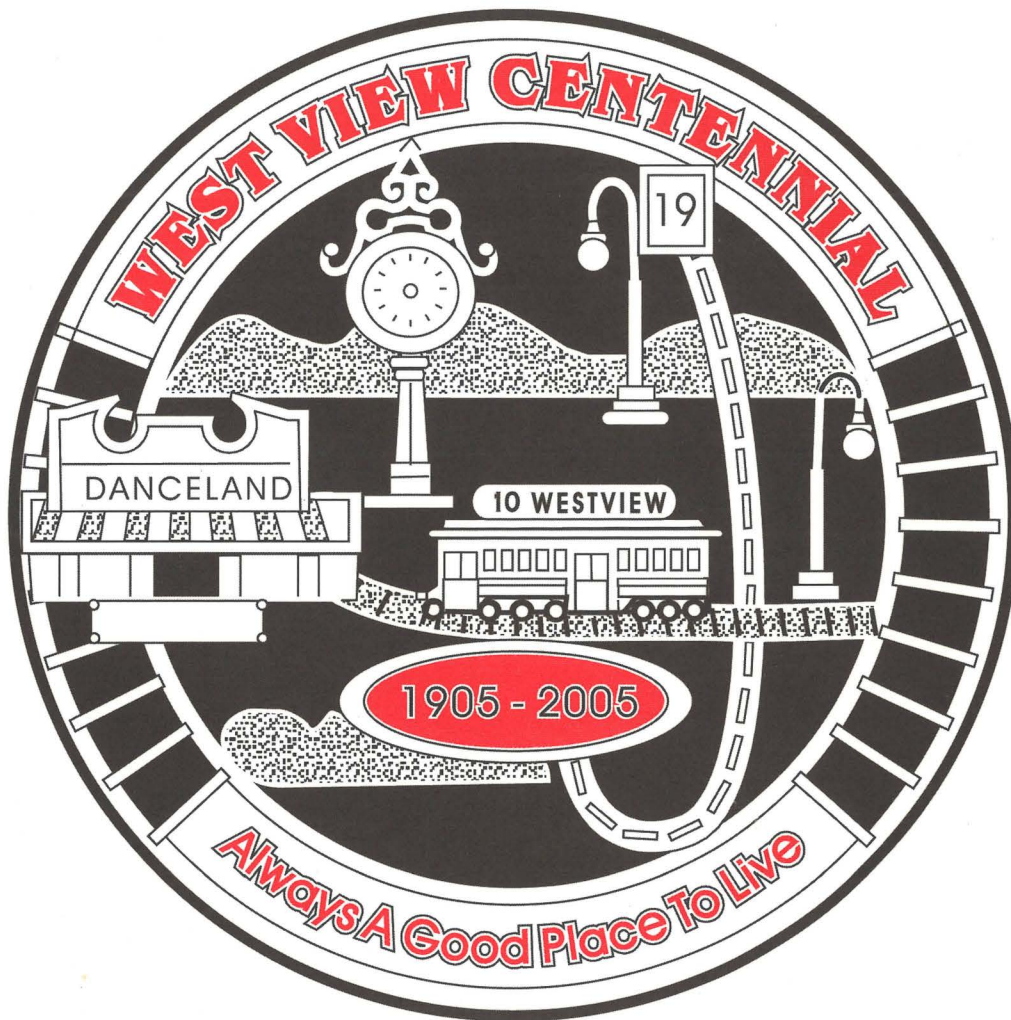

WEST VIEW BOROUGH



Centennial Anniversary
1905 — 2005



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Acknowledgements

The West View Centennial History Committee would like to thank the creative inspiration of fellow historians; Judith Oliver, Edward Williams, Mary Frances Wiley, Jerry Vondas, Joseph Bullick, Charles Jacques, Barry Schell and authors who created the Borough histories for the 50th and 75th Anniversaries.

Bibliographic resources, which were invaluable to us during the writing of this history:

Memoirs of Allegheny County. Unigraphic, 1977

1889 History of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Northwestern Historical Association, 1904

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Pittsburgh Press

The North Hills News Record

Touring Pittsburgh by Trolley. Harold A. Smith, 1992

Goodbye West View Park Goodbye. Charles J. Jacques, Jr., 1985

Special thanks to the staffs and invaluable resources of:

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John Harvey, Photographer and scanner

Bob Grom, Photographer & Scanner

Glenn F. Ulrich, photographic identification and dating

NorthHills PhotoImaging Center

And finally, our unending thanks and gratitude to all of the generous citizens of West View, Ross and the surrounding areas who shared and donated copies of their photographs, family stories and West View memories which helped to inspire and motivate this committee.

We would like to thank the tireless, dedicated efforts of our committee for gathering and the organization of materials, information advertisements and photographs, which we used to compile this history.

Mary Kay Bernhard, Chair

Cindy Ulrich

Diane Lederer Holleran

July, 2005

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Introduction

This history attempts to provide a historical perspective of the West View Borough from its beginnings as a principally agricultural area to its evolution as a residential community. West View Borough is a place where you can work, raise a family, be friends with your neighbors, depend on your neighbors, laugh, have fun, and enjoy life... ***West View 'Still' A Good Place to Live***

Changes unique to our Borough progressed from Native

American trails to plank roads, brick roads, macadam roads, and now also include a six-lane interstate highway.

The committee is pledged to safeguard memorabilia and files gathered during this project for students, historians and future genealogists. We gratefully acknowledge the enlightening interviews and priceless keepsake photographs loaned by residents as we present the West View Centennial History.

Additional copies of this book are available at:
West View Borough Municipal Building
441 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15229

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•
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J. K. ASSISI, Fire Chief

Dear Fellow Citizens,

As your Mayor for the past 35 years, it is my privilege to extend warmest greetings and best wishes to the West View Community on our Centennial Celebration.

With the incorporation of West View Borough on March 20, 1905, our town has continued to change and grow over the past 100 years. This occurred because of the hard work and untiring efforts of our citizens and elected officials. We have had our share of happiness, sorrow, trials and accomplishments which resulted in making West View a Borough in which we can all be proud. However, this dedication and cooperation must continue to insure an even better West View as we begin the next 100 years.

The poet Robert Browning could have been describing West View when he wrote: "Grow old along with me. The best is yet to be..."

Sincerely,



Richard E. Powell
Mayor of West View



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

GREETINGS:

It is my pleasure to join with the leaders and citizens of the Borough of West View, Pennsylvania, in celebration of 100 historic years of unity and prosperity.

The contributions made by individual communities have shaped our history, cultivated tradition, and created a diverse cultural fabric that stretches across our commonwealth, uniting us under the bond of a common citizenship. The Borough of West View has flourished under talented leadership and the dedication of its citizens throughout its history, embodying Pennsylvania's lasting commitment to excellence in community life. As you celebrate 100 years of family, friendship, and community in West View, you should be proud of how much your community has accomplished. You have made your community a welcoming place for all people to live and work and one that anyone would be proud to call home.

On behalf of all Pennsylvanians, I congratulate the people of West View on this milestone Centennial and wish you the best for an enjoyable celebration. I share in your anticipation of many more distinguished years to come.



Edward G. Rendell

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor
July 2005



April 13, 2005

Borough of West View
Municipal Building
441 Perry Highway
Pittsburgh, PA 15229-1889

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my personal congratulations to the citizens of the Borough of West View as you celebrate your community's centennial anniversary. Since 1905, the people of West View have graciously dedicated their time and efforts in developing your neighborhood into the vibrant community it is today.

As you celebrate this special occasion with family and friends, remember the work ethic of your ancestors who helped establish the Borough of West View into the close-knit community that you know and love. Pennsylvania should be honored to have such a great treasure as West View, which is an ideal place to work and raise a family, and continues to be a thriving community. I have no doubt that this community will continue to be "A Good Place to Live" for centuries to come.

Congratulations again on the 100th Anniversary of the Borough of West View, and best wishes as your community continues to grow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Santorum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rick" and last name "Santorum" clearly distinguishable.

Rick Santorum
United States Senate

MELISSA A. HART
4TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3804



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

House of Representatives

April 18, 2005

Mr. Speaker,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the borough of West View as it celebrates its centennial Anniversary.

West View will turn 100 years old on March 20th, 2005. The community will celebrate during the week of July 10th with a parade, picnics and fireworks that have been planned by the Centennial Celebration Committee. The Committee has been working very hard planning the festivities for over a year and the celebration promises to be a festive event.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the rich history and tradition of the borough of West View. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to congratulate West View on its 100th anniversary.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Hart".

Melissa Hart
Member of Congress

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



The House of Representatives

Citation

Whereas, The House of Representatives of Pennsylvania is always pleased to recognize those esteemed communities which, through the observance of significant events in their history, contribute to preserving the continuity of Pennsylvania's great heritage; and

Whereas, The Borough of West View is celebrating the momentous occasion of its centennial anniversary July 10 to 16, 2005; and

Whereas, Throughout its history, the Borough of West View has been blessed with a succession of civic leaders whose guidance and leadership have helped it to grow and flourish, as well as a citizenry whose hard work, dedication and spirit have enabled it to become a vital and valuable presence in this Commonwealth. Today, the Borough of West View looks forward to the future with same hope that filled the hearts of its early settlers.

Now therefore, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania heartily congratulates the Borough of West View on the joyous occasion of its one hundredth anniversary; offers best wishes for continued growth and prosperity in the years to come;

And directs that a copy of this citation, sponsored by the Honorable Don Walko on March 8, 2005, be transmitted to the Borough of West View, 441 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15229.



Handwritten signature of Don Walko in black ink.

Don Walko, Sponsor

Handwritten signature of John M. Perzel in black ink.

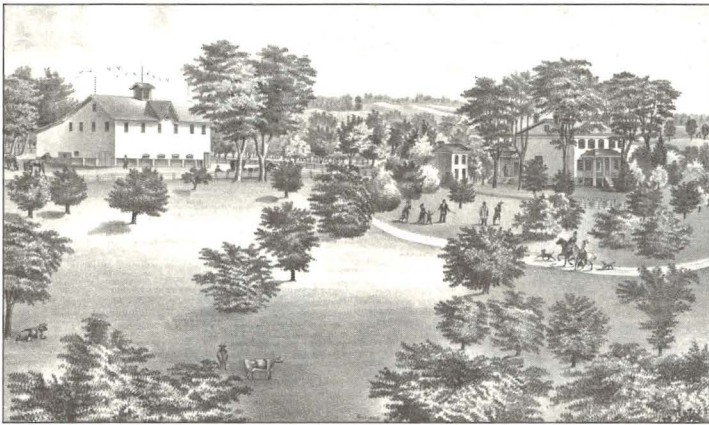
John M. Perzel, Speaker of the House

Attest:

Handwritten signature of Ted Mazia in black ink.

Ted Mazia, Chief Clerk of the House

West View Pioneers



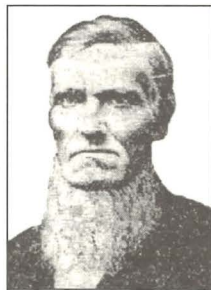
Reel Hall, residence of Casper, Sr. Current location of Highland Country Club.

Reel Family

Casper Reel was the first settler and probably first to build a cabin in the West View/Ross area. He came to Allegheny County about 1783 and, in the spring of the following year, he brought his wife to the area. His original cabin stood just at the edge of West View Borough, near the small creek in between Cornell Avenue and today's West View Park area, but an Indian attack forced him to move back to the safety of the Pittsburgh Fort. He served under General Washington and was present at the battle of Brandywine and other engagements.

In 1794-95, he built a log cabin at 148 Georgetown Avenue. The logs were covered over, but the house remains to this day.

Casper Sr., a prominent early citizen of Allegheny County, became the first tax collector north of the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers. The territory over which he had charge extended



Casper Reel, Sr.



1794 first log home built by Casper Reel, Sr., 148 Georgetown Avenue.

north to Lake Erie.

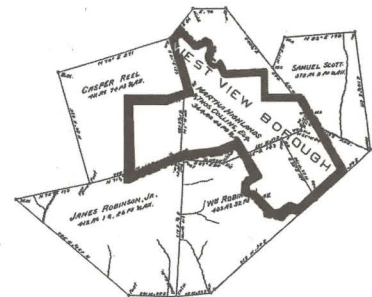
He and his wife, Elizabeth became the parents of ten children, the first being twin sons, Casper Reel, Jr. and David, born January 22, 1798. Both grew to be influential men in the young community.

David was a farmer and one of the founders of the Methodist group, which later became the Bellevue Methodist Church.

A brother, Conrad, became the first postmaster for the area north of the Allegheny River.

Casper Jr. was a farmer and one of the men who formed the Hiland Presbyterian Congregation. He built a farmhouse, which stood on a hill that is now the Highland Country Club golf course. The house was eventually moved and incorporated into the clubhouse. His farm was the site of the family burial plots and when Casper Reel, Sr., died October 10, 1834, this was where he was buried. Also buried there are his wife, an infant daughter and three sons. Terms of the sales agreement with the Highland Country Club stipulated the preservation and marking of the graves.

Barnabas Hilands was another early settler to West View who established his farm in 1794, and then died in 1795, leaving his estate to his widow, Martha. His family moved on to the land the following year and remained there. In July 1808, Martha, under the sponsorship of Thomas Collins, applied for and received her husband's patent for depreciation lands. The warrant was approved in August 1809. The bulk of the Hiland's and Thomas Collin's land grants made up the land which ultimately became the Borough of West View.



West View Borough Depreciation Lands

In 1800, **Balthazer Good**, an enterprising pioneer, built a log hotel/tavern near the junction of the Franklin Road and Three Degree Road. The tavern eventually passed into the ownership of his son-in-law, John Keown and his son William and was known as Keown Tavern.

Peter Ivory, Sr. immigrated to America in 1817, with his wife Catharine Rogers and daughter Mary. They arrived in Pittsburgh, and in 1819 purchased farmlands in the West View/Ross area. By the end of 1819, he had built the Four Mile House along the Franklin Road, near what would become Ivory Avenue. This was an active and prosperous inn, which lasted for many years. When he died on November 11, 1849, he was buried at the site of the inn and farm.

His son, **Peter Ivory Jr.** was born Feb. 1, 1819 and raised on the farm property. In 1863, he married Miss Johanna Conway. They had two sons, Peter and Conway and four daughters, Minnie, Katherine, Theresa and Ellie. He bought and sold a great deal of property and, by 1899, owned two hundred acres of land in the West View area. He was a justice of the peace for twenty-five years, president of the Pine Creek and Wexford Plank Road Company and director and secretary of the Allegheny and Perrysville Plank Road Company. As a result of his associations with the development of the Perrysville Plank Road Company, he was the builder and owner of the Plank Road's first tollbooth near today's Waldorf Street. After his father's death, he also oversaw the management of the popular Four Mile House. Ivory Avenue bears the name of this illustrious founding family.



Peter Ivory, Jr.

John Keown was born in Ireland in 1800 and came to America in 1819. He married Susan Good, daughter of innkeeper Balthazar Good and they had seven children. They initially lived in the Fourth Ward, where he was active in industry and politics. He moved to Ross Township in 1857, taking over the management of the old Good's Tavern, formerly run by his father-in-law. He rebuilt the tavern after fire destroyed it on September 10, 1856, and the name was changed to Keown's. The inn was among the oldest in Allegheny County.

Joseph Keating was born in 1832. For many years, he was a pilot along the Ohio River and had a well-known reputation among his fellow rivermen. When his river career ended, he went into the hotel business in Glenwood and owned the omnibus-line, which ran between Glenwood and Pittsburgh. From 1861-1867 Keating was the manager of the White House Hotel in Perrysville. Around 1870, he built and ran the Keating House in West View. It was one of the most successful and popular inns in Allegheny County.

William Keown was born Feb. 18, 1840. He succeeded his father as innkeeper of the Keown Tavern. Under his administration, it was well known for its four-furlong racetrack and its fine stable of horses.



Frederick Schwitter

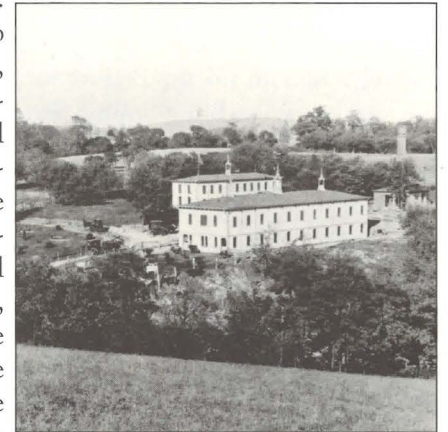
Fred Schwitter was born in Switzerland on March 8, 1847, and came to America a penniless immigrant in August 1866 where he worked as a laborer on a farm in the Lowries Run area. From the time he was hired as a farmhand, his life became the embodiment of the classic American rags to riches story. By 1871, he had saved enough money that he was able to start in the dairy business on a small scale and prospered from the beginning.



Fred Schwitter's Sweet Home Dairy Wagon.

In July 1881, he bought the 100 acres of the Thomas Morrow homestead, which was located where the two streams crossed the valley and formed a meadow. This became the grazing area for his fine herd of 125 Holstein dairy cattle. The 'Sweet Home Dairy' was so successful and prosperous that it became a model dairy for farms across western Pennsylvania. He built a large mansion on the Plank Road reminiscent of the house he remembered in Switzerland. It was located at the current location of the West View Elementary School.

This house was sold to Fred McManus in 1905, who ran it as the popular Donegal Inn until 1924, when the property was sold to the Borough for the original junior high school building. In 1905, Schwitter built the even more impressive and elaborate Schwitter Mansion on the hill between Perry Highway and Bellevue Avenue.



Fred Schwitter's Sweet Home Dairy.

Unfortunately, he did not live long enough to enjoy fully the splendor of his ornate and pretentious mansion. Ill health overtook him and on a return to Switzerland in 1909 to seek treatment, Fred Schwitter died and was buried in his native land. His family lived in the mansion for a while before selling it to Fred Kuhn, a local meatpacker. In 1942, Kuhn's heirs sold the house to West View Borough, who used it as the Borough building and jail until 1969. Borough Council decided to vacate the building and sell the property as a source of income. While bids were being considered the once proud and glorious mansion was trashed by vandals and in late 1970 the building was condemned and demolished, the last tangible evidence of the expansive Schwitter dairy and estate.

William H. Rodenbaugh was born in West View on December 19, 1840. His father, John, had purchased 330 acres of land in 1830, built a large house and farm which eventually passed to his son. By 1870, the farmhouse, like many others along the Plank Road, had become a popular tavern and entertainment establishment.

Thomas Towers was born in England in 1815 and came to America in 1842. He farmed and raised dairy cattle in the West View area and married Elizabeth Winter, widow of Edward Winter, an early settler of the area.

William E. Winter was born in 1839. He was the stepson of Thomas Towers of the area, from whom he learned many of his dairying skills. 70 acres of his dairy was purchased to form the land area of West View Borough

Henry L. Blind, the son of Conrad and Elizabeth Blind, was born, January 5, 1873. His youth was spent on the family farm in the West View/Ross area where he learned his gardening trade and flower cultivation techniques. Eventually he established H.L. Blind and Brothers, which became a very successful nursery and ranked among the largest in the county for the production of cut flowers. The nursery was so popular and well known in the West View area that the second tollbooth on the Perrysville Plank Road was built in the area known as Blind Station and was often known by that name. Blinds Floral and Nursery flourished well into the 1970s when the land was purchased by the state to make way for the building of I-279. A crumbled brick smokestack on the hillside overlooking the interstate and Route 19 is all that remains of the once thriving business.



