

Main Street looking west, 1910.



Loaned by W. Hixon

During successive land travel eras of Indian paths, primitive roads, turnpikes, railroads, streetcars and modern improved highways, Mount Pleasant has been marked by a series of economic spurts and development. Although people through the years have debated whether the town grew and prospered because such transportation methods webbed the area or whether the transportation developed because of what the flourishing settlements of the area had to offer, neither could have existed separately. The two complemented one another.

Vincent Miele, 1978

Transportation



The Laurel Highland Hiking Trail is similar to the Indian paths along which the early settlers located their roads. However, unlike the Indians, they used animals and vehicles to carry goods making it necessary to build new roads.

Transportation and Mount Pleasant: A History

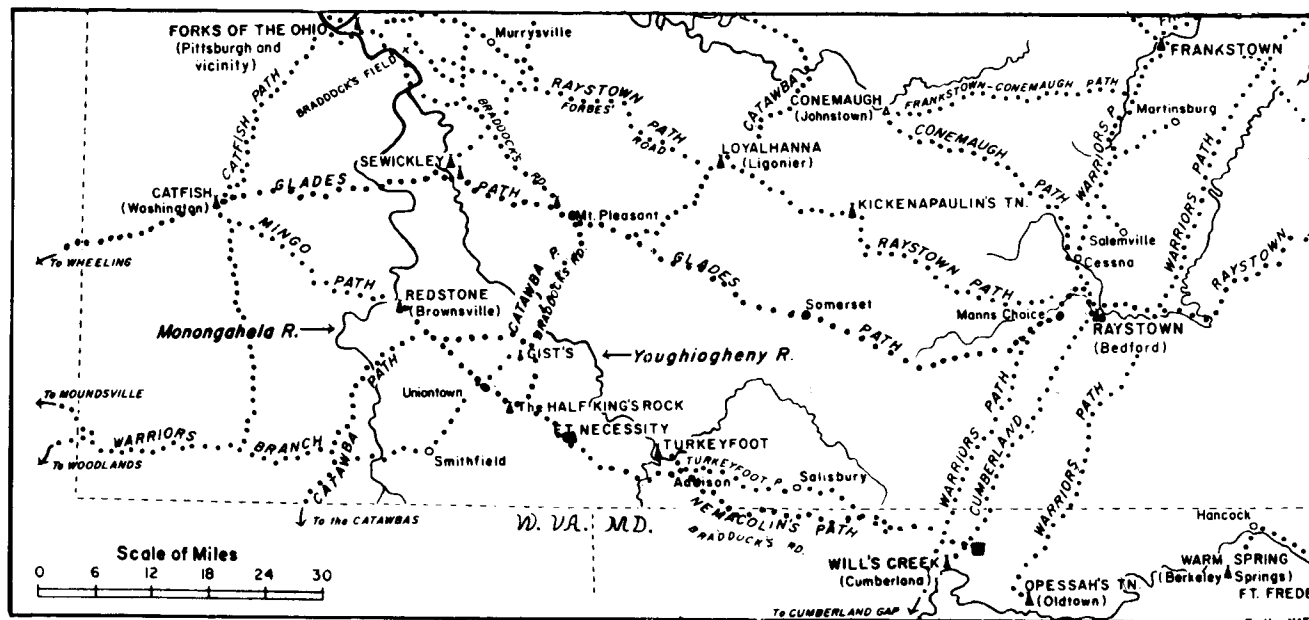
At first traders, frontiersmen and settlers had to rely upon Indian trails. These were ordinarily 12 to 18 inches wide and sometimes a foot deep, worn by generations of Indians traveling in single file. Many of today's main highways as well as truck line railroads follow closely the old Indian highways.

Mount Pleasant is located at the junction of two intersecting Indian trails: the Glades Path, which ran from Bedford to Washington, Pa., and is presently our Main Street (Route 31); and Nemacolin's Path, which ran up what is now Eagle Street, then west on Main Street and north on Braddock Road Avenue. West of Chestnut Ridge and just east of Mount Pleasant, *Nemacolin's Path* has come to refer also to those sections of the Catawba Path and other Indian trails which General Braddock used in his approach to Fort Duquesne from Cumberland in 1755.

George Washington, already familiar with southwestern Pennsylvania, was an aide to Braddock. Benjamin Franklin was commissioned by Braddock to rent 150 wagon and horse teams in York and Lancaster counties to assist in transporting his supplies. After assembling an amazing assortment of heavy artillery, equipment and supplies, Braddock sent a detachment of several hundred men ahead of the main body to open a 12-foot wide wagon and artillery road. After crossing Jacob's Creek a short distance from Welshhanse's Mill (Tintzman's), Braddock followed the township line about a mile and a half to Eagle Street in Mount Pleasant. His soldiers stopped at a double spring just south of the present Spring Street; known later as Union Springs, it became a water supply of the Mount Pleasant settlement. While still within the town's present limits, Braddock crossed Glades Path which later became the Robbstown (West Newton) and Mount Pleasant Turnpike, sixty years later.

Another pioneer highway of Pennsylvania, authorized in England, was built by General Forbes. This too followed an old Indian trail—called the Raystown Path—which traveled from Harrisburg roughly through Bedford (Raystown), Ligonier, Latrobe and Greensburg to Pittsburgh. Although the military and early settlers

Nemacolin's and Glades Indian Paths. One of the many important Indian trails in Pennsylvania was Nemacolin's Path from Virginia and Maryland through southwestern Pennsylvania to Brownsville and Pittsburgh.



made their roads along such Indian paths, these were not always suited for public travel. There were no hard-surfaced roads in Pennsylvania during the colonial period; roads that did exist were imperfectly built and often dangerous.

In 1785, Pennsylvania passed the first legislation for public roads by authorizing money, raised by a lottery, to improve the route from Chambersburg to Pittsburgh. This was known as the Old State Road or the Pennsylvania Road. It and the National Road (or Cumberland Pike, which seems to be more highly publicized today) shared traffic almost evenly in the early 1800s.

One section of the Pennsylvania Road passed over the Laurel Mountains about parallel with the earlier Raystown Path and the turnpike built later and now known as the Route 30 (Lincoln Highway). This route became one of the channels by which settlers and travelers by the thousands, arriving in the port of Philadelphia, migrated to the new Western Territories during the 1800s.

In 1793 another bill authorized money for a package of roads throughout Pennsylvania including \$200 for an alternate section here of the Pennsylvania Road. This alternate route, preferred by many travelers to the one through Ligonier, except in wet weather, diverged from the main road at Spikers (about 4 miles west of Bedford) to the Allegheny Ridge and then by the Indian Glades Path. Known as the Glade Road, it led from Somerset, through Cherry's Mill (Laurelville), Mount Pleasant, and West Newton to Pittsburgh. The traveler on this road could rejoin the main road at Greensburg. New settlers poured over the Glade Road and the area entered a period of rapid development; Mount Pleasant became a connecting link on one of the main thoroughfares between the East and the West.

When a village such as Mount Pleasant was either laid out or *just happened* along a road, there was usually a public square in the center and at least two corners were set aside for taverns. The square was generally called a *diamond* and had a special purpose. Here the wagons loaded with freight stood overnight and the horses, in all kinds of weather, were blanketed, fed and bedded. Upon such wagons were transported nearly all the goods passing between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Records contain fascinating accounts of unbroken lines of 40 or 50 Conestoga wagons, each drawn by 4 or 6-horse teams, going toward Pittsburgh. It takes little imagination to see

Braddock's March and Encampments 1755

Journal Photo

BRADDOCK'S MILITARY ROAD 1755 GREAT SWAMP CAMP

THIS TABLET MARKS THE SITE OF GENERAL EDWARD BRADDOCK'S FOURTEENTH ENCAMPMENT, OR BIVOUAC. HERE BRADDOCK'S ARMY SPENT THE NIGHT JULY 1, 1755. HAVING MARCHED FIVE MILES FROM THEIR CAMP ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE YONKHOGENY NEAR CONNELLSVILLE. THE ARMY HALTED HERE A DAY UNTIL A SWAMP WAS BRIDGED OR CORDOURED. THE NEXT DAY THEY MARCHED ONLY ONE MILE TO 'JACOB'S CABIN CAMP' WHERE MORE BRIDGING OF THE SWAMP WAS NECESSARY.

THIS TABLET IS ERECTED TO COMMEMORATE THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BY MRS. D. J. NEWELL, MOUNT PLEASANT, PA. NOVEMBER 30, 1932.

Braddock's Great Swamp Camp was at the site of the present Greenlick Dam south of Bridgeport; the encampment at Jacob's Cabin, late the site of Welshhanse (Tintzman's) Mill was not far from the crest of Bridgeport Dam. On July 3, 1755 the English troops marched northwest stopping at midday to water and rest their horses at a large double spring. This spring, later named Union Springs, became the water source of our early settlers on the Manor in Mount Pleasant Township. It was located just south of the present Spring Street near Jamesway and was still in use in 1906.

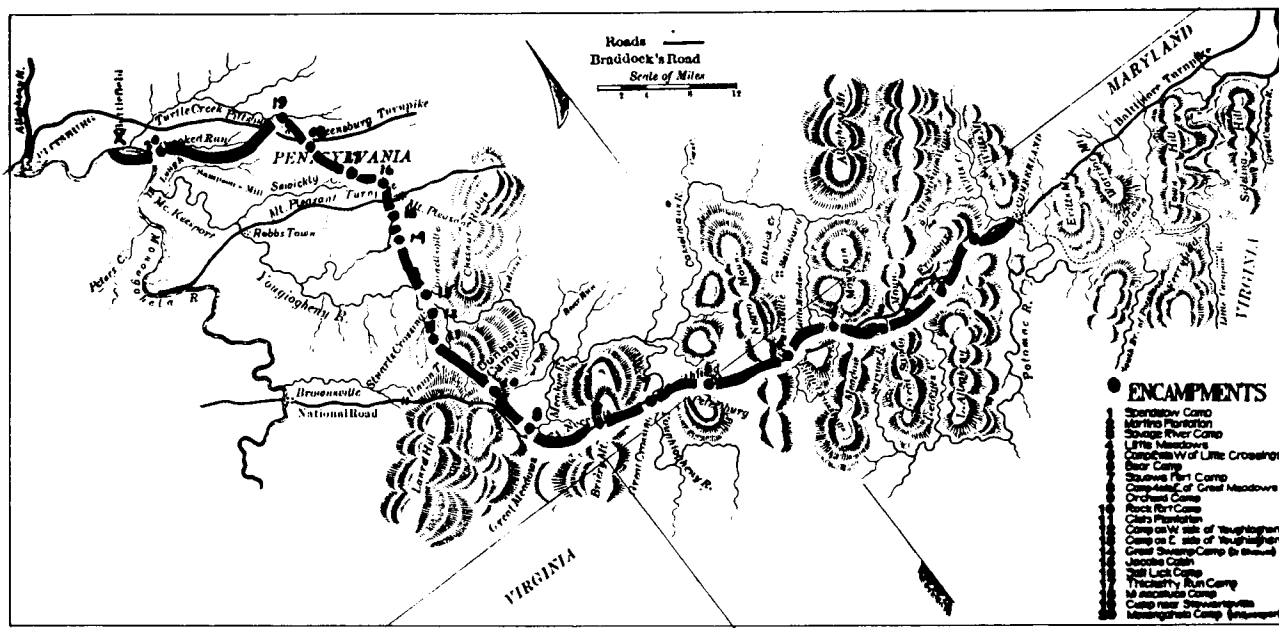




Photo loaned by Bill Howard

Nearly all goods passing between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh were transported on wooden pack saddles skillfully fitted to the horses' backs or on wagons drawn by four or six horses in teams. This trip took about two weeks for the pack or wagon trains which never traveled on Sunday.

our own Diamond filled to overflowing with such horses and wagons.

From the West on roads and pikes came cattle and sometimes sheep and hog drives to the eastern markets. *The West* in that day meant Ohio and Indiana. Men in the livestock business were called *drovers*. They bought up all kinds of stock in the West and drove them to the East on the pikes for the Philadelphia and New York areas.

In Mount Pleasant lived one lad who could often sense when a cattle drive was approaching long before anyone else. He would meet the group and help the drovers lead the animals safely along Main Street without causing too much damage. People living along Main Street at that time often had their property fenced in to keep the animals out.

When the railroads appeared, the drive was reversed as western cattle were unloaded at the rail depot and driven up Main Street toward the slaughter houses. Work horses would also be unloaded at the depot and often were auctioned on the spot to farmers.

Another interesting and romantic feature of the pike was the stage coach. In 1805 regular stage lines over the *State Road* were started between Pittsburgh and Chambersburg. The stagecoaches of different companies sometimes literally raced one another for public favor, often upsetting and injuring passengers. Excitement followed in the wake of coaches all along the road. Their arrival in the towns was the leading event of each day; their travel was so regular that farmers along the way knew the exact hour by their passing.

Running day and night, the mail coach stopped only at post offices on the pike, at relay stations and at taverns at meal times.

Taverns and travelers were inseparable; one always accompanied the other down through the decades because of the needs they served. The taverns or inns were of three kinds, with varying accommodations and prices in relation to their trade. Highest on the scale were the coach taverns, followed by the wagon stands where drivers stayed unless they chose to sleep in their wagons. At the lower end were the drovers' stands, which served rough, cheap, but satisfying food and which had large pens for holding stock overnight.

Mount Pleasant had its share of taverns to accommodate the different tastes of the travelers. Following Michael Smith's tavern,

"Over Laurel-Hill it is 12 miles from the last house in the Glades to the first on the other-side. A desolate and wild mountain it is, its ridges and western slopes exhausting for horse and man; not so much because of the steepness, as on account of the abominable rock-fragments lying in the greatest confusion one over another and over which the road proceeds. On this mountain we fell in with two heavily loaded wagons, carrying the baggage, women and children of several families travelling together....In the evening we reached the first cabin on the western side of Laurel-hill. This was the residence of Doctor Peter, a German, who was absent looking for his pigs gone astray in the woods. His wife, a good little old woman, and energetic, gave our horses oats for their refreshment and set before us mountain-tea and maple sugar, which as well as her bacon, whiskey, and cakes were the products of her own land and industry."

An account made in 1783 by Johann Schoepf, an English physician, on his trip from Bedford to Pittsburgh traveling in a two-wheeled chaise.

licensed in 1798 as a public inn selling wine and other liquors under restriction not to allow drunkenness, unlawful gaming or any other disorders, was the Hitchman House located at the northeast corner of Main and Church Streets, site of the present post office. A third, a brick and frame tavern house with stables on the north side of the turnpike, (768 West Main St.) was first owned by the Lippincotts and later known as the Jordan Hotel. Purchased in 1867 by John G. Gibbs, it was known as The Lambs Ear. Upon his death it was run by his widow Rebecca, mother of M. A. King. The S. P. Snyder Hotel was located on the Diamond in 1867.

These inns were warmed by great fires and around them sat the guests at night exchanging stories (which, could they be produced, would be of as much interest to us as those told by the *Canterbury Tales* travelers of the English poet Chaucer.)

Another group of inns for the traveling public of a later generation appeared on Main Street. Among these was the Keller Hotel, located at the present site of Fred's Tire Shop at 757 West Main St. Adjoining that was the Cooper House, a bar and hotel. Still another was the Central Hotel near the present J. C. Penney store.

Among the several good turnpike roads that carried trade and people were the *Northern Route* from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh extending through Westmoreland from the Conemaugh at Blairsville to Murrys ville (Frankstown Road and Route 22); the middle turnpike from Philadelphia by way of Bedford to Pittsburgh, passing through Laughlinton, Ligonier, Youngstown and Greensburg (Route 30); the turnpike from Somerset to Washington and Wheeling crossing the southern part of the county by way of Mount Pleasant and West Newton (Route 31).

Influences other than good engineering practices often

This 1910 parade scene shows part of the Hitchman House at the extreme left, adjacent to the National Hotel with its double tiered porch. Built about 1830 by Robert Hitchman, it operated as a hotel until 1905 when a drug store, the Elks Lodge and others became tenants of the building. The Hitchman House, a hub of activity during the 1800s, was razed in 1935.



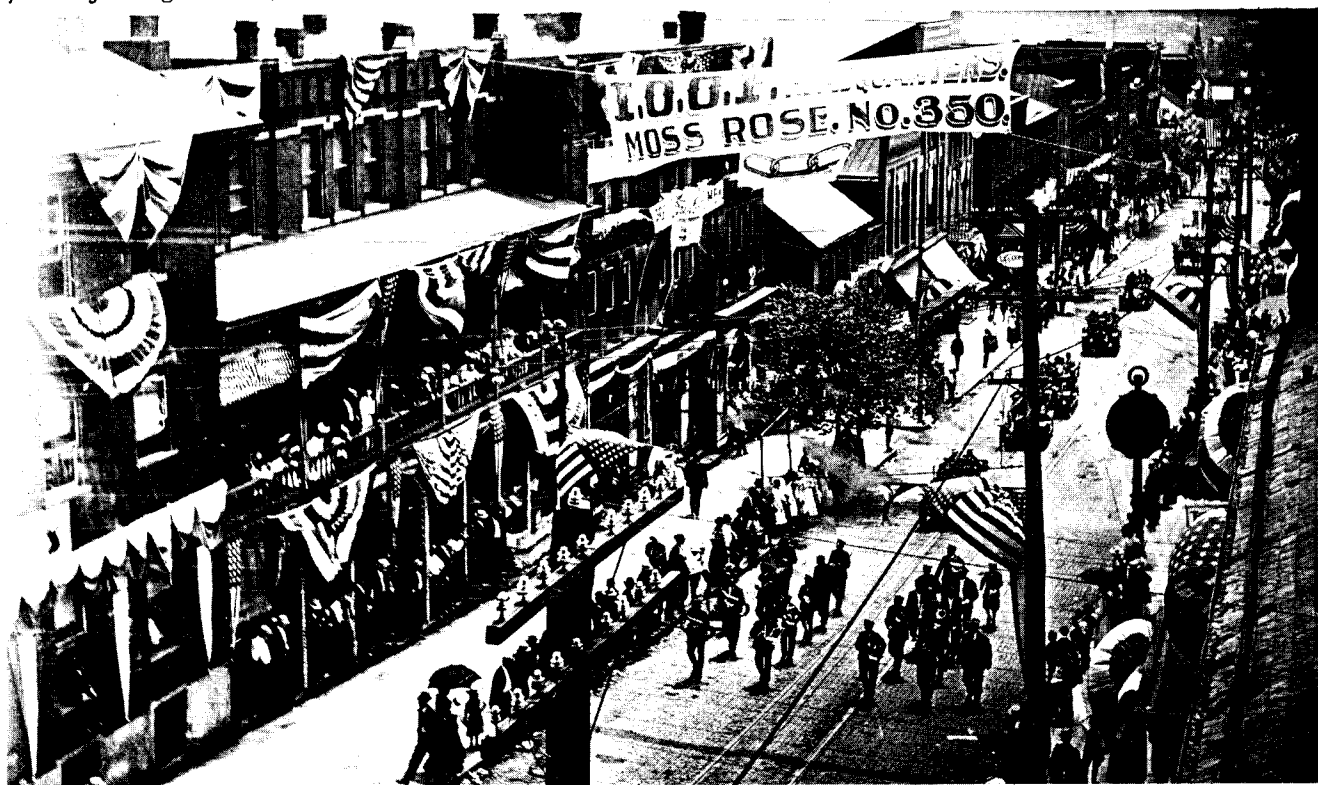
Loaned by Leonard Levinson

About 1900 Bartender Hahn, John Polanofsky, owner of the East End Hotel, and Louis Levinson paused on the porch of the National Hotel. Established about 1900 by H. J. Jordan, the National Hotel has provided food and lodging for travelers until October of 1978 when it will close permanently. The major hotel of this century in Mount Pleasant, it served the public longer than any other.

