

"BEGINNING on the East side of the State Roadleading from Mount Pleasant to Washington at a post; thence North 32½ degrees East 26.6 perches to back street; thence South 57½ degrees East 210 perches to an alley; thence by the same South 32½ degrees West 21.6 perches to an alley; North 57½ degrees West 84 perches to an alley; thence including said alley South 32½ degrees West 19 perches; thence North 57½ degrees West 25.9 perches to the corner of meeting houses lot; thence North 32½ degrees East 14 perches; thence North West 100.1 perches to the place of beginning" February 7, 1828.

The Hitchman House at 353-355 Main Street, near the intersection of Hitchman Street, is believed to have been the location of the first election of officals of the newly incorporated Borough of Mount Pleasant, May 5, 1828.

Built about 1810 along the Bedford Road, this house was recently purchased and is being converted into two apartments by Robert Blum of Pleasant Associates. Its renovation will preserve the original character of the house; the 1920s porch addition at the front may be removed later.

In March of 1978, the house was placed on the Inventory of Historic Places in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Application has also been made to the Registry of National Landmarks to recognize the spring at the rear of the property, now covered by a converted spring house, as one of the watering places visited by George Washington on his expeditions through the area in 1753.



William J. Hitchman, a nephew of Robert Hitchman, was perhaps Mount Pleasant's youngest burgess, being just 24 years of age when elected. He served in 1862 for one year just prior to being mustered into Captain Dick's Independent Cavalry Company in July of 1863, to fight for the Union. He is the earliest burgess of whom a picture has been found.

# NOTICE.

The viewers appointed by Court to view and lay out an extention to Washington street, in the Borpugh of Mt. Pleasant, and to assess damages and benefits of the same, will meet at the Morrison House, on the 3d day of July, at 8 o'clock, P. M when all persons interested can attend they think proper. June 21, 1875-21 JNO. D. McCALEB

Chairman

The Mount Pleasant Dawn



# The Corporate History, **Borough of Mount Pleasant** 1828

The town of Mount Pleasant was incorporated by Act of General Assembly (P.L. 47) on the 7th of February 1828. The inhabitants of the new borough were empowered to hold their first election at the house of Robert Hitchman, on the first Monday in May, 1828; one chief burgess, one assistant burgess, six councilmen and a constable were to be selected and known by the name and style of "Burgess and Council of the Borough of Mount Pleasant."

The first elected officials were: Abraham Shallenberger, chief burgess; Jesse Lippincott, assistant burgess; Jacob Rupert, Rev. Samuel Wakefield, Robert Hitchman, Jacob Kern and John Hosler, councilmen; Samuel Ford, constable. Also elected were David Fulwood, secretary and John Hitchman, treasurer. Except for an 1856 petition to continue as a corporate entity, on file in the Westmoreland County Courthouse, no local records of borough action exist for the next 42 years.

In 1866 the first ordinance was entered into the borough's books. This ordinance, composed of 30 sections, and all those ordinances which came afterward, set forth the guides for Mount Pleasant's corporate life, as the following excerpts demonstrate:

#### **ORDINANCE** NO.1 July 17, 1866

Section 1

of Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland Co. that ten days from and after the passage of the following acts or ordinances, that any person or persons violating any of said acts or ordinances shall on view or hearing by the Burgess or any one or men of Town Council or any Justice of the Peace of said borough, each and every person or persons so offending shall forfeit and pay the several fines and penalities incurred by a violation of any of the following Acts or Ordinances, now, or hereafter to be be passed ...

Section 2 Any person of the age of sixteen years or upward, who shall profanely curse by the name of "God", "Christ", the "Holy Ghost" or any other person or thing, shall for every such offence, be fined in the sum of sixty seven cents with costs of prosecution.

Section 11 Any person or persons who shall gallop any horse, mare, gelding, or any other animal (except in case of actual necessity) in any street, lane, alley, in any inhabited part of said borough, or shall drive any horse, mare, gelding, or other animal faster than a trot in any cart, wagon, carriage, buggy, sulky, sleigh, or other vehicle shall be fined not exceeding five dollars for every such offence.

An advertisement in the Mount Pleasant Dawn in 1875 made public amendments to this first ordinance and added several new ones:

## AMENDMENTS TO BOROUGH ORDINANCES.

Section 10 Shall be amended to read as follows: If any person or persons of what sex, age, degree or quality so ever, shall sled on any of the pavements or streets of said borough shall be fined in a sum not exceeding one dollar for

each and every offence.

Section 12 Shall be amended to read as follows: Any person or persons who shall exhibit for money, any show, circus, theatrical gift enterprize, sleight of hand performances, publicly vend medicines or any other goods or traps whatsoever, or shall deliver harrangs on the public streets, with a view to making money, in any way, directly or indirectly, within said borough without first obtaining a written permit for the same, shall be fined not exceeding ten dollars with costs of prosecution for each and every offence.

Section 16\Shall be amended to read as follows: It shall be unlawful for any hogs, cows, calves, horses, mules, colts, sheep, or goats to run at large within the limits of said borough under a fine of not less than fifty cents nor more than one dollar for every animal not exceeding two in number, and not less than twenty-five cents nor more than fifty cents for each and every animal above that number.

**ORDINANCE** 

Be it ordained that no ball playing or quoit pitching shall be permitted or allowed in any of the public streets or lanes of the borough under penalty of a sum not exceeding one dollar for the first offence and not exceeding five dollars for each subsequent offence, the one-half thereof to be for the use of the borough and the other half for the use of the person complaining, with costs of the suit; and it shall be the duty of the High Constable, the Burgess, or any of the councilmen, and is hereby enjoined upon them resting the offender and taking him or them before the Burgess, or any Justice of the Peace for trial, as often as he knows of any violation of this ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO.4

Be it ordained by the Burgess and town council this 3d day of March, 1874, that from this date forth, all persons who so ever, are prohibited from erecting any stables, pig pens, or other buildings likely to become offensive on any public streets or roads, as at present laid out or that may hereafter be laid out.

The foregoing ordinances and amendments having been enacted this twenty-ninth day of March, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight

Hundred and Seventy-five.

Witness our hands and seal. Attest: J. R. Zuck, Secretary J.R. Wade, Burgess W. S. Hutchinson, W. H. Dice, J. H. Mitchell, C. Tinstman, A.

Rumbaugh, Councilmen.

In this first ordinance there is a reference to the Meeting House lot. Although it is not known if this meant the early United Presbyterian Church land or a lot set aside for the borough's first building, a frame City Hall was soon after erected on the northwest corner of Mullin Alley and the Birch Alley at the rear of the northside of Main Street. On an 1876 Atlas map the building was labeled the "Lock Up." It was also known as the Engine House; each name was correct, simply denoting a different

Following the passing of the first ordinance a large area of land lying in East Huntingdon township at the borough's western and southern boundaries, including Westmoreland College, was annexed officially in 1868. Over the next 20 years other additions to the borough were made, increasing the original size of about 34 acres to more than 400. In 1885 the towns of Texas and Bunker Hill in the East End became part of the borough; this annexation, and the influx of new people and business as a result of the surrounding coal and coke industry, accounted for the jump in population from 1,197 in 1880 to 3,652 in 1890. Although a few peripheral annexations were made in the 1900s the basic shape of the borough was set then, about one hundred years ago.

