

**BOROUGH OF  
ASPINWALL**

**HISTORICAL BOOK**



*DIAMOND JUBILEE*

**A PICTURE STORY**

**1892**

**1967**



## A NOTE OF INTRODUCTION . . .

This book was born out of pride.

Pride in the quiet, tree-lined streets which still mean home to the children and grandchildren of the men and women who petitioned the courts in the summer of 1892, pleading for the right of self-government so they might better provide education for their children and services for the comforts of life in a strictly residential community.

Pride in the men and women who sloshed through the muddy streets, building homes and businesses that could survive a century of unbelievable change; in their children who resisted the mad rush of progress enough to maintain the quiet dignity of the nineteenth century village while adopting the new methods and philosophies developed in the twentieth century.

Pride in the patriotism and devotion to duty shown by the residents for nearly eight decades in their willingness to serve their country both in the halls of government and on the battlefield during time of war; in the religious vigor of the community and in the pursuit of education and culture apparent by the ever-changing school system and various clubs and organizations which occupy the town.

The descendents of the hardy Scotch-Irish, German and English families who settled here before the turn of the century have, for the most part, successfully resisted the rot of corruption and stagnation which can so easily creep into a community that knows almost perpetual peace. Even now, in the turbulent, riot-torn summer of 1967 when blood is running on so many city streets across America, Aspinwall maintains its orderly progression into the future. Its law-abiding citizens are concerned with celebrating their Diamond Jubilee; with the new building boom which promises greater tax revenues; with the sale of the Power Plant to Duquesne Light Company.

This story of Aspinwall's past and present told in pictures and words is dedicated to all the people, who down through the years, have made of Aspinwall a typical "American home-town." It is published as a keepsake of this Diamond Jubilee Year. In no way is it a studious work of history — hopefully such a volume will be planned as part of a Centennial celebration twenty-five years hence.

We, the sponsors of this book, hope it will provide pleasant memories of the past, happy moments for the present, and an incentive for the future.



Photo by George Roble 1907

The peaceful cornfields of the Darlington Estate were once a favorite hunting ground for Chief Guyasuta. Today the valley between the hills is known as the Guyasuta Boy Scout Reservation and the field is part of an industrial complex of neighboring Sharpsburg Borough.

Diamond Jubilee Committee  
Aspinwall Borough Council  
Aspinwall Area Civic Association





Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

This was the "village green" with its War Memorial as it looked for a few years following World War II. This tree-lined parklet was rented to the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. for a parking lot to serve their store at the corner of Eastern Ave. and Freeport Rd. The Borough Building and stores along Commercial Ave. can be seen in the background.

# *Aspinwall*

**1892 — 1967**

*Seventy-five Years of Memories in Photos and Text*

COMPILED, WRITTEN AND EDITED BY

Rachel L. Cook

COVER AND ART DIRECTION BY

Paul H. Gumto

PHOTOGRAPHIC RESEARCH BY

Mary Louise Marshall



Just seven miles away from Pittsburgh, one of America's busiest industrial cities, is the peaceful residential community of Aspinwall. Here, among quiet, tree-lined streets, are homes with carefully manicured lawns; neat rows of beets and lettuce growing behind well-cared-for back-yard fences; children playing on the sidewalks and old folks sitting on ivy-shielded front porches. Although it is a metropolitan suburb, Aspinwall, in 1967, could well serve as the model for "Hometown, U.S.A." in any movie depicting small town life in America.

Bounded on the south by the Allegheny River, on the north by O'Hara Township and Fox Chapel Borough, on the west by Sharpsburg Borough and on the east by the City of Pittsburgh, Aspinwall has remained much as it was first planned by the men who organized the Aspinwall Land Company in 1890. Without open land on which to expand, the borough has been forced to maintain the character of a compact residential community. There is no noise or dirt from industry to annoy the residents—but neither is there the additional tax revenue, therefore some of the newer innovations in suburban living have not come to Aspinwall. This seems to please the majority of residents who love their town because it is just what it is—a quiet, peaceful "hometown."



Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

For over a decade, just at the turn of the century, this portion of the Ross Estate was laid out in neat garden plots. Here grew the delectable tomatoes, succulent cucumbers and pungent horseradish which made the H. J. Heinz name world famous.

By the mid 1880's the little frontier village of Pittsburgh had become a thriving city—busy, dirty and noisy. Blast furnaces, glass works, steel mills, ship building yards, and factories of all kinds lined the river banks for miles in both directions from the confluence of the Monongahela and Allegheny. Residents were being "choked" by the fly-ash and smoke in the air. Housewives were weary of their daily fight with soot, grease, grime and dirt — and tired of the whistles and horns from the factories, the roar of machinery from the mills and the rattle of wagons and trolley cars past their front doors.

Up the Allegheny River, the land on the northern banks of the river was still unspoiled fertile valleys and wooded hillsides. The air was relatively clean, the water was pure and the river bank still open. When the Aspinwall Land Company announced 601 lots were available for home sites people flocked to Guyasuta Station to investigate. The merchants came from Pittsburgh, Allegheny, Lawrenceville, Sharpsburg. Railroaders came, and business leaders. They liked what they saw and they purchased lots in the neat little town.

By 1890 there were already 400 inhabitants in the town. Most of these were families with young children. A school was a necessity. There was a school — but it was nowhere near adequate for the constantly exploding needs of the town. Each new family created a greater need for the functions of municipal government which it was difficult for O'Hara Township to supply to the satisfaction of the new residents.

Therefore, in the spring of 1892, the residents determined to petition the Allegheny County Court of Quarter Sessions for incorporation as a self-governing unit. Because the 155 acres of land on which the town was developed had been purchased from Mrs. Annie Aspinwall, and the Land Company had already chosen that name, they asked to become "The Borough of Aspinwall".



Forty "resident citizens within the limits of said proposed Borough, all of them freeholders therein" signed the petition which Clifton H. Beach presented to the Court on July 25th, 1892. As they appeared on the petition, the signers were: Louis Walser, W. R. Hastings, Henry Warner, Sarah E. Marshall, Clifton H. Beach, Anna M. Black, C. H. Love, J. L. Love, Samuel Doubt, Cyrus A. Keck.

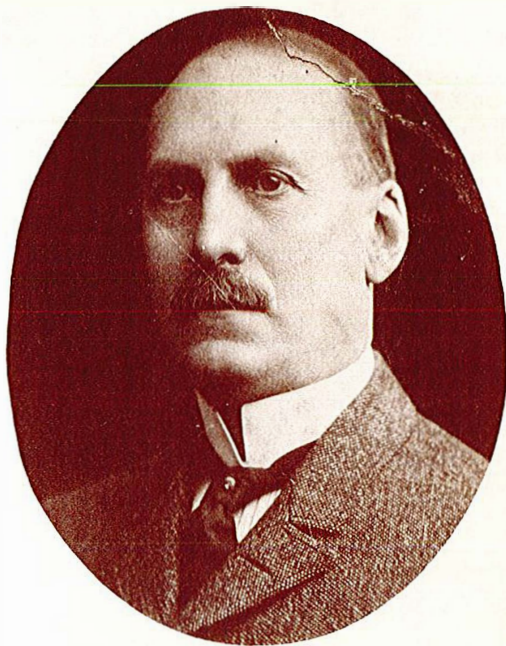
Mrs. Laura Watkins, W. C. Scott, Mrs. A. M. E. Scott, H. A. Stout, W. R. Smith, Mrs. Nellie L. R. Armstrong, Mrs. Charlotte Y. Cowan, Annie K. Hall, George Robinsteen, Martha B. Beach.

William McMorran, Wm. M. Campbell, James Patton, Richard Harris, R. H. Love, Lizzie Creese, Ella Creese, Nannie Emrick, Margaret Emrick, William B. McNeely.

R. A. McDonald, Lizzie Flhy, Mary A. Miller, Chester Robie, Lizzie M. Bowman, Sarah J. Love, Grant Darby, Wm. H. Boyle, Samuel Lindsay and Chas. A. Gernn.

**C. H. Beach**, who had represented the townspeople at court, was one of the first folks to purchase land in the new development. He secured hillside property and built three large houses, fronting on 6th St. Two he sold. His own spacious home, topped by a big cupola, was surrounded by extensive lawns and gardens. In the woods behind the house was a stable where son Earl kept his Kentucky-bred horse "Frank". The family also included 3 daughters-Florida, Georgia and Florence- and so the house was planned to provide ample entertaining space.

Mr. Beach owned a drugstore in Mt. Washington and was president of the Saltsburg Bottle Co., where he made prescription bottles. The family came to Aspinwall in 1890, living in one of the smaller houses until their own was finished. Mr. and Mrs. Beach both took an active part in the social, religious, and political activity of the village. Clifton was elected to Borough Council and served as president of that body for the first 8 years. He also served as Sunday School Supt. and Mrs. Beach was very active in all church affairs. When only 51 years old, she died of pneumonia which developed from a cold she caught while sloshing down Center Ave. to carry a basket of food to the church for a Church Supper.



Courtesy Mrs. S. W. Kiltredge

**Clifton H. Beach**

Son Earl went through the Aspinwall schools and then attended Park Institute in Allegheny City. He established the Earl Beach Co. in Verona, an electrical concern, which his widow and son Richard still operate. Around the turn of the century he used to entertain the townsfolk by racing his fine horse against the railroad trains which went through the town. He died in 1945 at the age of 63.

**William M. Campbell** was one of the early residents on Fourth Street. He was one of the signers of the borough petition and a member of the United Presbyterian Church where he taught Sunday School. He went from here to a Ford City shoe business.

**Cyrus A. Keck**, a carpenter, also lived on Fourth Street and was a petitioner. He worked for H. K. Porter Locomotive Co. An Inspector on the first Election Board, he was the third Fire Chief (1899-1903) and a Councilman from 1907 to mid-September 1910.

**Samuel Doubt**, another petitioner, was an early resident of Sixth Street. He was the Sharpsburg Episcopal Church organist. **Richard Harris**, also one of the very early residents and a signer of the petition, only stayed in town about fifteen years, on Fifth St.



The application for incorporation, duly laid before the Grand Jury of the County of Allegheny at the September Sessions, 1892, was certified by a majority. Therefore, on motion of Thomas J. Ford, Solicitor for the petitioners, a decree was granted and a Charter issued on December 28, 1892.

By the terms of the decree the town would be known as "The Borough of Aspinwall" and would constitute one election district; the annual election to be held the third Tuesday of February in the Public School House, on the southeast corner of Fifth Street and Center Avenue; the first election for the officers provided by law, to be held the 21st day of February, 1893, between the hours of 7 a. m. and 7 p. m. (Taken from the Charter, recorded December 31, 1892 by Court Clerk, D. K. McGonnegle.)

The Court directed Lewis Walzer to "give due notice of said election and the officers to be elected thereat" and appointed Samuel D. Miller Judge of Elections. William R. Hastings and Cyrus A. Keck were designated Inspectors. Henry Warner and Henry A. Stout were appointed Auditors.

John Lawrence won election as the first Burgess of Aspinwall. He served only three years, resigning March 20, 1896, when he moved from the vicinity and it has been impossible to learn anything personal about him. Today, most of the older residents recall Hope W. Hastings as the first Burgess, for he replaced Mr. Lawrence on May 9, 1896 and served for four years. James Patton was the Justice of Peace who administered his oath of office.

The first Borough Council was composed of: President, Clifton H. Beach; Ezra Creese, contractor who built the original Methodist Church, along with his brother, Henderson; John Cowan, another builder and contractor, whose wife, Charlotte Y. Cowan, was a borough petition signer; Francis R. Armstrong, cashier in the Jones and Laughlin Steel Co. office, whose wife, Nellie L. H. Armstrong, was also a borough petitioner; W. R. Smith, a railroad man from Blairsville who was one of the earliest settlers and a petition signer; and W. C. Scott who lived in one of the larger homes on Sixth Street and was a petitioner along with his wife, Mrs. A. M. E. Scott.



Courtesy Miss Jean McCrum

Judge Thomas J. Ford

Thomas L. Ford had been practicing law only a dozen years when he represented the citizens seeking borough status for their new town of Aspinwall. However, he had already acquired an excellent reputation as a trial lawyer and general counsel. A resident of Etna at that time, he had been born in Cincinnati, Ohio, September 3, 1856. The son of John B. and Anne E. Ford, he was just five when his father joined the Union Army and gave his life for a United States. Young Thomas was educated at the Soldier's Orphan Home in Uniontown, Pa.

When twenty-one years old he came to Pittsburg. Working as a store clerk, in a machine shop, and as a ticket agent, he earned his law degree and was admitted to the Allegheny County Bar in 1880. In 1897 he was elected to the lower house of the Pennsylvania State Legislature and was twice re-elected to that body. From June 1903 to November 1906 he was chairman of the Allegheny County Republican Committee. He was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1907 and again in 1917. T. J. Ford was Aspinwall's first Solicitor, serving until 1898.





Courtesy Mrs. J. M. Harper

Chartered April 9, 1889 and organized in 1890, the Aspinwall Land Co. had its office on Freeport Rd., near Center Ave. The water well and pump house were at the corner of Center and Commercial Avenues. This was 1905, for in the background can be seen the Piano Factory being constructed next to James and John Hastings' plumbing shop.

When the Aspinwall Land Company was formed in 1890 Henry Warner, then Superintendent of the Allegheny County Workhouse, was named president. Rightly so, for the development of a residential town on the Aspinwall estate had been his brainchild. It was he who had gone to New York and purchased 155 acres from Mrs. George Aspinwall and then persuaded his friends to join him in the venture. George L. Walter was named secretary and H. A. Spangler, treasurer.

Born May 30, 1838 in Allegheny City, Henry was the youngest of four children born to Henry Warner, Sr. (1791-1873) and Mary Riddle Warner (1802-1876), both of whom had come to America from Ireland in the early 1800's. He attended the local public schools until 15 years old. He clerked three years and was bookkeeper for a flour mill before enlisting as a private in the Civil War. Rising through the ranks he became commander of a ten-gun battery at Reedy Point prior to his discharge in June 1865. In January 1866 he married Annie L. Little of Sewickley and spent a year in Oil City as a merchant before returning to Allegheny City to become bookkeeper for Alexander Patterson.

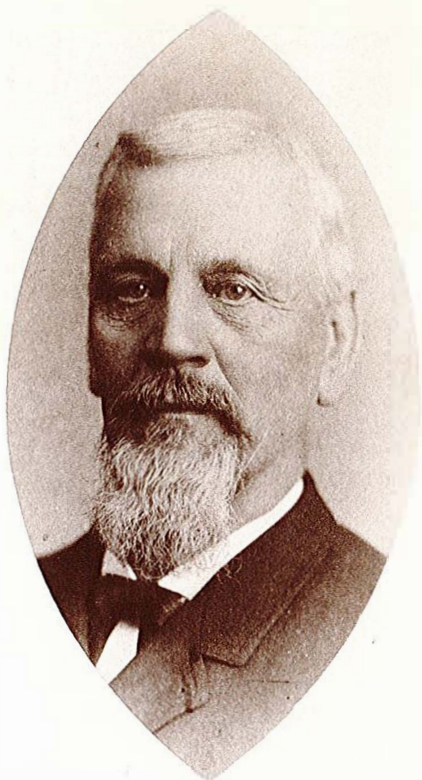


Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

Henry Warner

Elected to the Common Council of that city in 1867, he served three terms, the last as president. In 1870 he was elected to the State Legislature on the Republican slate. Elected Comptroller of Allegheny County in 1871 he served until 1878; part of this time he was manager of Morganza Reform School. In 1879 Warner was elected general manager and first vice-president of the Pittsburg & Southern Railroad Company but resigned the post when he was appointed by the Court of Common Pleas as County Commissioner to settle losses incurred by the railroad riot of 1877. In 1881 he was elected a County Commissioner but never served for he was appointed to the Workhouse post and filled that position with marked success until 1891. In 1888 he made the dedication speech at the opening of Pittsburg's new Court House.

Henry Warner died in Aspinwall September 5, 1895 at the age of 57. His wife, the mother of his five children, died April 11, 1925.



Courtesy Mrs. J. M. Harper

**Samuel D. Miller**

Samuel Davidson Miller, general superintendent of the Aspinwall Land Company, was born at Montour Run, Moon Township, Allegheny County, March 29, 1825. He was 13 when his family moved to Sewickley and he received his education in the public schools there. Following school he learned the carpenter trade and embarked in the contracting business, building many of the older homes in Sewickley.

In 1848 he married Mary Ann Little, daughter of John H. and Margaret C. Little. That same year he and his older brother, James, formed a partnership and built a large steam saw mill, the first on the Ohio River, between Pittsburg and Economy. In 1862 the brothers relocated in Oil City, Pennsylvania and entered the oil business under the firm name McKelvey, Miller & Co. This firm became one of the largest dealers and shippers of oil in the business and also dealt in real estate and leases. However, they were unable to survive the financial crash in 1865 following the Civil War. Sam Miller was also associated with Riddle, Miller and Company and remained in Oil City twenty-two years.

During that time he served several terms on the school board; was a member of City Council and assisted in the construction of the Water Works, of which he was the superintendent for several years. (He also supervised the erection of the Water Works in Meadville, Pennsylvania and Olean, New York.) The last three of his ten children were born while the family lived in Oil City.

In 1884 he returned to Allegheny County to become assistant to his brother-in-law, Henry Warner, at the County Workhouse in O'Hara Township. With the formation of the Aspinwall Land Company he became superintendent and held that post until his death, August 16, 1902. It was he who erected the Water Works and Electric Plant and developed the village into one of the most desirable residential areas near the bustling young city of Pittsburg.





Courtesy Mrs. J. M. Harper

Three of Samuel D. Miller's 10 children also came to Aspinwall. **Samuel R. Chase**, seen above, was the husband of Margaret Little Miller, his youngest daughter. Mr. Chase was the 3rd Borough Clerk and died in office after 15 years (1906-1921).



Courtesy Mrs. J. M. Harper

**Samuel D. Miller, Jr.** was the oldest son. His children, Florence and Arthur D. Miller, went through the Aspinwall schools.



Courtesy Mrs. J. M. Harper

**Ralph A. Miller** (left front) is seen here with an 1895 Bicycle Club. The youngest of the family, he married Nancy L. McNeely of Aspinwall and in 1894 became the Aspinwall Land Company clerk. He gave help on this book prior to his death August 1, 1967, two days short of his 95th birthday. His daughter, Margaret Miller Harper of Sheridan, supplied many photographs and all the maps used in this book.

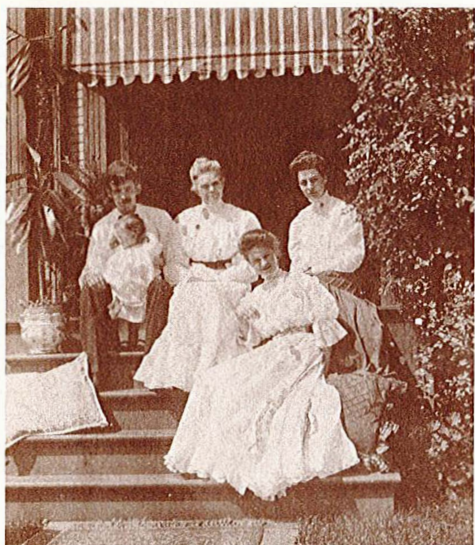




Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

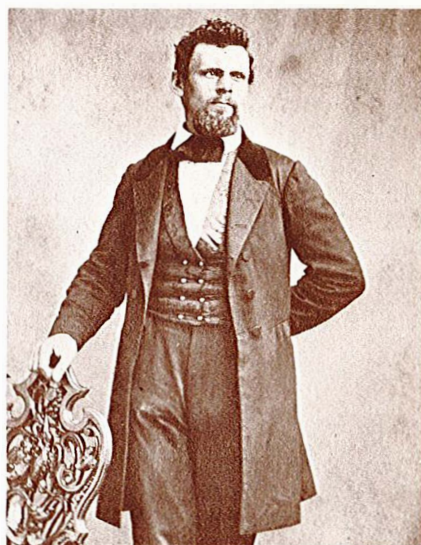
#### Hazlett House 1894

Enjoying their front lawn can be seen: l. to r. Louisa Troutman Hazlett (1860-1912); daughter Jessie; James B. Hazlett, borough councilman 1897-1902; daughter Edith; son Adam B. Hazlett, steel man with J & L; and daughter Mary who married Charles M. Parkin, distinguished veteran of two World Wars. The family came to Aspinwall in 1892 and were early members of the Lutheran Church.



Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

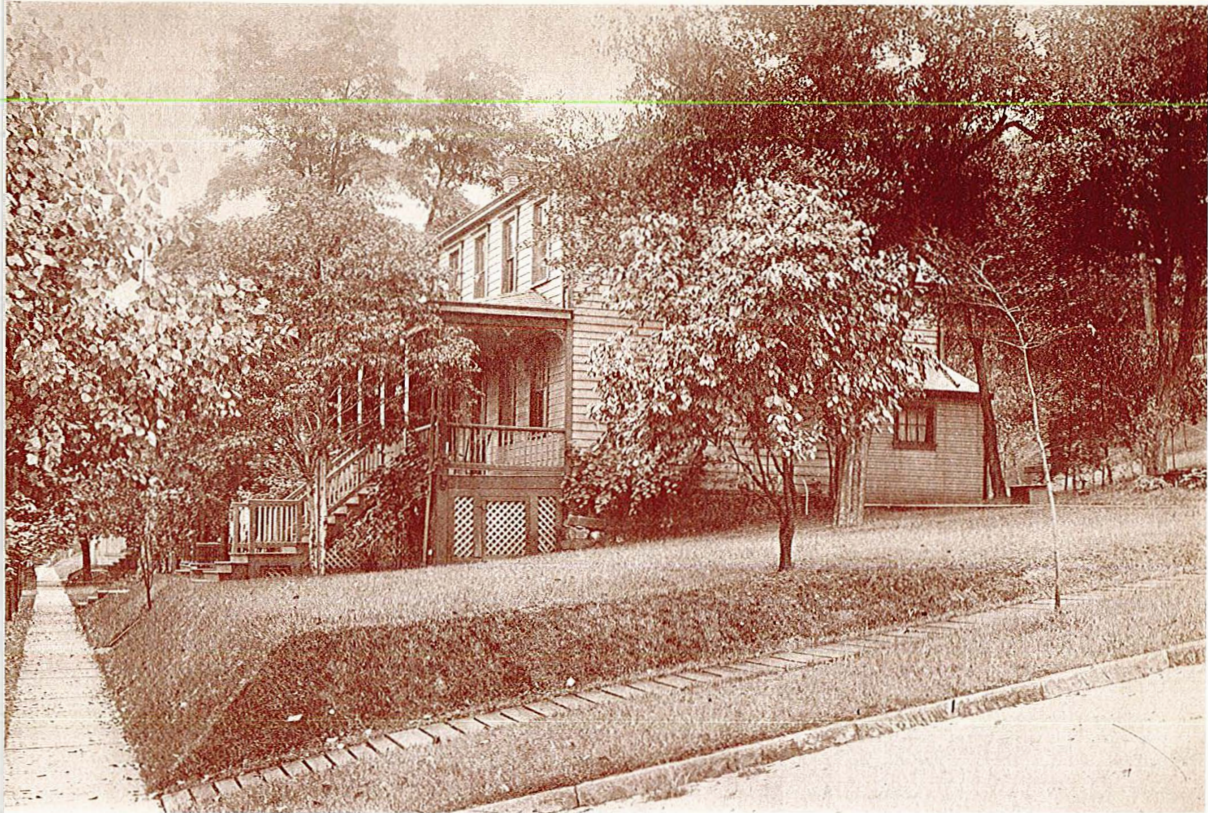
This picture of **Henry Warner's** family was taken in 1905. The following year his son, Edward Little Warner (top left), died in the Typhoid Fever epidemic that hit Aspinwall. Next to Edward is Annie Little Warner, Henry's wife. Beside her is Jessie Hazlett Warner, Edward's wife and mother of Mary Louise (at her Dad's knee). In front is Isabel Warner, Henry's daughter, who later married Press C. Dowler.



Courtesy Miss Grace Renouf

**JOHN GRANT DYER, JR.** and his wife, Louise (Gungle) Dyer came to Aspinwall in 1891. He was a brick contractor and built many of the chimneys in the new houses going up at that time. Mrs. Dyer was a charter member of The First Presbyterian Church. Their son, W. W. Dyer was a borough councilman in 1905-1907.





Courtesy Mrs. Richard Thallme

### THE HOMESTEAD

Until it was demolished in 1966, this was the oldest homestead in the borough. Built during the period of the Pennsylvania Canal, when all of the James Ross estate was open to tenant farmers, it is reported that four generations of a family named Cook lived here

Since no recorded history of this house seems to exist, one can only conjecture about its real beginnings. From Mrs. Richard Thalimer of Fox Chapel, a little was learned about the physical structure of the building. She is the daughter of John Easton Boyd who moved into the house in 1901 and whose family lived there some forty odd years.

From the beams and the construction of the central portion of the house it would seem that it originally had six rooms—two in a partially underground level and one on each side of a center hall on two upper floors. The house grew, like "Topsy", with rooms, ells and porches added to meet the needs of its occupants.

At some point an ell was added to the back of the house. This included a room on the lower floor in which

and farmed the land. The house was built away from the river to escape the frequent flooding of the Allegheny. A family by the name of Scheib was living there when Aspinwall was founded in 1892. The James Boyd family occupied it when George Robie took this picture about 1906.

was installed a dumb-waiter to serve the upper floors. Upon one of the beams in this room was scratched the name "Aspinwall." Since the house was located on a portion of the land which Ann Ross Coleman (Mrs. George Aspinwall) inherited from her uncle, James Ross, Jr., it is interesting to speculate whether the Aspinwalls themselves may have lived there at some time.

In fact, the very structure of the lower level leads to further pondering. By the time the Boyd family lived there the walls of the lower rooms had been plastered over. The simple and sturdy construction of this portion of the house leads one to wonder if it could have been an early log cabin which was converted and added onto years before the upper portions were erected. Such pondering takes us back to some of the earlier history of this region.



Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, noted authority on American Indians, says that the banks of the Allegheny River had been occupied, in ancient times, by a now unknown tribe, who preceded Lenni Lenape, better known as the Delawares. During the years when the Ohio Country was the happy hunting ground of the Delaware and Shawnee Indian tribes, the Kittanning Path, main east-west trail, traversed the area north of the Allegheny River. Historians specializing in Indian lore, say this was perhaps the most important of all Indian trails. It went up the Juniata, crossed the Allegheny Mountains at Kittanning Point, then went westward by a somewhat northerly route to the Allegheny, where it led to Shannopinstown (now Lawrenceville), or on down the north bank of the Ohio River about 18 miles to Logstown, the most important of all Indian towns in this region.

In 1672 the indomitable Iroquois, or Five Nations, wrested the supremacy from the family of tribes known as Delawares and conquered the Shawnese. From that time they were the supreme rulers of all Western Pennsylvania. They allowed members of their conquered rivals to live throughout the territory in scattered towns and villages. These villages were usually quite small, consisting at times of only a few cabins and situated for the most part along streams.

Kittanning, known to the French as Attique, and Logstown, principal point for trading and conferring with the whites, were among the most important Indian villages in the entire region. Thus the Kittanning Path, the much-used trail between them, understandably became one of the easiest, quickest and best for the early white explorers and traders to follow as they headed into the unknown west. It would seem probable that some of the hardest of these would have built their crude, drafty cabins not too far from this main through-way. In fact, one such was recorded in the vicinity of what is now Sharpsburg, as early as 1753. Early maps being what they were, how can one be sure that cabin wasn't really on land now known as Aspinwall?

It was young George Washington, traveling in the company of Christopher Gist and an Indian guide, who recorded the cabin when making his famous trip from Fort LeBoeuf to Logstown in December of that year. He had delivered a letter to the French Commander at the Fort, ordering him, in the name of Virginia's Scotch governor, Robert Dinwiddie, to return to Canada. Washington later surveyed the land around the forks of the Ohio.

Various historians tell us that the guide was a young Seneca chief named Guyasuta who was already well-known, not just as a warrior, but also as an exceptional hunter. Other stories of this famed "Pine Tree" chief tell us that one of his favorite hunting grounds was the "hilly area on the north banks of the Allegheny." Is it not possible he led Washington and Gist through the territory he knew best? Even down past "Washboard Falls" where some historical writers claim he had a special "resting place"? History does record that the trio "came through the woods and followed a creek (either Guyasuta or Pine Creek) down to the Allegheny River". Guyasuta left the others at the river bank and Washington and Gist then proceeded to construct a raft to effect a crossing. Unfortunately the raft cap-sized in midstream and they were forced to spend the frigid night on Six Mile Island, completing the crossing by foot the next day when the river was frozen over sufficiently.

Guyasuta's name is woven in and out of the embattled history of those years between 1753 and 1768 when the French and English contended for control of the land at the forks of the Ohio. Actually there were two wars going on—one among the Indian nations themselves and one between the Indians and the white settlers. Guyasuta was active in both. Quite an orator, and versed in the white man's tongue, he participated in Indian "powwows" and in peace talks with the settlers, enjoying respect in both groups. However, after being involved in the massacre at Fort Venango and the infamous burning of Hannastown, he had no "friends" among either the French or British—except for James O'Hara.

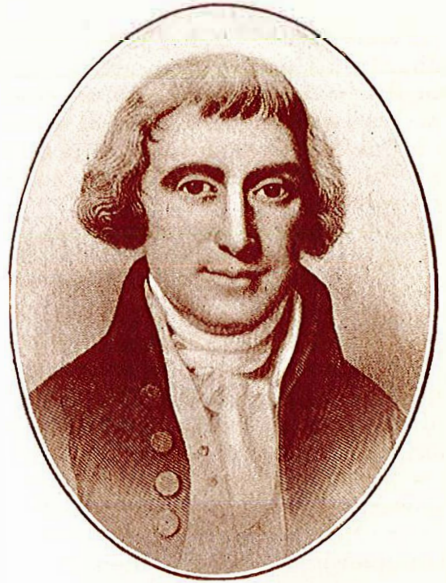


Some strange affinity developed between the young Irishman and the crafty Indian as they shared the warmth of a Delaware teepee one stormy December night in 1773 when O'Hara was making his first trip to Fort Pitt. The Paris educated youth had been drawn to America by the stories he heard of wilderness life and shortly after arriving in Philadelphia (where he met his future wife) he joined a fur trader who was heading west. It was while trading at an Indian village that O'Hara and the Seneca chief met. In spite of their different worlds, a life-long friendship was born that night—without even the exchange of a word!

O'Hara was fascinated by the pioneer village he found at the forks of the Ohio River. In his dreams he saw a great city rising at the point and being a young man of great moral fortitude, physical strength and mental audacity, he determined to help build that city. Starting as an Indian trader he soon owned a trading post, started a gristmill, and began buying land. He became adept at dealing with the red men and was made an Indian Agent.

In 1775, while on a mission through the Indian country, O'Hara found Guyasuta lying ill under a tree. The Indian had become ill and while in a dazed state had stepped upon a rattle snake which bit him. O'Hara treated the snake bite and stayed in the woods with him several days until the chief was well enough to travel to the nearest Indian village. On this occasion Guyasuta dubbed his Irish friend "my spiritual son".

O'Hara served as an officer in the Revolutionary War; traveled with George Rogers Clark; was an army contractor and became Quartermaster General of the United States. He started a saw-mill in Pittsburg; owned the Point Brewery; was a ship builder; revolutionized the salt trade by shipping it down river from Erie; with Major Isaac Craig, he built the city's first glassworks; bought the ruins of the old Fort and built a row of neat brick homes and was president of the Bank of Pennsylvania, Pittsburg Branch.



**General James O'Hara**

Founder of Schenley and Denny Estates

In 1775 he bought land on a high point along the south bank of the Allegheny River and, as soon as he could, built a home to which he brought his bride after the war. Guyasuta visited this home shortly after O'Hara's son was born. On this visit he extracted from his friend the promise to care for him if he became ill in his old age and to bury him in his beloved "hunting ground" on the north bank of the Allegheny. Although in the meantime O'Hara had become Pittsburgh's first great Captain of Industry and the largest land owner in all of Allegheny County, and Guyasuta had perpetuated foul depredations upon white settlers, the Irishman kept both these promises.

In 1784 the state of Pennsylvania ratified a treaty with the Indians and acquired a vast domain north of the Allegheny and Ohio rivers. This land was used to redeem the "depreciation certificates" with which veterans of the war had been paid. (During the Revolution the Continental Congress was unable to guarantee payment to the soldiers because it had no power to collect taxes. The currency it issued soon became worthless and the states had to assume the responsibility of payment.)

Many soldiers living in the east had no desire to move to the frontier and so sold their certificates. A James Cunningham bought up most of the land which is today's Fox Chapel Area School District (the boroughs of Blawnox, Aspinwall and Fox Chapel and the townships of O'Hara and Indiana) and more. From him James O'Hara acquired a large tract along the Allegheny River and extending back to the present Hunt Road in Fox Chapel Borough. Here, under a huge oak tree, O'Hara buried the Seneca chief. The exact spot has never been authenticated but it was thought to be somewhere in the vicinity of the north end of the present Highland Park Bridge.



**James Ross**  
Head of Allegheny Bar for 50 years

In his zeal to build a thriving city, and provide a "good" life for his family, James O'Hara became "land poor". He had overextended himself to such a degree that he would have been wiped out in the panic and depression of 1818 if it had not been for the generosity and good advice of James Ross. With his keen legal mind Ross was able to save most of General O'Hara's vast holdings, which were inherited later by the O'Hara and Denny families. To express his gratitude O'Hara gave Ross nearly 2,000 acres of his land along the north bank of the Allegheny.

**James Ross** was born July 12, 1762 near Delta, in York County, Pa. The son of Joseph and Jane (Graham) Ross, he studied the classics at State Ridge Presbyterian Church School and at an Academy in Pequea, Pa. At 18 he went to western Pennsylvania to teach Latin and Greek at Canonsburg Academy, operated by Rev. John Mc-Millan, a close family friend. (This school later became Jefferson College and still later consolidated with Washington College to become the present Washington & Jefferson College.)

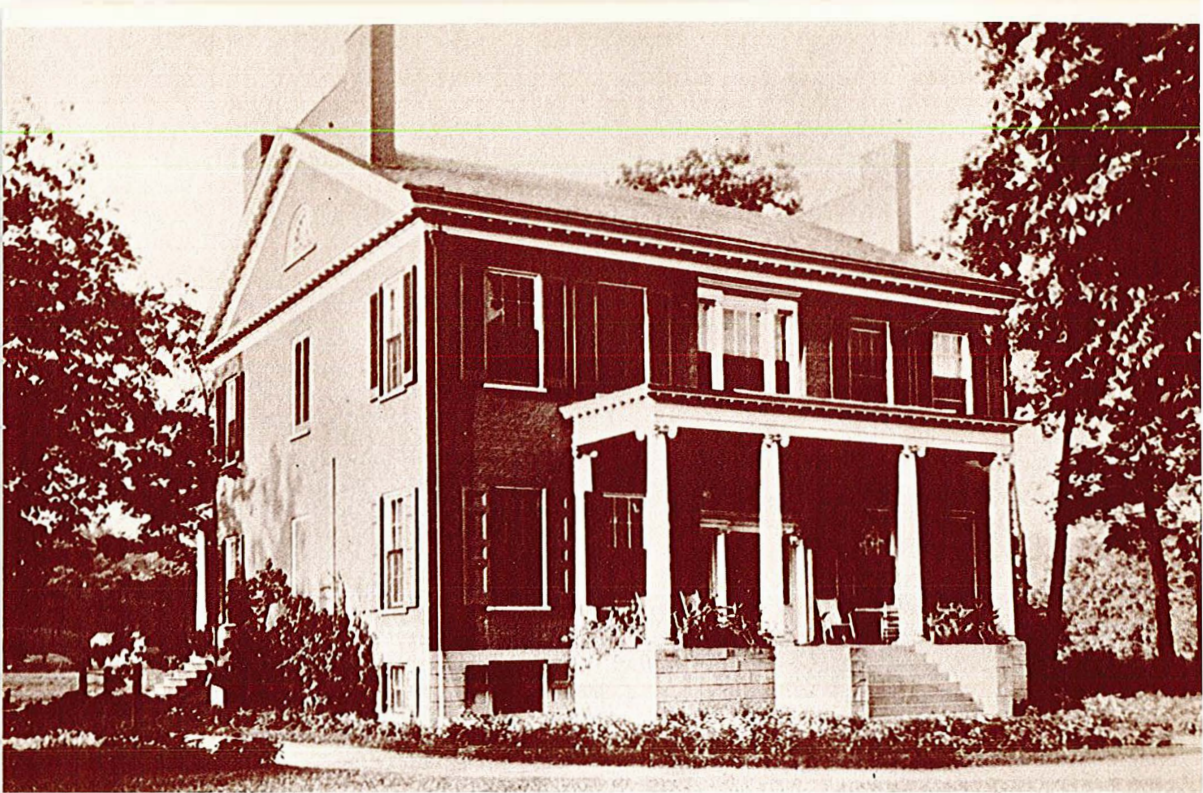
Ross had planned to be a minister but while at Canonsburg he met Hugh Henry Brackenridge, a Pittsburg lawyer, who persuaded him to follow the law. He continued his studies at Philadelphia in 1782. Two years later he returned to Washington County and was admitted to the bar. He specialized in land cases and soon acquired a large practice. In 1795 he moved to Pittsburg and became one of the community leaders and first members of the Allegheny County Bar.

A staunch Federalist, he was a member of the committee which drafted the new frame of government at the Constitutional Convention in 1789-1790. President George Washington owned much land in western Pennsylvania and he hired Ross as his attorney. In 1794 the President appointed him Federal Commissioner during the Whiskey Insurrection. His efforts were in no small way responsible for the amicable settlement of the uprising and for saving his friend Brackenridge from prosecution for treason.

In 1794 the Pennsylvania Legislature elected Ross to the United States Senate, replacing Albert Gallatin, who was disqualified because of the residence requirement. He was re-elected in 1797 and served until 1803, being President Pro Tempore of the Senate in 1797-1799. Three times, 1799-1802-1808, he was unsuccessful as the Federalist candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania. From 1816 to 1833 he served as President of the Select Council of Pittsburg.

A large man, standing over 6 feet tall, James Ross was broad and full in all his proportions, with big feet of which he was not ashamed. As a lawyer he was known for his soundness of judgment and full knowledge of the law rather than for his pleading





From the Lorant Collection, Carnegie Library

The James Ross Mansion, "The Meadows", about 1850

abilities. He was scrupulous in his financial dealings with his clients and never charged over the legal 6%, even though he served many of the wealthiest residents of the time. It was because of this practice that O'Hara's resources proved sufficient — with James Ross handling them.

James Ross married Mary Woods, daughter of George Woods who surveyed and laid out the city of Pittsburgh. She died when only 35 years old, leaving him with three children: James Jr., Mary Ann and George. The boys never married but Mary Ann became the wife of Edward Coleman of Lancaster, Pa., in 1816. He was a State Senator when she died nine years later, leaving three small daughters. Ann Ross Coleman became Mrs. George Aspinwall. Harriet Coleman married Eugene Livingston and had a daughter, Mary, who became Mrs. Maturin L. Delafield. When James Ross Jr. died in 1851 he left the Allegheny River estate divided between his niece and grand-niece. The manner in which this estate was divided can be seen on property maps to be found elsewhere in this book.

The James Ross home in Pittsburgh was located on Grant's Hill, at the site of the present-day County Court House. In 1820 the family built a beautiful country home on the river estate given them by General James O'Hara. At that time the Ross estate extended from the present western boundary of Aspinwall east to the western boundary of what is now Blawnox Borough. As the site for their home they chose a spot near Ross Pumping Station, just east of the Pennsylvania Railroad's Ross Station. About 300 feet back from Freeport Road, near the intersection with Fox Chapel Road, they built a two-storied, red-brick house of early American design. Large windows and lovely fireplaces at both ends of the house enhanced the interior of the mansion. Outside there were white pillared porticoes, both front and back. The grounds around the house were beautifully kept and extended down to the river's edge. From the front porch they enjoyed an exciting panorama of the (then) scenic Allegheny River; and gorgeous sunrises and sunsets, since the land was situated almost due east-west.

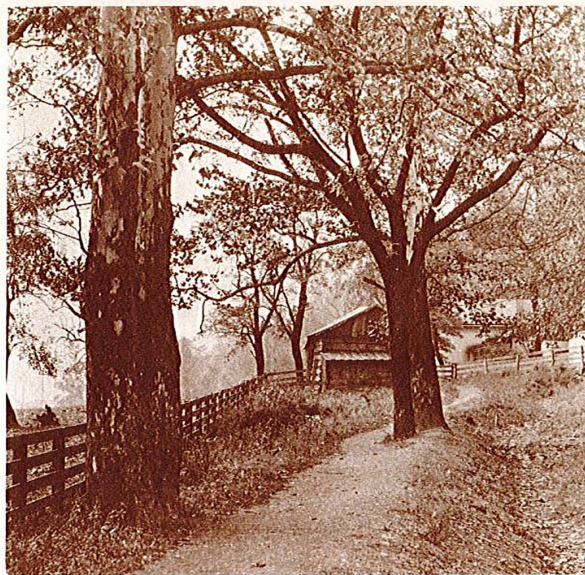


After the death of James Ross Jr. "The Meadows" was empty much of the time. In the early 1900's a Pittsburgh broker procured the mansion and surrounding grounds and restored them, as nearly as possible, to the way the estate had existed before the Civil War — including a stable of fine horses. There are still people in Aspinwall who remember visiting the mansion when the Halls lived there. About 1920 the Mansion became a roadhouse known as "Saunders Inn." Fire so damaged the Inn a few years later that what remained bore no resemblance to the original. Fire finally destroyed the Inn in the 1940's and for the last few years, before it was demolished for the erection of the Fox Chapel Village Shopping Center, the remains housed a foreign car agency.

To the east of the mansion (about where Fox Chapel Plaza is now) was an area of meadow and wooded lands known as Ross Grove. Squaw Run flowed down through the Grove to the Allegheny. During the last half of the 1800's this was a famous Picnic Grounds, known throughout the Pittsburgh area. After the western end of the Pennsylvania Canal was replaced by the Western Pennsylvania Railroad in 1852 the railroad ran "excursion trains" for special groups each summer and the Grove became a favorite spot with German Clubs, Church Groups and Lodges. There were bowling alleys, a dance floor, a band shell, dining shelters and ball fields to provide pleasant recreation for all age groups. Marsh Harton leased the Grove in 1896 and restricted the use to picnics for Church and Sunday School groups only. In 1897, after a few years of poor supervision, John Zwick took over the Grove and returned it to a pleasant gathering place for young and old.

