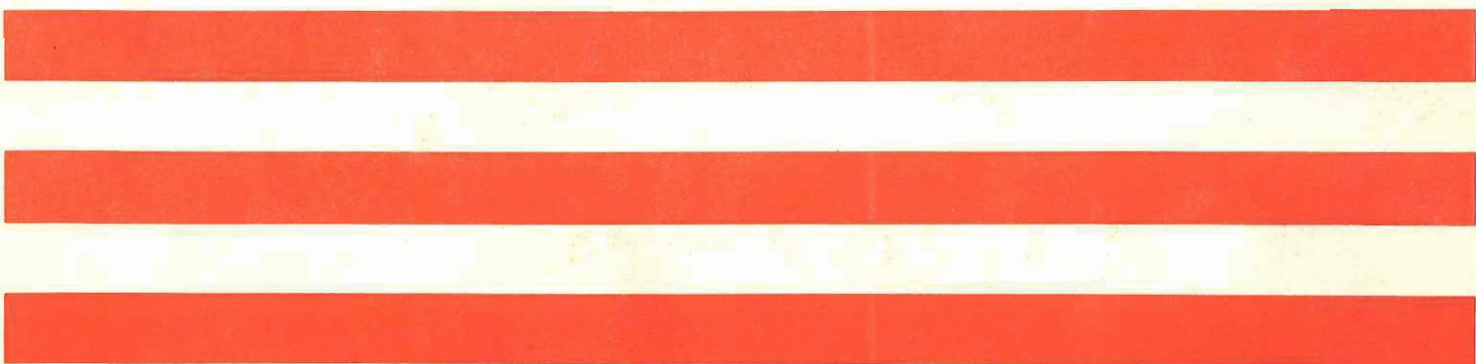
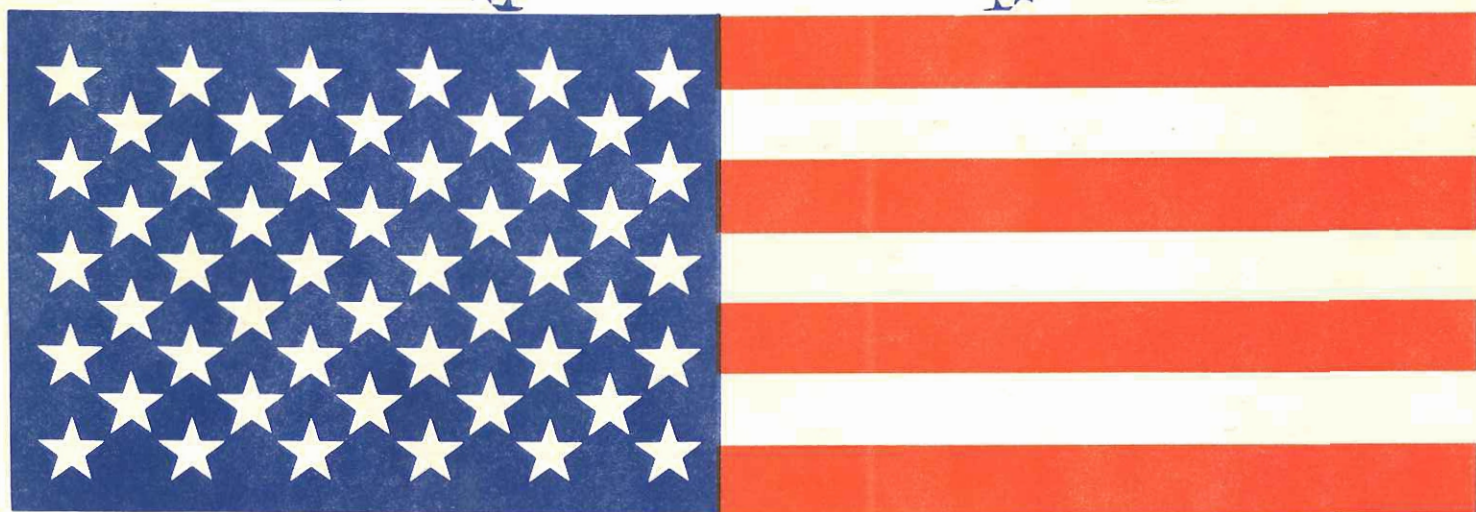


1776 BICENTENNIAL 1976
PORT VUE
PATRIOTS



THE AUTHOR



Former Justice of the Peace, Mayor Rudolph Antoncic, is shown above being sworn in for another six-year term of office by Pennsylvania's late Supreme Court Justice Michael A. Musmanno. The ceremony took place in the Judge's Chambers in the City-County Building, Pittsburgh.

Mayor Antoncic was married to the late Mary Kish and is the father of two sons, Richard F. at home, and Rudolph, Jr., presently enrolled at Duquesne University. The Mayor has been a resident of Port Vue for more than 57 years and for 42 of those years has served the residents of his community together with the citizens of the United States with loyalty and integrity in such capacities as Church trustee, area historian, Scout Commissioner, Counsellor and Lecturer on Citizenship. He was also a former Director of the Board of Health, and a former constable and deputy. He was appointed to the Office of Justice of the Peace in Port Vue in 1941 by the late Governor Arthur H. James and since then has been re-elected for five consecutive six-year terms.

Mayor Antoncic was a former County Committeeman, served as Chairman of the American Red Cross drive, was past President of the Port Vue Lions Club, past chairman of the "Be Thankful You Can See" Campaign, participated in the March of Dimes, Polio and Muscular Dystrophy Drives and was honored as the "Man of the Year" for compiling the history of the Borough from colonial times to the present.

GENERAL HISTORY OF THE AREA BEFORE 1892

History, the crystallization of past events, authenticates a narration of facts gathered from reliable sources, written in the simplest language. Thanks to the records or statements of others who have come before us, the history of this area has been preserved for all times. Port Vue has evolved into a flourishing community where industry, education and progress are enjoyed by all.

The forks of the Monongahela and Youghiogheny Rivers were occupied for thousands of years by the Iroquois and Delaware Indian tribes, who were part of the Allegewi, from whom our County derives its name Allegheny. The Iroquois' many tribes and tribal groups obeyed a social code which granted women the right to vote, own property and select a Chief along with the male members of the tribe. The Iroquois, also known as the Five Nations, were composed of the Mohawk, Delaware, Oneida, Gayuga and Seneca tribes. They were also called the Six Nations when the Tuscarora tribe was added to the group. In our Port Vue and McKeesport areas, the Iroquois overseer was Half-King Scaroooyaddy, also known as Moneccatootha or Skirooniatta. Accompanying Queen Aliquippa's son, Cashuwayon, and George Washington, Scaroooyaddy, in 1753, visited the French Forts on the upper Allegheny. Actively taking part in the Braddock campaign, he received public thanks by Governor Morris on August 15, 1755, after fighting in thirty-one combats. A Shawnee Village near West Newton was located, as other tribes, west of Scott Haven and north of Gratztown. Their chief, Catahecassa, also known as Blackoff, was at Braddock's Defeat, and fought in the Ohio wars until the Treaty of Greenville. In 1795, at well over the age of one hundred years, he died at Wapakanetta, Allen County, Ohio.