In 1887 the borough was divided into three wards or election districts to insure equal representation of each district on Council. Election places were designated as follows:

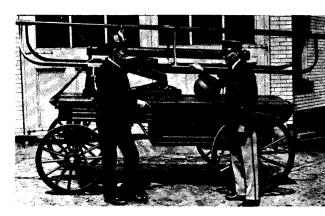
First Ward: At the public schoolhouse in said ward.

Second Ward: In rooms used by the Burgess and Council in the Borough Engine House.

Third Ward: In the public schoolhouse in said ward.



The Old City Hall, so named and pictured in 1910, was built soon after the first borough ordinance was enacted in 1866. On an 1876 atlas map, this building at the end of Mullin Alley was called the "Lock Up."



In 1876, the borough purchased its first piece of fire-fighting equipment, following a major fire in the western part of town. In 1933. Charles Hawkins, the Fire Department's oldest living member, examined the old pumper with Charles Crosby, the department's newest member.

Jacob Shivler, a Civil War veteran who served in the 28th Regiment and later re-enlisted in the 25th U.S. Infantry, was constable of the Second Ward and then chief of police in the 1880s. He later served as head of the County Home. Shivler's home on Diamond Street was torn down to make room for the opening of Smithfield Street in 1929.



In the 1870s, the leaders of the borough, were predominately Civil Warveterans and many were members of the Mount Pleasant Drum Corp. Assembling in A.N. Stauffer's studio, the Corp emulated a scene from a recent camping trip for the camera: 1st row: Mrs. Charles Patterson, cook; George Stauffer; Jack Neel; Dr. Hosea Duncan; Robert Goodman, H. J. Jordan, 2nd row: John Elder, O. P. Shupe; Dr. F. L. Marsh; George McAdams; 3rd row: Daniel Kennedy; George Boyd, John Miller, Charles Patterson, caretaker.

The earliest ordinances dealing with utilities, denote a period of rapid development in the borough:

## Ordinance No. 7 (no date)

Permission granted to Mount Pleasant Gas Company for laying sewer pipes for supplying gas to the borough inhabitants for illuminating purposes.

#### Ordinance No. 28 1888

Mount Pleasant Water Company granted permission to lay water pipes and install 50 water plugs. (From a 4 page annual rate schedule therein, the following were taken:

Houses:

\$6.00 for first faucet \$2.50 each additional faucet \$4.00 for first bath \$4.00 for first pan water closet or

\$18.00 for hopper water closet

Charges per house not to exceed \$25. Hotels: \$10.00 for first faucet Public Baths: \$12.00 for first tub.)

## Ordinance No. 30 1889

Granted Central District and Printing Telegraph Company right to erect poles for use of the telegraph and telephone company.

#### Ordinance No. 35 1891

Organized a Citizens Electric Light, Heat and Power Company to erect poles necessary to carry wires required to transmit an electric light and power to consumers.

#### Ordinance No. 37 1893

Granted permission to the *Mount Pleasant Telephone Company* to use wires of the Electric Light, Heat and Power Company.

# Ordinance No. 42 1895

Permission given to Mutual Telephone Company to erect poles "...to run wires to transmit sound and messages to individuals and businesses throughout the borough."

## Ordinance No. 58 1900

Right of way given to Connellsville and Uniontown Electric Railroad Company.

#### Ordinance No. 59 1901

Right of way given to Fayette Gas Company to lay pipes to supply customers in the borough

# Ordinance No. 119 1913

Contracted with West Penn Electric Company to furnish electric light for roads, streets, lanes and alleys.



The borough had much to attract the newly annexed districts: fire fighting equipment, constables, a street commissioner and road maintenance, public schools including a high school which had just graduated its first class in 1886, and the utilities, which provided gas street lamps and more than 50 fire (water) plugs. By Ordinances No. 16 and No. 17 the duties of the police and fire departments were established.

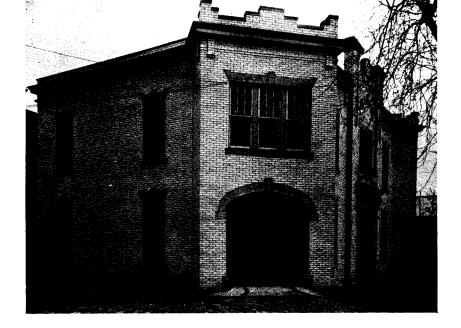
In 1889 Ordinance No. 31 was passed levying an annual tax commencing in 1890 of 1½ mills on each dollar assessed valuation of borough property to be applied to decrease the borough's indebtedness. Although there were prior taxes, as the common school tax, this is the earliest borough tax of which a record exists.

Community awareness of health hazards, showing a change in attitude toward death and disease, no longer being considered acts of God, prompted the passage of lengthy Ordinance No. 38 in 1893: "For the Preservation of Public Health." Beginning in 1894 the Boroughundertook the project of laying public sewers which discharged into Shupe's Run causing the stream to be aptly dubbed afterward the "Sulphur Creek".

On February 9, 1903, Henry Clay Frick deeded to the Borough property on the east side of Eagle Street, bounded on the south by the Visitation Church property, on the east by the First Ward School and the United Presbyterian Cemetery and on the north by Stand Pipe Alley and the ground on which the stand pipe of the Mount Pleasant Water Company had been erected in the 1880s. Received for a nominal fee of one dollar, the land was restricted for use only as a public park. Later named Frick Park, it was managed and controlled by a park commission appointed in 1911. From 1917-1920 the Patriotic League made major park improvements. Its first members were Charles B. Engle, T. O. Anderson, and M. O. Hopwood. In 1906 part of this ground was deeded to the State of Pennsylvania for the erection of a new Armory. In 1908 land for the erection of a second stand pipe was deeded to the Mount Pleasant Water Company.

As the town expanded rapidly from 1900 to 1910, new streets were opened, as in 1909, when College Avenue was first given outlet to Main Street, after purchase and razing of the old Keister house.

In 1910 a buff brick "New City Hall" was built on the corner of Smithfield and Mullin Streets, directly to the north of the old one, serving the same multitude of purposes and titles: the Fire Station, Police Station, the Meeting and Council room, all housed in what was more recently called the Borough Building. In 1912 a new brick jail or "Lock-up" was built on the site of the old City Hall; this was torn down in 1968 to permit



the relocation of Mullin Avenue. In 1914 a Hose House was built in the Third Ward.

In 1924 the borough appropriated funds for the improvement of the Diamond in preparation for the placement of the *Doughboy*. With the dedication of this monument, the intersection became the Memorial Square.

To provide for such improvements and acquisitions, the annual tax had been increasing; from 9 mills in 1912, it reached a high of 16 mills in 1929 just as the Depression took hold of the nation. While the economy recovered, the annual borough tax fluctuated only slightly from 14 mills until after 1945, and then not reaching the old high of 16 mills again until 1951.

