to open Center Avenue from the Log Cabin stop at the lower end of Cornell Avenue, the Ross Line, to Perry Highway. Men who had never done manual work in their lives, pitched in with pick and shovel to construct a road, which received a Pinchot Road topping.

Even as the borough celebrates its 75th anniversary, Center Avenue is not open throughout the borough. A stretch from Bellevue Avenue to Horseshoe Bend is still impassable to auto traffic.

Other things were happening in the borough in those Depression years. The Wellington Height Plan of lots was laid out with an auction for the lots conducted by Lawrence E. Jones. Modern homes were constructed on a scale finer than any West View had seen.

WPA funds were obtained to purchase land in August, 1940, for a football field. A Field House was dedicated in 1953 and eventually the field was named Martorelli Stadium for Mario Martorelli, long-time West View High School football coach and North Hills High School athletic director.

The round-about route to Bellevue through Hinkel Road and Bellevue Road to Balph Avenue was shortened when a single-lane road was constructed on each side of Center Avenue in Ross between Cornell Avenue and the bridge. The hillside on the other side of the bridge was cut away to provide connection to Balph Avenue.

The bridge was built with a wooden flooring and a wooden pedestrian walkway on one side. There used to be large barrels at intervals strapped to the bridge railing. These barrels, which filled with rain water, were used to put out fires on the bridge.

One hot, dry summer it seemed to residents that the fire bell rang every night at dinner time, calling firemen to put out a fire in the wooden planking caused by a careless cigarette thrown by a passing motorist. Shortly thereafter, steel plates were placed on the surface and a new surface was applied to the deck several years ago. At the same time, it was discovered that sub-structure iron supports had weakened so much that a weight-limit was placed on the bridge and now buses and trucks must use the old round-about route. An alternate is the extension of a state road from Gass Road at Highland Avenue to North Starr Avenue in Bellevue.

The time came when the borough grew out of the municipal building on Ridgewood Avenue and

demand grew for an office nearer the center of West View. Because of the peculiar shape of the borough and the location of the two elementary schools, a feeling of "my side" and "the other side" of the borough developed.

There was great rivalry between the two schools. The school picnic was an example of that feeling. The annual picnic at West View Park was one of the biggest days of each year.

Children reported to their classes as usual. Each was given an American flag and lined up to march to the park. As parents lined the route, the children marched along chanting (in the case of Highland children) "Two, four, six, eight. Who do we appreciate? Highland! Highland! Rah, rah, rah!" or 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. All good children go to heaven. When they get there they will yell, all the Oakies go to way down yonder in the cornfield." In those more innocent days, elementary school children wouldn't have dreamed of saying hell.

Meanwhile the Oakwood children were approaching the park from the other direction, with their flags and their chants which substituted Highland children and where they could go.

The two groups met at the park entrance, formed fours and marched through the park to the athletic field. There were foot-races, sack races, three-legged races and various contests for all ages. Then came the picnic lunch.

And finally, about 1 p.m. the rides started to operate and the real excitement of the picnic began.

West View Park brought its share of excitement to the borough. Each year the butchers, and bakers and various other trade groups held picnics. There would be free buttermilk, ice cream and sometimes hotdog sandwiches passed out to all. West View boys competed successfully in the races and contests at these picnics and adults participated in bingo games for worthwhile prizes.

Many borough residents found summer employment at the park selling tickets, tending the ponies or monitoring the rides. The big bands played at West View Park Danceland. Most of the picnics had free dancing in the afternoon and school children would hurry down from classes to dance to the finest music in the country.

About the time of the Depression, the old pony track was turned into Talkie Temple and free movies were shown every Sunday night. For many of the borough's young people, these movies were the only ones they could afford.

Lots of the couples in North Hills readily admit that they met at Danceland. For a number of years, Danceland was turned into a roller skating



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rink during the winter.

Danceland burned to the ground in September, 1973, and a lot of memories went with it. It was not rebuilt because of the cost of a new building. At the close of the picnic season in 1977 the park announced that it was closing.

The news was received in West View with mixed emotions. People recalled the thrill of the rides, the free attractions that had been presented (tight-rope walkers, people that dove from ladders into small tanks of water, trick bicyclists) and the fireworks. Others felt relief that there would be an end to some of the picnics that had attracted undesirables to the borough. At any rate, life would never be exactly the same again.

Early in 1979, a plan was announced to use the empty park property for a shopping center. Town houses were planned for the parking lots across Center Avenue and space was reserved for a high rise apartment for senior citizens. West View would appear to be on the brink of a new era.