Generally speaking, indians have lived in this area for over 10,000 years. Archaeologists have divided their stay into these six periods:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Palio Indians | 8000 B.C. to 3000 B.C. |
| Archaic Indians | 3000 B.C. to 1000 B.C. |
| First Burial Mound Period | 1000 B.C. to 300 B.C. |
| Second Burial Mound Period | 300 B.C. to 1000 A.D. |
| Late Prehistoric | 1000 A.D. to 1600 A.D. |
| Historic | 1600 A.D. to Indefinite period |

In Elizabeth Township, which Port Vue was once a part, evidence of Palio Indians survive within twenty village sites. Surprisingly, it appears that these villages were abandoned before the advent of the white settlers. Hunting and fishing, along with some farming, seem to have occupied these Indians during their ten-century stay in the valley. They made pottery, bone needles, awls, chisels and beads; flint arrow-heads and spears; stone axes, tomahawks, celts and sandstone and clay pipes.



Port Vue American Legion Post 447 presented the Mayor with its greatest citation for meritorious service. This award was presented for outstanding services to soldiers and veterans of World War II and the Korean War. He was also cited by the United States Secretary of the Treasury for volunteer service during the Second World War and the United States war bond program. Mr. Antoncic is being extended congratulations by inventor-engineer, John J. Kelmar, and Common Pleas Court Judge Nicholas P. Papadakos for being selected by the American Biographical Institute Bicentennial Committee as one of the Notable Americans of the Bicentennial Era, as shown in the picture below.

He received the official historical plaque for contributing to a better America by building a better community through services during this time in our nation's history.

He was cited by I.W. Abel, President of the International Steelworkers of America, C.I.O., as an Honorary Member for loyal services rendered and was publicly cited by the late Justice Michael A. Musmanno for patriotism, loyalty and for combating crime.

Mayor Antoncic is a graduate of the Criminal and Civil Law School, attended the University of Pittsburgh Class of Legal Framework for State and Local Governments and was known as "The Dean of the Area's Squires": Director James Slusser and Allegheny County Police Superintendent, Robert Kroner, presented Mayor Antoncic with a plaque for his interest in police training as co-sponsor and his efforts in making the school a success.

Rudolph Antoncic was elected Mayor of the Borough of Port Vue in 1974 and received congratulations and personal best wishes from Congressman Joseph Gaydos, Senator Edward P. Zemprelli, Commissioners Leonard C. Staisey and Tom Forrester and State Legislator, John Walsh.

The "pre-Elizabeth Township" inhabitants also left their mark on the East side of Pigeon Creek. Here was the farm of Mr. Vincent Colvin who acquired the land when the present day Elizabeth Township was a part of Orange County, Virginia, and our area was known as Yohogania. When Colvin settled here, the entire valley was densely covered with a primitive forest. A collection of rough stone was noticed on the most commanding promontory, which, with the elevated situation doubtlessly gave origin to the name "York". As the forest disappeared before the pioneers' ax, the site became known as "Fort Field" a name it held over one hundred years. The early cultivation of the farm caused great accumulations of muscle shell, ashes, charcoal, burned stone in piles, fragments of pottery, flints, stone implements, ornaments and weapons to be unearthed. In 1856, the discovery of a human cranium was noticed. Subsequently, other similar discoveries were made and by 1859-60 it became apparent that the field was an extensive ancient cemetery. After the grave robbers despoiled the field of its most prized possessions, enough was left for a scientific investigation to assess the composition of the former Indian burial ground in seven excavations.

The First Excavation contained the remains of a child about eight years old in good preservation, along with a vase containing some animal bones and dark particles of animal matter, which had been placed in the sepulchre to nourish the departed on his journey to the final resting place. This funeral rite has been observed as a wide-spread custom among many primitive peoples.

The Second Excavation also contained the remains of a young person.

The Third Excavation contained the remains of a child of six years of age. Ear ornaments of shell, minute copper beads and a copper tube, two inches long, filled with some fibrous substance were discovered. Copper was the only metal worked by prehistoric races on this continent. Ornaments and weapons of this valuable metal have been discovered in mounds and other ancient depositories.

The Fourth Excavation uncovered bits of bones.

The Fifth and Sixth Excavations contained more small bodies with the exception that a handsome pearl ornament was found in one and numerous unimportant relics in both.

The Seventh Excavation also contained a young child's body and tended to strengthen the opinion that the site was exclusively a cemetery for children.

All the bodies found were buried facing the South or Southwest. Dr. Keys, who headed the excavation, collected many fine specimens of the Stone Age in the Pigeon Creek excavation. Bodies that were found on Mr. Colvin's farm were dated to the Neolithic or "polished" Stone Age.

The Caleb Edmundson farm, located in Port Vue and acquired about the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, contained prehistoric and indian remains and numerous tombs, one of which was in an almost perfect state of preservation. Iron hatchets, together with stone implements indicated two different tribes used the site. Smoking pipes and various other relics were also found.

In the 1920's, on the farm of the late Alex Raisner, where Westwood Hills presently stands, arrows, celts, stone implements and weapons were found along with a large indian mound which measured about eight feet across, six feet high and about twenty feet long. Adjoining this mound was another mound that measured about four feet across and about three feet high and twenty-five feet long for children.

On the property of the late Mrs. Meri Becka at Hamilton Crossing, clay pipes and figurines were uncovered.

The late Ralph Whitehead uncovered at the river bottom, near the Old Tin Mill, a village site, a number of graves and numerous relics. He also uncovered a second village site believed to date back to 1000 to 1600 A.D. On the Reynold's farm on Port Vue's Pigeon Hollow Road, Mr. Whitehead uncovered yet another indian mound containing arrowheads, a chain with iron cuffs attached and other relics.

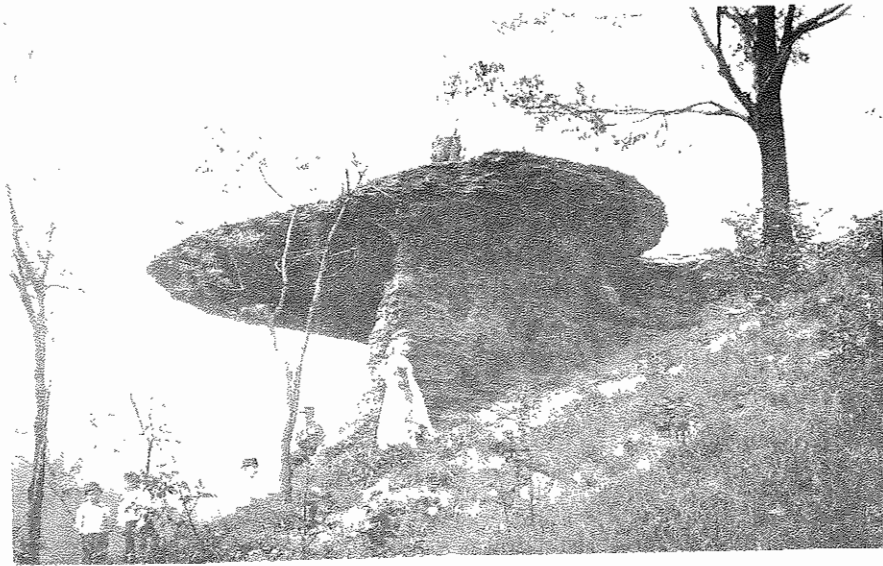
Mr. Andrew Nemchick of Bettis Road, West Mifflin, found arrowheads, flint chips, smoking pipes and broken pottery at the junction of the Monongahela and Youghiogheny Rivers fifty years ago.

At the end of Myer Avenue, near the home of the late Squire Joseph Sucha and Michael Kish, several mounds have been found.

Thus, the remains of prehistoric tribes can still be seen in our district. Portions of old fortifications and indian graves could have been spotted periodically as have been fortifications, as on the farm of James McKnight. Various implements have been found as on the farm of M. M. Wilson. The walls of the fort were six feet high and as late as 1830, mussel shells, arrowheads and flint chips were scattered throughout the fort.