About 1935, during the depression years, the WPA built Yoder Avenue Park. On August 15, 1954, a citizen's committee dedicated the Jack Bobbs Memorial Playground at the northeast corner of Silver and Terrace streets in the Third Ward, in memory of Sergt. Jack Bobbs who was perhaps the only soldier from the borough to lose his life in the Korean War. A fourth park was deeded to the borough in 1975 by the Flair Homes, builders of Ramsay Terrace, the most recently developed area within the borough limits.

In 1929 the privately owned Mount Pleasant Water Company which was chartered in 1874, merged with the Citizens Water Company of Scottdale and was known as the Pleasant Valley Water Authority. In 1941 the first Municipal Authority here was organized to maintain and operate the Mount Pleasant Division of the Citizens Water Company of Scottdale. Members of the authority were: Alex W. Copeland, Romeo Rega, C. B. Shupe, J. Lawrence Fox and J. W. Shields. This authority ceased to exist in 1965. Water for the community is presently provided by the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County.

A second Municipal Authority was organized in 1964 to undertake sewer projects and restore municipal thoroughfares to usable condition. Its first members were: Charles N. Lentz, Joseph R. Cernuto, Jr., Ernest E. Dolan, Herman Antonette and Regis Kraisinger with Edward F. Stefl, solicitor. Following several citations from the EPA for pollution of Shupe's Run with raw sewerage, the Municipal Authority began procedures to construct a sewage treatment plant. This plant, completed in 1965, is leased to the borough by the Municipal Authority. By 1968 there were virtually "No privy vaults, cesspool, septic tanks or similar receptacle…" in use (legally) in the borough. The same year the borough entered into a co-operative agreement with the township for treatment of

Left: Mount Pleasant's New City Hall built in 1910 housed "Modern Council Rooms, Up-to-date Assembly Room, Chief Executives' Offices and Quarters for Fire Department." It served the borough until 1967 and the fire department until 1968. Subsequently it became a youth and senior citizen's center and later, temporary quarters for the Mount Pleasant Journal. It was sold in 1974 to the Print Shop.

Below: The Mount Pleasant Water Works, reservoir, as it appeared in 1910, was part of the water system built by the Mount Pleasant Water Company chartered in 1774. Its workings included two stand pipes built atop the terraced northside of Frick Park, along what was known as "Stand Pipe Alley," now Spence Way. The stand pipes were torn down in the 1960s and the reservoir, which is now part of the Frick Community Hospital property, was filled in 1976



# TAX COLLECTOR'S NOTICE MOUNT PLEASANT BOROUGH, PA. JULY 1, 1989

Statement of Assessed Valuation and SCHOOL TAX for 1929 which is now due.

Valuation, \$ .1.5 \mathcal{O}\$, at 24 mills . \$ .5 \mathcal{O}\$.

Personal School Tax . \$ .5 \mathcal{O}\$.

Face of Tax if paid on or before September 30. 1929. Five per cent. penalty will be added on October 1, 1929.

Yours truly,
D. B. STAIRS, Collector.

496 Main Street

one 146-M

# The Third Ward Civic Playground Organization sespecially effect this token to MR. and MRS. EDGAR L. BOBBS on this fifteenth day of Staymal mineteen hundred and fifty fore in manage of their son, in where home this playground is dedicated the Jack Botts Hemorial Playground CHABLES ROSS. Pro. LAWRENE MICHAELES TO. WILLIAM INTERCEMENT TO. WILLIAM INTERCEMENT TO. WILLIAM INTERCEMENT.

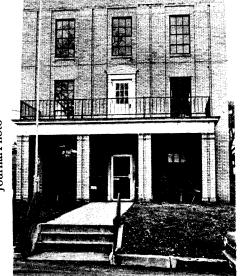


In 1922 Burgess William Overholt posed in front of the borough building with the borough's police officers. From the left: Joe White, Robert Smith and Red Nugent.



In 1953 Burgess Michael DiMichele posed with the borough's police officers. From the left: 1st row: William Eberhart, Chief Spencer Hyde, Burgess DiMichele, Samuel Whipkey; 2nd row: Robert Funk, William Gratzinger, Clarence Whetzel, Clarence Gearhart.

The Municipal Building adjacent to Frick Park is the former Frick Hospital Nurses' Residence. It was converted for borough use and occupied in 1967. The Communications Centerislocated on the ground floor; the Police Department on the second and the Council chambers and Borough Secretary's office on the third. The offices of the Tax Collector Patricia Cunnard, State Representative Jess Stairs and Chamber of Commerce are also on the second floor.



Loaned by Bill Huded

sewerage from certain parts of the township. During 1977 and 1978 separation of storm and sanitary lines has begun, to alleviate flooding problems in low lying areas of the borough such as Quarry Street, St. Clair Street and Ramsay Terrace.

In 1965 this Municipal Authority, under Council President Charles Cronin, became responsible for the acquisition of the Old Frick Hospital properties for the "fair sale" price of \$105,000. From the *Mount Pleasant Journal* of February 5, 1965, the following is excerpted:

The Municipal Authority which was created recently primarily for handling the borough sewage project and is now in charge of that project has broad powers which permit it to function in the hospital project purchase.

The hospital buildings include the present hospital itself, fronting on West Main Street, the Nurses' Residence, located back of the hospital just off Frick Park, and the former Nurses' Home on South Church Street now, a two-family apartment building.

All buildings are just outside the borders of borough owned Frick Park. A possibility for the future is that the National Guard Armory on Eagle Street, also adjacent to Frick Park, may some day also become the property of the borough, in the event that it should no longer be required for the military purposes. This possibility was brought to the attention of the Council some time ago...

The large borough complex centering around Frick Park also will include the First Ward school property on South Church, housing a public library at present and with a free public parking lot and an ice skating rink on the adjoining ground.

By the foresight of Council working through this authority the plan for the present municipal center about Frick Park was implemented. The Nurses' residence became the new Municipal building in 1967 after being remodeled; the Nurses' Home became the site of the new Central Firehouse in 1969; the hospital was razed to clear space for a borough parking lot; the first Ward school property, subsequently acquired from the school district for one dollar, became the site of the new library facility completed in 1970.

During this period of expansion and renewal, taxes reached their highest level. In 1970 the annual real estate tax was 26 mills with a \$10 occupational tax for those employed in the borough and a \$5 per capita tax on all residents over 18 years of age. By efficient and careful management the borough taxes have been reduced while other communities' taxes have increased. In 1978 the real estate tax is 21 mills, the per capita tax is \$5, and the wage tax is ½ per cent.

Besides the Municipal Authority, Council has established the following:

The Parking Authority organized in 1970 to acquire, hold...etc. real estate for use as parking facilities in the borough.

The new Central Fire Station on the west side of Church Street at the intersection of Washington Street was dedicated in 1969.



Journal Photo

The Borough Planning Commission appointed to act in an advisory capacity regarding the development of public housing and zoning changes in the borough.

The Civil Service Commission set up to administer testing and interviewing

for the police force.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment provided to hear and decide appeals from any order or decision made by the Zoning Officer. (Although the first zoning ordinance was passed in 1950, a Zoning Board was not established until 1967 and the Code Enforcement Officer position not until 1970.)

Council has also appointed two groups as agents:

The Mount Pleasant Free Public Library Association, existing since 1938, appointed in 1965 to provide free library service to borough residents, with two members of council appointed to its board.