MOUNT PLEASANT, Westmoreland
Co. RR., Penna.; B. & O. Pop.
5,824.

NATIONAL HOTEL, 50 rooms. Ⓢ \$1.
Noss HOTEL, 32 rooms. Ⓐ \$1.50
up. Ⓢ \$1 up.

*The Official Hotel Red Book and Directory
1948-49 Edition*





Loaned by Genevive (Hart) Murray

In 1913 the kitchen of Ruder Inn was a busy scene as meals were prepared for the many guests. Mrs. Ernest Ruder is shown carving as her son, Ernest Ruder, watched, Molly Roehrig (Baker) whipped the potatoes and Mame Kenyon (Hart) filled her tray.

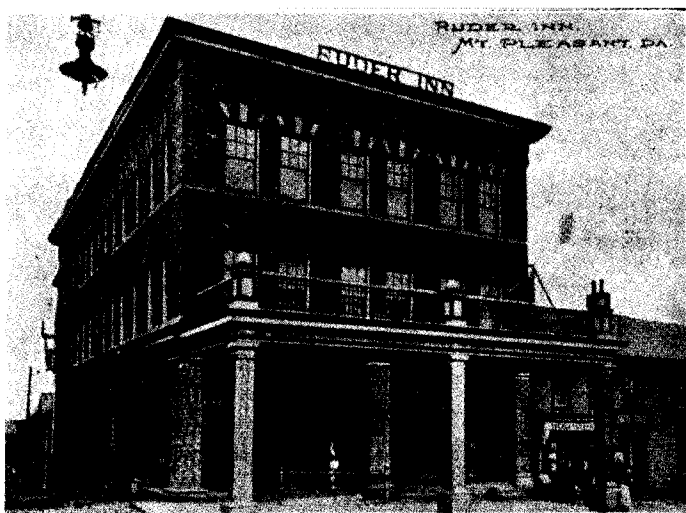
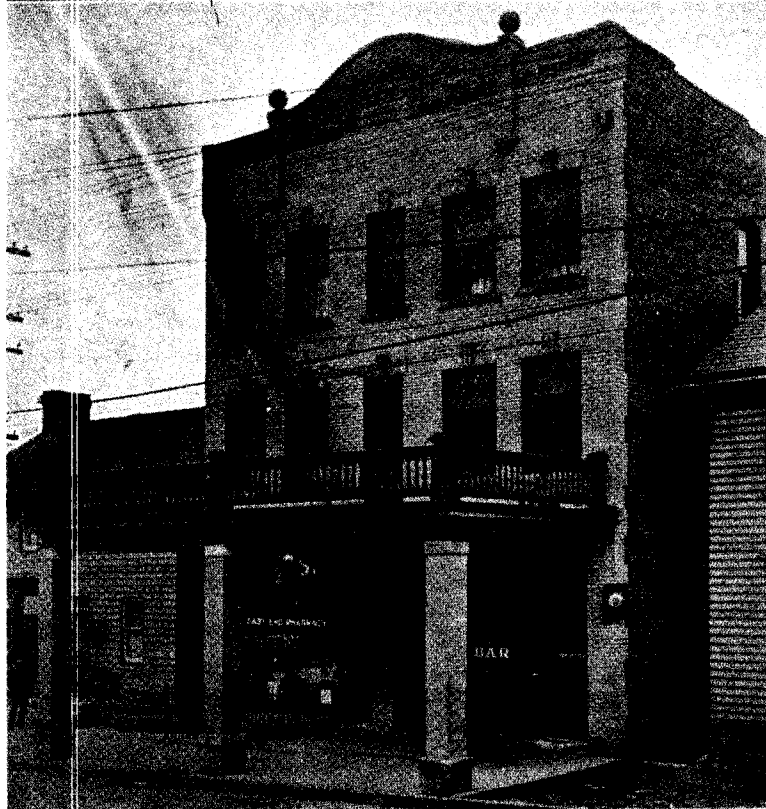
Five hotels advertised in the *Old Home Week* anniversary booklet.

Below: *The East End Hotel*, "A thoroughly modernized up-to date hotel located in the manufacturing end of town," John Polanofsky, proprietor; *Ruder Inn*, corner of St. Clair and Main streets, "Only Hotel with Hot and Cold Water and Baths," Ernest Ruder, proprietor.

Right: *Spelker House*, at the Junction, "Bar Always Stocked with Finest and Best Liquor," August Spelker, proprietor; *A. Lombardi Hotel*, corner Washington and Diamond Streets, "Special accommodations for Italian and French people," Tony Lombardi, proprietor; *Bossart Hotel and Restaurant*, 8, 10, 12, 14 Church Street, "Rates \$1.25 per day . . . Oysters all year round." E. R. Bossart, proprietor.

EAST END HOTEL

AT STREET CAR JUNCTION



determined where a pike would be built. Financed by both the state and by stock subscriptions, a road sometimes passed through rich farmlands and hamlets which might become busy centers of population. And sometimes the road deviated to satisfy a large stock subscription made by a landowner who wished the highway to pass near his remote residence.

In 1807 a number of separate companies were incorporated in several counties to build sections of turnpikes. The intention of such divisions was to create rivalry in order to sell stock along the proposed route more easily. By 1811 state funds were authorized for matching monies to facilitate construction of turnpikes within the Commonwealth.

Before the Mount Pleasant and Somerset Turnpike Company was organized, the Cumberland Pike was the principal highway south. Plans were made to cross the mountains following the Greenlick Valley. This caused rivalry between the settlers of Greenlick Valley and the Laurelville territory. Jacob Lobingier, a miller in Laurelville, donated \$1,000 to the pike promoters and through this gift, which in those days was exorbitant, the road was built through Laurelville.

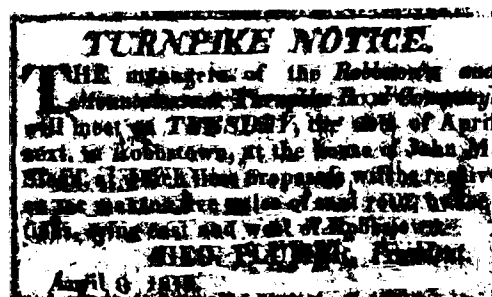
The Mount Pleasant and Somerset Turnpike Company was organized primarily to improve the highway known as the Glade Road upon which the town depended for communications with all parts of the world. On record there is a receipt issued Sept. 7, 1829 to Jacob Rupert for three shares, par value of \$50 each, in the Mount Pleasant and Somerset Road Company. It is signed by John Lobingier, pres.; and Henry Chorpenny, treas. The Ruperts at this time lived in what is now the Gunsallus-Armor Drug Store. This property was inherited in 1816 by Rupert's wife, Mary, from the estate of her father, Michael Smith. A second daughter, Elizabeth Kern, inherited Smith's tavern.

By 1832 Pennsylvania led all other states in building of turnpikes; 220 turnpike companies held charters. Over 3,000 miles of road had been constructed. Two of these roads extended by different routes from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh and were known as the Northern and Southern Turnpikes.

In the 1840s, some plank roads were built as substitutes or improvements for turnpikes, usually over short distances. By the end of the decade plank construction prevailed. Labor was cheap and the abundance of trees that was a handicap to agriculture, provided cheap material. The resulting plank roads were made mostly of 2-inch boards laid crossways on smaller boards called "sleepers". The roads were made very narrow, so that teams could scarcely pass each other without turning off the planked part of the road. For a short time the road was splendid, but the planks, warped by rain and sun, soon made the road very uneven. When decay eventually set in, timber was not readily available for repair.

The Mount Pleasant and Somerset Turnpike was later known as the Plank Road. It was part of the longest of all plank roads, beginning in Pittsburgh and passing through West Newton, Mount Pleasant, Bakersville, Somerset and on to Cumberland, Md. But sections were rapidly abandoned and the decaying planks could be seen lying in piles by the roadside.

In 1850, Thomas Shirber, who lived on the southwest side of the Diamond, promoted the old plank road and made speeches all around for stock subscriptions, proclaiming that well-built stage coaches would never be outdone in transportation, deeming the railroad dangerous for travelers. Actually, in many places the original roadbed was dug up for the plank road, spoiling it for driving until it was rebuilt. Today, utility companies, when digging up Main Street near the Diamond, still come across remains of these old planks.



The Greensburg Gazette

A tollgate for the Robbstown and Mountpleasant Turnpike is believed to have been located just west of the borough line. Tolls collected here and at gates placed every 10 to 12 miles were used to pay dividends to stockholders.

From Boucher's *New and Old Westmoreland* (1918) the following tolls are excerpted from an old rate bill typical of each section of that early 1800s highway:

For every score of swine, 6 cents.

For every score of cattle, 10 cents.

For every horse or mule, laden or unladen, led or drove, 6 cents.

For every sulky, chair or chaise with one horse, 12 cents. . . 2 horses, 25 cents.

Exception—No toll shall be demanded from any person or persons passing or repassing from one part of their farm to another, nor for any person attending funerals, or going to and from places of worship.

Turnpike Stock,
THE MODERATE PRICE OF

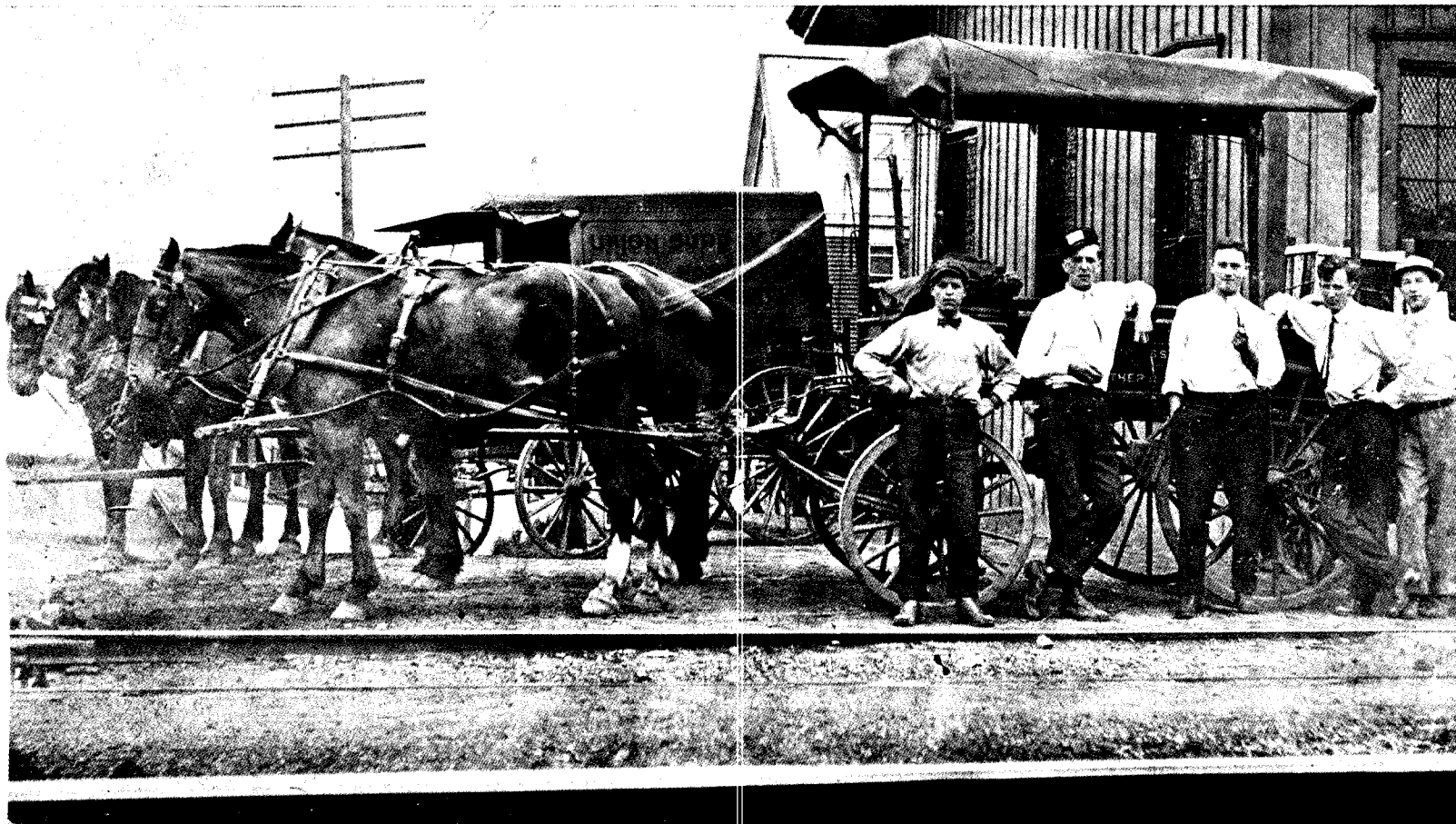
59 Dollars

Per share—Original cost, 50 Do.

THE subscriber offers for sale a few shares of Turnpike Stock, in the Robbstown Mountpleasant Turnpike Road Company, at the above very moderate rate; for payment of which he is disposed to receive cash.

While others in their trade increase,
And add new tokens of their ease,
Or in their wealth do sport to please
The ocean of their own caprice,
I with my humble kit do say,
I need some money day by day,
And sell I would—if I could,
An interest in our Turnpike Road.
The cost was low, I paid with ease,
By hammering leather on my knees.
The advance is light, I won't be tight;
It may procure some candle light.
Come buyer, come, and don't delay,
The price will rise from day to day,
And the chance you do neglect,
You surely won't on me reflect.

J. C. MERRIT, Cordwainer,
Robbstown, January 4, 1822.



In 1872 the Broadford and Mount Pleasant Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the Southwest Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad served the thriving coal and coke industry with numerous and regular stops.

For more than 50 years from the 1870s through the 1920s, this was a typical scene of men and wagons awaiting the arrival of trains at the station for their supplies.

With the building of railroads, stagecoaching to the East and wagoning on the pikes were eventually abandoned. The first railroad to seriously challenge the great turnpikes in the field of transportation across the mountains was the Baltimore and Ohio Line in 1828.

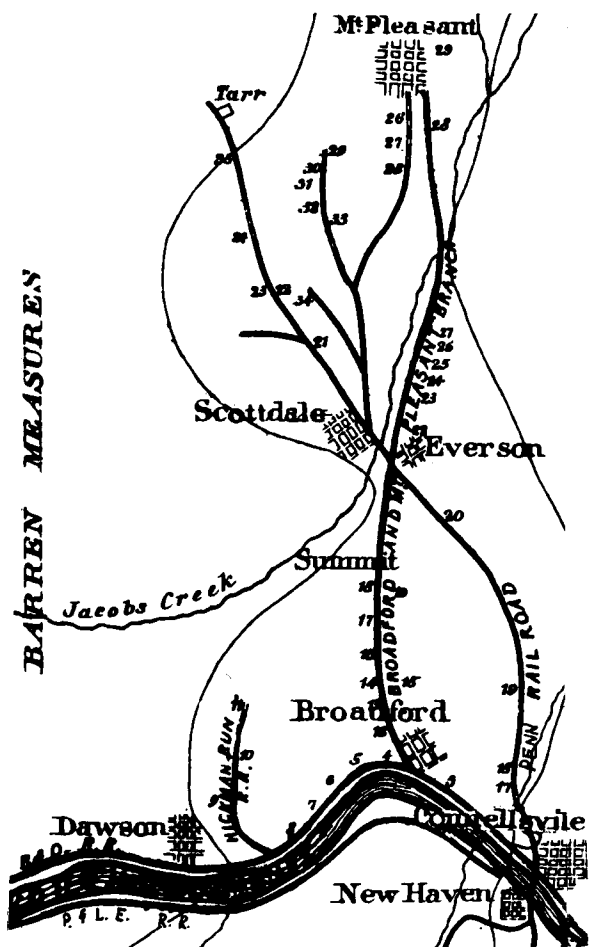
Fierce competition developed between the Baltimore and Ohio and the Pennsylvania Railroad. By about 1852 both lines succeeded in providing continuous rail transportation in western Pennsylvania, causing many of our highways to become unused and neglected.

But Mount Pleasant was not to be stranded. In 1846 the Pennsylvania Railroad considered to be one of the greatest transportation systems in the world, chartered to build a line from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh. It was completed in 1852 with numerous branches to nearby points along its lines. The Southwest Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad began at Greensburg, ran through Hempfield Township and then southeast through East Huntingdon Township from Mount Pleasant to Scottdale.

A branch of the Baltimore and Ohio, the Mount Pleasant and Broadford Railroad was completed in 1871; from then until 1904 it was leased to the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company. This line extended from near Scottdale, passing through the southern portion of East Huntingdon Township, Bridgeport and Mount Pleasant to the Standard Mines in Mount Pleasant Township.

Mount Pleasant found itself near the center of the largest coal and coke operations in the world. As the coal and coke industry expanded, so did the population and the accompanying rail traffic. Railroading grew rapidly and freight, coal, and on occasion, passenger trains were serving Mount Pleasant on a regular schedule.

By 1900 there were 300 separate railroad companies operating in Pennsylvania. By 1904 the slow-down of the coal and coke industry and the impact of the automobile was just starting to be felt. The iron



horse was beginning to experience what the wagon horse went through in the 1870s. As traffic by stagecoach had given way to the faster railroad the convenience of the car siphoned off passengers from the trains. Dormant and neglected highways and tollroads were awakened once more.

Since cars were few and far between in the early 1900s, other travel accommodations such as the livery stable were necessary. One was located toward the rear of the present Hilltop Tavern with a good-sized corral to keep stock overnight. Horses and buggies could be rented there for a trip or by a traveling salesman. Closed cabs were available for funerals.

An 1882 issue of the *Mount Pleasant Democratic Review* carried numerous transportation ads. The W. H. Smith and Company on Main Street was selling Studebaker Wagons and Buckboards. Morrison and Brother claimed their Webster Wagon could haul eleven tons.

One of the larger blacksmith shops was located at the present site of the Second Ward School building, facing Diamond Street at Washington; watering troughs were numerous. One with an especially long rail was located near the southwest corner of Main at Eagle Streets; another was in front of Shupe's Mill (now Pritt's Mill). Several more were located along Main Street, including the Diamond. Still another was near the alley next to the Jean Brownfield home at 729 West Main St.

Around 1895 or slightly before, a tollgate was located at the crest of Bunker Hill near Yoder Avenue. Attached to a small square hut, the collector's shelter, was a long pole which, when pulled down, would close the road. On Route 31 was another tollgate, just west of the borough line. The placement of tollgates here at such a late date suggests that they were used to finance the improvement of the road at that time.

In 1904 Pennsylvania set up the Department of Highways. By 1905, legislation was structured requiring the licensing of cars and the use of license funds went toward highway development.

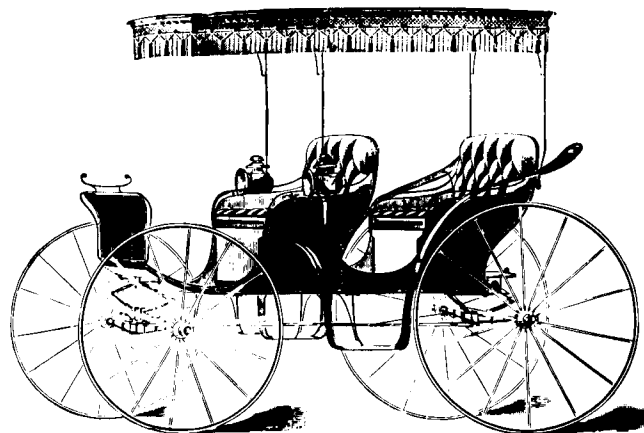
It was during these years that Viola Stevenson and her teenaged friends would often hitch up the *Tallyhoe*, a flatbed wagon with rows of seats attached, and go sightseeing. Once near Donegal they saw what was most likely one of the first automobiles in this section of the state. The girls found it difficult to believe that the car had come over the mountains "clear from the East."