QUEEN ALIQUIPPA

The Indians of this area were Algonquians. The English called them Delawares; the French called them lousps or wolves; they called themselves the Lenape or Leni-Lenape which meant "the real men". When the whites and Iroquois entered this area, the Algonquians moved to Ohio, Delaware and other parts of Pennsylvania.



UMBRELLA ROCK, CROOKED RUN

DELAWARE QUEEN ALIQUIPPA stood on this rock and met GENERAL BRADDOCK'S ARMY



George Washington and Christopher Gist visit Queen Aliquippa at the fork of Monongahela and Youghiogheny Rivers

At the junction of the Monongahela and Youghiogheny Rivers, Queen Aliquippa made her residence. Queen Aliquippa was born about 1680, and is first mentioned when she, her husband and young son, Cashuwayon, visited William Penn at New Castle, Delaware, on November 1, 1701. For many years after, Queen Aliquippa and her son lived in Juniata where Cashuwayon warned our founding fathers to forbid the fur traders from selling rum to the indians who would give away their land, skins, squaws and even their papooses for more whiskey.

Later, Queen Aliquippa returned to the area where Conrad Weiser dined with her at her town on the Allegheny River called Deundago which is Pittsburgh today. In the same year, 1748, Celeron de Blainville led his group of French soldiers down to our rivers to claim the land in our area. Queen Aliquippa refused to see him and she and her friends fled to the hills at Camden, the present site of Dravosburg, where they hid themselves in a cave. In 1749, Celeron found her at Sannopin's town, the village of King Shingles and his brother, King Beaver, the present site of McKees Rocks. This was an early trading center and active around 1730.

George Washington and Christopher Gist, on December 24, 1753, visited her at the junction of the Monongahela and Youghiogheny Rivers, and probably spent Christmas with her. Washington was sent by the Governor of Virginia who wished to forbid the French from erecting a fort at the present site of the Golden Triangle in Pittsburgh.

Chief Cashuwayon was employed by the British as the first Indian scout in our area. Cashuwayon, a great warrior, was at the battle of Fort Necessity when the French General, Count DeVilliers, made his attack with about fifteen hundred men. The Chief, for his bravery during the battle, was given the name "Fairfax" by Washington.

In the spring of 1755, General Braddock, with two regiments, arrived to drive the French from Fort Duquesne. Braddock requested Lt. Colonel Washington to join his army. The invitation was accepted and three companies of Virginia marksmen were raised by the Virginia Legislature. On the 8th of July, near the present town of Stewartsville, the army entered the valley of Long Run laden with baggage and artillery. At noon, the whole force took dinner at a spot near where Sampson's Mills stood and made a brief march to a lovely and sheltered nook midway between Long and Crooked Runs. The route between these two Runs lay along a plateau having an average width of about 100 rods, now known as White Oak Borough. The soldiers pitched their tents, made preparations for the night and gathered their water from a bountiful fountain to this day known as Washington Spring.



SCENE ON CROOKED RUN



SCENE ON LONG RUN

It was agreed that the narrows lying between the Army and Frazier's log cabin, near the mouth of Turtle Creek, were unpassable for artillery and, to avoid an ambush, they should cross the Monongahela by the ford. Lt. Gage was ordered to march before daybreak with two companies of soldiers of 160. They proceeded with guides and were followed by Sir John St. Clair with 250 men including engineers and a company of carpenters to make roads for artillery and baggage. Colonel Washington met the army at this point. Washington, weak from a prolonged fever, went to his quarters and rested. The next day they all marched down the valley of Crooked Run to the Monongahela, about a two mile distance. The banks of the river were finally sighted. As the army began its crossing a singular apparition met their wondering eyes. On a jutting rock, some twenty feet higher than their route, stood a bold figure of a very tall and commanding looking woman, Queen Aliquippa. In her outstretched hand was something like a lance with which she pointed to the opposite shore, as if to show the Army the way to victory. She slowly descended from her rocky perch and with stately and dignified steps, strode directly toward Washington. All were sorely puzzled not knowing who this commanding figure was. All at once Washington recognized her and exclaimed, "Gentlemen, this is Delaware Queen Aliquippa, for many years the unwavering friend of the English, Mother of our trusty scout Chief Cashuwayon. Come, I must descend and meet her with due honor. Once she was greatly offended because I dared pass her Royal Lodge which lies at the junction of the Youghiogheny with yonder river without calling on her". So saying, Washington dismounted and went forward to meet her, greeting her kindly and politely and presented her first to Braddock and to the other officers. The old Queen bade the General and his army welcome to her country, told him of a route and expressed the hope that he would speedily take the fort which dominated her river.

Soon a messenger came back from Gage to inform Braddock that the advance had re-crossed the river without any resistance travelling down stream until they reached a point located seven miles from Fort Duquesne. Here the army crossed the Monongahela in the area which is now Turtle Creek and were ambushed near Braddock Borough by the French and Indians. Nearly two thousand men lost their lives along with General Braddock. Braddock died in Washington's arms at Fort Cumberland and was buried at Great Meadows.

Soon after the defeat of General Braddock, Queen Aliquippa was sent to Juniata to George Croghan's plantation at Aughwick, Shirleysburg, where a few months later she died.

Her son, Chief Cashuwayon, was publicly thanked at a meeting of the Provincial Council for his services by Governor Morris on August 15, 1755. In Philadelphia, on October 24, 1756, after a short illness, he died.

While our area can boast of excellent relationships with the Indians, numerous raids are recorded. In 1777, the Keyser family was murdered near the Riverton Station by the present Duquesne Bridge. While a father and his two sons were in a field sowing wheat, they were alarmed by a band of indians who stormed the house and murdered the women. The indians then rushed to the field and attacked the men. The father was shot and scalped while his sons ran towards the river. On reaching its banks, the younger son fell in wounded by a bullet and the older son escaped by swimming across the Monongahela River to a block house on the opposite shore. He was the only one left to tell this mournful story.

In 1796, a block house stood on the property of Fraundley Muse on Long Run which was erected by Adam Reburn, a previous owner. In 1779 or 1780, Robert Cozens was shot by the indians while plowing the fields with Mr. Reburn's daughters. Both girls managed to escape.

From that time on our area was left to grow and prosper, uninhibited by the savage war cry and violence.

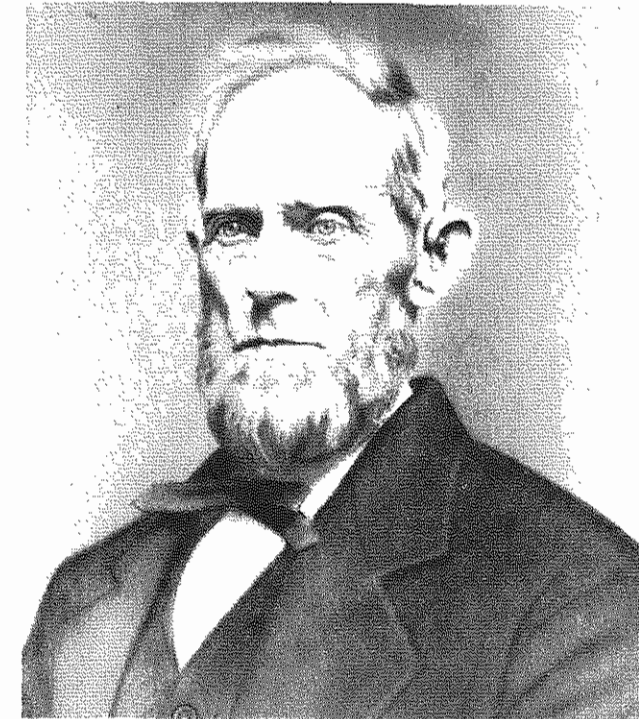
SAMUEL SINCLAIR

Samuel Sinclair was the first settler on "this side" of the Youghiogheny River and lived at the junction of the Monongahela and Youghiogheny Rivers (Tenth Ward, McKeesport). His land allowance of 209 acres was surveyed on September 1, 1769, and was called Springfield.