There was a period from about 1912 to 1915 when Ross Grove was the site of a summer Spectacular put on by a Duquesne University Speech Instructor, Clinton Lloyd. He brought a group of Seneca Indians down from the Cornplanter Reservation to put on an outdoor pageant "Hiawatha." There were both afternoon and evening performances every day for six weeks with Mr. Lloyd as commentator. Squaw Run was dammed up to provide a full stream down which the Indians, in native dress, came in their canoes. Many Aspinwall residents remember those

exciting pageant's but none better than Charles (Pete) Lytle who worked there parking early automobiles, and taking tickets, or Francis (Midge) Marshall and Clyde (Heinie) Kean who were ushers at the spectacular.

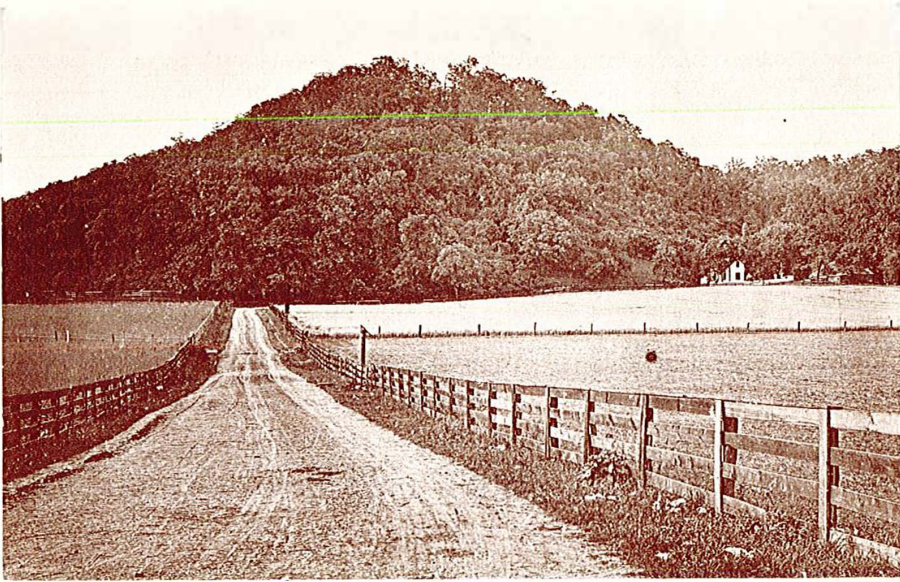


Courtesy George S. Roble

**"Lover's Lane"** (seen above), a lovely tree-shaded path at the far western end of town, was another favorite leisure-time spot. It led from Sixth Street to the Darlington Estate and back to "Washboard Falls" in what is now the Guyasuta Boy Scout Reservation.

This western section of General O'Hara's riverside property didn't become known as "The Darlington Estate" until the mid 1800's. When James O'Hara died (December 21, 1819) he devised it to his daughter Elizabeth (Mrs. Harmar Denny). She left it to her niece, Mary Carson O'Hara, daughter of Richard Butler O'Hara and Mary (Boyd) O'Hara, who married William McCullough Darlington in 1844. None of the family ever lived at "Guyasuta Farm" until 1896 when Mrs. Samuel A. Ammond (Edith Darlington, youngest of four children) built a \$40,000 mansion there. Located on the upper side of the railroad, about where the present Highland Park Bridge approach is located, the house existed for only four decades, being demolished to make way for the new bridge, built in 1937.





Courtesy George S. Robie

Children of families who purchased homesites from the Aspinwall Land Company in 1890-1891 attended the small, white frame school which set on a rise of ground, among the trees, on the northeast edge of the Delafield property. To the north side of Guyasuta Lane, it was a one-room school with the usual outbuildings—one of seven schools in O'Hara Township at that time. Pupils ranged in age from 6 to 14 and the older boys made life difficult for the teacher when possible. Lovers Lane was to the upper left of Guyasuta Road, as seen here. The home of Mr. Stone, Darlington's tenant farmer, is seen to the upper right.

There were about 25 pupils attending the little hillside school during the 1891-1892 term. A Miss Williams was the teacher. She was very pretty and not at all afraid to administer corporal punishment when it was needed—and it often was by some of the bigger boys. Some times the little building almost "rocked" with her efforts, but she was always master of the situation.

Among the pupils were several from Guyasuta—two Noble girls and their brother, two Dawson girls, Lebron and Hawkins children. Among those from the new town were: Fred and Frank Stout, two Covode boys and their sister, Ina Smith, Carrie Dillon, Minnie Heerlein, George Smith's two sons, George and Elizabeth Robie, Fannie Shaner, Frank Creese, Frank Love, the Patton boys and Russell McMorran, the first Aspinwall child to enroll there.

In their petition to the court asking for incorporation as a borough, the early residents used as one of their strongest arguments, "great inconvenience has resulted to the inhabitants of said village by reason of the school-house therein located being inadequate to the requirements of the public".

In 1892 a new red-brick school building began to rise on the eastern side of Center Ave., between 5th and 6th St. The basement and first-story were erected at that time and the school moved into the 5th St. corner room. Built by O'Hara Township, the borough took it over in 1893. Miss Weible was the teacher then. She was not as pretty as Miss Williams, but was an equally good disciplinarian. (This school grew and was in operation for 74 continuous years, finally being vacated as classroom space for the 1967-1968 school term.)

The entire 6th St. side of the building was left as one large room and soon became the town's meeting hall. Almost at once residents organized a non-denominational Sunday School which met there with Harry F. Stout as Superintendent. His wife and sister-in-law were teachers. Church services were held there also whenever ministers or speakers could be obtained. Town elections and Council meetings were held there too and most of the early clubs and organizations used this hall until they were well enough established to find other facilities.





Courtesy Howard Humes

Principal J. C. Heil posed with teacher, Margaret Pressley, when this picture of the 5th and 6th grades was taken during the 1897-1898 school year. The students are l. to r., back row—William McLaughlin, George Boicer, William Martsolf and Frank Creese. Third row—Howard Humes, Lionel Sweeney, William Burnes, Paul Douglas, Wilbur

Gibson, Shirley Shaner and Wilbur Brittain. Second row—Gilbert Wickersham, Eugenie Sauer, Florence Keck, Anna Ray, unknown, Alice Martsolf, Eva Lupfer and Mary Douglas. Front row—Elizabeth Robie, Anna Hammer, Margaret Marshall, Ella Creese, Florence Maselli, Eila Allison and Marie McLaughlin.

In 1893, after the school was moved to Center Avenue, a dapper young man by the name of J. C. Heil became principal. He was rather good-looking, with a heavy mustache and hairy hands. However, he was not much bigger than some of the 6th, 7th and 8th grade boys he taught and so it became necessary for him to prove to them that he meant to be a firm disciplinarian.

This he did one day after the bigger boys played a trick on him. One after another, he used his ratan to thrash, first, the oldest boy in the class, then the two biggest "rough and tough" brothers and their sister (who stood taller than Mr. Heil) and, finally, the son of the school board president. After that the "little principal" had no more trouble.

He was an excellent instructor and set a fine example of neatness and personal grooming for the students. Under his supervision even the most careless boys soon began to keep their fingernails clean. It was Prof. Heil who first "landscaped" the school grounds (with the help of the older boys) and who introduced new writing skills in the classroom. (He became a very successful insurance agent after retiring from the educational field.)

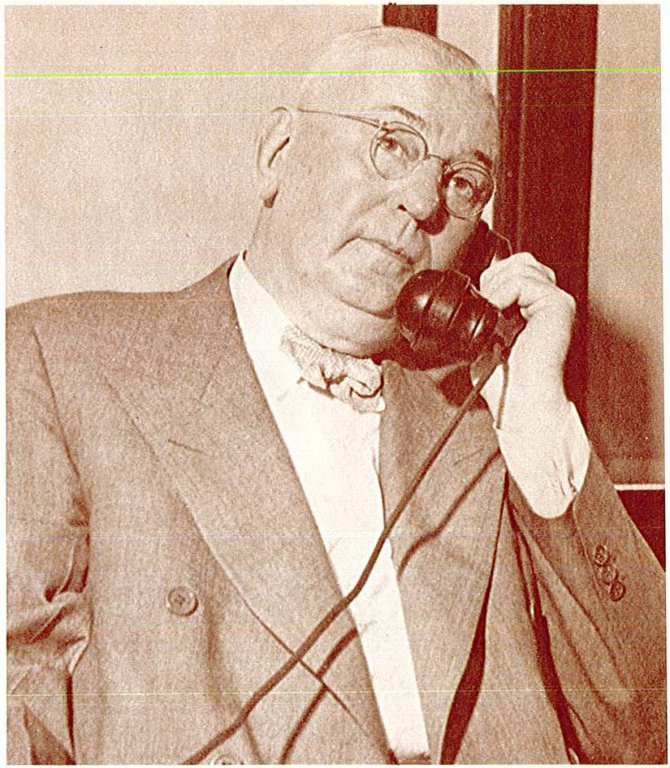
The school population continued to grow and the school underwent numerous changes. A second room was put to use; then the Assembly Hall had to be given up so it could be partitioned to become, first, a three-room school with cloak rooms and then; a four-room school.



Prof. Heil was followed by Mr. Wolfert, as principal. Cadwallader M. Barr was the third principal. He was a handsome young man of not quite 20 when he first came to the Center Ave. school to teach in 1895, and his pupils remember him as an affable, kind teacher. After he became principal the more troublesome youths found him to be a very stern taskmaster, however. Although he remained in town to become one of Aspinwall's more illustrious citizens, he resigned as principal during the winter vacation in the 1901-1902 term and went to become Superintendent of Charleroi Schools.

Cad Barr, as he was known to one and all, was born March 12, 1876 at Parker's Landing in Armstrong County. The son of Hannah (Emely) Barr and Winfield Scott Barr, he graduated from the local high school and then obtained a law degree at Washington & Jefferson College. In 1906 a life-long political career was well launched when he was elected to Aspinwall Borough Council. Serving for three years, while J. B. Hazlett was Burgess, it was he who introduced the ordinance regulating the speed of automobiles in the borough to 6 m.p.h. as the "horseless carriage" was becoming popular. In 1908 he founded the C. M. Barr & Co. investment banking firm which he operated in Pittsburgh for 40 years.

In December 1918 he resigned a Captain's commission in the Army Quartermaster Corps because he had been elected to a 4 year term as Senator from the 40th Senatorial District of Allegheny County. He served on law, public works, and financial committees and was re-elected in 1922, becoming chairman of the Education Committee in his last two years. A life-long Republican, in 1931 he bolted from the party and, along with Charles C. (Buck) McGovern, won the post of Allegheny County Commissioner. His Democratic opponent had been David L. Lawrence, the man who later became "Mr. Democrat", and it is thought Cad Barr may have been the only man who ever defeated Davey Lawrence at the polls.



Courtesy of Mrs. C. M. Barr

Cadwallader M. Barr

In August 1905 he bought the former Deardorff house on First St. There he and his wife tenderly cared for their handicapped son. He lost both his son and wife quite early and did not remarry until 1940. Then he married Anna Mikesel, a young widow with a daughter, Dorothy, whom Cad raised as his own. The last years of his life were spent in Mt. Lebanon where his widow still lives. Although he was ill during the last dozen years, he did not give up his investment business until forced to do so in 1948. He died of a heart attack Nov. 28, 1960.

Of Scotch-Irish descent and Presbyterian by faith, Cad Barr was an energetic, ambitious man, independent of thought, dynamic of action and honest to a fault. His was a forceful personality, tempered by a kind and loving heart. Never known for his tact, but rather for his often colorful, and sometimes painful, expression of the truth as he saw it, Cad Barr was, nevertheless, highly respected by all who challenged him in the political, business or legislative arenas.





Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

John McCreight, Cad Barr's assistant, had replaced him as principal in January 1902 and remained for the 1903-1904 term, at which time this picture was taken in Margaret Patton's first grade room. Notice the re-

ligious and patriotic pictures and the most modern of gas lights. Anna Duncan, Anne McCrum, Ada Weichel and Blanche Forsaith were other early teachers. C. W. Gamble and his wife were early janitors at 5th St.

**The November 20, 1896 issue of the Sharpsburg-Etna Herald ran an Aspinwall School Honor Roll representing all four rooms.** It included these students: Ella Gibson; Charlie, Henry and Katie Borcer; Ray, Shirley and Fannie Shaner; Charles and Ralph Ray; Sarah, Beth and Fred Robie; Clifford, Howard, Frank and Roy Humes; Eleanor and Charley McGeehan; Anna and Katie Cooper; Verner, Lionel and Fred Sweeney.

Also Charles Reese, Harold Parsons, Adam Hazlett, Paul Wolf, Mamie McNeely, Clarence Daub, Ellen and William Morrison, Katie McLaughlin, Elizabeth Doubt, Ella Allison, Howard Buttam, Bertha Friedman, Anna Cree-se, Carrie Dillon, Marguerite Harris, Lillian Henninger and Mary Heerlein.

Also Bert Smith, Collier Scott, Rice Marshall, Blake Lytle, Wilbur Brittain, Howard Patton, Neale McClelland, Almira Covode, Jean Patterson, Louise Copeland, Margaret McCrum, Elliott Noble, George and Callie Illig; Anna Patton, Amelia Alvater and John and Jennie Emrick.

The first addition to the school was made in 1895. In January 1896 the school was closed because of a measles epidemic in town. In 1897 an \$8,000 bond issue created a four-room school. William Johnson was contractor for the addition. H. A. Stout was Secretary of the School Board then. Other members at that period were: Grant Darby, J. N. McLaughlin, W. R. Hastings, Samuel Doubt, Henry Rice Marshall, George Henninger, Jr., and L. L. McClelland.

Dr. M. M. George gave the address for the 1897 graduating class which included: Roy Humes, Robert Patton, Nannie McNeely, Alice Thompson, Arthur Bowman and Emma McLaughlin. The Compulsory Education Law was in effect when another room was opened in 1898. A Miss Hopper was hired to teach the added class. Walter F. Parkin was President of the School Board in 1901; Mr. Stout, Secretary; Treasurer was Mr. McClelland and J. J. Isensee (music teacher) was a new member.





Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

Miss Alice Barr, sister of former principal Cad Barr, was the Room 6 teacher in October 1907 when this picture was taken. The pupils are L. to R., back row—Elsie Airey, Agnes McCormick, unidentified Florence Douglas. Middle row—Florence Holden, Jean McCrum, Irene Dougherty, Mary McGarry, Do-

rothy Sladden, Edna Tilghman, Ertle Hessom, Jewel Blakley, not known. Front row—Emmet Boehm, Tubby Hanna, John Douglas, unidentified, Willard Austen, Harold Erskine, Carl Schilling, Otis Small, William Marshall, Emmit McLaughlin, Leo Helbling and Clarence Roup.

By 1901 a two-year high school course had been added. May Rice, Wilbur Gibson, Paul Hughes, Wilbur Brittain and Howard Humes were the members of the first graduating class in 1903. In August 1904 Borough Council appropriated \$10,000.00 to the Aspinwall Board of Education to help build an addition to the school. Council attempted to get an agreement whereby they would have full use of, and derive all profits from, the assembly hall for ten years. The Board of Education refused. That was the first year Dr. Wm. N. Marshall was serving as a school board director. C. M. Barr and W. J. Davis were members about that time too.

The first four-year class started in 1904 with a faculty including Miss Ball, Herbert Stockton, Professor E. J. Robinson, principal, and Miss Mary McNess, who by that time had become assistant principal of the school. Margaret McCrum, Mable Anderson, Anna Eddinger, and Margaret Emrick were all teaching at that time.

A \$10,000.00 bond issue was passed by a big majority at an election held May 11, 1905 in the Hose House. By February 1906 the seven additional classrooms and an auditorium seating 500 were nearly completed. Thomas Cronin Co. did the excavating and Love & Co. erected the building. Art was being taught by Miss Hamilton in 1905 but was dropped from the curriculum during the 1906-1907 term. It was also in 1905 that H. F. Secrist, Howard Kirkpatrick and James G. Hastings were unsuccessful Prohibitionist candidates for School Board Director.

Aspinwall had its first high school football team in 1907. Mr. Moorhead, a Yale graduate and son of the Sharpsburgh steel mill owner, was the coach. Police Chief, Wm. Galloway, was named Truant Officer in December 1909. The graduating class of 1909 numbered five: Herbert May, Mary Patton, Eva Dillon, Irene Austin, and Della McLaughlin. There were 13 graduates in 1910 and classes kept on growing.



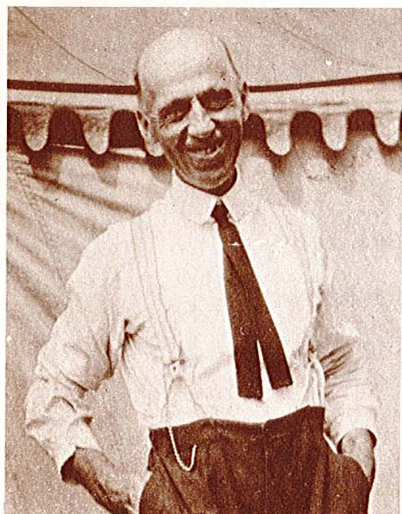


Courtesy Wm. Kanhofer

#### ASPINWALL HIGH SCHOOL—1906

L. to R., Back row—Mary McNess, teacher, Heinie Stockton, **Gustave May**, Herbert May. Fourth row—Sarah Robie, Eva Dillon, **Eva Kanhofer**, Mary Patton, Helen Brittain, Edna Roup, E. J. Robinson, principal, Kit Uber, **Helen Duff**, Bernice Kelly. Third row—Mary Hazlett, Pearl Hutchinson, Florence Miller, Dolly Laughlin, Gray Alter, George Loeffert, Lois Cochran, Eva Karns. Second row—Jessie Duckwall, Helen Hicks, Catherine McLaughlin, Bertha Douglas, John Duff, Donald Karns,

Collier Scott, George Illig, Marie McLaughlin. First row—Irene Austen, Mary Corliss, Della McLaughlin, Jack Willetts, John Lytle, William Kanhofer, George Wendt, **Elliot Noble** and Clyde Sparling. The names in bold type are the students who made up the class of 1907—the first to graduate from a 4 year high school in Aspinwall. Hester Rice, ninth member of the class, was absent when the picture was taken. Kit Uber and Bill Kanhofer had been in earlier classes but came back to graduate with this group.



Courtesy Mrs. R. R. Jardine

**Ezekiel J. Robinson**

Aspinwall's beloved principal of the early 1900's, "Baldy" Robinson, believed that learning was a constant process and the greatest of fun. During his 15 years tenure at the 5th St. school (1904-1919) he tried to involve the entire town in the life of the school. A charter member of the Pittsburgh Audubon Society, he would get up at the crack of dawn to take interested students on bird-watching jaunts into the woods and fields near town.

He taught Botany and Astronomy in the high school and demanded 50 perfect specimens from his Botany students each year. He took his Astronomy class on night-time hikes to observe the heavens, for he believed in practical as well as theoretical teaching. It was he who organized the Knights of Valor, a boys organization which involved the entire family. Boys joining this group promised never to smoke, drink or swear. There was a senior group which emphasized sports and outdoor living and every summer he took the boys and their families on camping vacations. "Baldy" made education fun for the parents as well as the students.

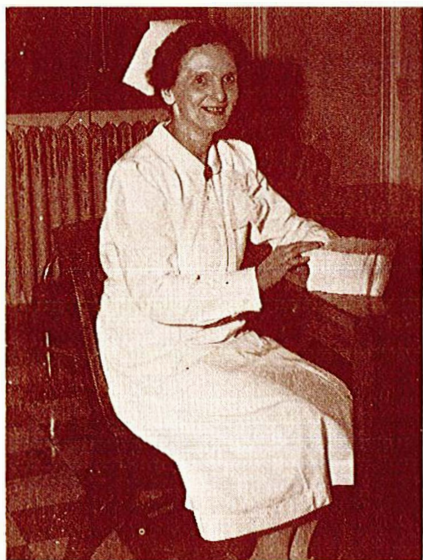




Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

This picture was taken in 1909 of Room 8. The pupils as known are: L. to R., Front row — Carlton Schilling, Dorothy Metz, Clarence Roop, Elizabeth Campbell, Glenn Williams, Irene Dougherty, Leo Helbling, Florence Holden, Clifford Meyers, Laura Davis, Norman Prager, Alene Koesling. Second row — "Zeb" Hastings, Dorothy Sladden, Howard Kanhofer, Jean McCrum, Emmet McLaughlin, Edna Tilghman, William Marshall, Julia Barth. Third row — Harold

Erskine, Harry Dressing, Fred Sladden, Rupert Humphries, Grayson Rogers, Ralph Hazlett, Murray Snyder, Pearl Love, Anna Stacey. Fourth row — John Douglas, Emmet Boehm, Tubby Hanna, Otis Small, Agnes McCormick, Ethel Beck, Anna Katherine Hastings, Florence Douglas. Fifth row — Willard Austen, Walter Sauers, James McGarry, Anna Phillips, Elsie Airey, Margaret Hilliard, unknown, Christelle Jefferson, Ertle Hessom. The teacher is unidentified.



The Cavalier 1955

Aspinwall's first, and only, school nurse, Miss Catherine Payne, (appointed in 1928) is an alumnus of AHS and graduate of West Penn Hospital School of Nursing (1923-1926). She is still the Aspinwall Schools' nurse for the Fox Chapel Area School District.



Courtesy Carl Forster

During Louis Hagmaier's term as Burgess there was a community Halloween Celebration each year. The ghosts and goblin gathered at the auditorium of the 5th St. School (above). The Ladies Auxiliary to the Fire Company served gingerbread and apples to the merry-makers. This was also a favorite corner for watching the sleds come down Center Avenue during the winters when "protective" sled riding was in force. (1967 Photo





Courtesy Mrs. J. R. Strohnm

Helen Duff, Aspinwall's 8th grade teacher in 1915-1916, probably never dreamed that she had a future President Pro Tempore of Pennsylvania's State Senate among her students that year. The class, as seen here, included: top row, l. to r.—Margaret Helbling, Helen Toomey, Clara Horstman, Miss Duff and Thelma Sutton. Third row—Helen Humphreys, Katherine Helbling, Madeline Harber, Olive Stubbins, Alice Irvin, Margaret Ross and Martha Parsons. Second row—Marion Lamont, Lucille Waldo, Anna Thompson, Anna Martin, Helen Crates, Myra Dorfield, Grace Simm and Elizabeth Rambo. First row—Stewart Mimm, Vincent Morgan, John Connell, Gerard Lachner, Arthur Gamble, August Busch, Charley Sladden, James Tunstal and Willis Ireland. Seated, in front, Grayson Evans, Clair Girty and Robert Fleming, the boy who was to be Aspinwall's most "famous son".

Among the numerous educators who have helped make Aspinwall history are the father and son team, J. Elwood Wherry (right) and Joseph E. Wherry (left).

In 1915 the elder Mr. Wherry settled his family at 209 Virginia Ave. For the next twenty-two years he was Assistant Superintendent of Allegheny County Schools. He moved to St. Petersburg, Florida after retiring in 1937. Mrs. Wherry died in 1941. Mr. Wherry was 89 when he died in 1962.

The son, Joseph E. Wherry, graduated from Aspinwall High School in 1928. He received his A. B. degree at Grove City College in 1932, his Master's degree at the University of Pittsburgh in 1934 and his Doctorate there in 1944. He has been the Principal of Penn Hills Senior High School for the last twenty-five years.



Courtesy Jos. E. Wherry



Courtesy Jos. E. Wherry

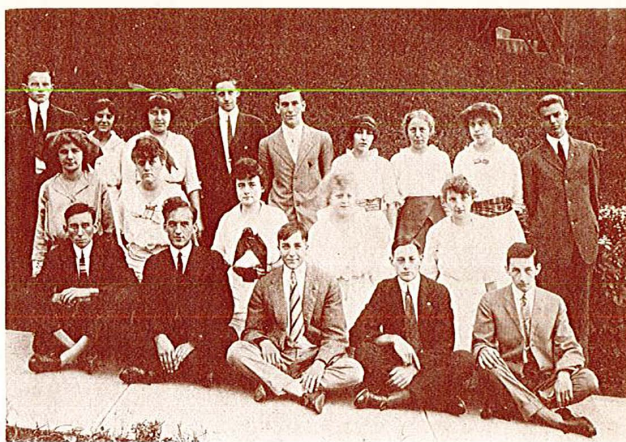




Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

Left to right—Lysle (Tussy) Grubbs, Charles Pete Lytle, Albert (Al) Kumer and Emmett (Irish) McLaughlin sit on the running board of Art Douglas' Ford Flivver parked near his store on Freeport Road to while away a lazy Sunday afternoon (probably about 1915).

Freeport Road had been paved in the summer of 1914. Wagons were being replaced by motorized trucks and storekeepers like W. J. Coss complained of mud splattered store fronts. On June 18, 1915 Aspinwall residents joined in a parade to celebrate the "freeing" of Highland Park Bridge.



Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

This was Aspinwall High School's Class of 1915. They are: L. to R., back row - Edgar Frazier, Laura Davis, Alene Koesling, Russell Lemon, Emmett McLaughlin, Hazel Sleight, Helen Port, Catherine Fehr and John Douglas. Middle row - Jean McCrum, Jewel Blakley, Ruth Fleming, Dorothy Metz and Cristell Jefferson. Front row - William Marshall, Willard Austen, Glenn Williams, Harold Erskine and Harold Simon. In 1967 Jean McCrum and Ruth Fleming still live in Aspinwall, Hazel Sleight is in Sharpsburg and Harold Erskine in Fox Chapel.



Courtesy Arthur H. Douglas

Players on the 1915 football team included: L. to R., back row — Wade Brison, Arthur Largey, William Marshall, Edward (Zeb) Hastings, John Douglas, Glenn Williams, Charles (Pete) Lytle and Mgr. Edgar Frazier. Middle row — Willard (Chick) Agnew, Harold McGarry, Fred Heinz, John Kumer, Murray Snyder and Harold Erskine. Front row — Bob Pollock, Sterling Linderman, Aires Breiner, Willard Austen, Harry Lytle and John Marshall.

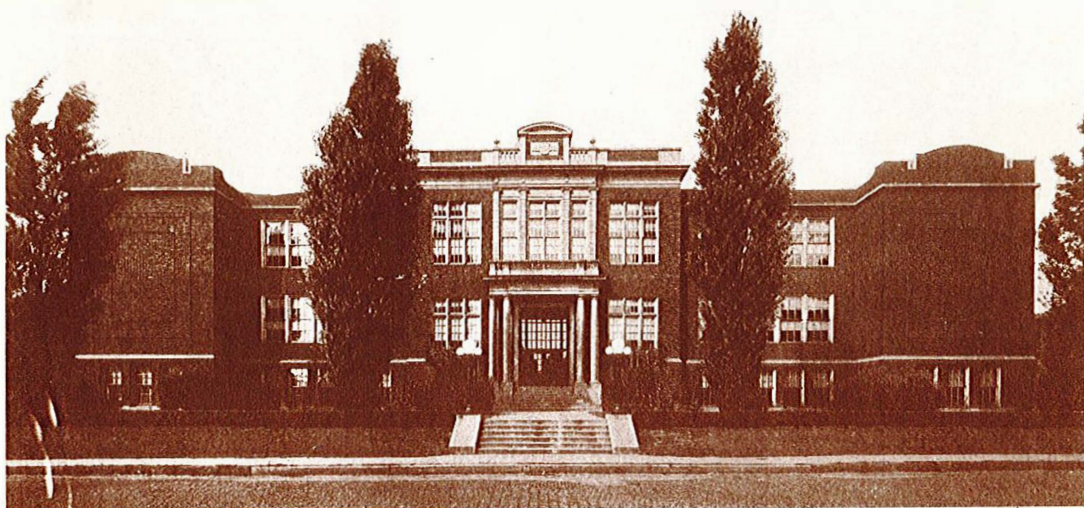




Courtesy Mrs. W. F. Agnew

Aspinwall High School students enthusiastically marched through the town to emphasize their desire that the residents should vote "Yes" on a \$130,000 bond issue for construction of a separate high school building. In October 1916 the land on Virginia Ave., between 4th and 6th streets was being vacated. In March 1917 the voters approved the bond issue, by a

large majority. Wilbur D. May, who came to Aspinwall in 1909, was the general contractor for the school. Dr. Wm. N. Marshall was the school board president and J. R. Brantlinger was the secretary at the time. Franklin D. Keboch was Supervising Principal and ran the new school with a firm hand. Janitor Jacob Fritch kept it "spic and span".



The Cavalier 1944

From January 1919 to September 1961 this was the only public four-year high school in O'Hara and Indiana Townships and Aspinwall, Blawnox and Fox Chapel boroughs.

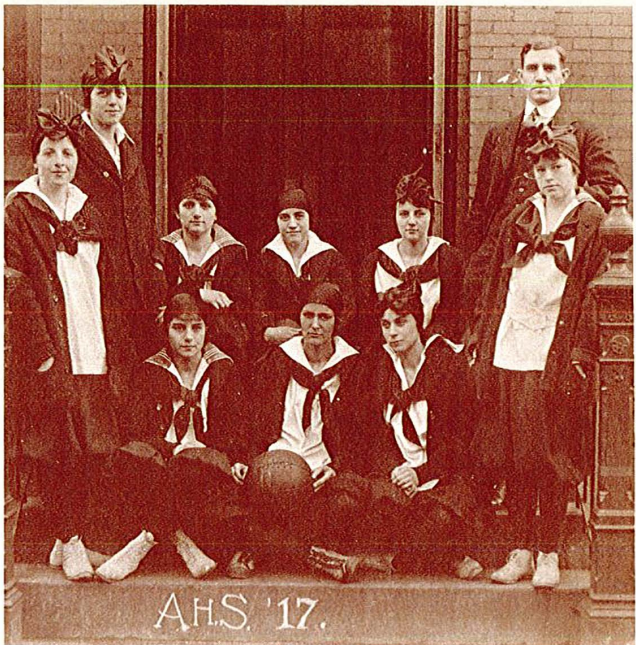


Soon after school opened for the 1916-1917 term, Prof. Robinson suggested that basketball be added to the sports program. This met with immediate approval from the students and both a girls' and boys' team was organized. Arrangements were made for the Garage Hall (on Freeport Rd. next to the old bank building at the corner of Eastern Ave.) to be used as a basketball floor.

Prof. Lubold, a graduate of Susquehanna University, was appointed coach for both teams. Prof. Good, a Grove City College graduate, became their treasurer.

The first girls to proudly wear the "Maroon and White" for Aspinwall were: (as seen to the right) L. to R., back row - Elizabeth Fehr, Gertrude Spilker, Genevieve Ginniff, Mary Henry, Coach Don Lubold. Front row, Ernestine Robinson, Dorothea Spilker, Margaret Parkin, Mildred Tesh and Jean Fischer.

As seen below, the 1917 boy's basketball squad included, l. to r., standing—Edwin Sallade, '18; Clyde Milliken, '17, manager; Coach Lubold and Winfield Lea, '17. Kneeling—Aires Breiner, '18; Robert Pollock, '17, captain; Homer Croup, '17. Seated—Joseph MacKenzie, '17 and Wayne Dyer, '19.



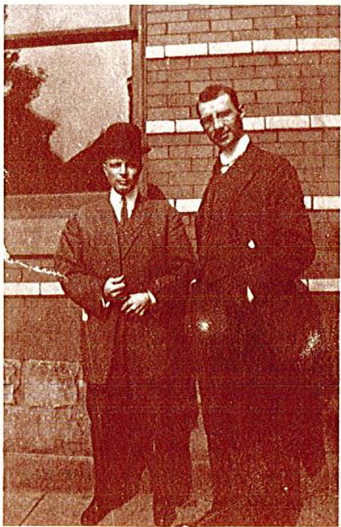
Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

Although they only won four of their eleven games that year, the girls were only defeated by 13 points in their overall season on the court. The boys didn't fare quite so well in their eleven games but did win the "best 2 out of 3" in a series with Springdale.



Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

First AHS Basketball Team — 1917



Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

J. W. White (left) was a language teacher on the 1916 high school faculty. "Professor" R. G. Walters (right) later went to Grove City College as Head of the Commercial Department.





Courtesy Charles F. Lytle

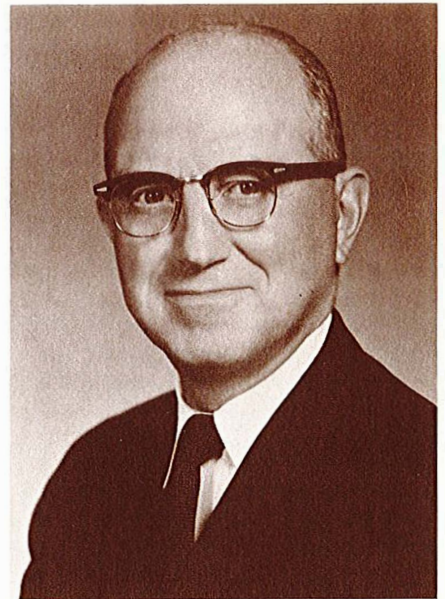
#### AHS Football Team

This was the Aspinwall High School football team which played against the University of Pittsburgh freshmen and tied them 12-12. The fact that they were coached by John Moorhead, former head coach at Pitt, probably helped. L. to R., back row - James Boyd, Willard Evans, Robert Pollock, Captain Charles (Pete) Lytle, Arthur Largey, Fred Heinz and Fred McHugh, manager. Middle row - Louis Reller, William (Nume) Schneider, Elmer Kanhofer, Harold McGarry, Willard (Chick) Agnew, Albert Kumer and Norman Slevin. Front row - Wallace Riffle, John Marshall, Don Sallade, Harry Lytle and Ayres Breiner.

Several of the teachers who worked for F. D. Keboch went on to win names for themselves in various educational fields. **Alfred W. Beattie** was one of these. Having graduated from Allegheny College in 1921, he came to Aspinwall as a Chemistry and Physics teacher after one year of experience at Farrell, Pennsylvania. While here, he worked on his Masters degree which he obtained from the University of Pittsburgh in 1924.

He then left Aspinwall to become Director of Educational Research at Homestead. While serving as Supervising Principal of Ben Avon Schools (1926-1938) he obtained his Ph. D. from the University of Pittsburgh (1932). In 1938 he became Assistant Superintendent of Allegheny County Schools. Ten years later he assumed the position of County Superintendent, from which post he retired in July 1966, following a turbulent 18 year tenure, during the "nightmare" period of consolidation decreed by the state legislature. The consolidation of Aspinwall and its neighboring school districts became one of Al Beattie's most "thorny" problems in the 1950's.

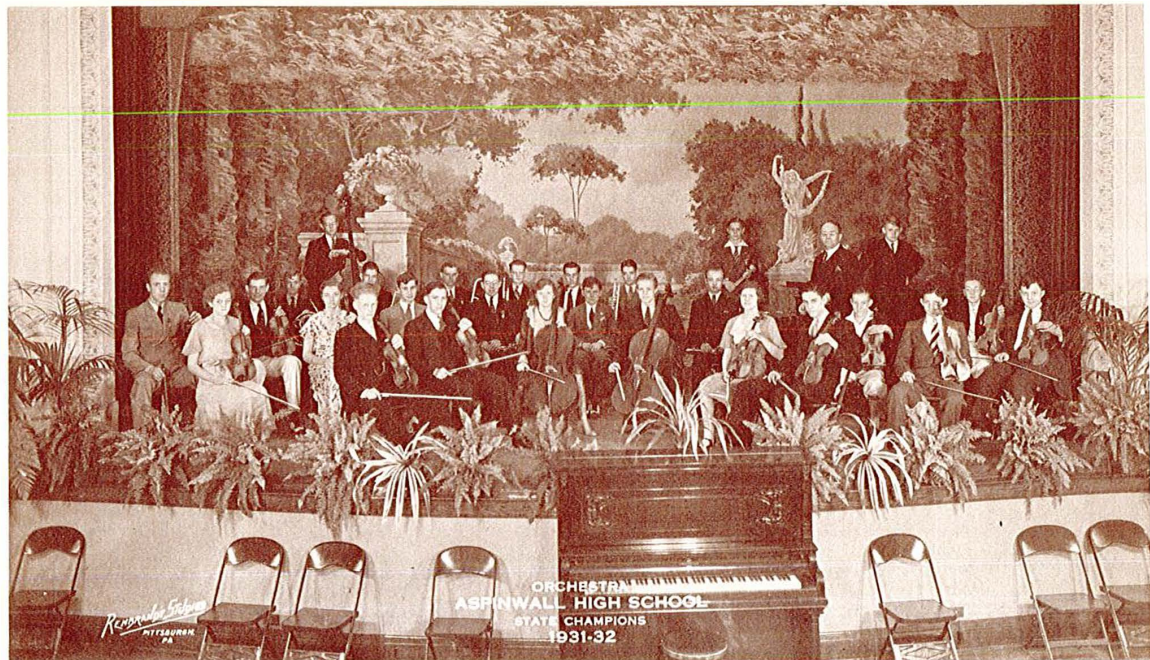
Among the more satisfying accomplishments of his tenure were the opening of 3 Technical Educational schools and one Special Education school, with 4 more underway.



Courtesy Dr. A. W. Beattie

**Alfred W. Beattie**

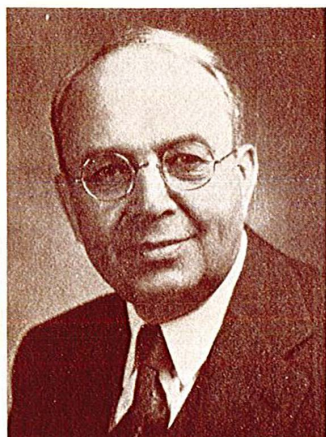




Courtesy Walter Laubach

This high school orchestra was the pride of Aspinwall in 1931. When principal F. D. Keboch directed them to the state championship the town raised the funds to send them on to Cleveland for the National Forensic League competitions. There they lost out to a large combined group from the mid-west.

One member, **Glenn David Swan**, went on to make quite a name for himself in the musical world and is probably Aspinwall's most renowned musician. The son of John Wm. Henry Swan and Alice (Schade) Swan, he was born in Aspinwall June 19, 1914 and began his formal study of the violin when only eight. After graduating from Aspinwall, Glen David attended the Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester, Rochester, N. Y. He earned his B.A., M.A. and Performer's degrees there and was a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. He has been a member of the faculty at Stetson University, Deland, Florida; Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa and State University, Pullman, Washington. Currently he teaches violin at the University of Southern California and plays with both the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra (first section) with which he toured India, Europe and Hong Kong in the fall of 1967.

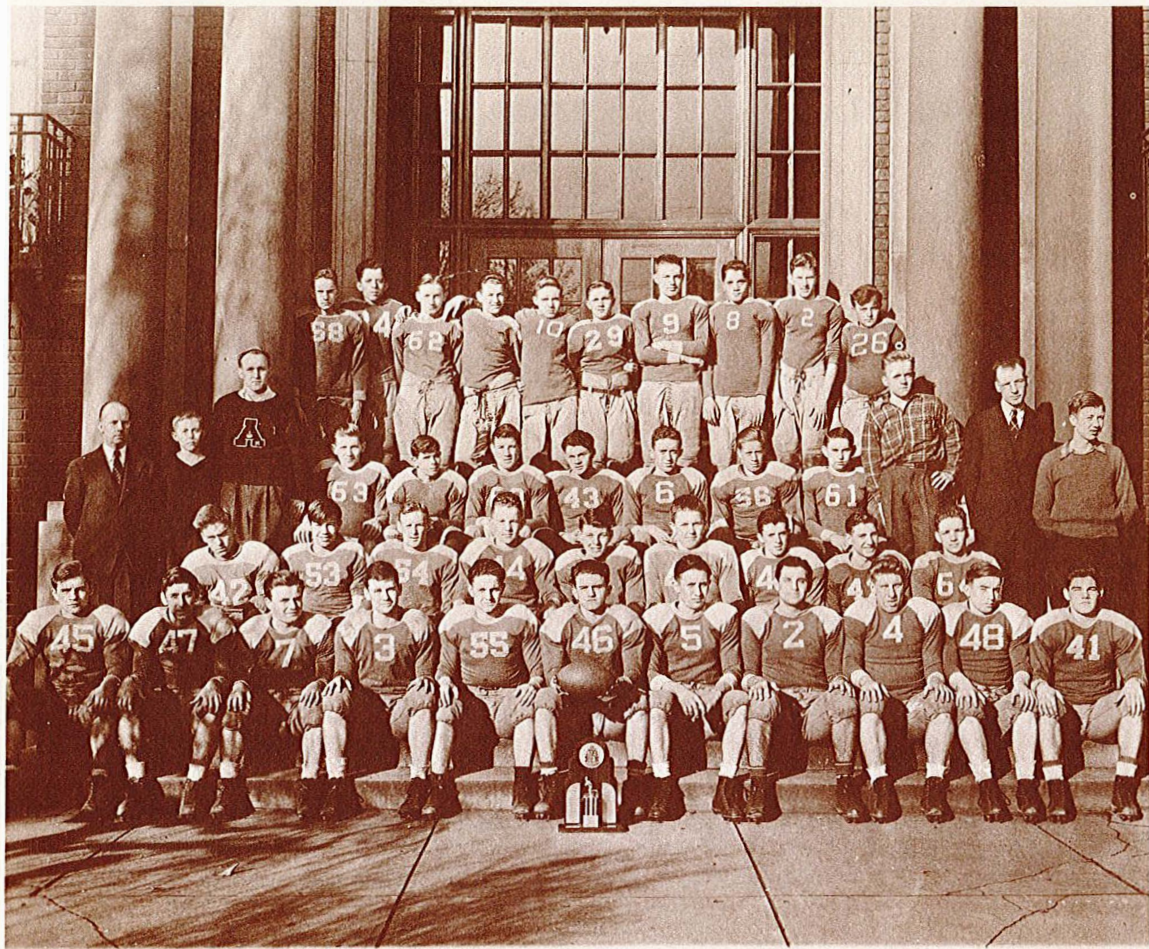


Cavaller 1944

"An affable, aggressive Pennsylvania Dutchman," F. D. Keboch, was born November 20, 1878, at Berrysburg, Pa., the son of Issac Keboch (farmer and produce dealer) and Caroline (Miller) Keboch. He attended the public schools there and then graduated from Millersville State Normal School in 1899; received his B.A. degree from Lebanon Valley College in 1915 and his M.A. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1925. He taught 18 years in Dauphin County and two years in Windber, Pa. just prior to coming to Aspinwall in April 1918 to open the new high school.

He was a jolly, enthusiastic man who knew what he wanted and how to get it. He ran his school with a firm but sympathetic hand. He would hire no first-year teachers and he demanded their best effort from both the faculty and students. A staunch Presbyterian, he served as an Elder of the First Presbyterian Church from 1931 to 1942 and was Air Raid Warden of the church in the 1940's. During his 27 years in Aspinwall he directed many convention and institutional singing groups and was widely-known for his musical talents. He died January 7, 1945 in Windber, Pa.





## ASPINWALL HIGH SCHOOL

W. P. I. A. L. CLASS B FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 1943

Undefeated. Unscored on. Untied - - OH BOY!!