In 1911 Pennsylvania took over 8,835 miles of highway for maintenance and improvement. On May 31 of that same year the first of many Mount Pleasant streets was incorporated into the Pennsylvania State Highway system. Main Street, the old Indian Glades Path, became Route 31, officially legislative route 186. According to Ruby Berg, about 1930 the number of 31 with two O's directly above could be seen painted on the telegraph poles along Main Street; "the O's stood for ocean-to-ocean."

North Diamond, Bridgeport, Church and Morewood Streets were officially accepted on June 1, 1933. Also accepted at that time was part of Nemaocolin's Path, or Eagle Street. South Diamond Street was added on June 1, 1945.

Such new and improved highways caused the almost total disappearance of the formerly important passenger traffic on railroads.

Almost as soon as the push for railroads got under way, towns all over America began building street railways, some as early as 1857. At one time practically every town and village in the area was connected in this efficient mass-transit system. It was literally impossible to say, "You can't get there from here."



No. 10. Canopy Top Surrey

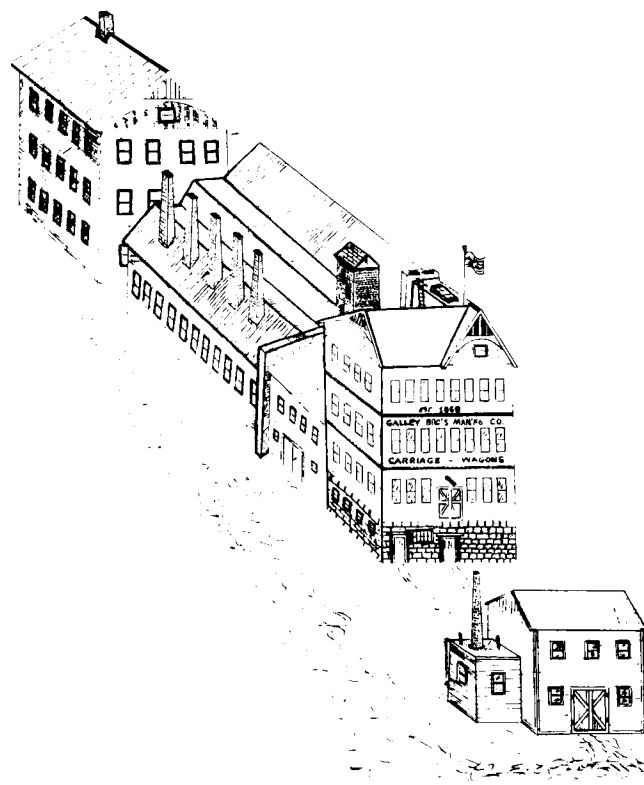
Cloth or leather trimmings. Brewster or elliptic springs.

This 1890 newspaper advertisement for a fine modern carriage shows the product of Galley Brothers' Carriage Manufacturing Company located at the northwest corner of Quarry and West Washington streets. The company, established in 1860 by their father and his partner, was known as the Galley and Mechling Company until 1865 when Galley assumed full ownership.

Although the factory was destroyed by fire in 1906, the Galleys erected a new building on the same site in 1907 and continued in the carriage business. In the 1920s Galley's switched to the manufacture of truck bodies and later extended the service to auto body repair and even the painting of airplane bodies.

Since 1963 William R. Galley, a fifth generation family owner, has operated the original Galley's. This 118 year-old company is Mount Pleasant's oldest continuously operated family business.

Drawings Loaned by Bill Galley





Loaned by John Hunter

About 1890 this matched pair was proudly displayed in front of a livery stable in Mount Pleasant probably located near the Diamond where the ground was level.

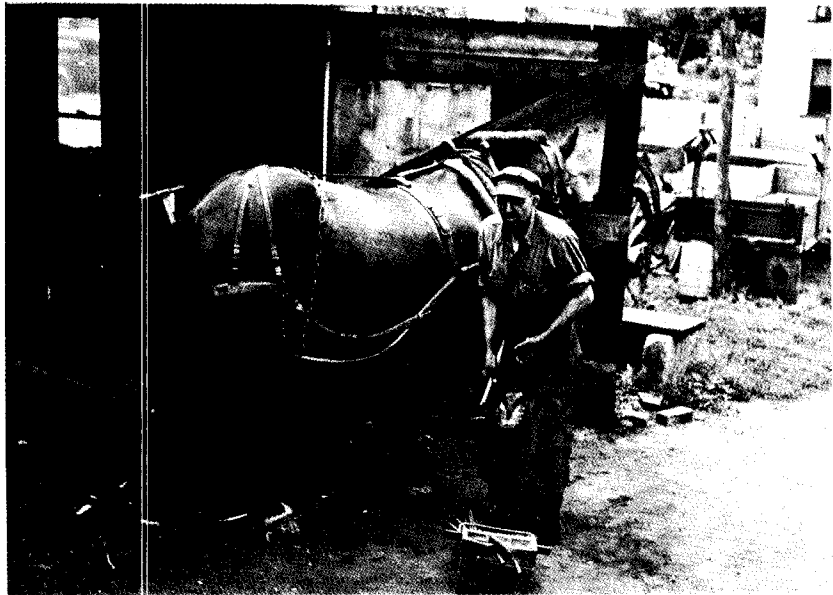


In 1913 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Baker of West Washington Street set out for a Sunday ride in their carriage pulled by Dick, their horse.

A black cast iron post and ring and three stone steps, remnants of the past, stand in front of the Brownfield home at 729 West Main Street, built about 1860 by Dr. J. H. Clark and later owned by the Doctors Mary and William Marsh. A lady patient or visitor would climb the steps to mount their horse as it was held securely to the post.



Photo: Jim Cook



Loaned by Frank Janesko

Mount Pleasant's last blacksmith, Freddie Myers, worked from his shop at the northeast corner of Smithfield and St. Clair streets serving the area for more than 50 years before retiring about 1970. Arthur Gearhart, burgess from 1938 to 1945, and Myers apprenticed with William Smith, who before the turn of the century, operated one of the town's largest blacksmith shops; it faced on Diamond Street near the northeast corner of Washington Street near the first high school (Second Ward).

For nearly fifty years, the pastoral countryside, the coal mines, the coke ovens and the industrial community of Mount Pleasant were part of that bygone transportation era of the electric streetcars. Their operation and schedules were often geared to the needs of the mine and factory workers. Though not particularly fast, they did the job well in areas where highways and rural roads were slower or nonexistent.

In 1899 promoters from Pittsburgh filed a charter for the Mount Pleasant, Scottdale and Connellsville Electric Railway. By taking over the older Scottdale, Everson and Broadford Railway and building an additional line, they had a system that ran from Mount Pleasant to Uniontown. A run from Mount Pleasant to Tarrs was completed in 1901 and the two were connected by a streetcar line running practically the length of Main Street.

In 1902 an extension was planned from Mount Pleasant to Bridgeport and in 1903 another run was completed from Mount Pleasant to Morewood. A Greensburg line was extended from Armbrust and Youngwood about 1906; about 1912 the Mount Pleasant-Latrobe line was linked at Hecla.

In 1924 a freight service was established that passed through Mount Pleasant, the cars sometimes traveling in pairs. Items carried ranged from milk and macaroni to funeral caskets, Sunday newspapers and refrigerated meats.

After 1930 streetcar users became fewer and fewer. For our area the final run was made in 1952 amid civic fanfare, crowds and celebration. However, abandonment of these lines was not always because of highway competition; West Penn gave up its last lines because of the stay-at-home influence of television.

Super Highways

Today Mount Pleasant's proximity to two entrances of the Pennsylvania Turnpike gives it the advantage of traffic passing through on Route 31 from opposite directions. It is near or intersected

by half a dozen major state highways and is still served by both Baltimore and Ohio (part of the Chessie System) and the Penn Central (Conrail) Railroad.

In addition, a new section of Route 119 forms a four-lane limited access link with an existing section of that road near Mount Pleasant, the Pennsylvania Turnpike and Interstate 70.

An access way from all of these to the just-completed Volkswagen assembly plant has been built; and a new railroad line that runs from Mount Pleasant directly into the plant will be used by both the Chessie System and the Norfolk and Western Railroad.

Fifty to one hundred years from now this transportation era may well be considered the most significant period that has occurred in the northeastern states in the past half-century. The original question of whether our town encouraged transportation systems or was developed by them remains unanswered. The interesting difference today is that not only will the area be using transportation but soon it will also be making it. Our future, as was our past, is linked with transportation.

Vincent Miele



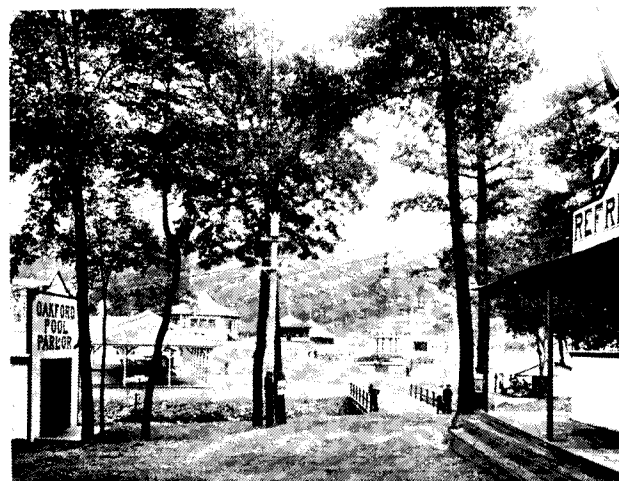
On the lawn waiting for the games at Idlewild.

The office of the passenger agent, Western District Pennsylvania Railroad Company, offered special excursion rates for the Idlewild season of 1901 to societies, Sunday and day school, and organizations of 200 or more. Mount Pleasant was one of the 80 stations listed on the schedule; fares from here were 80 cents per whole ticket and 55 cents per half ticket for children age two to twelve years. Idlewild's 350 park acres boasted three lakes, row boats, virgin forests, baseball fields, tennis and bicycle courts, family tables and dining halls as well as "Vapor Launches."

To compete with the railroad's offering of leisure trips, West Penn opened the Oakford Park amusement area near Jeannette. The park grew as piece by piece was added, carousel, bandstand, arcade, dining and dance pavilion, and rollercoaster. Inscribed in many old-timers' memories was a picnic at the park "... where a perfectly good Sunday School outing was ruined by a bunch of *coke snuffers* who were helped home by the state constabulary *because of too great an indulgence in Jeannette gin.*"

The streetcar soon became a social institution as well as a transit system. School picnic days by streetcar were one of the highlights of the summer. Loaded down with bushel baskets of food, Mount Pleasant families would line up at many points along Main Street awaiting the open-air cars to ride to Oakford Park.

1901 Pennsylvania Railroad Schedule, loaned by Louis Sibal.



Oakford Park
Westmoreland County Atlas, 1905



Loaned by Rev. Harry Rhome.

The passing of the streetcar era left behind a flood of memories. Streetcar riders crossing Main Street from Cherry to Center Avenue recall how the larger center-door cars had to practically creep round that curve to avoid hitting the Penn Francis Hotel building.

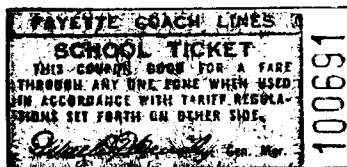
George Elmo remembers that as a young man he often had to leave the dances at the Hecla Hall or Simon's Hall in Trauger early to catch the nightly streetcar for Mount Pleasant; if he missed it, he walked home. Other social activities were often regulated by the streetcar schedule.

When a streetcar struck a skunk near Hammondville in February 1934, the *Mount Pleasant Journal* observed that West Penn had finally made a fare rebate, giving a *scent* back in addition to the ride.

In 1935, a large truck carrying a load of oysters smashed into a streetcar. Several hundred oysters, someone reported at the time, *met sudden death*.

Many riders recall the laying of pennies on the track to see how flat they would get; stopping to get a cow off the tracks; traveling through snow, rain and wind storms; experiencing minor crossing accidents. Countless other nostalgic incidents involved hold-up men, pick-pockets and inebriates that never failed to challenge the resourcefulness of those passengers trying to *get there from here*.

Following the end of streetcar service in 1952, the Fayette Coach Lines buses provided transportation for a few years. Today the only available public transportation is the Somerset Bus which passes through Mount Pleasant twice daily making a single round-trip between Somerset and Pittsburgh.



On the way to Oakford Park. Getting there was as much fun as being there.



Loaned by Kurt Rumbaugh

In preparation for the placement of the Doughboy Monument in 1924, the streetcar tracks of the Mount Pleasant to Tarrs run, which followed the entire length of Main Street, were lifted at the Diamond intersection. New tracks were laid that curved around this new landmark.

The West Penn Trolley in the 1940s.



Loaned by W. Hixson



Mount Pleasant Man Builds a Fast One "Small but speedy is the way Frank Janesko describes the car which he built during his spare time. Only 36 inches wide with a 69½ inch wheel base, it can travel at a rate of 75 to 80 miles per hour." Pittsburgh Gazette, 1925.

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER CO. OF AMERICA

MANUFACTURERS OF THE MOST RECOGNIZED MAKES OF

HARVESTING MACHINERY OF ALL KINDS

MOWERS RAKES TEDDERS
HARROWS GASOLINE ENGINES

AUTOMOBILES

AND AUTO DELIVERY WAGONS



While popularly classed as one of the trusts we have never used trust tactics. Our machinery and tools are as good as represented, which can be proved by dealing with our agent in Mt. Pleasant.



J. J. HITCHMAN

Old Home Week Book, 1910.

In 1924 Frank Janesko, aged 18, posed with his home built car in the rear of his parents' home at 807 Main St. Built in the basement of the house then moved to his backyard workshop before the body was added, the car was constructed of cut down parts from five to six different cars: a Buick frame, a Moon radiator, a Packard instrument panel, Stutz Bearcat upholstery and etc. The 1920 Model-T Roadster in the background cost five dollars used and in running condition from the Junkyard.

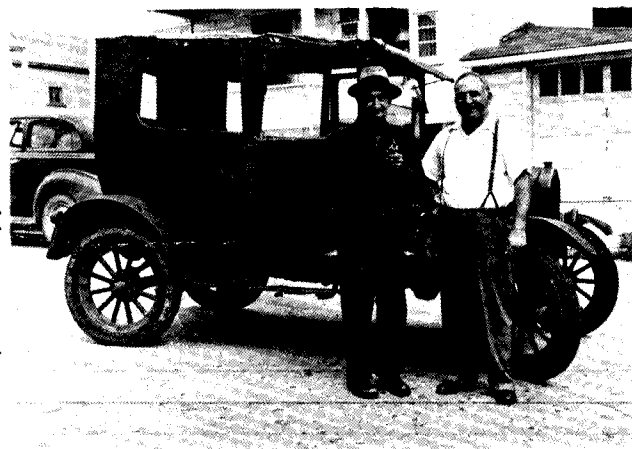
Barron's and Poster's, the local junkyards, both on Quarry Street, didn't have the fancy cars but they did have a large selection for the adventuresome young men who wanted to learn the "art and mystery of the horseless carriage."

While motor vehicle registration began in Pennsylvania in 1905, an operator's permit was not required until 1909 when one could be purchased by anyone 18 years of age or older. In 1919 the age was lowered to 16 and in 1924 compulsory testing of new operators was instituted.

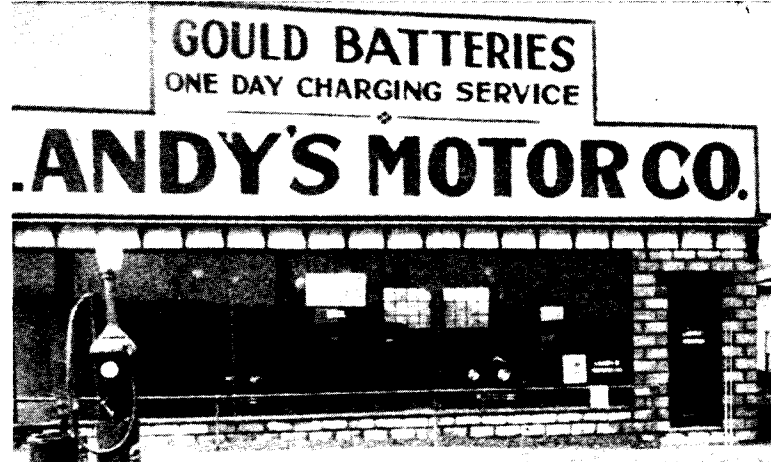
Since the field of auto mechanics was new specialized and understood by only a talented few, cars of this period that developed problems were often junked or driven into the barn and left. In the 1920s a number of auto repair businesses opened in Mount Pleasant, serving the transportation of the future.

Standing in front of their Main Street, Bunker Hill, showroom and garage with a new 1925 Durant, the Landy brothers, Mike, Joe and Tony, operated one of the first garages in the area and sold Durant and Star automobiles. The frame building on the right was destroyed by fire in 1976; Joe Landy last surviving brother, died in the blaze. The block building is presently occupied by Cunningham Dance Studio.

Loaned by Mrs. Henry J. Glowacki



The last "working" Model-T Ford seen in the area was owned by pipe-smoking Edward King of Alice Post Office, who with his wife, delivered fresh eggs, butter, and buttermilk weekly to Mount Pleasant customers. In the 1940s King with one of his customers, musician-barber Jerry Rega, posed across from Rega's shop on North Shupe and Smithfield streets.



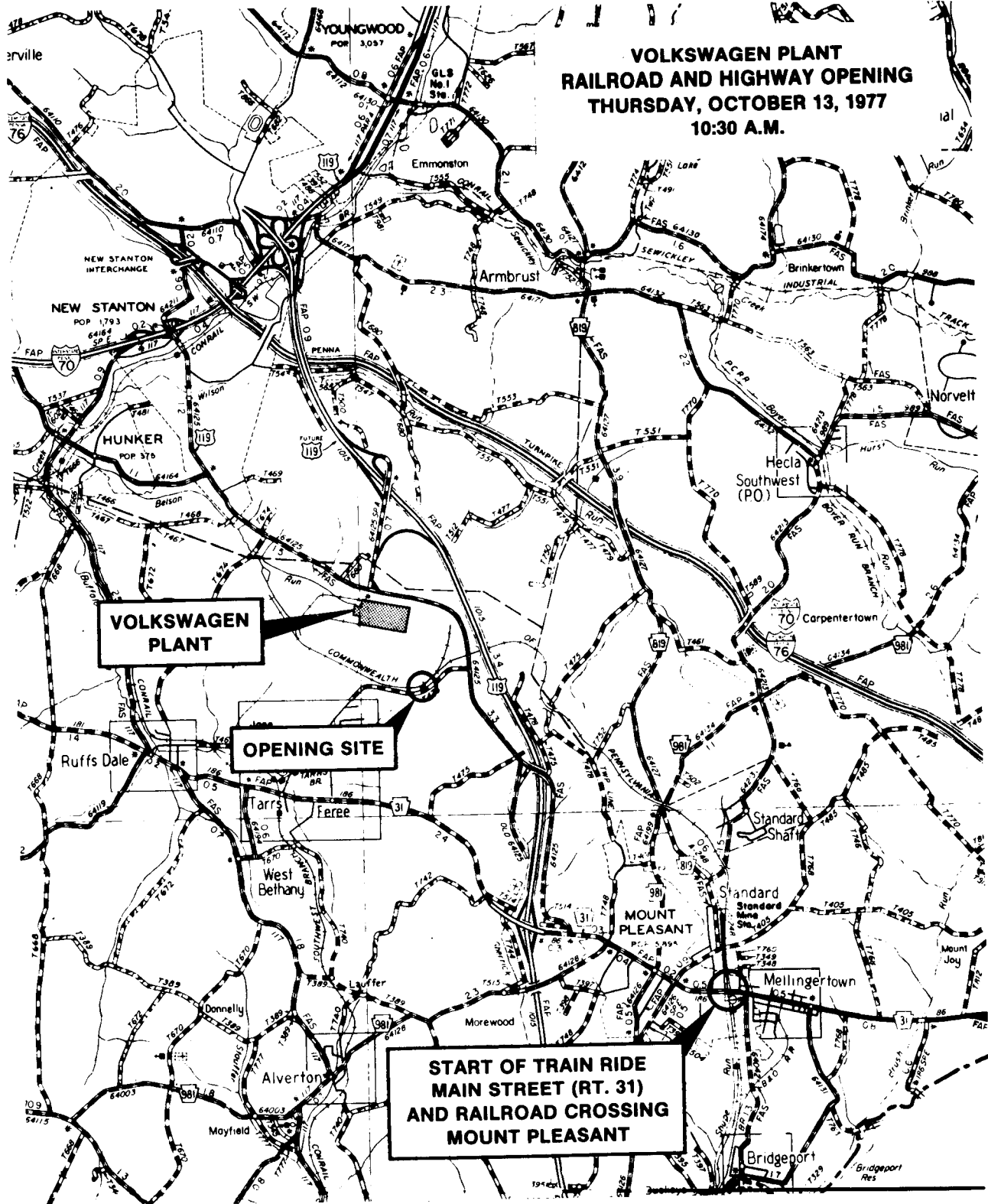


In 1941, amid a flurry of farewells, a special troop train left the depot carrying the men of the 140th infantry and new recruits who had been called into federal service.