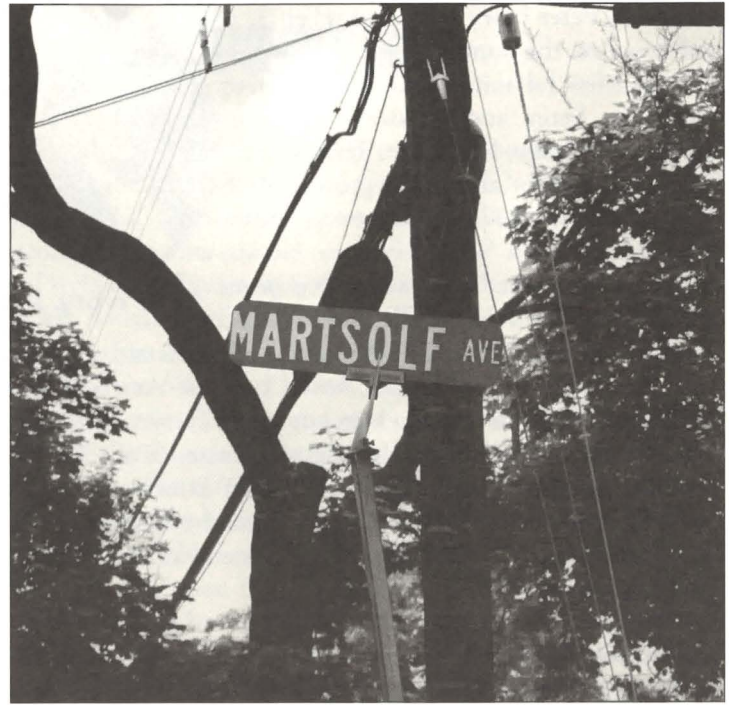
Henry Blind



Fred Martsof, "Father of West View"

ing frequently with the Allegheny-Bellevue Land Company. About the same time, he discovered the pleasant valley in Ross, which was the site of the Schwitter Dairy, Blind Florals and the Five Mile House and knew he had located the place where he could implement his "new century" vision of suburban life away from the dirt and smoke of the steel mills and the noise of city life. He built 50 houses in the West View area and gathered support from interested locals and the

Frederick C. Martsof was born in Butler, Pennsylvania in 1848. As a young man, he served two years in the Civil War and then went west and spent the next twenty-four years in Arizona working as a successful building contractor. He returned to Pittsburgh and joined a contracting/construction business with two of his brothers and then his three oldest sons. Between 1897 and 1904, he bought and developed more than 50 properties in McKees Rocks, Stowe, Chartiers, Bellevue, and Ross, work-



Martsof Avenue street sign

Allegheny-Bellevue Land Company. His vision for the land included modern transportation, police and fire protection, water and sewer systems, streets and laws. By the end of 1904, the Land Company had bought over 700 acres of land, which covered one square mile to develop. On March 20, 1905, due to Martsof's tenacity and drive, West View Borough was incorporated in County court.

Frederick Martsof was elected president of the first seven-member Borough council. The new West View Borough was an area full of dreams, community spirit and a leader to see the dreams become reality. Martsof built a house for his family and was influential in the organization of the First Presbyterian Church of West View. Frederick Christian Martsof died suddenly on December 14, 1907. His death left a large gap in the Borough leadership. The street where he built his home was renamed Martsof Avenue in his honor. It is a tribute to his vision, determination and perseverance as the "Father of West View", that we are able to celebrate in 2005 the centennial of the Borough he created and loved.

**HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY!
CONGRATULATIONS!!**

**From All of Us at
North Hills United Presbyterian Church
100 Bellevue Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15229
~Still Praising God after 75 Years~**

Congratulations and best wishes to the
officials and residents of the Borough
of West View—**Happy Birthday!**

Experienced, Professional, Trustworthy.

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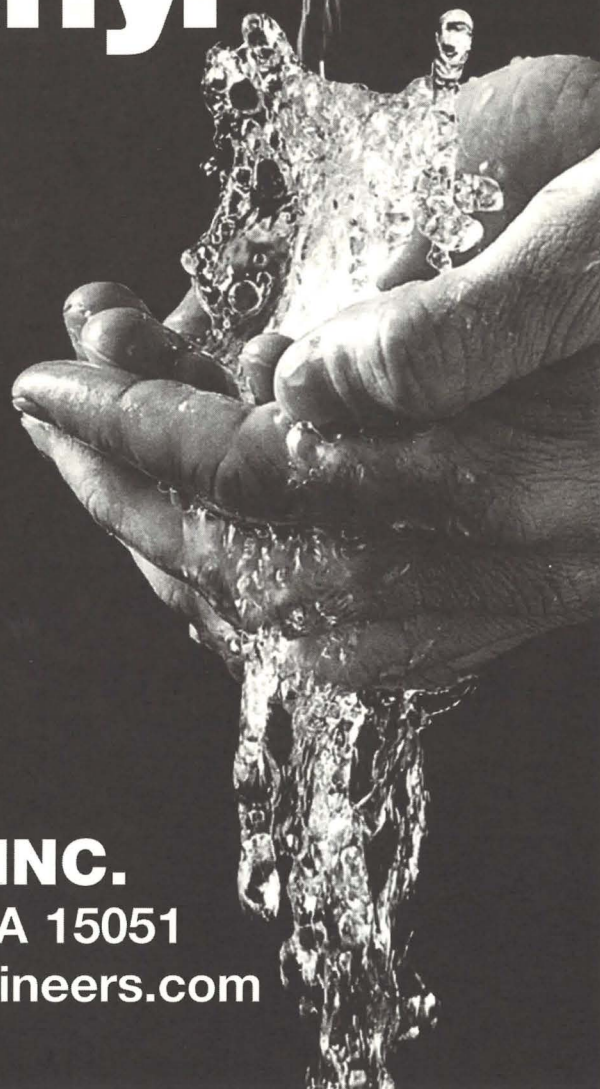


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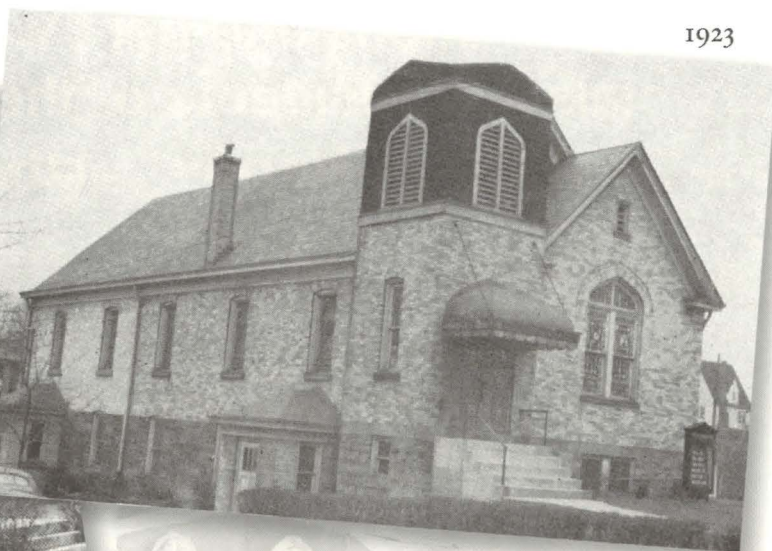
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1923

1909



Congratulations!

We join in celebrating the 100th year of
West View Borough!

"We're still growing with you!"

West View United Methodist Church

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1956

1948



*"HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY"
BOROUGH OF WEST VIEW*

Compliments Of

MICHAEL J. WITHEREL, Esquire
MATTHEW L. KOVACIK, Esquire

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966 Perry Highway
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
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*IF YOU'VE HEARD IT ONCE,
YOU'VE HEARD IT "100" TIMES!*

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY!

25 years experience. Auto Accidents, Criminal Defense,
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Congratulations
to the People of West View

Upon the 100th Birthday
of
Your Great Borough



Have a Wonderful Gala!

DON WALKO

State Representative

3880 Perrysville Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15214

412-321-5523

Roads

Before the road known as Perrysville Avenue, Perry Highway or Route 19 went through West View, there were the Allegheny and Perrysville Plank Roads, the Franklin Road and long before any of those, the Venango Indian Path, used by Cornplanter Indians.

The Indian routes were narrow, 18-inch wide paths, which followed the course needing the least exertion for men carrying burdens. The Venango Path started at Shannopin's Town (Pittsburgh) and went north through West View to Perrysville and through the northern communities until it ended at Fort Presque Isle in Erie. When the route north to the new town of Franklin, at the mouth of the French Creek, became more important for transporting goods, the Franklin Road was born. It was a wider road that could accommodate wagons and carts.

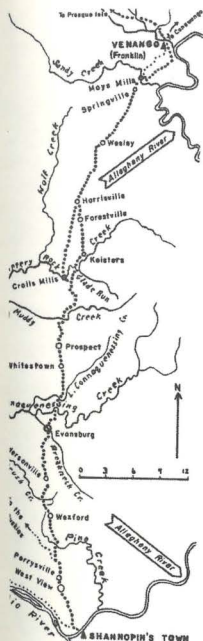
In 1849, the Perrysville Plank Road was commissioned and constructed as a toll road. Wooden planks about 8 inches wide, 3 inches thick, and of varying lengths were laid horizontally across vertical stringers placed on a reasonably prepared roadbed. This was a considerable improvement over the rutted mud track that sometimes seemed to swallow wagons. It was only one lane wide, and the usual rule of the road was that the traveler with a loaded wagon had the right of way, and empty wagons were expected to pull off into the parallel dirt path.

At the start of the 1849, improvements began at the City line near Waldorf Street, just below today's Franklin Road (the only remnant of the first Franklin Road) and Perrysville Avenue. After 1849, Franklin Road would be known only as the Perrysville Plank Road. To pay for the improvements on the Perrysville Plank Road, tolls were collected at four toll gates established between the City line and Perrysville. The toll keepers lived in tollhouses along the road and raised and lowered tollgates, permitting travelers access to various sections of the road. Some critics claimed that the winding route of the Plank Road was created just to

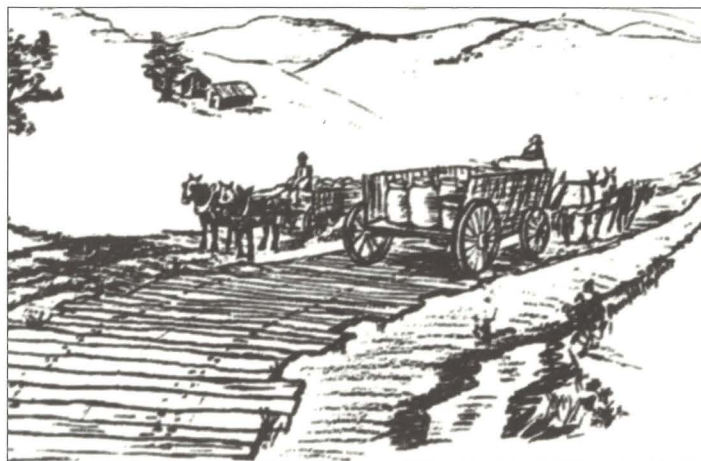
keep the tolls high. Builders maintained they had just followed the route of the old Franklin Road.

The first tollgate, Blair's, was located at the City line near Waldorf Street and was built by Peter Ivory, Jr.

The second Blind, an unusual covered tollgate and house, was located in West View at Blind Station, about 300 feet northwest of the building owned by the Heils at the junction of today's Perrysville Road and Perry Highway. Swann was the toll keeper for many years and the gate was also known as Swann's tollgate.



Map showing the route of the Venango Trail from Shannopin's Town (Pittsburgh) to Erie.



One lane plank road. Empty wagon yielding to oncoming loaded wagon.

The third tollgate, Cunningham's, was located at the intersection of the Plank Road and Rochester Road. The final tollgate, Swann, was north of the Keown Hotel at the entrance to the present Highland Pines Drive, behind Heyl's Florist. Swann and later Willoughby ran this tollgate.

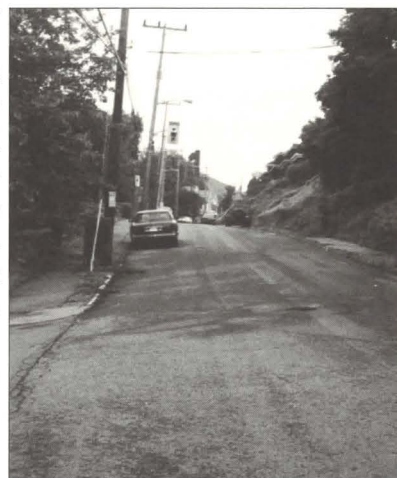
The Plank Road began at the City line, continued down to Cemetery Lane, swung left and circled back across today's Perry Highway, to pass behind the lot, which used to house the Ross Township building. The Plank Road then went up the hill, past the site of Heil's Garage (Boyle's Carpet), then continued up the hill past the Five Mile House at the intersection with Bellevue Road.

A few hundred feet further north, the old Franklin Road dipped down the steep hillside on what is today's North Park Road coming out on Perry

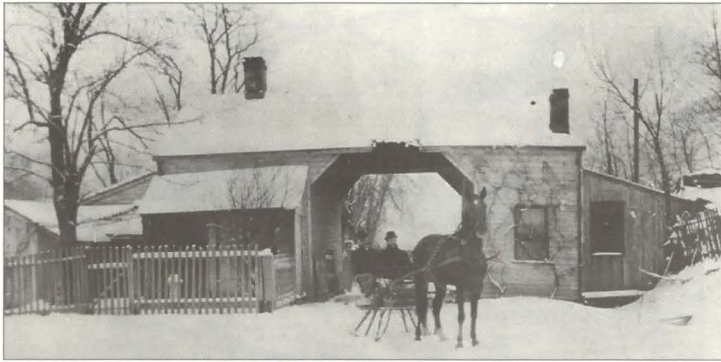
Highway near the entrance to West View Park. Teams of horses and mules struggled while hauling heavily loaded wagons up and down the steep slope. It was this steep transit, so despised by the



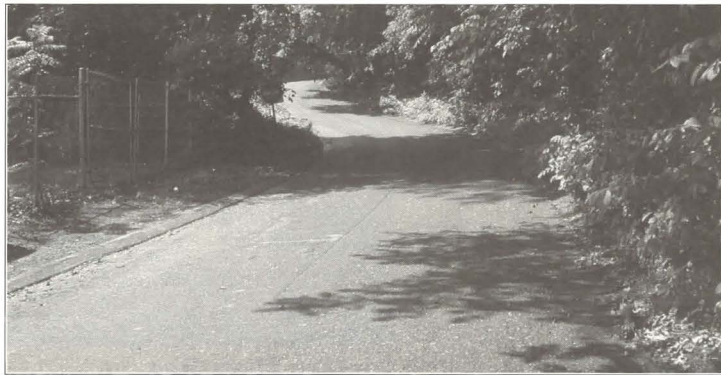
Franklin Road Sign. Intersection of Franklin Road and Waldorf Avenue—approximate site of the first tollgate on the Perry Plank Road.



The only remnant of the original Franklin Road. Located on Pittsburgh's North Side (behind Grace Lutheran Church, Perry Highway)



Second tollgate on the Perry Plank Road at Blind Station. Current location is about 300 feet northwest of Boyles Carpet on Perrysville Road above Martorelli Stadium.



Horseshoe Bend was built to avoid this steep twisting road that was hard for wagons to travel.

early teamsters, which led the builders of the 1849 Perrysville Plank Road to reconfigure the grade. By placing expensive side hill cuts into the terrain, they created the famous Horseshoe Bend. This bend bisected the property of Henry Wilt. In 1890, at an acute angle to the bend, were two producing oil wells.

The wooden planks of the road were not durable and were replaced frequently. Between 1910 and 1911, the Plank Road was paved with bricks from the City line as far north as Keown's Hotel at the intersection with Three Degree Road. The advent of the automobile made the bumpy bricked Perrysville Plank Road obsolete. Macadam replaced the bricks until the era of concrete paving arrived.

By 1927, the need for a direct paved route from Pittsburgh to Erie was envisioned and the Pennsylvania Department of Highways awarded a contract for The Perry Highway, named for Commodore O.H. Perry. On November 23, 1929, the citizens of West View celebrated the completion of the highway through the Borough with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

In the 1970s, demolition of hundreds of homes and familiar landmarks along Perry Highway began in preparation for the changes created by the construction of Interstate 279. Among the landmarks that vanished with the highway improvement were the picturesque Knoedler's flour mill that had become a grocery/general store; the long frame structure that housed John Parker's harness shop and even the famous Keating Tavern. The "progress" of I-279 was needed and happily anticipated by many but was achieved at the price of the loss of several famous West View landmarks.



West View's famous bend built in 1849. Built to circumvent the steep grade of North Park Road.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for paved Perry Highway dedication, November 23, 1929.

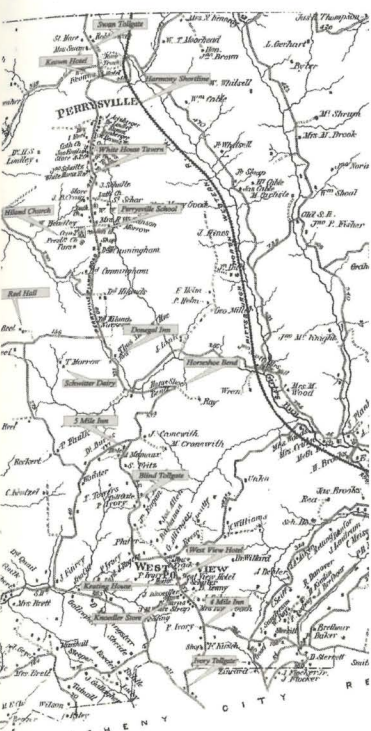


Many West View Village landmarks were lost with the construction of I-279.

'Three West Views'

It is generally conceded that the West View name came from pioneers, traveling north from the city, who fully appreciated the glorious view to the west as they came down the Venango Trail. Few people, aside from local historians, realized that the name was used for three different areas along this trail.

The 1876 Atlas of Allegheny County placed West View Post Office or Village nearly a mile and a half further south than today's borough line. This village was located at the Perrysville Plank Road intersection with Ivory Avenue. The



The 1876 Atlas of Allegheny County showing the location of the West View Village/Post Office.

little hilltop community was named because of the magnificent western view of the valley below. There was a post office in West View Village as early as 1866, which served many of the early settlers of both Ross Township and West View. The little village was also home to a general store, a blacksmith shop, the Four Mile House, and close to the City line, the first Perrysville Plank Road toll-gate.

About a mile north of West View Village on the east side of the Perrysville Plank Road near Cemetery Lane was another little community also referred to by some as West View because of the large, pretentious West View Hotel, famous for good food and its racetrack.

With the construction of Allegheny-Bellevue

Land Company's housing developments north of West View Village, new residents bypassed the tiny West View Village to settle in the borough and take advantage of the "modern" improvements offered there by the land developers. Included in these improvements were police and fire departments, public sewers, streets and sidewalks and "fast" trolley transportation into Pittsburgh. The future of West View Borough waxed but the smaller West View Village was on the wane. Today, West View Village and little West View are only historic footnotes and part of Ross Township. The West View name survived, as does the magnificent view, which was its inspiration. Today, many commuters going north on Perry Highway at the end of the day still enjoy the panoramic view of the glorious sunsets in the western sky beyond I-279.

Over the years, the improvements in the roads increased



This is the view of the valley that inspired the naming of the West View.

Places to Stay

traffic and the need for better inns and hostelrys where travelers could rest, eat and change horses. The inns, hotels and taverns built along the Plank Road and then the Perry Highway gained new popularity and importance. The Four Mile House, West View Hotel, Keating Tavern, Rodenbaugh House, Five Mile House, Donegal Inn, White House (Perrysville), and the Keown Hotel (Keown Station) were the best-known facilities in the West View/Perrysville area. Depending upon the era being considered house/tavern/inn/hotel all became interchangeable terms when discussing these businesses.

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 these favorite spots was located near a pond at the corner of the Perry Highway and Highland Avenue in what is now Wellington Heights.