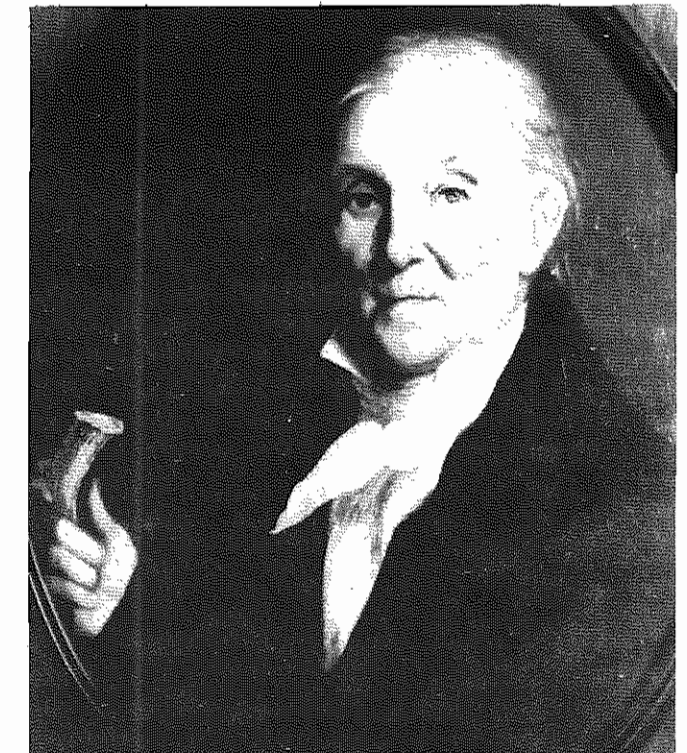
Samuel Sinclair married Elizabeth McKee, the daughter of Robert McKee, whose brother was John McKee, the founder of McKeesport. They sired Robert, Hiram, Pressley, Jane Edmundson, Mary Peebles, Nancy E. Robinson, Louisa Rose, Sarah Soles, Rebecca Edmundson and Elizabeth Sinclair. Samuel Sinclair, by his will, bequeathed to his son, Hiram, all the rights to the Ferry with the privilege of landing conveyed by James Evans.

McCLURES

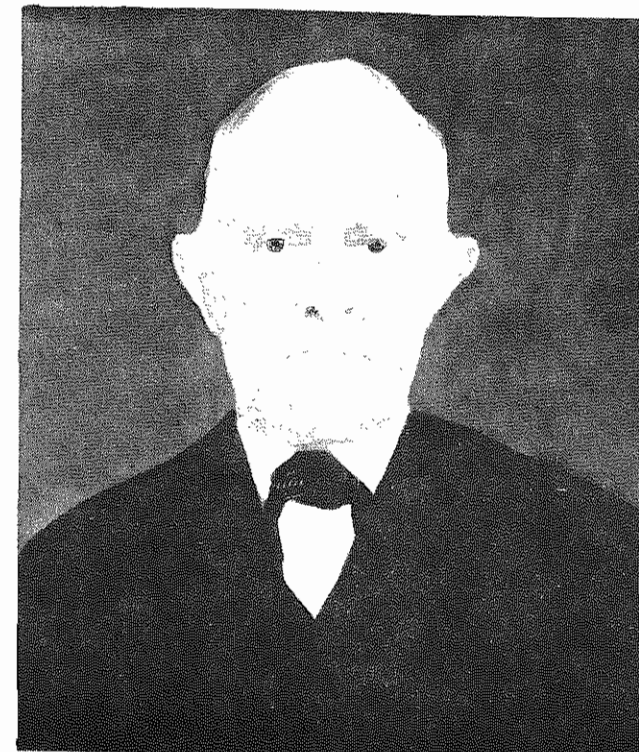
Richard McClure, another early settler, was granted a 400 acre tract of land on August 17, 1784. The McClures were the first settlers in the Old Borough of Port Vue which included parts of Glassport and Liberty. The ownership of the large tract of land was later divided between Richard McClure and his brother, William McClure, with Richard retaining about 200 acres.



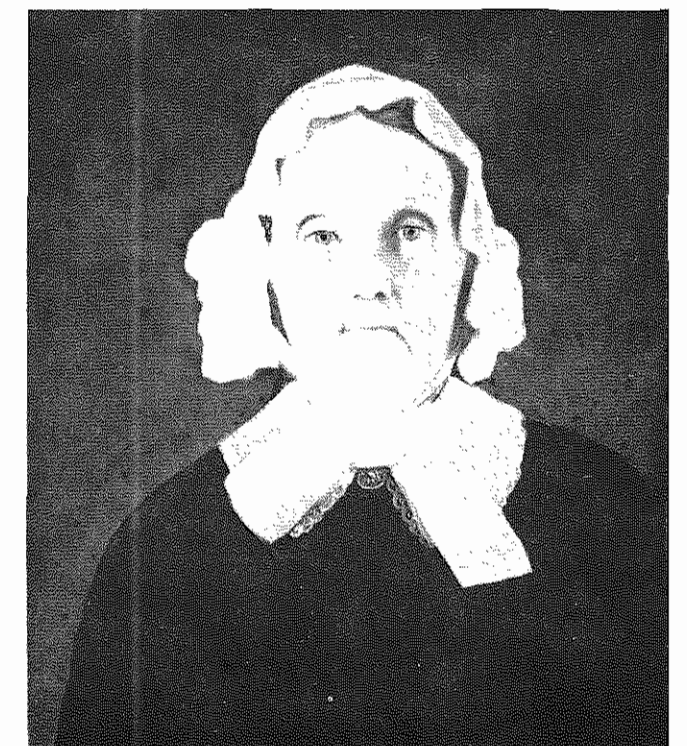
Andrew McClure



Judge Francis McClure



Alexander McClure



Sarah McClure

Richard McClure was born in Paxtang Township in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on June 16, 1754, and died in Lincoln Township on July 9, 1835.

Richard McClure's brother, the Honorable Francis McClure, was a very prominent man in Western Pennsylvania. For many years he was a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature. In 1812, he was appointed Associate Judge of Allegheny County. He performed the duties of his office for twenty-six years until 1838. He resigned at the age of 98 and in 1843 at the age of 103, he died.

Andrew McClure, born on October 18, 1823, married Jane Edmundson. The Edmundson family was another old family in our vicinity. Andrew McClure inherited from his father the old homestead and is remembered as a prosperous farmer. His family consisted of Mary J. McClure who married Joseph Coughy; John McClure who married Margaret Kunkelmann; Francis A. McClure who married Irene Walker; Sarah McClure and William McClure. Andrew McClure died June 25, 1887. He and his wife are both buried in the Versailles Cemetery in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. Judge Francis McClure's great, great granddaughter, Elsie McClure, is still living at the old homestead. Francis Andrew McClure is presently living in North Versailles.