In 1957 the Pennsylvania Railroad Freight Station stood quiet and idle in contrast to the lively road traffic and the selling of automobiles just across Shupe's Run on Main Street. Standing in front of the late model used cars are employees Harry Uber, Sam Miller, unidentified boy, Maxine Sawyer and owner Morris Barron, who established his business here in 1941. While Barron's continues today, the Freight Station was abandoned and later torn down in 1976 after attempts to preserve it as a museum failed for lack of funds.



**VOLKSWAGEN PLANT
RAILROAD AND HIGHWAY OPENING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1977
10:30 A.M.**



Resource Persons: Ruby Albright Berg, Lawrence Rehanek, George Elmo, Jess Stairs, Skip Gaudiano, Viola Stevenson, Sam Hayden, Robert B. VanAtta.



Flier Jack Beranek with his Cessna 175, daughter Jackie and son Albert at the airport.

One cold, wet winter morning in 1978, Al Michaels, vice president of the Western Pennsylvania Helicopter Service paused in front of a state police helicopter just arriving for routine maintenance.



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A New Era of Transportation

A new era of transportation began 75 years ago in 1903 with the first successful flight of a motor-driven airplane. During the world wars, the military trained men to fly; a few local adventuresome men also became fascinated with the flying machines.

In the 1940s one of these was Al Beranek, an auto mechanic who has operated his own shop on Morewood Street since 1930. He was the first customer of the Mount Pleasant-Scottdale Airport. In 1945 while aloft, curiosity about the construction at the Barclay family farm off the Connellsville Road at Iron Bridge, caused Al to land. His hunch was right; it was to be an airport.

The Mount Pleasant-Scottdale Airport opened in 1946. Owned and operated today by Milton Barclay, the FAA licensed airport with its 32-acre grass field, serves fliers from a large area with 32 airplanes based there; it provides a service for charters and instruction and the maintenance of 100 planes.

Some of the other Mount Pleasant fliers who use these services are: Joe Rega, Jim Murtha and Jack Gradler. Al Beranek and his son Jack are the only local fliers who hangar their plane at the airport.

In 1976 the Western Pennsylvania Helicopter Service was established there with Al Michaels of North Geary Street, Mount Pleasant, as vice president and Fred Wagner of Scottdale as president. Routinely, 63 helicopters, including all six of the Pennsylvania State Police Aviation Division, fly in for service and maintenance.

Turnpike

The initial survey for the first superhighway in America was made in January of 1936. On May 21, 1937, Act 211 authorizing the formation of a Turnpike Commission, was passed in the Legislature at Harrisburg. Mount Pleasant was selected as the location of one of the five offices established by the Commission in charge of plans for the new superhighway. The Donnelly Hotel at Main Street and Cherry Avenue housed the local office with a force of 60 men; 20 employed in the office and the others, divided into 5 field crews, worked to determine correct grades, the stiffest grade being 3 percent.

Water had to be drained from seven of the nine tunnels bored in 1883 for Carnegie's *dream railroad* — the South Penn Railroad which was abandoned in 1885. The Laurel Hill tunnel, the nearest to this district, has a total length of 5,400 feet.

The highway was to be 162 miles in length extending from Middlesex, 13 miles west of Harrisburg, to Irwin, the western terminus. The road was to be the most direct east-west highway connection through this part of the country, an all-year-round highway through the Allegheny Mountains that would also be of great military importance in the event of war.

In May 1939 more than 450 men were employed; by the latter part of June 1, 755 men were employed with a total weekly payroll of \$43,000. At this time 52¢ an hour was paid for unskilled labor while up to \$1.40 an hour was paid for operators of heavy equipment.

Late in 1939 agitation surfaced to have an interchange at Donegal, a break between New Stanton and Somerset. The request was rejected. After much discussion and many conferences, the Commission had not decided definitely, and even by January 1940, the proposed interchange was still uncertain; the chief obstacle was the high cost involved in the proposed relocation of Route 31.

Requiring a larger office space during this time, local headquarters for the highway project moved to the First Ward School building.

Governor Arthur James announced his full cooperation for the completion of the superhighway, for Pennsylvania was not financially liable in any manner for the cost of the undertaking. Its \$58 million projected cost, federally funded through the WPA and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, was to be repaid by charging tolls. The final cost was more than \$70 million.

In 1940 plans made for the July 4th dedication of the highway were changed to Labor Day. Members of the party of government officials, army officers and road experts who accompanied the cavalcade of 50 automobiles which made the 162-mile preview of the new turnpike, were recipients of greetings from the town of Mount Pleasant in the form of a large sign displayed at the highway's closest approach at Simpson's Hollow. Mount Pleasant was the only community to display such a sign along the route.

The official opening of the turnpike was at midnight on Sept. 30, 1940. The Mount Pleasant office of the Turnpike Commission closed on Nov. 18, 1940.

From material submitted by Susan Swink



One of the seven tunnels of the Turnpike aggregating 6.7 miles. The right of way including nine stragically located tunnels of the South Penn Railroad abandoned in 1885, was purchased by the Turnpike Commission in 1938 from the Pennsylvania and B & O Railroads.

Turnpike Ticket

TRAILER #	S. PERMIT WGT.	S. PERMIT #			
PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE		8			
Toll Ticket from NEW STANTON					
If ticket is lost highest fare to exit will be collected.					
ENTRY SIGNATURE ONLY WHEN REQUESTED					
No-U-TURNS		FASTEN SEAT BELTS			
EXIT SIGNATURE ONLY WHEN REQUESTED					
TRANSACTION NO.	DAY	TIME	COLL. INT. LANE		
EXIT	FARE	INTERCHANGE NAME	EXIT	FARE	INTERCHANGE NAME
1	1.45	Gateway connection Ohio Turnpike	21	4.00	Reading
2	1.20	Beaver Valley	22	4.20	Morgantown
3	.95	Perry Highway	23	4.45	Downingtown
4	.75	Butler Valley	24	4.85	Valley Forge
5	.55	Allegheny Valley	25	5.00	Norristown
6	.40	Pittsburgh	JUNCTION connection FOR EXITS 31 thru 36		
7	.15	Irwin	26	5.15	Fort Washington
8		New Stanton	27	5.25	Willow Grove
9	.30	Donegal	28	5.50	Philadelphia
10	.70	Somerset	29	5.65	Delaware Valley
11	1.40	Bedford	30	5.70	Bridge connection New Jersey Turnpike
12	1.75	Breezewood	NORTHEASTERN EXTENSION		
13	2.10	Fort Littleton	31	5.25	Lansdale
14	2.25	Willow Hill	32	5.45	Quakertown
15	2.50	Blue Mountain	33	5.70	Lehigh Valley
16	3.00	Carlisle	34	6.05	Mahoning Valley
17	3.15	Gettysburg Pike	35	6.40	Pocono
18	3.25	Harrisburg-West Shore	36	6.55	Wilkes-Barre
19	3.35	Harrisburg-East	37	6.75	Wyoming Valley
20	3.70	Lebanon-Lancaster	38	7.00	Scranton

Sesquicentennial



On May 1st students from the high school held various positions of borough government. From the left: Lisa Chackan, sec'y.; Cindy Tomich, mayor; Janey Christner, council pres. and Mary Viazanko, solicitor. The Elks held a luncheon for these acting officials and the others who participated.



On May 11 Edward Kuhn, Jr., concert pianist, entertained us with a recital at Ramsay auditorium, sponsored by the Women's Club. This talented musician certainly makes Mount Pleasant proud.

On June 16 the Women's Club sponsored an open house at the Library. Sarah Overly, chairman.



On March 12 we had the Israeli Singers & Dancers at the Synagogue on Church St. This was the first program in our anniversary year.



On April 16 a "Giant Polish Day" at Kosciuszko Club brought out hundreds of people. Day-long activities (12-12) provided something for everyone — dancing, food, singing, etc.



"Dancing on the Diamond" on May 21, a once in a life-time event, featured two bands, the New Romanos and Western Aristocrats. Potoka's provided the flat-bed trucks on which Kloczek's erected canvas tents to create two stages at the western corners of the Memorial Square. The Junior Hospital Auxiliary was co-sponsor with Sesquicentennial Committee.



Italian Days on October 1 was another successful event. Held at St. Pius cafeteria it provided dancing, food and as a special treat Jerry Rega's Italian Orchestra. Seated is George Pologruto. Standing, from left, are Lou Rega, Herman Caruso Sr., George D'Amato and Jerry Rega.

During Nationality Days in September we had concerts by the high school and firemen's bands. Ralph Glassburn also auctioned off the Sesquicentennial pictures that had been prepared by Jim Cook and Zig Prevenslik.



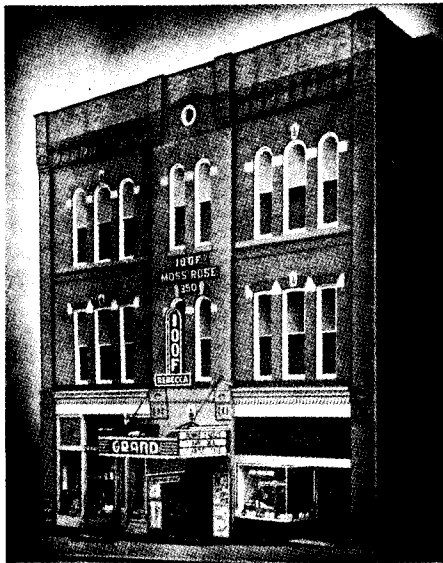
The Mount Pleasant Cornet Band, chartered in 1871, was one of our earliest organizations. The members in the picture taken about 1885 were: 1st row: Clyde Wade, Sheppard; 2nd row: King, Clark Felgar, Roy Knox, Ed Pershing, Orray Zuck, Rake Marsh; 3rd row: William Smith, John Ramsay, Frank Lowe, Ben Tinstman; 4th row: Charles Bossart, McMillan, Charles Wade, director; Charles Mechling.



Loaned by Opal Berthel

Our organizations, formed for the love of music, fellowship, community, culture or fun, are a wonderful mixture of great variety. Their compiled histories provide an accurate picture of Mount Pleasant's citizens, their good character, rich heritage and high ideals.

Organizations



The Town Hall Association building built in 1879, as it appeared in 1949. The 3rd floor was occupied by the Moss Rose Lodge and the Julia Rebekah Lodge.

Charter members were: S. S. Johnson, Christian Barger, C. F. Lichteberger, John Houch, James Hitchman, Levi Buzzard, Jonathon Felgar, Leonard Furry, Samuel Jordan, Johnson Jordan, William Jordan, William Hood, M. C. McMillen, Samuel Miller, Jr., Henry Neely, Henry Sipe, Jr., William Taylor, Joseph Smith, Daniel Shupe, E.J. Statler.

The by-law committee appointed at the time of institution was composed of Christian Barger, Joseph Smith and C. F. Lichteberger. These brothers evidently must have done their work leisurely and carefully, for the final reading and adoption took place on August 2, 1849.

At the time of institution and for a period of 31 years thereafter, there were five degrees in the subordinate lodge. In 1880 these were reduced to three.

The WCTU Pledge

I hereby solemnly promise, God helping me, to abstain from all distilled fermented and malt liquors including wine, beer, cider, and to employ all proper means to discourage the use and traffic in the same.



Photo by Jim Cook

1977-1978 officers, seated: Ivan Shaffer, warden; Cadet Shirer, rec. sec'y; Donald Parry, vice grand; Fred Snider, noble grand; H. Richard Stahl, chaplain; Douglas W. Gemas, fin, sec'y; Douglas M. Gemas, treas.; standing: Francis Y. Crosby, l.s. vice grand; Randall Kreinbrook, r.s. noble grand; Sheldon King, inside guard; H. Earl Kuhn, outside guard; Jack W. Parry, r.s. to vice grand; Wendell M. Cottom, conductor.

Moss Rose Lodge No. 350 I.O.O.F. 1849

Chartered on April 16, 1849, the Moss Rose Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows has the distinction of being the oldest existing fraternal organization in the county.

The first officers were: S.S. Johnson, noble grand; Christian Barger, vice grand; C. F. Lichteberger, sec'y.; John Houch, ass't sec'y.; James Hitchman, treas.

Charitable in their labors of *friendship, love and truth*, the founders of the lodge sent financial assistance when disasters struck in different parts of the country, such as the Chicago Fire, the Yellow Fever Epidemic in the South and cyclones and floods in the West, as well as giving aid to their own faltering sister lodges. Of their own members who were careless in attendance or in visiting and caring for the sick, they were not so charitable, fining them up to two dollars for lack of a good excuse.

The Moss Rose Lodge has changed its meeting place but once. From 1849 to 1879, meetings were held in the Mullin building, diagonally across the street from the present building. Since 1879, the lodge has occupied its present room in the Town Hall Building which for many years housed the Opera House and later the Grand Theatre.

During the years since the lodge was instituted, it has initiated into the mysteries of Odd Fellowship about 1700 members over the past 130 years. The present membership is 61.

From material submitted by Cadet Shirer.

Woman's Christian Temperance Union 1882

Organized on Oct. 31, 1882 by representatives from four of the town's churches, the Mount Pleasant Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the first formed in the county, became part of the moral uprising of the nation's womanhood. Charter members, Mrs. S.S. Reynolds, Mrs. J.A. Leon, Mrs. H.B. Pershing, Mrs. L.E. Flemming, Mrs. H.O. Ginstmin, Miss L.G. Seal and Mrs. E.R. Good, meeting in the United Brethren Church, adopted the movement's pledge and the symbol of purity and unity, the white ribbon.

After many years of being hosted by Mrs. D. H. Stoner of College Avenue and later by Miss Esther Galley of Washington Street, the area members now meet in the Bridgeport Church of God.

The goal of the WCTU was and still is to alert people to the dangers and effects of all alcoholic beverages, establish purity as the single standard of morality for both men and women and mandate laws to protect women and children in the home and community; embracing these with the principles of Christianity for home and native land.
From material submitted by Velma J. Shivler.

In 1978 WCTU officers are Mrs. Edna Snyder, pres.; Miss Velma J. Shivler, v. pres. and rec. sec'y.; Miss Pearl Lyons, ass't. sec'y.; Miss Leona Hart, treas.; Mrs. Ray Brown, spiritual leader.

Needlework Guild of America 1891-1974

One of the town's most historic organizations was the Mount Pleasant Branch of the Needlework Guild of America, founded in 1897, just one year after the parent founding in Philadelphia, attributed to Laura S. Stewart. This "charity that helps other charities", inspired by a similar activity in England, was organized locally by Mrs. C. G. Yahn.

Adhering closely to the rules of the parent corporation, members of the Mount Pleasant Branch were designated as directors. They contributed hundreds of articles such as clothing, linens, and new items to the military, hospital, county and orphan's homes and the Red Cross. Each director was requested to secure 22 articles in a year-round effort that at one time involved sewing, knitting and crocheting.

There were but two meetings each year, coinciding with the farm harvest ingathering: the first, a tea, was usually held in the president's home to plan for the second, the November Ingathering, held in one of the local churches. This day's activities, highlighting the receiving, tabulating and distribution of the articles, was interrupted by a luncheon celebrating the efforts of all the contributors.

In 1959 a total of 2,300 articles was tabulated; by 1973 a dramatic decrease to about 1,000 articles indicated the changing community demand and interest. After 77 years of charity in serving others, in 1974 the members made the difficult decision to disband. The well kept records of the Guild read like an honor roll of this century's women who served the community with their labor and concern.

From material submitted by Sarah L. Overly



In 1973, Mrs. David Patterson, Mrs. William Glick and Mr. Alex Copeland, officers of the Needlework Guild counted the 1,000 donated articles at the last Ingathering.

Mrs. M. W. Horner, an early member, with her daughters, Margaret Jane, seated, and Sarah (Mrs. Donald Ruth), a present member, examining a reading prepared for club presentation.

Saturday Afternoon Club 1895

The Saturday Afternoon Club of Mount Pleasant and Scottdale, founded in 1895 and federated in 1906, is the oldest federated Woman's Club in Westmoreland County.

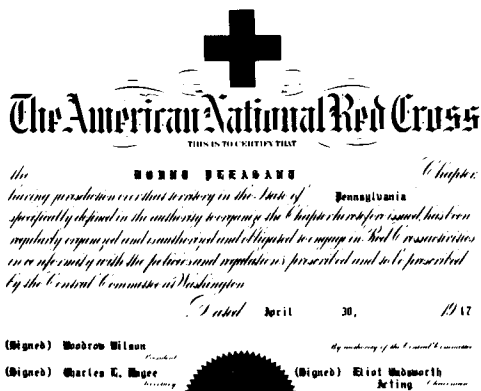
The club's membership of 40 women is divided equally between Mount Pleasant and Scottdale. Originally meetings were held in the members' homes alternating between the two neighboring towns where the women traveled by train.

Primarily a social and cultural organization with an early history of program presentation by the membership, the club now has an excellent diversity of programs with guest speakers and artists.

The Saturday Afternoon Club has supported the Frick Hospital and various civic projects throughout the many years of their intercommunity relationship.

The officers are: Mrs. Thomas Flaherty, pres.; Mrs. Robert F. Kalp, vice pres.; Mrs. Robert Hauser, sec'y.; and Mona Ruth Coffman, treas.





Local Blood Program co-ordinators for the Red Cross: Mrs. T. R. Snyder, Mrs. Milton Gespass, Mrs. Clair Shaffer, Mrs. Cedric Spence, Jr., Mrs. Robert Boyer, and presently both Mrs. Thomas Flaherty and Mrs. George Hockenberry.

Right: the Eat-A-Bite members at their annual meeting held at a member's home. As was customary, the womenfolk had been sent away for the day while the gentlemen cooked their own dinner. Members pictured, 1st row: Dr. Wm. Marsh, Robert Burkholder, Henry Jordan, Merritt Page, Dr. John Burkholder, Milton George, B. Melvin Lohr, Robert Goodman; 2nd row: Arthur Page, Jesse Mullin, Wm. Smith, Dr. F. L. Marsh, Harry Morrison, Wm. Snyder, Charles Swartz, John B. Coldsmith; 3rd row: Frank Kough, John Shields, Elmer Wolfersberger, M. A. King, Alex Collins, Lawrence Zuck, Richard Doncaster.