In the late 1880s, as travelers came north out of the city in their summer carriages, wagons and wintertime sleighs, the first public house stop was the Rodenbaugh House. It was



Four Mile Inn sketch drawn by traveler to pay for lodging



Stone block house, built by Peter Ivory, Sr., in 1819. This house was located four miles from Pittsburgh and was a favorite stopover for travelers on the Franklin Road.

operated for years as a place of public entertainment and refreshment.

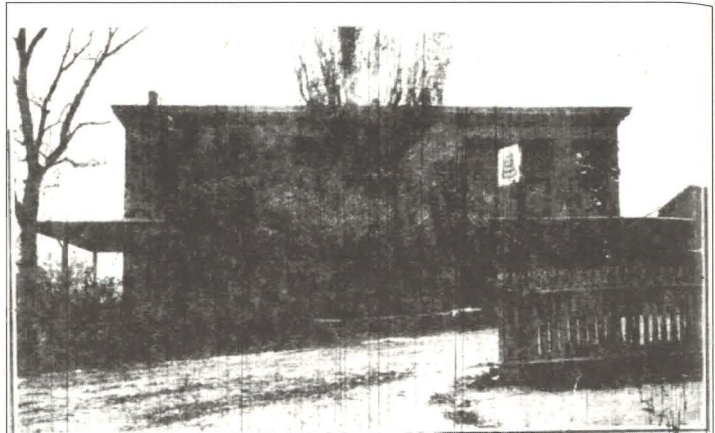
The stone block Four Mile House, built by Peter Ivory, Sr. in 1819, stood by the single-track dirt Franklin Road where it intersected with what became known as Ivory Avenue. Sleighing parties from the city would drive out "into the country" and have dinner at the House. As a tavern it had a brisk business from the locals, travelers, journeymen and farmers who stopped for 'refreshments' while traveling along the road.

The Keating Hotel/Tavern, about a quarter of a mile north and across the highway from the West View Hotel, was of later vintage, built around 1870. It was rebuilt in 1912 after a fire.

Joe Keating ran the tavern. Like many roadside inns, it had a large fenced enclosure, in which to pen the drovers herds of cattle, sheep and hogs. Drovers from northern Pennsylvania counties, and Ohio would stop for a meal or for the night, on their way to the Pittsburgh stockyards. Even huge flocks of turkeys were driven south and would roost upon the trees and fences until they could proceed in the morning. Many "old-timers" remembered these drovers, flocks and herds moving along Perrysville Plank Road. (Side note—how do you "herd" a flock of turkeys?)

Of all the scores of inns and taverns in Pittsburgh and the surrounding area, the most famous of them was the Keating. Everybody who made pretensions to being anybody at all knew old Joe Keating. The fame of his chicken and waffle suppers extended far and wide. In the low-ceiling dining room overlooking the panoramic views of the distant hills, some of the leading men and women of Pittsburgh came to eat. Although the dining room was almost 75 feet in length it was often filled to its capacity. Among the prominent men who ate at Keating's were Andrew Carnegie, A.J. Cassatt, Henry C. Frick and B.F. Jones.

The old inn was two stories high, with a broad sweeping porch, picturesque trees and bushes and a large, old-fashioned pump in the yard. Even though it appeared to be a frame building, it was built of massive stones covered with a sheathing of weatherboarding. In the tavern section was an



Keating Tavern was one of the most famous and popular inns of the late 1800's. Prominent Pittsburghers who dined at this tavern were: Andrew Carnegie, A.J. Cassatt, and Henry C. Frick.



The 1870-80's West View Hotel was located at the intersection of Cemetery Lane and The Perry Highway. This hotel had a half-mile race track which drew many horse lovers to the West View Village. Proprietors: Henry Wilt and David Deimling.



Fred Schwitter's first mansion sold to Fred McManus around 1900. McManus named it the Donegal Inn and prospered as an innkeeper. The Donegal Inn was torn down and is the current site of the West View Elementary School.



Five Mile Inn was located on the Franklin Road at Bellevue Road. This establishment was built around 1830 and served at the relay station for drovers and travelers. Around 1900 the house was owned and operated by the Eberhart family and was known as the Hotel Eberhart.

old-fashioned counter, and behind it, racks and cases containing bottles of beers and liquors. Light came through a couple of windows cut in walls almost two feet thick.

In the hallway, a large central table held an assortment of lamps and lanterns for guests to light their way up a tiny old staircase to the guest rooms furnished with large, comfortable, four-poster beds. The lanterns were used to light the porches or to light the path to the stables. With the passing of old Joe Keating, the tavern became the property of Fritz Etter.

A hotel with a racetrack as an added attraction was West View Hotel, which flourished in 1870s and 1880s under the proprietorship of Henry Wilt and David Deimling. It was located on the eastern side of the Perrysville Plank Road at Cemetery Lane. The proprietors of the West View Hotel advertised it as a "German Tavern" with first class accommodations for drovers and parties. In the summer, horse lovers like Jim Wyman, the Mayor of Allegheny City, John Francis, Warden at Western Penitentiary, Robert McAfee, Police Chief, John Murphy, Sam Pickering, Dr. R.H. Gillford, Joe Hastings and others met at John Hebron's stables on Montgomery Avenue. They drove out the Perry Highway to watch sulky races on the half-mile track at the head of Cemetery Lane and then enjoyed a good dinner and conversation.

The Five-Mile House, located on the Franklin Trail at the intersection with Bellevue Road, was built around 1830. When the Plank Road was built, the Five-Mile House was around the bend just slightly north of the picturesque Blind Station tollgate. Stagecoaches used it as a stopover point. Farmers driving into Pittsburgh from the north left tired horses there, picked up fresh ones and continued on to do their trading downtown. On the way back they switched horses again and returned home. Eventually this relay sta-



172-year-old Five Mile House destroyed by fire on February 5, 1970.

tion business was sold to the Brants who ran a livery stable across the street. Conrad Reel operated the first area post office from this site. By 1900, the House, which held its liquor license for over 75 years, was owned and operated by the Eberharts and was called the Eberhart Hotel. During the last few years it was in existence the Five-Mile House name was reapplied. Until its final sale in 1968, the House kept its tavern status even though the hotel had been closed and was used as a private residence. In 1970 the building was irreparably damaged by fire and torn down.

Donegal Inn, located at the corner of Plank Road and Chalfonte Avenue was the original homestead of Fred Schwitter, before he built the Schwitter Mansion. Fred McManus bought the house from Schwitter and turned it into a successful inn. It was a large imposing structure and legend has it that Pittsburgh author, Mary Robert Rinehart used it as a location in one of her mystery novels.

Plans were made in the mid-1920s to use the site of the inn for a school and the Donegal was demolished in 1925. On April 18, 1925, the cornerstone was laid for the West View Junior High School. Throughout the building's history, it has served as a junior high, senior high, back to a junior high and currently an elementary school.

While not really "West View" inns, there were two other well-known inns nearby important enough in the Ross/West View history to be of note.

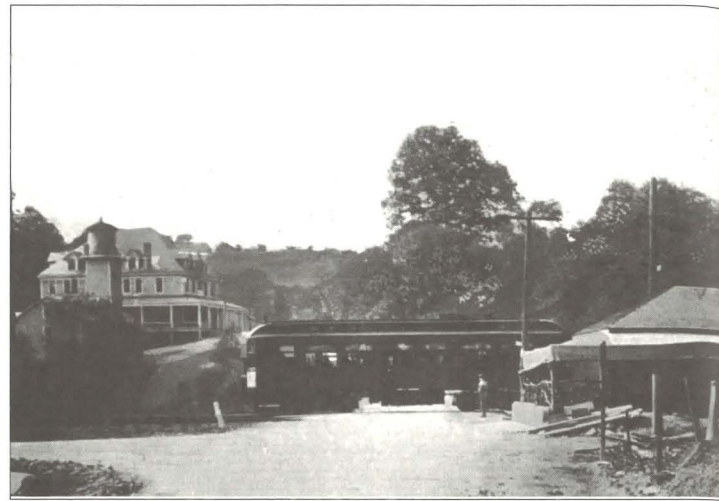
The first, in the middle of Perrysville was the White House Hotel, built in 1849 and, for a time, run by Joe Keating. It was a hiding site of the infamous Biddle brothers who broke out of the Allegheny Jail with the help of Mrs. Soffel, the warden's wife in January 1902. The building, now a private residence and painted blue, still exists on Perry Highway across from Vater's Hardware.

When early adjustments to the Franklin Road in 1779 moved the right of way to the present location of Perry Highway, Balthazar Good built Good's Tavern, near the intersection of Three Degree Road and the Franklin Road. John Keown married Susan E., Balthazar's daughter,



Managed for a time by Joe Keating, the infamous Biddle brothers stopped here after escaping from the Allegheny County Jail on New Years Eve, 1901.

and he assumed the tavern's management. Tradition has it that Daniel Webster stopped there in 1833, and Henry Clay, in 1848. The original log tavern was destroyed by fire on September 10, 1856. John Keown rebuilt it as a large frame building that was named Keown's Tavern. His son, William, became the tavern's proprietor in



This large frame building, called Keown's Tavern, replaced the log cabin tavern built in 1779 by Balthazar Good. It was the oldest tavern in Allegheny County.

1870. A feature of this hostelry was a four-furlong track where Keown exercised and raced his stable of fine horses. After flourishing for many more years, the tavern was sold at auction in 1927 for \$180. It was demolished and replaced by a fruit stand, an ignominious ending to what had been the oldest inn and tavern in the county.

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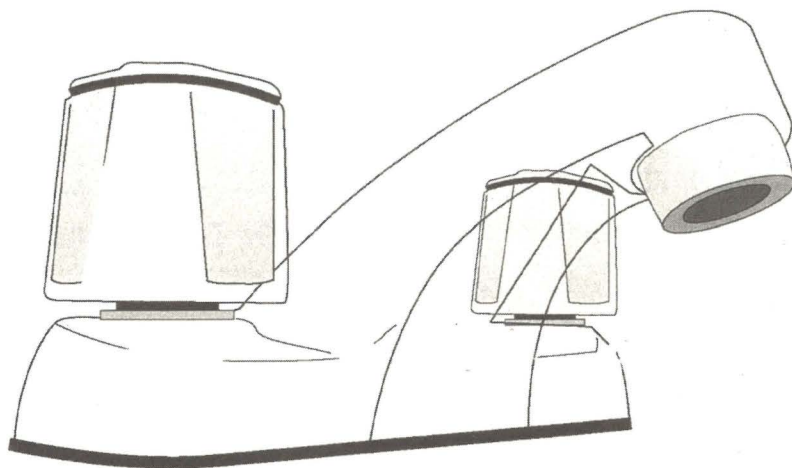


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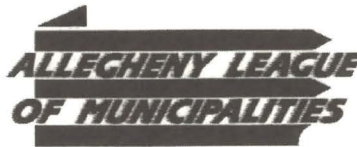
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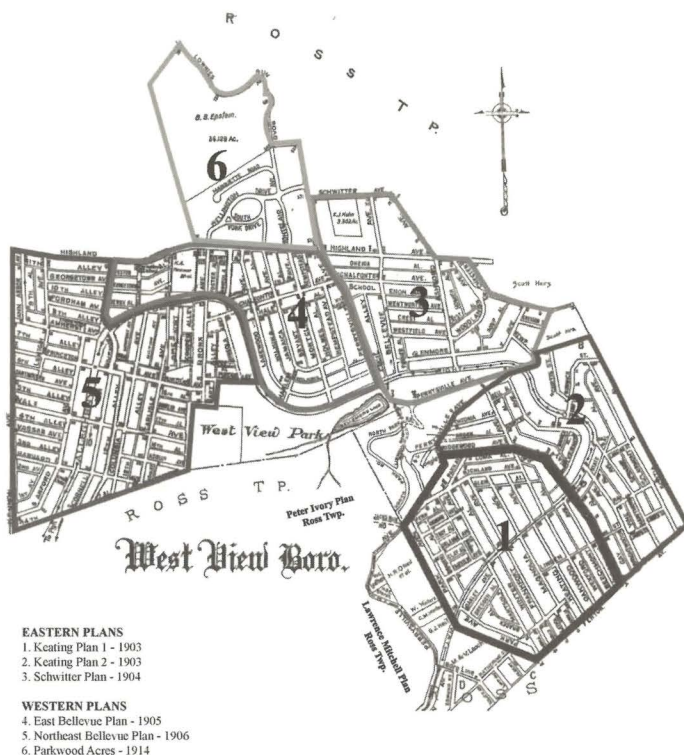


Land Company

At the turn of the twentieth century, Pittsburgh was experiencing a period of unprecedented growth. The suburbs; Oakland, East Liberty, Crafton, and Bellevue were being formed and the "new-fangled" skyscrapers were being built "downtown".

Allegheny-Bellevue Land Company, under the leadership of president William V. Callery, had its agent, The Freehold Real Estate Company, acquire hillside and farmlands that had been part of the original large tracts of Reel, Hilands-Collins, Scott and Robinson. In addition, land was purchased from S. Wray - 90 acres; Fred Schwitter-72 acres; Henry Wilt-50 acres; William Winter-50 acres; J.F. Earl-100 acres and E. Jackman -129 acres. Total purchase price for the one square mile borough was \$276,500, with the land price being \$536 per acre. A total of 640 acres were purchased, and the Land Company recorded six housing plans in the area between 1903 and 1914. The eastern portion of what would become West View Borough was developed first with the Keating Plan (August 1903), Keating No. 2 (October 1903), and the Schwitter Plan (1904). Tomoka and Martsolf Avenues were located in the first Keating Plan. The western half of West View also was developed with three plans: East Bellevue (1905), Northeast Bellevue (1906), and Parkwood Acres (1914).

Each plan contained hundreds of small lots, most of which measured 30 feet by 110 feet. The first Keating Plan, for example, contained more than 760 lots. The East Bellevue Plan had 723. Large frame houses were built on most of the lots. Generally, front yards were nonexistent and back yards were tiny. There were few garages. The Allegheny-Bellevue Land Company deliberately designed the developments with such a high density to make public sewers and public transportation part of their plans.

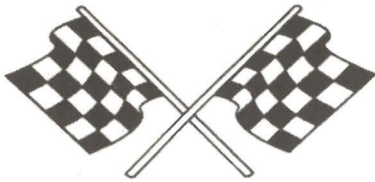


Original six plans for West View Borough.

The company formed the Allegheny-Bellevue Railways Company, which was instrumental in extending streetcar service from Pittsburgh to the new developments. The Allegheny-Bellevue Railways Company was one of the more than 200 companies that were predecessors of the Pittsburgh Railways Company that served the communities of West View and Bellevue in later years. The quote from this period of development was "the Plank Road brought them out of town, but the streetcars took them back."



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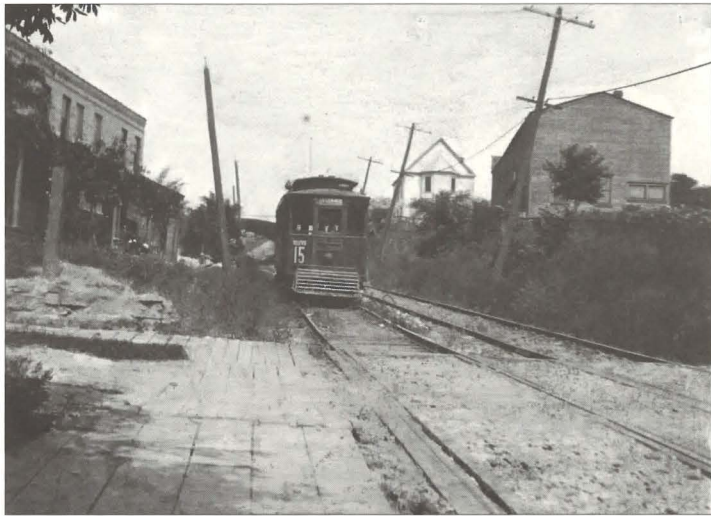
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Early 1900's Center Avenue at Oakwood. Oakwood was a plank road and Center was for streetcars only. Ridgewood Avenue Bridge in background.



1906 Bridge for streetcars only. Center Avenue between Perry Highway and Park (West View Park) Avenue.

Early Streets and Bridges

Because of West View's hilly terrain, bridges were a necessity. There were four early wooden bridges that were associated with the streetcars. The biggest was a high trestle bridge that carried the trolley tracks across a deep valley between Oakwood and Frankfort avenues. It was a "rickety-rackety" affair with a pedestrian walkway on one side. However, adventurous youngsters used to walk across the trestle on the ties and occasionally some brave souls even tried to scale the trestle itself. The bridge was removed and the valley covered with fill between 1938 and 1939. Center Avenue today follows the old bridge's path.

A shorter wooden trestle spanned another valley on Center Avenue, which separated Park Avenue from Heils' Street at the southern end of the bridge. This area was called Blind Station because of its close proximity to the H.L. Blind & Brothers' Nursery, a local landmark on the Perry Highway



1909 Heil Small Wagon



1906 Construction of Martsof Avenue Bridge

since it had been called the Plank Road. This location name also was applied to the second Plank Road tollgate, which was 300 feet northwest of Heils. The bridge was heavily used as it provided access to Perry Highway. According to Borough records, a horse owned by Fred Winters fell through the bridge in June 1912, and was "badly bruised." The bridge was dismantled and the valley filled in about 1926. The "filled in valley" is now the recently constructed track and practice field for Martorelli Stadium.

Two other wooden bridges carried Martsolf and Ridgewood Avenues over the streetcar tracks on Center Avenue. There were steep wooden steps on both sides of the bridges going down to the trolley tracks, which were bordered by mud paths. Both bridges were replaced by concrete structures before 1920.

With the incorporation of the Borough and the opening of West View Park in the early 1900's, the need to link the boroughs of West View and Bellevue increased. This need resulted in the construction of what was originally known as the "Great West View Bridge". Originally just a trolley bridge, it was expand-



Ridgewood Avenue, Bridge in foreground – 1906.

ed later to allow for car traffic. The bridge remained in use until the trolleys were discontinued and then a 'trackless' two-lane bridge, which spanned the valley over I-279, replaced it.

In 1925, the Jack's Run Bridge at the end of Bellevue Road opened and linked West View with the areas of the Northside near Bascom Avenue and Brighton Road.



Unpaved Jamaica Avenue and plank sidewalk – early 1900.

West View's early streets were unpaved dirt tracks that were treacherous mud holes most of the time. The Borough "paved avenues" with bricks laid on sand. It was an improvement, but still left a hole here and a hole there, the forerunners of today's pot-holes.

The Borough also constructed wooden sidewalks but property owners had to maintain them. In the early days of the Borough's organization, inspecting sidewalks was one of the police chief's duties. He was also expected to check on chicken coops and enforce the dog law that was West View's first ordinance.



Richey Hardware, 436 Perry Highway – note highway paved with bricks and sidewalk made of wooden planks – early 1900.



Bellevue-West View Bridge (The Great West View Bridge) supports.



Glenmore Avenue Wooden Plank sidewalks - 1905.



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First Presbyterian Church of West View original church building on Ridgewood - 1943.



North Hills United Presbyterian Church on Bellevue Avenue.

Places of Worship

North Hills United Presbyterian Church

(Formed by the union of The First Presbyterian Church of West View and the West View United Presbyterian Church)
 100 Bellevue Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15229
 412-931-2788

The First Presbyterian Church of West View was organized in August 1904 and held services in the small school at 131 Ridgewood Avenue.

Through the efforts of Fred Martsof, this property and the small land office owned by the Freehold Real Estate Company were donated to the Pittsburgh Presbytery as a site for a new Presbyterian church. The school moved to the Oakwood building September 1905, and ground was broken for the church on Ridgewood Avenue October 17, 1905.

The first church erected in West View was a frame building with a slate roof, a vestibule and choir loft. The 44 charter members of the congregation dedicated the church on December 24, 1905.