Aspinwall 19	Apollo 0	Aspinwall 27	Freeport 0	Aspinwall 26	Millvale 0	Aspinwall 26	East Deer 0	Aspinwall 26	Etna 0
Aspinwall 22	Shaler 0	Aspinwall 20	Oakmont 0	Aspinwall 27	Verona 0	Aspinwall 27	Belle Vernon 0	Aspinwall 24	Pitcairn 0

Courtesy Mrs. W. F. Agnew

This was Coach McCombs "Cinderella" team, the "lightweights" who brought him a championship after 18 years of frustration. Twice before, in 1928 and 1936, the Asps had chalked up undefeated seasons only to lose the championship. Seated in the front row are the starting eleven, l. to r.—Louis Yakopec, fullback; Bob Malec, RH; Walter Reisch, RE; Melvin Irvin, RT; William McIntyre, RG; Hugh McRanndall, center; Robert Slack, LG; William Logan, LT; Melvin Thompson, LE; Dave McCafferty, Quarterback; Bert Agnew, LH. Second

row—Coach "Mac" McCombs, Nelson McAfee, Bill Macowick, Chuck O'Black, Thomas Maxwell, Chuck Specht, Sam Kincaid, Jack Donahue, Bill Crooks, Bill Boyd and, standing, Jim Reisch. Third row—Max Creasy and Bill Vetter, standing, Herb Hertzler, unidentified, John McLaughlin, Bill Fisher, Tom Cook, John Malek, James Stewart and, standing, Gene Traggardh and Lloyd Howe. Top row—Howard Jones, Nick Falcon, Carl Mikovitch, Jack Rehak, unidentified, Lou John, Ken Goodrich, Carmen Falcon, Johnny Bauer, Jay Lance.



## RIFLE TEAM FIRST IN NATION



First Row—Nancy Hubbell, Rich Moline, Jim Uleman, Janek Gunther, Dan Thalimer, Miss Jean McCrum.

Second Row—Ben Freudenreich, Luise Wally, Al Slater, Larry Haber, Bob Ferris, Nancy Humes.

This 1955 team won their honors firing at targets.

Courtesy Miss Jean McCrum

## W.P.I.A.L. AND STATE CHAMPIONS



Row 1—Richard Lynch, Frank Subasic, James Uleman, Wayne Rawley, Ben Freudenreich

Row 2—Ralph Slater, Katherine Brown, Ken Ralphs, Julie Seifried, Duncan McRae, Miss Jean McCrum

This 1957 team won their honors firing man-to-man.

Courtesy Miss Jean McCrum





The Cavalier 1955

In 1954 the Aspinwall School District was in dire trouble. The land-locked town, with almost no industry to furnish tax money, and a population more than 50% over 50 years old, could no longer afford the kind of education it desired to provide for its dwindling number of students; nor could it expand facilities to meet the needs of the many tuition students wishing to attend the high school. To save their school system, the six men seen above found themselves in a bitter struggle to consolidate with neighboring school districts.

**Donald S. Thomas**, a 1908 graduate of Allegheny College, taught in the 5th St. school while attending the University of Pittsburgh Law School; was School Board Solicitor over four decades, Borough Solicitor from 1918 until his death November 3, 1965 (at 77), and the first Commander of American Legion Post No. 77. **William C. Scott, Jr.**, a graduate of Edgewood High School and Grove City College, worked for Tom Brown Building Supplies. He became the first president of the new Fox Chapel Area School Board, on which he still serves. Board President **Raymond L. Coss**, grew up in Harmarville, Pa. where his father was a school director; graduated from Aspinwall High School and the University of Pittsburgh where he became Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. **Edgar L. Ambrose**, School Board Secretary (1946-1959), was one of 7 graduates the only year the Sharpsburg-Etna High School existed. An alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh, he was a dentist in Sharpsburg 40 years and served 7½ years as the first secretary of the Fox Chapel Area School Board. Vice President of the Board, **John Byron Henry, Jr.**, a graduate of Aspinwall High School and Penn State University, was employed by Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corporation and was the only native-born member of the Board. Another University of Pittsburgh alumnus, **Dr. Jules Labarthe**, who headed up the Kaufmann's Fellowship at Mellon Institute, also served on the Allegheny County School Board during this period of school consolidations.



The Cavalier 1955

**Dr. C. A. Sherman**

**Dr. C. A. Sherman**, Supervising Principal of Aspinwall Schools from July 1944 to August 1956, received his B. S. degree from Slippery Rock State Teachers' College. His M. Ed. and Ed. D. degrees were received at the University of Pittsburgh. He first came to Aspinwall in 1937 to serve as a teaching principal at the Elementary School during F. D. Keboch's administration. After 19 years at Aspinwall, Dr. Sherman left to become Superintendent of Brentwood Schools where he remained until becoming a teacher of School Administration at Duquesne University in September 1966.

When Dr. Sherman succeeded Mr. Keboch as Supervising Principal, John Worrall became the Elementary Principal. He was followed by Eugene Jacques and then by Frank Schomaker who held that post as long as the 5th Street building was used by the new Fox Chapel Area School District.





The Cavalier - 1957

This group of Cheerleaders and Majorettes cheered Coach Richard Burton's 1957 football team on to a 6-2-1 season. They are: Row 1-Bonnie Strohm, JoAnne Brown, Nancy Young, Carol Ferber. Row 2-Beth Crates, Eloise Fort, Pie Stryker, Janet Kline. Row 3 - Jean Reed, Flo Kier, Patty Tomko. Row 4 - Suzie Randolph, Alice Jean Strohm, Joyce Gibbs. Row 5 - Judy Snyder.

This was the year Aspinwall High School got a new Principal — Jack J. Roush. Mr. Roush received his B.S. degree at Geneva College and his M. Ed. at the University of Pittsburgh. He had been associated with Sewickley, Beaver Falls, and Leetsdale High Schools before coming to Aspinwall.

Highlights of the year included; James Uleman ranked first in Allegheny County in the Exceptionally Able Youth Competition; The Student Council successfully conducted the first United Fund Campaign in the school and the Camera Club was given a new Speed Graphic camera by the P.T.A.





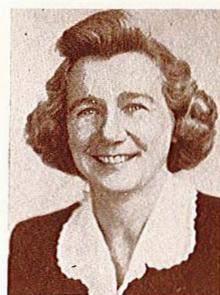
**SAMUEL I. WHEELER**  
*B.S.*  
*Mechanical Drawing*



**ROSEMARIE C. KAVANAGH**  
*M.Ed., B.A.*  
*English*



**PATRICIA C. KILEY**  
*M.Ed., B.S.*  
*English*

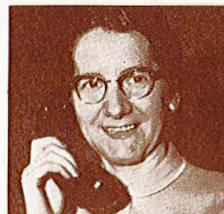


**JEAN MCCRUM**  
*M.L., B.S.*  
*Algebra*



**DANIEL A. NIKHAZY**  
*M.Ed., B.S.*  
*Industrial Arts*

During the mid 1950's several efforts were made to form a Union School District of the Aspinwall, O'Hara, Indiana and Blawnox school districts, in compliance with directives of the State Department of Education. However, a favorable vote in each of the districts involved was necessary and the voters rejected each proposal. For 30 years Aspinwall had been accepting students from the other districts. By 1957 the high school facilities could no longer meet the needs. Therefore, in 1958, the school directors of these four districts formed a Jointure. A year later the electorate sanctioned a Union School District. Aspinwall's high school faculty then became the nucleus of the new Fox Chapel Area High School. Besides the teachers seen above, this "core" included: Misses Marion L. Klug, A. June Hall, Beulah A. Frey, Margaret L. Lutz, Mary Ida Burnite and Hazel G. Patterson and Alfred R. Lindsay, Jr., Raymond F. Makowski, Harold Dewald, Stanley T. Fleming and Miss Olive Brombach (right), principal J. J. Roush's secretary.



*The Cavalier 1955*

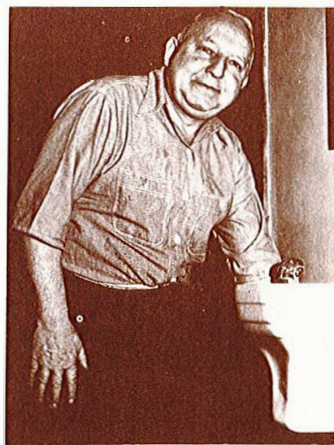
**Olive Brombach**  
**Secretary**



*The Cavalier 1957*

**Dr. N. E. Norman 1955-1958**

By 1955 Aspinwall High School was serving so many tuition students from Fox Chapel, O'Hara Township and Blawnox that a separate high school principal had become necessary. Genial Dr. Niles Norman, supervisor of science and geography at Indiana State Teachers College, was hired. He immediately took over the direction of scheduling and curriculum, vocational guidance and advisor of Student Council. He became Supervising Principal when Dr. Sherman left in 1957 and held that post during the school district reorganization into the Fox Chapel Area School District.

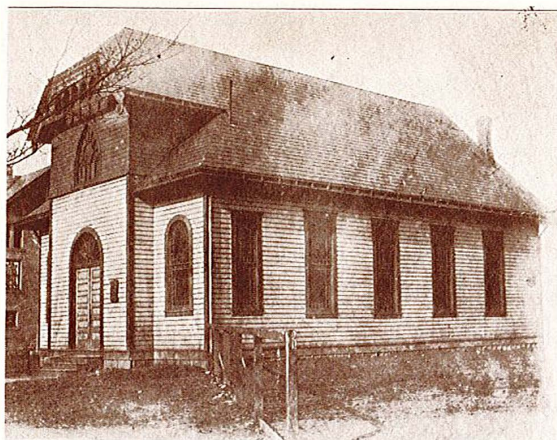


*The Cavalier 1955*

**Jacob J. Fritsch**

For 35 of the 39 years that Aspinwall High School existed, Jacob J. Fritsch, father of 14 (the town's largest family), kept the building shining and neat. Born in 1890, he went to work in the Armstrong Cork factory at 14. He caught sheets of cork off the cutting machines, stacked them into bundles of 72 and tied them — all for 50c a day! He worked at Carnegie's mill and at the "Black Diamond" steel works before marrying Anna Lebo in 1919. They moved to Aspinwall in 1921 and he served as the AHS janitor from October 1922 until retiring in 1956. He and three of his children still live in town.





Courtesy Mrs. William Kanhofer

The United Presbyterian Church at Center Ave. and Third St., was dedicated Oct. 15, 1893.

Almost simultaneously with the incorporation of the borough was the organization of the churches. A Community meeting was held at the school soon after it opened to determine the predominate religion of the residents. Several denominations were about equally represented and all wanted their own church.

**The United Presbyterians** organized first, January 30, 1893, with 29 charter members meeting in the Center Ave., school. A frame church was immediately started and dedicated 10 months later. As seen above, it included hitching posts for the horses of members who rode to church in buggies. Dr. W. J. Robinson gave the dedicatory sermon Oct. 15, 1893 and the first Sacrament of The Lord's Supper was conducted by Dr. D. A. McClenahan, Oct. 22.

Rev. John Leyda Vance was the first minister (1894-1898). James G. Hastings was superintendent of the Sabbath School which was organized March 4, 1894. The Young People's Christian Union was organized in 1894 and the Women's Missionary Society, February 24, 1895. Dr. W. J. Gillespie was minister from 1898 to 1901.

Dr. John A. Duff (1902-1920) was there for the laying of the cornerstone of the present brick church, June 24, 1905. The new church, designed by Aspinwall architect, Press C. Dowler, and built by Chester D. May, Sr., was dedicated March 18, 1906. The pipe organ was dedicated Sept. 29, 1916. Dr. Duff died April 4, 1920 after 18 years of devoted service.



Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

The First Presbyterian Church, at Eastern Ave. and Second St., was dedicated Nov. 19, 1893.

The following ministers succeeded Dr. Duff: Dr. Ira G. McCreary, 1921-1929; Rev. John S. Milholland, 1930-1935; Rev. Harry D. Finley, 1936-1939; Rev. W. E. McCrory, 1939-1941; Rev. Charles G. Skuce, 1943-1949.

Mrs. J. E. Humes, a charter member, gave the history of the church, when the 50th Anniversary was celebrated in October 1943. Mrs. John R. Steele led a chorus of former choir members and Mrs. Jane Boyd Lewis was the organist. W. B. Copeland was chairman of the General Committee and gave the address of welcome.

**The First Presbyterian Church** of Aspinwall was officially organized in the Center Ave. School Hall March 2, 1893. The 25 charter members were: Dr. E. J. Alter, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Armstrong, Abbie Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. Willis M. Black, Wm. H. Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. John Cowan, Angeline and Mary Lenora Cowan, Mrs. Christine Friedman, Ida Friedman, Mrs. Sarah F. Hazlett, Mr. and Mrs. George L. Parsons, Mr. and Mrs. James Patton, Margaret, Ida and Blanche Patton, Mrs. Ella Robie, Mrs. Elizabeth Y. Randolph and Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Watkins.

A fine frame church, complete with bell tower and steeple, was built and dedicated just one month after the UP Church. Beautiful memorial stained-glass windows enhanced the building. The church was enlarged and the new addition dedicated early in 1902.

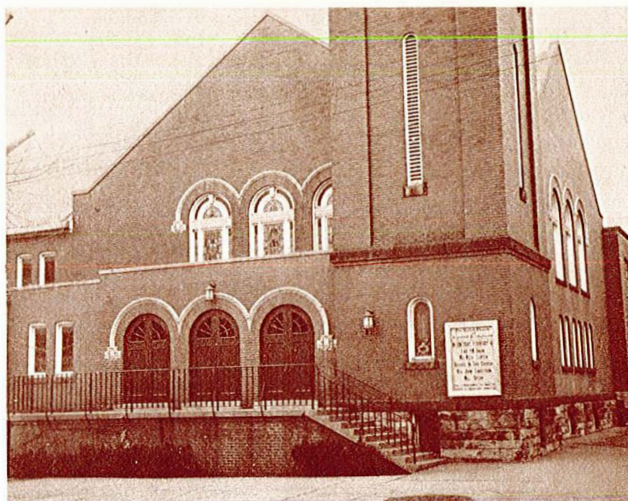


The Rev. Joseph Lyons Ewing, first minister (1893-1898), returned October 31, 1943 to give the sermon at the Golden Anniversary Service. Succeeding ministers were: Hermann M. Hosack, 1898-1902; W. S. Cochran, 1903-1905; DeWitt Talmage Scott, 1905-1913; Harry C. Hutchison, 1914-1916; Olney K. Walker, 1916-1923; Harry A. Gearhart, 1924-1930; George P. Rowland, 1930-1939; Lawrence V. Rhea, 1940-1944 and James Haldane Brown, 1944-1948.

For many years the Sunday School of this church had a Community Men's Bible Class numbering more than 200. After World War II the Young People of the two churches began meeting together. This germinated the idea of a united church. The Joint Plan of Consolidation as voted upon and adopted by each congregation separately, October 31, 1948. A Provincial Session was organized December 28, 1948. The Pastors of the two churches, Rev. C. S. Skuce and Rev. J. H. Brown, along with their official Boards, laid well the foundation for the union church which took the name "The United Church of Aspinwall, Presbyterian." Ten years later the name was officially changed to The Aspinwall United Presbyterian Church.

The first, and current, minister of the United Church is Dr. Paul S. Montgomery, who began his pastorate October 9, 1949. The new congregation was officially organized in the church at Center Ave. and Third St. - where it now worships - on November 21, 1949. A \$160,000 Christian Education Building, furnishings included, was built in 1955 and dedicated November 27, of that year. That debt is already liquidated. The church membership numbers 650 in 1967. The Rev. Robert K. Greer, who started to write this Jubilee History of Aspinwall, served as assistant pastor from July 1965 to July 1967.

**Willis M. Black** and his wife Anna were early residents on Western Ave., living just beyond the alley which separates 2nd and 3rd streets. They were both borough petitioners and also organizing members of the First Presbyterian Church, where he taught Sunday School. Mr. Black was a railroad man.



Courtesy Carl Forst

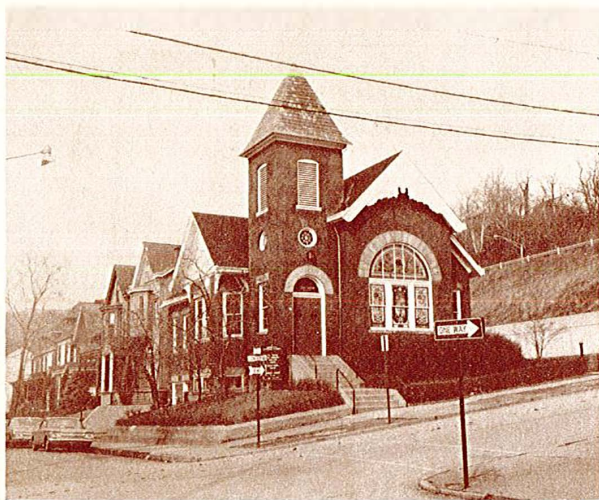
The Aspinwall United Presbyterian Church in 1967



Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

This was the 1908 Nursery Class of the Sunday School sitting on the steps of the new United Presbyterian Church. Among the children in the front row can be seen Carolyn Rolshouse granddaughter of John Louis Rolshouse, Supt. of the Claremont Poor Farm (next door to the Allegheny County Workhouse) in the 1880's when Dr. W. N. Marshall was the physician there. In the second row is Agnes McMorran, daughter of Sam McMorran borough councilman from November 1901 to February 1907. At the right end of third row is Ruth Hastings who later married Wm. Kanhofer. The granddaughter of Hope W. Hastings, second Burgess of Aspinwall, she took office as Aspinwall's first woman Council member on January 1, 1968. Beside her is Mary Louise Warner, granddaughter of Henry Warner and wife of Dr. Wm R. Marshall who practiced in Aspinwall for 25 years. It was she who did the pictorial research for this book.





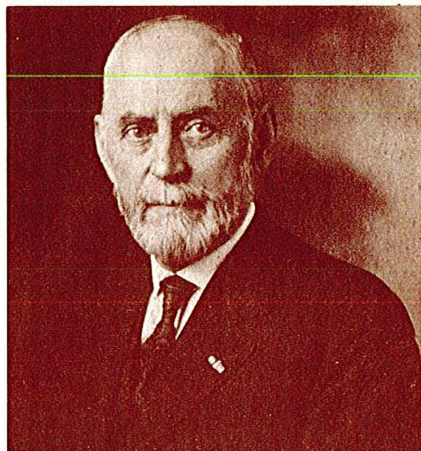
Courtesy Carl Forster

#### Aspinwall Evangelical Lutheran Church - 1967

The Rev. S. D. Daugherty, pastor of First English Lutheran Church, Sharpsburg, helped Aspinwall Lutherans establish a congregation after they met in the home of Henry R. Marshall in April 1894. There were 30 charter members when the church was organized April 15, 1895.

The corner lot at 5th St. and Center Ave. was purchased (\$1,050) and the corner-stone laid Nov. 9, 1895. F. E. Emrick built the \$2,933 building. Rev. Herman C. Reller of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Freeport served the mission congregation from Jan. 1, 1896. He left the mother church in 1902 to become full time pastor at Aspinwall where he remained until resigning in 1916. The building was dedicated in June, 1896 and became self-sustaining in 1904. A \$7,000 enlargement was undertaken in 1913 and in 1954 an adjoining property was purchased to provide a Parish House, office space and additional class rooms. Seven pastors have served this congregation which now numbers 472, ninety of which are child members.

Rev. Reller served the congregation for twenty years and eight months, 1896-1916. The next four pastorates combined totaled but fifteen years, including the periods of vacancy between them: Paul M. Kinports, 1917-1918; Earl S. Rudisill, 1919-1923; W. Roy Goff, 1923-1927; Sheldon S. Schweikert, 1927-1931. Rev. George E. Little served the longest pastorate, 1931-1960. Rev. Charles E. Miller, who came in 1961, served the church six years, resigning late in 1967.



Courtesy Charles F. Lytle

**Joseph Lusk Lytle (1854-1933)** and his wife, Emma Nicholas Lytle, had 10 children, the last two, Charles F. and Harry H., being born after they moved to Aspinwall in 1895. A lumber broker—Curll & Lytle Lumber Co.—he had offices in the Park Bldg., Pittsburgh. He was the first Sunday School Supt. and a Deacon of Aspinwall Lutheran Church; a Fire Co. member over 30 years; Health Officer in 1901 and Borough Councilman 1902-1904.



Courtesy Mrs. Paul Wamhoff

**THE LADIES AID SOCIETY** of the Aspinwall Lutheran Church became quite famous for the wonderful Saurkraut Suppers it gave annually. This crew, from the mid 1940's includes, l. to r.—Mrs. E. Hoak, Mrs. L. Parks, Mrs. Wm. Ganster, Miss Emma Hoffman, Mrs. Lena Dempsey, Mrs. J. Light, Mrs. C. H. Wamhoff and Miss Lilly Parker. With the passing of many of the more experienced cooks this pleasant tradition has also "passed away".



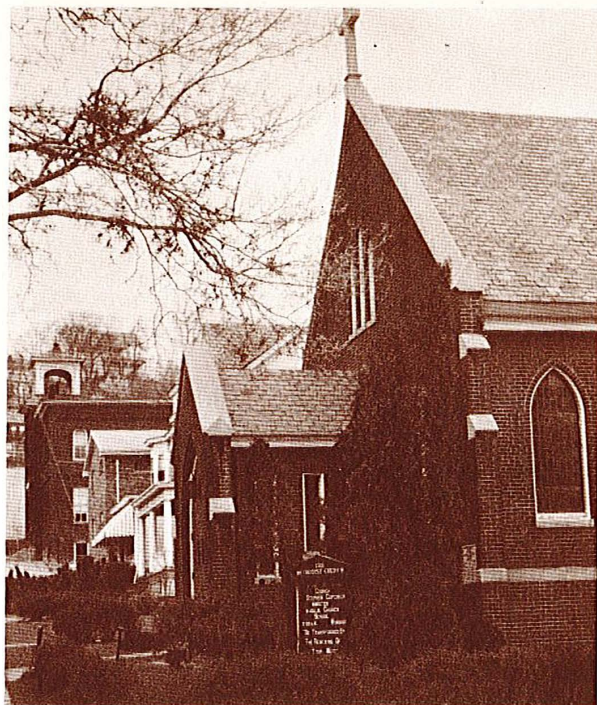
The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Aspinwall was the third protestant congregation organized in the town. On March 23, 1893 the Rev. W. D. Slease met with 18 townsfolk to officially organize the church. The lot at the corner of Center Ave. and Third St. was purchased from the Aspinwall Land Company and ground was broken for the original building on July 6, 1893.

Rev. J. E. Kidney was appointed pastor in September and the congregation secured its charter November 4, 1893. Walter F. Parkin was appointed chairman of the first Building Committee, April 5, 1895, with C. D. Darby as secretary. Rev. William Tipper (1895-1899) was there on November 3, 1895 when the first service was held in the new church. The membership grew to 100 and by December 31, 1901 they were able to hold a Watch-night Service in recognition of having paid off the entire mortgage. Rev. F. A. Richards (1899-1902) was the pastor then.

Dr. H. L. Chapman (1902-1905) saw the membership increase to 200. Rev. A. D. Mink's pastorate (1905-1907) was followed by that of Rev. S. T. Westhaver (1907-1908) who was there when the Trustees authorized construction of an addition to be used as Sunday School facilities. There were 300 members by then. Rev. J. D. Brison (1908-1911) was followed by Rev. J. B. Wolf (1911-1914) and then by Rev. E. H. Greenlee (1914-1917). During his pastorate the membership reached 400.

Dr. Thomas G. Hicks (1917-1922) was the pastor when the church celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary and subscriptions were taken toward a new building. During Dr. J. B. Risk's pastorate (1922-1925) the membership climbed to 500. Rev. C. J. Thompson (1925-1929) as there when a building committee was appointed and J. E. Martsof of New Brighton, Pa. was hired as the architect to design the building which exists today.

Rev. R. S. Harding was the pastor during the renovation of the church (1929-1933). Ground breaking ceremonies were held February 15, 1931; the Corner Stone Service was September 27, 1931; the new church was occupied January 24, 1932 and dedicated March 6, 1932.



Courtesy Carl Forster

The First Methodist Church - 1967

Trustees at the time of the dedication included: W. C. Jefferson, C. O. Emerson, J. B. Nicholas, Wm. A. Curtis, C. C. Henderson, L. D. Kennedy, C. C. Peterson, Donald S. Thomas and Alexander Wally.

Two outstanding gifts, The Kier Memorial Organ and the Chancel window of Hoffman's "Christ in Gethsemane" enhance the beauty of the reconstructed church, which has a Gothic styled nave with oak trussed roof.

The ladies of the Women's Society of Christian Service have prepared and served supper to the Aspinwall Kiwanis Club every Tuesday evening since the club was founded 23 years ago.

In 1940 when the union of Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Protestant churches took place the Aspinwall church officially changed its name to The First Methodist Church.

A dozen pastors have served the congregation in the new church: W. S. Boyd (1933-1934); C. R. Wolf (1934-1940); A. C. Schultz (1940-1942) F. A. Goodrich (1942-1947); W. E. Siess (1947-1951) J. S. Allison (1951-1956); Harry Nehrig and L. C. Little (1956-1957); C. W. Hoover (1957-1959); L. S. Hastings (1959-1963); E. W. Lighthall (1963-1965) and the current pastor, S. E. Cupcheck.





Courtesy Carl Forster

In 1903 when there were twenty Catholic families in Aspinwall, the Pittsburg Diocese was petitioned for the formation of a Parish. Bernard Helbling, cigar manufacturer, and W. N. Sauer, plumber, took the petition around and secured the necessary signatures.

Including the two aforementioned gentlemen, the signers were: Lawrence J. Wagner, haberdasher in Sharpsburg; John T. Miller, who ran a restaurant in Pittsburg; John H. Wagner, Aspinwall florist; Charles Curran, who worked for Casey & Co. when the Filtration Plant was built; O. A. Harber, who lived down by the river; Theodore J. Schillo, an engraver for Robert Rosthorn, Inc.; H. A. McLaughlin, Aspinwall Constable; Charles Kumer; N. P. Leonard, floor walker in a Pittsburg department store; P. J. McGarry, who worked in the Moorhead Mill in Sharpsburg; James L. O'Toole, who worked for the Wabash Railroad; Bernard Meisner and his brother Edward, both foundry men; Edward Slean; George Nestor; Bernard Hiltermann, a foundry man and C. C. Halloway, an engineer for Casey & Co. when the Pittsburgh Filtration Plant was built.

Father Thomas Rosensteel of St. Joseph's Parish, Sharpsburg, served the Mission Church and services were held in McKenzie's Hall at 227 Commercial Avenue. St. Scholastica Parish was officially established in 1907 and included all the area from the Allegheny River on the south to Kittingan Pike on the north and from the Hulton Bridge on the east to the Guyasuta Bridge on the west.

## St. Scholastica Parish Church and Schools



Courtesy Carl Forster

To begin with, eight lots were purchased from the Aspinwall-Delafield Land Company and a one story church was built between Maple and Brilliant Avenues. Later another two lots were purchased. The church was dedicated by The Right Reverend Regis Canevin, D. D., Bishop of Pittsburg, in February 1907. In September 1907 the cornerstone was laid but the church was not completely furnished until 1909.

Rev. John Hackett came to serve as the first Parish Priest in June, 1907. He lived with the Gourley family on Second Street until the Parish House was built in 1912. Rev. M. F. Ward replaced Father Hackett when he left in 1914, but was only here one year, Rev. M. P. Boyle coming in 1915 as the third pastor. It was during Father Boyle's pastorate (1915-1933) that the first school was built—in 1925—and the Convent, too. Three Assistant Pastors served with Rev. Boyle: Rev. M. A. Hally, Rev. F. J. Wivell and Rev. William P. Shaughnessy.



Leo Helbling, son of petitioner, Bernard Helbling, was the first Aspinwall boy to serve as Altar Boy. James O'Toole, Jr. was the second. Mrs. William (Rose) Albertson of Second St. was the first organist. Charles Huhn of Fifth St. was the first Choir Director.

Rev. M. P. Boyle has been followed by four other Pastors, none of whom have served as long as he did—eighteen years. Rev. Arthur A. Burns (1933-1937); Rev. F. A. Pearns (1937-1944); Rev. F. S. Clifford (1944-1957) and Rev. William D. Savage (1957 to date) have been assisted by nine other Priests as the church has grown during the last thirty-three years. They include: Rev. Coleman F. Carroll (1934-1941), Rev. Michael Costello (1936), Rev. Joseph Nee (1936-1937), Rev. H. A. Gavigan (1941), Rev. Francis Rodgers (1941-1950), Rev. Thomas Horner (1951-1955), Rev. John D. Fording (1955-1962), Rev. John Charnoki (1962-1965) and Rev. Richard Terdine (1965----).

The present church building on Brilliant Ave. was constructed in 1944. The Wurlitzer Organ, series 21, complete with Echo Organ, Maas Chimes, combination Angelus and Westminster Toll Clock was presented to St. Scholastica Church in Memory of Marie McCahill. In June 1950 St. Scholastica was the host to an Organ Recital and Concert of Sacred Music given by the four churches of the town, at which time this beautiful musical instrument was introduced to Aspinwall citizens.

In this Jubilee year of 1967, St. Scholastica Parish numbers a congregation of approximately nine hundred twenty-five families. Besides the church, there are now two grade school buildings, a convent and the parish house.

During the World War I period Aspinwall High School's football team played home games on the field at the corner of Delafield and Freeport Avenues. Seen to the right is the 1914 team playing Edgewood High School. The home of real estate man, J. H. Bokerman, is in the background. Manager of the H. J. Heinz farms, he was married to Margaret, daughter of Frederick Heinz, a cousin and partner in the food processing firm.



Courtesy Charles F. Lytle

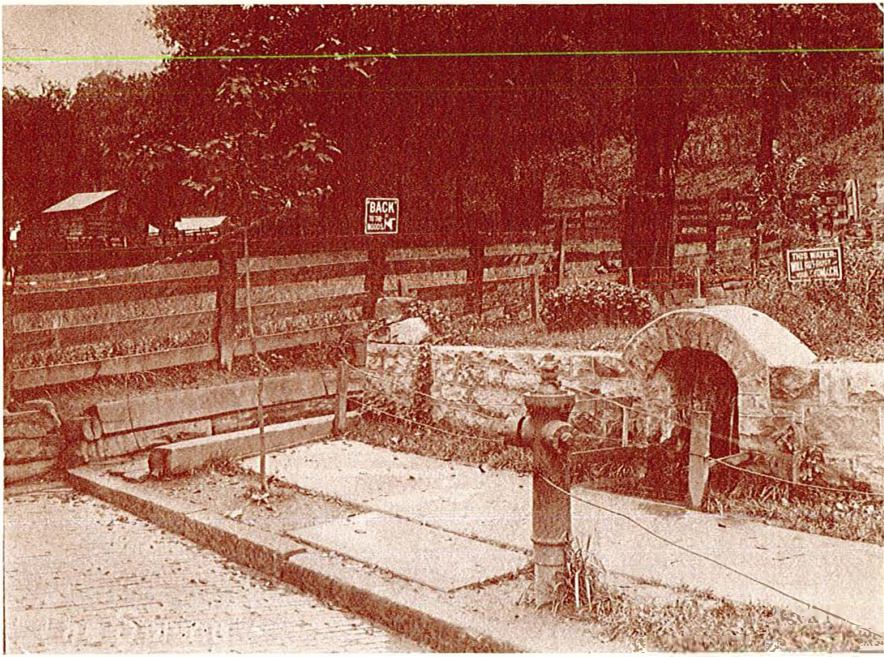
Elected to Aspinwall Borough Council in 1911, George H. Smith, was only 34 years old when he died May 21, 1912 at his 4th St. home, following a short bout with pneumonia. He was Council President at the time. A 1910 graduate of the Mechanical Engineering Department of Carnegie Institute of Technology, where he was three times president of his class he was already one of Carnegie Steel Co.'s foremost blast furnace experts.

On November 25, 1910 the 2,500 Tech students sent him to New York to present Andrew Carnegie with a silver tray which they made from 10-cent pieces, to honor the former Ironmaster. He served three terms as president of the college's Alumni Association. A Mason, and Odd Fellow, he was also one of Aspinwall's Volunteer Firemen, serving several times as an officer of the state organization of volunteer firemen. He left a widow, Nellie (McClelland) Smith and two small sons.



Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall





Courtesy George S. Roble

The Spring about 1906

The earliest residents discovered a spring of water flowing perennially from under a shale ledge at the base of the hill in the northwestern corner of the town between 5th and 6th streets. It provided a happy loitering spot for the children on their way to and from the one-room school off Guyasuta Lane.

As the town developed it became a favorite spot with the older folks too. A cool breeze always blew from the wooded hollow just behind the spring and on humid summer nights many folks were attracted to its comfort. Lovers, out for a walk, seemed to gravitate toward the well-beaten path about 100 ft. beyond the boardwalk to enjoy a drink of the cool, sweet liquid. Many housewives went there regularly to carry it home in pitchers, bottles or jugs.

When William Schilling, well-known painter, purchased the last two lots at the western end of 5th St. he landscaped the land near the spring. A low stone wall, arched in the middle, was built along the sidewalk. Under the arch was a recess into which he piped the spring water to form a sort of "drinking fountain" which flowed constantly.

Typhoid Fever was a scourge in the

Pittsburg area in those days and several cases appeared in Aspinwall one summer when it was more rampant than usual. The borough water was tested by reputable laboratories and found free of contamination but still more cases appeared. The spring was tested and typhoid bacilli was found. Immediately a signed was posted "**Do Not Use Until Further Notice**".

Townpeople were dismayed but Mr. Schilling thought it was preposterous and loudly asserted his family would continue to use it. Shortly thereafter the borough posted another sign saying further tests proved the Spring water safe for drinking. The owner was so elated he quickly erected a sign over the sidewalk outlet proclaiming "This Water Will Not Rust Your Stomach." This amused and pleased the entire town.

Soon new cases of typhoid fever broke out. New tests were made and this time The Spring was found to be dangerously contaminated. Again the borough posted signs and reluctantly the townsfolk gave up using their favorite drinking water. There were several deaths in Aspinwall, including Mrs. Sarah Schilling, but none could be positively attributed to use of The Spring.





THEODORE BAUMANN, PRESIDENT.

J. H. HINTERMEISTER, TREAS. & GEN. MGR.

T. B. WINDSOR, SECRETARY.

## The Pittsburgh Organ and Piano Co., Inc.

CAPITAL \$25,000.

SUCCESSORS TO HINTERMEISTER ORGAN AND PIANO CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF... HIGH GRADE ORGANS AND PIANOS.

HINTERMEISTER PIANOS  
WITH THE FAMOUS COMBINATION ORGAN  
A SPECIALTY. \* \*

DEALERS IN  
GENERAL MUSICAL MERCHANDISE.

TELE. 72, RING 3,  
SHARPSBURG.

ASPINWALL, PA.

*Sam T.* 1902  
Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

Aspinwall's first industrial building was a four-story buff-brick structure erected on Commercial Avenue in 1898 by a German gentleman, J. H. Hintermeister. It was, and still is, the highest building in town. A show room and shipping department for the Hintermeister Organ and Piano Co. was located on the street floor while the pianos (only upright instruments) were manufactured on the second floor.

In an accident at the factory in December 1900, foreman Theodore Bauman lost several fingers of his right hand. Two years later Mr. Bauman was president and the company had a new name (see above). In 1903 twice the space was added to the building. They continued to manufacture the Hintermeister Piano but also became dealers in other musical instruments. Young Bill Hintermeister demonstrated the "piano-organ" at the 1905 Pittsburg Exposition.

For about five years, during the construction of the City of Pittsburg's Filtration Plant,

there was a Boarding House in what is today a restaurant. E. W. Young once had a Hardware Store there, specializing in wallpaper and paints. In 1909 Clarence Daub had a Dry Goods and Variety Store there.

Frederick Kohle owned the building in 1915 and was talking of converting it to apartments but instead the L. S. Smith Dental Supply Company took over and it remained a commercial property until March 1927 when the Borough purchased it from Mr. Smith for \$35,000, along with the adjoining lots.

In 1914 Mrs. Grau and her daughter Lucille (Mrs. John Schafer) opened a restaurant in the store room on the first floor of the building. Mrs. Grau was famous for her salad dressing and cole slaw. Thomas Nozling was the next restaurant operator, followed by Mrs. Bell and then Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Snee ran "Gen's Restaurant". In 1967 ownership changed again, a Mr. Yost buying the business.

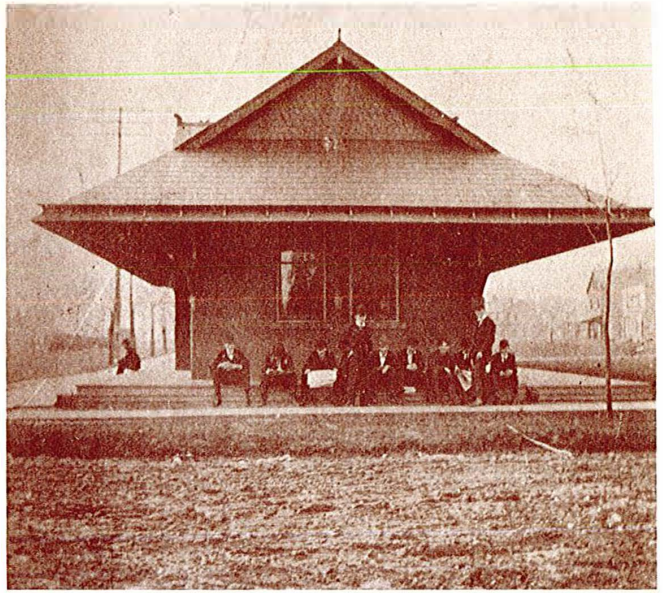


Courtesy George S. Robie

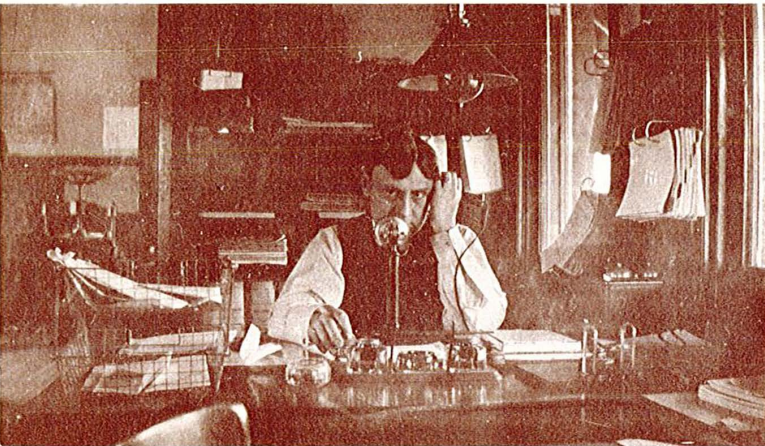
There was a great deal of excitement in town during the summer of 1895. That was the year that the water main was being laid from Montrose to Allegheny City and the line went right through Aspinwall. Two huge 60 inch valves were set under ground at the alley between Second and Third Streets, just off Eastern Avenue. These valves were brought into town in August and it took twelve teams of horses to pull just one of them, as can be seen above. Note the First Presbyterian Church at the far left and the new young elm, maple and poplar trees set out for Sam Miller.



Although the West Penn Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad went through town from the very beginning, there was no stop between Guyasuta and Ross Stations until after borough incorporation. The first "station" was a shed-type structure, open on the railroad side, located near the foot of Center Ave. In the mid-1890's, the PRR built a passenger station at the corner of Freeport Rd. and Eastern Ave. It had covered platforms on all 4 sides. The separate waiting rooms for ladies and gentlemen each had rest rooms. However, patrons had to cross Freeport Rd. to the boarding platform. There were about 12 trains a day, each way, stopping in Aspinwall on the way to and from the West Penn Station on Federal St. in Allegheny City. J. M. Ellis of Tarentum was the genial Station Agent. This picture was taken in 1898, a year before paved streets.



Courtesy Arthur H. Douglas



Courtesy Mrs. Whitney S. Knight

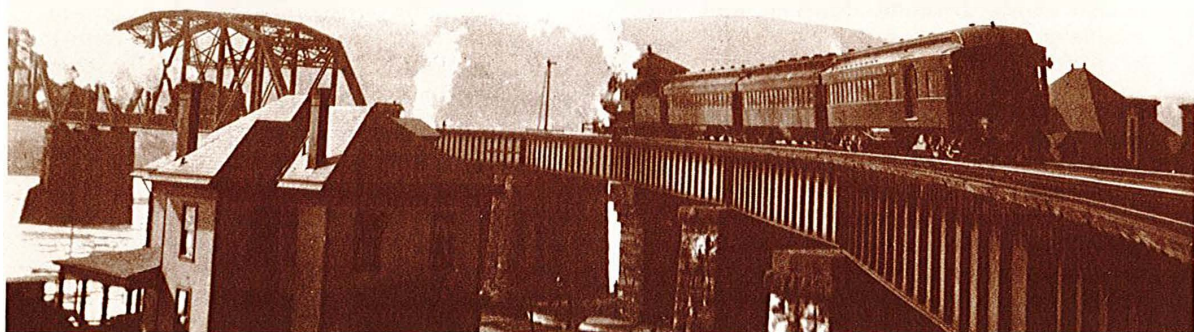
This picture, taken in 1905, shows Wm. H. Ganster, clerk, at his desk in the office of the old Conemaugh Division Pennsylvania Railroad Passenger Station at the corner of Freeport Road and Eastern Avenue. Note the latest in electric lights, telephone and telegraph equipment. This building was used as a station for over a decade. After WW I it was moved and became the American Legion Home, at Eastern and Commercial.

By 1915, when this photo was taken, the station had already been abandoned. On the opposite corner of Eastern Ave. is seen the First National Bank of Aspinwall which had already failed. Ross Patton's Plumbing Shop was in the right corner of the bank building. The Post Office, run by Bernard Helbling, was in the Eastern Ave. corner. Fred Kohle owned the four-story building on Commercial Ave. (left background) at this time.



Courtesy George S. Roble





Courtesy George S. Roble

### Brilliant Cut-Off — 1906

In the early 1900's the Pennsylvania Railroad was purchasing land between the river and the railroad, for the construction of the Brilliant Cut-off. Obtaining options from home owners went well but reaching agreement with the borough on abandonment of streets did not. Finally, on May 2, 1903 a group of about 100 PRR "paddies" attempted to "seize" the streets by laying tracks across them, under cover of darkness. Alert borough employees blew the fire siren at midnight. Citizens, firemen and hose cart were quickly on the scene. Powerful streams of water aimed at the workers proved too much and they soon retreated, along with their "fire and brimstone" Irish boss. Later, Council and PRR officials amicably settled the dispute, Aspinwall getting \$40,000 in cash, a siding for the Power Plant and 300 feet of wharf space.