American Red Cross 1898

During the Spanish American War in 1898 an American Red Cross Society was formed here to support Company E in the Philippines. At the conclusion of this war the group rallied to the cause of a local hospital becoming the Hospital Aid Society in 1902. With the call to arms in 1917 the community again responded patriotically with formal organization. On April 30, 1917, the Mount Pleasant chapter was issued the first national charter of the American Red Cross in Westmoreland County. It was now part of the organization chartered by the United States Congress to act as a medium of voluntary relief and communication between the American people and their armed services. Its 750 volunteers were headquartered in Room 4 in the First National Bank building, 700 Main St.

The chapter's first officers were: Rev. Walter E. Evans, ch.; Mrs. John D. Hitchman, v. ch.; Mrs. John R. Madden, sec'y.; and John L. Ruth, treas. The organization soon had 20 branches; Scottdale was the largest with many branch units under its jurisdiction. The welfare of servicemen and their families was of top priority and 16,080 volunteer hours were recorded.

Rechartered as the Mount Pleasant-Scottdale chapter, the Red Cross continued with veteran's affairs after the war along with new activities as child care and home nursing. Miss Nana Hasland was an early caseworker. From 1944 until 1955 while headquartered at 15 South Church St., the Red Cross was served by Miss Margery S. Lowe of Scottdale, the first executive secretary. At this period Miss Eva Freeman, visiting nurse, was well-known throughout the area by her slate blue Red Cross uniform.

The blood program, the most important peacetime effort the Red Cross has ever undertaken, started here in July, 1949 when Morris Pigman, chapter chairman, enlisted Mrs. T. R. Snyder as the program's first chairman. The first bloodmobile visit from the Johnstown Regional Blood Center secured nearly 100 pints of donated blood. The site was changed in the 1960s to the Veterans of Foreign Wars building at 416 Main St. with occasional visits to the Modulus Corp., the Frick Hospital, and now the high school.

Another charter, issued Sept. 8, 1955, designated the Mount Pleasant-Scottdale chapter a merged unit of the Westmoreland chapter. With Mr. Leonard Feldman as local chairman this union served the Red Cross program in a broader area more efficiently with a professional staff being based with the Westmoreland Chapter, Greensburg.

Presently with the United Way providing the funding, Mount Pleasant is well represented, participating in programs of disaster relief, first aid, water safety and service to military families.

The Eat-A-Bite Club 1902-?

An organization of local business and professional men active during the early 1900s, was a counter-part of today's Weight Watchers.



Loaned by Robert L. George

Mount Pleasant Elks 1903

June 19, 1903, the Mount Pleasant Lodge No. 868 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks chartered 31 members who had been affiliated with the Scottsdale lodge. Merritt A. King, local funeral director, was the first Exalted Ruler.

With no permanent home until 1905 when club rooms were opened on the second floor of the Mount Pleasant Journal building at 29-33 South Church St., from 1908 its quarters were in the Hitchman House, the present Post Office site at Main and North Church streets. Early in 1934 the lodge rented the entire third floor of the Mount Pleasant State Bank building, presently Pittsburgh National. After extensive remodeling and decorating the quarters consisted of two large assembly rooms and kitchen which they occupied for 17 years. The Dr. M. W. Horner property on Diamond Memorial Square was purchased in 1951 and the following winter the residence was completely remodeled into attractive, well-equipped rooms. The first regular meeting here was held April 17, 1952.

Permission from the Grand Lodge was issued to Exalted Ruler Peter J. Cavezza on July 13, 1970 to enlarge and remodel the facilities. Completing this project in September of 1972 the lodge returned to full and active service for the membership and their guests.

In carrying out the principles and objectives of the Grand Lodge, the local Elks throughout the years has been a strong force in the civic and social development of Mount Pleasant; it has sought to promote the well being of the community's inhabitants through many worthwhile activities. The present membership of 1,048 celebrates the 75th anniversary of Lodge No. 868 this most important summer of 1978.

From material submitted by Willard Stevens

Shown marking the Elks 75th anniversary are the current club officers, seated from the left: Charles Waugaman, lecturing knight; Dale Walker, leading knight; Ralph Hostetler, exalted knight; George Sebek, loyal knight; Douglas Shumar, esquire; David Valiante, organist. Standing: Joseph Wooleyhan, inside guard; Milton Kuhn, chaplain; Michael Farrell, presiding justice; Robert Baird, secretary; Raymond Grosser, treasurer; Joseph Kurpiel, tiler.

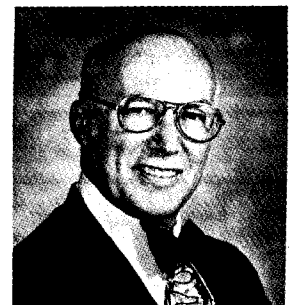


Homer Huhn, Elks Grand Exalted Ruler

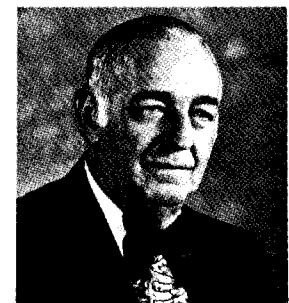
The Mount Pleasant Lodge has the distinction of having one of its members as the National Grand Exalted Ruler during the year 1977-78. Homer Huhn, Jr. was elected to this high office at the annual convention in New Orleans in July 1977.

Initiated into the Mount Pleasant Elks Lodge in 1941, he served as secretary of this lodge for eleven years. He was active at the state level, having served as district treasurer and president, state vice president and president, and five years as the Elks' state secretary.

Homer became District Deputy, Grand Exalted Ruler in 1956. After being elected Grand Secretary of the Elks in 1971, he moved to Chicago to serve until his election as Grand Exalted Ruler. Homer and his wife, Jo, are listed as area residents once more but during his reign as chief executive of the Elks, they traveled thousands of miles visiting lodges in every state.



Milton S. Kuhn, Jr., District Deputy for 1977 to 1978, has served in every office of the local lodge and is presently its chaplain; he served as Grand Exalted Ruler of the lodge from 1961 to 1962.



Joseph Wooleyhan, Exalted Ruler for 1977 to 1978, will lead the local membership in celebrating its 75th anniversary during the summer of 1978.



Officers of the Italian Beneficial Association, seated: Deno Ciprella, Gerald Spinella, Frank Comfort, Joseph Testa; standing: John Pasquale, Frank Damico, Charles Splendore, Salvador Visconti, J. Vincent D'Amato.

Italian Independent Beneficial Association 1904

The Woman's Auxiliary

Organized Nov. 15, 1959, and meeting monthly in the lodge quarter, the women assist the men's group whenever possible and support civic projects throughout the community. Mrs. Rose Comfort Benedict the first and only president, will serve through the 20th anniversary; she is aided by Angeline Bielecki, Jean Rodgers and Rose M. Rozell.

The Italian Independent Beneficial Organization Di Maria S. S. Del Assunta meets in their social hall on Oak Street. Organized in 1904 by Anthony Lombardi, William Crivella, Anthony Santora, Anthony Splendore, John Tesauro, and John Christofer, with headquarters in the old Lombardi (Antonette) building at Washington and Diamond Streets, the heirs of the founders still play a major role in the present activities. This group, which will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 1979, is an important factor in the life of our community.

From material submitted by Charles Splendore

Kosciuszko Club 1907

Ladies Auxiliary to the Kosciuszko Club

Organized in 1973 with Mrs. Joseph Pyda, president, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Kosciuszko Club is the largest organization of women with an active membership of nearly 200.

The auxiliary women consider their organization "special - one big happy family" and their monthly meetings are well attended, "fun and enjoyable evenings." Following business, entertainment includes a speaker or demonstrator and games with fellowship at lunch.

Fund raising projects consist of the women working in the kitchen preparing ethnic food for socials and charities. Supporting the men's activities they also donate time and funds to community projects considered important to the members.

During the planned Sesquicentennial Anniversary Ethnic Days in 1978 they will demonstrate proudly their Polish heritage with entertainment, food, costumes and dances.

From material submitted by Jean Etling, pres.

The Thaddeus Kosciuszko Beneficial Society was chartered in 1907 to promote good fellowship, aid members in distress, and help non-citizen members to qualify for citizenship by teaching them English and the history and constitution of the United States. The club took the name of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, the Polish patriot of the Revolutionary War who distinguished himself in the Carolinas and New York as a colonel of

Kosciuszko Club won Best General Float honors in the Heritage Day Parade sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Bicentennial Committee. Walter (Jake) Czeka sits astride the horse as he portrays General Thaddeus Kosciuszko. Seated from left are Mrs. Emily Patchell and Mrs. Jean Etling.



engineers. The club's first officers were Joseph Wilczynski, Michael Koscielniak, and Steve Goretsky.

After having been located in an apartment on Depot St. through the 1920s, the club purchased property in 1936; their first building was constructed in 1940 at the north end of Depot Street.

Following World War II, with a great influx of younger men there was an increase in social membership; the Kosciuszko Club began baseball, softball and bowling teams which soon won the club the many trophies that now grace their quarters. The club presently sponsors a Little League team coached by Joe Rudnik, "Lebo" Levendosky, and Ed Gorecki.

In 1972, following a two-year \$100,000 expansion and construction plan, the members moved into the club's new and enlarged brick structure with the dining and social facilities among the finest in the area. The club held a mortgage burning celebration under the presidency of William Levendosky in 1975.

The Kosciuszko Club hosted the borough's Birthday Party celebration of its 150th anniversary of incorporation on Feb. 7, 1978.

Present officers with president Edward Gorecki are Leo Nitkiewicz, Walter Czeka, John Gazda, Ted Kolacinski, Frank Kalemba, Steve Melega, Robert Zelenka, John Jurkovic, Joseph Pyda, Jr., John Bindas, Stephen Kubasky and Joseph Tartal.

From material submitted by John Gazda

Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 27 1907

Founded on June 8, 1907 with fifty charter members, the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 27 first met in the room above the Mount Pleasant Journal on South Church Street. In December 1909 they moved to quarters in the Charles Kuhn building at 212 East Main St., purchasing the building in 1915 and two years later proceeded with renovation; the social rooms and lodge hall were remodeled on several occasions.

Plans were made to remodel and build a new front on the building in 1966. These plans proved fruitless, however, when a raging fire completely destroyed the entire Moose home on January 12, 1967.

Thomas Proud, then governor, called a meeting and insisted that a new home for Lodge 27 be constructed. After countless meetings, and some problems in planning and construction, the Lodge's new home at 111 East Main St. was finally completed and dedicated with appropriate ceremony on December 16, 1968.

Under the present leadership of Joe Jones, and ten years at 111 East Main St., members of the Moose continue to support the Child City of Mooseheart, Illinois and the Home for the Aged at Moosehaven, Florida, and are always alert to the needs of their members, as well as the total community with its civic and charitable spirit.

Officers 1977-78, from left: D. Fenton, trustee; J. Kuku, outer guard & oldest member; M. Kramer, trustee; J. Jones, gov.; J. Grimm, sgt. of arms; J. Burkus, trustee; A. Tabita, sec'y; R. Kraus, treas; P. Snyder, steward. Missing from picture: Joe Jones, Jr., Jr. Governor.



In 1976, the week following the win in Mount Pleasant's parade, the Kosciuszko Club float took second prize in the Scottsdale Heritage parade; the trophy was placed in the club while the check for \$25 was presented by William Levendosky, club president, to Mrs. Jean Etling, president of the auxiliary. Looking on was Walter Czeka, club treasurer, and Mrs. Rose Zeman, Bicentennial committee treasurer and auxiliary vice president.

Women of the Moose

The first meeting and institution of the Women of the Moose Chapter 433, was held on April 6, 1941 in the former Moose building. An impressive ceremony to initiate the 62 charter members was well attended by dignitaries from the area, state and nation. Their first officers were under the leadership of Cora Skiles, Felicia Heller and included Wilda Hare, Sophia Fasano, Sarah Kelly, Zella Rutherford, Margaret Hout, Julia Frederick, Daisy Phillips, and Verna Briercheck.

Troop 1 Organized about 1913
 Sponsor: St. Joseph Church
 United Brethren Church
 Scoutmasters Raymond Grosser
 Tom Hyde
 Emerson Mates
 Frank Eckels
 Elmer Shebeck
 Homer Kuhn
 Richard Cunningham

After meeting in the First Ward School for several years, the troop was renamed 131 in the early 1960s; it produced 14 eagle scouts.

Troop 2 Organized 1921
 Sponsor: Church of God
 Scoutmasters: T. D. First
 Robert Speer

Disbanded in the early 1920s, it became the nucleus for Troops 3 and 4; it produced 4 eagle scouts.

Troop 3 Organized 1925
 Sponsors: Reformed Church
 Rotary Club
 Lutheran Church
 Bohemian Club
 Scoutmasters: Nelson Addelmen
 Tom Copeland
 William Carmichaels
 Albert Cooper
 Lloyd Zaronsky

This troop produced two known eagle scouts before being disbanded in 1960.

Troop 4
 Sponsor: Visitation Church
 Scoutmaster: Steve Baluh
 This troop produced 10 known eagle scouts.

Troop 6 Organized 1927
 Sponsor: A citizens group
 Scoutmasters: John Haberlen
 Orray Zuck
 B.M. Tullio
 Clyde Shaw
 Charles (Molly) McCann

Renamed 136 in the 1960s, it produced 21 eagle scouts.

Troop 135 Organized 1963
 Sponsor: St. Pius X Church
 Scoutmasters: Robert Hribal
 Gary Sheffler
 Joe Soforic
 Lou Auer
 (Ass't.) Mike Blasko

This troop has produced 3 eagle scouts and presently has 22 members.

Troop 133 Organized 1964
 Sponsor: United Church of Christ
 Scoutmaster: Edison (Pete) Rice
 The troop has produced 28 eagle scouts and never missed a monthly hiking or camping outing in its 14 year history. Presently 47 boys are members of the troop.

Troop 137 Organized 1967
 Sponsor: Veterans of Foreign Wars
 Scoutmasters: Kenneth Eichner
 McClelland Snyder



The first Boy Scout camp for boys of Mount Pleasant was held in the summer of 1908 near Freeman Falls where members of this first troop, their leaders and interested visitors posed in front of the old furnace, a landmark of the early iron industry. From the left, seated: Moody DeVaux, James Shields, Seeley Pigman, Ray Stauffer, ass't. scoutmaster; Richard Doncaster, Joseph Coldsmith, B. R. King, scoutmaster; Nevin A. Cort, George Crosby, L.K. Zuck, Erskine Jones and Mathias King are the small boys standing just back of first row while Clifford Fox and Charles Walker are seated behind at the right; standing: Charles Vincent Keller, Charles Keller, Joseph Galley, James Easton, Thomas Cort, Loyd Miller, Wilmer Morrison, Raymond Faust, Walter Stewart, Alex Snedden, Harrold Myers. The photograph was taken by Frank Kough, who with Mr. Shields, Mr. Doncaster, Mr. Cort and Mr. Zuck had gone to spend the afternoon at the camp with the troop.

Boy Scouts of America 1908

The Boy Scout movement was founded in Great Britain in February of 1908. The summer of that year, B. T. King, a Mount Pleasant scoutmaster, assisted by Ray Stauffer, conducted a Boy Scout Camp near Freeman Falls with more than a dozen boys attending. During Scouting's ensuing 70 year history, many Mount Pleasant men have provided outstanding, unique and inspired leadership for our youth.

John Haberlen had a troop at the Mount Pleasant Institute in the 1920s and started young Orray Zuck and Ernie Clausner on long scouting careers. In this same decade, Charlie Beachem, the high school principal, had a troop in the Braddock building (now Gradler's). Kirk Bryce supervised a scout outing to Bridgeport, where the boys erected a 15 foot tower from which they dispatched semaphore flag messages to other scouts at designated outer posts.

Always a challenge, meeting places were secured in the churches, the meeting halls, the Saloom and Cernuto buildings. The vacant First Ward School made excellent quarters in the 1950s when Orray Zuck, using his rapport with scouts, converted some into band musicians while teaching others marksmanship, an activity that developed into a branch of the National Rifle Association.

Involved in Westmoreland-Fayette District Scout Council's inter-community events, such as annual First Aid Meets, the troops participate with others from the two-county area.

Camp Wesco, the earliest county campsite, located off route 30 near Darlington, was replaced by a new Camp Wesco in the late 1920s a



Troop 135 spent a week at Camp Conestoga in 1975 with 13 scouts: from the left, kneeling: J. Grosser, Dan Rose, Joe Rose, F. Ferrell, J. Hoza, Joe Soforic, J. Kendi; standing: B. Yourish, John Rose, R. Fasano; above: J. Damico, John Soforic, J. Caletti. For most area troops, camping at Conestoga, in the Laurel Hill State Park, is an annual event.

Troop 133 at the 1973 National Jamboree; from the left, sitting: James McKenna, Ronald Levendosky, Tim Luper, Rick Smitley, Tom Betz, Tom Kapelewski, Dan Cook; kneeling: Ronald Konieczny, Mark Dell, Robert Hostoffer, Robert Kantorik, Robert Livengood, Steven Levendosky, David Smitley, Vaughn Piper; standing: Larry Kantorik, ass't scoutmaster; Edison (Pete) Rice, scoutmaster; Ben Piper, acting scoutmaster; Mark Smitley.

Troop 138
Sponsor: Church of God
Scoutmaster: Elmer Speer
This troop produced 6 eagle scouts. It was disbanded in 1977.

Exploring
Post 3 William Carmichaels
Post 131 Frank Eckels
Post 133 Arthur Hoyle
As each troop had its own post at one time, this list is incomplete.

Post 760 Organized 1971
Sponsor: Frick Community Hospital
Advisor: Thomas Boyle
This coeducational program has 33 members at present. It has produced a number of medical professionals.

Cub Scouts
Pack 3 Organized 1962
Sponsor: Lutheran Church
Cubmaster: Ernest Zundell
Pack 130 Organized 1971
Sponsor: Transfiguration Church
Cubmasters: Tom Henderson
Patrick Kloczek

This pack disbanded in 1976.

Pack 133 Organized 1963
Sponsor: United Church of Christ
Cubmasters: Gilbert Fisher
James Hare
Edward Bellush

This pack presently has 57 cub scouts.

Pack 135 Organized 1962
Sponsor: St. Joseph Church
Cubmasters: Eugene Galley
Watson Luper
Lee Conrad
Vince Siecinski
Mrs. James Sapola

It has 53 cub scouts enrolled.





Scouts of Troop 138 adopted the customs and costumes of the American Indians on a camping adventure at Conestoga in 1975; from the left: Rick Milliron, Drew Kraisinger, Mike Hartman, Rick Lohr.



Journal Photo

The medical explorer post sponsored by Frick Community Hospital involves students from Southmoreland and Mount Pleasant High schools, focusing on careers in health-related fields. The post meets twice monthly; its program includes an annual field trip to medical facilities at Bethesda Naval Base, the National Institute of Health or a university medical center.

At Camp Wesco in 1963, Paula Rugh and Collette Tullio paused briefly during their busy camp day.



mile west of Stahlstown. Conestoga, a camping complex in Laurel Hill State Park, was opened in the 1940s; here boys continue to find the true spirit of scouting. West of Scottdale is an overnight scout base, Tenachairson, named after an Indian guide who led Washington's troops on a military expedition through the area in the 1750s.

At the 1973 National Jamboree held at Moraine State Park, Butler County, two Mount Pleasant troops were represented: Troop 133 with 16 scouts and their leaders, Ben Piper, acting scoutmaster and Larry Kantorik, asst. scoutmaster; and Troop 138 with 8 scouts and Elmer Speer, scoutmaster. Edison (Pete) Rice, Troop 133's scoutmaster, served on the Jamboree staff; at the 1977 Jamboree, Ben Piper served on the staff.