Mount Pleasant Emergency Service, Medic 10, appointed in 1974 to provide emergency medical ambulance service to the residents of the borough.

By various ordinances over the years, a number of appointed of fices have been established. In 1978 the following hold these positions:

Secretary-Treasurer: Franklin Eckels
Street Commissioner: William Fenton
Chief Operator-Sewerage Plant: vacant
Solicitor: Milton V. Munk, Jr.
Engineer: Neilan Engineers, Inc.

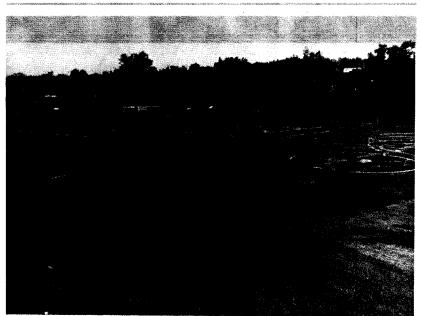
Code Enforcement Officer: Eugene Rosky

While the perimeters of borough government are well defined by the state, our leadership continues to be responsive to the needs of the community despite this legal "hand-tying." Legislation, court rulings and litigation may delay or eliminate proposed municipal projects causing frustration but not defeat.

Throughout the 150 years of corporate life, the burgesses and mayors, the councilmen, constables and policemen, justices of the peace and magistrates, volunteer firemen and ambulance attendants, employees and appointees and even the tax collector have helped earn for the Borough of Mount Pleasant the compliment, *Pleasant, Proud and Progressive*.

From the study of Ordinance Books and an outline prepared by Ronald Kozak.

Mount Pleasant Sewerage Plant along Shupe's Run.





The Planning Commission, taken in early 1978. Seated: Henry Abromson and Fred Coppula; standing: Donald Robinson and James H. Cook. Not present were members John Haberlen and Robert Blum. (Atty. Abromson and Mr. Coppula died during the preparation of this book.)



The Zoning Board of Adjustment members in 1978 are: Nathaniel Abromson, solicitor; Frances Ferrell, Ronald Kozak. Anthony Caletri was not present for the photograph.

Mount Pleasant Borough Parking Authority: Rocco Coppula, pres.; William Pritts, v. pres.; Daun Grimm, sec.-treas.; Leonard Levinson.

Mount Pleasant Borough Civil Service Commission: Richard Cunningham, Ret. Col. Thomas McPhail and Gerald Lucia.

The Municipal Authority members in 1978 are: William Pritts, Phillip Miele, Charles N. Lentz, chairman, Donald Robinson, Robert George, Nathaniel Abromson, solicitor.



Tim Cook Photos

The burgesses and mayors who have served the Borough of Mount Pleasant:

Abraham Shallenburger	1828
John Lloyd	1829
Jesse Lippincott	1830
John Stauffer	1831
Jacob Kern	1832
Benjamin Kempf	1833-1835
Christian Painter	1835
Samuel Shupe	1836
John E. Fleming	1837-1840
Dr. W.D. Reiter	1840
	1841
J. Armel, Jr. Dr. W.C. Reiter	1842-1845
	1846
Samuel Shupe David Keister	1847-1849
	1849
Dr. W.C. Reiter	1850
Benjamin Shallenberger	1851-1856
J.B. Jordan	1856
David S. Cherry	1857
A.S. Overholt	1858
W.M. Jordan	1859
G. Kempf	
J.B. Jordan	1860
D.G. Weaver	1861
William J. Hitchman	1862
John Sherrick	1863-1865
J.E. Dever	1866
W. Swartz	1868
J.R. Wade	1875
W.M. Jordan	1878-1880
W.H. Smith	1880-1882
James A. Loar	1883
George Hartzell	1884
J.S. Boltz	1885
S.P. Zimmerman	1886-1887
Samuel Warden	1888
G.W. Lemmon	1889
J.A. Stevenson	1890-1891
W.A. Kalp	1892
S.P. Zimmerman	1893-1896
J.D. Hitchman	1897-1900
M.S. Kuhn	1901-1902
W.M. Overholt	1903-1905
S.M. Crosby	1906-1908
A.T. Collins	1909-1913
John L. Shields	1914-1918
S.P. Stevens	1919-1921
W.M. Overholt	1922-1924
A.R. Gearhart	(acting) 1924
John L. Shields	1924-1925
S.P. Stevens	1926-1933
M.S. Kuhn	1934-1937
A.R. Gearhart	1938-1945
Michael DiMichele	1946-1949
Russell J. Myers (acting)	1950-1951
Michael DiMichele	1951-1953
SamEtze	1954-1969
William Potoka	1970-
	1050

(Incomplete records 1866 to 1879.)



Our last burgess and first mayor. Sam Etze

# 1978 Borough Officials and Councilmen



Secretary-Treasurer Franklin E. Eckels



Mayor William J. Potoka



Solicitor Milton V. Munk, Jr.



Regis J. Kraisinger



Albert J. Kozak
FIRST WARD COUNCILMEN



Gerald C. Maida



Richard L. Cunningham



am President James Kunkle SECOND WARD COUNCILMEN



Charles L. Philipps



Fred A. Coppula



Vincent Miele
THIRD WARD COUNCILMEN



Beverly A. Schroll



Chief of Police Joseph C. Monroe



Fire Chief Thomas Sweitzer



Tax Collector Patricia Cunnard

# The Police Department



Officers and Patrolmen pictured in 1978 in front of the Municipal building are, from the left: Kenneth Eicher, Joseph Wisniewski, Richard McElfresh, Paul Yuhouse, Glenn Zaronsky, Chief Joseph Monroe, Sergeant Roger Eckels, Robert Moreman, Russell Shumar, Phillip Grimm and John Kozak.

In 1978 the members of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department are: Fire Chief, Tom Sweitzer: First Ward Hose Company: Jim Etling Oliver Lamb, Bob Covert, Don Cramer, Roy Crosby, Bill Hare, Jordan Clausner, Joe Thomas, Gerald Lucia, Thomas Midden, Fred Ulery, Robert Moreman, Bernard Pagilo. Second Ward Hose Company: Sam Convette, Dan Amoroso, Herman Caruso, Nick Etze, Howard Funk, John Pravlik, Ronald Reese, Joe Rudnik, Ralph Farrah, Phil Grimm. Third Ward Hose Company: Carmen Etze, Bob Cunningham, Richard Farrell, Bruce Gearhart, Don Keller, Edward Kiral, Mark Kraisinger, Chester Lentz, Richard Loop, Joe Pfeifer, Willard Sample, Edward Siska, Chuck Zelenak. Hook and Ladder Company: Assistant Fire Chief, Al Maida; Walter Forys, Rocco Coppula, Richard Cunningham, William Hogan, John Kolonosky, William Hudec, George Miller, Henry Sargent, Jim Sebek, Leonard Skilone, Hubert Snyder, J.C. Monroe, Charles Cronin. Rescue Squad: Jack Hostoffer, Sam Freed, Lynn Bulebush, Harold Leonard, Ronald Pfrogner, Larry Rogacki, Bill Ranella, Stan Markiewicz, Bill Barber

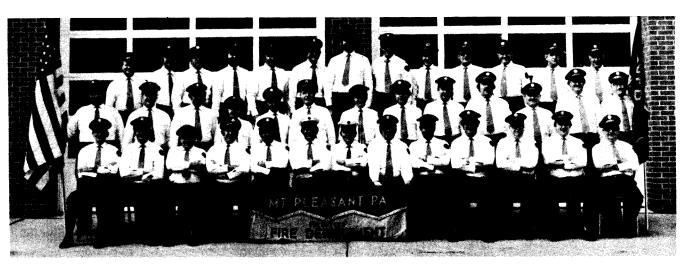
# **Communications Center**



In 1978 Communications Center personnel left their post only briefly to pose in Council Chambers. Standing: Charlotte "Chucky" Moreman, Janet Hontz; seated: Eleanore Conyette, Dolores Proud, Janice Sochko, Laura Sager.