The congregation grew rapidly. New families were building homes in West View, which necessitated an addition to the church chancel. January 1914, another addition was added, enlarging the Sunday school quarters. By 1922, a third addition was necessary.

In 1924, a manse was built for use by the church pastors and their families. The next 20 years saw other additions added but eventually the age of the original structure limited further

growth to the building.

In June 1941, the mortgage was paid off, and with a carry over balance of \$58.12, a new building fund was established. The fund grew slowly during the war years but by May 1951, it totaled over \$43,000. Costs to build a new church were estimated to be \$120,000. The building committee ran a fund raising campaign over the next 30 months to raise the \$100,000 needed to begin construction. On June 23, 1957, ground was broken for the new church.

Services were held at the Ross Municipal Building at Center Avenue and Perry Highway during the construction period. The first service in the new church took place on June 9, 1958, with dedication services on June 29. Within a ten-year period, the church members were able to burn the mortgage for this new building.

The West View United Presbyterian Church

The West View United Presbyterian Church organized as a mission in a store building on Perry Highway. The Board of American Missions built a church at 100 Bellevue Avenue in 1928. On November 21st, the church was organized with 71 charter members. Like the First Presbyterian Church of West View, West View United Presbyterian church saw growth and building expansion over the next 65 years. By the early 1990s, support for two separate Presbyterian churches was hard to maintain. On August 1, 1992, the First Presbyterian Church of West View and the West View United Presbyterian Church consolidated to form the North Hills United Presbyterian Church. The new congregation was permanently established

in the church building on Bellevue Avenue. The building on Ridgewood Avenue was sold to the Lutherans and became the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church

305 Ridgewood Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15229
412-931-1674

After the incorporation of West View Borough in 1905, the pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Perrysville realized the need for a Lutheran Church in the new borough. Two odd-sized lots on Ridgewood Avenue and the car-line on Center Avenue were donated for the Lutheran mission. Because the lots were on a steep hillside, a high dry-wall foundation had to be built for the new church. The original stone for the foundation came from the nearby Horseshoe Bend quarry and on a cold and rainy November 5, 1905, the cornerstone was laid for the new Evangelical Lutheran Charity Chapel. On September 17, 1907, with nineteen charter members, the permanent organization of the congregation was established. The name of the church was changed to St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1916.

Catastrophe struck the church on July 4, 1927. While the community celebrated the Fourth at the Bogg's Field picnic, fire-alarm bells rang out. A carelessly tossed firecracker had landed on the



St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church on Ridgewood Avenue.

Fourth of July fire destroys St. Luke's Church on Ridgewood Avenue.



Charity Chapel the original Lutheran congregation church building.

church's dry, wood-shingled roof. By the time, the firefighters arrived from the picnic to fight the blazing fire; most of the church had been destroyed.

The congregation held services temporarily in the West View Junior High School until a new brick building could be constructed. The Good Shepherd window was rescued from the burned ruins and placed above the altar of the new church, which was dedicated on September 9, 1928. This church grew and prospered over the years.

In December 2003, St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church was honored when the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation awarded the church a Historic Landmark Plaque. Plaques are awarded to Allegheny County structures, which are at least 50 years old, remarkable pieces of architecture and impart a rich sense of local history. St. Luke's is the first building in West View to receive this distinguished designation. Formal dedication and presentation of the plaque was done in 2004. The historic designation is a source of pride for St. Luke's congregation and the West View Borough.

West View United Methodist Church

441 Cornell Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15229
412-766-2223

The history of the West View United Methodist Church began in August 1906, with a meeting of eight young people to discuss the future welfare of the community. They decided that a nondenominational Sunday school should be organized. West View Borough was then only a year old, and only about 20 families made up the entire settlement.

At first, the church members met in the home of James Partington at 225 Cornell Avenue (diagonally across the street from the present church). When the membership grew too large to meet at the Partington's home, they moved their meetings, in September 1906, to a rent-free storeroom owned by Fredrick

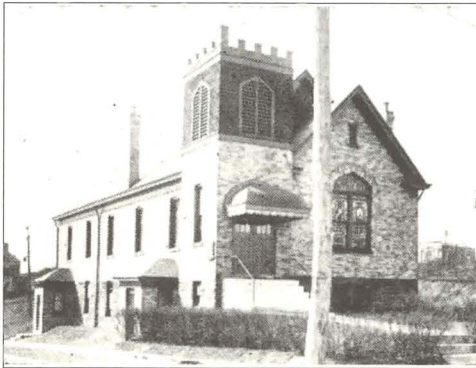
Martsolf. They held services there at 3 p.m. each Sunday for about 14 months. Again, the group grew too large for the room at Martsolf's store, so they rented a room in the No. 2 Fire House located on Stanford and Amherst Avenues. The fire company did not have much equipment, leaving plenty of room for the church members to meet. In February 1908, a Charter was recorded as the East Bellevue Methodist Episcopal Church.

In March 1909, the church purchased two lots across the street from the No. 2 Fire Company. A new church was constructed and the building was dedicated December 1909. This building is the front part of the present church.

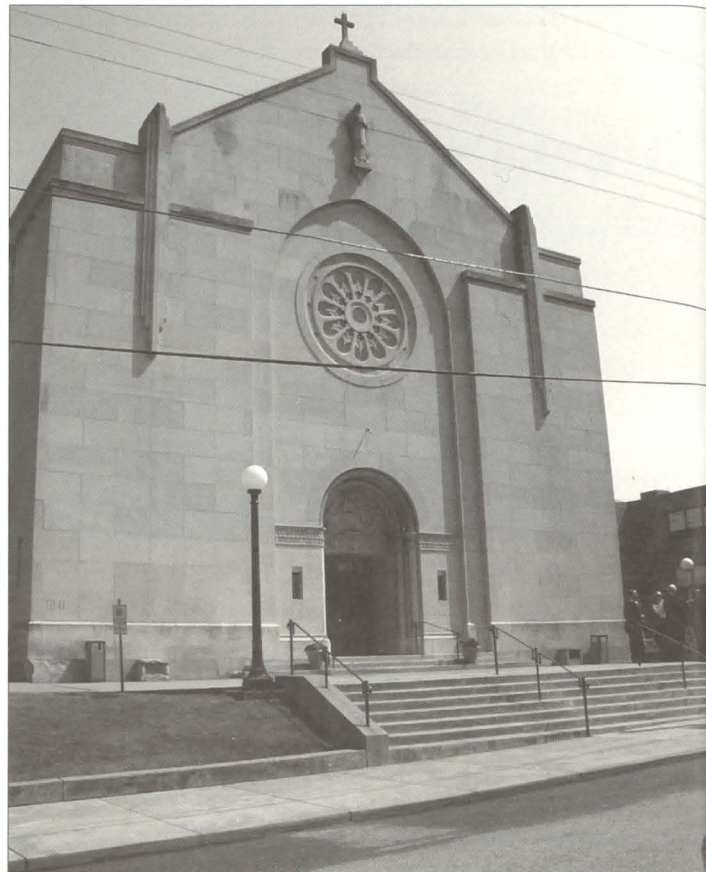
On May 23, 1927, the church's name changed to West View Methodist Episcopal Church and in 1939 the name was shortened to West View Methodist.

This century has been a period of change for the church. The building has been enlarged several times to provide better service to the congregation and the community. In 1956 the most recent and major construction, turned the position of the sanctuary so that the front of the church faced Cornell Avenue instead of Center Avenue. On September 9, 1956, the church was rededicated. The final change in the church's name came in 1968 after the Methodist and United Brethren Churches merged. From then on, the church became known as the West View United Methodist Church.

Over the last century, the church membership has changed in size and composition. What has not changed is the commitment to God and the concern for the community. West View United Methodist Church is proud to be an active participant in the history of West View Borough.



Originally the East Bellevue Methodist Church - 1909.



St. Athanasius Roman Catholic Church on Wentworth Avenue.

St. Athanasius Roman Catholic Church

**10 Wentworth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15229**

In 1905, when the Borough of West View was incorporated, the nearest Catholic Church was Saint Theresa, Perrysville. Catholics living in West View found it difficult to negotiate the two miles to attend Saint Theresa's. The Catholic families residing in West View and nearby Ross Township decided to establish their own place of worship.

Many months were spent in organizing the parish, the hard work was rewarded on July 8, 1907; the Bishop of the Pittsburgh Diocese, the Most Reverend John F.R. Canevin, approved the establishment of Saint Athanasius Parish. The first mass was celebrated July 14, 1907, in a barn owned by Frank J. McManus near the intersection of Bellevue and Chalfonte Avenues.

Anticipating future growth, the members of the Parish decided to build a combination school and church on a plot of ground donated by Fred Schwitter. \$40,000 was needed for the construction. The forty original families of the parish each pledged \$1,000 to the building fund. The church was dedicat-



West View United Methodist Church on Cornell Avenue.

ed on June 6, 1909, and the first classes in the school, staffed by the Benedictine Sisters, began on September 1.

Over the next 50 years, the Borough of West View and the church saw constant growth. The parish quickly outgrew its first church and on May 2, 1943, the current church building was dedicated. A new school was built and dedicated in the fall of 1957.

The year 2005 sees St. Athanasius still as a vital part of the West View community. The original forty member families have grown to almost 1,900 families. The members of St. Athanasius are glad to commemorate the West View Borough Centennial with fond memories and great hopes for the future of the community. The church looks forward to celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2007.

Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Bronx and Highland Avenues
Pittsburgh, PA 15229
412-931-4500*

On June 9, 1928, several families who followed the tenants of the Lutheran church met for worship in a vacant storeroom at 460 Perry Highway West View.

The Lutheran services attracted more families from West View and the surrounding area and the new congregation was incorporated as Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church. In June 1930, the church was officially affiliated with the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, Eastern District.

Land was purchased on the corner of Bronx and Highland Avenues in 1931 and a new church building was constructed. The Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church was dedicated on October 25, 1931.

By the mid-1950's, the congregation had grown enough that it was necessary to enlarge the church. The new church plans involved turning the sanctuary seating a quarter of a turn and making the width of the new addition almost equal to the depth of the original building. This doubled the sizes of the sanctuary and Sunday school and social rooms. In the spring of 1957, the new addition was completed and the church was



Original Athanasius Roman Catholic Church and School facing Chalfont Avenue – circa 1930s.



Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church at Bronx and Highland.

rededicated.

On October 24, 2003, the Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church celebrated its 75th Anniversary as an active and enduring church in West View Borough.

Ridgewood Assembly of God

*131 Ridgewood Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15229*

In 2001, the Allison Park Assembly of God Church desired to create branch locations outside of the main church in Allison Park, which would be more accessible to people in other North Hills areas.

In the West View/Bellevue area, the former site of the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church on Ridgewood Avenue had become available. The property was acquired and on Saturday, September 29, 2001, the Ridgewood Assemble of God Church held its first service in West View.

The church averages 160 people for two services each Sunday,



Ridgewood Assembly of God Church on Ridgewood Avenue.

and it is still growing. Programs include a Children's Ministry, a Youth Ministry and a variety of small groups that meet at the Church and in people's homes. It is an active congregation, with a desire to have an influential roll in the borough.

OCCUPANTS OF 131 RIDGEWOOD AVENUE

1901-1904: Offices of the Freehold Realty Company
 1904- 1905: The First School in West View Borough
 1905-1992: First Presbyterian Church of West View
 1992-2001: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
 2001- Present: Ridgewood Assembly of God



Bronze plaque on the north wall of the Ridgewood Assembly of God commemorating the first school in West View.

A Bronze plaque on the North wall of the church reads:

"On this site the first school of West View opened November 1904 in the converted real estate office where the First Presbyterian Church of West View now stands. In this one room, Elizabeth Boal conducted classes for all eight grades. Thirty-nine pupils were enrolled for the six months term – the school closing April 1905. At that time, the street-cars ran only as far as Horse Shoe

Bend. There was no water system in the school: the larger boys carrying the water from a pump on Dr. Atkinson's property. Two Reznor stoves heated the building and an old-fashioned organ was used for school purposes during the week and church services on Sunday afternoons. For her forty-five dollar monthly salary, the teacher also did the janitor work with the assistance of some of the larger boys. The Oakwood School was built and two rooms ready for occupancy in September of 1905."

West View Ministerium

In the mid-1980s, the clergymen of the churches located in West View Borough began to meet several times a year to share ideas, information and programming about their various churches.

The clergy also decided that, at least once a year it would be a good idea to unite all of the congregations together for



Cornerstone Church on Bellevue Road, Ross Township 2005.

a Community Unity Service Of Faith, with the location of the service rotating each year amongst the churches. All of the clergy and some lay people from each congregation participated in the service and a combined choir of all the church choirs sang several anthems.

On July 10, 2005, the West View Ministerium will conduct a Community Choirfest at St. Athanasius Catholic Church that will be the initial event to begin the official West View Centennial Celebrations.

Churches in the Ministerium are:

West View Borough:

Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church
 North Hills United Presbyterian Church
 Ridgewood Assembly of God
 St. Athanasius Catholic Church
 St. Luke's Lutheran Church
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church (1992-2001)
 West View United Methodist Church

Ross Township:

Christ Lutheran
 Cornerstone Church
 Faith Lutheran Church

Everybody's Mission

**324 Ridgewood Avenue
 West View**

Everybody's Mission opened its doors on January 18, 1911. The mission's headquarters was located at 210 Third Avenue, downtown Pittsburgh and services were later held at the old Baptist Church building on Fourth Avenue and Ross Street. An undertaking of the Mission was to provide shelter for poor and homeless people.

The directors of the Mission rented 18-20 acres of farmland and 8-room house in Carrick to shelter men. In April of the same year, a home at 324 Ridgewood Avenue and 13-acres of farmland in West View was obtained to house women and girls. On May 7, 1911, a 27-room home at 17 Kenova Street, Mt. Washington was dedicated and opened for women and young girls. The women's shelters were for "homeless women, women who have sinned and wish to reform and girls of the city who have no friends and no place to go for shelter and sympathy."



Everybody's Mission



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Owner: Mary Holtgraver

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Sat.
10am - 3 pm

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ON "100 YEARS" OF SERVICE TO ITS COMMUNITY

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Dennis Simon, First Vice President - East Pittsburgh
Pete Poninsky, Second Vice President - Leetsdale
John Ferris, Jr., Third Vice President - Baldwin
Dave Becki, Treasurer - Etna
M. Richard Dunlap - Executive Secretary
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Owners: Bruce & Janet Fromlak



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Ridgewood Assembly of God Church with plaque for first School



Ridgewood Apartments, formerly Ridgewood School.

Schools

One Room School House

The first public elementary school in West View Borough was located at 131 Ridgewood Avenue in a one-room structure that previously had been the office of the Freehold Real Estate Company. The school was under the supervision of the Ross Township School Board. Teacher Elizabeth Boal conducted classes for 39 students in the little building from November 1904 to April 1905. Her \$45 monthly salary included janitorial duties such as tending the two Reznor stoves that heated the school. There was no indoor plumbing so it was the job of the older students to carry water from Dr. Dan Atkinson's home on the corner of Oakwood and Center avenues.

Ridgewood School

With the formation of the new Borough and a school board of its own, a bond issue was floated for \$8,500 to build a school. The Freehold Real Estate Company, agents for the Allegheny-Bellevue Land Company, presented the Borough with several lots on Oakwood Avenue. The Oakwood School, a four room brick building, was opened on Monday evening, October 2, 1905. At first only two rooms were occupied. Miss. Elizabeth Boal and Miss Dunn were the teachers. A third room



Highland Apartments, formerly Highland School.

was opened in 1906 with Mr. C.D. Coffey as principal and Mrs. Ella Carroll and Miss Elizabeth Boal as assistants. Early in 1907, Principal Coffey left and was succeeded by Miss Kittie Spence.

In 1918 the Ridgewood School building was added to the Oakwood School.

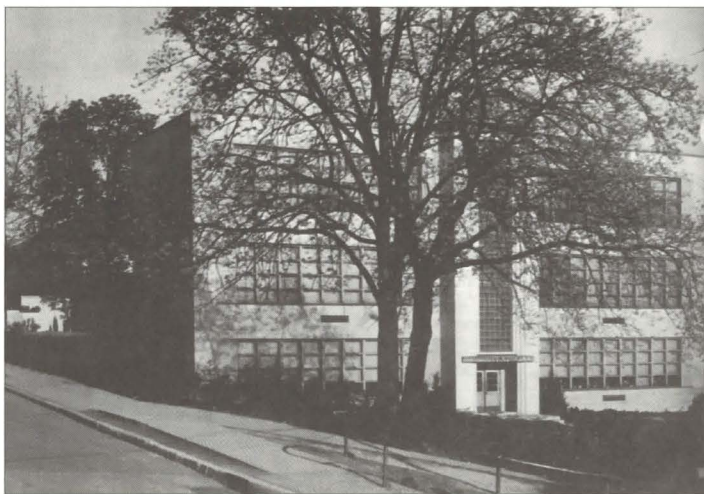
Highland School

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 were built of yellow brick at the corner of Highland and Columbia Avenues. The Highland School was dedicated, Friday, October 8, 1909.

Early in 1912 there was a movement promoted to put piano and vocal lessons, manual training and home economics in the schools. Such projects were fostered and pushed with considerable gusto by a group of women who formed the Highland Mothers' Club in November of 1912, with a membership of 60. On October 21, 1913, the Home and School Association was formed, and working closely with the county schools, succeeded in bringing many innovations. Through their



Oakwood Apartments, formerly Oakwood School.



West View Junior High School at the corner of Chalfonte Avenue and Perry Highway, on the site of the old Donegal Inn.

efforts, the first summer playground program in the history of West View was opened at the Highland School in July of 1914.

Instead of paying for the addition of a gymnasium at the Highland School by taxation, the Highland Home and School Association created a special fund and held fundraisers. Through the labor of the men and women of the Borough, the basement of the school was dug out and a gymnasium was constructed. The new gymnasium was dedicated on April 2, 1921.

West View Junior/Senior High School

As the Borough grew, the schools became more and more crowded, particularly Highland School. In March of 1923 the Highland Homes and School Association went on record as favoring the erection of a junior high school. The students of the Borough were paying tuition to go to Latimer and Bellevue High schools. Their dream came true on April 18, 1925, when construction began for the new West View Junior High School at the corner of Chalfonte Avenue and Perry Highway, on the site of the old Donegal Inn. This new junior high school was



Martorelli Stadium setting up for 2005 Commencement.

one of the first in the country to house grades 7, 8 and 9.

After students completed the ninth grade, the school district paid their tuition to attend high school at Perry, Oliver or Bellevue High schools. In February 1934, a tenth grade was added and the Junior High then housed grades 7 through 10.

On April 1, 1934, a \$125,000 bond issue was approved for additions to West View Junior High School for grades 11 and 12. By August 31, 1937, the addition was completed for grade 11, by 1938 classrooms for grade 12 were added. The name of the school was officially changed to the West View Senior High School in 1938. The first graduating class of new West View Senior High school held their graduation exercises for the 120 seniors in 1939.



McCurry Field House 2005.

West View High School Field/North Hills Field

In 1939, plans were drawn up and construction of West View High School Field, off of old Perry Highway (behind Heil's Garage) began. The area was leveled for a football field. The W.P.A. started work on the field in 1940, but work was stopped when World War II began.

Construction continued again in 1949. Drawings for the field house were complete and eight telephone poles were installed for lights. The field house was completed for the 1950-51 school year. The field name was changed from West View High School Field to North Hills Field and changed again in 1968-69 to Martorelli Field for North Hills' football coach, Mario Martorelli.

In 1969, the district renovated the stadium with new bleachers and updated track. Fill was added to the low areas and became the practice and track fields. Big improvements were made to the football field in 2000. \$9.5 million was spent on the renovations. In 2003 the Field House was renamed McCurry Field House in honor of football coach John McCurry.