Troop 133's outstanding program of outings has taken the scouts hiking the Mason-Dixon Trail twice, the 180 mile C&O Canal from Cumberland, Md. to Washington, D.C., the Laurel Ridge Trail and the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia and the Anteitam Battlefield. Troop 138 in its nine year existence made three trips to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Troop 135 was represented at the 1977 Jamboree by Mike Blasko who acted as assistant scoutmaster of the council troop and by scouts Jim Caletti and Mike Hartman.

A coeducational medical explorer post, sponsored by Frick Community Hospital, was organized in 1971 by Thomas Boyle, Director of Pharmacy.

The most coveted award for leadership, the Silver Beaver, has been presented to Kirk Bryce, Orray Zuck, Ernest Clausner, Frank Eckels, Clyde Shaw, Edison Rice and Robert Hribal. Another acknowledgement for fine leadership is the District Award held by Elmer Speer, Ben Piper, Kathleen Bellush, B. M. Tullio, Edward Bellush and Mike Blasko.

With 50 years active service this year, Ernest Clausner has the distinction of serving scouts longer than any other resident.

As part of the Braddock Trail District, boy scouting in Mount Pleasant presently consists of Troop and Pack 133, Troop and Pack 135 and medical Explorers Post 760 involving a total of 212 youths.

Boy Scout Week, the first week of February of each year, appropriately shared the borough's birthday celebration this year.

From material submitted by Ben Piper and Edison (Pete) Rice.

Girl Scouts of America 1940

The local Girl Scouts were organized in the spring of 1940 by the Mount Pleasant Woman's Club while Mrs. F. O. Naylor was president. Each of the three troops formed had 32 girls and three leaders who met weekly in the Reunion Presbyterian, the Evangelical United Brethren and the Evangelical Reformed churches. The leaders and six committee women assigned to each troop met regularly to plan and co-ordinate the scouting program.

During World War II, all troops lent a hand to the defense effort with a patriotic, home talent pageant, "Volunteers for Victory." Troop 3, under the leadership of Miss Nancy Lowe, sold United States Defense stamps; many scouts sewed quilts and baby blankets for the Red Cross and collected tinfoil and collapsible metal tubes.

The capable and enthusiastic leaders of this period of popularity of girl scouting were: Mrs. Lewis Harrer, founder of the organization; Mrs. William Covert, ass't. chairman; Mrs. Randall Kreinbrook, important to the Brownie organization.

The Woman's Club continued financial assistance which included a



In 1974 the Cadet scouts of Troop 24, led by Joday Lupher, backpacked for a week on the Laurel Highland Hiking Trail; from the foreground to the rear: Vanessa Piper (back to the camera), Cynthia Snyder, Megan Lupher, Brenda Czekaj, Benita Piper, Lori Tony, Martha Rolla, and Linda Lute.

Mrs. Lupher who was day camp director for the girl scouts at Mammoth Park for several years, took a number of senior scouts from the Council area to the National Center West in Wyoming in 1976; Vanessa Piper was the only local scout to make the trip to this high adventure area in the Big Horn Mountains.

tag day. Augmenting their badge work, camping, parades and *just plain fun*, the girls made favors for hospital trays, collected food and clothes for the needy, conducted book drives for the library and did good turns for all.

In the early 1960s the local girl scouting program dissolved. In 1962 the Westmoreland Girl Scout Council based in Greensburg began to reorganize the Mount Pleasant area using local women as neighborhood chairmen. Six troops with two leaders and three committee women assigned to each troop were formed. Since that time the scouting program has continued sporadically, dependent on good leaders and community interest. In 1978 there are 3 active troops here.

Recently the Westmoreland Council purchased a camping area, the Laurel Mountain Camp at Rector, following the termination of their lease on the old camp, Wesco. The new campsite was made possible by the sale of Girl Scout cookies, the only authorized fund-raising activity permitted since scouting became part of the United Way.

Many local housewives, mothers and working women attribute some of their talents to an early girl scout experience; already a number of these first scouts are joining the ranks of grandmotherhood.

From material submitted by Janet Blaine Berg.

(Before 1940, one or more lone troops were conducted here by a leader listed as Mrs. Martha Shultz.)



In 1976 three scouts in the Junior Scouting program were the first in the area to earn the God and Community Award. The scouts and their leaders are, from the left: Mrs. Kenneth Berg, Barbara Berg, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church; Sharon Dix, Church of God; Deneen Trice, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Mrs. Kenneth Trice.

Sponsored by the Jr. Woman's Club 1940

Troop 1 United Brethren Church
Leaders Sally Harrer
May Jo Sawyer
Margaretta Dillon

Troop 2 Reunion Presbyterian Church
Leaders Ethel Hostetler Grim
Jean Spence Simmons
Margaret Reichman Murtha

Troop 3 Evangelical Reformed Church
Leaders Estelle Blackburn
Mary Hanna Fox
Genevieve Premoshis

Brownie Troop 1942
1st Leader Ruth Kreinbrook

Intermediate Troop
Leader and Scout Sec'y Hazel Covert

Eight troops existed in 1960: 1 senior, 5 intermediate and 2 Brownie. A donation of \$500 from their treasury to the local library was made before disbanding.

Reorganized under the Westmoreland Girl Scout Council, Greensburg 1962

(No compiled record of this period now exists: we regret any errors or omissions in the following list—Ed.)

Troop 197 1962
Leader Mrs. Melva Simon

Brownie Troop 25 St. Joseph Church

Troop 24 Tree of Life Congregation
Leader (25 girls) Hazel Rugh

Troop 225 1966
Reunion Presbyterian Church
Leader (42 girls) Mrs. Joanne Harrer

Troop 146 St. Bernardine Church

Leader (40 girls) Mrs. Kenneth Mardis

Brownie Troop 276 Mrs. Michael Farrell

Cadet Troop Mrs. Jane Eños

Cadet Troop 24 Mrs. Joday Lupher

Neighborhood Chairmen and other leaders:

Mrs. George Simon
Mrs. Frances Lipps (Wujs)
Miss Margaret Donnelly
Mrs. Teresa Hostetler
Mrs. Dorothy Tullio
Mrs. Polly Brasher
Mrs. Joday Lupher

There are 3 active troops in 1978:

Brownie Troop Mrs. Robert Karfelt
Mrs. Frank Gesinski

Junior Troop Kathy Wisniewski
Cadette Troop Mrs. Kenneth Berg



1977-1978 Officers of the Falcon's Club, seated: Ken Kurpiel, treas.; Ben Tylka, Jr., pres.; Jan Kowalewski, committee; standing: Bob Manjerovic, head committee; Leo Welc, club steward. Missing from picture: Jess Bungard, vice pres.; Dan Welc, rec. sec'y.; Bill Vise, fin. sec'y.; Frank Idzik, Jr., committee.

A woman's auxiliary formed later which conducted the town's earliest fund raising Bingo games. These *Lady Fats and Leans* supported the construction of the Bohemian Hall at 115 Quarry Street.

At the right, the Fats and Leans outside their clubhouse, 1st row: Hitchman, Wilttrout, J. Kelly, John Baer, Jake Hudec; 2nd row: Dabby Brush, True, Bobbs, Shober; 3rd row: unidentified, Hanse, Silberts, unidentified, George Proud, Gilchrist, Smiple.

Polish Falcon Nest 147 1909

The Polish Falcon founding is credited to Stanley Kurpiel, a 20 year-old Polish immigrant and Falcon who came to Mount Pleasant in 1907. Kurpiel encouraged Group ZPN 715, a Polish society formed three years earlier at the Transfiguration Parish, to become Falcons. Subscribing to the objectives of youth instruction in physical fitness and a total gymnasium program for male Poles, this group became Falcon Nest 147 in April 1909. Stanley Kurpiel became the Nest's first instructor, served several terms as president and as treasurer and later became the first steward.

In 1924, under the leadership of Joseph Welc, the Falcons moved from the parish school on Hitchman Street to their present \$10,000 club and headquarters on Rumbaugh Avenue. After repaying a loan on the building, the Nest purchased a 4-acre athletic field just west of the club in the Rumbaugh plan. A clause in the property deed mandates that this acreage be used only for sports and recreation. Over the past 50 years many area athletes and audiences have shared in events and practices on this field.

Organized summer and winter youth activities are part of the club's program which supports little league baseball and softball and lends financial assistance to approved community youth programs.

Presently the 170 full members follow the original program of disability and death benefits. Continuing the basic objectives of the Falcons, the Nest's total membership, which includes 250 social members, is involved in softball, bowling and golf leagues and for the past three years, an annual pool tournament. An auxiliary group of Falconettes supports the activities of the club.

When the Polish Falcon Nest 147 celebrates its 70th anniversary next year, they will look with pride upon the list of people and programs with whom they share identity.

From material submitted by Benny Tylka, Jr.

The Fats and Leans (rear 108 Depot St.) 1910?

A rather informal men's social club met in a small club house a stone's throw from the brewery on Depot Street; this group of men, who called themselves the Fats and Leans, gathered every Sunday for libation, fellowship and cards.



Loaned by Edgar Bobbs

Slovak Citizens Club 1911

In November 1911 the Slovak Citizens Club formed providing educational and social programs and sick and death benefits for its 47 members. Its first president was Jacob Virostek with trustees: Ludvik Kipper, Andrew Bendzak, Michael Komarny, Andrew Balun and Alex Mikolajcik.

In 1926 the club purchased the two-story frame building at 807 West Smithfield St., built in 1904, formerly owned by the Catholic Jednota No. 86 and National Lodge No. 17 and No. 148. Remodeled and changed at various times, the club's quarters presently include offices, poolroom, and a grill and bar area on the first floor; a large banquet room encompasses the entire second floor. This room is used for games and dances and is also available for private parties.

Under the leadership of Edwin Hudec, pres; John Domurot, vice pres., Joe Balcerak, fin. sec'y., Ed Fazekas, treas., and Jack Broush, rec. sec'y., the present 425 members take pride in their ethnic traditions and customs and celebrate their contribution to the town's growth and development in this Sesquicentennial year.



Photo: Jim Cook

1977-1978 officers of the Slovak Club; from the left: Joe Balcerak, Ed Hudec, Sr., John Kattera, Joe Overly, Chuck Zelenak, Sr.

Nemacolin Club 1911-1932

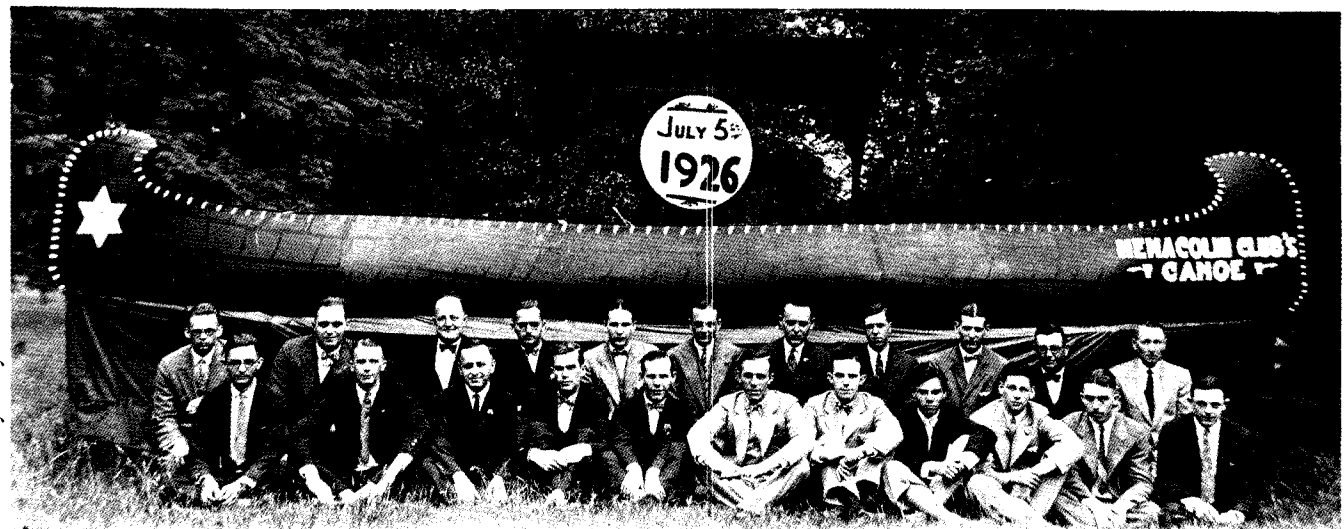
Following in the path of the Red Man's Lodge, which had elaborate rooms in the Braddock building at the turn of the century and whose membership dressed in Indian regalia for parades and for their ceremonial rites, was the Nemacolin Club. Organized in November of 1911 with a group of 16 young businessmen, the ranks of this club grew rapidly; by the early 1920s, the members numbered near 70.

Leaving their small meeting room above the Journal office the club moved to the Braddock building and later took over the entire third floor when the Redmen disbanded. The club rooms were equipped with a pool table, indoor golf, a victrola, an early model radio; there was also a reading room with the latest periodicals.

The Nemacolin Club sponsored tennis tournaments, and brought to Mount Pleasant many nationally known performers as opera's Victor Artist and the Welsh Concert Artist, and many popular bands and orchestras, which played to standing room only audiences at the Grand Theatre. Their annual Thanksgiving matinee dances and Christmas evening dances continued as the social event of the season until the early 1930s when the group disbanded, a victim of the Depression.

The Nemacolin Club's Thanksgiving and Christmas Dances, held at the Armory, featured the finest area orchestras. About 1932, as the club disbanded, Lawrence Rehanek, one of the Nemacolin's last leaders, and Miss Emily Bryce, the first president of Hospital Junior Auxiliary, co-chaired the Christmas dance. This annual dance continues today as the Mistletoe Ball, a benefit project for the hospital auxiliary.

Below: members of the Nemacolin Club poised against the background of their great canoe parade float at the town's 150th anniversary celebration; 1st row: Wilmer Fox, Robert Shumar, Dr. Lloyd Rumbaugh, Alex Copeland, Lewis Harrer, Claude Harrer, Floyd Harrer, Jack Naylor, Robert Burkholder, Dr. Charles DePriest, Frank Witt; 2nd row: Orville Freed, William Armel, Paul Mullin, Ralph Stoner, Ralph Easton, Frank Overly, Guy Harris, Edwin Swink, Glenn Hershberger, Carroll Shupe, Orray Zuck.



Loaned by Floyd Harrer

A Christmas Cantata

The Coming of the Christ Wilson

Directress—Mrs. Frank Cooper

Accompanist—Mrs. Crosby Thompson

Presented by Members of the Fortnightly Music Club
Assisted by Male Chorus

in the
Reunion Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, December 10, 1929

8 o'clock

Organ Prelude	Mrs. C. A. Thompson
Hear Ye	Chorus with soloist Mr. Lloyd Hernley
Waiting	Women's Chorus
Thou Shalt See Him—Duet:	Mrs. Ellis Gault, Mr. W. B. Barnhart
The Holy Night	Chorus
Organ Solo—Silent Night	Mrs. Morris Pigman
The Shepherds' Watch	Male Chorus
Good Tidings	Chorus with soloist Mrs. Gilbert Clark
Babe of Bethlehem	Quartet
Mr. Eugene Heffling	Mrs. A. H. Steindel
Mr. Orville Hittie	Mrs. Gilbert Clark
Unto Us A Child Is Born	Chorus with soloist Mrs. Frank Cooper
He Loved Us So	Contralto solo Miss Violet McCloy
Go Make It Known	Chorus
Christians Awake	Male Chorus
In Perfect Peace	Chorus with Solo and Obligato
Mr. Thos. Meagher and Mr. Roy Haberen	
Organ Offertory	Miss Violet McCloy
Soprano Solo—Christmas Alleluia	Miss Sara Horner
Thy Light Is Come	Final Chorus

Members of Chorus

SOPRANOS—Mrs. Ellis Gault, Miss Ohma Harman, Miss Dorsie Cochran, Mrs. W. H. Robinson, Mrs. W. L. Reese, Miss Margaret Laird, Mrs. H. T. Garard, Mrs. J. L. Ruth, Miss Sara Horner, Mrs. Frank Cooper, Mrs. Russell Myers, Mrs. Gilbert Clark.

ALTOS—Miss Edith Warden, Mrs. Presley Hurst, Miss Violet McCloy, Miss Katherine Saylor, Mrs. Iva Canose, Mrs. Morris Pigman, Mrs. Hary Fidler, Mrs. Lloyd Rumbaugh, Mrs. Eugene Heffling, Mrs. A. H. Steindel, Mrs. William Bailey.

TENORS—Mr. Eugene Heffling, Mr. John Nixon, Mr. E. W. Bittner, Mr. Kenneth Might, Mr. Lloyd Hernley, Mr. Thos. Meagher, Mr. Archie MacPhail.

BASSES—Mr. W. B. Barnhart, Mr. Orville Hittie, Mr. Roy Haberen, Mr. J. D. Lenhart, Mr. Donald Ruth.

"Silver Offering"

The Music Club 1911-1970

The Mount Pleasant Music Club, organized in the home of Mrs. Eugene Warden, in November 1911, was originally known as the Fortnightly Club. Officers were: Mrs. H. H. Delong and Mrs. Samuel Warden. Meeting twice monthly with annual dues of 50 cents, this group soon affiliated with the state and national federations of music clubs. With their primary goal to encourage the talents of members, the Music Club also sponsored programs by guest artists and groups.

In 1928 Miss Sarah Horner became the sponsor of the Junior Music Club which soon had over a hundred participants. For several decades, the Music Club was assigned the musical periods of the three-hour Good Friday church services and performed for many other church religious celebrations. A past presidents' assembly formed in 1948 lent important support to the programming for the ensuing years.

Membership was opened to men in 1950; Kramer Thompson, who was accompanist from 1950 to 1970, had served as the organist for Good Friday services five years before becoming a member. In 1960, when the club celebrated their 40th anniversary, Donald Metz was president.

In 1970, a small group of active members voted to *regretfully disband* the 50 year-old musical institution.

From material submitted by Mrs. Robert Stahl

Par-ci Par-la 1912

Among the many card clubs which abound in Mount Pleasant, some for men, some for women and a few for couples, playing pinochle, five hundred, canasta, poker, gin rummy and bridge, it is doubtful that any group can claim a longer history than Par-ci Par-la, (Here and There). Miss Viola Stevenson, who began the group by instructing young ladies in the fundamentals of bridge about 1912, continues today as an active member, sharing regularly in an afternoon of challenge and fellowship as she did with her young students of the past.

Order Sons of Italy in America

Loggia N. C. Benso Di Cavour No. 874 1918

Loggia N. C. Benso Di Cavour No. 874, Order Sons of Italy in America, was organized August 7, 1918, with the late Angelo William Crivella as the first venerable. The lodge occupies a building at 512 Main St. which was purchased in 1926 from Patrick Kelly of Masontown. Various improvements costing about \$65,000 were made to the building under the leadership of Anthony W. Crivella, son of the first venerable who is currently serving his 39th year as venerable. The order believes in the filial affection and respect for the land of its forefathers whose heritage is their highest contribution to America's evolving civilization.



Venerable Anthony W. Crivella

The Ladies Lodge No. 1567, was organized in 1930 with the Mrs. Charles (Rose) Farrell as venerable. Sharing the fundamental principles of the Order Sons of Italy with fraternity as the guiding spirit, the lodge is composed of Americans of Italian descent or marriage. The present venerable is Mrs. James (Margaret) Ceroni, daughter of the founder of the men's lodge and sister of its present venerable.

Besides several health care drives throughout the community, this Lodge has established a Scholarship Memorial in memory of a past venerable, Lucy Tesauero. The scholarship is awarded to a deserving student who is a member, son or daughter of a member, living in District 12, which comprises eleven lodges in Westmoreland County.