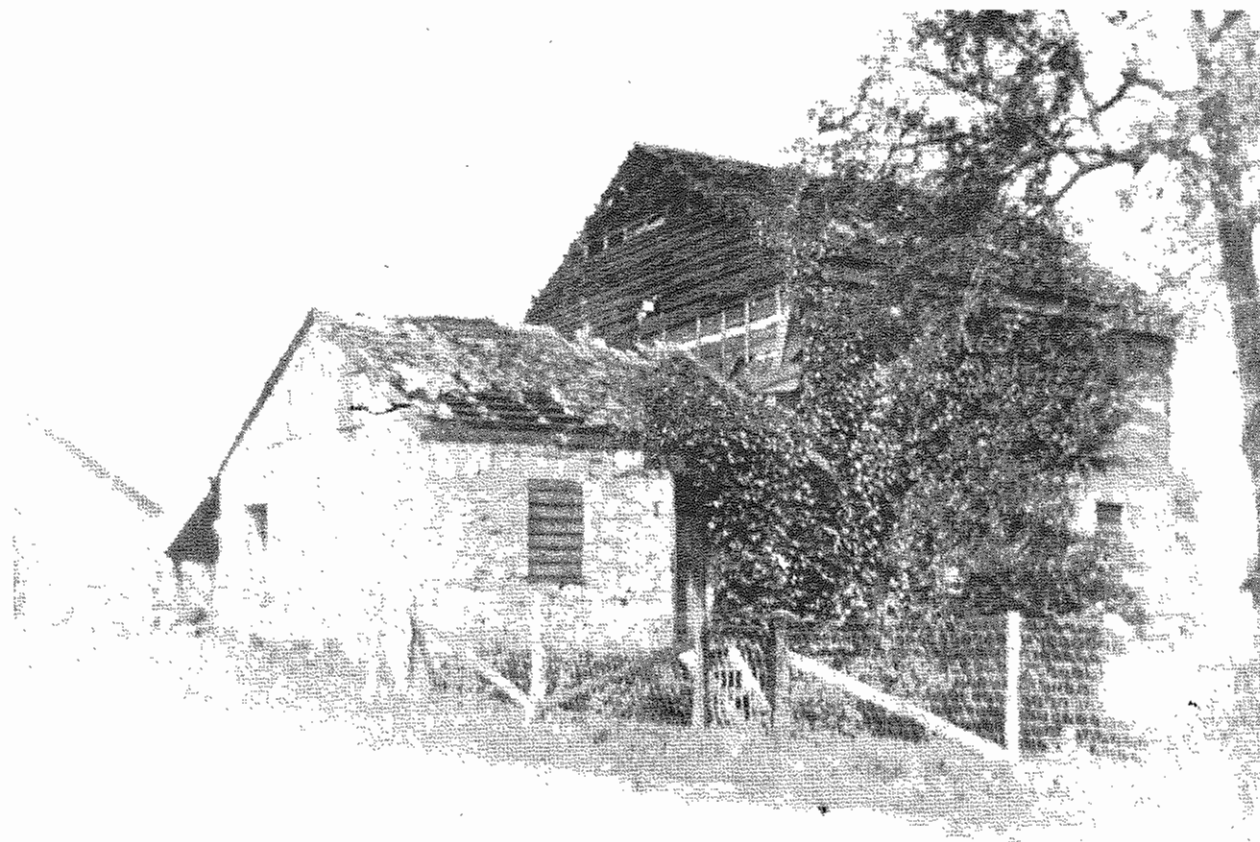
THE CALHOUN FAMILY 1890

CALHOUNS

On April 3, 1769, land in Pennsylvania, west of the mountains, became available for purchase. Adley Calhoun and his family came to Elizabeth Township from Harrisburg, purchased 268 acres and had the land surveyed on November 18, 1785. Immediately upon settling he built a log cabin and together with other settlers, built a fort on the present site of the Lincoln Borough School on Port Vue Road.

In 1790, the Calhoun family built another home. In 1800 his son, John Calhoun, was appointed Justice of the Peace for Elizabeth Township. On February 24, 1834, John Calhoun and Elizabeth Phillips purchased 119 acres of land from Mary Craig. One day a black family by the name of Dick, came to the John Calhoun homestead and asked for a place to live. Mr. Calhoun, after hearing their plight, gave them a plot of ground upon which they built a cottage down in the hollow that was referred to as "Dick's Patch". The Dick family worked for the Calhouns earning their freedom.

Alexander Calhoun, the son of John Calhoun, was a prosperous farmer. He and his wife, Sarah, bore five children, Joseph, Calvin, Edward, John F. and Sadie. For many years Alexander Calhoun was a Director and Secretary of Elizabeth Township and Lincoln Common Schools.



CALHOUN HOMESTEAD

John F. Calhoun was the first to leave the old homestead. He went to Ann Arbor, Michigan, and received a degree in law. Upon his return to the area, he was appointed the first Solicitor of Port Vue in 1892. For many years he was a School Director for the McKeesport Public Schools. He was born in 1860 and died in 1936.

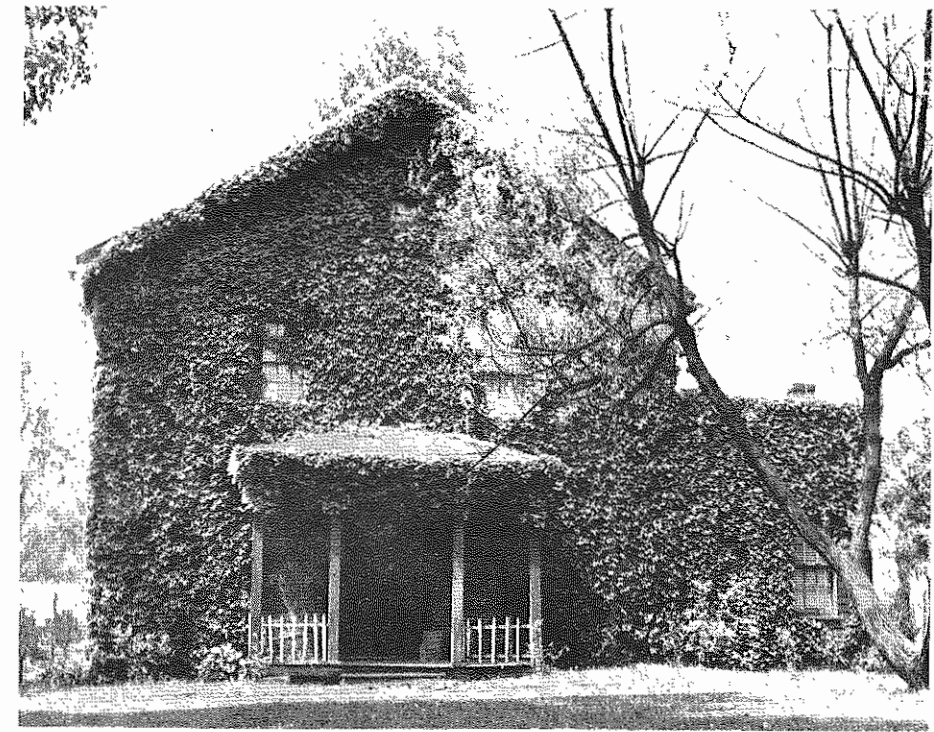
Noel Calhoun, son of John F. Calhoun, was born in 1886. He followed his father's footsteps and also obtained his law degree. For many years he had been the Solicitor for the McKeesport Public School System and was noted as one of our area's outstanding lawyers. He died in 1970.

EDMUNDSONS

Among the first settlers of our area were the Edmundsons, who immigrated from east of the Allegheny Mountains in about 1785, and settled in Mifflin Township.