North Hills Intermediate High School. Built in 1958 as a Senior High School.

North Hills School Jointure

In 1948, Pennsylvania was moving toward larger, merged school districts. In July, West View and Ross formed the North Hills School Jointure, with a single system administration and operation but two separate school boards. The two school boards met as an operating board. Dr. R.S. Rice became Supervising Principal and Mr. Paynter served as assistant.

North Hills Joint Schools was composed of eight elementary schools, a junior high at Samuel Hamilton and the West View Senior High.

North Hills Senior High School

By 1957, enrollment at the senior high had climbed to 917 students, and plans were well under way for the construction of a new high school. A 34-acre parcel of land known as the Heim Farm became the site for a \$2.8 million facility. Shortages in steel and delays in delivery of construction materials along with labor disputes bogged down construction;



North Hills Senior High School. Built in 1972.

however, by September 8, 1958, the academic sections were completed and students and staff entered their new home. The 42-room school housed grades 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Finishing touches for the new high school were completed by January 1959, and six days of dedication activities followed. The new building, sometimes referred to as the Rice building, was dedicated to Dr. Ralph S. Rice, who had served as supervising principal from 1949-1957.

That same year the high school opened its doors to an Adult Education Program, which attracted 274 participants who paid a refundable \$5 fee for eight-session courses. The most popular classes were sewing and oil painting.

In 1962, school officials thought it was important to send a community message regarding clothing and grooming regulations. Drawing on what they believed to be "a definite connection between dress and behavior," their observations stated: "We have found, for example, that students whose grooming and dress deviate from the acceptable norm are those who challenge authority and precipitate trouble in classrooms, corridors, cafeterias and on buses. In contrast, those students dressed like ladies and gentlemen behave like ladies and gentlemen." Hence, girls were not permitted to wear slacks, shorts or tight sweaters, and boys were not allowed to wear heavy boots, unless they were overshoes. "Extreme deviations" in hairstyles, Levis, and "any current fad of uniformity" were prohibited.

On the academic front, modern mathematics entered classrooms and even parents were invited to become schooled in the new math, which was designed to provide "more interesting, more stimulating, more meaningful, and more useful mathematical experiences." In 1964, 371 parents throughout the district took classes in the new math.

Jointure Ends – North Hills School District Begins

On July 1, 1965, the North Hills Joint Schools officially ended and was renamed the North Hills School District, and soon thereafter, the need for expansion became evident. In 1967, 91 new professional employees were hired. Enrollment was growing annually at a rate of 5 percent, and senior classes were approaching the 900 mark. To accommodate the enrollment surge, a new North Hills Intermediate High School welcomed 1,600 students in grades eight and nine from the overcrowded Rice Building in 1972. The Intermediate School was dedicated to Dr. Victor E. Morrone (Director of Elementary Education and Assistant Superintendent of Schools).

In 1970, A.W. Beattie Vocational-Technical School on Babcock Boulevard in Ross Township opened to students in North Hills School District.

1983's declining enrollments prompted a consolidation plan. North Hills Intermediate High School was converted into the North Hills Senior High School, housing grades 10-12. The old senior high became the junior high school, housing grades 7-9.

After a long hard battle from the people of West View, Ridgewood, Oakwood and Highland Elementary Schools were closed in 1983. Children were moved to the West View



North Hills School District's West View Elementary—the only public school still located in West View Borough.

Junior High School which had been converted to an elementary school. Highland and Ridgewood-Oakwood Schools were sold and became apartment buildings.

The West View Recreation Board leased Ridgewood from the North Hills School District. In 1983, a day care opened in the building. Recreational programs for children of all ages were held. A library was also opened and staffed with volunteers. The utility bills became too high and the building was not used enough, so ownership of the building was returned to the school district in May 1986. The Ridgewood building was eventually sold and is an apartment building.

Current Enrollment and Mission Statement

North Hills School District's total enrollment for the 2004 school year was 4,783 (2,196 elementary students and 2,587 secondary students).

The mission of the district is to provide each student with the educational opportunities needed to achieve maximum potential as a positive, contributing member of society. This is accomplished through widely ranging academic offerings that incorporate computer components and integrate differ-



St. Athanasius Catholic School. This is the back view of the building, which shows the structure of the original school.

ent subjects to make learning more successful and relevant to students. Because North Hills emphasizes the development of the whole student, it also offers an extensive and diversified array of activities and clubs as well as numerous programs that offer student assistance and support.

St. Athanasius School

In 1908, the charter members of the St. Athanasius Parish decided to erect a combination school and church on a plot of ground bounded by Chalfonte, Ashford, and Wentworth Avenues. The land was a gift of the Schwitter family and the \$40,000 building fund was raised by the original forty church members, who each contributed \$1,000. The school opened on September 1, 1909, with classes being taught by the Benedictine Sisters.

As the Borough's population grew, so did the need for a new school building. On September 15, 1957, the new school, which accommodated 346 students, was dedicated. In 2005, St. Athanasius School has a total enrollment of 130 students. Three hundred students from grade school through high school also participate in religious education programs.

Richard J. Szwaczkowski
President



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West View, PA

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West View Borough

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Branch Manager / AVP
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St. Luke's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

305 Center Avenue

412-931-1674

98 Years

1907 - 2005

"The Heart of West View"



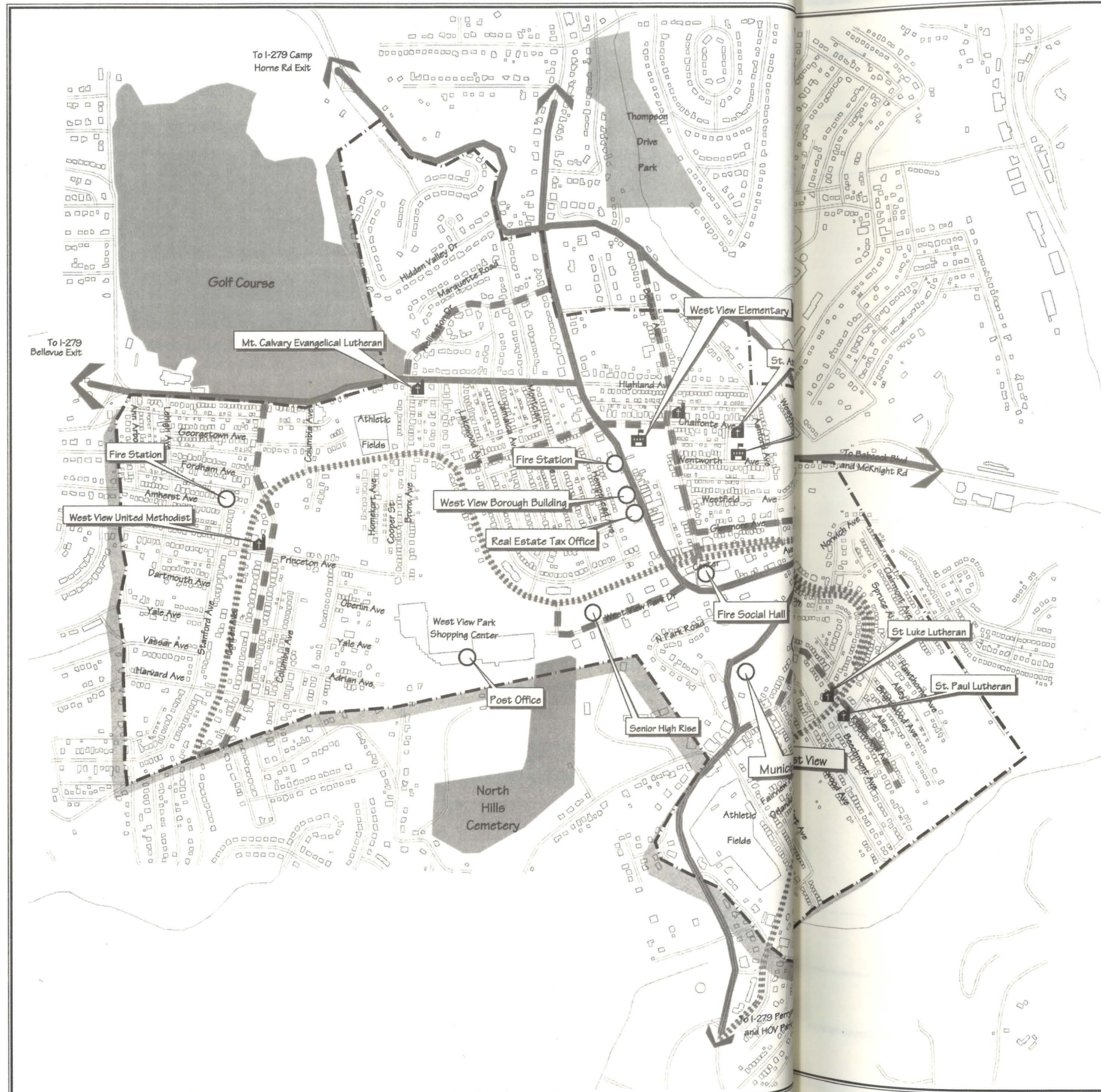
St. Luke Lutheran Church
West View, Pa. 1907-2005
L.O. Nielsen

**The only building in West View
with the Pittsburgh Historical
Landmark Designation**

HOWARD'S TAVERN

98 Center Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15229

412-931-5431



Legend

- Municipal Boundary
- School
- Church
- Public Facility
- Roads
- Arterial
- - - Major Collector
- Minor Collector
- Local Road

PASHEK
ASSOCIATES

Borough of West View

Historic & Cultural Resources Inventory

12/10/01



Base information used to produce this map was provided by the Borough of West View. Information gathered through field observation was then added. Additional sources of information are noted in the legend.

Exhibit #
Draft

© Pashek Associates

West View



The advertisement features a circular logo on the left with the text "FRANK Schrim AUTO BODY" in a stylized font. To the right of the logo is a black and white photograph of a two-story building, likely the auto body shop, with a sign that reads "Schrim".

Frank Schrim
owner

515 Perry Hwy.
West View, PA 15229

(412) 931-2224
fax: 931-0321

email: f.schrim@att.net.

Congratulations on your
100th Anniversary

BOYLE CARPET SERVICE INC.

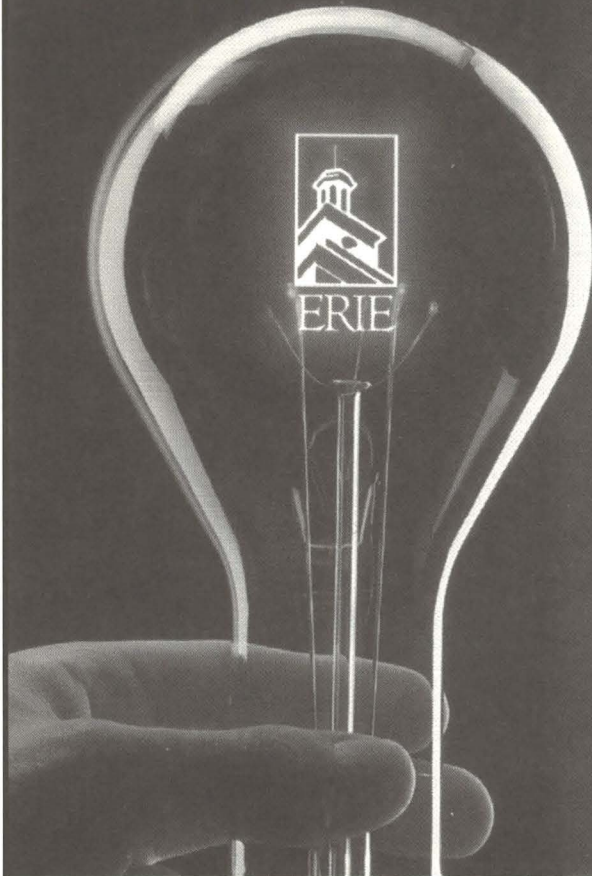
5300 Perrysville Road



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ERIE INSURANCE GROUP



Congratulations to
West View Borough
on your
100th Year.

West View Park

The West View Shopping Center stands on the site of what was once one of the most popular amusement parks in the Pittsburgh Area.

The idea of an amusement park in West View was conceived by Theodore Marshall Harton ("Marsh"), a native of the east end of Pittsburgh who grew up in Sharpsburg next door to H.J. Heinz. Harton, an enterprising young man, began selling eggs around town from a horse and buggy and later entered the produce business in Liberty Market. Constantly on the go, in 1893, Harton found himself working on the newly introduced Ferris wheel at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. His experience and excitement over the possibilities he saw at the World's Fair inspired him to start his own business building carousels, coasters, Ferris wheels and fun houses. His amusement park ride business became so successful that he was able to consign his rides to other parks and design and run



Theodore M. Harton, founder of West View Park.

amusement parks of his own.

In 1905, at the age of 42, T.M. Harton found a parcel of land on which to build an amusement park in the newly formed Borough of West View. He and his business associate, Fred Henninger, entered into a \$3,000 per year, 10-year lease with the Allegheny-Bellevue Land Company for 18.42 acres of land at the end of the Bellevue West View trolley line.

At the turn of the century, the automobile was still a novelty. The trolley was the primary source of travel for the suburban commuter during the work-

week. Trolley companies were charged a flat monthly fee for electricity to run their trolleys. It did not matter how much or how little the trolley was used, the price of electricity was the same. The trolleys had very few riders on the weekends, so in order to generate more business during these slow periods,



1906 West View Street Car (Dips shown in background).



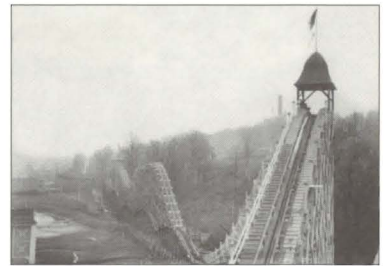
West View Park's valley required pedestrian bridges to get from place to place.

trolley companies built picnic and amusement parks at the end of the line to encourage weekend rider ship.

On March 7, 1906, Theodore Harton, Fred Henninger, 4 other business associates and another member of Harton's family, formed a corporation called the West View Park Company.

They immediately began work on the new amusement park. The land they had leased in the new Borough was in a narrow valley and was virtually a swamp. Harton dammed up the small stream on the property and created a 5-acre lake, which he called Lake Placid. The narrow valley needed to be widened to make it usable as an amusement park and the hilly terrain made building bridges necessary to connect the different sections of the park.

Although the trolley company did not build West View Park, the Pittsburgh Railways Company benefited by the park's location at the end of the Bellevue Loop. They spent nearly \$200,000 to erect a terminal facility, power station and tunnel under the track to the park's entrance. They advertised the one fare ride to West View Park as a scenic trip, free from the smoke and grime of the city, through some of the most beautiful sections of the North Side. On its way to and from Allegheny City and Pittsburgh the trolley would pass Knoedler & Moeller's old Grist Mill and Cider Press, the



1910 Construction of Dip the Dips. Lake was drained to run the track through part of the lakebed.



View of the lake and the Dips set in the hills and trees.

Keating House on Perry Highway, and the famous Horseshoe Curve.

Spending nearly a quarter of a million dollars to build his new venture, Harton opened West View Park for its first season on May 23, 1906. The grand opening was celebrated with great fanfare. The public was dazzled by Nirella's Fourteenth Regiment Band, brilliant electric lights, ornate building facades and a fireworks display on the shore of the lake.

To keep the country feeling of the park, Harton kept as many trees as possible. An advertising slogan for the park became "The Park of 1,000 Trees." The first season of West View Park was very successful, booking over 100 picnics and school groups.

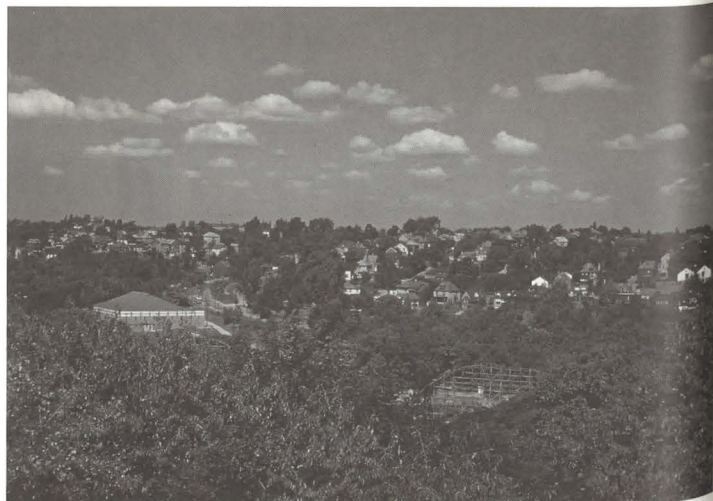
The people of the new Borough met the Park with mixed feelings. Many of the residents resented the loud noise and the crowds of rowdy patrons. After much compromise, the park agreed to keep the roller coaster and the flying horse in operation only on alternate Sundays; the shooting gallery and dance hall would remain closed on those days also. Additional park police were hired to keep the park patrons within the park property.

During the early 1900's, at the height of the trolley park era, many Pittsburgh area parks competed for the amusement park patrons. Among these parks were: Kennywood (West Mifflin), Southern (Carrick), Calhoun (Lincoln Place), Oakwood (at Crafton), Dream City (Wilkinsburg), Coney Island (Neville Island) and Luna Park (Oakland section of Pittsburgh).

In 1910, Lake Placid was drained in order to construct the new \$25,000 roller coaster through a portion of the lake. The West View roller coaster was the first coaster built in Pennsylvania with tracks plunging 50 feet deep. In 1912, the ride was called "the \$50,000 Leap-the-Dips." A revolutionary new design for an under friction roller coaster was invented, permitting roller coasters to travel faster and reach new heights. The West View Dips were recontoured in 1929 to take advantage of this new technology.



Watching the boats on Lake Placid in front of the Dips 1910.



Long-range view of the park and Borough.



Above: Miniature golf in the park. At right: At Countour Miniature Golf Score Card



In 1915, the West View Park Company bought out the lease from the Allegheny-Bellevue Land Company. The park continued to add acreage, parking lots and rides through the 1950's.

During a trip to Ohio in February 1919, T.M. Harton caught the flu and died three weeks later in his home in Shadyside. The West View Park Company was willed to his brother George and his two sisters, Olive Harton Jones and Jessie S. Beares. After George's death in 1920, Olive Harton Jones bought out the shares of T.M. Harton's widow, Laura Barker Harton, incorporated the T.M. Harton Company and became its new President.



1960's Midway with Alpine Sky Ride.

The 1920's saw great improvements and additions to the West View Park. A new midway, Racing Whippet roller coaster and the largest dance hall in Pennsylvania were added. Dancing became very popular during the late 20's and up to 3,500 dancers crowded the Dance Pavilion.

The stock market crash and the Great Depression during the

late 20's and early 30's caused the closing of many amusement parks in America, but West View Park was able to hang on and weather these lean years. The Talkie Temple was opened at this time and free movies were shown every Saturday night. During the '30s and '40s, KDKA, WWSW, and KQV radio broadcast live music from West View's ballroom. The income from dances held at the Ballroom earned more money than all other attractions in the park. The old ballroom was remodeled in 1947 and reopened as Danceland in



Above: Opening of Band Stand Shell in 1909, forerunner of Talkie Temple. Below: The Talkie Temple in 1955.



Entrance to KiddieLand, 1955.

1948, with neon lights and air conditioning.

World War II, in 1941, hit the amusement park industry hard. The country was on a rationing program and the amusement parks were at the bottom of the list to receive the needed materials to repair existing rides or purchase new rides.

During the war years, labor was short because either the men were in the military or working in the defense industry, so women took over the traditional male jobs at the park. Gasoline was rationed but the trolleys continued to run and the park continued to operate. Amusement parks offered a diversion from the war and all servicemen in uniform were admitted to the park free of charge.