In a move to centralize the municipal building, the borough purchased the Switzer Mansion and its surrounding property and turned it into a municipal building in 1943. The mansion served as headquarters for police and borough officers until 1969.

At that time, the municipal offices were moved into a vacant building on Perry Highway that had

housed the Gerard Theater which opened January 10, 1940.

Until 1942 the borough was serviced by the North Suburban Water Co. in Bellevue. Taking advantage of new state law, West View formed a West View Municipal Authority to purchase the assets of the Bellevue company and began supplying water to West View and surrounding communities. The authority started with two wells on Neville Island. Expansion programs have carried West View water as far north as Bradford Woods. Its area includes 22 boroughs, townships and a part of the city of Pittsburgh. More than 155,000 persons use West View water.

The authority constructed a building along the west side of Perry Highway to serve as its headquarters and rented the rest to Pittsburgh National Bank, a bakery, hardware store and food market.

In 1979, the water authority built a new building above Horseshoe Bend on a high point that overlooks most of the borough. When the water operation was moved into the new facility, West View municipal and police offices were moved across the street to the vacated premises.

West View has grown in its 75 years until the only place left to go is "up." Most of the available residential property contains single-family dwellings. Housing growth of the future must be in the form of high rise apartments.

## WEST VIEW COUNCIL — 1966





# WEST VIEW THEN - AND NOW

Just about 100 votes were cast in that first election in 1905. In the 1977 election for mayor, 2,363 votes were cast. Women have always taken an active roll in politics in the borough since being granted the right to vote soon after World War I. West View now has a woman, Mary K. Bernhard, on council and a number of women have served on the school board through the years. The 1970 census shows a population of 8,312.

The police department has grown from one man on a motorcycle to a force of 9, including a chief, lieutenant and two sargeants with three police cars. One chief of police, William A Quigley was killed in the line of duty in September, 1927. Quig, as he was called, was chasing a truck on his motorcycle. The truck stopped suddenly. Quig ran into it. He died of injuries in Suburban Hospital. He had been a member of the police force for 15 years.

Traffic, which was controlled by a hand-operated stop and go sign, is now controlled by five electric traffic signals on the highway.

The street maintenance crew of nine men is supervised by John Hoellerman and Ron George. A borough manager, Harry J. Gruener, directs the

day-to-day operation of borough business.

The borough provides free garbage and rubbish pick-up. The streets are all paved and well-lighted with street lights.

The schools have grown from 30 pupils at Highland School and about an equal number at Oakwood to about 1,300 in the North Hills School District that has a school population of 6,504.

As the borough moves into the final quarter of its first century, the future looks even brighter.

The proposed shopped center on the park property with its major grocery store, department store and as many as 32 other shops will attract customers from all over the North Hills area. Such an influx of outsiders is sure to bring additional business to existing stores, too.

Application has been made for federal grants and loans which will widen and extend Center Avenue, modernize the present business district along the highway and, in general, improve the borough.

Robert Browning could have been describing West View when he wrote: "Grow old along with me. The best is yet to be - - the end of life for which the first was made."

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## SHOPPING CENTER — Early 1950's