What is now the present site of the Second Ward of Port Vue was purchased by William Johnston on February 11, 1791. Mr. Johnston paid to the Receiver General's Office of the Commonwealth the sum of thirteen pounds, three shillings for the tract of land that he called Williamsburg. Johnston did not settle on this tract of land which contained 278 acres, but instead, took up residence in Salem Township, Westmoreland County. On August 7, 1812, Joseph, Caleb, John and William Edmundson purchased the land from William Johnston for the sum of four thousand seventy-seven dollars and fifty cents.

Caleb Edmundson and his wife, Rebecca, built a mansion on property at the top of Rebecca Street known as 920 Washington Boulevard. This historic landmark, believed to have been built over 125 years ago, was demolished just a short time ago. Caleb Edmundson died on October 16, 1857. Upon his death, his son, Levi Edmundson, became the sole owner of this property, and upon his death his daughter, Elizabeth, was directed to sell the land as a whole or in parts to enable families to settle in Port Vue. One of Levi's son, George L. Edmundson, now deceased, was a funeral director in McKeesport.



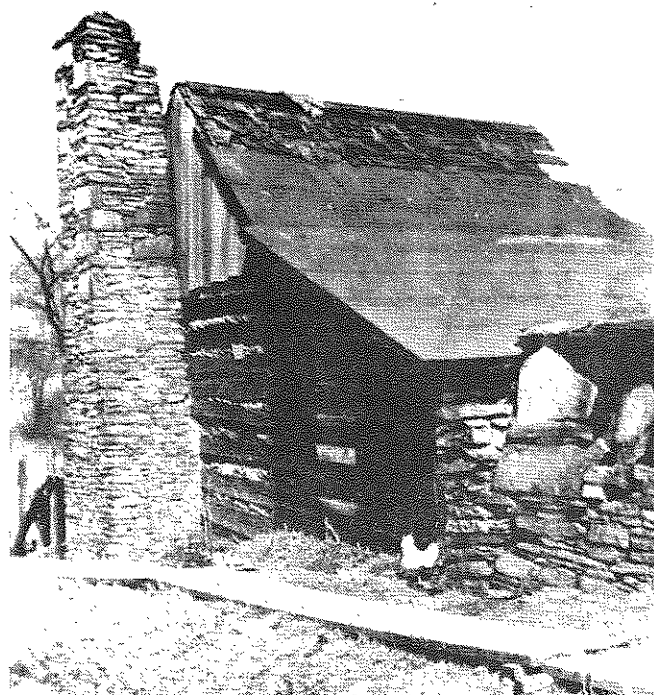
THE OLD EDMUNDSON HOMESTEAD - OLDEST PORT VUE HOME



Levi Edmundson



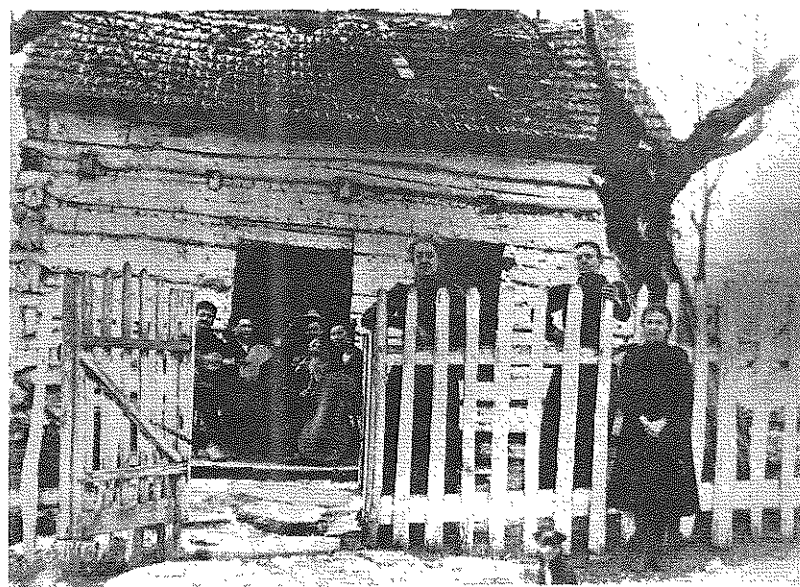
Jane Edmundson



Ye Old Edmundson Log Cabin
Built 1830



Edmundson's Estate



Old Log Cabin Built 1820

Location: Harrison Hollow Road, Lincoln Township Pennsylvania
The Witherow family settled in the old Elizabeth Township about 1800. Their Land Grant was over 400 acres.

About 100 years ago there were Indian graves on their farm, uncovered were skeletons, arrowheads, Celt's axes without grooves, and bone implements.

Picture taken 1895

Left to right: Dad Melvin J. Witherow - Sons Frank, Howard, and James
Standing: Sister Bertha Boyd, Mother Lizzie, and Mrytle Hrodes.

STEAM BOAT AREA

In 1785, Samuel Walker and his son, Joshua, moved into Elizabeth Township and began boat building in the early 1800's. The first boat built was named "Monongahela Farner". Two keeled boats were built and were used in the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

The first steamer built was named "Stephen Decatur" and went out in 1824. H. B. Sinclair in 1846 operated a steam ferry named "Yough" which was considered a major step forward in transportation history.

In 1847 steam was utilized in towing coal boats and floating was soon after entirely discontinued.

In 1851 the dams for slack water navigation on the Youghiohony River were completed and Messrs. Bailey, Whigham, Hendrickson and H. B. Sinclair purchased two boats, the "Genesee" and "Tom Shriver" and operated a packet line for three years between Pittsburgh and West Newton. The dams broke about 1854 and have never been repaired.

COAL MINING

The mining of coal was equally as important as farming in our area. The first mine, operated by Samuel Dickey, in 1820, was located on Washington Boulevard on the Caleb Edmundson farm. The coal was hauled out of the mine in small buggies pulled by large dogs. There was a small railroad which transported the coal from the entrance of the mine down Washington Boulevard, crossing Romine Avenue, through what is now St. Joseph's parking lot, over the hill to the Youghiohony River where it was dumped and hauled in flat boats to Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, Ohio.

On October 14, 1847, Caleb Edmundson contracted with his son, Levi, to mine 20 acres of land on Manning Avenue with the stipulation that Levi provide housing for the miners.

John Penny, also a coal merchant, had his mine on McClure's property and faced great problems hauling the coal by horse and wagon since the farm roads were unkept. In 1851, Mr. Penny purchased seven acres of land for \$600.00 from Isaac Edmundson with which to build a coal railroad that proceeded down Laredo Street to the Youghiohony River near the site where the Thirteenth Street Bridge stood and loaded directly onto barges.

NEWSPAPERS

The early settlers obtained their reading material from Elizabeth and later from McKeesport. Elizabeth was the oldest community in Allegheny County with the exception of Pittsburgh.

There were three newspapers published at different times in this area. During President Jackson's campaign in 1829, the "Pennsylvania and Jackson Free Press" was published by Samuel Frew. The Monongahela Valley Messenger was also published during the Presidential campaign. However, both newspapers were discontinued after the elections.

The Elizabeth Herald was published August 1, 1873, by Shaffer and Penny and was known as the "Messenger". The ready-print covers were discarded and the name was changed to the "Black Diamond" on January 1, 1874. This paper was devoted especially to the coal industry. Shaffer and Penny published this paper until September 12, 1874, when it was purchased by T. J. Weddell. Mr. Weddell published the paper until January 1, 1875, when it was enlarged from a twenty-four to a thirty-two column paper and the name was changed to the "Elizabeth Herald". It was a first-class family journal.