Mount Pleasant's Metermaid: Jo Ann Stouffer.



The Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department of 1978

". . . On last Thursday, the Good-Will Hook and Ladder apparatus was placed in the engine house, and consists of 4 ladders, 4 axes, 4 hooks and fifty feet of rope, at a cost of \$300. The engine house which is located on Mullin avenue is a respectable sized building, 16x28 and contains two fire engines and Hook and Ladder."

The Mount Pleasant Dawn, Sept. 27, 1876



In 1916 following the purchase of the Stearns Knight truck, shown on the left, the "Fire Station and Apparatus" were proudly documented on a post card. The American La France combination hose and chemical truck, on the right, purchased by council in 1915, was the department's first motorized piece of equipment.

G. A. Harrison was chief during Mount Pleasant's centennial celebration in 1928 and in 1934 when the local firemen hosted the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Convention for the first time. In 1949, as the department celebrated its 50th anniversay, Sam Etze was chief and the first Mobile Unit truck arrived, a Chevrolet one ton with the Boyertown body, door to door model.

Need for this department addition had been recognized through the suggestions of firemen Jack True and Wilmer Stohl and through the co-operation of department president Nick Etze and Civil Defense disaster chairman Lloyd (Red) Shaw. The members of the First Aid Crew in 1949 were: Howard Shannon, Eugene Galley, Lloyd Shaw, A. R. Gearhart, Jr., Donald Gibboney, Spencer Hyde, and George W. Eberhart.

In 1936 council's Fire, Light and Water Committee, Peter J. Mullen, Mike DiMichele, and Carrol B. Shupe, with Fire Chief Chester Lentz, examined their new \$2,800 Chevrolet combination pumper and ladder truck modified by Galley's.



# The Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department 1899

In the early 1800s, Mount Pleasant, in common with other frontier towns, depended upon its citizens to defend and aid in times of danger and threats to life or property. Thus, every able-bodied man, woman and child responded to the cry of *Fire!* Leaving their tasks, grabbing a bucket and summoning their neighbors, everyone joined the bucket brigade to fight the blaze.

On May 28, 1876 a fire, that broke out in John Cunningham's feed store, swept the 800 block of West Main Street at Eagle, burning 12 buildings and damaging the Ark. Unhampered by the efforts of the bucket brigade and "our little engine Independent" the fire was finally brought under control with the aid of the miners from Bridgeport and people from neighboring towns. Salt hauled in barrels from the Mullin warehouse finally smothered the flames. On the 19th of July our first fire company was formed and christened "The Centennial Fire Company". The first officers of this 29-man company were: Capt. Wm. Hayes; 1st Lt. J. A. Boles; Hose Engineers, Jacob Shivler, J. B. Nelson and J. Doty; Axemen, R. T. Finley, N. C. Weaver; Treas. G. W. Harper; Sec'y. W. H. Randolph. By borough ordinance, the new two-piston hand pump purchased by the town in June was turned over to the Company. In 1881 the Mount Pleasant Water Company installed 50 water plugs for the use of the fire company

In 1887, by borough Ordinance No. 16, the position of Fire Marshal was created, the duties of the fire department defined, penalties placed against any unauthorized use of fire department equipment and fines levied upon anyone who passed their wagon or carriage over the water hoses while in use and laying on a street, alley or lane.

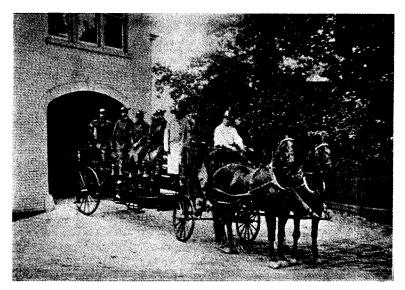
Records from 1894 show these early firemen called themselves the Volunteer Hose and Hook and Ladder Company of Mount Pleasant. Their alarm system consisted of various church bells, provided with ropes hanging outside the towers. In 1899 following reorganization, the company affiliated with the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association under the name Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department; in 1908 the department was granted a charter.

After the completion of the new "Town Hall," the fire equipment was stored there on the street floor with meeting rooms for the department on the second. In 1914 a hose house was built in the Third Ward. In 1915 the first piece of motorized equipment was purchased by council. In 1938 a 42-box Gamewell fire alarm system was installed.

In 1947 first aid equipment, acquired through the disposition of property and money raised by the local Red Cross chapter for Civilian Defense during the Second World War, was accepted by the fire department with the commitment that the First Aid Corps would answer all fire calls. During the first year 47 persons received first aid, of which 17 were firemen; the need for a mobile unit was apparent. After raising the necessary funds, the first mobile unit truck joined the department in 1949. This unit was housed in the new Third Ward Fire Station completed in 1948.

A new Central Fire House on South Church Street at Washington Street, was dedicated in 1969 replacing the 60 year-old station on Mullin Avenue. In 1978 the department has a membership of 65, an outstanding band, an active auxiliary, and a long list of life and honorary members. In August of 1978 Mount Pleasant's firemen hosted the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association annual convention. This was the second time in 44 years that this convention had taken place in Mount Pleasant.

From the fire department history with additions by the editor.



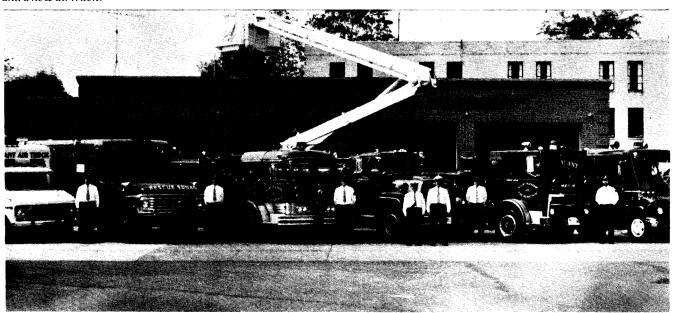
The Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company, as it appeared in 1910 in the "Old Home Week" booklet, had just moved into its new quarters.



The group of fire fighting equipment, in front of the new Third Ward Station on Cherry Avenue in 1949, included the just arrived, Mobile Unit truck.

Loaned by Edgar Bobbs

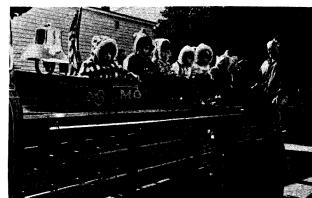
In 1978 the department has eight trucks, six for fire-fighting, one for rescue work and a new air truck.