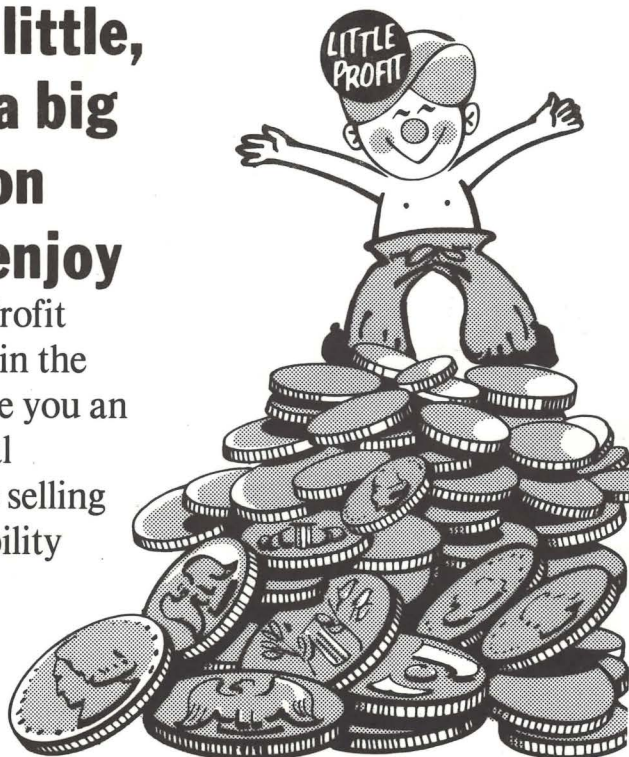


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ON YOUR DIAMOND JUBILEE**



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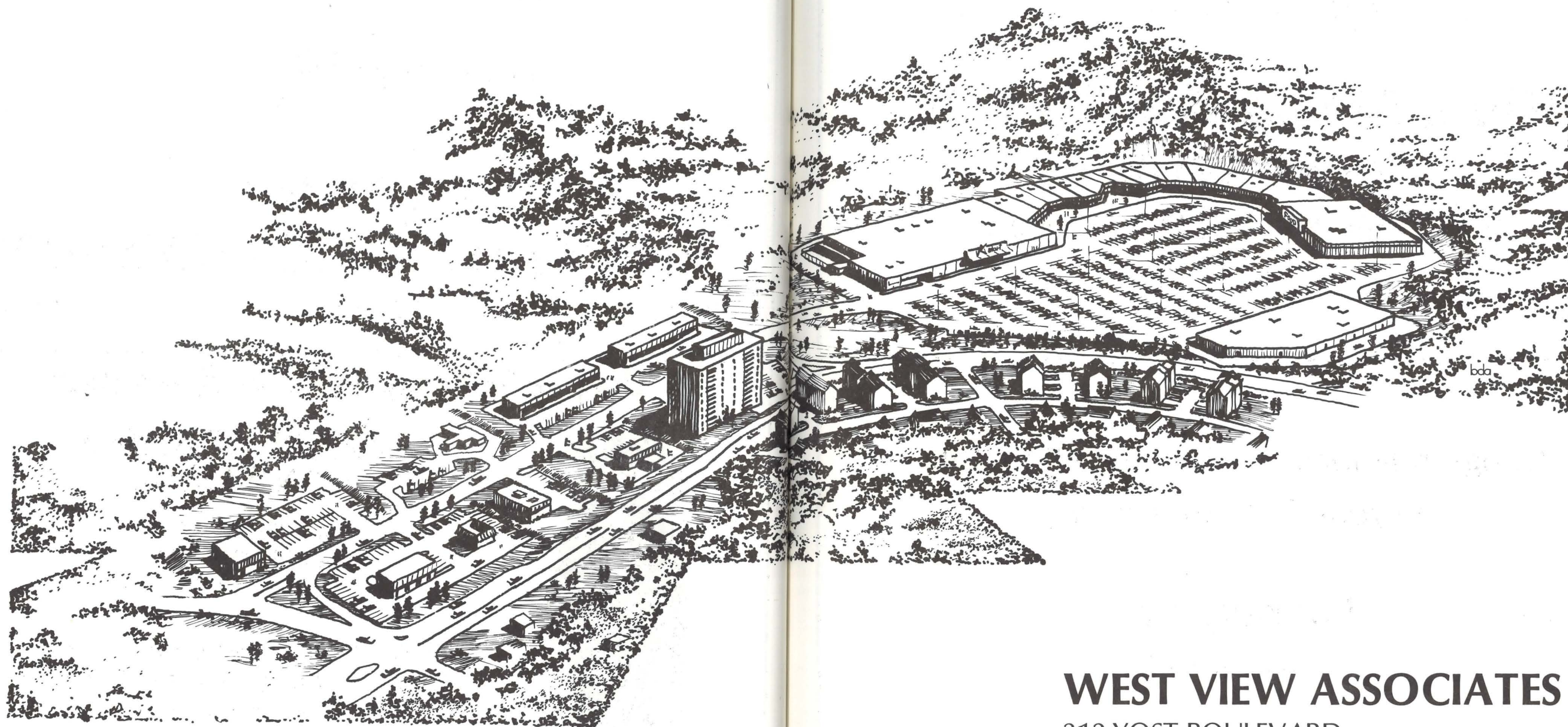


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on its 75th”*

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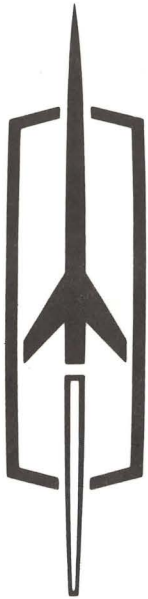
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## WEST VIEW GERARD THEATRE