In the fall of 1854, John Collins published one issue of the "McKeesport Standard" which was the first newspaper in McKeesport. This paper was later continued by several people for a period of five or six years. In 1894, the city had three newspapers, namely, "The Morning Herald" and "The Daily News", both published by a stock company and "The Times" published by W. S. Abbott.

RAILROADS

The necessity of a railroad became apparent, and in August, 1855, the Borough of McKeesport subscribed \$100.00 to the Capital Stock of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad, and it was put in operation in September of that year and was known as the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

The Pittsburgh, Virginia and Charleston Railroad on the opposite side of the Monongahela was started in 1872.

In 1883, the Pittsburgh, McKeesport and Youghiogheny Railroad, which extended up the Youghiogheny River through Port Vue was completed.

The McKeesport, Belle Vernon, a branch of the Pittsburgh, McKeesport and Youghiogheny Railroad was completed and put in operation in 1890 and travelled through Tenth Ward, McKeesport.

SEPARATION INTO BOROUGHS

Elizabeth Township has, at times, formed parts of Bedford, Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties, to say nothing of Virginia's claim to it as part of Youghiogheny County, Pennsylvania laid claim to this region by the grant of land to William Penn, a Royal Grant, and Virginia laid its claim by virtue of a Royal Charter from the Crown. Some of the early settlers claimed allegiance to Virginia and some to Pennsylvania. About 1780, Virginia agreed to terminate the jurisdiction it had tried to maintain in Pennsylvania and on September 24, 1788, Elizabeth Township was formed.

The area in which Port Vue, Glassport and Liberty and the Tenth Ward of McKeesport are now located, had its first legal beginning when the early settlers separated from Elizabeth Township. In 1891, the population of this area was approximately 500 and the residents decided it was time to create a new borough and separate from Lincoln Township. They met in the Old Penny School House on the Edmundson farm and decided at first to officially name it Grandview Borough, but due to the beautiful view of the port which McKeesport had on the Youghiogheny River, they agreed on the name "Port Vue". Charles Weissert was appointed to circulate a petition among the residents requesting the incorporation of the Borough of Port Vue from a portion of Lincoln Township in the County of Allegheny. A petition was presented to the Court of Quarter Sessions of Allegheny County on May 5, 1892. On September 20, 1892, the request of the petitioners was granted and the Borough of Port Vue was officially incorporated. Council consisted of six members, one of which was the Burgess or Chief Executive Officer of the Borough who had the same powers of a councilman and presided at all Council meetings.

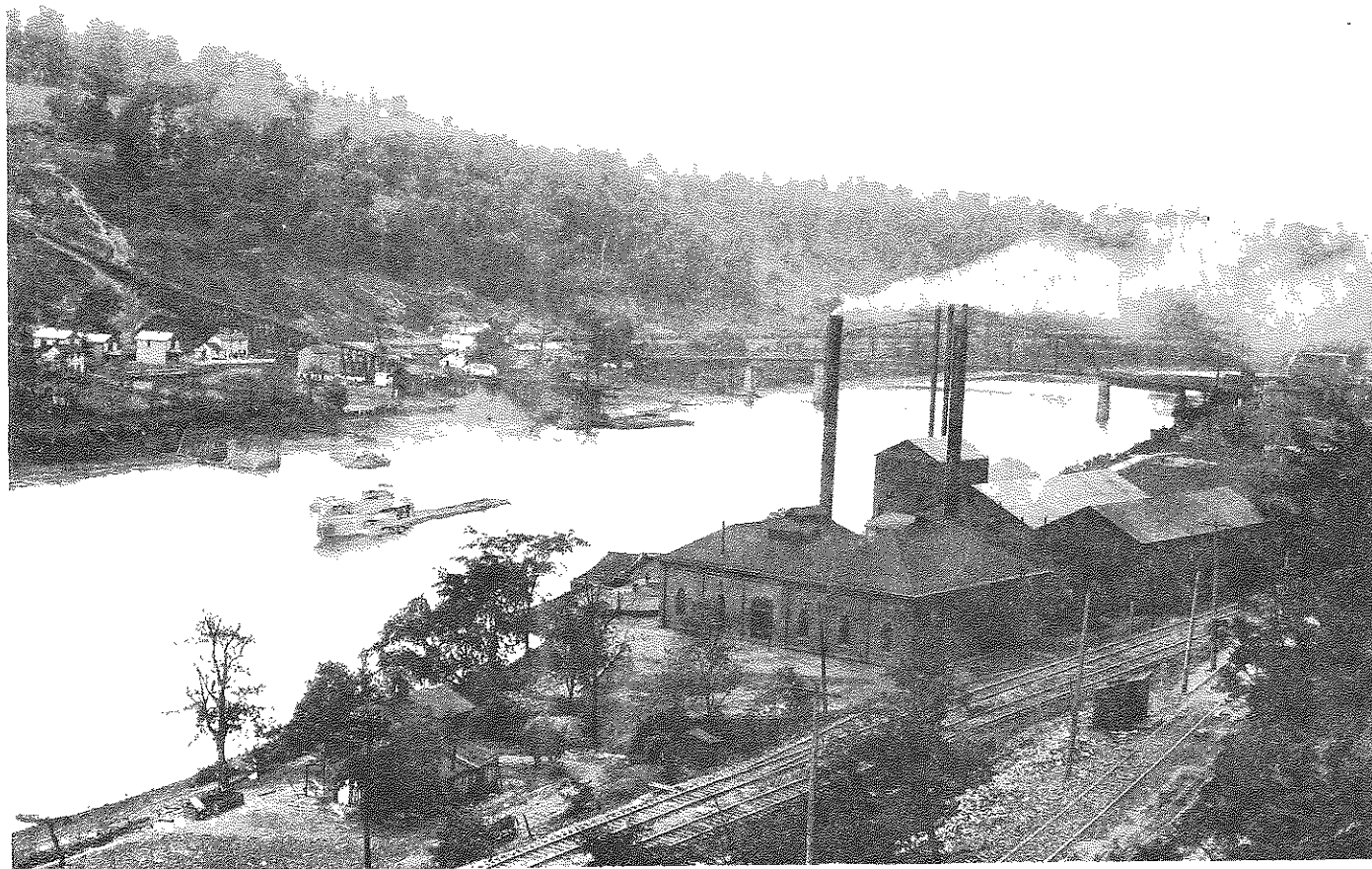
The first election of Borough officials was held on November 8, 1892, and the following members were elected:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Burgess: | Robert A. Caughey |
| Councilmen: | Alexander Mimmo, Charles Weissert, J. D. McClure, John Parkins and John Baker |
| School Board: | John Edmundson, S.G. Pollock, B.Y. Fife, W. P. Phillips, John Dale, David Finney and Lewis Moon |

The present-day Glassport was created after presentation of a petition on June 17, 1902, asking that they be permitted to separate from Port Vue and become an independent borough because the interests of the two villages were different and the views of the citizens of the two villages on all public matters differed. On July 28, 1902, said petition was granted.

BRIDGES

Because Port Vue Borough was not sharing improvements for which tax money was being paid, the residents in the present Borough of Liberty petitioned the Quarter Sessions Court of Allegheny County in 1912 to be separated from Port Vue and form a new borough. The major item of disagreement was financing of new water lines in Port Vue from real estate taxes paid by all residents. These water lines were not extended into Liberty Borough and the citizens of Liberty complained because they were paying for the improvement and at the same time were not deriving benefits from their tax dollars. The name "Liberty Borough" was decided upon since the residents were attempting to obtain their liberty from the Borough of Port Vue. Charles Weissert and John McClure were two of the many residents that led the request for separation. On September 7, 1912, the Court of Quarter Sessions of Allegheny County approved the petition and Liberty Borough was legally incorporated.