Margaret Ceroni



Members at one of the Rotary weekly meetings in 1977 were, from left, 1st row: Ralph Stoner, Arnold Papernick, Rev. Eugene Newell, Douglas Hauser, Phillip Herd, Donald Cunningham, Charles Burtyk, Ronald Gray, Zig Prevenslik; 2nd row: Robert Shebeck, William Pritts, Richard Snyder, Franklin Eckels, Sam Magie, F. Robert Hauser, Donald Robinson, Robert George, George Wood, Clair Shaffer, James Murtha; 3rd row: Armin Abramson, Robert Egnot, Robert Blum, Forrest Kastner, Nathan Abromson, William Mullin, Rev. Neil Mumma, James Gayton, Robert Brown; not present: Terrence Cernuto, James Cook, Richard Cutrell, John Haberlen, Robert Jendras, John Krystyniak, and Robert Weisgerber.

Rotary Club 1924

On May 8, 1924 the formation of the Rotary Club of Mount Pleasant was celebrated with a dinner in the National Hotel attended by 114 area Rotarians. Sponsored by the Scottsdale club, the 20 local charter members of diverse occupations and professions shared the creed "service above self," the 1905 challenge of Rotary founder, Paul Harris of Chicago.

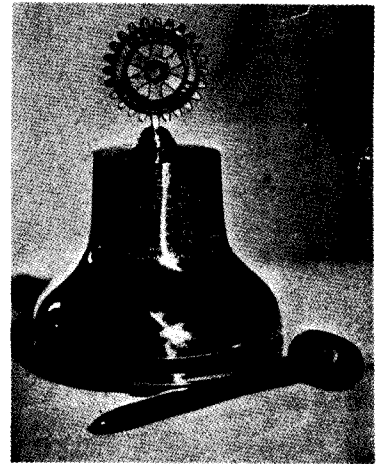
Supporting youth programs and achievements, the local club sponsored a Boy Scout troop and built a cabin at Camp Wesco, held sports banquets for area athletes and since 1973, has honored the outstanding district high school students in the upper ten percent of their graduating class with an annual scholastic banquet.

As a group or individually, Rotary supports most local welfare services, farmers' programs, the Chamber of Commerce and the tri-community activities of Scottsdale, Connellsville, and Mount Pleasant.

As part of Rotary District No. 733, the local club attends the annual conference at Seven Springs. As one of the 17,454 clubs of Rotary International, the Mount Pleasant club contributes generously through the Rotary Foundation and Paul Harris Fellowships to support its worldwide programs. Among the total 23,740 outstanding Rotarians honored as Paul Harris Fellows, the local club lists five: John C. Haberlen, Cedric L. Spence, F. Robert Hauser, William D. Mullin, and Clair R. Shaffer. Rotary has hosted international visitors and through Group Study Exchange, has sent two local Rotarians abroad: Byron Yake to England in 1966 and Keith Neill to Australia in 1973.

While most social events include the members' ladies, Rotary Anns, family events as the Christmas party and summer picnic are traditional. After meeting weekly for nearly 50 years in the National Hotel, the club moved to the Elks. Since November 1977, the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has hosted the club's 35 members who gather each Tuesday for lunch, business and fellowship.

From material submitted by William D. Mullin



Early in 1930 the local Rotary Club, acting on a member's suggestion, challenged the four other Rotary Clubs in the United States to an attendance contest. The Iowa, Tennessee, Texas, Michigan, Pennsylvania clubs accepted the challenge. The Michigan club dropped out of the contest early. After accumulating a record of 62 consecutive meetings with 100 per cent attendance, our Pennsylvania club was declared the winner. The trophy, an engraved brass bell and gravel, has been used at each meeting of the local club ever since that big win in 1931.

From material submitted by Dr. John C. Haberlen

Charter members were: Eugene Warden, pres.; Dr. John Burkholder, vice pres.; G. Wylie Overly, sec'y; John L. Ruth, treas.; Arthur Page, sgt. of arms; Frank D. Barnhart, Gerard Bryce, Charles Coldsmith, Frank Kough, John B. Coldsmith, Charles Evans, John S. Freed, William M. Hitchman, Merritt King, Howard M. Stoner, Harry C. Morrison, Dr. Jesse Mullin, W. F. Smith and S. C. Stevenson.

1978-79 officers and board are: Terence Cernuto, pres.; James Cook, v. pres.; Donald Cunningham, sec'y; Rev. Eugene Newell, ass't sec'y; Arnold Papernick, treas.; Phillip Herd, Charles Burtyk, Ronald Gray, Douglas Hauser, and Zigmond Prevenslik.

The Century Club 1920s

During the 1920s, for those senior citizens who had attained the age of 40 or older, membership in the Century Club was open. A strictly social organization, it met in the Braddock building at 650 Main St. (Cernuto building). The club left no records to indicate if their square dancing and other activities resulted in longevity or just old-fashioned good times.

The 1977-1978 Kiwanis Club officers and board are: Luther J. Grimm, pres.; Frank Uhrin, v. pres.; L. J. Grimm, sec'y; Shannon Kreinbrook, treas.; Robert Kalp, past Lt. Gov.; Chester Echard, Ralph Hostetler, Charles Hixson, William Rapp, Herb Sann, J. R. Woods.

This entire area remembers Kiwanis for their Farmers' Institute and banquets, the strawberry festivals, corn roasts and square dances at the J. R. Wood farm, their annual auctions, peanut sales on Kiwanis Kids' Day, the nursing scholarships and high school honor programs.

Their oldest member, J. R. Wood, age 86, has been one of the most active Kiwanians in the 54 year club history. Mrs. Mary Sinkula, the club's faithful pianist holds one of their better attendance records. There are three living charter members - Lloyd F. Rumbaugh, W. Scott Lane, and J. Lawrence Fox.



The 1977 Kiwanis Club members pictured are: H. Curtis Snyder, Dale Walker, Frank Uhrin, Robert Kalp, Luther J. Grimm, J. R. Wood, the Rev. John Welsh, Mrs. Mary Sinkula, pianist; 2nd row: Herb Sann, L. J. Grimm, Gene Galley, William Rapp, Chester Echard, George Sebek, Tom Flaherty, Shannon Kreinbrook, Dale Dix, Howard Hostetler, George Miner, Ralph Hostetler, Lynn Bulebush, Paul Kelley, Charles Hixson.

Kiwanis Club 1926

The Mount Pleasant Kiwanis Club's first president, Dr. John R. Madden, received their charter on Sept. 9, 1926 at a Pleasant Valley Country Club dinner meeting. The Greensburg Kiwanis was the sponsor of the new club with 53 charter members.

The club now meets each Thursday at 6:30 dinner and the Board of Directors, the third Tuesday each month in the Elks Club. Their programs reinforce a wide diversity of public interests.

The Kiwanis has a remarkable history of service that reaches beyond the local community; youth, good citizenship, town and country cooperation, educational and spiritual growth are but a few of the ideals to which they subscribe. Their present major emphasis is crime prevention.

The Mount Pleasant Woman's Club 1937

The formation of the group, originally designated the Junior Woman's Club, is attributed to Mrs. John S. Blackburn. Founded on June 17, and affiliated with the county and state federations of Woman's clubs, the club initially had a membership limited to fifty.

Meeting the first year at the Ross Tea Room at 36 Main St., the club was served by Mrs. Blackburn, pres.; Mrs. Alex Copeland, Miss Mary Elizabeth Pfaadt and Mrs. Edwin Noss. From 1938 to 1960, the home of the Evans sisters at 614 South Church St. was the club's meeting place. These women and Mrs. Samuel Warden, an early sponsor, were named honorary members.

The past presidents honored in 1976 were: Mrs. J. S. Blackburn, Mrs. F. O. Naylor*, Mrs. Lewis A. Harrer, Mrs. Walter Reese, Mrs. Palmer Awtrey, Mrs. Alex Copeland, Mrs. William Grimm*, Mrs. Charles DePriest*, Mrs. Dan W. Cook, Miss Genevive Walker*, Mrs. C. L. Spence, Jr., Miss Ethel Cooper, Mrs. Robert W. Stahl, Mrs. Charles Cunningham, Miss Mary Elizabeth Pfaadt, Mrs. James Cowan, Mrs. Thomas Copeland, Mrs. Clair R. Shaffer, Mrs. John T. Coldsmith.
(*deceased)

The club's first project was assisting with the annual roll call of the Red Cross. During the term of Mrs. F. O. Naylor in 1938, the club accepted the challenge of Mrs. Blackburn to sponsor a town library. At this time the town's first successful Girl Scout program initiated by Mrs. Lewis Harrer, was sponsored by the club; this sponsorship continued until 1963. Support for the proposed new hospital began in 1960 under club president, Ethel Cooper.

In the early 1940s many war related projects were undertaken by the club during the terms of Mrs. Charles DePriest and Mrs. Walter Reese. Because of the federation's age requirement, the affiliation and name was changed to Woman's Club in 1941. From 1973 to 1976 Mrs. John Coldsmith and her officers graciously served a unique three-year term to allow the club's election to coincide with the federation's election. Culmination of the Bicentennial programming in 1976, was the spring banquet held at Oakhurst Tea Room where the club's past presidents were honored and the club's history of community and civic projects was reviewed. Mrs. Robert Boyer presided.

Meeting in the Reunion Presbyterian Church, the club with a membership of 75, continues to give community support while being entertained by many well-known personalities.

Summary from "History of the Woman's Club," 1977 by Mrs. Robert W. Stahl



Loaned by D. Mullin

The Evans sisters, Margaret, Eleanor and Lyda, were the club's honorary members and its perennial hostesses.



Journal Photo

Officers, 1976-78, from the left, seated: Mrs. Robert Boyer, Mrs. John Coldsmith; standing: Mrs. Edward Clark, Mrs. Robert Stahl, Ferne Dullinger, Patricia Painter

Liberty Council No. 65

Sons of Columbus of America 1940

The Mount Pleasant Council was organized September 15, 1940, a non-profit affiliate of the Federated Sons of Columbus, Pittsburgh, Pa., with the Hon. Judge William Circone as national president. Meetings are held every third Wednesday in the chapter headquarters on Kennedy Avenue in the Old Distillery building.

The 1977-1978 officers were: Domenic Cesario, pres.; Carl DeLuca, v. pres.; Thomas Chuey, fin. sec'y; Dominec Grossi, treas.; Mamie Chuey, corres. sec'y; Terry Davis, Ron Cesario and James Bienia, trustees.

Catholic Daughters of America 1942

Organized in 1942, the Catholic Daughters became a part of an international organization. The local branch which comprises a membership from each of the town's four Catholic churches first met in The St. Joseph social rooms with 89 members chartered under Mrs. Elizabeth Burns, the first regent.

From material submitted by Mrs. Elizabeth Burns

Meeting now at St. Pius X School, the 150 members continue to support church and community projects as volunteers and with financial donations from a calendar party each November and a party in the spring for the public. In 1977 they had their 35th anniversary celebration honoring past regents, chaplains and state dignitaries.

Present officers include: Mrs. Stephen Hollis, reg.; Mrs. Joseph White, 1st v. reg.; Mrs. Jules Biller, 2nd v. reg.; Mrs. Michael Forbes, sec.; Mrs. Nicholas Ritz, Sr., treas.; Mrs. Eugene Zimmerman, fin. sec'y; and the Rev. Robert Mosener, chaplain.



In 1960, the DAR acquired the former Samuel Warden residence at 200 South Church Street as permanent headquarters.



Journal Photo

Mrs. Lionel Miller, Chairman of Good Citizen's Committee presents Corinna Czekaj with the 1978 award.

Those who served as DAR Regents are: Laura Hay Braddock, Charlotte Hay Beard, Myrtle Hays Marks, Mabel Newill Andrews, Claudia Canose Stahl, Charlotte Kelly Westerman, Edith Duehay Oliver.



After 14 years as regent, Elizabeth Burns was honored at a retirement dinner in 1956 held at the Rainbow Gardens. Members present were, seated: Bertha Hass, Gladys Farrell, Elizabeth Burns, Claire Kovalesky, Kathryn Murphy, Margaret Ferrell; standing: Frances Farrell, Helen Govern, Lillian Hanse, Agnes Loucks, Mary Cernuto, Angelo Kornides, Theresa Galone, Margaret Baluh.

Braddock Trail Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution 1943

Taking the name from General George A. Braddock's historic march through the area, Mrs. James S. Braddock and her sister, Mrs. R. E. Beard of Connellsville, organized the Braddock Trail Chapter on Nov. 29, 1943, becoming part of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, formed in 1891. This organization which presently lists 3,000 chapters, carries out the injunction of General Washington's farewell address: "... to extend the institution of American freedom, love of country, and securing the blessings of liberty for all mankind." Eligibility of membership is determined by tracing a direct lineage to a descendant who participated in the cause of American independence.

In 1960 the Braddock-Trail Chapter, which had met monthly in homes and other places for 17 years, secured a permanent headquarters by purchasing the Samuel Warden residence at 200 South Church St. through a bequest from the Bess Campbell Cook estate.

The chapter sponsors the Peggy Shaw Society, a Children of the American Revolution society (CAR); men of the area are affiliated with the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), Youghiogheny Chapter, in Connellsville.

For many years a DAR Good Citizen Citation has been awarded outstanding students of the area high schools displaying dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. This year's recipients are: Corinna Czekaj, Mount Pleasant Area; Joseph P. Maddalena, Southmoreland Area; and Lisa Smolcik, Youghiogheny District.

Mrs. Robert W. Stahl served a three-year term as state chaplain and has been a representative at 23 state and 18 national DAR Congresses accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Iva Canose on many of these occasions.

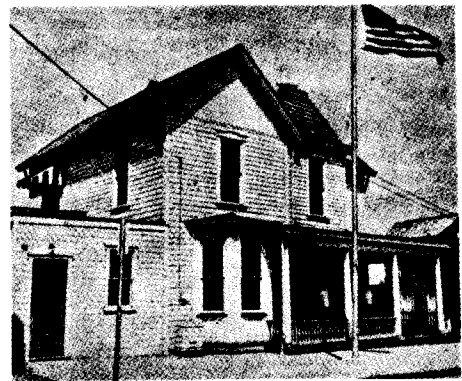
The oldest "new member" of the Braddock Trail chapter was Mrs. Ezra Haron (now deceased) who was accepted into membership when she was 100 years old.

From material submitted by Mrs. Robert Stahl

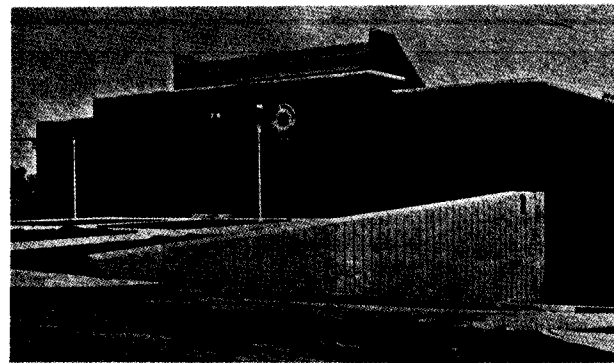
The Firemen's Club 1945

On August 21, 1945, members of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department voted to proceed with plans for a "Central Hose House." President Jesse Keller appointed a building committee: R. C. Bingaman, Joseph M. Coldsmith, K. A. Crusan, Sam Etze, John Benedict, Wilmer Stohl and Louis Sargent, fire chief.

At a special meeting held in the following month, members voted to acquire the Marne property at 622 Smithfield Street for \$6,800 and a liquor license for \$122.50. After the building had been remodeled by Frank Olinger of Mount Pleasant the club opened and began serving its membership which increased steadily. In 1971 Architect James F. Cayton was commissioned to prepare plans for a new clubhouse. Three tracts of land on Smithfield Street adjacent to the club were purchased: on the northeast corner of Mullin Avenue the Mary Gantos Shannon property became a parking lot; to the west of the club the King property and the Mount Pleasant Ice Company, property of the late Homer Boyer, were cleared for a building site. In March of 1972 Fretts and Leeper Construction Company completed the new two story brick clubhouse. The ground level contained a large all purpose room while the upper level housed an office, bar, a television and lounge area and kitchen. The old club was razed prior to the grand opening of the new Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department Club, July 28, 29 and 30, 1972.



The old Firemen's club at 622 Smithfield, served the membership for 32 years.



The new Firemen's Club was completed in 1972. Officers of the Club Building Committee were: Ralph Farrah, chairman, Dominick Amoroso, co-chairman, Charles Cronin, sec'y-treas.

The Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce 1945

Incorporated on Feb. 2, 1945, the Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce grew out of the reorganization of the Civic and Businessmen's Association which had been active here for a number of years. Both these organizations closely parallel an earlier group, the Mount Pleasant Board of Trade, chartered in 1906, with the objective of dedicating their members collective talents toward a progressive program of civic and business improvement, making Mount Pleasant more attractive for the residents and more inviting to new people, business and industry.

After becoming a national and state affiliate, the local Chamber of Commerce formed two auxiliary groups to facilitate achievement of its objectives: the Retail Trade Division, comprised entirely of retailers, overseeing retail activity and sponsoring special promotions as Sidewalk Sale Days and Nationality Days; and the Inter-Community Industries Division which works with other area communities encouraging new industries to locate here. Because of this broader involvement and membership, the name of the parent organization was changed in 1967 to the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce.

In 1978, quarterly membership meetings were instituted to keep everyone involved and informed about the new and changing aspects of business in the area. Underlying the growing national importance of the region, a CBS news team came to the first meeting held in March to interview the Chamber's president, Mount Pleasant's mayor and the guest



Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce officers and directors: From left, seated: George Woods; Jim Cook, v.p.; Zig Prevenslik, pres.; Doug Hauser, treas.; Paula Santmyer, sec'y. Standing: Bob Blum; Chuck Hixson; Basil Hawanchak; Richard Schreiner. Not present: Nino Barsotti, Dale Walker, Bill Cavill and Len DeCarlo.

In 1969 the Chamber of Commerce won first prize in the state-wide "Pennsylvania Better Community Development" contest: a \$5,000 award to be used for continued community development. The scrapbook submitted for this competition contains the record of the area's activities and accomplishments for 1968 to 1969, a town growing and renewing itself. The scrapbook is on file in the Mount Pleasant Free Public Library.

Some of the most important accomplishments of the Chamber of Commerce have been: the control and regulation of solicitations, Christmas street lighting, street markers, establishment of parking lots, and highway improvement about the borough.

Officers of the Knights of Columbus are: Rev. John J. Welsh, chaplain; John F. Powroznik, grand knight; Frank A. Zeglin, deputy g. knight; Joseph M. Honeychuck, rec. sec'y.; William P. Murphy, treas.; Martin Honeychuck, fin. sec'y.; Charles Hrabak, chancellor, Anthony W. Crivella, advocate; Robert Hostoffer, warden; Victor Boerio, Frank G. Kuhn, ins. guard; Charles Grabiak, out. guard; Matthew T. Laick, Charles F. Cronin, Edward J. Jukovic, trustees.

speaker, Mr. Cummins, the plant manager of Volkswagen, about the anticipated impact of this new industry on our community.

During 1977 and 1978, the Chamber of Commerce has played a significant part in the planning and implementation of Sesquicentennial Year activities, with most of its board members also serving on the Sesquicentennial Committee. Responsibility and expense of decorating the town was also assumed by the Chamber, and its office was the headquarters of the celebration activities and the history book.

From material submitted by Paula Santmyer

Knights of Columbus Council 3334 1950

Knights of Columbus Council 3334, chartered July 16, 1950, initiated its first thirty members at the Transfiguration School hall in a ceremony conducted by Father Lambing of Scottdale Council 1127.

The first official meetings were held in the Spelker Building at 107 Main St. with Grand Knight William Spelker in charge. The Knights of Columbus purchased the American Legion home at 25 S. Church St. and were headquartered there from 1957 until 1970 when fire destroyed the building as well as the adjoining Mount Pleasant Journal offices. Since then the Council has met in rooms above the Sons of Italy at 512 Main St. with present plans to locate in a permanent home in the future.