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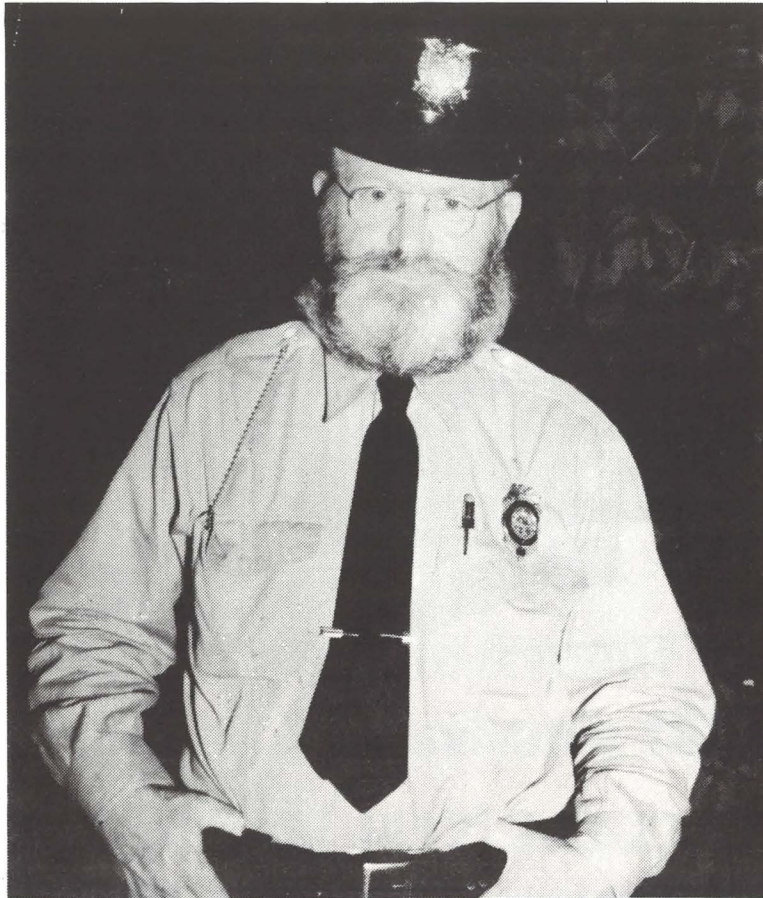


## 1955 CELEBRATION





JOHN FARLEY - BROTHERS OF BRUSH WINNER — 1955



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# QUEEN & COMMITTEE MEMBERS — 1955



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## West View Fire Department

Fifty-one years ago, West View's fire department consisted of 60 men and a two-wheel, hand-pushed hose cart.

Then it grew up to a used pickup truck the firemen bought from a borough grocer.

Firemen were big-timers when they bought a discarded chemical tank from the city of Pittsburgh.

That's how Edward (Eddy) Jackson, 27 Oakley Ave., remembers the West View Fire Department.

"Most everything centered around the fire hall. We had softball leagues, picnics and all kinds of social events."

Jackson, still an active fireman, joined the

company in 1919.

Jackson, along with two other firemen - Harold W. Henry and Joseph F. Viehbeck - represent 132 years of service as firemen.

Viehbeck, 28 Lakewood Ave., has been a fireman 42 years. He has two children and seven grandchildren.

Harold W. Henry, 15 Jamaica Ave., has served as president of the three companies. His service covers 39 years. Henry has two children and five grandchildren. He and his sons have been in the awning business for 40 years.

### *In Memoriam*

*Mr. Joseph Viehbeck has since passed away.*

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Leisure Years**

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West View  
on your 75th*

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*Happy Birthday*

# **West View Fire Department # 1**





THE DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMITTEE WANTS TO THANK ALL THE WEST VIEW AREA PROPRIETORS WHO, THROUGH THEIR SPONSORING ADS IN OUR 75TH COMMEMORATIVE BOOK, WERE A GREAT HELP IN THE FINANCING OF THIS CELEBRATION.

WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE THEIR SUPPORT AND HOPE ALL THE CITIZENS OF WEST VIEW AND SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS WILL SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL BUSINESSES.

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR SINCERE THANKS!