Olive Harton Jones died in 1945 and control of West View



Above: Danceland, a busy Saturday night in 1948. At right: Open Air Dance Pavilion, 1910.



Dance crowd, waiting in line to enter Danceland, 1948.

Park passed into the hands of George M. Harton III. George was the nephew of T.M. Harton.

After the War, the baby boomer generation came of age and crowded the Kiddieland rides. The next 20-years were the "Golden Age" for attendance and profits for the parks. West View Park was able to keep up with the competition by adding new attractions each year and maintaining the parks appearance.

During the 1960's and 70's public and parochial school populations began to decline and smaller school districts consolidated into larger districts. Competition for these limited school picnics heated up between Kennywood and West View Park.



June 21, 1972 Hurricane Agnes wrecked havoc on the Eastern States. The view of the flooded Midway in West View Park.



Burned ruins of the Dips.



Danceland burns, October 3, 1973.



Unburned sections of the Dips, bulldozed.



The Park, dismantled

Danceland was destroyed by fire on October 3, 1973 and many memories went with it. The park owners decided not to rebuild Danceland. They collected the insurance proceeds but chose not to reinvest the money in park improvements and upgrades.

Many factors played a part in the demise of West View Park. After the death of George M. Harton III, the park's control was left to George's mother, Mrs. A.E. Kountz, who was in her 80s. Without the Harton family's hands-on management, necessary changes in the day-to-day operations were not made. The amusement industry was changing dramatically. Theme parks were opening and new and more spectacular rides were introduced. West View Park's small narrow valley restricted it from expanding. The competition between Kennywood and West View Park for the declining number of school picnics became intense. With the dwindling crowds, West View was unable to generate the funds necessary to reinvest in the park and advertise. The park closed its doors for its final season on Labor Day 1977.

When T.M. Harton Company voted to close the park and sell it, there were no takers. The park sat empty from 1977 until August of 1980. The park's structures were dismantled and the narrow, 60-acre valley that was once a thriving amusement park was transformed into a mid-sized shopping center at a cost of \$20-22 million. The former midway is now home to fast food restaurants, a senior citizen high-rise, apartments, retail shops, and the West View Post Office.

If you are interested in reading more about West View Park, a book by Charles J. Jacques, Jr., titled Goodbye West View Park Goodbye is available for \$24.95 plus postage and handling from Amusement Park Journal, PO Box 478, Jefferson, OH 44047-0478 (440) 576-6531.

The 132-page book is large format (8-1/2 by 11 inches), soft cover. There are 198 black-and-white illustrations, including photos of roller coasters both in West View Park (The Dips, Racing Whippet, Greyhound, Speed-O-Plane, Figure eight and Kiddie Dips) and others built by the T.M. Harton Co. also, a number of pictures of the West View carousel and the Conneaut Lake Carousel. Many of the pictures in this article are courtesy of the Charles J. Jacques, West View Park Photographic collection, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.



West View Park entrance sign, 1955. West View Park Shopping Center entrance sign.



West View Shopping Center shops, Giant Eagle.



West View Shopping Center shops, K-Mart.



West View Shopping Center shops looking towards Perry Highway.



West View Towers – senior citizens' high-rise.



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Norma Singer

DISTRICT FOUR

Joe Froehlich
Becky Roney

DISTRICT SEVEN

Gary Punzak
Lisa Punzak



First annual community celebration held at Boggs Field held July 4, 1924.

Parks and Recreation

In the early days of the Borough, the existing churches in the community organized most of the recreational activities. As the number of schools grew, so did school related activities and programs.

The first organized team in the Borough was an independent football team begun under the support and direction of the Keown Club and Paul Muzzio. In 1913, a group of people interested in tennis formed a tennis club and built the Borough's first tennis court on Chalfonte Avenue across the street from St. Athanasius Church. By 1914, the Highland School Mothers' Club had formed and then became the driving force behind the establishment of the first summer playground program, in July. By 1916, this group had the influence to insure that a gymnasium was added to Highland School and that regular gym classes became part of the curriculum.

In the 1920s, the first of what would become several Borough fields and parklets began with the establishment of Boggs Field, the source of the field's name has roots in one of the original families to settle Allegheny County. Initially the land to the north side of Highland Avenue was designated as the site of the Benedictine Catholic Convent. A foundation had been dug in preparation for the building, but it never materialized at that site. The foundation filled with water during the winter months and the local children used it for ice-skating.

Boggs became a community park with a



1930s Independent Football Team managed by Paul Muzzio.

baseball field. It was the location of many Fourth of July family picnics, which included races, games and fireworks. In 1935, it was the site of the first Borough Halloween parade; a tradition revived and continues today. Boggs remained in existence until 1935, when the Wellington Heights plan and part of Highland Country Club constructions began.

In 1942, after the Borough offices moved to the Schwitter mansion, clay tennis courts were constructed on the lower portion of the Perry Highway property. The courts were paved in 1972, but replaced by a playground and basketball courts in the early 1990s.

Property purchased by the Borough from the Simon estate in 1954 became the Bronx Field. Swings were added to the

park in 1957. From 1964-70 part of the field was lined and flooded during the winter and used for ice-skating. For many years, the field was the location of the annual Fireman's Carnival. In 1965, engineers from the Nike site off of Gass Road helped to build and install an official baseball field with permanent bases, dugouts and bleachers. Lights were added to the field in 1973.

Even before the field was formally built, Bronx was a regular playing site for the West View/Ross Little League teams. This league was started in 1947 by the Kiwanis Club. Twenty-five boys were the first members of the original league. Today, Bronx Field is used for boys and girls little leagues, adult league games and for the increasingly popular sport of soccer. A



The Perry Highway Parklet Gazebo and playground. The gazebo is used for special picnics and parties.

steep hill at the back of the field rises to Highland Avenue and makes for an exceptional sled-riding course for all of the neighborhood children.

In 1952, a Recreation Board was established by Borough council and laid the groundwork for what would become community sponsored recreational activities and new parklets.

The first parklet was located at the end of Frankfort Avenue. This parklet was situated so low in the gully that parents did not like it because it was hard to get to and difficult to supervise their children. The parklet fell into disuse because of these problems and it was dismantled. The Borough is providing fill to this site in hopes that another parklet will someday return for the neighborhood children.

In March 1972, a second Recreation Board was established and plans from the original board realized. The Borough built parklets throughout the community including one on Perry Highway at the site of the old tennis courts. The Perry Highway site has expanded to include a playground, basketball courts and a gazebo. The gazebo is used for picnics, parties and other special occasions. Additional parklets for the community's enjoyment were built on Columbia and Glenmore Avenues and one on Armon Alley (behind Martsolf Avenue). Hawthorne, the newest parklet built in 1993, slid over the hill during a torrential rainstorm on August 11, 1994. The new playground equipment was removed and the land was evaluated and deemed too unstable to support any construction. The Hawthorne parklet was never rebuilt. Remaining parklets were updated in 1990.

Borough sponsored activities and programs have included a midget football team; a basketball league (which won the North Hills Athletic Conference Championship in 1974), a bowling team at Swartz's, teen programs and dances, roller skating at the Gerard Theater, ice skating in West View Park and Bronx Field, and the ongoing Summer Recreation Program located at West View Elementary School. This summer recreation program originated at Highland and Ridgewood Schools.

In 1983, the Borough leased the closed Ridgewood Avenue School from the school district and used it as a community cen-



Columbia Avenue Parklet, 2005



1973 Bronx Field with newly installed lights.



Sled riding hill at Bronx Field, 2005.



North Hills Athletic Conference Championship Basketball Team 1974, coached by George Radimaker.



Mayor Powell, Mrs. Farley, Mrs. Grupp and Councilwoman Mary Kay Bernhard at the Farley Parklet dedication on June 1, 1977.



Farley Parklet located on Armon Alley (behind Martsof Avenue).

ter, with a daycare, programs for children and a small lending library. Lack of funding and high utility bills forced the Borough to discontinue the community center in 1986. The Ridgewood School reverted back to district ownership.

Lacking a community library, Alice Fehl worked with Carnegie Library to place and maintain West View as a regular bookmobile stop. Through her hard work and dedication, this was accomplished. When the bookmobile services transferred from Carnegie Library control to the Allegheny County Library Association (ACLA), bookmobile service was continued through the financial support of the Borough. Bi-weekly community stops are made in the West View Shopping Center's parking lot, and once a month the bookmobile makes a stop at the West View Towers, senior citizens high-rise.

A bus, purchased in 1977, provided rides to local shopping centers for the Borough's senior citizens and used for the summer recreation program's field trips. This rider support program is still active today and in 2000 purchased a new trolley bus. The 32nd Annual Halloween Parade, held in October promises to be one of the best local Halloween Parades.

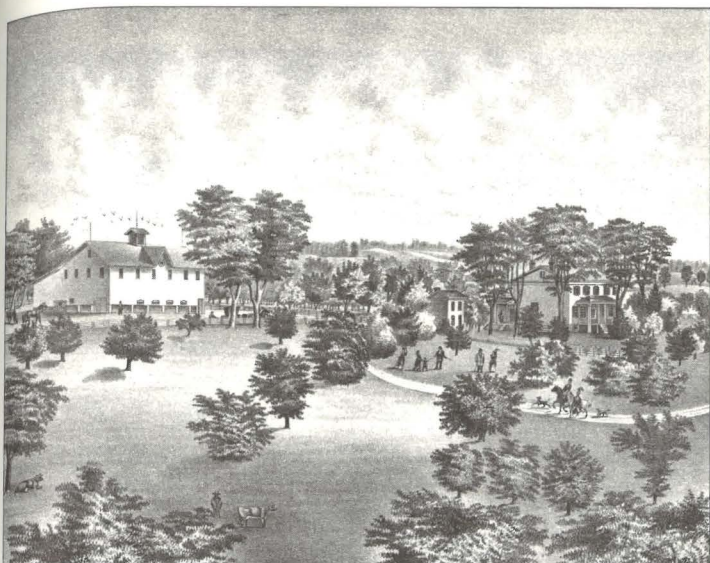
A permanent line item in the budget provides for Borough sponsored recreation programs and parks. These funds supply the support needed for the current activities, programs and parklets as well as provide the finances needed for future development of recreational programs and parks.



Allegheny County Library Association Bookmobile making its biweekly stop at the West View Park Center.



West View Trolley Bus purchased by the Borough in 2002.



Reel Hall, home of Casper Reel (1792) and current location of club house for Highland Country Club.



Highland Country Club 2005 Former site of Reel Hall.

Highland Country Club

Today, when we think of Highland Country Club, we consider it part of West View, when in fact, the only portion of the Club that actually falls within the boundaries of the Borough is the eastern corner of the Number 2 hole.

Highland Country Club has a long and successful history. It started out with members from the Brighton Country Club who had been playing golf for almost eight years on the old site of the Allegheny Country Club. Due to extensive real estate development in the area, the Brighton Country Club merged with the Bellevue Club and later was known as the Neville Club. The Highland Country Club is an outgrowth of these clubs.

Highland Country Club is located on what was once the Reel Farm. This historic property has had only three owners since the Indians, William Penn, the Reel Family and Highland Country Club.

Casper Reel, Sr. obtained this property as a benefit from an Act passed by the Legislature on April 4, 1792. This Act put up for sale all unoccupied land located in the Douglas' District of the Depreciation Lands for the fixed price of \$20 per hundred acres.

Casper staked off a large acreage, surveying the lines himself. He acquired 727 acres and 6% allowance for roads and improvements bringing his total acreage around 776 acres. This land was divided into two plats for which he obtained warrants in 1810 and 1811. He obtained patents to these plats in 1813 and 1814. His property comprised the western fifth of the Borough of West View, West View Park, Highland Golf Course, the Gass Plan, and onto the Township line.



Original section of "Reel Hall".

Casper Reel, Sr. died October 10, 1824, and buried in the family burial ground on his farm. The site is marked just beside the Number 18 tee. His wife, Elizabeth Wise Reel, died August 1843 and is buried beside him. Also buried in the Reel family burial grounds are their infant daughter and three sons, Daniel, Jacob and William, a sister-in-law and a black serving girl.

Highland Country Club negotiated the purchase of 117? acres of Reel property in 1919 through the Orphans Court following the death of Almatia (Alle) Reel (Casper Reel, Sr.'s granddaughter). The purchase price for the acreage, Reel Hall, 2 tenant homes and 2 barns was \$40,300.

After the purchase of the property, the name changed



The Number 2 green is the only section of Highland Country Club that is located in West View Borough. This area is also the former site of Boggs Field.

from the Neville Club to Highland Country Club and work began on the construction of an 18-hole golf course. In 1920, Mr. Lagerblade of Youngstown, Ohio, and Emil "Dutch" Loeffler from Oakmont designed and supervised the building the course and greens. The club opened for play on July 3, 1920. The first President of the Club was "Bill" Murphy and the first pro was Dave MacKay.

The original Club House was built on the highest point on the property, near the old tennis court, and is now the Number 12 Tee. The clubhouse was built at the cost of approximately \$4,500. The old Reel Hall, on its old location near the present Number 8 green, was used as a locker room. The club later moved the house to its present location and is now an important part of the Club House. The date on the transom of Reel Hall is 1792, the date that Casper Reel settled in Ross Township. This transom is located west side of the clubhouse.

Since the golf course's original plan in 1920, there have been several renovations and design changes. A few of the architects involved in these changes include; J.G Harrison, Edmund B. Ault and Ferdinand Garbin.

In the early days, there was a wide-open field along the eastern part Highland Avenue known as Boggs' Field.

In 1934, this field was divided up to provide an expansion to the golf course with the remainder developed into a plan of homes called Wellington Heights.

Under the excellent leadership of capable and sincere men and women, the club draws members from all over the city. It has expanded its facilities and improved its grounds, making it one of the outstanding Country Clubs in the Pittsburgh Area.



Original "Reel Hall" stained glass transom, preserved at Highland Country Club.



Casper Reel, Sr. died October 10, 1824, and was buried in the family burial ground on his farm, the site is marked just beside the Number 18 tee. His wife, Elizabeth Wise Reel, died August 1843 and was buried beside him. Also buried in the Reel family burial grounds are their infant daughter and three sons, Daniel, Jacob and William, a sister-in-law and a black serving girl.



Reel Family Gravesite, Highland Country Club, 2005.



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Borough Council

Frederick Christian Martsolf is considered the Father of West View. He came to the West View area in the early 1900s and realized this would be a great place where he could create a community away from the dirt, smoke and noise of the city. The rolling hills of farms and dairies were situated just outside of the smoke line (smoke, dirt and noise of the steel mills) but still close enough for the citizens to commute.



Fred Martsolf, "The Father of West View"

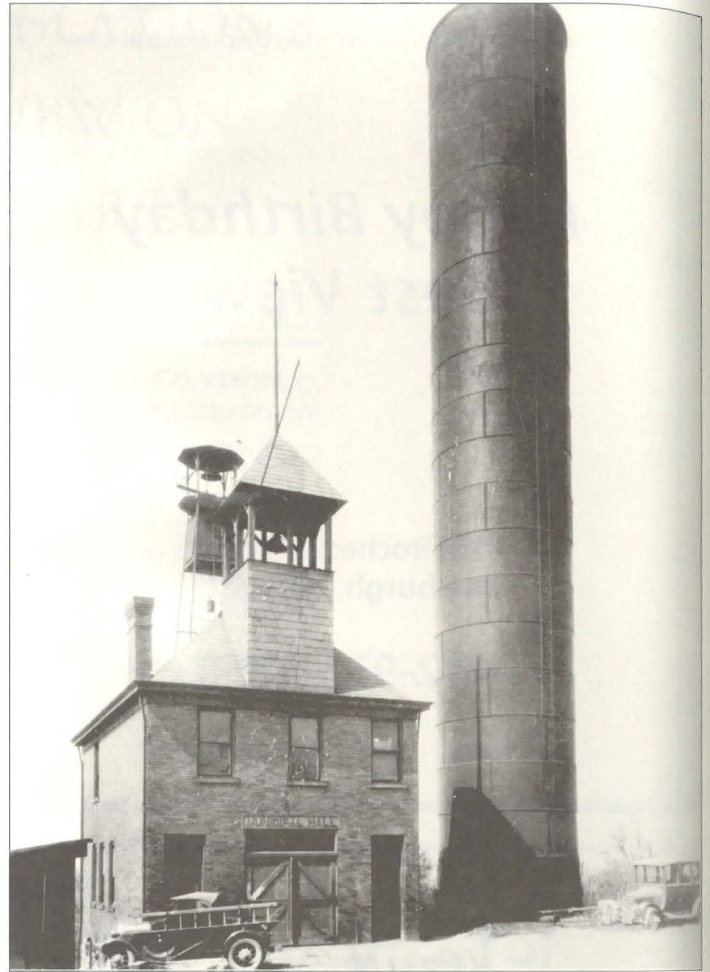
Working closely with the Allegheny-Bellevue Land Company, Martsolf put into reality his idea of forming a borough and took an active part in its organization. The Borough was incorporated by an order made in quarter session court on Monday March 20, 1905. The order granted 640-acres in the center of Ross Township to be carved out to form the West View Borough.

The Borough held its first election on May 16, 1905. There were only about 100 voters in the entire Borough. They elected: Frederick C. Martsolf, John Muzzio, J. W. Beers, L. Heyl, J. W. Schmitt, A.H. McMullen, M.C. Galbreath to form the first Borough Council. The council then elected Martsolf as Council President at their first meeting on May 24, 1905. The Council met on the first Monday of each month at 8:00 P.M. at Frederick Martsolf's home, 212 Martsolf Avenue.

The first ordinance published by the Council dealt with the licensing of dogs and warned "no bloodhound shall run at large within the Borough without being securely muzzled..."

A decision was made to create police and fire-departments and provide buildings to accommodate them and the Borough Council. The Borough built the No. 1 Fire House on Ridgewood Avenue, which not only housed the fire company but also had space for the first municipal government, including the Borough's first jail. A detailed account of this dedication appears in the Borough Council minutes of June 1, 1906.

"A parade of the three fire companies preceded the ceremonies. There were the customary red flares to light the route of the



First municipal building, Ridgewood Avenue.



Early photo of the West View Water Authority's Neville Island Plant.

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 Frederick C. Martsolf 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. Martsolf. Harry Goehring made the presentation speech while Miss Lottie Chambers and Miss Rose Muzzio stood on either side of the flag-draped picture.

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

On December 14, 1907, the fledgling Borough suffered a severe blow when Frederick Martsolf died suddenly. It is in his honor that we celebrate this 100th anniversary of the Borough. Through his dedication, hard work and the efforts of all its citizens, West View had grown and prospered.

The entire community united in the desire to have free mail



West View Borough Hall from 1944 to 1969.



Gerard Theater home of West View Borough 1969-1979.