Membership in the order consists of male religious, professional and business laymen of the Catholic faith who actively support family, church and community activities as well as encouraging youth to develop their spirit of charity, unity and fraternity at all levels whether local, national, educational or religious.

The Jolly Jeans 1952-1959

Typical and yet unique of teenager's clubs which last only a few weeks or a year, was the Jolly Jeans Club of the 1950s. Organized in 1952 by 15 sixth grade girls, this club held fund-raising fairs in backyards, sold novelties, and offered child care, donating their earnings and their time to the hospital and Red Cross. Upon entering high school, the members decided to build a travel fund, the activities continued until 1959. All members of the Class of 1959 of Ramsay High School, the Jolly Jeans disbanded with a flourish after graduation, spending their savings on a five-day trip to New York City chaperoned by Mrs. Milton Gespass. This early desire to travel was perhaps indicative of the future which has seen most of the members establish homes and careers greatly distant from their hometown.

Jolly Jeans posed before graduation in June of 1959, Kneeling: Connie Ritchie, Mary Overly, Carolyn Bergman, Sandy Spence, Jane Kreinbrook, Linda Wible; standing: Joy Zaronsky, Myra Posner, Shirley Fitch, Anna Catherine Borza, Eleanor Swink.



Loaned by Lydia Bergman

American Field Service 1960

To involve the community in international student exchange, the Mount Pleasant Chapter of the American Field Service was founded in 1960 through the efforts of the United Church Women's organization. A charter was granted after establishing a community chapter under the leadership of Betty Shaffer and a high school chapter with Miss Jane Fisher as sponsor. Miss Clarino DiPietro, who succeeded Miss Fisher, served for many years before Julian Mannella became sponsor for the 1976 to 1977 school year.

The community chapter, meeting in the Mount Pleasant Journal building, had as its first board of directors: Mrs. Betty Shaffer, pres.; Mrs. Ruth Peeples, v. pres.; Leonard Levinson, treas.; Clark Queer, Jim Lozier, John Simon, Mrs. Gertrude Gerecter and Miss Jane Fisher. This chapter continues to be responsible for interviewing local families to host an exchange student, then forwarding their applications to AFS International in New York for approval and matching with student applications.

Although AFS originally required the applicant host family to include a son or daughter enrolled as a high school senior and a mother who did not work outside the home. These policies have been revised, the character and enthusiasm of the individual or family is now the criteria for selection. While the local chapter pays an \$850 fee for each student, for processing of applications, travel, insurance and a monthly student allowance, the host family assumes all other financial responsibility for the student during his year long stay. The area school district supports the program by providing lunches, dances, yearbook and class ring without charge to the exchange student.

During the past 18 years Mount Pleasant has hosted 16 AFS students. Through AFS Americans Abroad, a summer program, six of our high school students have studied and lived in other countries.

In June of 1977, Mount Pleasant was a Bus Stop for 43 students on a traditional 12 to 14-day AFS farewell tour of the United States. For 4 nights and 3 days members of the community entertained, housed and fed the homeward-bound exchange students who had lived with host families in South Carolina. This Bus Stop was organized by Mrs. Dorothy Tullio and Mrs. Kay Simon with the assistance of Dale Walker. For the community and the students, the experience, though brief, exemplified the AFS motto: "Walk together, talk together, all ye people of the Earth.... Understanding and friendship is what AFS is all about."

From material submitted by Mrs. Kay Simon



Journal Photo

The finale of the four day Bus Stop in June 1977, that began with the arrival and ended with the departure of bus No. 24 in the Lenox parking lot, was the signing of a world map by the 43 visiting AFS students representing 29 countries. From the left, Tina Tullio and Jeff Simon, members of the host families, look on as AFS students sign: Christian Schetztil, Germany; Esa Telklia Timonen, Finland; Mita Duiason, Philippines.

AFS Host Family	Student	Year
C. L. Spence,	Greece	1961-1962
Clair Shaffer		
Spencer Hyde	Colombia	1963-1964
William Pritts		
T.H. (Boots) Long	Germany	1963-1964
B. M. Tullio	Philippines	1966-1967
Dr. Edward Briner	Brazil	1970-1971
Ralph Hostetler	Sweden	1971-1972
George S. Simon	Germany	1972-1973
Ralph Hostetler	Afghanistan	1973-1974
Rev. Eugene Newell		
Donald Cunningham	Norway	1974-1975
Norman Weinstein	France	1975-1976
Donald Cunningham	England	1975-1976
George S. Simon	Switzerland	1976-1977
Betty Forbes	Paraguay	1977-1978

Six students from Mount Pleasant who have gone abroad in the AFS summer programs are: Robert Uhrin, 1962; Terry Stefl, 1964; Dale Walker, 1966; Karen Demagone, 1972; Myra Cohen, 1973; Paula Nitkiewicz, 1975.

The Mount Pleasant Garden Club 1966

The Mount Pleasant Garden Club was founded on October 25, 1966; originally the Four Seasons Garden Club, its 30 member organization is attributed to Mrs. Milton Gespass, Mrs. Willard Stevens, Mrs. Connie Johnston, and the late Mrs. Kensey Dillon. With the aim to promote community interest in horticulture, conservation, and civic



Members of the Garden Club work on the Second Ward park which won the group an award from the Tribune Review; from the left: Agnes Coleman, Pat Stahl, Nancy Macaluso, Cathy Cunningham, Peg Milliron, Genevieve Boyer.
Journal Photo

Garden Club officers for 1976 to 1978 are: Mrs. Nancy Macaluso, pres.; Mrs. Ruth Clark, Mrs. Cathy Cunningham, rec. sec'y; Rena McDonald, corres. sec'y; Mrs. Betty Gilcrest, treas.

Officers of the Mount Pleasant Senior Citizens are, from the left: Mrs. Mary Anthony; Mrs. Anna Mondock, program chairman; Mrs. Elizabeth Burns, song leader; Mrs. Mary Kozbelt, sec'y; Howard Shannon, ex. dir.; and Roy Lentz, vice pres.; not present: Miss Leota Tobin, treas.



beautification, the present 70 member group, affiliated with the Garden Council of Westmoreland County, meets monthly and holds special workshops and community gardening days.

The goal of civic beautification is exemplified by tree planting on Washington and Church streets, landscaping the roadsides at the four entrances to the borough, planting dogwood in front of the Donegal Post Office, and landscaping of the grounds at the Mount Pleasant Free Public Library. With borough permission, the entrance to the parking lot next to the Baptist Church was planted with shrubs and dogwood, and when trees were planted in the vacant lot next to the Reunion Presbyterian Church, landscape plans were made for a future parklet. The Garden Club received an award for the Second Ward School landscaping project in a *Greensburg Tribune Review* contest. Mrs. Harry Saxman of Latrobe had served as landscape designer.

In the spring of 1977, twenty-five dogwood trees were donated by the Garden Club to the residents in the North Church Street and surrounding areas. The club plans to continue this project each spring, eventually saturating the community with dogwood, with the hope of having it named "tree of the town."

Landscaping the Henry Clay Frick Community Hospital has been a continuing project. "The Living Memorial Plan" has been used as a means of placing trees in the hospital complex; a memorial fountain near the entrance is another floral focal point.

While the main fund raising activities and workshops are focused toward making Mount Pleasant's parks and public areas more attractive, the interiors and exteriors of many members' homes display creativity developed in pursuing the Garden Club goals.

Mount Pleasant Area Senior Citizens 1968

This group held its first meetings at Pleasant Manor, North Church St., in 1968 under the guidance of the Rev. Benjamin Griffin of the United Church of Christ. Soon needing larger quarters, it moved to that church.

In the summer of 1970, the local Community Action Committee, consisting of Anthony Crivella, Mrs. Virginia Jordan, Mrs. Mary Kozbelt and Leonard Levinson called a meeting to charter the group and offered the recently vacated borough building on Smithfield St. as new quarters. A charter was issued July 24 and renovation was started with Howard Shannon, the first and continuing chief executive officer of the 200 senior citizens involved.

When the borough building was sold to the Print Shop in 1974, the Veterans of Foreign Wars building became their meeting place. The group meets twice monthly with entertainment and refreshments on the first Tuesday and excursions or tours on the third Tuesday.

Serving with Mr. Shannon are Roy Lentz, vice pres. and Mrs. Kozbelt, sec'y. Miss Leota Tobin recently replaced Mrs. Virginia Jordan as treasurer. Mrs. Anna Mondock is in charge of programming with the assistance of Mrs. Elizabeth Burns, song leader. This group operates on the voluntary subscription and efforts of its members.

From material submitted by Oleava Wiltrout

The Original Senior Citizens 1968

This group is a branch of the Senior Citizens that organized in 1968 under the Rev. Benjamin Griffin. In 1970 these members, under the direction of the Rev. Richard Peterson, moved to the Church of the Brethren, where they meet each Wednesday in a spirit of fellowship. These ladies are most active throughout the community as they support Meals on Wheels and serve as volunteers at the hospital and other places in the community. Mrs. Connie Woods is president and has as her officers: Mrs. Eva Jones, Mrs. Helen Fisher, Mrs. Pauline Uber, Mrs. Grace Rega, and Mrs. Mary Schwartz.

From material submitted by Connie Woods



Member Hattie Shaw, on the left, winner of the Senior Citizens recipe contest in 1976 at Westmoreland Community College, posed with Connie Woods, club president.

Meals on Wheels 1972

Meals on Wheels was initiated in 1972 by the local Salvation Army, Walter Searer, chairman. Its purpose is to assure hot, well-balanced dinners each noon for those having no assistance with shopping or meal preparation. The daily stop by the cheerful Meals on Wheels visitor gives support to those living alone and offers confirmation of the well being of the recipients by a concerned community.

On April 4, 1972 Opal Berthel received one of the first three meals delivered; today as many as 30 are served each day, with six of these picked up by a New Stanton-Youngwood group who started their program in 1973.

The volunteers act as kitchen staff, drivers, and visitors. Each driver is accompanied by a visitor to deliver hot meals for which a nominal fee is charged. Meals on Wheels is non-profit, has no government funding and is supported financially by local people and organizations, many of whom also donate favors, flowers, and specialties to accompany the meals, especially at holidays.

It is now independently served by a staff of volunteers with the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church kitchen as base of operations.



Miss Viola Stevenson, age 94, is one of the 30 served daily by the cheerful Meals on Wheels visitors.

Meals on Wheels officers are: The Rev. Eugene Newell, chairman; The Rev. H. Neil Mumma, v. chairman; Mrs. Elizabeth Burns, sec'y; Mrs. Connie Woods, treas.

Nationality Days 1972

Nationality Days began in 1972, as a community event sponsored by the Retail Trade Division of the Chamber of Commerce. Donald and Rosemary Robinson, Robert Hanson, Bob Cunningham, Chamber president Norman Weinstein and secretary, Mrs. Sarah Waddell, formed the first committee. That year 24 organizations participated in the two day festivities, October 20 and 21. For the next two years Leonard Levinson chaired the committee.

In 1974, following a suggestion from this committee, the participating organizations formed their own Nationality Days organization. The first elected officers were: Mrs. Keith Neil, chairman; Mrs. Oliver McConnell, Mrs. Paul Calettri, Ben Piper, and Mrs. Guy Macaluso. The success of the sidewalk stands, featuring ethnic themes and foods, dances and demonstrations and sale items that ranged from used books and white elephants to plants and quilts, grew each year.

From 1976 Mrs. Guy Macaluso and Charles Hixson have continued to manage efficiently the affairs of this annual event. Although the groups

Organizations that have participated through 1977:

American Field Service	1972
Boy Scouts of America, Troop 133	
First United Church of Christ	
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	
Homer Hoke Memorial Paradise Church	
Mount Pleasant Area Garden Club	
Mount Pleasant Rotary Club	
Transfiguration Church	
Visitation Church, P.T.G.	
Ladies of Mount Carmel Church	
Mount Pleasant Amarenth Court #46	1973
Mount Pleasant Area Band Parents and Boosters	
Mount Pleasant Library Volunteers	
Women's Fellowship Church of the Brethren	
St. Pius X, P.T.G.	
Pleasantaires Majorettes Drum Corp	1974
First Brethren Church Youth and Ladies Aid Society	

Westmoreland Multi-Service Center
 Tree of Life Sisterhood 1975
 Mount Joy Church of the Brethren 1976
 Trinity United Methodist Church 1977
 Westmoreland County Foster Parents
 Assoc.



Mrs. Guy Macaluso Photos

In 1976, despite the cold and wet weather, the enthusiastic crowd came, refusing to be deterred from their annual sampling of freshly prepared ethnic foods.

have varied a little from year to year, there were still 24 participating in the 1977 Nationality Days.
From material submitted by Mrs. Guy Macaluso



Westmoreland Multi-Service Center 1974

This Senior Citizen Center was at one time the Noon Diners and is now under the direction of Mr. William Zalot, executive director of the Westmoreland County Office of the Aging. From their first meeting in the Italian Independent Club on Oak Street on Nov. 18, 1974, the group soon grew to a membership of 150 when incorporated as the Westmoreland Multi-Service Centers, Inc. in 1975. In October of that year the organization moved temporarily into the Third Ward School building until use of the Second Ward School building was secured. Presently the entire building is rented to accommodate an expanded program of arts, crafts, quilting, card playing, noodle making, and billiards and an increasing membership.

Remodeling started in September 1977 with volunteers paneling most areas, lowering ceilings and adding rest rooms. A new wheelchair ramp has been provided. Other activities include RSVP (Retired Service Volunteers Program) with 80 volunteers and a counseling and dissemination service providing information on agencies and assistance available for the aging. All programs are either state or federally funded.

The Westmoreland Multi-Service Centers, Inc., headquartered in Mount Pleasant, has neighborhood centers in Latrobe and in Laughlintown; and three satellite centers in Smithton, Norvelt and Jones Mills. The present Board of Directors are Albert Tate, pres.; Ernest Dolan, vice pres.; Hazel Page, sec.; and Emma McDonald, treas. Gilbert Fisher, Theresa Marhefka, Dan Kelly, Mary Fada, Mabel Ludwig, Edward Dullinger, Chalmer Dull, Matilda Izzi and Scott Kelly are directors.

The sixteen employees include Pat Fisher, director; Marlene Dillon, center supervisor; Regina Damico, sec'y.; Lawrence Lessman, janitor; and Ted Janicki, CPA. Two employees are involved in the Green Thumb program, four in the Community College NCOA program, one in Youth Services and two in the Manpower program.

A monthly newsletter is mailed to 400 persons who are potential or involved participants in the Multi-Service Center activities.



The center in the former Second Ward school, provides weekday activities including a hot noon meal served to 75 or more diners.

The United Way

Discussion was initiated in the spring of 1959 relative to Mount Pleasant Borough, Mount Pleasant Township, and East Huntingdon Township becoming part of the United Fund of Central Westmoreland.

Nine agencies common to these communities included Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Salvation Army, Home for the Aged, Multiple Sclerosis, American Red Cross, Children's Aid Society, Frick Memorial Hospital and Mount Pleasant Free Public Library.

Twenty firms throughout this new area already had signed the Chapter Plan, indicating a willingness to try to support the United Way movement. John C. Haberlen was the first area chairman when the area was officially admitted on August 4, 1959. The first board members from the area were Charles Cunningham, Clair Shaffer, and Cedric L. Spence, Jr. with committeemen John Banks, Leonard Feldman, Robert George, Donald Robinson, P. J. Rega, J. R. Wood, and Melvin Neiderhiser.

The greater Mount Pleasant area continues to be part of what is now known as United Way of Central Westmoreland, one of nine member United Ways that comprise United Way of Westmoreland County. In 1973 Cedric L. Spence, Jr. was the first person from the Mount Pleasant area to serve as president of the county organization.

From material submitted by Joe Burkley

Salvation Army

The local Salvation Army unit is a volunteer service with John H. Hamel, of Kecksburg as chairman. The service area embraces Mount Pleasant borough and Mount Pleasant and East Huntingdon townships.

Under the direction of the Western Pennsylvania District of the Salvation Army, headquartered in Pittsburgh, this organization no longer distributes food, clothing or necessities directly to those in need or distress. Instead, Welfare Secretary, Mrs. Eleanore Fenton of Mount Pleasant, determines and orders vouchers issued by the treasurer for purchase of the approved subsistence.

Emergency shelter, an ongoing service providing rooms at nominal charge, was formerly given by the Penn Francis Hotel; Laurelville Motel is now co-operating generously in this service. Each summer, depending on availability of funds, the local unit sends six to ten children to the Salvation Army's Camp Allegheny, near Elwood City. The most important annual program provides meals and necessities for the needy at Christmas.

Local funding is secured by service groups who ring the bells at the Salvation Army kettles on successive Saturdays before Christmas; the firemen ring the bell on two Fridays. Other funding is provided on an annually budgeted basis from the district headquarters.

The Salvation Army was the moving force in the organization of Meals on Wheels but now offers only volunteer support. The late Rev. Earl Show of the Church of God, an active participant, inaugurated the policy of distributing *Good News For Modern Man*, a large print New Testament, to the needy and those with poor eyesight. The local unit sent assistance to the Johnstown Unit to support the 1977 Flood Relief.

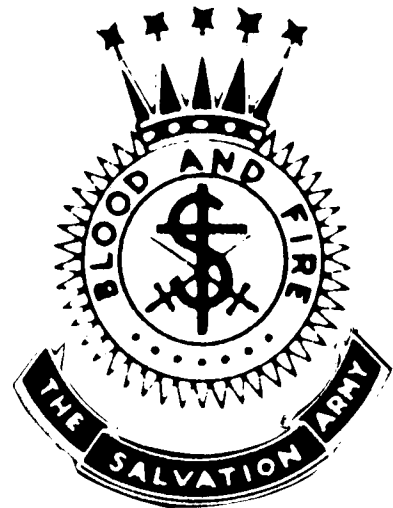
The longest volunteer service record is credited to John C. Haberlen who served in various capacities for 40 years. Carl D. Lauffer, a faithful volunteer who now resides in Greensburg, gave many years of service, also.

Other officers working closely with Mr. Hamel and Mrs. Fenton are Melvin Neiderhiser of Mount Pleasant Township, treas. and Mrs. John Hamel, sec'y.

From an interview with Mrs. John Hamel



Beginning the United Way Campaign plans for the coming year of 1979, Mrs. Sue Spence, head of the local drive and Don Cunningham, section volunteer chairman, map their strategy to surpass the local goal of \$11,000.



Recognition was given to John C. Haberlen of Mount Pleasant Service Unit for his 32 years of service as was Carl D. Lauffer at a special banquet in their honor at Inn America in September of 1970. Plaques were presented these men at that time.

Sesquicentennial

On July 4th Main Street was the scene of a Pet Parade, sponsored by the Firemen. Winner of the parade was Angela Rimlinger and her pet skunk who received her award from Henry Sargent.



Journal Photo

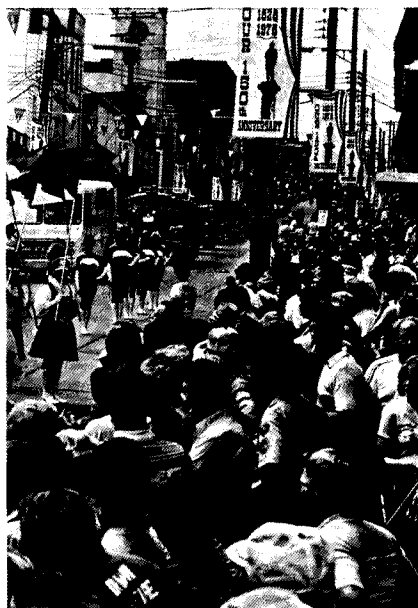


Jim Cook Photos

Frick Park hadn't seen so many races, games and contests in many years. All this provided by the Firemen.



George Wood Photo



The week of August 7-12 was a big one for Mount Pleasant. We had the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Convention with a three-hour long parade and town fair at Frick Park. The whole week was a great success for everyone.