RICHARD E. POWELL, CHAIRMAN  
REVENUE DIVISION



## **North Hills Post 80**

172 SIXTH AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15229

NICK ROMEO, Commander

GEORGE KEAST, Sr. Vice Commander

AL HAMBURG, Jr., Finance Officer

THOMAS F. WALSH, Adjutant

*“Happy 75th  
Anniversary to  
West View”*

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*Pastor*

Rev. John J. O'Brien  
*Associate Pastor*

Rev. Ronald Cellini  
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TREASURER ..... DOTTIE SANDER**

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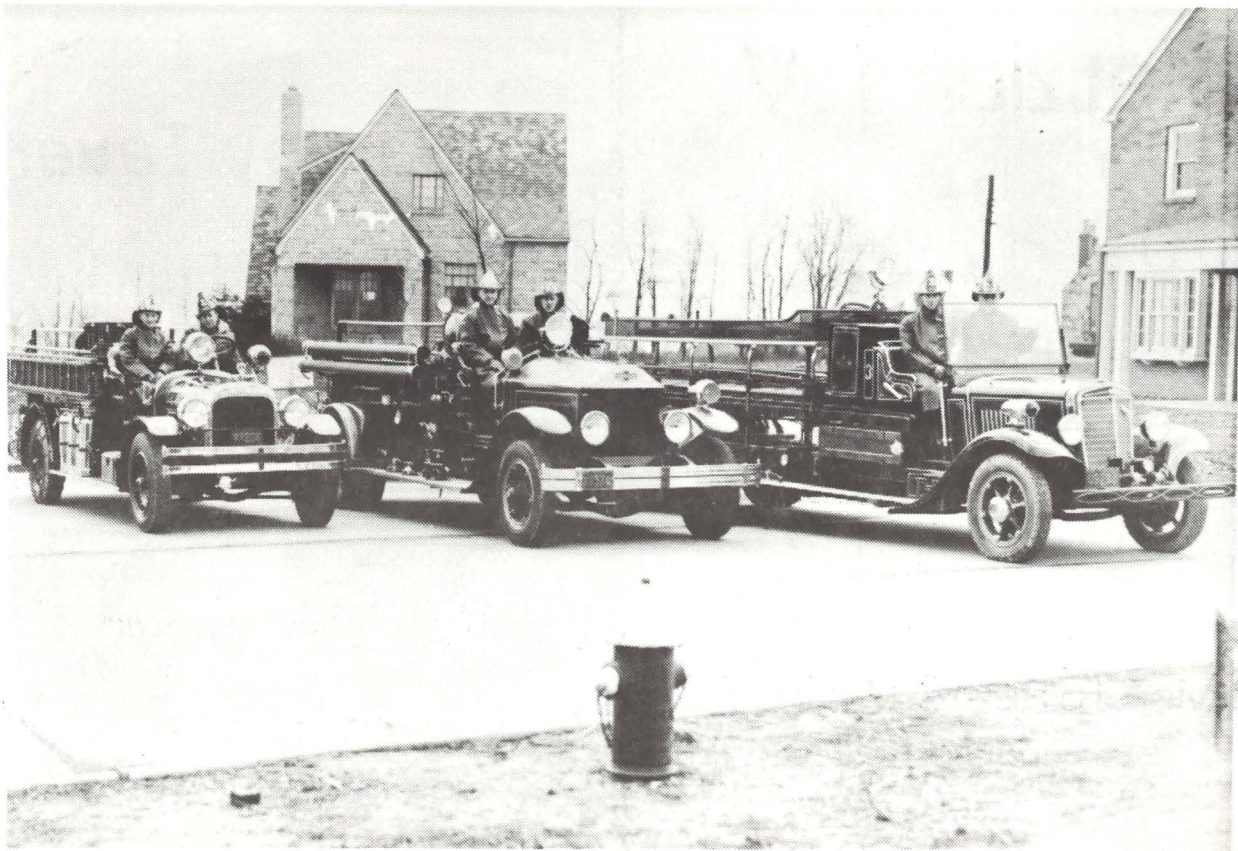
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MAYOR



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COUNCIL





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from the  
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*Have A Happy  
Diamond Jubilee*

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Robert D. Binz, Treasurer  
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Rick Winters

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Lil Mayernik  
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Audrey Steuernagel  
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## **HEADQUARTERS DIVISION**

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## **SOLICITATION COMMITTEE**

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Helen Vinkovich  
Alex Vinkovich  
Frank Gust  
Herb Daugherty  
Bernie Riegner  
Evelyn Cummings

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Helen Vinkovich  
Lynn Jones  
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## **PROGRAM SALES COMMITTEE**

Evelyn Cummings, Chairman

## **HISTORICAL EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

Mary Frances Wiley, Chairman

## **PARADE COMMITTEE**

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