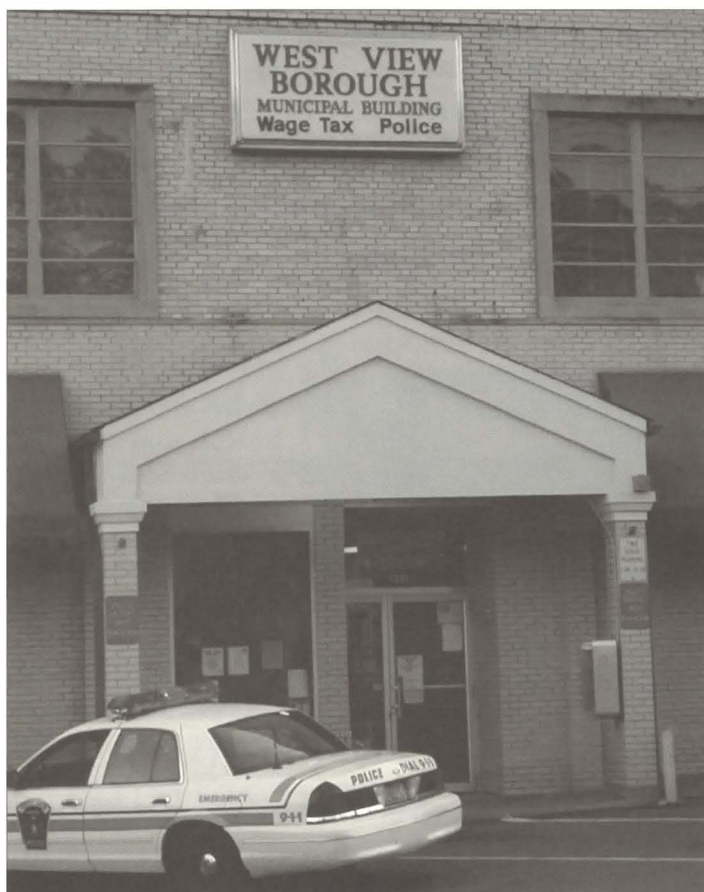
service. Stephen G. Porter, who became a congressman, was the solicitor for the Borough in 1910. He attempted to secure free mail delivery for the Borough, but was informed that it would only be possible if enough mail were sent through the local post office. Word was passed around not to carry letters to Pittsburgh, but instead to drop them in the local box. A deluge of mail flooded the local post office. The plan was successful, and free mail delivery was established on July 1, 1913. Residents were soon notified to put up mailboxes on their homes.

In March 1914, the Council hired the Wheeler Construction Company of Harrisburg to build two bridges in the Borough. One bridge was constructed on Martsof Avenue and the other on Ridgewood Avenue at a cost of \$ 11,800.00.

By 1918, political promises were made by the Council to open all of Center Avenue to traffic but this was not accomplished until the 1930s, when President Roosevelt made WPA funds available. In 1920, many Council sessions were devoted to planning the Borough sewer systems and street paving.



West View Trolley, 2005.



West View Municipal Building, 2005.

In November 1942, of the Borough Council created the "Municipal Water Authority of the Borough of West View." The "Authority" still operates a public water system furnishing water to many thousands of people in West View and the surrounding townships.

As Council and the Borough grew, so did the need for more space for official Borough business. Council purchased the Schwitter Mansion property from the Kuhn family and on June 11, 1944, the Borough hall moved from Ridgewood Avenue into the revamped three stories mansion.

All that remained of the home's earlier grandeur was the center hall with its wide stairway and oaken banisters. The jail cell had the unique feature of stained glass windows in the cell's transoms. The first floor was converted into offices for the burgess, Borough secretary and manager, a police room, cellblock and the women's detention room.

The second-floor chapel was remodeled into a modern council chamber and an office for the Municipal Water Authority Director. The third floor was used for the storage of Borough documents. In the basement, next to the wine cellar, where various rare vintages were stored years ago, was the Office of Civilian Defense.

Councilmen responsible for the improvements to the mansion included: Harry L. Smith, president; William Gray, Walter J. Baker, E.M. Hutchins, Harry M. Winter, Rolland G. Ford and Clyde C. Stanger and Burgess of West View, J.L. Gahring.

Original plans for the mansion and land included erecting an office building on the front of the property along the highway and using the house as a youth community center. These plans were postponed and never came to fruition.

In 1969, the Schwitter Mansion was sold to increase revenue and Borough offices were moved to the Gerard Theater Building. In 1979, they were moved to the present location at 441 Perry Highway where the Water Authority once had offices.

In 1975, old outdated ordinances were removed and a new ordinance book was created at a cost of \$7,600. The revision meant



Mayor of West View, Richard E. Powell.

that it was no longer against the law to tie a horse to a tree and leave it unattended nor was illegal to herd swine and geese through the streets.

In 1980, Mary Kay Bernhard became the first woman to be elected to West View Borough Council. In 2005, she is still an active Council member and one of the

driving forces behind the 2005 West View Centennial History and celebration.

After West View Park closed in 1977, the Council sought funding and a developer to build a shopping center and a senior citizen high-rise apartment building in the valley once home to the best amusement park in America. The West View Shopping Center and the West View Towers opened in September 1981.

West View still maintains a Public Works Department, a Borough secretary, a tax collector, and a Borough manager. The Borough has a large number of businesses on Perry Highway and Center Avenue, as well as the West View Park Shopping Center. West View has only one public school and one Catholic school within its boundaries, a bus for senior citizens, five playgrounds and three fire stations.

The Council and the people of West View continue to work hard to make the Borough "A Good Place to Live."



Main thoroughfare of West View, Perry Highway going north.



Borough Council, 2005.



West View Shopping Center.



West View Elementary School, 2005.



Front entrance to St. Athanasius Catholic School, 2005.



It is my pleasure to recognize the
Borough of West View on its
100th Birthday!

This is truly a meritorious
occasion for the borough
and its residents.

I wish you all the best as you
move the region and
Commonwealth forward.

State Senator Jane Clare Orie

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Ross/West View

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Emergency Medical Services Authority

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100 Years
Borough of West View

Best Wishes
For the Next 100

Dan Onorato
Allegheny County Chief Executive

Paid for by Friends of Dan Onorato

Congratulation West View Borough
on making this a GREAT place to raise families
for the past 100 years!



West View Elementary PTA
is happy to celebrate with you!!

Community Services

West View Police Department

It was the original vision of Frederick Martsolf to provide government services and protection for the citizens of his new development. After the incorporation of the Borough in 1905, a police department was established.

The first recorded police officer was Edward McGowen, who was hired December 1, 1905. Borough Ordinance, No. 9, provided for the hiring of two additional police officers on August 19, 1906. Their salary was \$2.00 a day. The Borough's first jail was located in the basement of the No. 1 Fire Hall on Ridgewood Avenue. When the Borough moved in 1943, to the Schwitter Mansion, the former kitchen was reconfigured to accommodate jail cells. These unique cells included the original stained glass windows from the former mansion's window transoms.

Between 1905 and 1913, several other police officers were hired. William H. Quigley was one of those hired in 1913 and was later appointed as police chief. He remained Chief of Police until he was injured during motorcycle chase on Highland Avenue, May 23, 1927. Chief Quigley was pursuing a stolen truck on Highland Avenue, when the truck stopped suddenly and Quigley collided with the rear of the vehicle. Quigley died from his injuries on May 27, 1927. As a tribute to Chief Quigley,



May 24, 1924 - West View Police Department in front of Fire Company No. 1. Left to right: LaBelle, Quigley, Brotherly, Smith, Case and Temme

his name was added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. on May 13, 2003. He is the only officer in West View to die in the line of duty.

By 1920, the police force grew to six officers. Since the inception of the police department, there have been 41 police officers, seven of which were promoted to the position of police chief.

In 1939, for the first time, the word 'POLICE' was printed

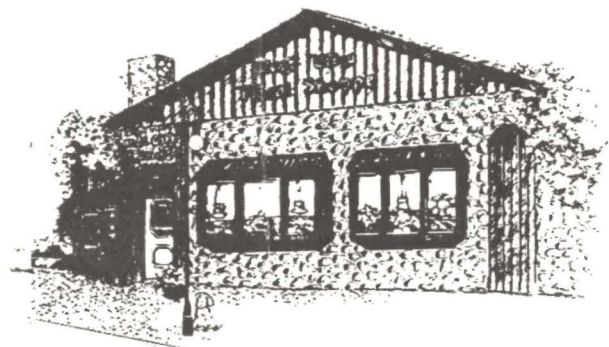
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West View's 100 years!*





Standing in front of West View Fire Company No. 1. Left to right: Joe Connolly, Bruce Fromlak, Chris Mann, Chuck Holtgraver, Randy Freedman, Matt Holland, Todd Towne, Doug Drwal, missing Jim Simmons.

on Borough owned police cars. The department also ran the Borough's first ambulance service. The first ambulance was a Ford station wagon equipped with a stretcher.

Through the years, the Police Department employed several radio dispatchers who fielded complaints and dispatched calls to officers on duty. In 1996, countywide 9-1-1 service was introduced to the communities of Allegheny County. West View became a member of the Northwest 9-1-1 service. On March, 31, 2005, West View joined the countywide 9-1-1 services, which presently includes the City of Pittsburgh and will eventually include all of the communities in Allegheny County.



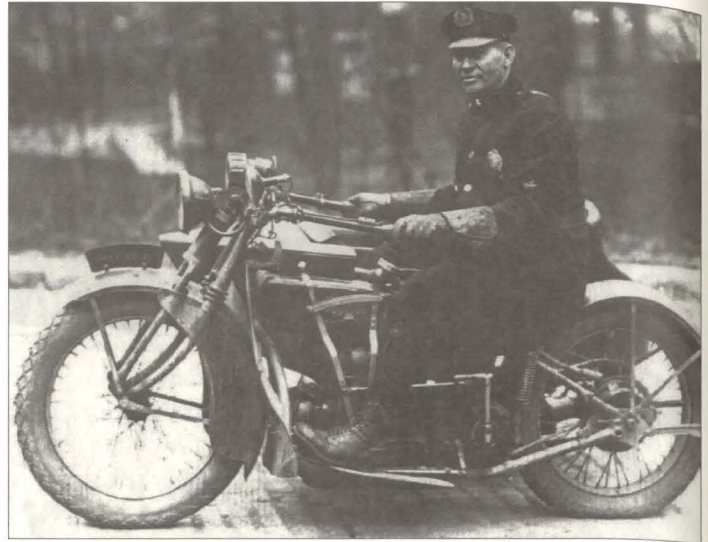
West View Chief C.J. "Hap" Clogan



Retired Police Chief Laird Kircher was honored in 1988, by the governor for designing the side arm STOP on all current school buses.

The Police Department, located in the Borough Hall at 441 Perry Highway, consists of a police room, including a holding area, an evidence room, and offices for the Chief, the investigator and the record's clerk. The building has twenty-four hour video surveillance for security purposes. The department maintains a fleet of vehicles consisting of three marked and one unmarked Ford sedans, one Harley Davidson motorcycle, one undercover vehicle and a bicycle.

The department includes a chief, a lieutenant, one sergeant and seven full-time and three part-time patrol officers. One patrol officer is a full-time police investigator and serves the Borough by investigating serious crimes. Two officers are certified D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse, Resistance, Education) and Crime Prevention Officers. All full-time



Captain William H. Quigley on motorcycle. Quigley was the only West View Police Officer killed in the line of duty.

officers are certified in the use of the Intoxilyzer and VAS-CAR.

The Borough police continue to provide quality services to ensure the safety and protection of all Borough residents.

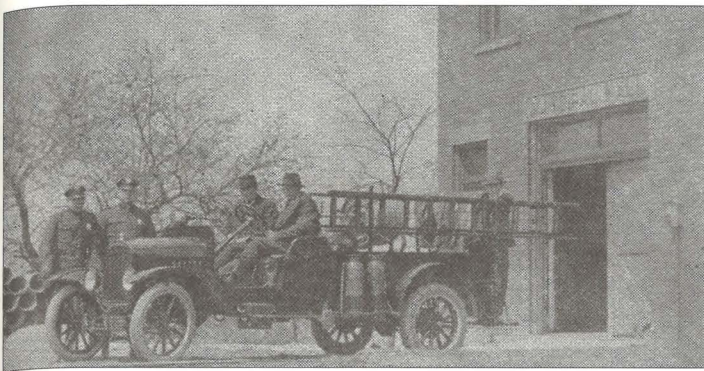
"Good Luck"

West View

Pittsburgh - West View

A.A.R.P.

Chapter 2211



First Ladder Truck

West View Fire Department

Almost simultaneously with the recognition of a need for schools and churches, the new community of West View turned its thoughts to a fire department. According to the Bulletin, there were two fires caused by "ladies who insisted on burning trash on a windy spring day."

On January 27, 1906, a community meeting was held at the schoolhouse for the purpose of organizing a fire company. Chief McGraw presided and Henry Miller acted as secretary. The fire committee drew up a set of by-laws and three companies were organized.



Fire House Number 1



Fire House Number 2



Fire House Number 3

firefighters built a fire truck on an Oldsmobile chassis donated by Mr. Brant and fitted it with a power-driven tank and hose donated by the Pittsburgh City Fire Department. George Heil

No. 1 Company, located on Ridgewood Avenue (Keating Plan), was built in 1906, and elected Isaac Hartung as Captain and Ed Hamburg as Lieutenant.

No. 2 Company, located on Amherst and Stanford Avenues (East Bellevue Plan), was built in 1907, and elected Horten Penrose as Captain and R.F. Enzian as Lieutenant.

No. 3 Company, located in the center of the Borough on Perry Highway (Schwitter Plan), was built in 1916.

The original 1905 fire equipment consisted of a hand drawn, two-wheeled cart. The firemen used a large hammer to strike a wagon rim to sound the alarm. Minor improvements were made when a cart, which included a tank and hose, was acquired. When needed, George Heil supplied a horse to draw the cart. Later, the



The water tower in this picture was built in 1945 and removed in 1980.



Ladder Truck, 2005



Firemen's Building, Perry Highway - 2005

drove this motorized truck to answer the fire calls.

In 1924, fireplugs were installed throughout the Borough and all three companies joined to form a cohesive department. The department solicited subscriptions and purchased a Seagrave Pumper, which utilized the newly installed fireplugs. Later the Seagrave Pumper was replaced with a fine LaFrance Pumper.

The Volunteer Fire Department is still comprised of the same three companies all in their original buildings. These buildings have been expanded over the years to accommodate the larger and more efficient fire equipment and the Department now has 96 volunteers.

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West View Borough's first ambulance, a converted station wagon.



2005 EMSA vehicles

Ross/West View EMSA

Prior to the formation of the Ross/West View Emergency Medical Service Authority, West View's emergency services were provided by the West View Police Department. A refitted station wagon served as the only transport for medical emergencies.

In 1972, with West View Borough and Ross Township's growing populations, the need for a larger emergency medical service became necessary. An old civil defense truck was donated to serve as its first ambulance.

The Authority officially organized on April 1, 1978. The first year in operation, they responded to 1,500 calls. Today, the Authority has a staff of 36, 30 of whom are volunteers and respond to more than 12,000 calls annually. It has a fleet of 11 vehicles. The area served now includes West View Borough, Ross Township, Reserve Township, Millvale Borough and Ohio Township.

The continued success of Ross/West View EMSA is result of the hard work of its staff and volunteers and the generosity of the communities, in which it serves. It is the mission of the Authority to save lives, provide increased community awareness of health and safety concerns and further the education of staff and volunteers.



West View VFW tribute to veterans of foreign wars 1.

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (V.F.W.) West View Post No. 2754

Ridgewood Avenue School was the host of the first meeting of the V.F.W. Post 2754 of West View on the evening of December 8, 1932. Installed as the Post's first commander was Howard J. Crow.

The Post consists of nearly 1250 life members and continuous regular V.F.W. members, making it the largest of all of the fifty-four posts in District 29. On December 8, 1972, the West View V.F.W. Post received the "Perpetual Post Charter," which represents the distinction of its life members. The Post also consists of a Ladies Auxiliary.

The purpose of the VFW is to promote patriotism, support community endeavors and assist needy and hospitalized veterans. They have a uniformed Color Guard, which is very active in the North Hills School District and local Catholic School



West View VFW tribute to fallen members of foreign wars 2.



The VFW and Fireman's Buildings Signs.

programs. Members of the post present safety programs for bicycle and hunter safety each year. The Post is an active member of the West View Chamber of Commerce.

The V.F.W. and Color Guard conduct memorial services at many war monuments throughout Allegheny County and the members conduct chapel call services to fallen members at area funeral homes. All the activities are strictly voluntary. Many of the members march in parades such as the Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Halloween Parade, school parades and sports celebrations.

Memorial stones commemorating World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Storm and the Iraq War are located on the VFW property.



The VFW Post 2754 Building on Perrysville Avenue in West View.

Richard J. Szwaczkowski
President



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West View Elementary School

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY HISTORY PROJECT

Mr. Woodburn's 6th Grade Class 2005







West View Centennial Committee

They include

Debbie Andrews, Barry Schell,
Cathy Mann, Beth Schellhaas,
Tom Weisbecker, Joe Assisi, Ron George
and Mary Kay Bernhard
Emily Harper and Sami Woods worked on
the centennial as
their senior project.



West View Water Authority

Until October 24, 1942 the North Suburban Water Company in Bellevue serviced the borough. 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 Nevill Island. The office of the Authority was first on Lincoln Avenue in Bellevue and in 1950 was moved to the new West View Shopping Center. In 1979 the water authority built a new building above Horseshoe Bend on a high point that overlooks most of the borough.

Today, West View Water provides water service to thirty municipalities, with seven of the Communities being resale or bulk water purchasers. The service territory is comprised of a wide strip of Allegheny County, extending from a point south of the Ohio River, Northerly to the Allegheny/Butler County line; it extends in a westerly direction from the City of Pittsburgh boundary to the Beaver County boundary, in the area north of the Ohio River. West View Water Authority is one of the largest municipal water suppliers in the State of Pennsylvania, providing water service to an estimated population of 225,000. The Water Treatment Plant is still located on Neville Island.