The 1978 board of directors are: Thomas Sweitzer, chief; Robert Moreman, pres.; Bob Cunningham, v. pres.; George Miller, sec'y.; Alfonso Maida, treas. and ass't chief; James Etling, capt. of 1st Ward Co.; Sam Conyette, capt. of 2nd Ward Co.; Carmen Etze, capt. of 3rd Ward Co.; Walter Forys, capt. of Hook and Ladder Co.; Jack Hostoffer, capt. of Rescue Co.; Joseph Rudnik, Jr., chaplain.



The children of the Head Start Program, escorted by Fireman Bill Ranella, were part of the more than 1,000 school children who enjoyed rides in 1977 on the Fire Department's Hook and Ladder Truck. This ride is an annual event sponsored by the department as is the Easter Egg Hunt in Frick Park and a street fair, providing a great deal of fun for the community and its children.



The band has won the top award some 20 times in Western Pennsylvania firemen's convention parades. Marching in 25 to 30 parades annually, it has lost track of all the first prizes earned over the years. In 1976 the band won \$2535 in 35 firemen's and Bicentennial parades.

Mike Comfort, Patsy Grippo, Gene Busko, Don Bittner and Carl Barnhart are original members and all still active. While Mr. Barnhart attends rehearsals and plays, he is no longer able to march for reasons of health.

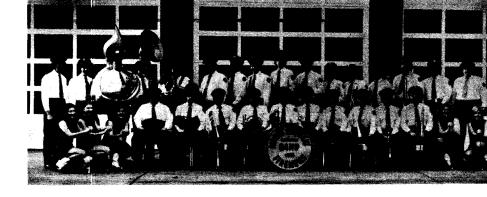
Present officers of the band are: Mike Comfort, pres.; Carl Barnhart, v. pres.; Don Bittner, treas.



Past presidents of the Ladies Auxiliary pictured in 1978 are, seated: Anna Lentz, Sally Thomas, Eleanor Conyette; standing: Elsie Hudec, Margaret Forys, Agnes Nemesek, Mary Jane Noss. Not present is Leah Stohl.

Life members of the auxiliary are: Mrs. Marie Hudec, Mrs. Pearl Spirko, Mrs. Elizabeth Nelson, Mrs. Anna Eberhart, and Mrs. Vica Lentz.

Right: Life Members pictured in 1978 are, 1st row: John Brooks, Wilmer Stohl, George Pologruto, Albert Nemesek, Joseph Myal, William Hogan, Sr.; 2nd row: Harry Lohr, Richard Crawford, Charles Crosby, Ralph Meredith, Dean Walker, Edward Cronin, Fred Metz, Eugene Porterfield. Others on the roll are: Tony Benedict, Richard Copeland, Ernest Dolan, Ted Dunn, Wm. Fenton, Wm. Gratzinger, John Moore, Frank Olinger, Chet Whetzel and Harry Whetsel.



The Mount Pleasant Firemen's Band, organized in 1935 with 55 enthusiastic musicians, hired as its first director E. F. McCloy of Scottdale. After Mr. McCloy's death, Robert Fox, a music major and native of Mount Pleasant, lead the band during his college career. Two other Mount Pleasant men served among the subsequent directors: Wilbur Boyer, a well-known local music personality, and Carl Barnhart, who while directing, continued to play with the band. The present director is William Woodward of Greensburg; Merle Simpson of Uniontown, the band's first trumpet player for some years, is his assistant. The oldest firemen's band in the state, it has been three times named the best in Pennsylvania firemen's band competitions.

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Mount Pleasant Firemen organized in January, 1938 as officers of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association met in the National Hotel. Ten women joined and accepted offices. The group met in members' homes until the June 10th meeting held in the firemen's rooms of the borough building, when the auxiliary officially formed. With members present, the first officers were elected: Mrs. Evelyn Kastner, pres.; Mrs. Pearl Noss, 1st v. pres.; Mrs. Albert Nemesek, 2nd v. pres.; Mrs. Anna Muir, fin. sec'y.; Mrs. Martha Dolan, rec. sec'y.; Mrs. Clara Sample, guard; Mrs. Joseph Coldsmith and Mrs. Arthur Gearhart, 2-year trustees; Mrs. William Eberhart, 1-year trustee. The continuing objective of the auxiliary is to promote fraternal, social and civic feeling among women connected with and interested in firemen and their organizations. During major fires, the auxiliary is always on hand to serve hot meals to the firemen and aid the community in any way possible. Through various fund-raising events and socials held over the years, as the popular annual May smorgasbord and the monthly submarine sandwich sale, rescue equipment, fire radios and pieces of fire-fighting equipment have been purchased.

The Life Members, organized for the welfare of the fire department and the public on August 23, 1949, had as its first elected officers: Joe Coldsmith, pres.; John Cooper, v. pres.; William Eberhart, sec'y.; A.D. Rumbaugh, treas.; Art Gearhart, ass't. sec'y. Serving on the by-laws committee were: John Nixon, A. D. Rumbaugh, Art Gearhart, Charles Harmon and Bob King, ch. Officers in 1978 are: Ernest Dolan, pres.; Wilmer (Flick) Stohl, v. pres.; Harry R. Lohr, sec.'y.-treas.





1902, Zimmerman Funeral and Furniture Co., stables and out buildings burned

A list of major fires, in which the Volunteer Fire Company has given valiant service since its organization, have been compiled from the department's records:

1902 July 4: The Zimmerman building on Main Street destroyed.

1906 Nov. 24: Lemmon's Livery Stable on the Diamond destroyed.

1915 Jan. 3: Visitation Church on Walnut Street destroyed; adjacent school gutted; damage over \$100,000.

Jan. 22: St. Joseph's Church on corner of South Shupe and Summit streets gutted; damage about \$45,000.

Nov. 29: Kobacker's store on southside of Main Street just west of the Diamond destroyed; damage over \$100.000.

1930 Nov. 4: The Santoro building on East Main Street destroyed.

1942 Dec. 8: Montgomery Ward, Burn's Drug Store, Angeles Restaurant and upstairs apartments, gutted; damage over \$250,000.

1947 Nov. 19: The Antonette building at southeast corner of Diamond and Washington Streets destroyed; Mrs. John Crosby and four children perish; damage \$50.000.

1967 Jan. 12: The Moose building on the north side of East Main Street just west of Shupe Street burns; estimated damage \$125,000.

Mar. 14: A number of businesses on the south side of East Main Street between Cherry and Shupe, destroyed; estimated loss \$250,000.

1970 Nov. 29: Journal and Knights of Columbus buildings destroyed; estimated loss \$100,000.

1947, Antonette building gutted.

Loaned by Eathol Crosby

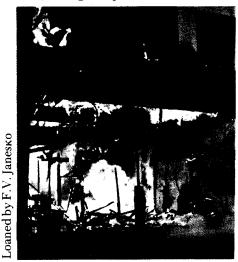


As the firemen's history was already in type, we discovered a newspaper account of the great fire of 1876 and the ensuing events of the purchase of a new fire engine, and formation of the fire department. This was one of two fires not found in the current fire department records.