This 1907 photo (below) shows the last passenger station built in Aspinwall. Located on Freeport Road, at Brilliant Avenue, it was the end of the line for the interurban trolley of that time. The O'Hara Street Railway Co. had been granted permission to construct trolley tracks on Freeport Rd., in 1905. The Allegheny Valley Street Railway Company took over in 1906. (One of their cars is seen left of the station.) In 1909 the crash of two trolleys near the station caused a massive traffic jam on Freeport Rd. A turnaround "loop" was finally created in 1925 with the dedication of Llawnpisa Street (renamed Loop Street, July 1956). The station, minus the upper structure, still exists and now houses a Sportswear Shop known as "The Ski Barn." In 1935 the Harmony Bus line replaced the Allegheny Valley trolleys with buses to Tarentum.

Courtesy George S. Roble





**W. B. Salt** came to Aspinwall in 1898. He manufactured piston rings and had his business (W. B. Salt Manufacturing) on First Street, in the small brick building between where Zuccaro's Brilliant Market and McNally's Bakery are today. Born in Millvale in 1851, he married Margaretta Jordan (1852-1922) and they had six children. One son, Henry, lived in Boston, Massachusetts. In spite of the naval war raging between England and Germany then, he and his wife were passengers on the Cunard liner "Lusitania" when it left New York in late April, 1915, headed for Liverpool. They were among the 128 Americans who went down with the ship on May 7, just eighteen minutes after it was hit by two torpedoes fired from the German submarine, U-20.

**William K. Freid** (1850-1910), of Salem, Ohio, started the Atlas Paint Co., Ltd. in Allegheny City in 1878. The plant was moved to 28th St., Pittsburgh, when the H. J. Heinz plant was built. (In 1896 three men were burned alive there in a \$200,000 fire.) He bought the Zump Varnish Works in Sharpsburg in 1907, but never ran it, due to illness. From 1876 to 1900 he wrote editorials for two Pittsburgh papers and in 1894, published a book on America's banking system. That same year he refused nomination to the State Senate.

He married Rue Ella Turner of Illiopolis, Illinois in 1884. They had four children: Wynona W., Ramey L., and twins, Virginia A. and Gladys E. He moved the family from Sharpsburg to 124 First St., Aspinwall, in early 1897. Virginia (Mrs. Arthur L. Brockway) and Gladys (Mrs. Raymond R. Jardine) were the first twins to complete 12 years of school in Aspinwall.

**John R. Steel** and his wife, Maude Smith Steel, came to Aspinwall in 1912. They moved into the Lexington Avenue house which the Delafield Land Co. had built as a sample house. Mr. Steel was an agent for the New York Life Insurance Company. Mrs. Steel became very active in the Woman's Club, serving a term as president and as chairman of the Legislative committee for some years. They were both members of the Choir at the United Presbyterian Church. They had four children - John, Mabelle, Dorothy and Harvey, who became a doctor, married Mildred Bowman, and

now lives in Fox Chapel and maintains an office in Sharpsburg.

Building contractor **Wilbur M. May** was born in Fairmont, W. Va. in 1885. He first came to Aspinwall in 1907 to build the original St. Scholastica Church structure. He moved his family to town in 1909, living at 309 Eastern Ave. He built the old Montrose School and the first Boyd School, both in O'Hara Township and now gone, and the Aspinwall High School and Aspinwall Woman's Club, both still in use. He joined Company No. 1 of the Aspinwall Fire Department April 28, 1917 and held nearly every office, in both the business and fire organizations, during his 44 year membership.

On January 2, 1928 he became a Borough Councilman, serving one four year term. Again in January 1954 he joined Council, replacing William Bartley who had served since April 1949 when he was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Frank Schade after 11 years as a Councilman. Mr. May was serving his second consecutive term when he died, February 24, 1961. He had served 27 years as a director of the Dime Savings Building and Loan Association in Sharpsburg and was president at the time of his death.

**Francis Armstrong** and his wife, Nellie L. H. Armstrong, were among the first to purchase land from the Aspinwall Land Company in 1890. A cashier for J & L Steel, Mr. Armstrong was a fun-loving man with a wonderful sense of humor and an equally strong interest in community affairs. Known to everyone as "Pop", he was elected to the first Borough Council in 1893 and served 9 years, until March 3, 1902. Mrs. Armstrong was a borough petitioner and they were both organizing members of the First Presbyterian Church. He was an early Tax Collector (possibly the first) and also belonged to the fire company.

The marriage of his daughter Abbie to S. L. Smith on September 15, 1896 was quite a social event. It was the custom in those days to serenade a newlywed couple and the townsfolk put on a "humdinger" that night! They gathered with sleigh bells, cow bells, horse fiddles, tin horns and anything else they could find for making a racket, and kept up their merry-making until the neighbors complained.





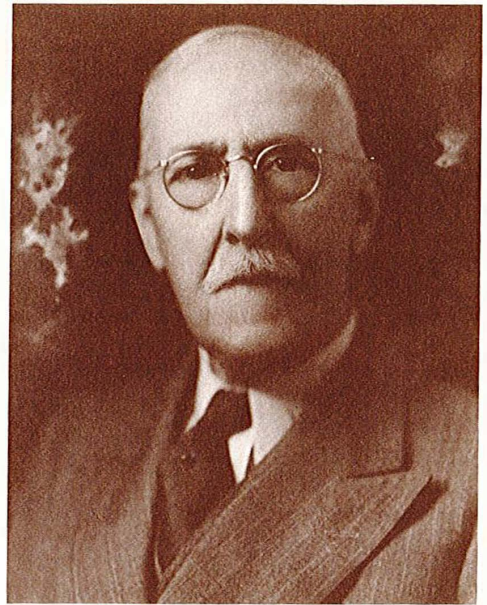
Aspinwall Fire Dept.

**James F. Beveridge** was one of the early residents on 5th St., living next door to where the first Fire House was built. He was the first Fire Chief (1893-1896), was an early Health Officer, and in 1897 was elected Inspector of the Election Board. A carpenter, he worked on many of the towns early buildings, taking a bad fall in February 1896 while working on the Lutheran Church.

James Beveridge was the logical choice to be appointed the first Fire Chief for he had been a leading force in a group of civic-minded citizens who had been working for the organization of a fire company for some time prior to the first Borough Council meeting, February 27, 1893. A "Committee for Fire Protection", including Councilman, W. R. Smith, was also named at that first meeting. They turned to W. C. Meyers, Sharpsburg's Fire Chief, for advice about equipment.

Council quickly authorized the purchase of 100 feet of hose, two nozzles, a siamese coupling and two wheelbarrows for taking equipment to and from the 14 fire plugs which were to be rented from the Aspinwall Land Company. In December 1895 five new fire plugs were installed by Allegheny City.

Beveridge was made Chief again on March 7, 1904 when Chief Fehr was elected president of Aspinwall Borough Council and resigned the fire company post. On December 10, 1904 Council awarded a contract to the Gamewell Company to install a new fire alarm system in the borough, at a cost of \$1,570.

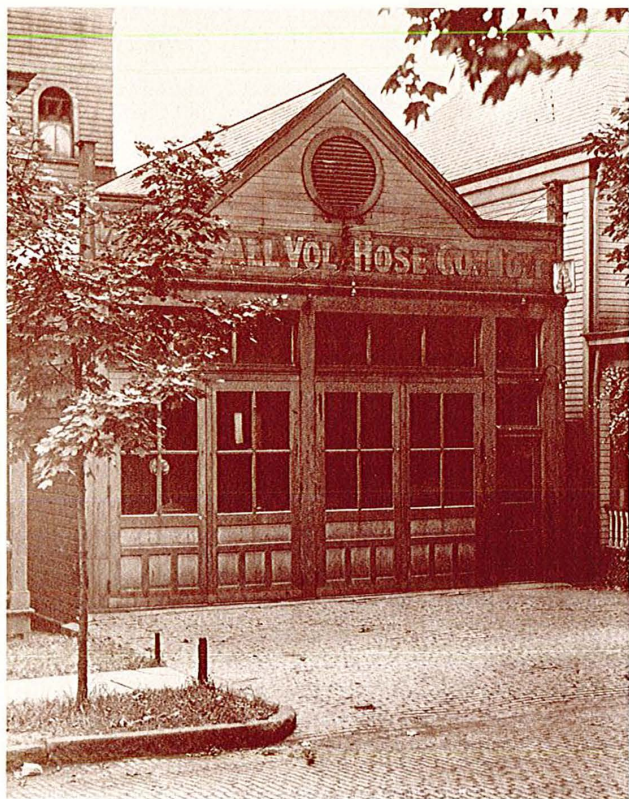


Courtesy G. Milton Fehr

**George B. Fehr** was very active in the affairs of the community from the time he settled in Aspinwall. He was first appointed to the Board of Health, on June 12, 1897. On March 11, 1899 he began an eight year term on Borough Council. The next month he was instrumental in passing a motion to prohibit smoking at Council meetings. In January 1900 Council approved his motion to prohibit the playing of cards and other games in Council Chambers. He served with Burgesses Hope W. Hastings (1896-1900, 1905-1906), Charles Boice (1900-1904) and J. B. Hazlett (1906-1909). Wm. R. Smith was Borough Clerk (1898-1906); Grant Darby was Borough Treasurer (1901-1906) and Solicitors were U. G. Vogan (1897-1901) and F. R. Agnew, appointed March 4, 1901.

Like many other early Councilmen, Mr. Fehr was a member of the "Lamb's Club." (A name given to the Fire Department because so many of the men were very young.) In October 1897, he and C. A. Keck were appointed to study new apparatus; by 1900 he was president of No. 1 Company. He was Chief at the time of the "battle" with the Railroad men, having been elected on January 10, 1903. He only held that post until March 7, 1904 when he was elected Council President and resigned as Fire Chief. His son, attorney G. Milton Fehr, was the youngest man (31 yrs.) ever elected to Council when he took office in 1932. He served until 1948.





Aspinwall Fire Dept.

At the second meeting of Borough Council (April 10, 1893) it was voted to purchase Lot No. 319 on Fifth Street (second on the right off Center Avenue) and build a Hose House on the 25 x 100 foot lot which cost \$300. On May 8th Council heard the first reading of the first Fire Ordinance. By July a fire house was nearly finished and Council purchased a \$60 fire bell. An \$85 hose carriage was received, \$400 worth of fire hose, and a \$25 "babcock".

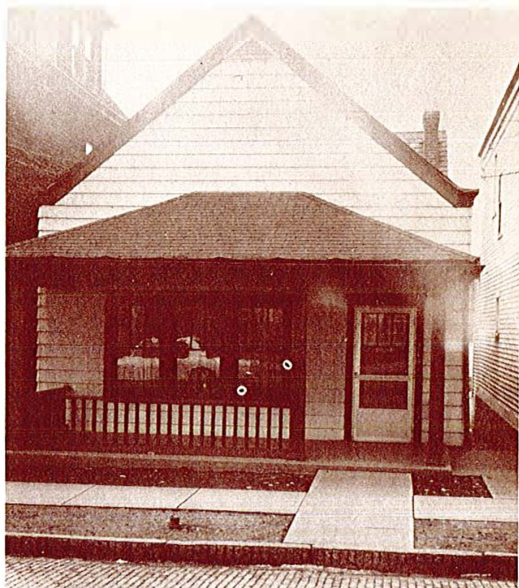
The hose cart consisted of a hose reel slung between two large wheels, with a long tongue projecting out in front so volunteers could hold it from both sides to pull it along. A covered box was mounted on the framework. Here was kept wrenches, first aid items, etc. There was also a small reel carrying hemp rope which could be thrown out and gripped by additional men. This cart carried 1000 feet of fire hose, as well as fire axes and several nozzles.

The Hose House soon became a favorite meeting place, renting for \$2.50 per night to clubs and organizations. In February 1894 Wm. McLaughlin was hired to serve as janitor for the new building, at \$2.40 a month.



Aspinwall Fire Dept.

The Aspinwall Volunteer Hose Company's first Entertainment Committee (1896) included, back row, l. to r. - Harry Hunker, Bob McCrum, Jimmy Laughlin, George Kirch, Edward Duckwall, James Beveridge. Front row, l. to r. - Walter Hetzel, Geo. W. McCandless, Edward Long, "Pop" Armstrong and Charles Anderson (not shown).



Courtesy Carl Forster

Erected in 1893, this building housed Aspinwall's Volunteer Hose Company No. 1 for 35 years. From July 1893 to February 1909 it also served as Council Chambers. In May 1929 it was sold to Minnie Pfabe for \$1,500. It has been a residence ever since. This picture was taken in April 1967.





Courtesy Herbert Klug

Seen at a 1927 Firemen's Convention are:  
l. to r., back row—Lee Albacker and the Avalon Fire Dept. Chief. Front row—Herbert J. Klug and Henry M. Wolfarth, Aspinwall Fire Dept. Chief from 1923 to 1944.

On September 28, 1893 seventeen men met and organized Hose Company No. 1. The records show G. V. Bowman was elected president; C. D. Darby, vice-president; Ross H. Love, treasurer; Charles C. Brenner, secretary; William Hastings, foreman and John Love, asst. foreman. William Johnston, James N. Laughlin, William Campbell and C. A. Keck were named hose directors. C. C. Brenner and Edward L. Warner were axemen. C. D. Darby, James N. Laughlin and George Wilhelm were Trustees. Ross H. Love, J. M. Allison, William Koenig, Wm. Hastings and John Love made up the Law Committee.

In January 1897 the town was without a fire company for about ten days when the firemen disbanded claiming Council didn't appropriate enough money to operate a fire department.

The Fire Chiefs during the years have been: Ross H. Love (1896-1899), C. A. Keck (1899-1903), George B. Fehr (1903-1904), J. F. Beveridge (1904-1906), C. A. Keck (1906-1907), W. F. Schilling (1907-1909), W. L. Emerick (1909-1915), Thomas Bryan (1915-1918), H. B. Conner (1918-1921), J. A. Bolton (1921-1923), Henry M. Wolfarth (1923-1944), Scott Douthitt (1944-1948), George White (1948-1960) and Arthur Esser (1960-----).



Courtesy Carl Forster

There has never been a parade in Aspinwall that has not included the men and equipment of the Volunteer Fire Company. Many of the biggest and gayest parades have been sponsored by the firemen.



## A "POME"

Dedicated to the Aspinwall Volunteer Hose Co.  
No. 1, Composed by "Pop" Armstrong and  
read at the Banquet on November 29, 1899.

The Volunteer Hose Company of Aspinwall,  
feed,

There'll be a "feast of reason"

And flow of wit, indeed.

Though they've never put a fire out,

They can put "fire-water" in,

And though they cannot reel a hose,

A "spool of yarns" can spin.

The fire bell's full of cob-webs,

The hose is full of rocks;

If one should yell, "Reel off the hose",

The half would "peel their socks".

They've never had but three alarms,

And every time, tis said,

The only ones who wakened up,

Crawled underneath the bed.

And, Oh - to see them on parade,

Great Scott - but what a sight,

Will Emerich before the cart,

And Humes upon his right.

With Harris, Fehr and Beveridge,

And Hunker in the rear,

While Zieger, Sauer and Czarniecki,

At "Heidelberg" haunt Sauer's beer.

Our genial President, George B. Fehr,

Of councilmanic fame,

With Dignity (?) he fills the chair,

And will preside again.

The worthy Keck has held the reins

Of "foreman" many years;

His first assistant, F. V. Humes,

With Elsrode next appears.

Then Vogan, lawyer to the board of "city  
dads",

Is there,

And Friedman, once a J. of P.,

A "would be" burgess dare.

And Benny Aitken, Handsome Ben,

With "Jakey Hetzel", too,

And Duckwall with but "Just one Girl",

And Kirch and "Creole Sue".

And Oh - the "Macks" are out of sight,

McDonald and McCrumm,

The two McLaughlins -

"Claire" and "Will"

And Jimmy Laughlin, "some".

The Loves and Smiths are here "galore";  
Ecker, Lowrey and Brown.

McClelland, Parker, Schilling, Sheers,  
Enough to flood the town.

And Spilker, "the objector bold",

Baxter, John Dyer and Hough,

Nicholas, Hastings, Konold,

George Henninger and Martself.

Last, but not least, our Boro "Cop",

Charles Anderson, by name.

With swinging mace and loaded "pop",

Sometimes (?) he bags his game.

The Honorable Burgess tries the case;

If innocent, no fines;

If guilty, thirty days or more

At Claremont - "doing time".

Although at fires they may be slow,

At "solo" they're "on deck";

Tis hard to beat such gamesters old,

As Richards, King and Keck.

Any every night you always find

Faxon and Smith on hand -

Schneider, Freidman and Katzmyer

Playing to beat the band.

And checkers, too, are nightly played  
By Albertson and Small.

And euchre (less the 7's and 8's)

By "Pop", Will Dyer and all.

There's entertainments every month -

Smokers or minstrel show,

Banquets and Euchres and the like;

But "solo's" all the go.

Oh, gallant sons of Aspinwall,

A hose is not your speed;

You travel in another class -

Solo is what you need.

Or if you must commune with fire,

Strange things will come to pass.

Get up before your loving wife

And light the kitchen gas.

## P. S.

Kind friends, I would apologize

To those whom I have missed -

Parkin, Jacobs, Martin, Reese

And Gibson left off my list.

But, when on future nights you meet,

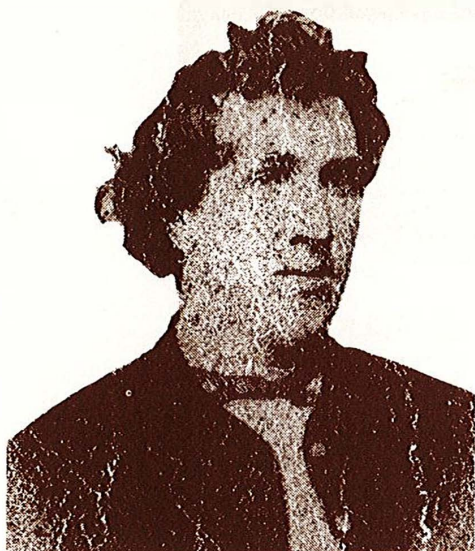
And laugh with moistened eyes,

Deal gently with my first attempt,

And softly criticize.

Courtesy E. C. Schneider





Courtesy Miss Ora McMorran

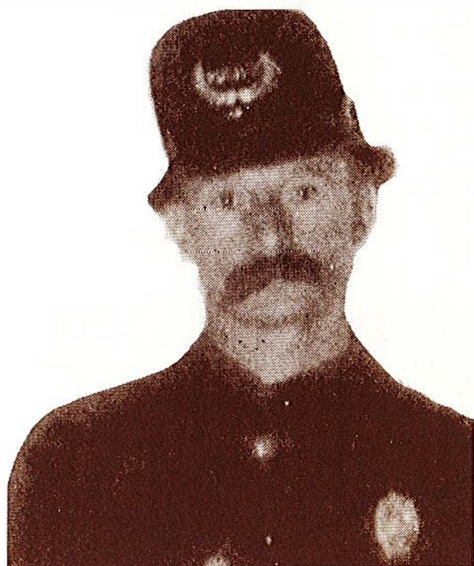
### William McMorran

The Ordinance creating a police department for Aspinwall was passed June 19, 1897. Charles J. Anderson (seen at right) was the first borough policeman. He began his duties July 1, 1897. From 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. he patrolled the town on foot, seven days a week, for \$43.50 a month. In 1898 his salary was raised to \$60 a month. In November 1901 Council authorized a telephone in his home. He resigned in March 1902 and Charles Curran replaced him. He was re-appointed in March 1903. From then until September 11, 1922 when he resigned for good, Charles Anderson was on and off the police force — almost continuously. His career seems to have been quite colorful, and most uncertain. He was made Chief, was sued for assault and battery, dismissed by the Burgess, reinstated by Council and elevated to Chief once more. For 25 years Charlie Anderson represented "the law" in Aspinwall - most of the time.

For the first quarter century Aspinwall residents seemed to get new police officers almost as often as they voted new Councilmen into office. There was no Civil Service then and the faces above the badges changed at a whim of the politicians. William Galloway seems to have been the second man to have an "up and down" police career in the town. He was first appointed September 10, 1904. In Council minutes of late 1909 he is referred to as "Chief Galway", but not mentioned again after November 1911 when, according to the minutes, "the Borough is without a police force; Burgess W. R. Smith reported

William McMorran (at left) was Aspinwall's first "keeper of the peace". He was named High Constable at the first regular meeting of Aspinwall Borough Council, February, 27, 1893. A teamster, Mr. McMorran was one of the very earliest folks in town. He built the first house on the hill, and was busy from 1890 on, doing much of the excavating and grading work in the new town, or hauling coal, or moving families into their new homes. He died in 1924.

For over four years, Will McMorran was the only law in town. He resigned as Constable February 22, 1898. Ross Love replaced him (March 12, 1898) and was followed by George Gibson (May 12, 1900). Casper Gang was the next Constable but it was Joseph McGarry who held the job the longest — 1936 'til July 26, 1961 — when he died in office. Pete Rudl then served until Chester Friedman was named Constable in 1967.



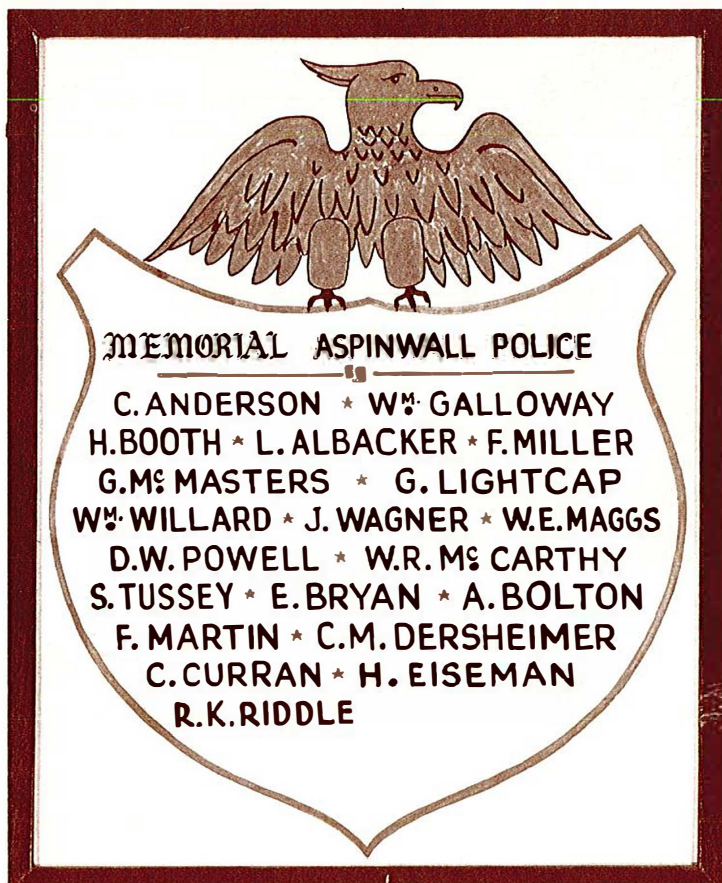
Aspinwall Fire Dept.

### Charles J. Anderson

two officers were dismissed for insubordination." He died tragically, years later, being chewed to death by his own dogs which he had chained to his bed.

Samuel Tussey, appointed March 1908; C. M. Dersheimer, April 1909; George Albacker and D. W. Powell, January 1912, all served in those early days before the force was even armed. In January 1913 Council finally authorized three guns be purchased for the patrolmen. A year before they had raised salaries to \$71 a month and the department was finally motorized in June 1913 when a \$250 motorcycle was purchased for patrols.





Courtesy Leo P. Linder



Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

**Roy K. Riddle** (above and at right) served on the Aspinwall police force longer than anyone else. Appointed a patrolman in February 1922, he was named Chief in 1928, succeeding Harry Booth. He held that post for 28 years, resigning in April 1956, after 34 years of service. Second in time was Guy McQuaid who joined the force in 1926. In spite of a brutal beating which he received from three thugs in 1930, McQuaid remained on the force 30 years, retiring August 10, 1956.

Serving with Riddle in the 1920's, and not yet recorded on the Memorial Plaque which hangs in the police office at the Borough Building, were J. B. Charlta, W. A. Williams and Lawrence Fuchs. Homer Eiseman, E. L. Bryan, J. A. Bolton and Robert Kennedy were officers in the 1930's. When Kennedy resigned in 1941 to join the FBI, Leo Linder was named to replace him. Promoted to Chief of Police May 1, 1956, Linder is the third Chief to have served more than a quarter century on Aspinwall's police force.



Courtesy Mrs. R. K. Riddle



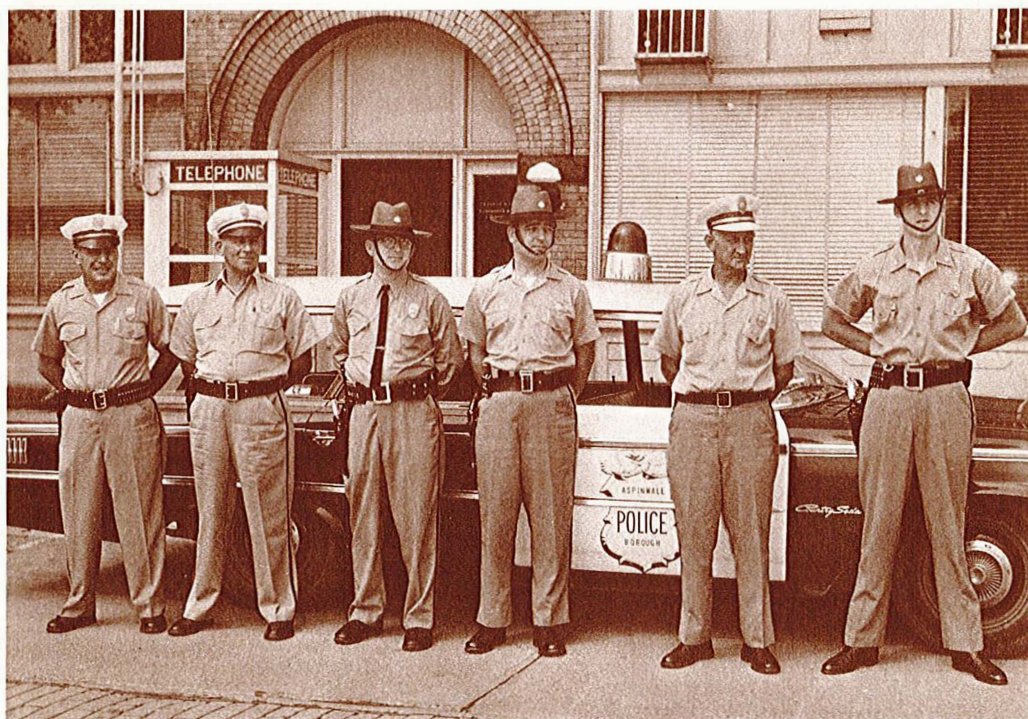


Courtesy Leo P. Linder

### ASPINWALL AUXILIARY POLICE

This volunteer organization was formed August 3, 1956, by Leo Linder, who was then, and still is, Chief of Police of Aspinwall Borough. When this picture was taken in 1957 the roster included: L. to R., front row, Patsey Santelli, Harry Leonard, Ray Ochner, Pete Veltri, John Marmarelli, James Santelli, Philip Smith. Back row, Kenneth Koch,

lieutenant, Tom Hernon, Neil Buckley, Ray Appman, Joe Santelli, Frank Lanzino, Albert Whiteman, sergeant, Leo Linder, president, August Zuccaro, sergeant, Dale Lukehart, John Grabowski, Robert Gracey, Larry Yesky, captain, Tom Nozling, Wm. Linder, Chet Friedman, Wm. Egbert, Jack Malley and Ed Slater.



Courtesy Leo P. Linder

### 1967 POLICE FORCE

L. to R.—Harry Leonard, Patrolman; William Linder, Special Police and School Guard; Chester Friedman, patrolman; Anthony Cor-

disco, patrolman; Police Chief, Leo P. Linder; William Eckert, patrolman. Not present when picture was taken, Lieutenant Joseph Santelli.

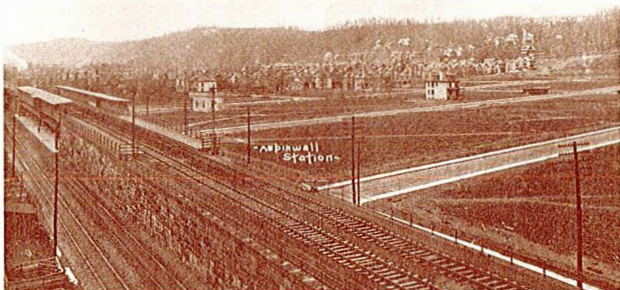


The following two pages show Aspinwall as it was in the spring of 1905. That was an exciting year in the town's history, especially for the boys and girls who could get around to watch the day-by-day changes take place.

During the winter and spring the railroad was the center of attraction. The new upper level tracks to serve the Brilliant Cut-off were constructed (see right) and a new West Penn Passenger Station built at the foot of Brilliant Avenue. The first train went over the Cut-off to Union Station at 10:10 a.m. on the morning of May 27th. From then on it was possible to go to the city three times a day. There was also a daily train to Butler and Blairsville that way. Aspinwall, once inconvenient to get in and out of, was no longer a "remote suburban village."

In 1904 a group of men including Aspinwall architect, Fred C. Sauer; Charles Schneider, Secretary-Treasurer of the Allegheny Trust Co. on Federal Street in Allegheny City; a Mr. Lightner; and George B. Fehr who was, at that time, Aspinwall Borough Council president, had purchased some 200 acres of land from the Delafield family. Adjoining the eastern boundary of Aspinwall Borough, the land extended from Brilliant Avenue to Delafield Avenue and included the wooded hillside from Sixth Street back to Guyasuta Road and from what is now the Filtration Plant back to what is now the Veterans's Hospital. The Aspinwall-Delafield Company was formed and development was started in 1905.

During the spring the level acreage was staked off in 40 foot building lots. The W. N. Sauer Co. laid the water lines and Ezra Creese and James Beveridge built a land company office (at right) at the corner of Brilliant and Freeport Avenues. During the summer, Sweeney and Houston paved the streets in the Plan, connecting them to the streets already existing in Aspinwall, but without any alleys dividing the blocks. This provided a wonderful "bicycle park" for the young folks of the town, before houses became too prevalent. One of the first houses erected (above right) became the home of J. R. Mayhew, Tax Collector from 1917 to 1943. Most of the houses in the Delafield Plan were of brick construction, unlike the Aspinwall Plan where the majority of homes were wooden frame houses.

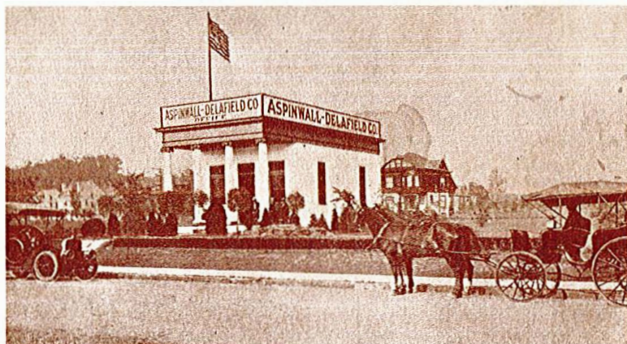


Courtesy George S. Roble

#### Summer - - 1905

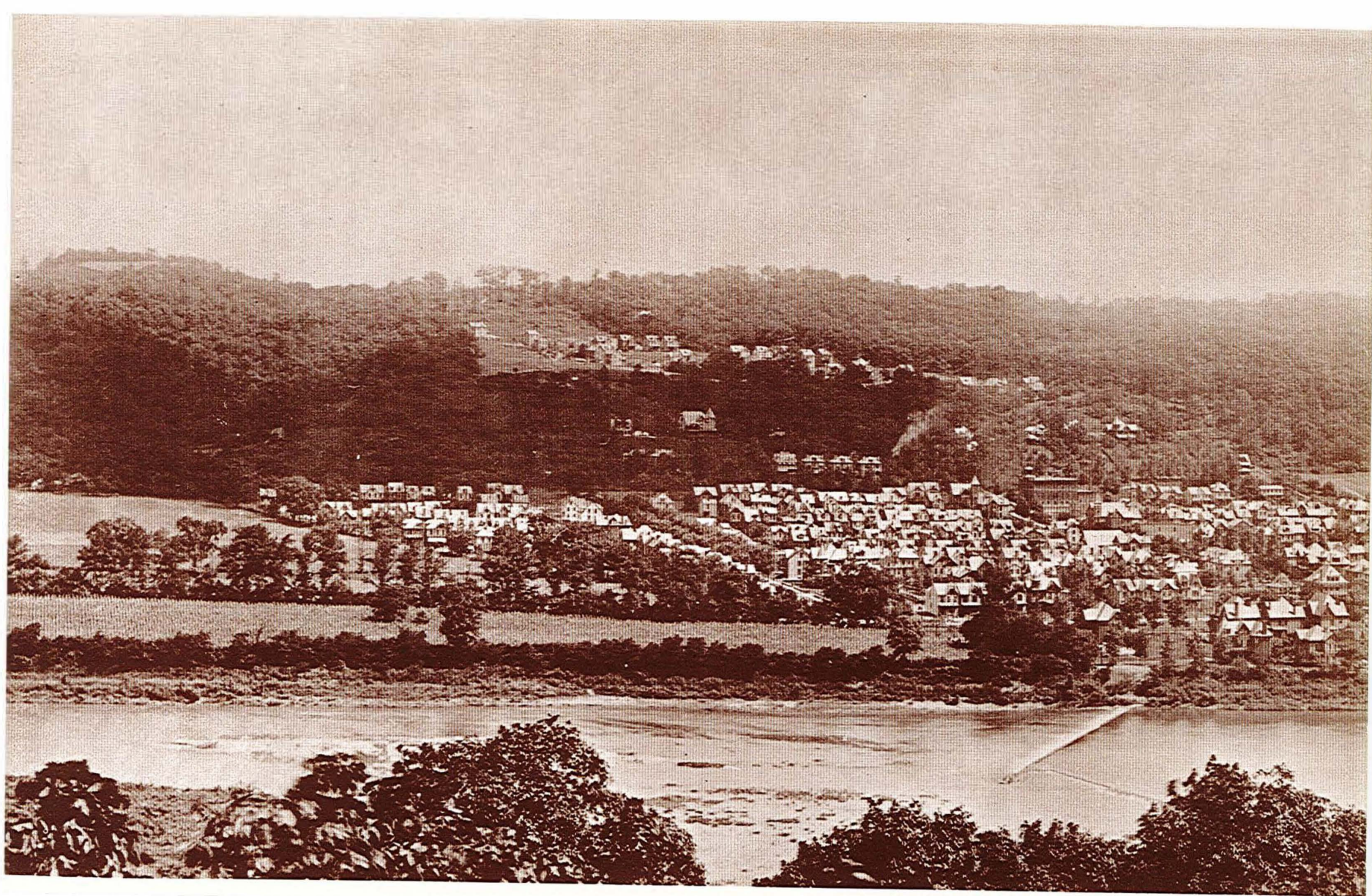
In the late spring Fred Sauer was sponsoring a contest for the best picture of the old Delafield Farm and everyone owning a camera was out taking pictures. Up on the hill men were cutting out walnut, hickory, ash, birch and some oak trees, making way for homesites there. Many oaks and most of the maples, elms and dogwood trees were left to attract buyers. In May the first Aspinwall-Delafield Ad appeared. It proclaimed - "Exchange dust and dirt for clover and blossoms and the sweet scents of the country" — and offered 450 lots for sale.

By the end of summer the entire Plan No. 1 had been sewerred and sidewalks and streets paved. On July 19, 1905 the Aspinwall-Delafield Company petitioned for annexation to the Borough of Aspinwall. President Fred C. Sauer, Secretary Charles Phillips and Henry Spilker appeared before Councilmen: W. G. Madore, W. W. Dyer, W. J. Snyder, J. Howard Martin, S. R. McMorran, G. B. Fehr and R. Y. McCrum. The Plan was officially adopted September 25, 1905.

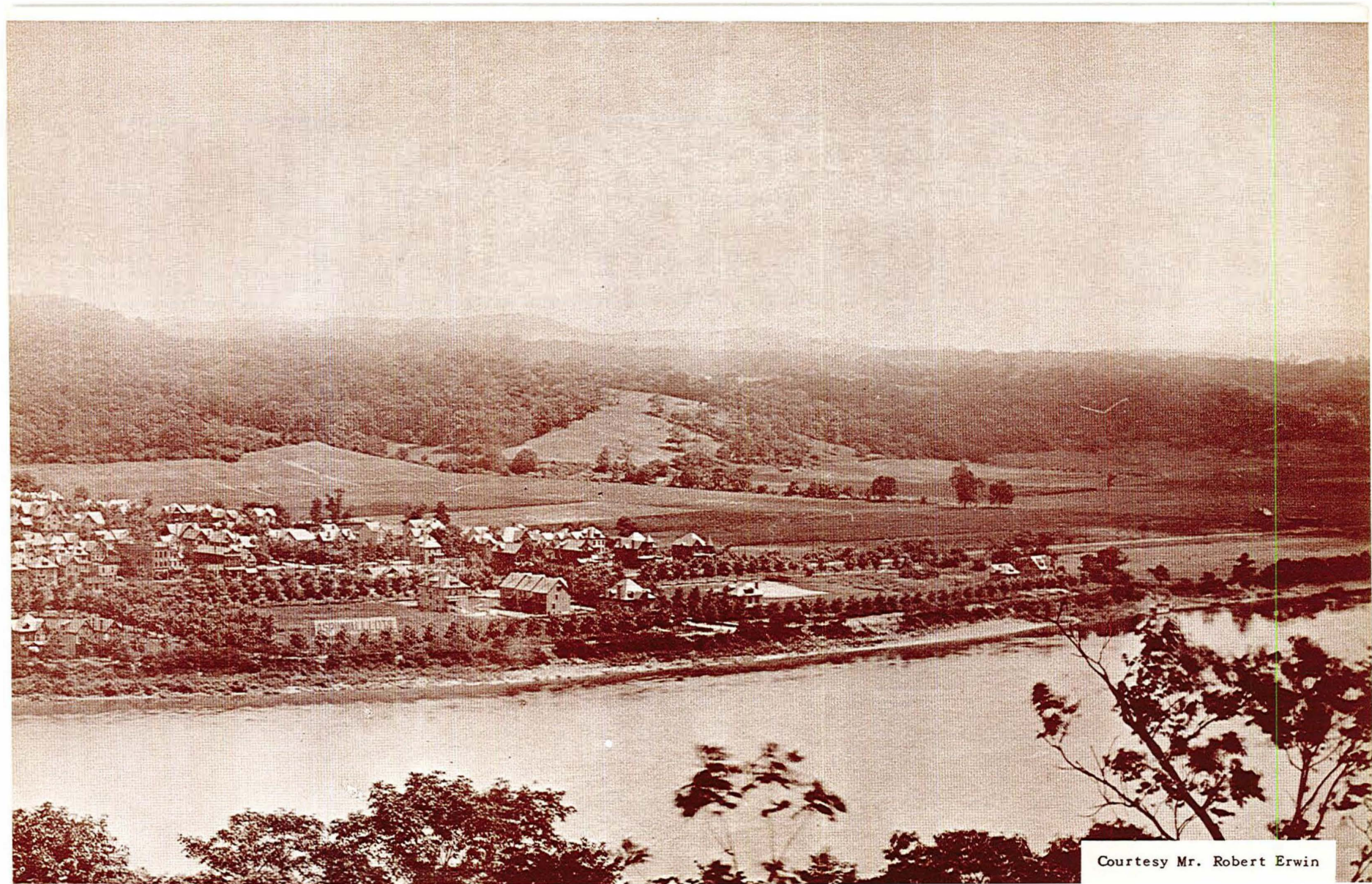


Courtesy H. M. Wolfarth









Courtesy Mr. Robert Erwin



Old issues of the Sharpsburg-Etna Herald tell some interesting things about the early days in Aspinwall.

An unusually bad thunder storm on July 27, 1896 caused extensive damage to the young trees all over town. The rains came with torrential force and the wind was fierce. Heavy claps of thunder and severe bolts of lightning accompanied the rain and when it was all over there were 12 to 15 inches of water in some places.

The Heinz gardens were especially hard hit. "The Cabbage Patch", to the east of town, was a veritable lake, the storm washing hundreds of heads of cabbage into Ross Run. As word spread throughout town folks ran with rakes or long poles of any kind to fish them out of the water. Cabbage soup and cole slaw was the mainstay of many family menus for the next week.

"Sugar Camp", near Ross Grove, was also the scene of much havoc. The storm caused one death and a number of serious injuries among the men who were seeking shelter there. In those days when a man was released from prison up at the County Workhouse he was just let out the gate and it was up to him to find his way home - he was not given money or transported back to the city. Many of them stopped off at a group of shacks along the railroad tracks, between where the Monticello Restaurant and the old Pittsburgh Pumping Station are today. There, in a clump of trees, the hoboes and bums off the trains had built shacks of any old wood, metal or tar paper they could find as protection from weather.

During the warm seasons there were always groups of men living there and Aspinwall housewives were frequently bothered by the men from "Sugar Camp." In the mid-morning, after the men had gone to work, the bums would appear at the back door asking for a hot meal or clothes or money. There is no record that they ever hurt anyone or caused any real trouble, but some of the women were terrified none the less. Others, like Annie McCrum, were so used to having someone appear suddenly that they just kept a pot of soup on the stove all the time and sometimes even left a little money where it could be stolen easily.

Old Borough Council Minutes tell us much about the early problems of the town and the men who faced them.

The first Borough Council set a 5 mill tax rate and borrowed \$2,000 with which to start operating. Three months later, when the tax collector had not collected as much revenue as they deemed was due, Council quickly appointed a replacement. They readily purchased fire protection equipment but appropriated no money to run a fire department. They haggled over paying Will McMorran \$13.54 to make 6th St. passable for horse and wagon from Western Avenue to the western boundary line. 1893 was a depression year, yet \$1,519.60 in taxes was collected.

The 1895 Borough Budget totalled \$3,875; in 1897 it was \$4,413.24. By 1906 the assessed valuation of the Borough had reached \$1,656,480 and the 7 mill tax yielded \$11,595.36. Revenue from Water and Lights was \$19,489.02. In 1908 the Borough leased 75 feet of river frontage to the Llawnpisa Boat Club for \$12 a year. They purchased a two horse street sweeper and erected a public drinking fountain at Brilliant Ave. and Freeport Rd. that year too.

The earliest record of a problem demanding Board of Health action was in September 1893. It involved a 5th St. "Chic Sale." Geo. W. McCandless, W. B. Rohn and L. L. McClelland were members of that early Health Board. Robert G. McCrum was appointed to the Board in December 1898, shortly after Scarlet Fever hit the borough. In the summer of 1896 Council had complained to the State Board of Health about the filth being dumped on the Heinz gardens. In 1901 disinfecting apparatus was purchased to fumigate houses where there had been contagious disease. G. V. Bowman replaced Charles Smith on the Board that year and C. P. Brown resigned as Health Officer. J. R. Mayhugh, Dr. F. D. Wolf and E. J. Schade were all on later Boards.