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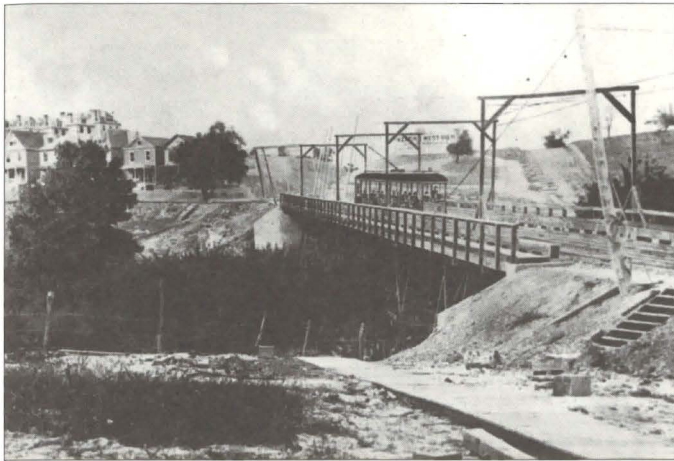
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Then and Now

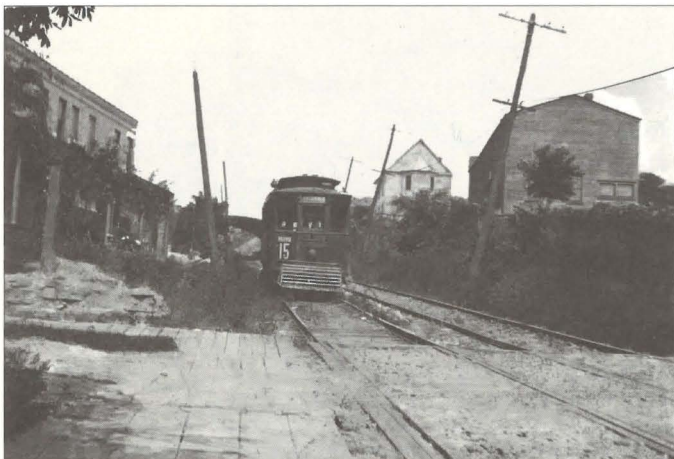
PHOTO GALLERY



Center Avenue trolley bridge before 'West View Avenue' - Early 1900s



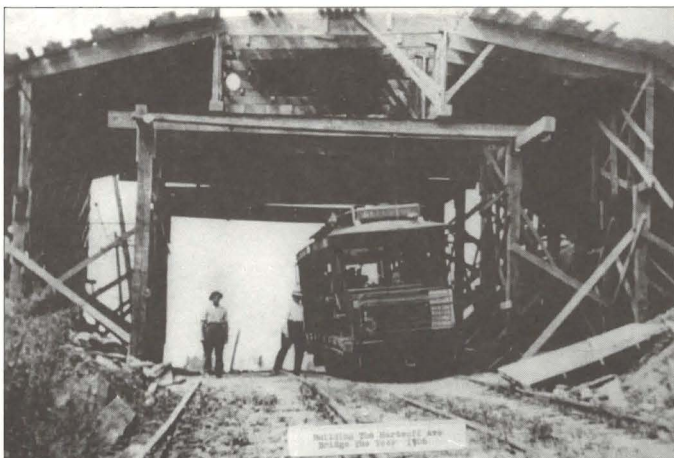
North Hills Practice Field - Center Avenue before Park Avenue - 2005



Row houses and trolley - Center & Oakwood Avenues - Early 1900s



Row houses - Center & Oakwood Avenues - 2005



'New' Martsolf Avenue Bridge over Center Avenue trolley tracks - 1906



Martsolf Avenue Bridge over Center Avenue - 2005

Then and Now

PHOTO GALLERY



Center Avenue to Glenmore Avenue - Early 1900s



Center Avenue to Glenmore Avenue – 2005



Fairview Avenue construction, house numbers
10-22 – 1905



Fairview Avenue Houses #10-22 - 2005



Princeton Avenue to Cornell Avenue – 1955



Princeton Avenue to Cornell Avenue – 2005

Then and Now

PHOTO GALLERY



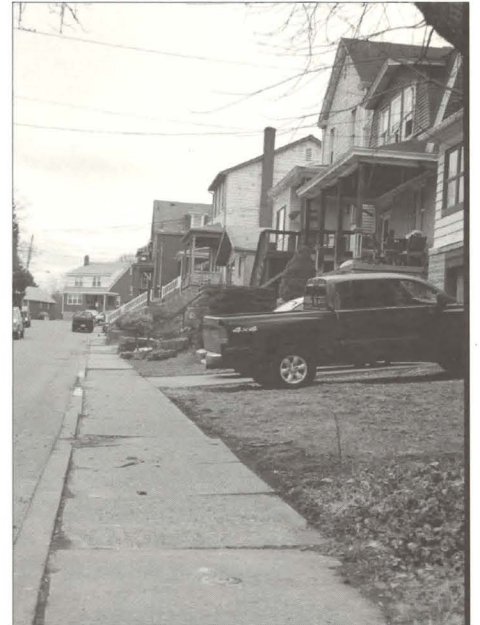
Martsof Avenue construction – 1905



Martsof Avenue – 2005



**Glenmore
Avenue with
plank side-
walks – 1905**



**Glenmore
Avenue with
paved sidewalks
– 2005**



Jamaica Avenue, unpaved - Early 1900s



Jamaica Avenue – 2005

Then and Now

PHOTO GALLERY



**5 Mile Inn - Perry Highway &
Bellevue Road - 1900**



**Sunoco Gas Station - Perry Highway &
Bellevue Road - 2005**



**Pennzoil Station - Perry Highway &
Highland Avenue - 1940s**



**7-11 Station & Quick Mart - Perry Highway &
Highland Avenue - 2005**



**Heil's Garage & Atlantic Gas Station - Center &
Perrysville Road - 1924**



Boyle Carpet - Center & Perrysville Road - 2005

Then and Now

PHOTO GALLERY



W.H. Brant & Brothers, Dealers in General Merchandise - 156 Perry Plank Road at Park Avenue - early 1900s



Classic Food Brokerage & The Law Firm - 156 Perry Highway at Park Avenue - 2005



Richey Hardware - 436 Perry Plank Road - 1909



West View "Old Fashioned" Barber Shop - 436 Perry Highway - 2005

Headley & Flemings Groceries, Flour & Feed (West View Borough's First Post Office) - 459 Perry Plank Road - 1905



Stamp Fanci - 459 Perry Highway - 2005



Then and Now

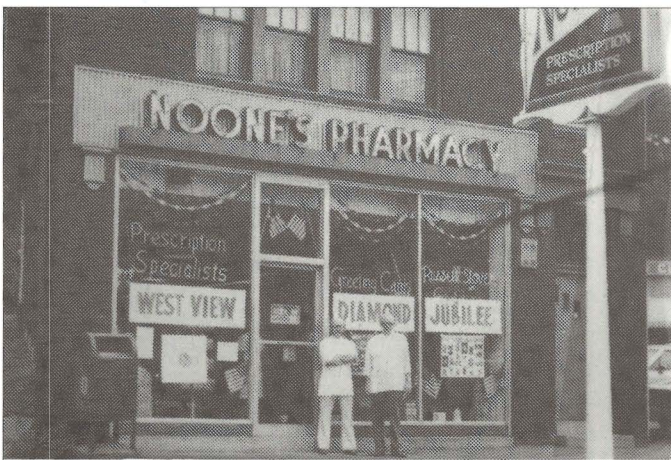
PHOTO GALLERY



Berkley's Pharmacy - 412 Perry Highway at Center Avenue – 1955



DiPietro's Ristorante - 412 Perry Highway at Center Avenue – 2005



Noone's Pharmacy - 513 Perry Highway at Chalfonte – 1980



Eckert Drug Store - 513 Perry Highway at Chalfonte & Highland Avenues – 2005



Kaule's Drug Store - 332 Center Avenue – 1955



Kaule's Plaza - 332-328 Center Avenue – 2005

Then and Now

PHOTO GALLERY



Donegal Inn - Perry Plank Road & Chalfonte Avenue - circa 1918



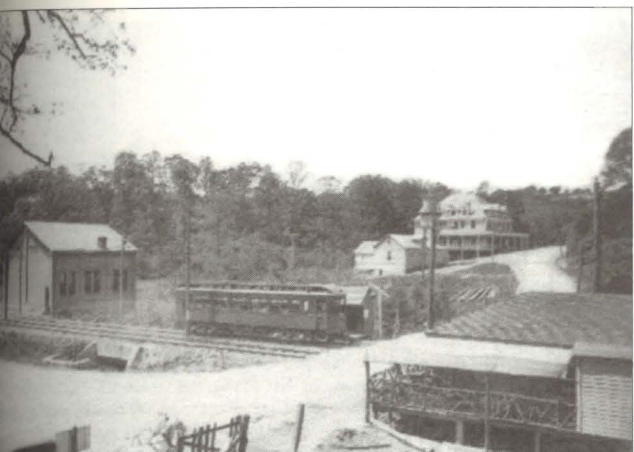
West View Elementary School - Perry Highway & Chalfonte Avenue - 2005



Lipp Family farmhouse - Center Avenue - 1905



'Lipp' house - 50 Center Avenue - 2005



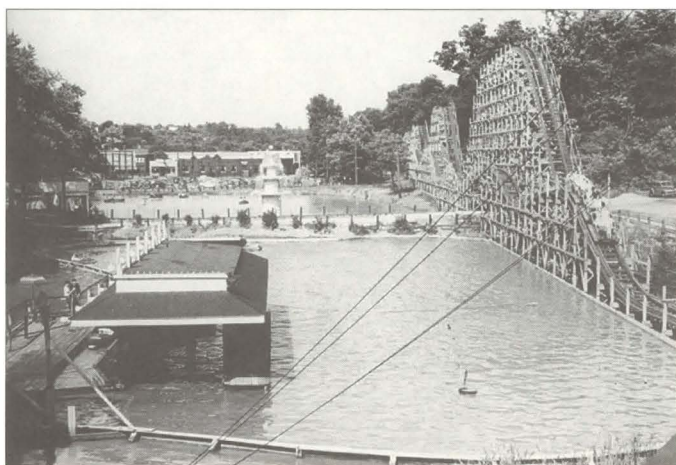
Keown Hotel, Harmony Shortline RR & Harmony Power Building (3501 Babcock Boulevard) at Three Degree Road & Babcock Boulevard - 1920s



Safe & Sound Electronics 3501 Babcock Boulevard at Three Degree Road & Babcock Boulevard - 2005

Then and Now

PHOTO GALLERY



Dips and Lake Placid - West View Park - 1950s



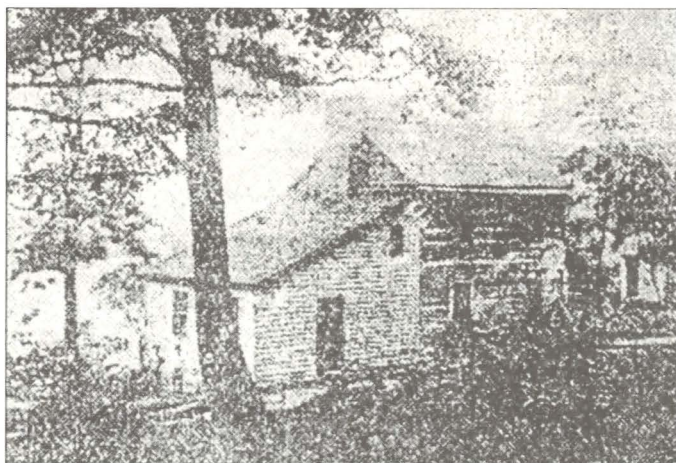
West View Park Shopping Center - West View Park Drive to Perry Highway - 2005



West View Park Midway - 1950s



West View Park Shopping Center - 2005



Casper Reel Sr.'s first permanent West View house,
248 Georgetown Avenue constructed 1794-95



248 Georgetown Avenue - 2005

Then and Now

PHOTO GALLERY



49. Schwitter Mansion - Schwitter Avenue - 1940s



Wellington One Apartments -
Schwitter Avenue - 2005



Duquesne Bar - 650 Center Avenue - mid-1940s



Wiegand's Café - 650 Center Avenue - 2005



Downtown' West View - Northbound Perry
Highway - Mid-1930s



'Downtown' West View - Northbound Perry
Highway - 2005

Then and Now

PHOTO GALLERY



Leach's Store - 46 Center Avenue - 1954



Nardozzi's Hair Fashions -
46 Center Avenue - 2005



Center Avenue Stores - 648 Center Avenue -
mid-1940s



Center Avenue Stores - 648 Center Avenue - 2005



Wright Pontiac - 398 Perry Highway - 1969

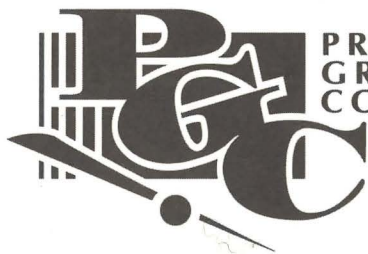


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Boal	Elizabeth	47	Five Mile House		10, 15, 19
Boggs Field		37, 64, 65, 68	Ford	Rolland G.	74
Bookmobile		66	Fort Presque Isle		15
Boyle's Carpet		15	Four Mile House		8, 9, 17, 18
Brandywine	Battle	8	Francis	John	19
Brant		79	Frankfort Avenue Parklet		65
Brant's Livery Stable		19	Freedman	Randy	78
Brighton Country Club		67	Freehold Real Estate Company		25, 36, 47
Bronx Field		64, 65	French	W.C.	72
Brotherly		77	Frick	Henry C.	18
Bullick	Joseph	1	Fromlak	Bruce	78
Calhoun Park		56	Gahring	J.L.	74
Callery	William V.	25	Galbraith	Harry	72
Canevin	John F.R. Rev.	39	Galbreath	M.C.	72
Carnegie	Andrew	18	Garbin	Ferdinand	68
Carnegie Library		66	Gass Plan		67
Carroll	Ella	47	Gerard Theater		73, 74
Cassatt	A.J.	18	German Tavern		19
Chad	Barry	1	Gillford	Dr. R.H.	19
Chambers	Lottie	72	Glenmore Parklet		65
Charity Chapel		37	Goehring	Harry	72
Christ Church		40	Good	Balthazar	8, 9, 20
Clay	Henry	20	Good	Susan	9
Clogan	C.J. ("Hap")	78	Goods Tavern		9, 20
Coffey	C.D.	47	Grace Lutheran Church		15
Collis	Thomas	8	Gray	William	74
Columbia Parklet		65	Great West View Bridge		31
Coney Island Park		56	Grom	Bob	1
Connolly	Joe	78	Grupp	Mrs.	66
Conway	Johanna	9	Hamilton	Samuel	49
Cornerstone Church		40	Harrison	H.G.	68
			Hart	Melissa	5

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Last Name	First Name	Pages	Last Name	First Name	Pages
Harton	George	57, 58	Knoedler's Flour Mill		16, 55
Harton	George M., III	58, 59	Kountz	A.E.	59
Harton, Theodore Marshall ("Marsh")		55, 56, 57, 58	Kuhn	Fred	9, 73
Harton-Jones	Olive	57, 58	LaBelle		77
Harvey	John	1	Lagerblade	Mr.	68
Hastings	Joe	19	Loeffler	Emil ("Dutch")	68
Hawthorne Parklet		65	Luna Park		56
Hebron's Stables		19	MacKay	Dave	68
Heil		15, 30, 38	Mann	Chris	78
Heil	George	79	Martorelli	Mario	48
Heil's Garage		48	Martorelli Field		48
Heim Farm		49	Martorelli Stadium		16, 30, 48
Heinz	H.J.	55	Martolf	Frederick Christian	10, 36, 38, 72, 77
Henninger	Fred	55	Mazia	Ted	6
Heyl	L.	72	McAfee	Robert	19
Heyl's Florist		15	McCurry	John	48
Highland Avenue Apartments		47	McCurry Field House		48
Highland Country Club		8, 64, 67, 68	McGaw		47
Highland Home and School Association		48	McGowen	Edward	77
Highland Mothers' Club		47, 64	McGraw	Chief	79
Highland School		47, 48, 50, 64, 66	McManus	Fred	9, 18, 19, 39
Hiland Presbyterian Congregation		8	McMullen	A.H.	72
Hilands	Barnabas	8	Methodist and United Brethren Church		38
Hilands	Martha	8	Miller	Henry	79
Hilands-Collins		25	Morrone	Victor E., Dr.	49
Holland	Matt	78	Morrow	Thomas	9
Holleran	Diane Lederer	1	Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church		39
Holt	Marilyn	1	Murphy	John	19
Holtgraver	Chuck	78	Murphy	Bill	68
Home School Association		47	Muzzio	Paul	64
Horseshoe Bend		16, 37, 56	Muzzio	John	72
Hutchins	E.M.	74	Muzzio	Rose	72
Ivory	Peter, Sr.	8, 18	Neville Club		67, 68
Ivory	Mary	8	Nike Site		64
Ivory	Peter, Jr.	9, 15	Nirella's Fourteenth Regiment Band		56
Ivory	Peter	9	No. 1 Fire Company		72, 79
Ivory	Conway	9	No. 2 Fire House		38, 79
Ivory	Minnie	9	No. 3 Fire Company		72, 79
Ivory	Katherine	9	North East Bellevue Plan		25
Ivory	Theresa	9	North Hills Field		48
Ivory	Ellie	9	North Hills Intermediate High School		49
Jackman	E.	25	North Hills Joint Schools		49
Jacks Run Bridge		31	North Hills School District		49, 50, 81
Jacques	Chares J., Jr.	1	North Hills Senior High School		49
Jones	B.F.	18	North Hills United Presbyterian Church		36
Keating	Joseph	9, 18, 19, 20	Oakwood Park		56
Keating #2 Plan		25	Oakwood School		47, 50
Keating House/Tavern		9, 6, 16, 17, 18, 56	Old Baptist Church		40
Keating Plan		25, 79	Oliver	Judith	1
Kennywood Park		56, 59	Parker	John	16
Keown	John	8, 9, 20	Parker's Harness Shop		16
Keown	William	8	Parkwood Acres		25
Keown	William	9, 20	Partington	James	38
Keown	Susan E.	20	Paynter	Mr.	49
Keown Club		64	Penn	William	67
Keown Hotel/Tavern		15, 16, 17, 20	Penrose	Horton	79
Keown Station		17	Perry	Commodore O.H.	16
Kircher	Laird	78	Perry Highway Parklet		64, 65
Kiwanis Club		64	Perzel	John M.	6
Knoedler & Moeller's Old Grist Mill		56	Pickering	Sam	19
			Pietrzak	Gil	1
			Pine Creek and Wexford Plan Road Compay		9
			Piriore	Greg	1

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Last Name	First Name	Pages	Last Name	First Name	Pages
Pittsburgh Presbytery		36	St. Theresa's Church		38
Pittsburgh Railways Company		25, 55	Stanger	Clyde C.	74
Porter	Stephen G.	73	Swann		15
Powell (Mayor)	Richard E.	7, 66	Swann Tollgate		15
Quigley	William H.	77, 78	Swartz's Bowling		65
Rademaker	George	66	Sweet Home Dairy		9
Recreation Board		65	Harton	T.M. Company	59
Reel	Casper, Sr.	8, 67, 68	Temme		77
Reel	Elizabeth	8	Towers	Thomas	10
Reel	Casper, Jr.	8	Towne	Todd	78
Reel	David	8	Ulrich	Glenn F.	1
Reel	Conrad	8, 19	Ulrich	Cindy	1
Reel		25	Vaters Hardware		19
Reel	Family	67	Venango Indian Path (Trail)		15, 17
Reel	Daniel	67	Vondas	Jerry	1
Reel	Jacob	67	W.P.A.		48, 73
Reel	William	67	Walko	Don	6
Reel	Almatia (Alle)	67	Washington	George	8
Reel Farm		67	Webster	Daniel	20
Reel Hall		65, 67, 68	Wellington Heights		17, 64, 68
Reel-Wise	Elizabeth	67	West View (Little)		17
Rendell	Edward G.	3	West View Borough Hall		9, 73
Rice	Ralph S., Dr.	49	West View Chamber of Commerce		81
Rice Building		49	West View Elementary School		9, 18, 19, 50, 65
Richey Hardware		31			48
Ridgewood (Avenue) School		47, 50, 66, 81	West View High School Field		17, 18, 19
Ridgewood Apartments		47	West View Hotel		48
Ridgewood Assembly of God		40	West View Junior/Senior High School		19, 37, 48, 50
Rinehart	Mary Robert	19	West View Junior High School		72
Robinson		25	West View Mandolin Club		38
Rodenbaugh	William H.	10	West View Methodist Church		38
Rodenbaugh	John	10	West View Methodist Episcopal Church		40
Rodenbaugh House		17, 18	West View Ministerium		30, 55
Rogers	Catharine	8	West View Park		57
Ross Municipal Building		36	West View Park Company		81
Ross Township School Board		47	West View Post 2754 V.F.W.		81
Ross/West View EMSA		80	West View Post 2754 V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary		17
Santorum	Rick	4	West View Postoffice		50
Schmitt	J.W.	72	West View Recreational Board		19, 48, 49
Schwitzer	Fred	9, 18, 19, 25, 39	West View Senior High School		55
			West View Shopping Center		38
Schwitzer	Family	50	West View United Methodist Church		36
Schwitzer Dairy		10	West View United Presbyterian Church		17, 18
Schwitzer Mansion		9, 19, 64, 73, 74, 77	West View Village		72, 73, 74
		25, 79	West View Water Authority		64
Schwitzer Plan		25	West View/Ross Little League		73
Scott		15	Wheeler Construction Company		1
Shannopin Town		1	White	Thomas E.	9, 17, 18, 19
Shell	Barry	78	White House Hotel		1
Simmons	Jim	64	Wiley	Mary Frances	1
Simon Estate		74	Williams	Edward	15
Smith	Harry L.	77	Willoughby		16, 18, 19, 25
Smith		19	Wilt	Henry	10
Soffel		56		Elizabeth	10
Southern Park		47	Winter	Edward	10, 25
Spence	Kittie	50, 74	Winter	William E.	74
St. Athanasius Catholic School		38, 39, 40, 64	Winter	Harry M.	30
St. Athanasius Roman Catholic Church		37	Winters	Fred	25
		37	Wray	S.	19
St. John's Lutheran Church		36, 40	Wyman	Jim	
St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church					
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church					



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William J. Malone – Asst. Treasurer

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Fred E. Baxter – Solicitor
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