1876 May 29; Fire broke out in John Cunningham's Feed Store on West Main street, destroyed or damaged 13 properties; estimated loss \$2500.

1894 Aug. 12: Braddock block at corner of Main and Church streets burned; estimated loss \$40,000.

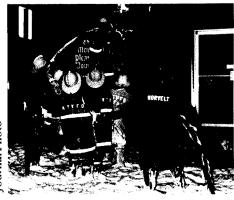
1942, Montgomery and Ward



1967, East Main Street.



1970, Journal and Knights of Columbus buildings destroyed.



urnalPhoto

Citations received by the borough in recognition of its 150th anniversary of incorporation and their sponsors were:

Washington, D.C.

President of the United States Jimmy Carter United States Senate H. John Heinz III Congress of the United States House of Representatives John H. Dent, 21st District, Pennsylvania Harrisburg, Pa.

Senate of Pennsylvania W. Louis Coppersmith House of Representatives Jess Stairs Greensburg, Penna.

Westmoreland County Ted Simon, Commissioner



Jess Stairs,

State assemblyman, representing the 59th legislative district, sponsored this House of Representatives citation commemorating the borough's 150th anniversary. Born in 1942, son of Anna Hayes and Lawrence Stairs, Jess is a farmer and former teacher. Prior to his election in 1976, he served as Mount Pleasant Area school board director and president. Living on the Stairs' family farm in Acme with his wife Joan and their two children, Jess maintains an office in the borough's municipal building in addition to his office in Harrisburg.

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

January 24, 1978

TO THE CITIZENS OF THE BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Congratulations on the 150th anniversary of your community.

In celebrating this important milestone in your history, you can take pride in the values and ideals that have made your community and our Nation grow and prosper. May the vitality and spirit of your people continue to help build a better America and a better world.

# Citation by The Kouse of Representatives

WHEREAS, Mount Pleasant celebrates its Sesquicentennial Anniversary as an organized borough on February 7, 1978. It is recognized as the oldest existing borough in the County of Westmoreland; and

WHEREAS, Mount Pleasant Borough is the site of such historic events as the arrival of early American settlers, the movement of the Iroquois Nation, military troops and railway and highway expansion. Mount Pleasant Borough is also very rich in natural resources and extremely valuable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Now therefore, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania extends congratulations to Mount Pleasant Borough upon their Sesquicentennial Anniversary celebration and expresses its hope that it will continue to be a progressive and delightful community; and further directs that a copy of this citation be delivered to Mount Pleasant Borough, Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania 15666

Submitted by



A. Deen Sti

January 3, 1978

# **Elected County Officials**

John Dickey Hitchman, County Comptroller, was president of the First National Bank of Mount Pleasant for many years and still the treasurer of the borough council in 1928.





Alex T. Collins, County Treasurer, married to a Shupe daughter, operated Shupe's Mill and was burgess in 1910. After living on Cherry Avenue for many years, he moved to Greensburg during his term of office for the county.



Nevin A. Cort, District Attorney, lived on Eagle Street; an attorney, he practiced law in Mount Pleasant.



Alex W. Copeland

Sheriff, born in Mount Pleasant in 1903, was employed for 43 years by Westmoreland County of which 35 years was spent in the District Attorney's office and 8 years serving as Sheriff, being twice elected (1960 and 1964). Retiring Jan. 1, 1969, he and his wife, Mary K. reside on College Avenue.





John Brehan Coldsmith,

born in 1857, received his education in the public schools and at the Institute. At the age of 18 he went into business, owning and operating the J. B. Coldsmith Wallpaper and Paint Co. on West Main Street until his death in 1938. During his 15 years as manager of the Opera House, it became the Grand Opera House, attracting the best broadway play companies to our town. A borough councilman for 10 years, J. B. served as a state legislator longer than any other borough resident.

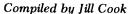
Eugene G. Saloom, born in 1934, son of Isabelle Karfelt and George Saloom, was a 1953 Ramsay High School graduate. Four times elected to the House of Representatives, "Gene" changed his party affiliation during his last term in office. With a funeral home on West Main Street, Gene, his wife Nancy and their two children presently reside on their farm in the township. He is the president of the Mount Pleasant Area Democrat Club.





Residents of the Borough of Mount Pleasant elected to county office of which records have been found:

William Gorgas	
Clerk of Orphan's	
Court	1839-1842
David Fullwood	
Prothonotary	1842-1848
Clark F. Warden (D)	
Recorder of Deeds and	
Register of Wills	1869-1872
Captain J. J. Wirsing (D)	
Treasurer	1878-1882
John D. Hitchman (R)	
Comptroller	1908-1912
Alex T. Collins	
Treasurer	(?)1912-1916
Nevin A. Cort (R)	` '
District Attorney	1920-1924
James Harkins, Sr. (R)	
Coroner (served several ter	ms) 1920s
Alex Copeland (D)	•
Sheriff (two terms)	1960-1968
` '	