In July 1894 Council prohibited the running of bicycles on the board walks of the borough. Flagstone sidewalks appeared in 1896, after a preference vote of the residents. May 11, 1895 the Sharpsburg and Etna Gas Co. was given permission to run gas lines into the borough. A January 9, 1897 Ordinance gave the Philadelphia Gas Company the same rights. Incandescent lights were available in July 1909.



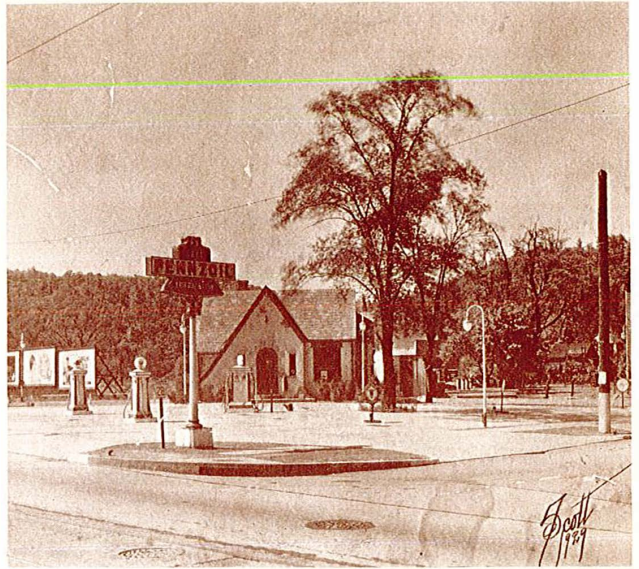
**Henry Atwood Stout** and his wife, Margaret Croner Stout, were among the very earliest settlers in town. They lived in the frame house, back from the corner of Western Ave. and Freeport Rd., behind what is now Bruce Coles' Pennzoil Station. Mr. Stout was a signer of the borough petition in 1892.

On March 23, 1893 a dozen neighbors gathered at the Stout home to organize a Methodist Church. Besides Mr. and Mrs. Stout and their sons, Frank and Fred, and Mrs. Stout's mother, Mrs. Mary J. Croner and her sister, Miss Sarah E. Croner, there were the Grant and C. D. Darby families, the G. A. Hergets, H. C. Stones, G. E. Kecks, Mrs. E. T. Bosworth and George Evans.

Mr. Stout was named an officer of The Ford Chapter of the Epworth League on November 16, 1895, when it was organized at the First Methodist Episcopal Church. He served as Superintendent of the Sunday School there for years. He also served as Secretary of the school board for nearly a decade in the 1890's and early 1900's. Newspaper items in the late 1890's often mention Mr. Stout as being "on a business trip for Tibby Brothers, glass manufacturers, of Sharpsburg." Mr. and Mrs. Stout observed their 50th wedding anniversary in 1923, just five years after son Fred had organized Stout & Co., a stocks and bonds brokerage firm of which he was sole owner.

**William H. Boyle** was another Borough Petition signer. He built way up on the hill not too long after McMorran did. A teamster, he was very busy during the building booms of 1894 1905 for he had a "scoop" for digging cellars. Brought up on an O'Hara Twp. farm (where the Fox Chapel Country Club is now on Fox Chapel Rd.) he married Alice Sleigh, the daughter of another O'Hara farmer. They were both Charter members of the First Presbyterian Church of Aspinwall.

**Henry Koedel** seems to have been the first barber in town. He had a shop on Commercial Avenue as early as October 1896, according to old issues of the Sharpsburg-Etna Herald. He sold both the business and the building to a Mr. Watson of Pittsburg in January 1898. In March 1901 Clarence Mc-



Courtesy George Haberman

Laughlin became the proprietor of the "Tonsorial Parlor". Prior to World War I, John W. Albacker, who lost his life in that conflict, was the Commercial Avenue barber. For a short time, back in the early 1900's, a negro gentleman ran a barber shop on Third Street. Cimino's Barber Shop, at the corner of Brilliant and Freeport, weathered the St. Patrick's Day flood of 1936 and was in operation about 25 years.

**John Emerick** and his wife, Margaret, came to Aspinwall early in 1891, from Butler County. He was a carpenter and built many of the earliest homes. They bought two lots (134-136) on Fourth Street for their own home, complete with a stable for their cow (which furnished milk for most of the first residents). Mrs. Emerick and her son Frank's wife, Nannie, were both signers of the borough petition.

Sons Will and Charles both lived on Third Street and were also carpenters. Charles was one of the organizers of the original Hose Company No. 1 in September 1893. An 1897 Herald news item speaks of him as "the conductor of the Allegheny Traction line" (the trolley serving Aspinwall at that time). Will was the Fire Chief (1908-1915) when Hose Companies No. 1 and No. 2 were organized into the Aspinwall Volunteer Fire Department on October 28, 1910. Frank was the contractor for the Aspinwall Lutheran Church in 1895. (It is the only one of the original churches still standing).



Aspinwall's early settlers were a gregarious people who seem to have believed wholeheartedly in "the pursuit of happiness." From the very beginning their school, churches and stores were also the centers for social activities of all sorts.

The school was built with a large meeting hall. Here all manner of dramatic, musical, artistic and oratorical events were held. The churches were always busy with suppers, picnics, plays and celebrations. The Fire House was the center for "smokers", card and game parties of all types and political meetings. Several of the early stores had meeting halls upstairs where dances, banquets, minstrel shows, political rallies and charity events were held, as well as providing the meeting place for various clubs and organizations.

One of the most interesting events held at the school, after the auditorium was built, was put on by the Parent Order of the **Knights of Valor** in February 1911. Miss Hazel James was the director for "**Ye Village Skewl**" which cast George H. Smith as the Skewl Master and Kenneth E. Gray, C. F. Brison and W. F. Schilling as the Skewl Directors. Hope Henry, Edwin Douglas, Clara Bell, Hilda Vogel and E. A. Schuetz, Jr. were soloists for this production.

Included in the chorus were: Harriet Anshutz, Mary Anderson, Evelyn Boyd, Mary C. Briner, Dorothy Beckman, Dorothy and Esta Burnett, Louise and Charlotte Crawford, Ruth and Mildred Kummer, Colette Dougherty, Grace Evans, Elizabeth Fehr, Helen Ferguson, Margaret and Katherine Helbling, Helen and Rebecca Heinz, Katherine Hutchinson, Dorothy Howe, Louise Irwin, Helen and Ruth Isensee, Mildred Johnson, Jean and Martha Keiser, Alice and Mary Keller, Betty Lutf and Lois Martin.

Other chorus members were: May belle Meyer, Janet Miller, Lucille Meyer, Marcy Moser, Margaret Morgan, Anna Martin, Martha Parsons, Ethel Prager, Minerva Roop, Ernestine Robinson, Della McLaughlin, Floretta Anderson, Gladys and Virginia Freed, Eva Dillon, Theresa and Caroline Rols-house, Thelma Sautter, Gertrude Schillo, May Shannon, Mildred Sweeney, Gertrude and Dorothy Spilker, Sara Schuetz, Katherine Uber, Cornelia Vogel, Mary Louise Warner, Amelia Schneider, Hazel Snyder, Roberta McCrum, Edith Dillon, Olive Small, Kate

McKenzie, Edna Tesh and Ruth Parkin.

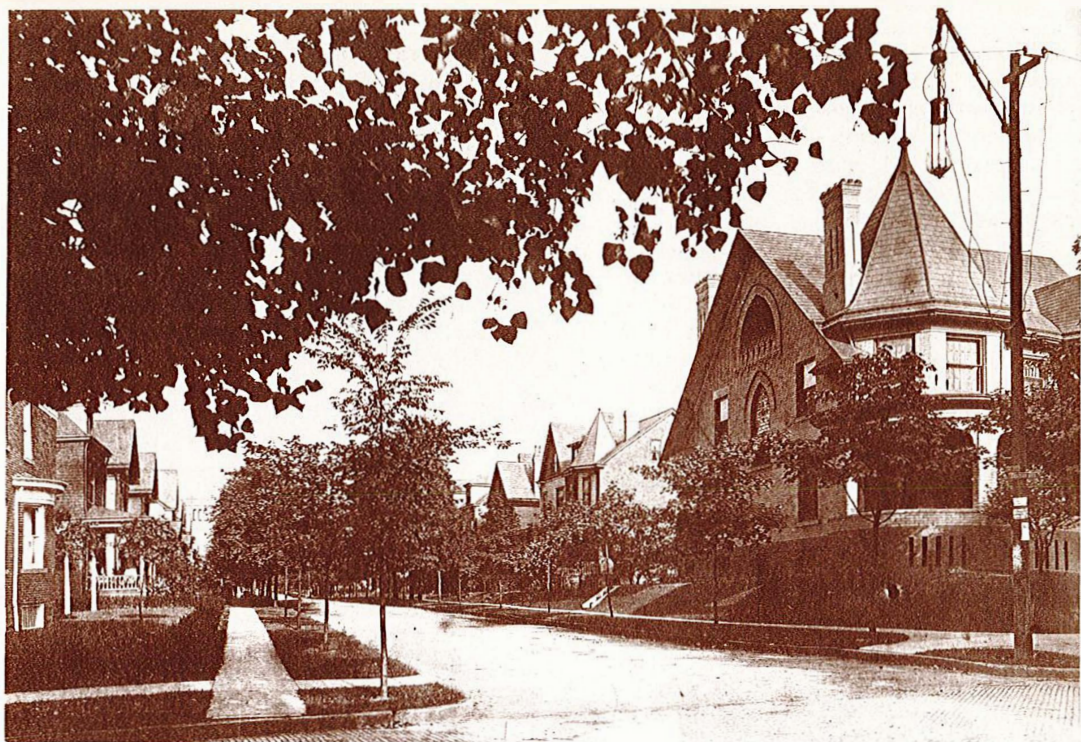
The male chorus included: Richard Baird, Raymond Boyd, Charles and Raymond Conner, Ayres Briner, Kenneth Gray, William Kanhofer, George Robie, Nicholas Hohn, Joe McKenzie, Arthur Largey, Frederick Heinz, Edwin Hastings, Walter Recklein, Hugh Largey, Louis Reller, Harry Lytle, Charles Luft, George Henninger, Silas May, Elmer Schneider, Vincent Kirkland and Walter Parkin.

Appearing as "Ye Visitors" were Mmes. A. E. Johnson, S. F. Gibson, W. F. Parkin, George T. Boyd and J. M. Bowden. "Ye Pupils" were represented by Mmes. George Herron, Wm. Curtis, E. W. Duckwall, E. J. Robinson, W. G. Snyder, William Anderson, J. R. Brown, Miss Mary Ferguson, Miss Francis McCaslin, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. McKenzie and Messrs. A. P. Meyer, L. Hagmaier, George B. Weldin, Oscar Noel, George L. Illig, Edwin S. Hanna, F. H. Burkhart and Dr. S. E. Lyle.

The town was only about three years old when contractor Lynn Love built a three-story building on Commercial Avenue — the tallest building in town then. His brother Ross H. Love, a painter, opened a paint store on the first floor. The upper floor was used for meetings and was known as **Love Hall**. It was here in March of 1897 that Prof. Mick started his first regular dancing classes. Prior to that classes had been held occasionally in **Bortz Hall**, above Bortz General Store at the corner of Center Avenue and Second Street.

"Madam" Ziegler held classes in **Cooper's Hall** (above what is now Towne Drugs). In the early 1900's, when that was **McKenzie's Hall**, Carl Heinrich had classes there, and at The Woman's Club after it opened. Dancing classes were held in **Garage Hall** too, (over Artzberger's on Freeport Road). That was a very popular place for large private parties, prior to World War I. Most of the High School Proms were held there in the period from 1907 to 1919. Betty Beatty had a Dance Studio on the third floor of the Borough Building during the 1930's. In the 1940's Helen Trimble Hartley conducted classes in the American Legion Building. In the 1950's Marjorie Succop held classes in the school.





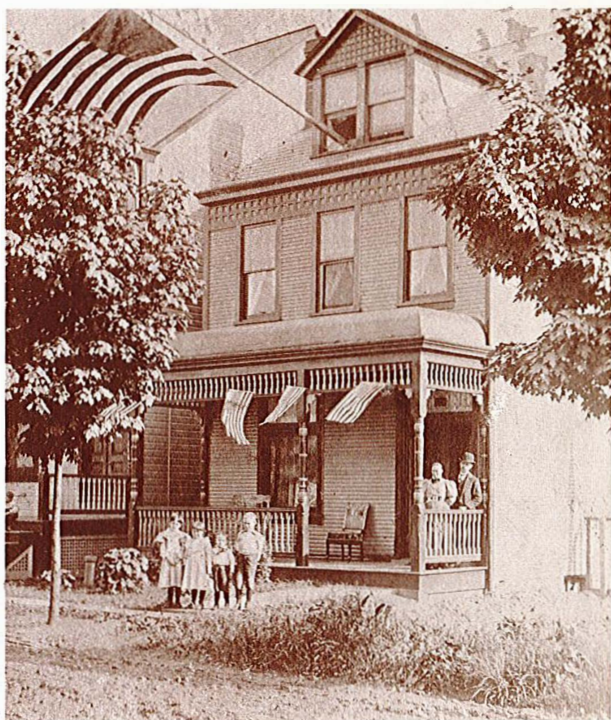
Courtesy George S. Roble

The streets of the lower town were all paved in 1899. Elms, maples and poplars lined the neat boardwalks and the town boasted the latest in street lights when this picture was taken of Dr. Edward L. Czarneichi's home at the corner of Eastern Ave., looking west on Third St. A Polish veterinarian, he served on the Board of Health and was a Councilman at the turn of the century.

As soon as the Aspinwall Land Company was organized, and the plan of the town was laid out, the company built five double houses on the north side of 5th St. There were five small rooms in each side. The only utility was cold water. The houses were piped for gas but no gas was available yet. Soft coal was the usual fuel with oil or kerosene lamps for light. There were no sewers either, so each home had a neat "Chic Sale" in the back corner of the lot.

The town was designed for upper middle-class families, with homes ranging in price from \$2,500 to \$5,000. As soon as homes were built the Land Co. extended boardwalks, water lines and gas lines. The streets remained rough graded dirt roads for nearly a decade, as can be seen here in front of the Kean house. Two 12-inch boards laid flat, with narrower boards on a slope at each side, provided some protection to keep feet out of the mud at street crossings but were very difficult for horse-drawn vehicles to maneuver.

Most of the larger homes were built after 1895, however there were two



Courtesy Mrs. William Reck

The Kean home on Third St., built in 1891.



outstanding exceptions in those first building years, both on the hill. The Clifton Beach home on the eastern side of Center Ave. and the W. N. Sauer home on the western side. Both fronted on 6th St. Both homes were built for generous entertaining, surrounded by large acreage and having carriage houses nearby. From the porches and windows of these homes there was a majestic view of the growing town and the river beyond.

The several stone, brick and terra cotta buildings on the western side of Center Ave., above 6th St., were built by **Fred C. Sauer** (1860-1942). A stone mason, brick layer and carpenter who became an architect, he was born in Heidleberg and educated in Stuttgart, Germany. After graduating, at 19, he came immediately to Pittsburg where he worked with E. M. Butz until starting his own business in 1884.

He started building in Aspinwall as early as 1894. On October 10, 1896 Council granted permission for him to lay a brick sidewalk abutting his property from 6th St. to 9th St. (Part of that sidewalk still exists.) In 1904 he organized, and became president of, the Aspinwall-Delafield Land Co. In 1928-30 he remodeled a chicken house and garage into the apartment house "Heidleberg" seen above.



Courtesy Carl Forster

"Heidleberg" — Center Ave. — 1967

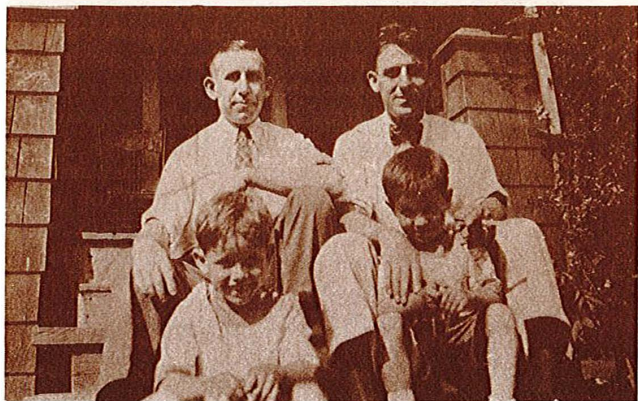
The **Zieger Brothers** were born in Hamburg, Germany, sons of J. F. Zieger, one of that country's top florists. **Ernest** came to America about 1886. His young brother, **Herman B.**, celebrated his 17th birthday on shipboard before docking in New York on Easter Sunday in 1888. They both came to Sharpsburg to live with the Heinz family. (Frederick, cousin and partner of H. J. Heinz, had been the foreman at their father's greenhouses in Hamburg.) H. B. Zieger married Katherine Buchler in 1900 and became Heinz's farm boss in 1901.



Courtesy H. B. Zieger

This 1896 photo, taken from Eastern Ave., shows the Zieger Bros. greenhouses at the corner of 5th St opposite the "Cook House." H. B. Zieger arranged financial backing with the Aspinwall Land Company and built them himself. It was he who planted the trees along the streets of the town, for Sam Miller.





Courtesy Mrs. F. E. Marshall

L. to R., top step—Francis Earl Marshall, known as Frank or “Midge”, and his good friend, Charles (Pal) Heerlein. The Heerlein family moved into one of the first five houses built on 5th St. Front row—John McCormick Marshall, 6, and Austin Taylor Marshall, 5, sons of Frank. This picture was taken in 1928.

**George V. Bowman** settled his family on 3rd St. in 1890. Two years later his wife, Lizzie M. Bowman, signed the borough petition. On Aug. 22, 1893, Mr. Bowman was one of 17 men who met to organize a legal fire department. He was named to the Law Committee responsible for drawing up By-Laws. A month later he was elected the first president of Hose Co. No. 1. His son Arthur belonged to a Literary group which met in the school each month for Debates. These Debates were big “social events” in the life of the town then. In May 1896 Arthur Bowman took the negative side of the question “That Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished” with Charles Smith on the affirmative side. Arthur was secretary of the Jeffersonian Literary Society which was organized in Oct. 1896, and it was he who gave the Graduation Address for the Class of 1897.



Courtesy Mrs. F. E. Marshall

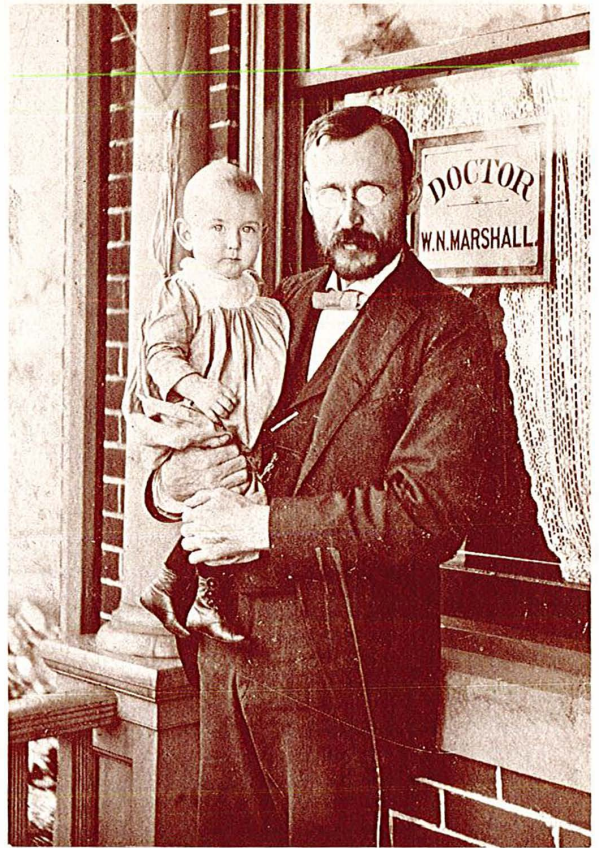
Henry Rice Marshall, extreme left, was a railroad man all his life. Every summer his family went camping. This 1915 picture shows typical camping clothes of that period. His wife, Sarah Bentzel Marshall, is standing to the right of the steps. In the black cap, behind the tree, is son, John McCormick, Aspinwall’s first World War I victim. The H. R. Marshall family was the 13th family to settle in Aspinwall. They lived at 121 First St. It was Henry and Sarah who held the first meeting to organize a Lutheran Church in the town.



It was **Dr. Elwood Johnson Alter** who attended "the birth of Aspinwall", coming here in June 1892 immediately upon graduating from West Penn Medical School. He lived and had his office at 225 First St. (a small cottage, still there). Ill health forced him to turn his practice over to Dr. S. L. McCullough in October of 1895. Although only 32, his heart was bad and he died December 17, 1895 at his father's home in Freeport, Pa., still unmarried. During his short life here he served as Clerk of Council; President of the Board of Health; treasurer of the School Board; a director of the Aspinwall and Brilliant Ferry Co.; and was an organizing member of the First Presbyterian Church.

He was followed by Dr. McCullough, Oct. 1895-June 1896, and a Dr. McGeehan, July to November 1896. Both men used the same office but lived in the Freidle house.

**Dr. William Nesbit Marshall** built a home and office at 131 First St. and took his bride, Jennie Belle Rolhouse, there in December 1896. To most townfolk of 1967 "Old Doc Marshall" was the "first" doctor. Graduating from Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia in 1884, he met his wife in 1887 when he became resident physician at the Allegheny City Poor Farm where her father was Superintendent. He resigned there in 1896

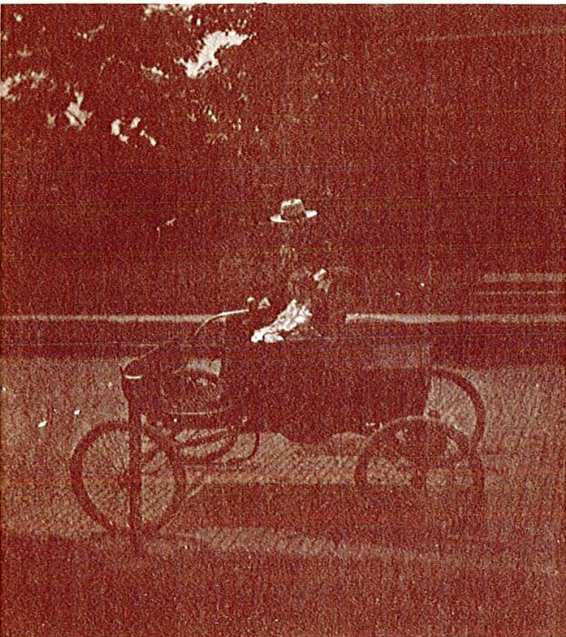


Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

Dr. Marshall holding son Wm. R. Marshall - 1898

and devoted the next 51 years to general practice. He believed in "the total being" — mind as well as body — and served 46 years on the School Board, all but 4 as president. He was also on the Board of Health and was a director of Citizens Deposit and Trust Co. in Sharpsburg for 30 yrs. He retired in 1947 after 63 years in medicine and died August 10, 1950 at the age of 90. His sons, William R. (1897-1951) and John L. (1899-1957), both became doctors and practiced with him in Aspinwall. His daughters, Mary Belle (seen riding with him in the town's first "horseless carriage" in 1901) and Janet Nesbit, both married and raised their families in Aspinwall, and still live there.

Other early doctors included: Dr. McLeod George, 4th St., 1897-1899; Dr. Walter Witherspoon, First St., 1898; Dr. Lewis Mitchell, First and Eastern, 1903; Dr. Walter Beyers, Freeport Rd., 1907; Dr. Harry Vaught, Brilliant Ave., 1907.



Courtesy Mrs. Mary Murphy





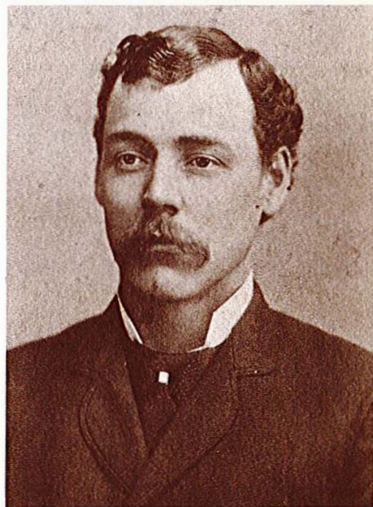
Courtesy Mrs. J. M. Harper

#### W. B. McNeely Family about 1897

William Bascom McNeely and his wife, Ann Marcella (Gibson) McNeely, brought their family to Aspinwall early in 1891, to a little cottage on 5th St. They were both charter members of the United Presbyterian Church in which all of the family sang in the choir at one time or another.

The children are, l. to r.: Nancy Luella, born July 12, 1883 - died August 6, 1966; Elizabeth Edna, born January 5, 1878 and still living; Wm. Gibson McNeely, born September 28, 1887, living in Bedford, Ohio in 1967; Estella Mae, born September 26, 1880 - died February 18, 1966; and Mary Bell, known as "Mame", born July 26, 1875 - died August 28, 1946.

Stella, Nannie and William all attended Aspinwall schools. Nannie was assistant to postmaster J. K. Berkstresser in 1901. She married Ralph A. Miller in October 1902, at the family home on 5th St., just as Elizabeth had done when she married Wm. J. Bailey in January 1899 and as Stella did in 1901 when she married Wm. J. Martsof. Wm. Gibson worked at Deshler's grocery on 3rd St. during the early 1900's and left Aspinwall in 1911.



Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

James B. Hazlett took an active interest in the government of the borough, serving as a Councilman from 1897 to 1902. In 1906 he was elected Burgess and served three years, then returned to Council again for two years in 1910.



Courtesy Mrs. J. R. Strohm

**THE RAMBO GIRLS**, Della (L.), Margaret (R.) and 7 year-old Elizabeth, with Marion Madore and her cousin (dark skirt) in the back yard of 333 2nd St. The Sinning house is seen in the right background.

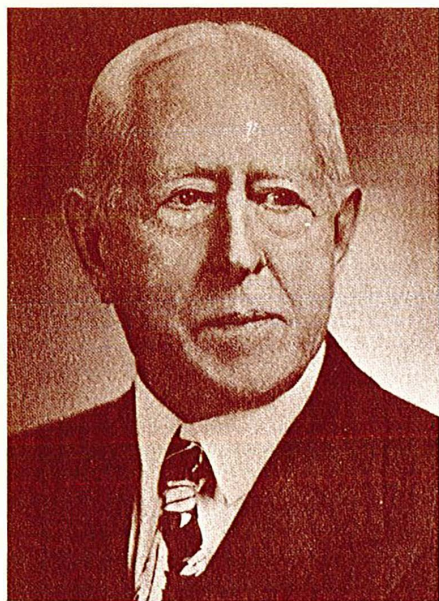




Courtesy Mrs. Paul Warnhoff

**Herbert H. Meyer** and his wife, **Annie LeGoullon Meyer**, are seen in "The Cuckoo Nest", a room in their home at 223 Virginia Ave. where they displayed their large collection of antiques — Decanters, Mustache Cups, Sleigh Bells, Steins, Handcarved Meerschaum Pipes, Rare Clocks and 200 Music Boxes, all of which played.

Mr. Meyer (1879-1962) and his wife (1878-1962) were married in 1904 and came to Aspinwall in 1919. He worked with his father in the W. C. Meyer & Son dry goods store in Sharpsburg until selling out in 1929. After retiring, he was associated with a limestone quarry in Templeton, Pa. until 1933 when he joined his brothers, Albert P. and Edward J. Meyer, in founding the Buckite Refractories Company in Woodville, Ohio. This picture was taken a few years after the Meyers' Golden Wedding Anniversary.



Courtesy Mrs. John Marshall

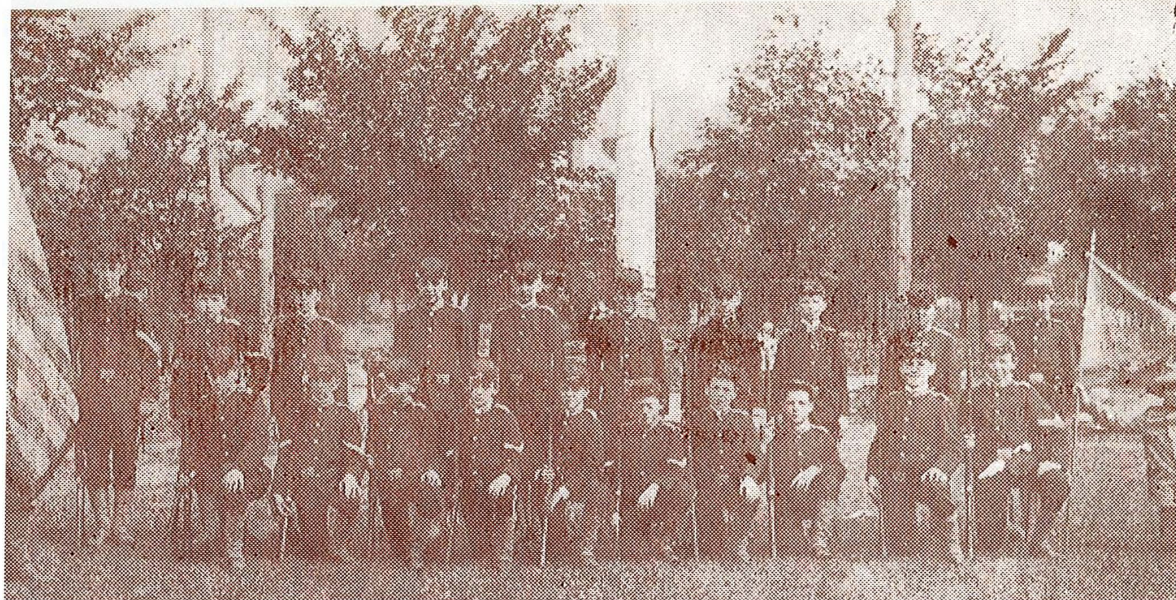
**Charles C. Henderson**

At the age of 87 **Charles C. Henderson** had accumulated 207 years of business experience! Born in 1863, he went to work as a messenger boy and clerk for Spang-Chalfant Company when 15. After 25 years, when General Manager, he resigned to help form the Reliance Tube Co. When Reliance was sold to Allegheny Steel Company he went along as General Manager. In 1934, when vice-president, he retired after 50 years in the steel industry.

By 1950 he was president of three banking institutions he helped organize: Dime Savings Building and Loan Association (Secretary 1896 - President 1946); the Citizens Deposit and Trust Company (Director and Treasurer 1898 - President 1914); The Bank of Millvale organized in 1900. He was the first treasurer of Peoples Building and Loan Assn. of Etna in 1888 and Burgess of Etna in 1893 for one term.

October 12, 1905 he married Eloise Adams (1873-1964) of New York City and came to 205 Eastern Ave., Aspinwall. In 1926 they moved to Glenshaw where he died in December 1956. They had two daughters; Mary, who married Dr. John Marshall of Aspinwall, and Lucy, who is Mrs. Albert McQuown and lives in Orlando, Florida.





Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

### Boys Brigade - 1899

This picture was taken July 4, 1899 in front of the Community Flag Pole at the corner of Center and Commercial Avenues where the boys had raised the flag and fired a salute at sunrise. Companies S and T of the United States Boys Brigade were organized in Aspinwall in 1897 (as seen below). They were part of the 1st Regiment of Pittsburg. This was a youth movement somewhat similar to the Boy Scouts of today, but more on a military order.

Reading from l. to r. in the first row are: Capt. A. B. Reese (beside flag), kneeling - Wilbur Gibson, Corp. Blake Lytle, Gray Alter, Corp. Dewitt Clifton, Arthur Douglas, Corp. Wilbur Brittan, Adam Hazlett, Leon Mcweeney, Charles Reese, Corp. Paul Douglas, and Robert

Dyson, standard bearer. Back row - Howard Brittan, Corp. Frank Holmes, Fred Robie, Clarence Austin, Paul Wolf, Edgar Rice, John Friedman, Walter Brown, "Mack" Marshall and William Heerlein.

This picture was clipped from the December 13, 1945 issue of The Herald. It had appeared there through the kindness of Welton B. Brown of Franklin, Pa. who sent it to the paper. It was he who started the first Sharpsburg-Elna Herald newspaper route in Aspinwall. His sister, Helen Brown (Foley), wrote the first Aspinwall column carried regularly in The Herald. Mr. Brown left Aspinwall in 1914 and settled in Franklin in 1929. There he was superintendent of maintenance for the three Joy Manufacturing Plants.



Courtesy George S. Robie

### Future Soldiers - 1897





**Draft Board No. 11 - 1917**

Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

This group of men had the dubious distinction of being the first Draft Board for the lower Allegheny Valley communities during World War I. They conducted the Selective Service System registration of all men between the ages of 18 and 45. These "order numbers" were then sent to Washington where they went into a goldfish bowl and each man's "call to service" was determined by a lottery when numbers were periodically drawn from the bowl. Secretary of War, Newton D. Baker, drew the first number, opening the Military Draft of World War I, on June 5, 1917.

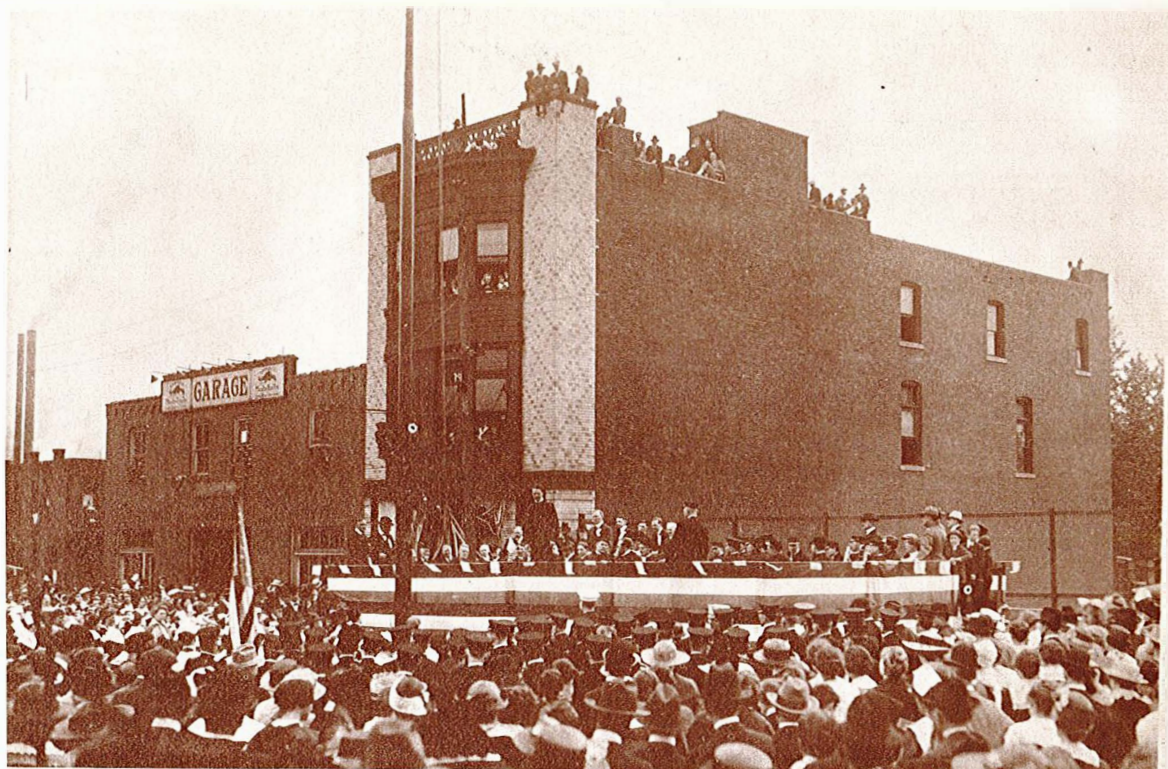
**Samuel R. McMorran**, (seen on opposite page), was Aspinwall's Burgess during World War I, serving from January 5, 1914 to September 20, 1920. Two months after he took office, Frank and Clifford Humes announced their intention to build a garage next to the town's first theatre, on Brilliant Avenue. It was there, on Independence Day 1918, next to the island in the street, that he accepted a Flag honoring Aspinwall's Service men and women (seen above right). It was placed beside the Borough's \$150.00 flagpole which had been erected on the island amid special services on Memorial Day 1917.

Draft Board No. 11, serving the Aspinwall-Sharpsburg area, was located in the Y.M.C.A. building in Sharpsburg. Medical examinations were given on the second floor.

Several Aspinwall men are in this picture. Third from left in the third row is Dr. Baumgartner. Next to him is Dr. William N. Marshall, one of the medical examiners. In the same row, second from the right, is William R. Marshall, who was, at that time, a medical student. Third from the left in the fourth row is Elmer Schuetz, an Aspinwall resident who owned The Sharpsburg-Etna Herald at that time.

Sam McMorran brought his wife, Carrie V. (Crawford) McMorran, and eight children to Aspinwall in 1898. November 11, 1901 he was appointed to Council and served until February 25, 1907 when he resigned to become the town's fourth postmaster. He held that post for seven years. Mr. McMorran was also Secretary and Agent for the Aspinwall-Delafield Land Co. In 1914 he opened the S. R. McMorran Real Estate and Insurance Co. on Brilliant Ave. From 1912 to 1931 he was Justice of the Peace. An industrious man, devoted to community interests, he was Presbyterian by faith and Republican in his political belief.





Courtesy Mrs. W. F. Agnew

Service Flag Dedication on Brilliant Avenue, July 4, 1918



Courtesy of Mrs. R. R. Rickley

Samuel R. McMorran

#### DEDICATORY CEREMONIES

##### ASPINWALL SERVICE FLAG

FLAG POLE — 7:30 P. M.

THURSDAY, JULY 4TH, 1918

"America" ..... Rocereto's Band and Assembly  
 Invocation..... Rev. Paul M. Kinports  
 Address—"Declaration of Independence".....  
 .....Rev. J. A. Duff  
 "Keep The Home Fires Burning" .....  
 ..... Rocereto's Band and Red Cross  
 Presentation of Service Flag .....Hon. Thos. J. Ford  
 Acceptance of Flag.....Burgess S. R. McMorran  
 Selection.....Rocereto's Band and School Children  
 Address.....Mrs. E. W. Duckwall  
 Selection..... Rocereto's Band  
 Address—"Our Boys"..... C. M. Barr  
 "Star Spangled Banner" ..Rocereto's Band and Assembly  
 Address ..... Rev. A. F. Walker  
 Address .....Rev. Thomas G. Hicks  
 Benediction.....Rev. Father Boyle

BAND CONCERT UNTIL 10:00 P. M.

J. T. AUSTEN, Chairman  
 S. R. CHASE, Treasurer  
 MRS. E. W. YOUNG, Secretary  
 Council Committee—Messrs. Austen, Wamhoff and Burkhardt  
 PROF. F. D. KEOCH, Director of Music

Courtesy Charles F. Lytle



## CHIEF MARSHAL'S ORDER.

Aspinwall, Pa., May 23rd, 1917.

1. Having been appointed Chief Marshal of the parade to be held in connection with the dedication of the Borough Flag and Flag Pole, I hereby appoint H. B. Conner, Adjutant. He will be respected and obeyed accordingly.

2. E. R. Kreig is appointed Chief of Staff. Staff will consist of the Burgess, Members of Council, Members of the School Board and Members of Executive Committee.

3. The Parade will move promptly at 2:30 P. M., from Brilliant Avenue and First Street. All organizations will report to the Adjutant not later than 2:15 P. M.

4. Parade will traverse the following route: From First Street and Brilliant Avenue to Brilliant; north to Fourth; west to Western Avenue; south to First Street; east to Brilliant; north to Second; east to Lexington; north to Fourth; west to Brilliant; south to Third; west to Center Avenue; south to Second; east to Brilliant and south to Grand Stand at Flag Pole.

5. Parade formation: First Division: Chief Marshal and Staff; Band; Company L, 1st West Virginia Infantry; Company K, 3rd Penn'a Infantry, Veterans of 1861 to 1865 in automobiles; Detachment of Company G, 4th Regiment Sons of Veterans Reserve; St. George Cadets; Aspinwall Volunteer Fire Department. (Automobiles will be provided for the Civil War Veterans.)

Second Division, in charge of Prof. R. G. Walters and Prof. J. J. Isensee: Band; School Children; Aspinwall Branch American Red Cross Society and all other ladies of the Borough; Male citizens of the Borough; Automobiles.

6. Organizations participating will assemble as follows: Chief Marshal and Staff on First Street, right resting on Brilliant Avenue; Band, left of Staff; Company L, 1st West Virginia Infantry, left of Band; Company K, 3rd Penn'a Infantry, left of Company L; Veterans of 1861 to 1865, left of Company K; Company G, 4th Regt. S. of V. Reserve, left of Veterans; St. George Cadets, left of Company G; Aspinwall Volunteer Fire Dept., left of Cadets.

Second Division: On Second Street, right resting on Brilliant Avenue. Band facing east. Public School Children, left of Band; Aspinwall Branch American Red Cross Society and all ladies of the Borough, left of School Children; Aspinwall Civic Association, left of Red Cross; all unattached men of the Borough, left of Civic Association.

Automobiles participating in the Parade will form on Third Street, right resting on Brilliant.

7. Any other marching bodies desiring to participate will notify the Adjutant as early as possible that they may be assigned to position.

By order of,

H. B. CONNER, Adjutant.

H. C. LEA, Chief Marshal.

**Ladies. Please Take Notice.**—The Aspinwall Branch American Red Cross Society cordially invite you to join with them in the parade. White dresses and uniform white cap to be worn. (These caps at a nominal price may be secured by application to the ladies in charge at Presbyterian Church.)

**Citizens. Generally, Please Take Notice.**—It would add greatly to the patriotic spirit of the occasion if our homes and places of business were suitably decorated.

## FLAG RAISING PROGRAM

MR. S. R. McMORRAN, Master of Ceremonies

1. Invocation - - - Rev. E. H. Greenlee

2. Selection by the Band

3. Presentation of Flag - - - Rev. O. K. Walker

4. Song, "The Star-Spangled Banner"

By the School Children, Choral Club and Public

5. Eulogy of the Flag - - - Hon. Thomas J. Ford

6. Song, "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean"

By the School Children and Choral Club

7. Patriotism - - - Hon. Charles H. Kline

8. Address - - - Rev. M. P. Boyle

9. Address - - - Rev. J. A. Duff

10. Closing Prayer - - - Rev. Paul M. Kinports

11. Song, "America"

By School Children, Choral Club and Public, accompanied by Band

## COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS

MR. C. E. CONNER, Chairman

MR. E. E. BOYD      MR. C. C. HENDERSON      MR. E. R. KREIG  
MR. JAS. McCASLIN      MR. T. C. POLLOCK      MR. C. H. WAMHOFF

MRS. T. J. FORD      MRS. C. D. DARBY  
MRS. G. G. GIBSON      MISS SCOTT

MR. J. L. LYTLE      MR. THEO. STAUB      MR. J. J. ISENSEE  
MR. H. E. LEFEVRE      MR. F. H. BURKHART      MR. J. L. O'TOOLE  
MR. A. W. MONTGOMERY

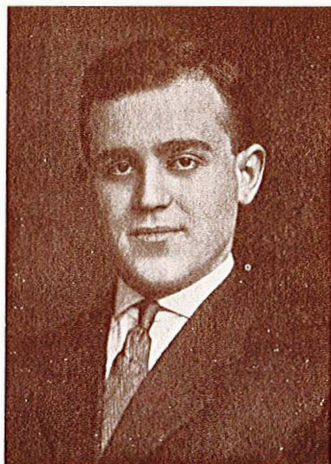




Courtesy Charles F. Lytle

**Catherine McMorran**

A Red Cross Nurse, Burgess S. R. McMorran's daughter served with the Allegheny General Hospital Unit in France, where she contracted Asthma which kept her from nursing after her return. She died early in 1959.



Courtesy Charles F. Lytle

**John McCormick Marshall**

Aspinwall's first World War I casualty, "Mack" Marshall, was killed by lightning June 28, 1917, in the YMCA tent at Camp Gaillard, near Hulton, Pa., a little less than a month after beginning his training.



Courtesy Charles F. Lytle

**Naomi K. Kennedy**

The sister of Leslie D. Kennedy, who brought his family from Oakmont just prior to WWI and lived on 4th St. for nearly three decades, Miss Kennedy was a Red Cross Nurse stationed at Camp Gordon.

## ASPINWALL HONOR ROLL

John L. Albacker	Harry O. Dressing
Joseph Albacker	Bertram F. Duckwall
Hugh Albertson	W. Percy Duff
William Albertson	Ralph Dunlap
Howard Albright	Charles H. Edgerton
Virgil Albright	H. A. Ettinger
Charles E. Anderson	John R. Fay
George Anderson	Raymond S. Fay
Paul Autenreith	Thomas S. Fay
Joseph Edwin Balmer	Charles H. Fleming
William Y. Banks	Raymond W. Fuchs
Edwin A. Blaha	Clifford M. Galloway
Thomas Rea Blakley	Howard Galloway
Howard Bock	Robert L. Gang
Carl Martin Bortz	E. E. Gibbons
Alfred D. Bowden	F. J. Good
Raymond R. Boyd	Lawrence Hawkins
Wilfred Boyd	C. Harold Hillis
Earl Brockway	Walter R. Hillis
Wade Bryson	Nicholas R. Hahn
Frank Cain	Leo R. Horstman
Charles E. Conner Jr.	William C. Humes
Robert J. Cook	Robert Isensee
Charles Edgar Curran	Harry Jacoby
David John Curran	Stanley Jacoby
Myron J. Czarniecki	George W. James
Grafton M. Darby	Tim Jordan
Arthur H. Douglas	William Kanhofer
Edwin S. Douglas	Samuel M. Kier
Paul Douglas	Irvine N. King
Oliver Byron Douthett	Vincent L. Kirkland

## ASPINWALL HONOR ROLL

George B. Kissinger	George L. Parsons
G. J. Kleinfelter	Joseph Patterson
John Klingsmith	Herbert Peterson
Raymond J. Knipe	J. B. Rambo
Arthur M. Largey	Jim Reitano
Hugh P. Largey	Albert L. Roth
Earl Lehman	James H. Saint
Roy Lehman	Aubrey C. Scott
Carl W. Lutz	Charles H. Smeck
B. James Mahan	George A. Shaw
Francis E. Marshall	William W. Sime
John M. Marshall	Fred G. Sladden
Edwin Maushart	Francis Sneeringer
Herbert May	Howard W. Snyder
William McConnell	Arthur J. Stone
James H. McCormack	Thomas E. Sweeney
George S. McCrum	John W. Sykes
Fred M. McHugh	William C. Taylor
Harry E. McKown	Albert R. Tegge
J. Emmet McLaughlin	Kendall S. Tesh
J. Leo McLaughlin	Donald Thomas
Paul V. McMorran	Charles A. Vaught
Clifford Meyer	Clarence J. Waldo
Herman Meyer	Eugene L. Waldo
Joseph A. Mimm	Rudolph Weible
Edward J. Parker	Emslie S. White
Charles M. Parkin	Albert Glenn Williams
Walter F. Parkin	Malcolm Young
	Y. M. C. A.
Rev. O. K. Walker	R. G. Walters
(From July 4, 1918 Service Flag Dedication Program)	

This is the Honor Roll as it appeared in the booklet published for the Independence Day Celebration and Service Flag Dedication, held July Fourth, 1918. The

above pictures, and the program on a preceeding page, also are taken from that booklet which was saved by Charles F. Lytle.



## Four Brothers Uphold Old Glory



E. S. DOUGLAS



J. W. DOUGLAS



W. P. DOUGLAS

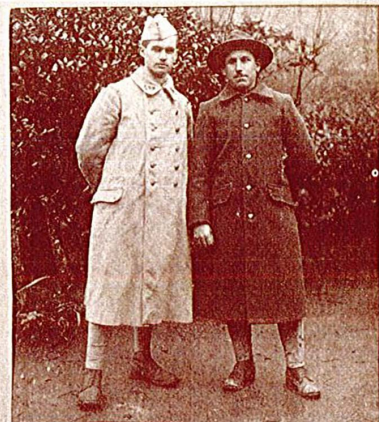


A. H. DOUGLAS

Four sons of Mrs William P Douglas of 228 North Fourth street, Aspinwall, are in the service. Corp Arthur Hess Douglas, with the Three Hundred and Nineteenth Infantry, now on the firing line in France; Edwin Stanton Douglas, a gunner on the transport Constantia; William Paul Douglas, Tenth Battalion, Depot Brigade, Camp Lee, and John Webster Douglas, trainee in the Motor Truck Service at Camp Jackson.

Courtesy Arthur H. Douglas

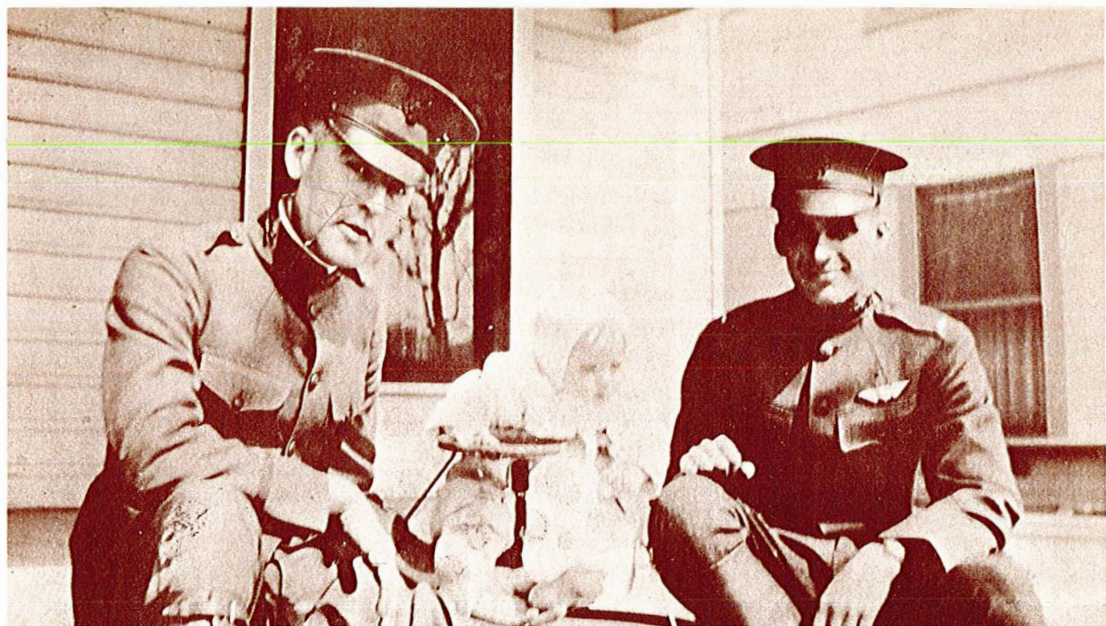
The Fifteenth United States Engineers, Expeditionary Forces, in World War I, was the first engineering regiment to leave the United States for overseas duty; the first armed alien force to land in Great Britain since the days of William the Conqueror, and the first volunteer unit to land in France. Three Aspinwall youths were members of this unit's famed Company "C": John A. Graham, Melvin J. Thompson and Francis E. (Frank) Marshall, seen at right. This company, organized at Camp D. D. Gailiard, near Hulton, Pa. on May 28, 1917, was the first to disembark when the White Star liner "Baltic" docked at Havre. They made history by building the first bridge constructed by American army engineers in France; started the ordnance depot at Abainville; established a world's record for rapid laying of narrow-gauge track and aided in reconstruction of the battered Verdun-Sedan line.



Frank Marshall and a French soldier taken in France in November 1917

Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall





Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

L. to R., Charles M. Parkin, C. M. Parkin, Jr., Walter F. Parkin - summer 1917.

**Charles Parkin**, a world acclaimed authority on uses of crucible steel, was the first American of the family. Born January 26, 1838 in Yorkshire, England, he came to Pittsburgh in 1859. He founded the Miller, Barr & Parkin firm (later Crescent Steel, and then Crucible Steel Company of America). In 1890 he started the Pittsburg Tin Plate plant at New Kensington (later American Sheet & Tin Plate Co.). On June 8, 1863 he married Elizabeth Fletcher in Sheffield, England. She died January 29, 1872, leaving two young sons: Walter F. Parkin (1864-1940) and Charles B. Parkin (1869-1889). December 24, 1874 he married Anna V. Dravo and they had five children: Edwin H., Wm. M., Harry D., Alice and M. Bruce.

**Walter Parkin** followed his father into the steel business. He married Margaret McDonald and came to Aspinwall about 1895, building a large home on Freeport Ave. near his brothers-in-law, R. A. McDonald and R. Y. McCrum (both early Councilmen). He had three children: Walter F., Jr., Charles M. and Margaret Ruth Parkin, all of whom graduated from Aspinwall schools.

**Charles McDonald Parkin** began his distinguished military career in 1915 as a Private in Company K of the old 18th Regiment of Pittsburgh. In 1916, he was commissioned in the Regular Army. By April 1917 he had become a Captain and during World

War I served in France with the 55th Infantry. At the beginning of World War II he was promoted to Colonel and took the 135th Infantry to Europe. There he served with the Allied Force Headquarters in Algiers; organized a Military Government School; trained U.S. and British officers to govern Italy and was vice president of the Allied Control Commission. Retired, he lives in Florida now. His son, **Pvt. Robert J. Parkin**, captured by the Germans soon after the Battle of the Bulge, starved to death two weeks before the fighting ended. Another son, **Charles M. Parkin, Jr.**, served in the Chinese-Burma theatre and by 1947 was a Lt. Col. with the Engineering Board at Ft. Belvoir, Va.

**Walter F. Parkin, Jr.** (1894-1938) was one of the first 20 pilots trained and commissioned at Kelly Field, Texas during World War I. Later he was issued the third U. S. transport pilot's license and became Chief of the Pacific Coast Aeronautical Division, Department of Commerce. He issued the first licenses to Charles A. Lindbergh and Howard Hughes. He quit active flying when 40 and was the last of the first "war birds" when he died.

**Wm. M. Parkin** (1877-1962) founded the Parkin Chemical Co. His son, **F. H. Parkin** of Fox Chapel, liberated the town of Robaix, France in 1944. **F. H. Parkin, Jr.**, of Aspinwall, earned the Air Medal and nine clusters as a pilot in Viet Nam and is now the youngest seaplane pilot in the state.

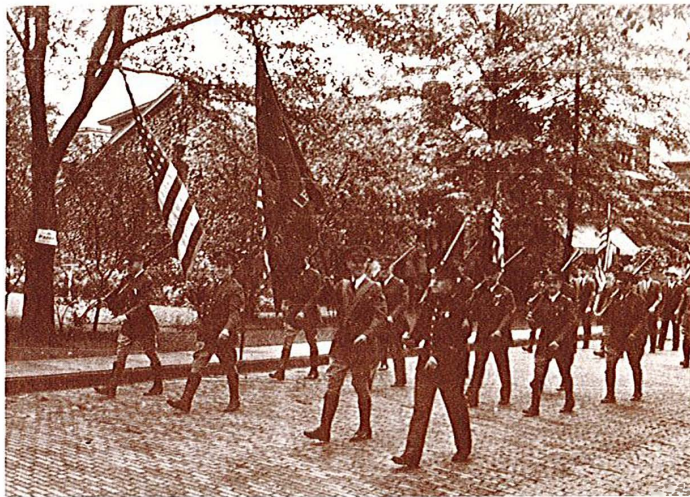




**American Legion Home - 1967**

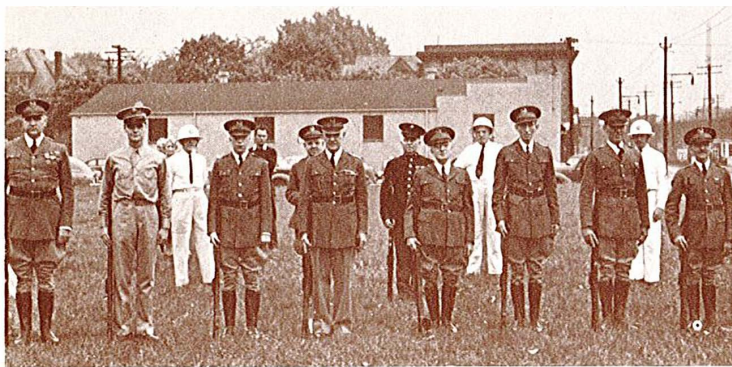
Town & Country Studio

The men of Aspinwall have always been proud to serve their country in time of need and a large percentage of the male population are veterans of one war or another. On June 26, 1919 fifty-four men signed an application for the formation of American Legion Post No. 77. Harry C. Lea served as Chairman for the organization of the Post and was Commander for three terms, 1921-1923. At first The Legion met in the Borough Offices on 1st St. in the rear of the Hastings building. Then they moved to the old PRR station at Eastern and Freeport. In August 1922 the station was moved across Commercial Ave. to its present location. During the years 41 men have proudly served as Commander of Post No. 77.



**July 4, 1940**

Courtesy Wm. Kanhofer



Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

**Memorial Day - 1943**

It was tradition to end the Memorial Day ceremonies with a final Military Salute in front of the Honor Roll on the village green. This 1943 Honor Guard, ready to fire their Salute, includes (in uniform): 1. to r. — Harry Burris, Chester Allen, David Hastings, Ivan Cramer, James Sellers, Charles Burroway, Harry Seidel, William R. Marshall, William S. Kanhofer and Aubrey C. Scott.



The second World War had many effects upon the town. There were several "young" widows now—with a need for a social life that was proper without a man. There were fatherless children who needed new recreational outlets to help fill the empty gap at home. There were men returned home from all corners of the globe who now knew from personal experience just how much "brotherhood" was needed in the world. War marriages had brought new young men and women to the town who needed ways of getting acquainted. Thus the mid 1940's saw a new flurry of social activity at all levels. The community-centered, service-oriented Kiwanis Club was one of the organizations born at that time.

**The Kiwanis Club of Aspinwall**, serving the Fox Chapel Area, was organized on June 13, 1944. Mack Mahey was the first president. His vice-president was R. B. Tedrow. C. R. "Mac" MacLean was secretary and the treasurer was E. E. "Cal" Grassel. The charter was formally presented to these officers August 8, 1944. The Kiwanis Club of Springdale was the sponsoring organization for the new club.

Directors at the time of chartering were: Robert D. Fleming, Dr. J. N. Nauhaus, C. A. Sherman, J. L. Kendall, Jr., W. G. White, J. B. Nicholas, Harry Johnson, Paul Stauffer and Ben Thomas.

In order of their terms, past presidents of the club are as follows: Mack A. Mahey, R. B. Tedrow, William Fink, Paul Stauffer, Wm. G. White, Howard Blank, Henry Wolfarth, Howard Booth, Stanley Fleming, Harry B. Conner, Howard Booth, Dr. C. E. Dimmick, Michael A. Coco.

Carl R. Forster, Dr. Niles Norman, Neil Buckley, Rev. Charles Hoover, Dr. Jack Roush, Robert Taylor, Henry F. Miller, Irvin Wombold, Frank Nedrow, Robert Breitenstein, Paul Feigenbaum, Richard E. Hastings and in 1967, James E. Donley, Aspinwall Borough Manager.

During the years the club has consistently given food baskets to the poor at Thanksgiving and Christmas; supported work with the blind; sent monthly Care packages and, on a rotating basis, has given a book each month to the library of some church within their service area. In the mid-

1950's the club took on the sponsorship of a Key Club in the local high school. (This is a service club for high school aged boys.)

When the Aspinwall Athletic Field was reopened after the building of the Sharpsburg-Etna By-Pass in the early 1960's, the Kiwanis Club erected a "refreshment stand" type building on the grounds. This is operated by the members of The Aspinwall Youth League and maintained by the borough. The proceeds earned from the sale of soft drinks, popcorn, candy, etc. are retained by The Youth League.

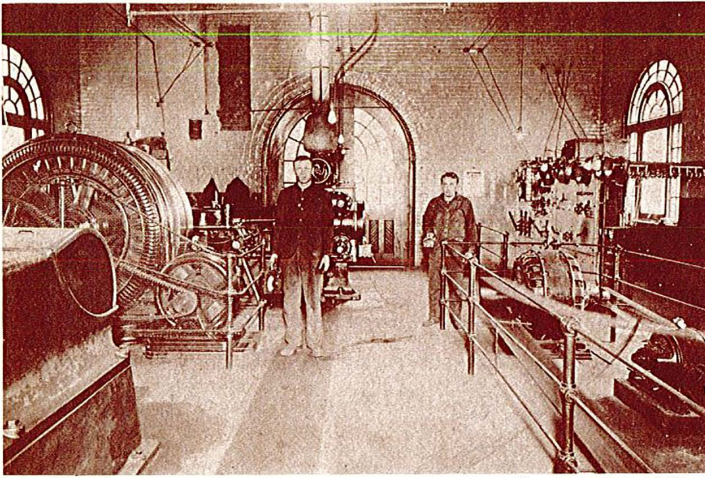
**The Aspinwall Youth League**, a social and service club for boys 13-18, was organized January 19, 1964. It first met at the Aspinwall Lutheran Church and then in September moved into the third floor of the Borough Building which Council made available to the League. The boys transformed one large room into four rooms: a TV lounge, snack bar, office and recreation room. The membership grew rapidly then and in November 1965 the club expanded into the remaining third floor rooms. A study room, new office, a second recreation room and an expanded snack bar were added and by March 1967 the club had 50 members.

The program is self-supporting, each member paying \$6.00 a year to finance the operation of the club which is open four nights a week. There is a physical education program one night each week and monthly socials. The club supports various community service projects and operates the play-ground refreshment stand.

All program planning and disciplinary matters are handled by the officers and board of directors. The 1967 officers are: Ed Delleiro, president; Bill Schiffhauer, v.p.; Jim Griffith, secretary; Bob Massimino, treasurer; Lou Leskowitz, house chairman; Regis Caboron, Dan Davis and Bill Klein, directors.

**Dr. George W. Knight**, great-grandson of William Ganster, Aspinwall's first cobbler, is the club's adult adviser. Dr. Knight opened his first dental office during the summer of 1967. He is well-known throughout the area as an exceptionally able organist and spends many hours each week working with local church choirs.

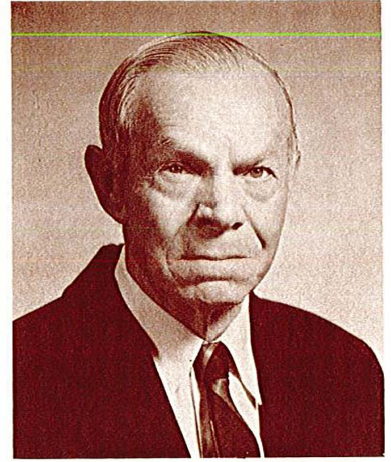




Courtesy Victor Lehner

### Engines and Generators - 1893-1921

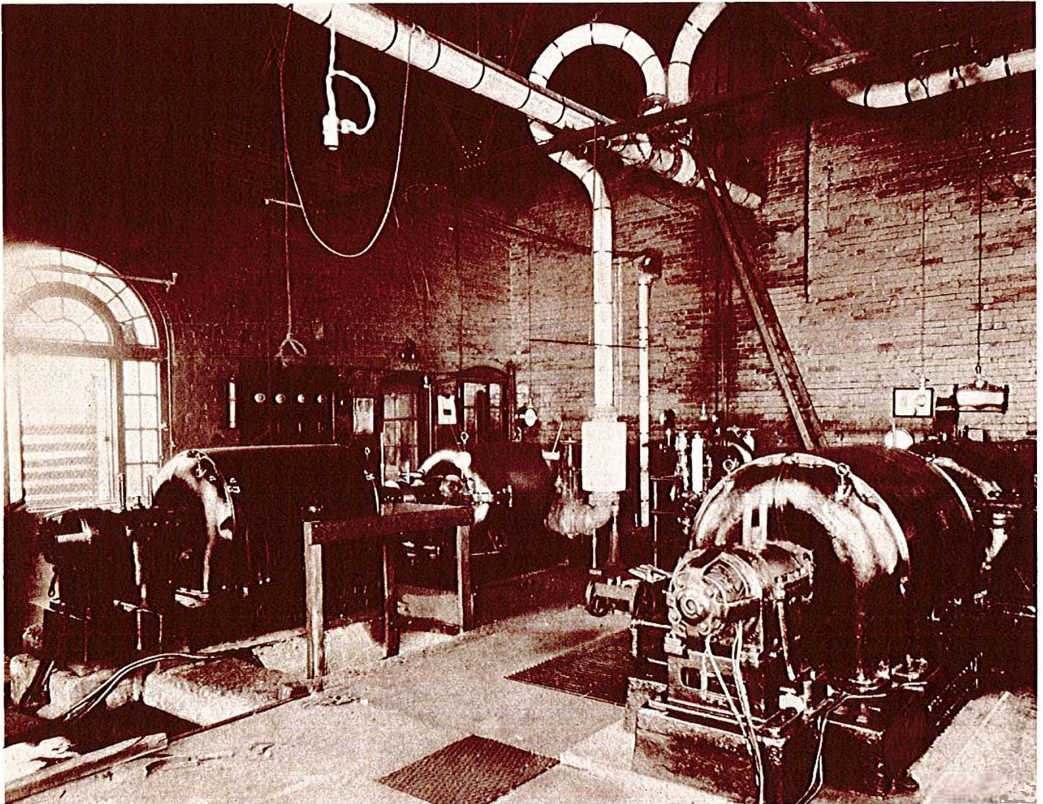
S. D. Miller, of the Aspinwall Land Co., built a Water & Light Plant as part of the original lay-out of the town. The Aspinwall Electric and Water Co., of which H. J. Heinz was president, purchased and ran the plant until 1898. In September 1894 Council contracted for 3 Arc lights-from dusk to 12:15 a.m. - except on nights when the moon was shining -cost not to exceed \$40 a year. Council started proceedings to purchase the plant late in 1896. A special election in December



Courtesy Mrs. E. Quinn

### "Vic" Lehner

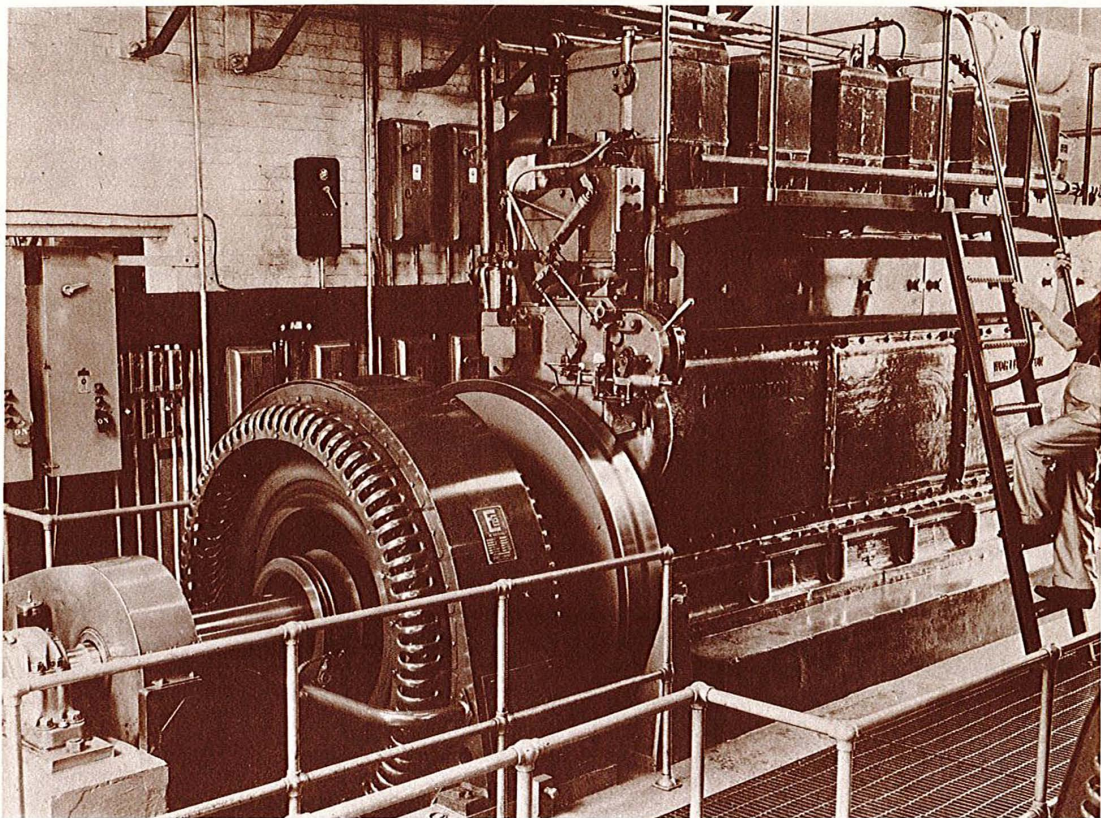
1897 pretty well set the political "power structure" of the borough for the future. The important decision to increase the borough indebtedness by \$25,000 in order to purchase the power plant was decided by a vote of 87 Yea-6 Nay. Now Councilmen could "wheel and deal" with equipment contracts, utility rates, additional jobs and customer services. They would also have to contend with employee and customer demands and complaints, rate increases, and equipment breakdowns.



### Turbines - 1921-1950

Courtesy Victor Lehner





Courtesy Victor Lehner

#### Diesels - - 1950-1967

On January 8, 1898 W. G. Brenner became the first superintendent, at \$75 a month. J. H. Schran charged \$15 to install a \$38 smokestack in February. Charles Archeld and Henry McLaughlin were hired as borough engineers for \$50 a month. On March 19, 1898 taxes were raised two mills to 7 mills. In May a new "long stance" telephone was installed in the Power Plant by the Central District and Printing Telegraph Company. The water rate was increased from 40c to 50c per 1,000 gallons in June. On August 5, 1900 a serious fire at the pumping station resulted in damages of \$423. Mr. Brenner resigned in April 1902. T. J. Carlin was named to replace him in March 1903. In 1904 M. J. Conner assumed the post. "Vic" Lehner took it over in 1910.

A new Water & Light Plant was first proposed in June 1905. (From that time on, a man's attitude about the Power Plant was apt to determine whether he won or lost election to Borough Council.) In October 1905 a broken shaft caused a loss of power for nearly a week and \$5,175 worth of new machinery was purchased. Late in 1907 there was a \$25,000 bond issue for plant improvements; in April 1913 a \$20,000 Bond Issue and \$20,000 again in June 1923. In 1947 Duquesne Light Co. offered \$100,000 for the electric facilities. A year later they offered \$200,000, but Council authorized a \$250,000 bond issue and by November 1950 three new Worthington diesels were in operation. On June 29, 1967 the Plant was finally sold to Duquesne Light Co. for \$510,000.



Courtesy Carl Forster

#### Power Plant — 1967



Courtesy Carl Forster

#### Borough Garages — 1967



**"Vic" Lehner** retired in 1965, at the age of 81, after nearly 64 years as a borough employee, most of which was spent as engineer at the Water & Light Plant.

In 1894 he came from Austria-Hungary with his mother, sister and brother to join an older sister and his father who was employed on the H. J. Heinz farms. Six weeks after their arrival, Mrs. Lehner died of Typhoid Fever. The older sister managed the home at the corner of Delafield and Freeport Roads, (where Humes Bros. now have a Used Car lot) until Mr. Lehner remarried.

Vic started school in Aspinwall. He was ten and spoke only German- the teacher only English- so he transferred to St. Mary's in Sharpsburg where lessons were taught in both languages. In good weather he rode the street car to school and walked, or hitched rides on wagons, to get home. In bad weather street cars were used both ways. During the summer he picked beans, tomatoes and cucumbers on the Heinz farm which at that time covered the entire Delafied section of Aspinwall, extending back past the U. S. Veteran's Hospital, and acres of the Ross Estate, extending out Freeport Rd. beyond the present Fox Chapel Shopping Center.

When only 17, Vic became interested in engineering and pumping equipment while working as operator in the Heinz Kraut & Pickle Factory. Later he worked at the Horseradish Plant as enginer, fireman and millwright. In 1902 he applied for the job of operator at the Aspinwall Pumping Station. When he learned the vote had been only 4-3 in his favor he refused the job. Later Council asked him to reconsider. This he did, starting work Oct. 1, 1902 at \$50 a month.

In 1903 when Heinz gave up their farms in this area and Mr. Lehner was transferred to Sandusky, Ohio, Vic decided to stay here. He found lodging with Mrs. John Apel in Lawrenceville. There he met and married Rose Apel. In 1905 they moved to Aspinwall and raised their five children there. From 1906 to 1912 he was the plant operator. For the next 8 years he worked outside as lineman, meter reader and repairman. When the turbines were installed in 1920 he went back to the plant and remained there as Chief En-

gineer until his retirement. Since then he has been living in Coolidge, Arizona with his daughter Elizabeth, widow of Joseph Quinn, who teaches school there.

**James H. Love** and his wife, Sarah J. Love, came to Aspinwall from Sax-onburg in 1890. Both of them were borough petitioners, as were three of their eight sons. They returned to the farm in 1905 and he died there in 1919. The oldest son, Charles **Homer Love**, was a railroad worker, but it was he who opened the first grocery store in town, in 1891. Injured in a train accident, he died in 1895. **J. Lynn Love** was a contractor. He built many of the early homes and store buildings and the 1905 United Presbyterian Church structure. He moved to California in 1909.

**John M. Love** (1869-1916) was a painting contractor. In 1896 he married Ida W. Friedman (1872-1951), daughter of John and Christine Friedman who had come to town in 1892 and were organizers of the First Presbyterian Church. John was very active in community affairs, serving as vice-president of the fire company and as a councilman (1895-1899). He left town about 1903 but his son Howard still lives in Aspinwall.

**Ross H. Love** (1867-1948) was a painter and paperhanger who did a lot of other things too. He was Fire Chief (1896-1899), High Constable (1898), in 1896 he helped build the Hintermeister Organ and Piano Co. building, in which he held stock; in 1905 he was an unsuccessful Prohibitionist candidate for Borough Council and in later years had a real estate and insurance business on Freeport Rd.

**Joseph Love** was a conductor on the Wabash Railroad. His son Joseph is also a railroad man and is currently mayor of West View Borough. **Frank Love** was a carpenter, **Ira W. Love** a painter, and both kept very busy in the growing town. Edna, the only girl in the family, married Charles Caldwell of Tarentum. **Orr Love** was a paperhanger, a fireman on the railroad, and a teamster. He was severely hurt when unloading stone with his team of horses, back in October of 1896, yet he is the only member of the family still alive. He now lives in California.





The first Young Men's Social Club in Aspinwall was The Colonia Club, organized March 23, 1905. This picture, taken by George R. Robie, shows the members at the club's first anniversary meeting. They are, 1. to r., back row — Chris Vanner, Jesse Kerr, Frank Creese, Frank Stout, Howard Meyer, Milton McClave, Walter Kanhofer. Third row — Larry McLaughlin, Harmer McCaslin, Harry Fisher, Thomas Bryan, Frank Lowrie, Ira Hazlett, Paul Loucks, Paul Douglas, Edward Noel, Harry Kanhofer. Second row — Shirley Chaner, Gilbert Wickersham, Howard Brittain, William McLaughlin, Jay McLaughlin, Frank Holmes. First row — William Banks, Albert Greed, Louis Hagmier, Ralph Barr, C. V. Suthoff, Charles Hoffman, Clarence Daub and William McCaslin.

After 1900 the social life of the town began to pick up. For the older men there was the Aspinwall Council 238 Junior Order United American Mechanics and the I.O.O.F. and Guyasuta Council 1744 Royal Arcanum, all of which met in Bortz Hall on Center Ave. at Second St. For the women there was the Dames of Malta, Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Aspinwall Literary Society, as well as many church groups.

The young men of the town organized The Colonia Club in 1905. About the same time another group organized the Llawnpisa Canoe Club for those who loved boating. They would take trips up the Allegheny, combining camping with canoeing. These two clubs soon combined forces and the very active Aspinwall Club was the result. In the group below can be seen Wm. Kanhofer, "Goat" Anderson, Albert Bowden, Emmett McLaughlin, Oscar Heyne, "Dotz" Anderson, Lew King, Wm. Marshall, H. King, Cliff Meyer, Rusty Walbeck, Joseph Gray, Sid Guthrie, Percy Duff, Fred Heinz, Arch Irwin, and Al Heyne. Among the girls are Margaret Lepper, Isabel Saint, Sal Seavy, Dorothy Metz, Eva and Edith Dillon, Julie Barth, Kate Lepper, Edith Lutz, Mildred and Martha Irwin and Elinor McElroy.



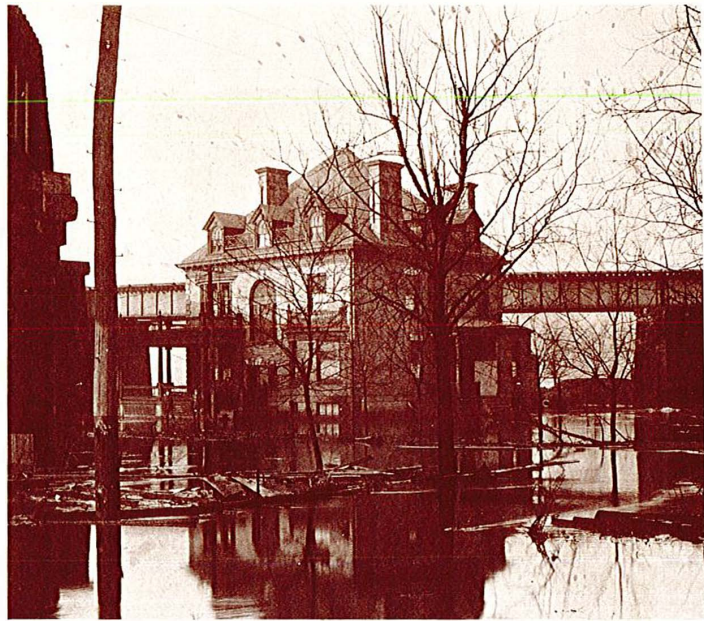
The Aspinwall Club about 1912

Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

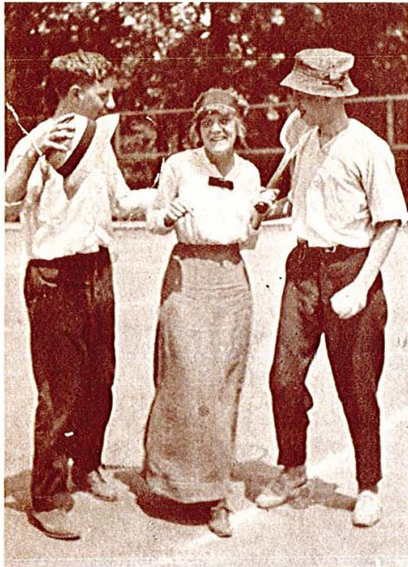


About 1896 George N. Christian built a spacious, buff-brick, 3-story residence on the river bank at the corner of River and Eastern Avenues. He moved his family to Second St. in 1900 and when The Colonia Club was formed in 1905 it became their club house. From 1906-1909 it was "home" to about 20 engineers working on the City of Pittsburgh's Filtration Plant.

For the next ten years it was the gala social spot for the young folks of the town as it became The Aspinwall Club. As the young men went off to World War I the club "died a natural death" and the house set empty. In recent years it has been a storage building for the railroad. It is seen to the right in the flood debris of 1936.



Courtesy George S.



Courtesy Charles F. Lytle

Tennis was a favorite sport with Aspinwall residents from the earliest days. Games are first mentioned in the 1897 summer issues of the Sharpsburg-Etna Herald. By 1900 the First Street Courts were much in use. It was here that William Tibby defeated Earl Beach in a tournament in July 1905.

There was a Center Avenue Tennis Club in the early 1900's. William Gibson McNeely was the club secretary in 1906 and W. B. Salt was treasurer. Helen Uber and H. A. French were officers of the Aspinwall Tennis Club at Second Street that same year. The Colonia Club, Wyebridge Club and Riverside Club all had courts below the railroad tracks. From 1913-1918 the Protestant churches sponsored courts at Second and Center where (to the left) Pete Lytle, Jewel Blakely and Murray Snyder are seen about 1913.

Both the Moorhead and Duckwall families had their own private courts. Today's Union National Bank, at the corner of Brilliant Ave. and First Street, sits where the Duckwall courts used to exist.



Courtesy Arthur H. Douglas

**Art Douglas and Tom Cochran — Llawnipsa Canoe Club — 1910**



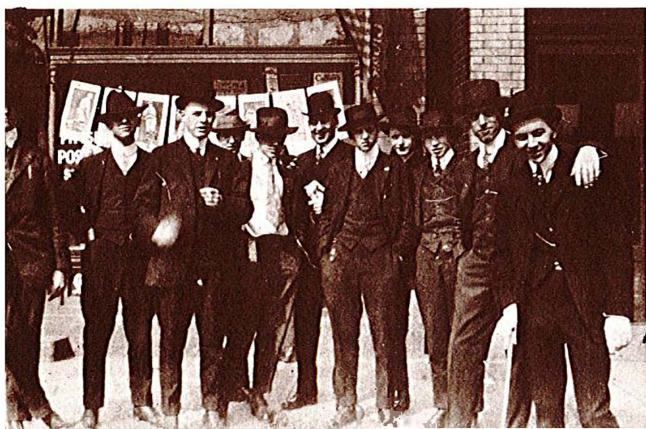


Courtesy Arthur H. Douglas

From the very beginning Aspinwall folks have liked to dance. Clubs were started and halls were built to provide dancing opportunities, but the "home" parties were best of all. This group of young folks were enjoying a "Mas-

querade" about 1905. In the back row, second from left, is Robert Bowden who became a Bell Telephone Co. official. Next to him is Helen Duff, daughter of the pastor of the UP Church then. Adam Hazlett, who became vice president of J & L Steel, is behind the clown with the big hat. Bertha Douglas (Mrs. Robert Swiss) is in front of the clown. In front of her is Tommy Cochran, son of the third First Presbyterian Church pastor, who was killed in France in World War I. Arthur H. Douglas, still living in Aspinwall, is at center front. Marion Madore, whose father was a councilman, is front row left. Middle row left, holding fan, is hostess Sarah Robie. Seated in front of her is Herbert May, who married wealth not once but twice, his second wife being Mrs. Merriweather Post.

In later years unruly groups from other communities came into Aspinwall and caused disturbances in the various public buildings where parties and dances were being held. Therefore, in 1962, Borough Council passed Ordinance No. 602 which regulated when, where and who could hold dances in the town.



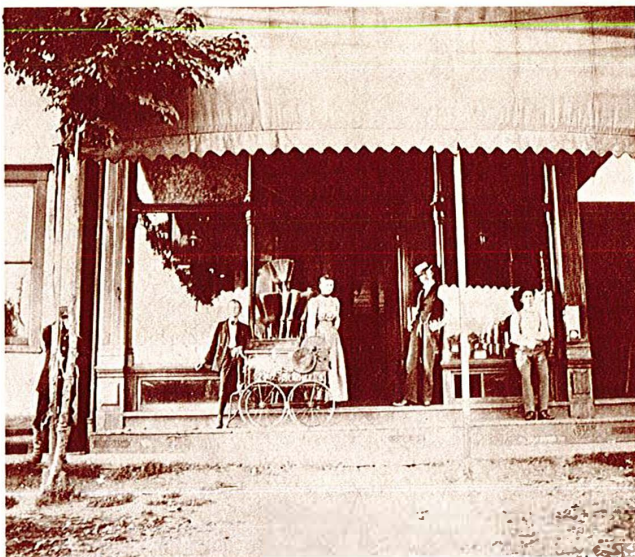
Courtesy Mrs. J. R. Strohm

A favorite gathering place for the young men of the town from 1911 to 1917 was Douglas Brothers News Agency and Sport Shop on Report Road. This picture, taken in 1913, includes (l. to r.): Art Douglas, George Illig, Lester (Happy) Parsons, Sam Greenlee, Clyde (Dinie) Kean, Carl Barr, Leo Helbling, Bill Smith, Howard Smeck, Rambo and Myron Czarnechi.



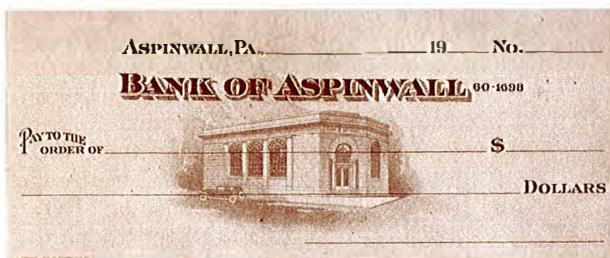
Aspinwall's first store was not really a store at all - just a converted living room. The widow Kilcullen sold candy, school supplies and notions in the front room of her home on the south side of 4th Street near Center Avenue. Many of the town's "senior citizens" have fond memories of the peppermint balls and other favorite candies which they got there as school children. Mary Kilcullen was also the town's first, and only, postmistress.

The earliest business district was located on the south side of Third Street, between Western and Center Avenues. Here C. Homer Love opened the first grocery store in 1891. Close by C. Henry Bokerman and his wife opened the first meat market. He was a butcher and got his meat from his father who had a butcher shop and slaughter house in Lawrenceville. (The best tenderloin steak cost only 60c a lb. in those days.)



Courtesy George S. Robt

J. A. Cooper's Grocery Store - Commercial Ave. - Built in 1896



Aspinwall has had four banks. The First National Bank of Aspinwall, opened in 1909, failed in less than five years. Built on Brilliant Ave. in 1925, The Bank of Aspinwall existed about 10 years, then became Commonwealth Trust Co. The change to a branch of the Union National Bank of Pittsburgh came in 1964.