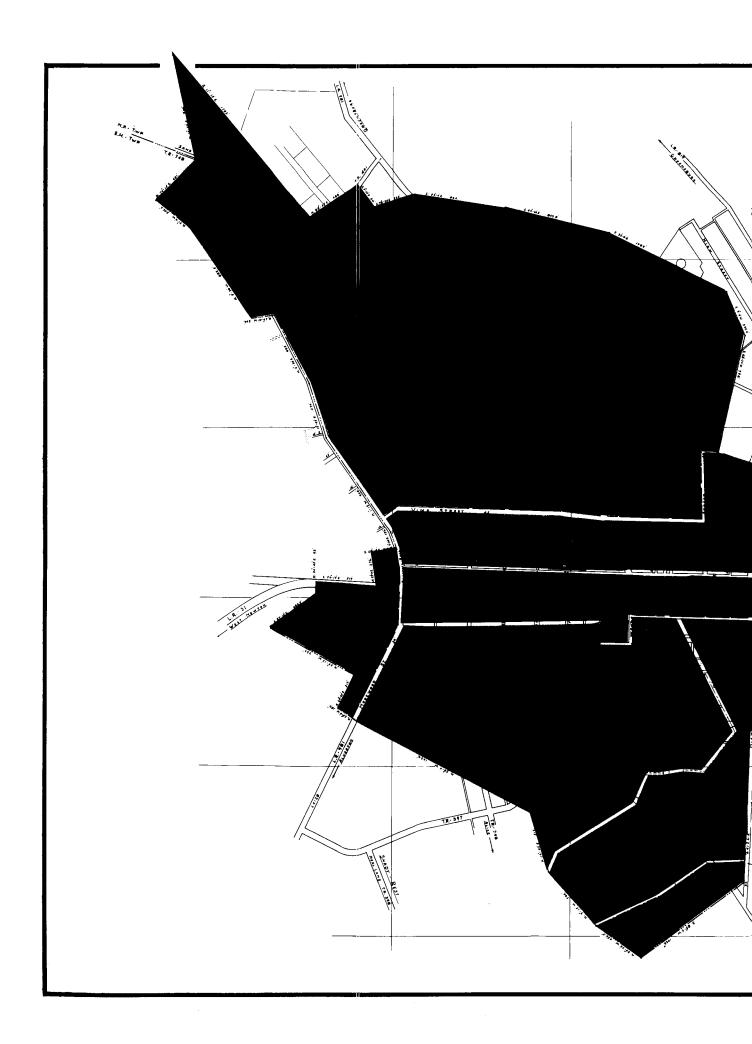


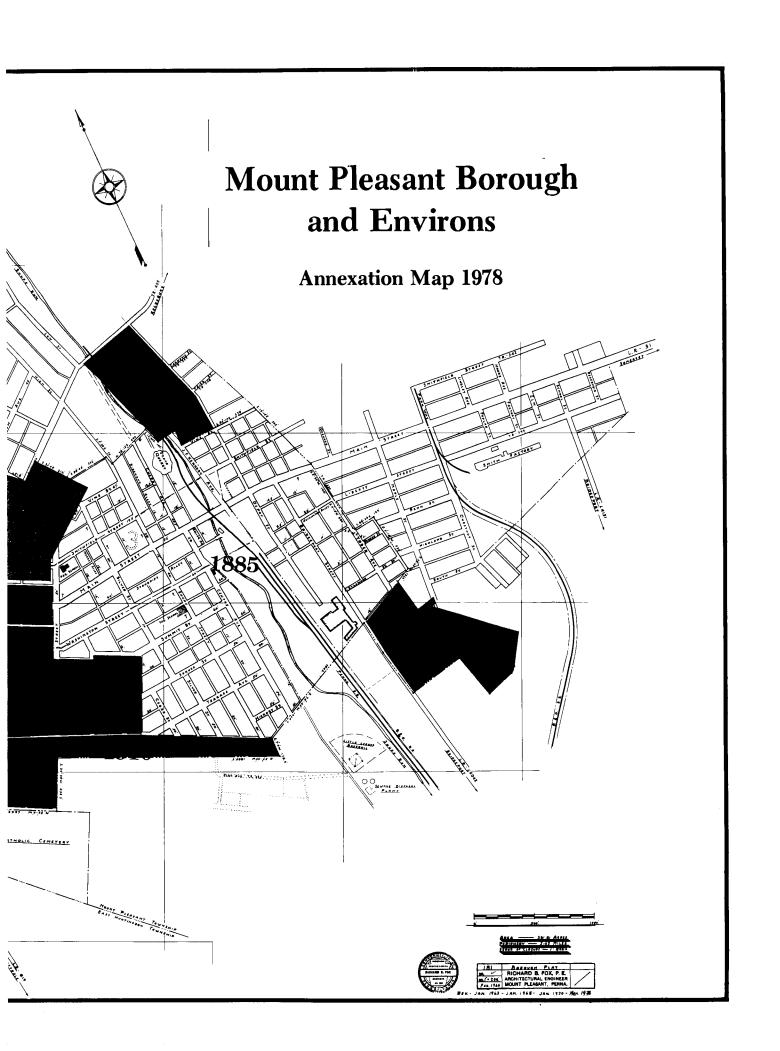
The following are Borough of Mount Pleasant residents who served in the state legislature over the past 50 years:

William F. Morrison (	R) 1903-1906
John B. Coldsmith (R)	
	1923-1934
James Harkins, Jr. (R)	1927-1931
Samuel P. Stevens (R)	1933-1935
John R. Madden (R)	1938-1940
	1945-1948; 1951-1952
James A. Posta (D)	1949-1950
Eugene Saloom (R)	1967-1976

In the 1950s the two perennial Westmoreland County party chairmen, Jay W. Kromer, Democrat, who lived in the township, and Edwin A. Swink, Republican, who was a longtime borough school director, both worshipped regularly at the Reformed (United Church of Christ) Church.

Compiled by Sue Spence





#### Sesquicentennial Committee

General

Chairman Mayor William Potoka Vice Chairman James C. Kunkle Activities Chairmen James H. Cook Dale Walker Zig Prevenslik Secretary Paula Santmyer Treasurer Frank Eckels Souvenir Chairman Regis Kraisinger Publicity Leonard DeCarlo Fire Department Representative

Wagon Train-Western Days

Alfonso Maida George Wood Chuck Hixson Basil Hawanchak

The year began with a "birthday party" on Feb. 7 with over 500 guests at the Kosciuszko Club. Shown with the Borough's birthday cake, of which everyone had a slice, are Sen. Coppersmith, State Rep. Jess Stairs, Mayor Potoka and Lt. Gov. Kline.



Wishing to make the Borough's 150th anniversary celebration one of lasting value, the Sesquicentennial Committee has designated all profits realized from the year's events to be used to develop a 9½ acre tract along Shupe's Run, into a recreational area for the use of all ages. This property, originally part of the Bryce Brothers glass company, was donated to the borough for that purpose by the Levin family in 1975.

# Sesquicentennial Calendar

FEBRUARY 7 Birthday Dinner-Dance at Kosciuszko Club, Jim Kunkle Chairman.

5-11 Scout Week. Recognition of all scout activities.

MARCH 12 Israeli Singers and Dancers at Tree of Life Synagogue, 7:30 p.m.

19 Easter Egg Hunt in Frick Park, sponsored by firemen.

APRIL 7 Mount Pleasant Area High School Band will present a concert recognizing the Borough's 150th Anniversary.

16 Giant Polish Day sponsored by the Kosciuszko Club and Auxiliary, 12 noon to 12 midnight.

MAY 1 Student Law Day. Students from Mount Pleasant Area High School will hold positions of borough governmental authority including mayor, councilmen and police chief. Mayor William Potoka, chairman.

10 Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet at the

Pleasant Valley Country Club.

11 Recital by Edward Kuhn, concert pianist, sponsored by the Women's Club of Mount Pleasant.

21 "Dancing on the Diamond" square and round community dance on Memorial Square, co-sponsored by Junior Hospital Auxiliary.

29 Memorial Day Parade

JUNE 12 Community picnic at Idlewild Park sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce.

16 Mount Pleasant Free Public Library Open House sponsored by the Woman's Club.

19-24 Annual firemen's fair with parade Tuesday evening.

23-25 Appalachian Wagon Train, 100 wagons passing through town and camping overnight at Adams' field on Slope Hill Road. Wagon train parade along Main Street will be Saturday.

23-24 Western Days Spirit and promotion by local businesses. George Wood, chairman.

28 Circus sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce. Two performances at Adams field, Slope Hill.

JULY 4 Children's pet parade to Frick Park for races and games. Sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department. Henry Sargent, chairman.

19 Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra will present a pops concert in the Ramsay Auditorium.

AUGUST 7-12 Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Convention with a three-hour parade on Thursday. A giant town fair is planned for Frick Park. Dale Walker, chairman.

20 Mount Pleasant Day at Three Rivers Stadium, Pittsburgh, with recognition of Mount Pleasant's 150th anniversary on the electronic scoreboard.

**SEPTEMBER 15-16** Nationality Days. The Sesquicentennial pictures will be auctioned.

**OCTOBER 1** Italian Day at St. Pius X school cafeteria with food, music and dancing.

31 Hallowen Parade sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department.

**NOVEMBE**R 11 Veteran's Day Parade with rededication of Memorial Square.

**FEBRUARY 6** Banquet formally ending the celebration of the sesquicentennial year at the Kosciuszko Club.