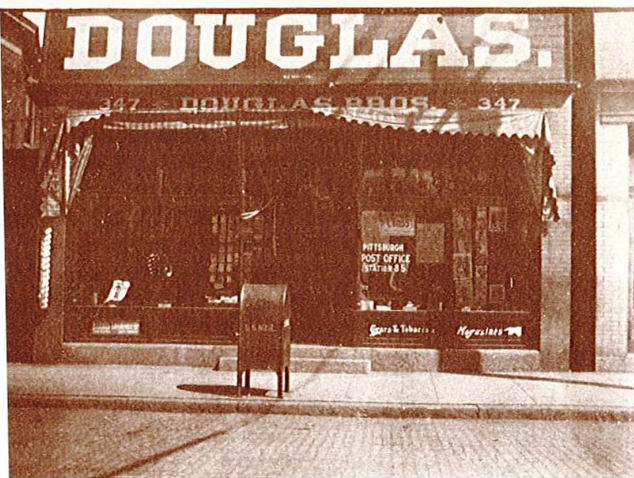


In the early 1900's Connell's Express met 16 trains a day. W. R. Ireland, Wm. D. Alter, Harry Fischer, Tim Hughes and Harry Parsons were also teamsters.

James Patton opened the second grocery store. This was on Commercial Avenue — the first building in from the northeast corner of Center Avenue — a stucco covered building which he soon sold to J. A. Cooper, who moved his family into the apartment over the store. In 1896, when it became necessary to increase the school's classroom space, the town lost its meeting hall which had been in the Sixth Street side of the Center Avenue School. At that time Mr. Cooper erected a two-story building about in the middle of Commercial Avenue. He used the first floor for his grocery business (see above) and turned the upper floor into a "Hall", complete with stage. Cooper's Hall was the scene of many dances, plays, wedding parties, etc. Wm. C. McKenzie ran a grocery store there after Mr. Cooper moved his family to Allegheny City late in 1900.

The first building on Commercial Avenue was a one story frame structure for two occupants. Ira W. Love had a paint and wallpaper store on one side. Charles Schuetz of Sharpsburg opened a drug store in the other side. One of the first recorded fires was in Love's Paint Shop. The small but plucky volunteer fire company managed to prevent the complete destruction of the building in spite of the numerous combustible materials which fed it.





Courtesy Arthur H. Douglas

Paul and Arthur Douglas started their Aspinwall News business in the two-story building which "Count" McLaughlin built on Sport Road about 1909. In 1912 they moved to 347 (above), Walker's former restaurant, and added men's furnishings. When they went to war in 1917, their sisters ran the store.

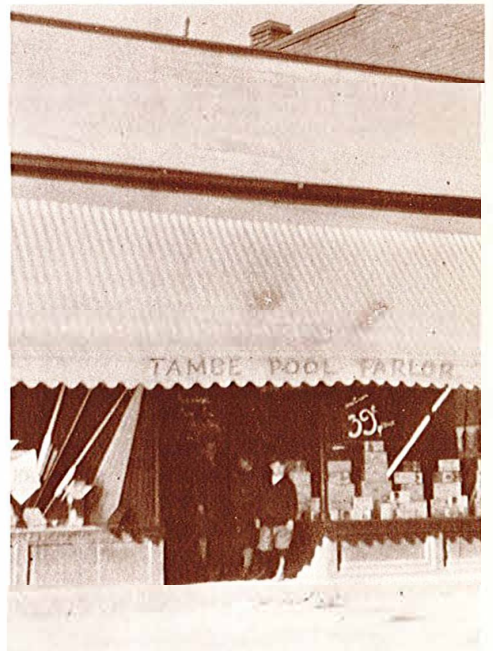


Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

The first commercial building in the Brilliant Avenue business district was a three-story building on the western side of the street, halfway between Freeport Road and First Street. Here the town's first theatre and bowling alley was opened in July 1910. Four years later Humes Brothers Garage was built next door. In June 1915 they installed a "gasoline measuring box" at the curb. James and Bruno Raetano were granted a permit to build at Freeport and Brilliant in September 1920. August Zuccaro built at the corner of First and Brilliant in 1923, operating the Brilliant Market until 1956 when he turned the business over to his sons, Joseph and August Jr.

Behind Love's Paint Shop, on First Street, was a one-story frame building where James and John Hastings operated the first Plumbing and Heating business. However, Peter Barney is considered to have been the first plumber in town. His first shop was in H. J. Anderson's building on Commercial Avenue, now known as the Bondi Building. On December 15, 1896 C. W. Schuetz opened The Aspinwall Pharmacy in that building. John Frey, another druggist, had it next and then Mary Douglas opened a Bake Shop there. During the World War I period it was a P. H. Butler Store where the high school crowd went to get a big dill pickle and a couple of pretzels for a nickel. Mr. Bondi bought the building in 1929 and operated a Fruit Market for nearly three decades. In recent years he has leased the store to a Dry Cleaner.

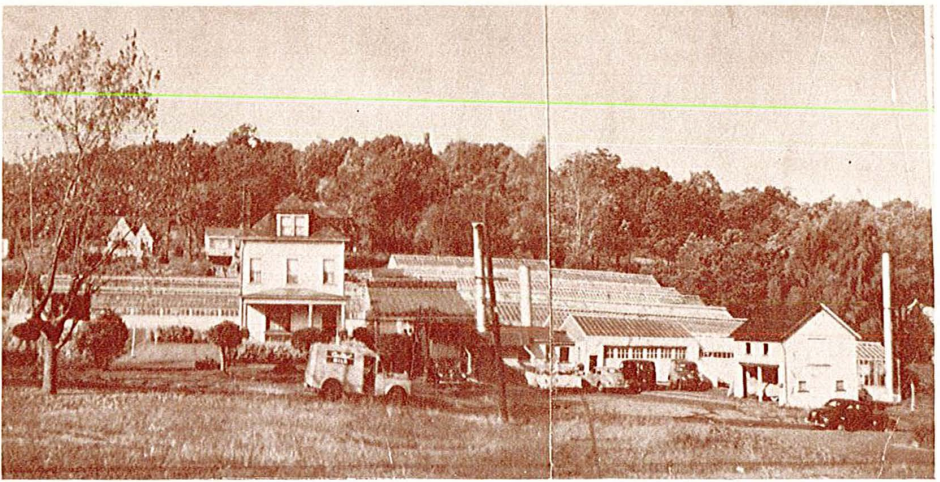
During the 1890's Patton's Stable stood where Fehrman's Drug Store is today. In 1906 James Hastings erected a three-story building there. It stretched from Commercial Avenue through to First Street. There were business quarters on the ground floor of both sides and four apartments upstairs. The first tenant on Commercial Avenue was John Frey who moved his drug store from next door.



Courtesy Mrs. Paul Wamhoff

300 block of Freeport Road, about 1930





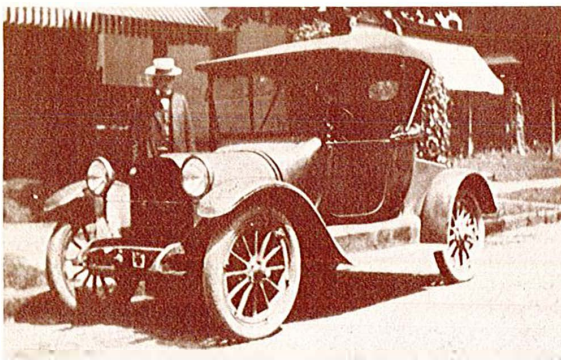
The Blaha greenhouses on 11th St. in the 1950's.

Courtesy Joseph H. Blaha



Courtesy Joseph H. Blaha

This converted 1911 Cadillac was a familiar sight in Aspinwall around 1915. Michael Blaha and his sons were all in the florist business. Seen here, l. to r., are: Carl, Albert, Herbert, Joseph, Al Meinert, an employee, Leo, and the father, Michael A. Blaha.



Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

Dr. Wm. N. Marshall, seen above with his 1910 "Brush", had the first automobile in town, but it was B. F. Hesson who first asked Council's permission to "garage" a car in Aspinwall - in 1905.

**Herman B. Zieger** left Aspinwall in 1906; **Ernest F. Zieger** in 1910. Their 5th St. greenhouses were first bought by Lincoln I. Neff, then by John Bader of Troy Hill, and finally by **Frank Wagner** who ran his floral business there until the late 1950's. The 11th St. greenhouses were sold to Etna florist, Michael Blaha. For the next fifty years Mr. Blaha, and his sons, kept expanding their floral business until the Aspinwall hilltop looked like the above picture.

**Michael A. Blaha** (1861-1930) was 17 when he came to America in 1878. Ten years later he married Magdalena Rechenhaller who had come from Austria in 1884. In 1909 his first son, John, began working at the family Flower Stand in the old Diamond Market. Leo was 16 when he started there in 1912. John (only 24) died that year and Leo stayed at the Market until it was remodeled in 1926. Then he opened a new shop in Etna - near Winschell's Hardware. In 1930 the shop was moved across the street to Dr. Speer's Building and the two youngest sons, Albert and Herbert, both helped run that shop until it was sold in 1963. Leo and Herbert were designers (or florists) while Ed, Joe and Al were all growers. After the father's death in 1930 Joseph was in charge of the greenhouse operations.

In December 1939, **Hiram Whiteman**, a florist since 1922, came here from Clarion County and opened a Flower Shop on Freeport Rd. In 1951 he moved into a new shop at 323 Freeport Rd. His wife, Mary Etta, and son, Albert E. Whiteman, run the Flower Shop while he runs the lawn and garden center he opened in 1959.





Courtesy Charles F. Lytle

1898 AAA Baseball Team

During the 1890's there were still enough vacant lots in town to provide ample space for such sport as horse-shoe pitching, baseball and football. The residents thoroughly enjoyed a good ball game and so it was not long before the Aspinwall Athletic Association team was formed. The 1898 team, as seen to the left included, back row, l. to r. — Frank Creese, Frank Lowry, Earl Beach, Harry McLaughlin and Fred Stout. Front row — unknown, Will Lytle, Ezra Creese, Frank Stout (one of the best pitchers Aspinwall ever had) and Dickie Dyson, bat boy in front.



Courtesy George S. Roble

Around the turn of the century there was a Borough Athletic Field south of River Ave. It stretched from the Water & Light Plant to Eastern Ave. The back-stop was in the northeast corner and seating was provided on wooden planks laid on top of low posts. By 1902 the town had a good uniformed baseball team playing in a local league.

Soon after the organization of the Colonia Club it had a baseball team of its own. This is the 1906 club team. L. to R. - Gilbert Wickersham, Thomas Kiggan, William (Buck) Heerlein, Henry Miller, Walter Kanhofer, Ezra Creese, Harry McLaughlin, Chris Wanner, Frank Lowry, Frank Stout and Fred Stout. In front is, bat boy, Homer Dyson.





Courtesy Charles F. Lytle

This 1908 baseball team was known as the Roup Athletics because it was sponsored by the 5th St. candy store owner of that name. This picture, taken in front of the Filtration Plant garage, includes, back row, l. to r. - John Lytle, Bob Elder, manager Jack Shannon,

sponsor Mr. Roup, Paul Roup, and Harold Walke. Front row - Art Airey, - Lachner, Horace Evans, Kanhofer, Joe Albacker, Gordon Grubbs and Raymor Flocker. They played most of their games in Patte son's Hollow, across from Judge Ford's home.



Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marshall

This 1907 Football team played on the empty lot at the corner of Freepport and Eastern Ave., near the town's first bank. Back row, l. to r. - John Lytle, Paul Roup, Howard (Irish) Galloway, Adam Hazlett and Coach Jack Shakley. Front row - Frank Marshall, Paul Dawson, Herbert May, Nelson Flocker, Charles Parkin, George (Goat) Anderson and George Konold.

A football team was formed quite early. They played in a league including Etna, Sharpsburg, Oakmont, Verona and Springdale. Earl Beason of the town's first council president, and a student at Western University of Pennsylvania in Allegheny City, coached the team. The "flying wedge" play was popular then. One Aspinwall player was critically injured before this play was outlawed.

One Aspinwall family had thrsons playing on this early team. They were rough competitors and used to provide a great deal of excitement with "extra-curricular" fights during some of the more tightly-waged games. Poor old Charlie Anderson, the town's lone peace officer, was harassed to keep order both on the field and among the spectators who felt compelled to assist their local players! Christ Koupp managed the first team, in 1895, and W. E. Donnelly was the 1896 manager.





Courtesy Harry Leonard

**LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL** came to Aspinwall in the late 1940's. This 1951 team was one of the first organized groups to play under LL sponsorship here. L. to R., back row — Mike McCarthy, Ben Fruedenrich, Eddie Lyons, Dan Handrahan, Jim McIntyre, Lenny

Liebert, Ollie Gray. Middle row—Bobby Patton, Pat Connell, Harry Waldschmidt, Billy Manefisto, Herman Fritsch, Eddie Helfrich. Front row — Coach, Harry Leonard, Eddie Hughes, Joe Leone, Bill Owens, Cliff Borland, Bobby Ulmer, and Manager, Sam Johnson.

Aspinwall has always been a community in which the adults CARED about the children and youth of the town. Since the days of Professor Robinson's Knights of Valor to the present Youth League of Dr. George Knight, there have always been organizations devoted to encouraging the creative and athletic abilities of the young people, and to meeting their social needs.

Probably none ever served as many people, or offered the variety of programs, as did the CRA during its dozen or so years of activity.

The **Community Recreation Association** involved not just Aspinwall, but O'Hara Township and Fox Chapel Borough as well. It was really a brain child of the teenagers from the three areas who attended Aspinwall High School in the immediate post WW II years. School teachers, church workers, community leaders and business executives all supported the efforts of this organization. It started with Friday Nite dances sponsored by Miss Beulah Frey and Miss Marion Klug, two Aspinwall High School teachers. When the Kiwanis Club was established

in 1945 they approached that group for help with permanent sponsorship of the dances. As a result, the CRA was incorporated in 1946 (by a group of Kiwanians) and the Kavalier Kanteen was a regular feature at the Aspinwall Woman's Club until after the formation of the Fox Chapel Area School District made it impossible to handle the large crowds.

The CRA was financed by voluntary contributions and staffed by volunteers from the community. It grew and grew and grew. At the end of a decade it included a Summer Playground program (complete with hobby and craft classes) offered at both the Boyd and Kerr schools in O'Hara Township as well as at the Aspinwall Playground; bus trips to North Park for swimming; a mammoth Fourth of July celebration with Fireworks; baseball for all ages; winter basketball and girl's softball and volleyball.

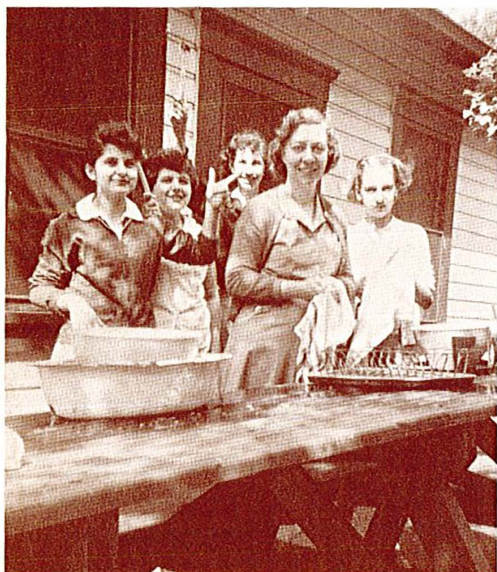
Dr. William L. Fink was the first CRA president; J. B. Nicholas, treasurer; Mrs. James D. Boyd, secretary and Dr. R. B. Tedrow, finance chairman.





Courtesy Mrs. J. B. Henry

Camping trips, or weekends at the Girl Scout cabin in North Park, were a "big thing" during the 1950's. Seen above (l. to r.) are Sue Klingensmith, Janice Henry, Virginia Canning and Anita and Dorrie Bauer on a "Camp-out", about 1953.

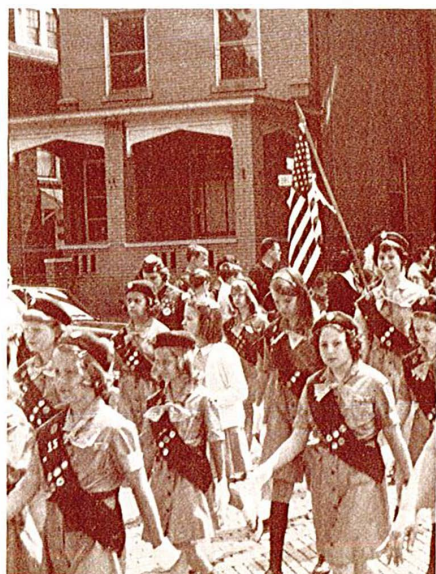


Courtesy Mrs. Paul Wamhoff

Girl Scouting came to Aspinwall early in the 20's about a decade after Mrs. Juliette Low introduced the English Girl Guides organization to America under a new name. After World War II Scouting grew rapidly and by the time the above picture was taken, in 1956, the majority of teen-age girls in Aspinwall had been involved in scouting at some level. These girls belonged to Troop 106 and were enjoying a "Cook Out". They are: l. to r., Nancy DeLuca, Rene Infante, Gemma Marion, Judy Warner and Assistant Troop Leader Eleanor Imhoff.

Records in the Allegheny County Office of Girl Scouts of America are hazy as to which was Aspinwall's first Troop. Troop 106 seems to be the first chartered troop, but unfortunately, the Charter application was not dated! It lists Mrs. Lois Walley as Troop Leader, and since Lois Zahniser didn't marry Alex F. Wally until 1934, it could hardly be earlier. Mrs. Dean Bailey of 10th St. is listed as Troop Committee Chairman; a Mrs. Patterson of The Maples, as Neighborhood Chairman; and Gladys Saxon and Vada Schade as Assistant Leaders of the troop. However, other records indicate a Troop in 1933, with Miss Helen Kendall as Captain and the Aspinwall Woman's Club as Sponsor, but no charter!

By 1967 there were approximately 175 girls and 30 women involved in Scouting in Aspinwall. There were about ten girls in Senior Troop 603. Cadet Troop 512 had about 26 girls; Junior Troops 15, 106 and 999 each had about 26 girls and Brownie Troop 262, 473 and 861 each had 20 girls. Mrs. Mary Lou Martin, served as the Aspinwall-Sharpsburg, Neighborhood Chairman in this Jubilee year.



Courtesy Mrs. Paul Wamhoff

Members of Girl Scout Troop 15 marched in the Memorial Day Parade in 1965. Mrs. Jean Veltri and Mrs. Teddi Larkin serve as the Leaders of this Junior Troop.

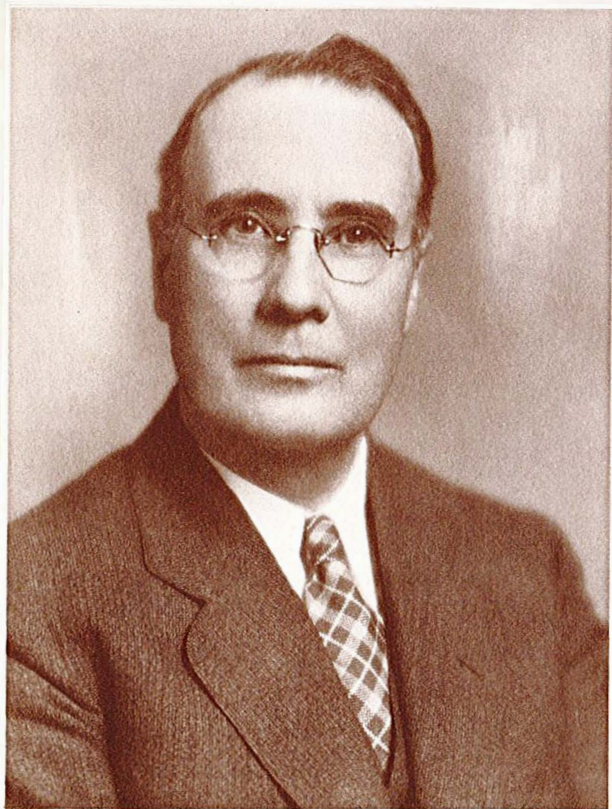




Courtesy Mrs. W. F. Agnew

Aspinwall's long awaited \$87,000 playground was dedicated Sept. 1, 1930. A natural amphitheatre, the 7 acre field, on former Darlington property at the extreme west end of town, extended from 2nd to 7th avenues. Playground equipment was donated by the American Legion. A parade of

dignitaries, students and firemen marched to the field for ceremonies. Burgess Louis W. Hagmaier, Playground Commissioners, school board and church officials and Council President David Pryde (below left) all participated.



Courtesy Thomas Pryde

David Pryde



Courtesy Mrs. W. F. Agnew

In 1914 Council had agreed to support a play center fostered by the local churches. Later the Woman's Club had urged citizen's to vote a bond issue. Both efforts failed. Much credit for the final achievement was given to Borough Manager, H. C. Lea, seen here with W. F. Agnew, Jr., Mary Jane Patton, Louise Czarneichi, Bert Agnew and an unidentified child.



Born in Scotland in 1878, David Pryde married Margarette Russel of Braddock, Pa. in 1900. They came to Aspinwall in 1909 and he immediately became involved in community affairs. Elected to Council in 1922 he served for 23 years, seventeen of them as president. He resigned from Council in 1945 and died five years later. Mrs. Pryde survived until 1966.

The oldest of their three sons, Thomas Pryde, graduated from Aspinwall High School and Penn State University and became an educator. He chose the field of vocational education and has had a brilliant career. He was full time acting chairman of Vocational Teaching at the University of Pittsburgh prior to being named director of Vocational & Industrial Arts in the Pittsburgh Public Schools in 1962. He also served as consultant to Forbes Trail Area Technical School, Allegheny County's first technical high school. He lives in Penn Hills.

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When announcement was made of the formation of the Aspinwall Land Co. in 1890, city-weary folks rushed to buy lots in the new Plan. The "building booms" of 1892 and 1895 gave the town a look of real permanence by 1896 and by 1900 the population had grown to 1,231. It more than doubled in the next decade (2800 in 1911) and residents were fighting a proposal of the State Legislature to annex Aspinwall to the City of Pittsburgh. (After 153 years, the "lost h" was returned to the city's name in 1911.)

On February 5, 1912, **Harry C. Lea** of Etna was appointed the town's first Superintendent of Public Works. He left his job as Superintendent of the Sharpsburg Water Works to assume the new post—at a salary of \$87.50 a month. W. R. Smith was the Burgess then and Council was composed of W. A. Irvin, James McCaslin, M. Rodgers, C. C. Henderson, T. C. Pollock, G. H. Smith and C. E. Conner.

Mr. Lea quickly became involved in community affairs, joining No. 1 Hose Company on May 31. In June he had to contend with complaints about the Dump at Fourth St. and

Maple Ave. and to oversee the paving of Alleys A, B, C, D, from Center Ave. to Western Ave. July brought the new RR Freight Station on Freeport Ave. and sewer problems caused by the construction of a dam on the river. In late summer a new water reservoir was put in service at Eighth St.; the water tanks at Twelfth St. were demolished and two new wooden tanks were constructed at the top of Guyasuta Road.

By 1913 the beautiful Poplar trees along the borough streets were causing trouble and Harry Lea had 114 of them removed. That was also the year Council spent \$1,000 to build a new jail—the first one had been built in 1897 in the basement of the 5th St. Hose House).

The winter of 1914-1915 was an extremely hard one. Bitter cold and snow created hardships throughout the town. Council appointed a committee to solicit funds and designated January 18, 1915 as "Bundle Day" when clothing was collected for those in need. That summer the newly opened Pittsburgh Field Club was granted the use of the borough's \$295 street sprinkler.

Harry C. Lea and his wife, the former Nellie McCullough of Sharpsburg, had three children. Their first son, **Winfield S. Lea** was born in Etna in 1899. The second son, Mansfield, born in 1904, died as the result of a sledding accident in 1917. Their daughter Nancy was born in Sharpsburg in 1910. She is now Mrs. A. A. Armstrong of Pleasant Hills.

"Win" Lea, as he was known to most folks, attended Sharpsburg schools and graduated from Aspinwall High School and the University of Pittsburgh. A veteran of WW I, he came to Aspinwall in 1925 to become Chief Electrician of the Borough. On January 10, 1944 he was named Borough Manager and held that post until his death, February 6, 1961. As a young man he had married Eleanor Hasenfritz of Sharpsburg and they had three children: Jean, Nancy and W. S. Lea, Jr. Being left a widower, he remarried in 1956, to Mrs. Mariagnes White. On that fateful day in 1961, he attended the morning funeral of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Emma White, and then returned to his office in the Borough Building. There he was stricken with a fatal heart attack.



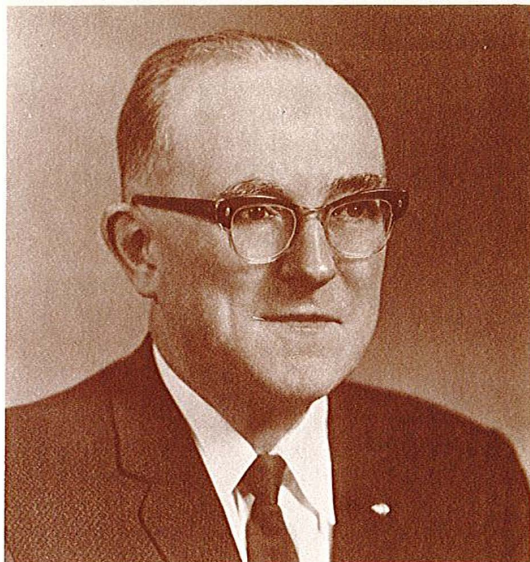
**Robert Doty Fleming**, President Pro Tempore of the Pennsylvania State Senate, and one of the most powerful men in Pennsylvania politics in the 1960's, has a personal family background which is quite **typical** of a majority of Aspinwall families.

His **grandfather**, Charles Henry Fleming (1836-1901) was a **railroad man** (ticket agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad) who **lived in Sharpsburg** after his marriage to Jane Stewart Black (1832-1930) in 1866. Three sons - James B., Robert Homer, and Charles Henry - were born to this marriage.

His **father**, Robert H. Fleming, was **educated in the Sharpsburg schools**. He married Daisy Doty and their three children - Robert Doty, Mary Ruth and Charles Henry - were all born in Sharpsburg. Mr. Fleming was quite a writer and in October 1895 he became Editor and Publisher of the (then) Sharpsburg-Etna Herald. He **moved his family to Aspinwall** in 1911. He was then, and for many years, District Passenger Agent for the Chicago-Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad, with his office in the Park Building in Pittsburgh.

Robert D. Fleming was a member of the Class of 1920 at Aspinwall High School. He embarked upon his political career in 1933, running as an Independent Republican on the Democratic ticket, and winning the election as Justice of the Peace. From the very beginning Aspinwall has been a Republican stronghold — at no time has there been a large enough Democratic registration to win any election. But the GOP banner has seen some bitter fighting at times, as men of varying beliefs fought to control the politics of the town.

Bob Fleming served five terms as Rep., then in 1938 was nominated to the State House of Representatives, where he served six terms before being elected to the State Senate in 1950. Now serving his fifth term as a State Senator, he has always remained active in home-town affairs where he has been a member of the Planning Commission since its inception. He has maintained a real estate and insurance business on Freeport Rd. and has served as Republican committeeman for years. Senator and Mrs. Fleming, the former Jean Varner of Johnstown, Pa., have one daughter, Jean Frances Fleming.



Courtesy Robert D. Fleming

Senator Robert D. Fleming

## To the VOTERS OF ASPINWALL

### VOTE FOR THESE CANDIDATES



#### Burgess

Cloyd C. Peterson ☒

#### Council

(Vote for Four)

Fred J. Koesling ☒

Ed. R. Krieg ☒

W. C. McGrew ☒

H. C. Grubbs ☒

#### Tax Collector

Willard F. Agnew ☒

#### School Director

Wm. Marshall ☒

Alice Schrader ☒

#### Justice of the Peace

Robert D. Fleming ☒

#### Auditor

Howard H. Bright ☒

### The Reason:

It has been our, the Independent Republican Committee, endeavor, for the last two years to back candidates who would work for the **interest** of the Aspinwall people.

In 1924 the Borough revenue was \$113,000, which was spent in that year. In 1931 the Borough revenue was \$151,000 which was spent in that year. **These figures show that the yearly operating costs of our Borough increased \$37,000, in that period of time. Why? Extravagant operation is the answer!**

In March of 1932 a request was made by the Independent Republicans **on** our Council, to lower our **ELECTRIC** and **WATER RATES** which request was ignored. Only through the present political activities of the Independent Republicans, did Council take up this subject and then it was only a promise to consider a reduction.

These candidates, nominated on the Democratic ticket, guarantee that if elected, they will invoke a more economical government which will result in lower taxation, electric and water rates and a **more** even distribution of Borough work **among** Borough unemployed.

We earnestly recommend these candidates for your vote because of their ability and their knowledge and interest in Borough affairs. To be assured of your proper vote, pick out their names on the ballot and place your (X) after **their** respective names.

Vote for these candidates and you vote for a just and new deal.

**—THE INDEPENDENT  
REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE**



Winter was a wonderful time of bobsledding and ice skating for the young folks of Aspinwall back in the early 1900's. The Center Avenue hill was one of the fastest coasting tracks in the Pittsburgh area. With no railroads to cross, and only light traffic of small delivery wagons in the daytime, this was a relatively safe track and was a favorite gathering place for the daring young men and women of the town. The sleds were big; most of them carrying 10 to 20 passengers. When the track was at its best the sleds would traverse the entire length of Center Avenue, stopping only when they struck the trolley tracks on Freeport Road.

Frank Elsrode, a cabinet-maker, built the most sumptuous sled. It was brilliant fire-engine red, upholstered in red leather, and equipped with a steering wheel and gong. According to some of today's "older residents", there was no greater thrill than whizzing through a moonlit night - around the bend below 8th St. - gong clanging and the runners whistling and rumbling - the riders squealing and shouting or absolutely breathless - and then hitting the level spot at 6th St.! The sled was traveling at such a speed by this time that it would actually leave the ground and travel half a block or more before settling back to earth!

The older Humes brothers built the longest and heaviest bobsled used in those days. Along the sides there were leg-rests made of pipe, supported in cross-bars of hardwood. The hurtling ride downhill was breath-taking. Going back up was a different story!

Young Mansfield Lea died as the result of bobsledding on Center Ave. in 1917. He swept down the hill atop his "Flexible Flyer", cleared the bend at 8th St., zoomed over the level spot at 6th St. and suddenly found himself in a "traffic jam" of sleds—somewhere near 3rd St. Trying not to cause an accident he kept to the middle of the road and ran head-on into a sled loaded with barrels of ashes which was being pulled across the intersection. He suffered a ruptured spleen and lived only a few days. He was just 13 years old.

W. C. Scott's son, Lawrence, was also seriously injured in a toboggan accident on Center Ave. He studied to become a doctor but died before he could establish a real practice.

Ice skating on the river was a great winter sport before the days of the flood-control dam and locks on the river between Aspinwall and Sharpsburg. There was a so-called "break-water" dam extending from the western end of Aspinwall to the head of the island in the middle of the river. This forced the current to the other side of the river, leaving a fine still-water area along the Aspinwall shoreline. The ice would be as smooth as glass, if high winds or snow had not accompanied the original freeze of the river. This natural outdoor skating rink ran along the north bank of the Allegheny from the lower face of the dam to the western end of the island. On moonlight nights, and Saturdays, the ice would be crowded with gay young folks from Morningside, East Liberty, Sharpsburg, and all the countryside around Aspinwall. The sharp "zip" of skates could be heard far into the night when there happened to be a full moon.

During the summertime the gravel beach along the shore of the (then) clean Allegheny River provided excellent swimming opportunities. The old "break-water" dam kept the current to the south side of the river, creating a rather current-free swimming pool. For a few years Aspinwall's river bank was a favorite recreation spot. The men and boys of the town formed a Club and built a small bathhouse at the foot of Eastern Ave. This was on a raised platform from which a 25-30 foot toboggan slide extended down to the water. There were separate dressing room facilities, so the young ladies could also enjoy the fun. This playground disappeared when the dredgers started digging the river bottom for sand and gravel to meet the needs of new cement businesses. Then the shore line became pocketed with holes as deep as 30 feet and every summer there were numerous drownings among the out-of-town folks who came to enjoy the Aspinwall beach.





Louis W. Hagmaier

**Louis W. Hagmaier (1880-1951)** and his wife, the former Gertrude Rieger of East End, moved to Aspinwall in 1904. He had a furniture business in Allegheny City (which was to become known as North Side when the two cities were united by Act of State Legislature June 12, 1906). A civic-minded businessman; he started his political career as Borough Auditor in 1918.

On September 20, 1920 when Sam McMorran resigned as Burgess, Mr. Hagmaier was elected to replace him. Aspinwall had "come of age" by now. Pioneer residents were ready to turn the responsibility of government over to their sons and newer citizens and government during his 25 years as Burgess was pretty stable. Council included such men as: C. E. Conner, Alex Wally (1921-1936), David Pryde (1922-1945), H. B. Conner (1922-1930), T. C. Pollock (1912-1925), A. H. Slater (1924-1930), G. Milton Fehr (1932-1948), H. M. Wolfarth (1930-34 and 1938-58), Harry Jarvis (1936-1948) and Frank Schade (1938-1949).

Burgess Hagmaier served in the State Legislature from 1927 through 1933, where he fought successfully to save the \$1,500,000 Firemen's Fund from encroachment by other state agencies. At home he started the annual Halloween Celebration and the tree trimming program; instituted "protective" sled riding; was instrumental in the purchase of the present Borough Building; guided the town through the 1936 Flood and the difficult WW II years and was Borough Clerk in 1946-1947.

<u>EMERGENCY ORDERS</u>	
<u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>NOTICE</u>
ASPINWALL CITIZENS:	
IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING:	
1.	BOIL ALL DRINKING WATER.
2.	BOIL ALL MILK.
3.	USE WATER VERY SPARINGLY. THE SITUATION IS EXTREMELY SERIOUS.
4.	STAY OFF THE STREETS AFTER DARK. THE TOWN IS GUARDED BY 24 EXTRA POLICE.
5.	WE RECOMMEND THE SUSPENSION OF ALL PUBLIC GATHERINGS, INCLUDING ALL CHURCH SERVICES.
6.	SCHOOL WILL OPEN WHEN WE HAVE LIGHT AND WATER.
7.	STAY AWAY FROM ALL FLOODED AREAS IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF DISEASES. THIS REFERS TO PITTSBURGH, SHARPSBURG, ETNA, and OTHER FLOODED AREAS.
<p><i>Louis W. Hagmaier</i> Burgess</p> <p>March 20, 1936.</p>	

Courtesy Mrs. R. R. Jardine

<u>ACT AT ONCE</u>	
<u>RED CROSS ASKS FOR AID</u>	
GOVERNOR EARLE MAKES AN URGENT APPEAL FOR CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RED CROSS	
<u>ETNA AND SHARPSBURG</u>	
NEED	
MEN'S TROUSERS AND WARM STOCKINGS FOR WOMEN	
A COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF LADIES OF TOWN WILL CALL LOCAL NEEDS COME FIRST	
BALANCE GOES TO THE RED CROSS	
March 23, 1936	<p><i>Louis W. Hagmaier</i> Burgess</p> <p>HEADQUARTERS AND BOROUGH OFFICE</p>

Courtesy Mrs. L. W. Hagmaier





Eastern Ave., looking south to Freeport Rd. Center left is the First Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Second St.



The only way out of town was across a fire company ladder over Freeport Rd. to the railroad track where a train would back all the way out of East End. The water was not as deep in the Delafield section of town because the railroad track acted as a dam east of Emerson Ave.



Dr. Wm. R. Marshall at Second St. and Center Ave., 2 p. m., March 18, 1936. Later he delivered a baby by candlelight.

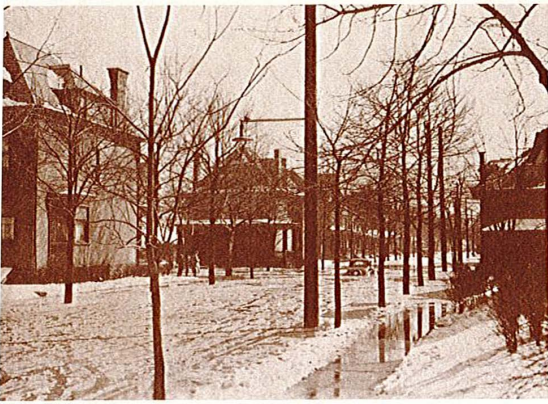


The R. A. Lincoln home, 111 Eastern Ave., at Second St. could be reached only by boat at 3 p. m.



Attempting to secure last minute supplies, two housewives were caught at Laura Lehman's grocery on Western Ave. and had to be carried "piggy-back" to higher ground, by 10 a. m.





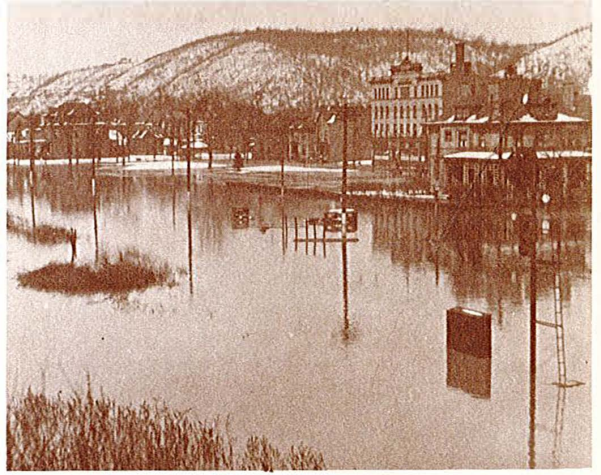
First St.—look east toward Center Ave. Across Center, left corner, is the Drumheller house. Taken at 9 a. m.



By 10 a. m. the water was flooding First St. in front of Dr. Wm. N. Marshall's house, seen in left foreground.



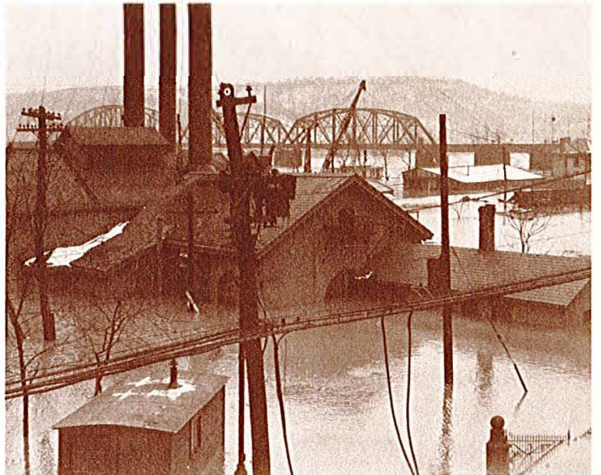
Railroad cars floated off the tracks and into the yards of homes along River Avenue where folks had to flee to second floor to escape the rising water.



Two cars were abandoned near the Eastern Avenue intersection when Freeport Avenue was flooded. The flood waters had not yet reached the Borough Building.

This picture of the water and Light Plant was taken at 4 p. m., March 18, 1936. The water had reached a height of 7 ft. 5 in. in the generator room by then. An emergency connection to the Aspinwall system was made by Duquesne Light Company four days after the flood. It continued for about a month until repairs were completed on the municipal generating equipment.

All pictures in this section on the St. Patrick's Day Flood of 1936 are from the album of Mrs. William R. Marshall, unless otherwise designated.

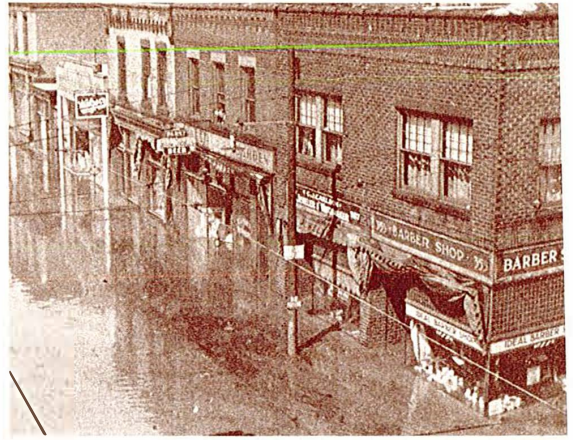


Courtesy James E. Donley

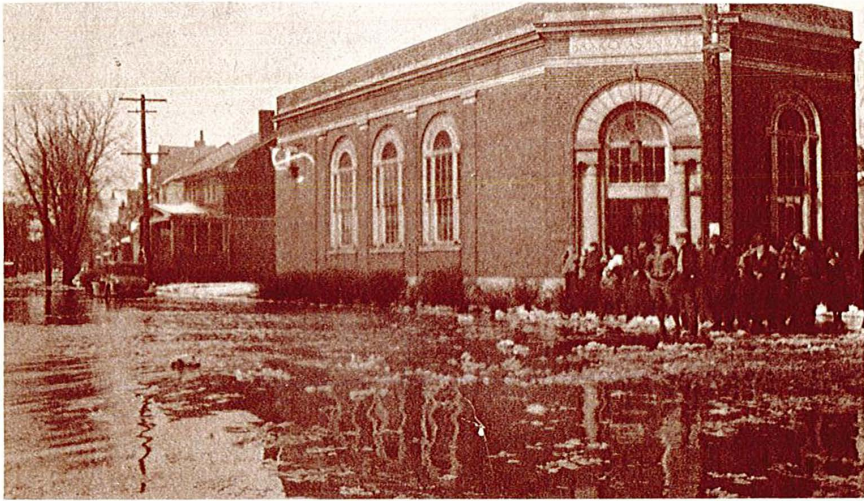




By 4 p. m. the only method of transportation was by rowboat or canoe. This picture was taken on Brilliant Ave., looking south to the station.



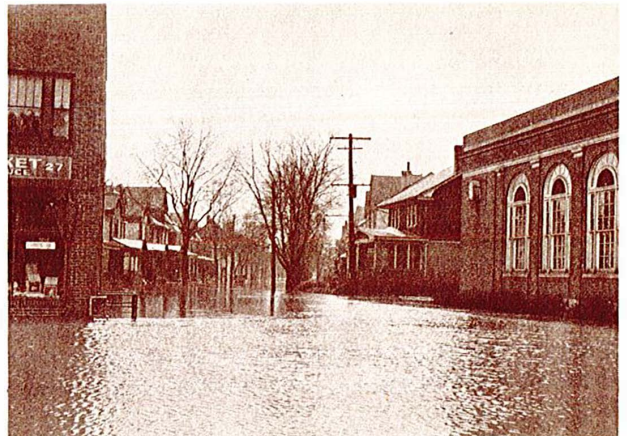
By early afternoon only the flood waters could enter these Freeport Road business houses. Merchants here suffered heavily. (Looking west from Brilliant.)



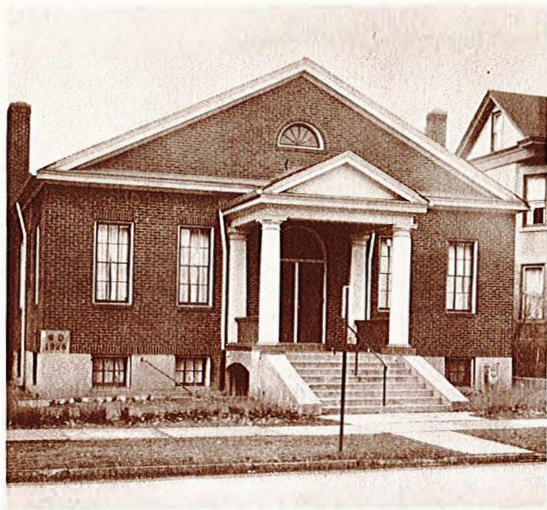
Courtesy Mrs. John McDonald

At 2 p. m. Charley Stewart took this picture at the corner of First St. and Brilliant Ave., as worried citizens gathered in front of the Bank of Aspinwall.

By 3 p. m. the water had risen to the steps of the houses along the lower side of First St. The car had been rescued, but there was no longer any sidewalk to be seen at the bank. Anxious faces can be seen in the windows above Zuccaro's Market. Harry Lea was the Borough Manager during this troubled time.







Courtesy Carl Forster

### Woman's Club of Aspinwall

The Woman's Club of Aspinwall has the distinction of being the oldest social organization in town. Although it did not bear that name in the earliest years, 1967 marks 56 years of continuous activity as a federated Woman's Club. There were other earlier clubs but none of them have survived the passage of time.

In 1909 a group of thirty-three women organized the Aspinwall Literary Society. Mrs. I. H. Milliken was named president of the group. The following year Mrs. August Luft presided. In 1911, when Mrs. J. Byron Henry was president, it became a federated Woman's Club. Mrs. A. P. Meyer, Mrs. E. W. Duckwall, Mrs. W. C. McKenzie, Mrs. D. J. Evans, Mrs. B. F. Howard and Mrs. John G. Wishard all presided before the club was incorporated in 1918 during Mrs. J. T. Autenreith's presidency.

A second group of women, interested in current topics and social activities, had met and organized about the same time. Mrs. C. A. Clowes was the first president of this group which took the name Current Events Club. With the advent of World War I the needs of the community brought the two groups into closer cooperation. In 1919, under the capable parliamentary supervision of Mrs. William Anderson, the two clubs were reorganized and Mrs. J. Byron Henry was the first president of the present Woman's Club.

On June 24, 1918 Mrs. Blanche Pollock of the Woman's Club appeared before Borough Council to report that H. J. Heinz had donated a parcel of land to the club as the site of a Public Library and Club House. She requested that the land, at the corner of Second St. and Center Ave., be exempted from taxes. The request was not granted and the Library never came about.

(Looking backwards this seems difficult to understand for Council at that period was made up of: J. T. Austin, F. H. Burkhart, W. J. Davis, E. E. Boyd, C. H. Wamoff, T. C. Pollock and James McCaslin and most would have been well acquainted with the Objects of the Woman's Club.)

It was some eight years later (May 1926) that Groundbreaking Ceremonies took place, during Mrs. J. T. Ford's presidency. Wilbur M. May built the red-brick Club House at 201 Center Ave. It has been a center of community activity ever since it was dedicated in December 1926.



Courtesy Charles F. Lytle

Mrs. McKenzie, wife of a well-known local merchant, was the sixth president of the Woman's Club, serving in 1914-15. Her daughter, Kate, taught in the 5th St. High School. This picture appeared in a 1917 magazine.





Courtesy Mrs. Paul Wamhoff

Mrs. George H. Drumheller was president when the club celebrated its 25th Anniversary December 6, 1934. That was also the year she served as one of three judges for the Prudence Penny Menu Contest, at which time the above picture was taken.

In the early years the Club House was headquarters for the Men's Club, the Girl Scouts and the Women's Republican Club. During the 1930's Saturday night was "Youth Night" — movies for the younger children and dances for the teen-age group, on alternate weeks. Then came the years of the Friday night Canteen for the high school crowd, only abandoned in the mid-1960's after the formation of the Fox Chapel School District made it impossible to handle the increased crowds. Nonpartisan political groups, welfare organizations and social and cultural clubs have always found a welcome at The Woman's Club. Currently it is "home" to the Eastern Star and several bridge clubs.

The Club House has long been a favorite place for holding wedding receptions, Golden Anniversary celebrations, etc. This type of rental use helps to pay the yearly taxes and upkeep. The women have always been ingenious about raising money. At one time a pig, given to Mrs. A. P. Meyer to raise, brought \$100 to the club when he was sold. During the presidency of Mrs. F. E. Sturgeon (1931-1933) a dog inadvertently provided the nucleus for a club Scholarship Fund, by having five pups which were sold at \$5.00 each and the profit given to the Fund.



MRS. IDA K. FORD

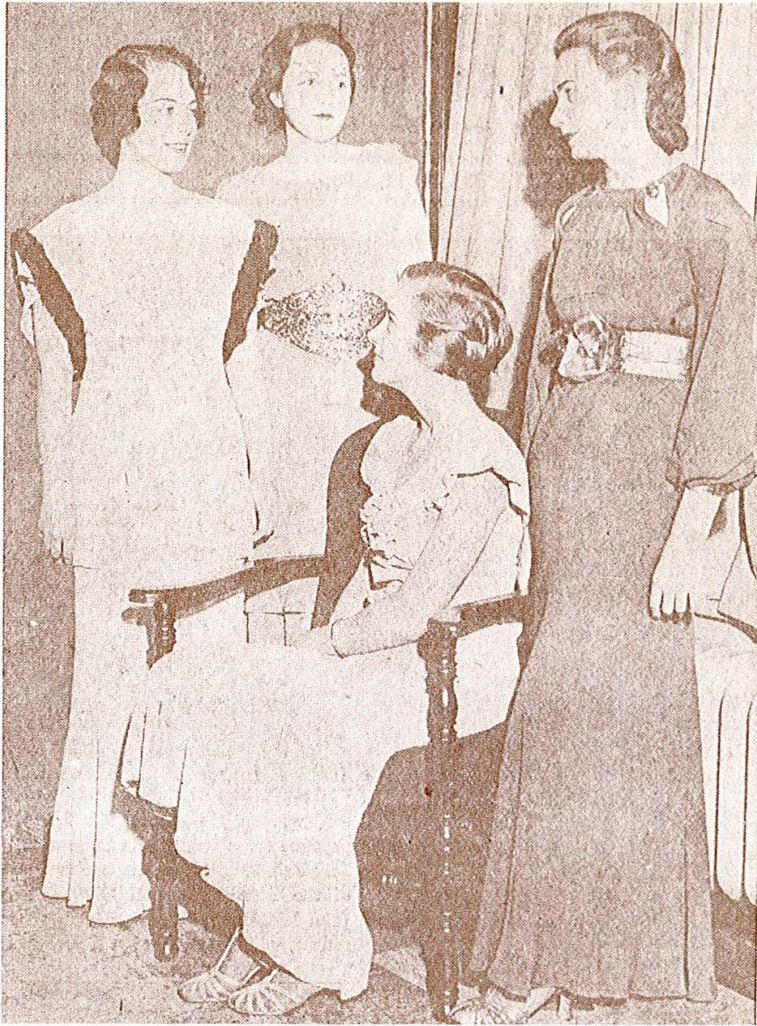
Courtesy Miss Jean McCrum

A lady of gentle humor but firm persuasions, Mrs. Ford (seen above) was best known for her astute ways with a bankbook and budget. Much interested in the welfare and progress of her community, she was untiringly devoted to any cause she espoused and usually found herself handling the finances of the organizations she joined. Her church and the Woman's Club of Aspinwall were her two main interests, however.

From the time of its inception in 1922, Mrs. Ford served as chairman of the club's Finance Committee. It was only a few months prior to her death on July 3, 1942, (at the age of 81) that she relinquished the active chairmanship, to become honorary chairman and advisor. Many times during those twenty years a prosaic financial report was turned into a humorous account through Mrs. Ford's adroit wit. She also served a term as president (1925-1927) and it was during this time that the Club House was formally dedicated.



## *Juniors of Woman's Club of Aspinwall*



From 1934-35 Woman's Club Scrap Book

On Saturday, January 26, 1935, the Junior Department of the Woman's Club of Aspinwall, hosted all Juniors of Allegheny County at a Tea and Antique Quilt Exhibit in the Club House. Miss Mary Helen Klingensmith was chairman of the event and was assisted by these Aides, as seen above: l. to r., Miss Betty Jane Duckwall, Miss Charlotte Emerson, Miss Betty Rehtmeyer and Miss Carlene Osborne. Mary Helen Wanamaker was in charge of quilts and Gertrude Kromer was refreshment chairman. Catrine Pratt was also an Aide.

In 1934 when the Woman's Club of Aspinwall celebrated its 25th Anniversary, there was a very active Junior section. That was the year in which the club's Scrapbook took Second Prize in the State Federated competitions. From the pages of that scrapbook we learn that many daughters of senior members were "following in their mother's footsteps." Betty Jane Duckwall, whose mother was the fifth president of the original club, was busy as a pianist at many social meetings.

The Misses Annabel Meyer, Martha May, Betty Keck, Sally Muldoon, Betty Uber, Alice Ganster, Roselle Norton, Carolyn Hartley and Dorothy Holmes were all active members of the Junior Department. So were Grace Austen, Barbara Potter, Carolyn Riley, Grace Cameron, Helen Zweidinger, Lois Wally, Virginia Gault and Genevieve Jones. Miss Marie Mulholland, niece of Mrs. J. T. Ford, was chairman of the club's newest department, the Garden Department, established in 1933.



During the years many talented women have emerged as leaders in the Woman's Club. Mrs. A. P. Meyer, president in 1912-1913, was known for her gardening talents. Mrs. J. T. Ford was a fund-raising expert. Mrs. William Anderson was an accepted authority on Parliamentary Law—even authored a book on the subject. Mrs. R. J. Steele, president in 1937-1939, was also an astute legislative official. In the field of education both Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. George H. Drumheller served as members of the Aspinwall School Board. Musically Mrs. George Robie was known for her fine voice; Mrs. Howard Bolton, 1951-1953 President, for her talents as a composer and pianist; and Mrs. J. B. Henry, twice the presiding officer, for her fine dramatic ability. Mrs. Elmer Vaught was known for her ability as a make-up artist and Mrs. H. C. Parker for her good cooking.

Currently the club is affiliated with the General, Pennsylvania, and Allegheny County Federations of Woman's Clubs. Mrs. Maurice Trout is State Color Card Note Chairman. (President in 1959-1961, she presided at the 50th Anniversary.) Mrs. Paul Wamhoff, 1963-1965 president, serves as County Conservation Chairman. Mrs. Howard Bolton, who presided at the Mortgage Burning in 1947, is now State Organist. Mrs. E. J. Jessy is 1965-1967 Woman's Club President.

In 1967 the Woman's Club has five departments: EVENING, Mrs. W. S. Kanhofer chairman; GARDEN, Mrs. M. E. Trout chairman; HOME ECONOMICS, Mrs. F. A. Vogel chairman; FINE ARTS, Mrs. Philip Meyer, president-elect, chairman and the JUNIORETTEs, Mrs. Bruce Coles, Mrs. Paul Gumto and Mrs. W. S. Kanhofer, sponsors. Joanne Fasone is president of this new teenage section.



Courtesy Mrs. Paul Wamhoff

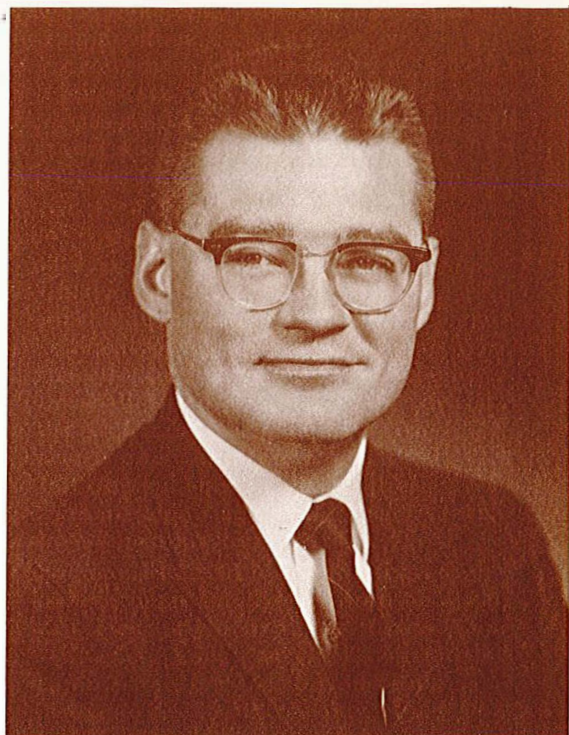
For many years the talents of members of the Aspinwall Woman's Club won them much acclaim and large audiences for their Annual Minstrel Show. This is the 1953 show cast. Front row, l. to r., Ruth Bolton, accomplished pianist and composer, was the musical genius of the group and served as accompanist; Emma Vaught, Nell Larimer, Olive Bechtel, Helen Brady, Thelma Douthitt, Jeni Shea,

Alice Klingensmith, Cathy Regan, Alva Hamley. Second row—Twila Redpath, Helen Pitzer, Jean Redpath, Helen Warner, Isabella Fleming, Edith Dearing, Joan Montgomery, Ernestine Nikhazy, Stella Debacher, Betty Carmichael. Third row, Lu Bauer, Virginia Brown, Louise Heimann, Sally Vaughn, Ruth Evans, Louella Vogel, Kathy King, Emma Wamhoff, Alberta Lang, Melba McGreevy.



Three generations of Agnew men have served as public servants in Aspinwall. The first, **Frank R. Agnew** (1867-1956) of Coraopolis, who married Nettie George (1870-1936) of Northwood, Ohio in 1894, came to town in 1898. He became Borough Solicitor on March 4, 1901 and it was he who arranged the final "Brilliant Cut-off" settlement with the Pennsylvania Railroad. Four decades later his son, **Willard F. Agnew**, was a school director for about ten years. Then in 1953, **Willard F. Agnew, Jr.**, known to everyone as "Chick", was elected to Borough Council when only 29.

"Chick", son of Willard F. and Jean (Fischer) Agnew, was born December 30, 1924; graduated from AHS in 1942; spent 1943-1946 with the US Army (European Theatre); in 1946 became Judge Advocate General of American Legion Post 77; earned a BA degree from Penn State in 1949 and LLB degree at University of Pittsburgh Law School in 1951; opened his practice and married Norma Graham in 1952; began four consecutive terms in State Legislature in 1954; organized Guyasuta R. E. Agency with partner R. S. Spencer in 1955; was first vice president of CONACC 1958-1961; elected Borough Council president 1958, resigning when elected GOP Minority Whip in State House in 1960. His brilliant career ended abruptly when his heart gave out March 14, 1961.



Courtesy Mrs. W. F. Agnew, Jr.

**Willard F. Agnew, Jr.**



Town & Country Studio

**Harry B. Conner**

**Former Mayor Harry B. Conner** was a man of gentle demeanor, military bearing and inflexible ideals. An articulate man with a quiet, wry wit, he was often called upon to speak at special occasions. He was the son of Charles Edwin and Ellen Jane (Sykes) Conner who brought their six children to Aspinwall in 1900. An employee of H. K. Porter Company, the elder Mr. Conner joined Hose Company No. 2 on May 2, 1905; served on Borough Council (1907-1917) and (1919-1921), being elected President upon G. H. Smith's death in 1913.

All three of his sons became firemen; Harry in 1907, Charles in 1909 and Raymond in 1910. At Harry Conner's request, Council gave \$300 for the Fire Department's 20th Anniversary celebration in 1913. The firemen won many prizes during his term (1912-1931) as Military Captain. He was Fire Chief from March 18, 1918 to December 5, 1921. Upon the death of S. R. Chase (December 16, 1921) he served as Borough Clerk until E. M. Gosnell replaced him, January 2, 1922, then he began eight years as a Councilman. During his presidency (1924-1926) the Council-Manager type of government was adopted and the position of Borough Secretary created. He was Kiwanis Club president in 1953 and Mayor of Aspinwall from January 1958 until his death, April 7, 1965.





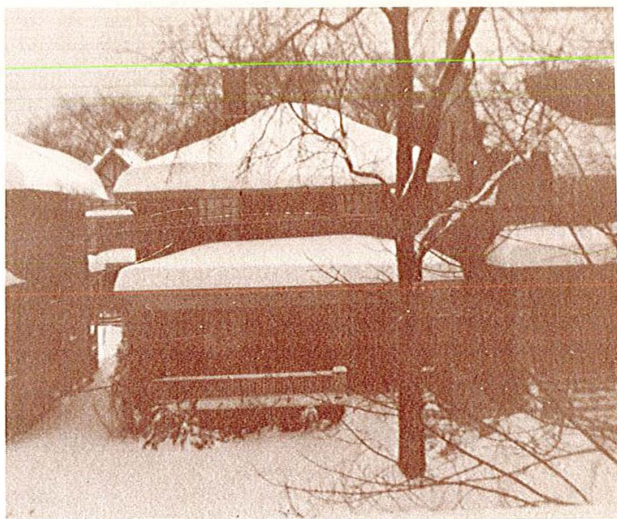
Courtesy Mrs. Paul Wamhoff

Young folks like Richard Wamhoff enjoyed their "extra" vacation playing in the 6 foot snow drifts.

In general, old "Mother Nature" has smiled on Aspinwall down through the years. Only about a dozen times has the weather created enough trouble to warrant mention in the official records of the borough. Two natural disasters—the 1936 St. Patrick's Day Flood and the 1950 Thanksgiving snow—caused extensive discomfort, inconvenience, and even hardship and property damage, but no loss of life.

An 1893 summer wind storm swept through the valley with such gusty force that it moved a house six inches off its foundation. (The house was under construction at the time.) With only dirt roads and board walks—and much open space between houses—considerable damage was done by flying debris and tree branches. It was a terrifying time, well remembered by some of the "old-timers" who were just young children then.

Torrential rain in September 1921 caused a flash food that filled many cellars; a March 1922 storm caused the Darlington Hollow Run to overflow and left 53 truck loads of mud and debris to be cleared away; 15 inches of snow in February 1925 and 18 inch-



Courtesy Mrs. W. R. Marsh

This picture, taken several days after the 29 inch snow-fall of November 24, 1950, shows the Joe Jugovic, Stanley Shade and John Gault houses on Virginia Ave.

es in January 1964 kept schools closed for several days; two bad storms in the summer of 1928 left the town without power; and May 5, 1956 and August 1962 storms inundated Freeport Road and Brilliant Avenue business houses. Each storm caused problems for the borough "fathers", and the families most affected, but none ever drastically changed the town, or its history.

In the early days, summer brought many problems. One was the sudden swarms of grasshoppers which descended upon the area. Clouds of green and brown insects swirling about one's head, while feet slipped and slid as dozens were scrunched under-foot, made walking very hazardous. Housewives fought a constant battle with the brown stains caused by the saliva from the "hoppers", but the young boys had contests to see who could capture the greatest variety of the creatures.

Baby toads which appeared as if by magic after a warm summer rain, covering the boardwalks and roadways, were another hazard to the pedestrian. However, they provided great sport for the young boys of the town. Ignoring the "old wives tales" about warts, they held races and jumping contests with the baby "croakers". Attracted by the bugs and flies which fell to the ground after contacting the Arc lights, they could be gathered by the kegful, at street corners.





Courtesy Miss Bessie O'Toole

**Judge J. L. O'Toole**

**Richard Armstrong Kennedy** (1856-1935) served 23 years as Judge of Allegheny County Court, sixteen of them as Presiding Judge.

The oldest of 10 children born to John Kennedy, Jr. and Amarilla (Pneuman) Kennedy, he attended Mt. Union College in Ohio. At Lafayette College in Easton, Pa. he was Captain and stroke of the boat crew. Graduating in 1878, he was admitted to the Allegheny County Bar in 1879. He formed a law partnership with David Smith in 1889. Smith retired in 1902 and Nelson McVicar joined him. When Samuel M. Hazlett joined the firm it became Kennedy, McVicar & Hazlett. Governor John K. Tener commissioned him a Judge on June 6, 1911. His first 10 year term started in 1912. He was serving his third term when he died.

Judge Kennedy had a critical taste for music and books. He loved all outdoor activities. His hobbies included botany, meteorology, astronomy, photography, hunting, fishing, boating and tennis.

In 1881 Mr. Kennedy married Maria Luella Walter, daughter of Jacob H. Walter, Esq., former prothonotary of Allegheny County. She died in 1915, leaving one daughter (Mrs. Charles T. Sharpless who still lives in Springdale). In 1919 Mr. Kennedy married again - Irene M. Ward of Springdale. In 1924 they moved to Aspinwall where she still lives.

For nearly three decades, at the turn of the century, a big, good-looking, Irish railroader, James L. O'Toole, and his wife, Mary Curran O'Toole, lived on Western Ave. The first of their 13 children, James L. O'Toole, Jr. was born July 4, 1900.

Ambitious and energetic, he worked as an errand boy and caddy during his youth. He attended Notre Dame (as did his six brothers), graduating from Law School in 1921 with highest honors. He joined the Democratic party and in 1933 was assistant to City Solicitor, Cornelius D. Scully. However, after eight months of Mayor William H. McNair's shenanigans, both O'Toole and Scully resigned.

Shortly thereafter City Council elected Mr. Scully to fill a vacancy and in 1935 Mr. O'Toole was made Collector of Internal Revenue. Mayor McNair's buffoonery continued until he finally resigned, under Democratic pressure, on Oct. 6, 1936. C. D. Scully, who was president of City Council, became Mayor and James O'Toole was named to fill his seat. In 1937 the voters elected O'Toole to a full 4 year term and he became President of Council. In 1941 he was elevated to the bench, becoming Judge of Common Pleas Court. He had already won re-nomination to a second 10 year term when he died August 3, 1951.



Courtesy Mrs. R. A. Kennedy

**Judge Richard A. Kennedy**



**Carl R. Forster** of Middletown, Ohio, came to Aspinwall in 1929 to visit his sister, Gertrude Van Pelt, and seek work. He joined Equitable Gas Company where he is now a Supervisor. Married to the former Helen Peterson, daughter of Cloyd C. Peterson of Aspinwall, he was sworn into Council on New Years Day 1958. Now serving his third term on Council, he was elected President January 6, 1964. A Mason and member of the First Methodist Church, he is a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Aspinwall and of the Community Recreation Association.

When illness forced **Neil Buckley** to give up his singing career (after 12 years as vocalist for Don Bestor's orchestra) he came to Aspinwall (1940) and soon became a Printer's Broker. A past president of both the Kiwanis Club and CRA, and a GOP committeeman for 18 years, he was elected to Council in 1958 and served 6 years. He became Mayor following the death of H. B. Conner, April 1965. He is now on the Executive Board of the Allegheny County Mayors' Association.

**James E. Donley** of Williamsport, Pa., Aspinwall Borough Manager and Secretary (12/64-12/67), came here after three years as Manager at Mifflinburg, Pa. He was president of the Kiwanis Club of Aspinwall when he left to become Borough Manager at Camp Hill, Pa.

**Chester D. May**, born and raised in Aspinwall, worked 27 years as a general contractor with his father, Wilbur M. May. He was appointed to Council March 10, 1961 to fill the vacancy caused by his father's death. A Trustee of the Aspinwall UP Church; a volunteer fireman and chairman of the Firemen's Relief Assn., he spent three and one-half years with the US Army Engineers in WW II. He is now serving his second elected term on Aspinwall Council.

**Frank A. Nedrow** was sworn into Council January 12, 1966 to fill the unexpired term of "Pete" Pletz, who moved away. A native of Brownsville, Pa., he came to Aspinwall in 1956. Except for five years with G. C. Murphy Co. and two and one-half years with the US Army in WW II, Mr. Nedrow has spent his life in the finance field. A vice president of the Union National Bank of Pittsburgh, he is chairman of Council's Finance Committee.

Councilman **Wm. C. Hill** was an Aspinwall postman for 24 years prior to retiring from the Postal Service in 1960. He moved to town 17 years ago and was co-owner of the Aspinwall Sport Shop. First seated on Council in January 1961, he is currently serving his second four-year term.

Known affectionately as "Ducky" Hill, he has been active as a sports official for many years. He is a past president of the Eastern Intercollegiate Officials Assn.; a member of the West Penn Basketball Officials and the Pittsburgh Softball Umpires Assn.; was 13 years the Officials' delegate to PIAA and served one term on the PIAA Board of Control. He has been president of the Aspinwall Civic Associations since it was started in 1963.

Councilman **Marion C. Lang** and his twin, Eugene C. Lang, were born in Aspinwall February 13, 1905, their father, Charles Lang, having come from Ligonier in 1901. Marion is a life-time employee of Blaw-Knox Co., having started in 1928. On January 5, 1942, he was appointed to fill the unexpired Council term of Fred Koesling and served four years. When Neil Buckley resigned in March 1964 he was again appointed to fill an unexpired term. Chairman of the Insurance Committee, he is now serving a full four-year term to which he was elected in 1966.

Banker **T. Brown Herron** has held more Borough positions than any other Councilman, it would seem. A Borough Auditor in the late 1920's, he became Borough Treasurer March 11, 1935, was Tax Collector from 1943 to August 1954 and has now been a member of Council for nearly a decade. His family came to Aspinwall in 1899 and he was born here July 13, 1901. Mr. Herron is vice president of Council and chairman of the Civic & Ordinance Committee. He lives at 107 Tenth St.

**Elmer C. ("Pete") Schneider** was five weeks old when brought to Aspinwall. The oldest of six children, he quit school to work for Jones & Laughlin Steel Company, retiring in 1958. Married to Genevieve Giniff of Aspinwall, "Pete" has served as: Civil Defense Director; Councilman (1960-1968), being president August 14, 1962 to January 6, 1964 (filling the vacancy caused by M. G. Thompson's death); and as Acting Borough Secretary, replacing Jim Donley until Walter Ringle took office July 15, 1968.





**CARL FORSTER**  
Council President



**NEIL BUCKLEY**  
Mayor



**JAMES E. DONLEY**  
Borough Manager



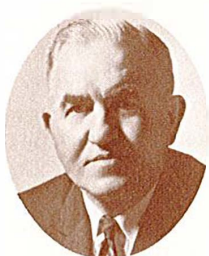
**CHESTER D. MAY**  
Councilman



**E. C. SCHNEIDER**  
Councilman



**FRANK A. NEDROW**  
Councilman



**WM. C. HILL**  
Councilman



**MARION C. LANG**  
Councilman



**T. BROWN HERRON**  
Councilman

These are the men who govern Aspinwall in this Diamond Jubilee year of 1967. Aspinwall has been governed by the Council-Manager form of government since February 18, 1923. The seven members of Borough Council are the representatives of the people and are elected by them to serve four year terms. They are the legislative branch—setting all policies and responsible for the collection and distribution of all tax monies. The Mayor is also elected by the voters each four years. He is the chief judicial officer—exercising the powers of a Justice of Peace, administering oaths, seeing that the laws are obeyed and signing all documents of legal authority. The President of Council fulfills these duties in the absence of the Mayor.

The Borough Manager is appointed by Council, every two years. He is the top executive officer—administering the day-by-day functions of the local government. He oversees the work of all departments; represents the Borough at meetings and conferences; is the liaison between the citizens and the Council and is responsible for seeing that all Councilmanic actions are translated into accomplished fact.



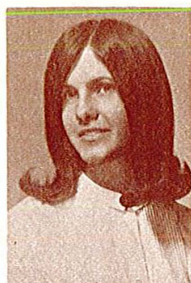
Contestants for the Diamond Jubilee title of "Miss Aspinwall"



Karen Kurkiewicz



Charlene Botta



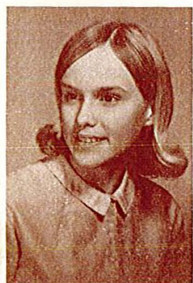
Kathryn Clouse  
chosen  
Diamond Jubilee's  
"Miss Aspinwall"



Anne Scullo



Cindy Gunkle



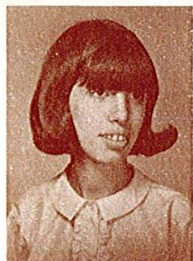
Sherry Woods



Ellen Hood, Mistress of Ceremonies,  
appeared as "Miss Pittsburgh 1930".



Sandy Woods



Debbie Diehm



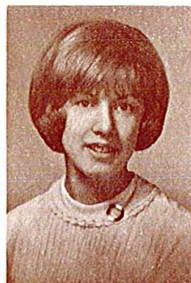
Deborah D'Amico



Joanne Fasone



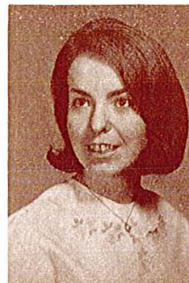
Nancy Platt



Rebecca Henderson



Amy Chorle



Noreen Corr

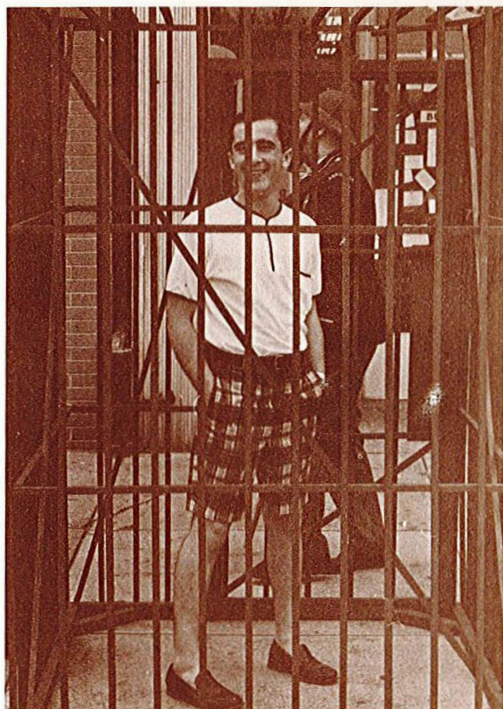
Kathy Clouse, 18 year old granddaughter of Guy A. McQuaid (Aspinwall Policeman 1926-1957) was crowned "Miss Aspinwall" July 4, 1967. A June graduate of Fox Chapel High School, she is the youngest of Germain A. Clouse and Lois McQuaid Clouse's four children. She received a \$50 bond, gift certificates, a travel kit and a trip to Atlantic City prior to entering Robert Morris Junior College in September.

Cindy Gunkle, first runner-up and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Gunkle, also went to Atlantic City. The other three finalists were: Karen Kurkiewicz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roman M. Kurkiewicz; Charlene Botta, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Botta; Anne Scullo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aleo J. Scullo. They were chosen by a 2 month "coin" vote of Aspinwall residents, voting at the Aspinwall Branch of Union National Bank.



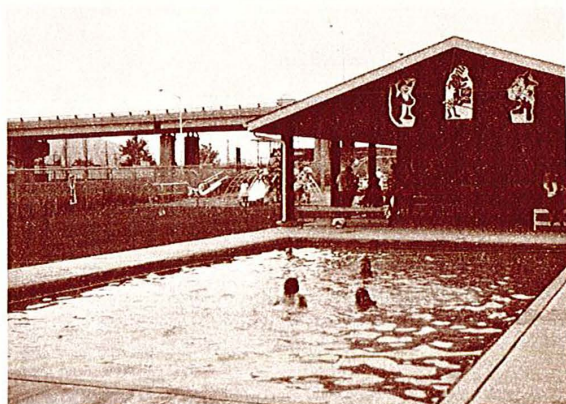
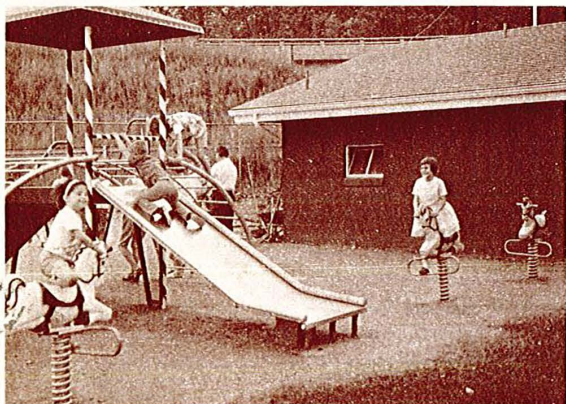
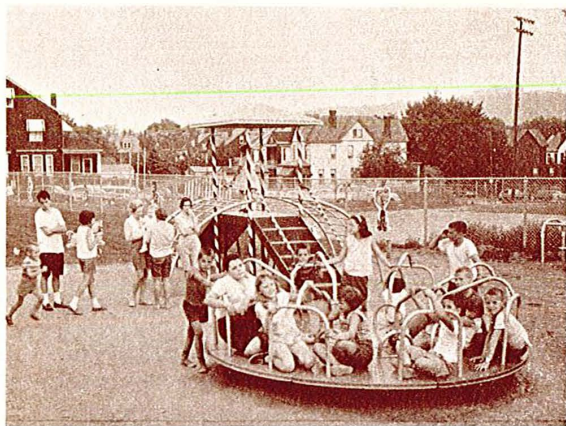


This is the group of local residents who provided entertainment at the "Miss Aspinwall" Contest held in the auditorium of the Junior High School, July 4, 1957. Presenting their own "Miss Aspinwall Reject" contest are: Alberta Shepard - Miss Western Avenue; Louise Stumpf - Miss Fourth Street Sewer-Drop; Virginia Canning - Miss Bent Twiggy; George "Junie" Haberman - Miss Firehouse No. 1; Virginia Bellante - Miss Bard's Shake; Helen Davis - Miss A&P Parking Lot; Dorothy Douthett - Miss Filtration Plant; Eileen Duff - Miss Ballfield and Mary Infante - Miss Erwin's Pharmacy. Ellen Hood - Miss Pittsburgh 1930 - was Mistress of Ceremonies for both contests.



Fire Chief Art Esser and son Gerry "caught" James A. Santelli on the streets of Aspinwall (L.) without a beard or the change to pay a fine (per Diamond Jubilee regulations) and threw him in the "jail" hastily erected on Commercial Ave. (R.) (Photo Courtesy Mrs. J. J. Santelli)





The start of the Route 28 By-Pass construction through Aspinwall in 1960 disrupted the playground for several years. In 1961 a new storage building was built and Field Avenue was constructed parallel to the playground. New basketball courts were built in 1963. The shelter house and wading pool were constructed in 1964 and reconstruction was finished with the placing of new playground items as seen above.



This 1967 picture of the Aspinwall Boat Club on the Allegheny River was taken by Carl Forster, as were the Playground scenes here and the River Oaks scenes opposite. The railroad bridge for the Brilliant Cut-off tracks is in the background.





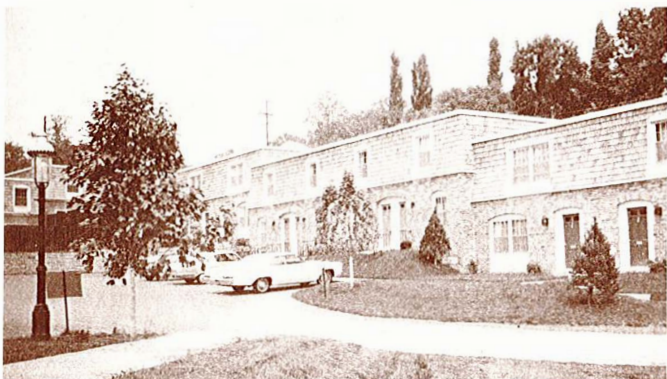
New River Oaks homes — 1967

For years the western edge of town, from 6th St. to 12th., was an unusable glen. The Windsor Land Co. owned this 33 acre area known as "Dog Hollow." In the mid 1950's the Borough of Aspinwall acquired this property for approximately \$7,000 in delinquent taxes. When the Aspinwall section of the Etna-Sharpsburg By-Pass construction began in 1960, the Borough contracted to have the Frank Mashuda Co. dump 1,250,000 cubic yards of fill in

the Hollow. The Borough received \$25,000 for dumping rights and controlled the operation with strict specifications. The installation of a 48 inch surface water sewer reclaimed the 33 acres for which C. A. West, Jr. paid \$66,000. He developed 150 living units in the River Oaks Plan, mixing multiple dwellings, Town Houses and single dwellings. Opened in 1936, \$8,800 in R. E. taxes is already being realized from this new development.



This eight-apartment Town House replaced a single family dwelling at the corner of 9th St. and Center Ave. in 1966.



The River Oaks Town House complex.



Swimming Pool at River Oaks



The first official Birth Records kept by Allegheny County (in 1893) show eleven children were born in Aspinwall the first year it was an officially chartered borough.

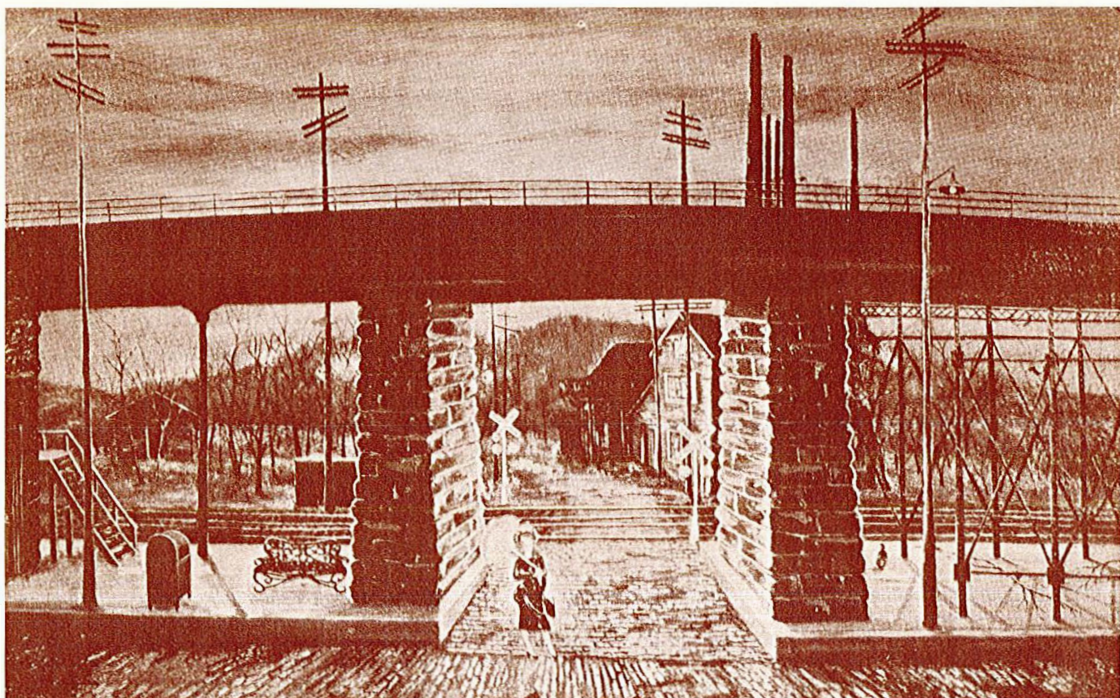
Apparently, Ruth Catherine Dyson, daughter of painter Frank Dyson and his wife, Anna N., was the first girl born there—on February 1, 1893. On March 14, contractor Henderson Creese and his wife Ella had a girl, Martha. The record shows that Elmer Charles Schneider was born the same day. However, his parents, bookkeeper Charles Schneider and his wife Bertha, really lived in Allegheny City at that time and brought their infant son to Aspinwall one month later.

On April 14, 1893 Henry Cordier McDonald was born to clerk Robert A. McDonald and his wife Annetta. Myrtle Holand Hesson was born to salesman Benjamin Hesson and his wife Elizabeth on April 27, 1893. May 1st

clerk William C. Scott and his wife Bird L. Scott became parents of a girl. Anna Margaret. Elizabeth May Freidel was born to machinist Leonard Freidel and his wife Kate on July 6, 1893.

Railroad Inspector James Sweeney and his wife Elizabeth, of 5th St., had a daughter, Myra, September 27th. On October 1st, Edith Catherine Dillon was born to glass blower Matthew Dillon and his wife Catherine, of 5th St. Helen Miller Chase was born to agent Samuel R. Chase and his wife Margaret L. on November 21, 1893. On December 14th, bookkeeper Charles D. Darby and his wife Kate became parents of a son, unnamed in records.

Although no official record was found to authenticate the birth, it is known that Francis (Midge) Marshall was born in Aspinwall on February 26, 1892, to Frank and Sarah Marshall. It was not possible to prove whether he was the first child born there or not.



This painting - "Spring Comes to Waterworks Road" - was done by Marty Lewis Cornelius, one of Pittsburgh's sister team of artists who gained national attention during the late 1940's. Sketched on Freeport Road in Aspinwall, it depicts a young woman with an umbrella standing on rain-drenched cobblestones at the railroad underpass. The busy borough parking lot now occupies what appears as the rustic, left-hand background area of the painting. It was exhibited in the 1949 Annual Exhibition of Contemporary Painting at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, after having first hung in Pittsburgh's Spring Associated Artists Show.







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We hope you have enjoyed reading this book. The frustrations, unexpected delays and the multitude of problems your committee encountered were, at times, very discouraging. When this book was first conceived, our aims and goal were to publish a book of which we could all be proud. This, we believe, has been achieved.

In a book of this kind, errors are inevitable. We have tried, through many hours of research, to keep them to a minimum. If you find errors, take a few minutes and write them down and mail to the Boro Office. These corrections can then be checked and filed for future reference.

thank you

HISTORICAL BOOK COMMITTEE

C. R. Forster, Chairman.

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Miss Rosemary G. Hoak  
Lysle T. and Gertrude-Spilker Grubbs  
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. S. Kanhofer  
Helen C. Love  
Marie's Petite Boutique  
Howard A. Humes  
August A. Zuccaro —  
Civil Defense Director  
Aspinwall Area Baseball Association  
Harry L. Brinkhoff  
Harry and Gordon Grubbs

F. C. Cunningham  
The Nicholas Haller Family  
E. C. Schneider  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. McGarry  
Mr. and Mrs. Whitney S. Knight  
Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Klingensmith  
Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Schaller  
Mrs. W. Charles Larimer  
In Memory of George E. McQuaid  
Francis P. Clifford  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Jessy  
Mr. and Mrs. A. McRae, Jr.  
Raymond H. Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Brosius  
Philip Le G. Meyer  
Bertha C. McKee Family  
Mrs. Dorothy M. Kumer  
Wm. L. Fink  
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Ellis  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene J. Lyons  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Casile  
M. C. Lang  
Mrs. Wayne Rawley, Jr. & Nancy  
Chester D. May  
Harry E. Jones, Jr.  
Mr. George White  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Newman  
Mr. and Mrs. John E. May  
Howard E. Love  
Viola R. Hawkins  
Harry Carr Dobler  
Virginia A. Black  
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Nagle  
James E. Donley  
Mr. and Mrs. George F. Mackey





Aspinwall Methodist, Center and Fourth Street



St. Scholastica Roman Catholic, Third Street



Aspinwall Evangelical Lutheran, Center & Fifth St.



United Presbyterian, Center Avenue and Third Street

*The Churches of Aspinwall welcome you to worship with them.*