YOUGHIOGHENY FROM WALNUT STREET - McKeesport
View of Port Vue and Penny Coal Railroad

The first bridge on the Monongahela was a covered wooden bridge, that was later burned down.

In 1865, a charter for a bridge over the Youghiogheny River was obtained by B. B. Coursin and W. E. Harrison. The river men opposed the bridge but the bridge was finally constructed by the Reynoldton Bridge Company in 1884.

The Dravosburg Bridge crossing the Monongahela connecting Reynoldton Borough was built in 1891 at a cost of \$110,000.00.

The Port Vue Bridge, also known as the 13th Street Bridge, crossed the Youghiogheny River and was opened in 1892. W. P. Wampler was the President of the Company and the cost of the bridge was \$50,000.00. In 1917, the bridge was dismantled.

The McKeesport-Port Vue Bridge was erected in 1907 and fully completed and open for public transportation on September 24, 1908.

INDUSTRY

The first industry in Port Vue was the McKeesport Manufacturing Company. This name was changed to McKeesport Tin Plate Company. The President and founder of the company was E. R. Crawford.

The first five units of this mill were in operation on March 17, 1903, and the next five rolling units were opened in May, 1903. In 1915, 22 additional units were erected transforming the factory into a 44-unit plant. The plant originally employed about 600 employees. By 1909, the force enlarged to 1300, and by 1935, 3300 men and women were employed by the company.

On June 6, 1921, the Tin Mill fire proved to be the most disastrous of fires. The old mill, despite extensive damage, resumed work the following evening.

The tin mill for years was recognized as the largest tin mill in the world and was the one industry which operated at least partially during the depression years of the early thirties. Its annual payroll approximated \$5,000,000.00

In 1903, the Borough's population began to increase due to the operation of the Tin Mill. In 1912, Gilbert F. Myers, manager of the McKeesport Realty Company, advertised for the sale of lots in Port Vue asking the public to come to Port Vue, purchase lots and at the same time join in the festivities on Decoration Day. At this sale of lots, he gave a lot away free to a lucky coupon holder. He also gave coupons to the ones who purchased lots and to the lucky winner of that coupon he arranged for a \$1,600.00 house to be built on the winner's lot.

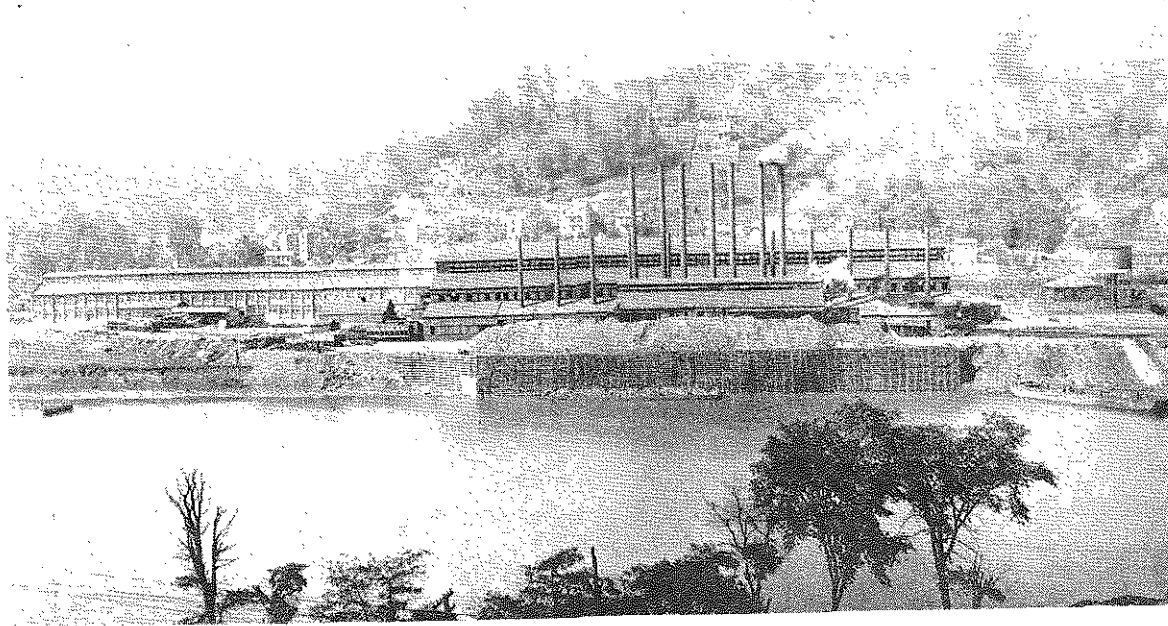
STREET CARS

The route of the street car began at the Walnut Street side of the Fifteenth Street Bridge, crossed the bridge, proceeded up Liberty Way to the intersection of Port Vue Avenue and Romine Avenue; up Romine Avenue to Gumbert Street, up Gumbert Street and left on Myer Avenue to Burbridge Street, where the car then reversed itself and began its journey back down the hill.

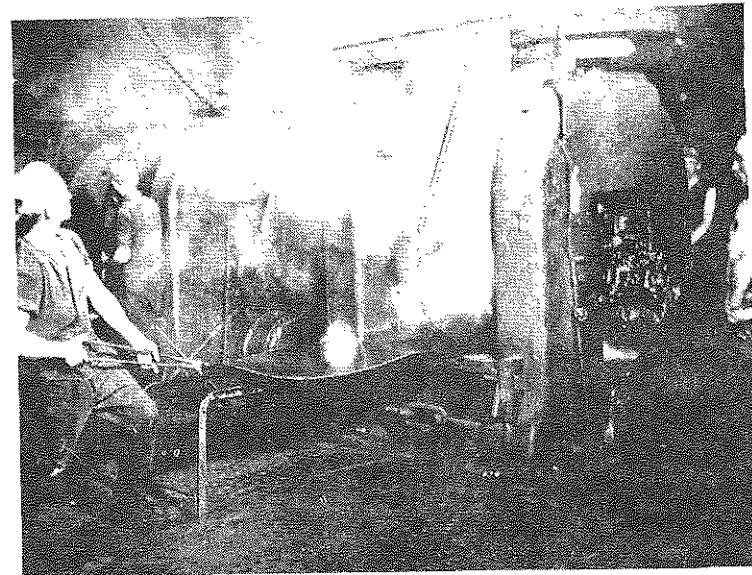
On March 6, 1913, Ralph McCafferty, the motor man, and Burgess Burbridge, the conductor, were on their first trip transporting the mill workers. The street car started at the end of Myer Avenue and was proceeding down Gumbert Street when it developed trouble and Burgess Burbridge, realizing that the car was out of control, ordered the men to lay on the floor. The street car struck the embankment of Romine and Port Vue Avenues. All of the passengers escaped injury but they found Burgess Burbridge lying on the floor and a pot belly stove resting on his head. He was taken to McKeesport Hospital where he died a short time after. The street car line was discontinued in 1915.

In the same year, the Billy brothers, George and Michael, operated a jitney bus service for the Borough's residents. The fare was a nickel and the open-sided, 20 passenger jitney travelled from Myer Avenue and Burbridge Street, down Romine Avenue, over the 15th Street Bridge, across Walnut Street to Fifth Avenue in McKeesport.

The brothers leased the bus from a Greensburg transit outfit on a 60-40 basis. In addition to their 60%, they also received \$50.00 a month from Gilbert F. Myers in order for him to keep his trolley franchise. The jitney made one trip every hour.



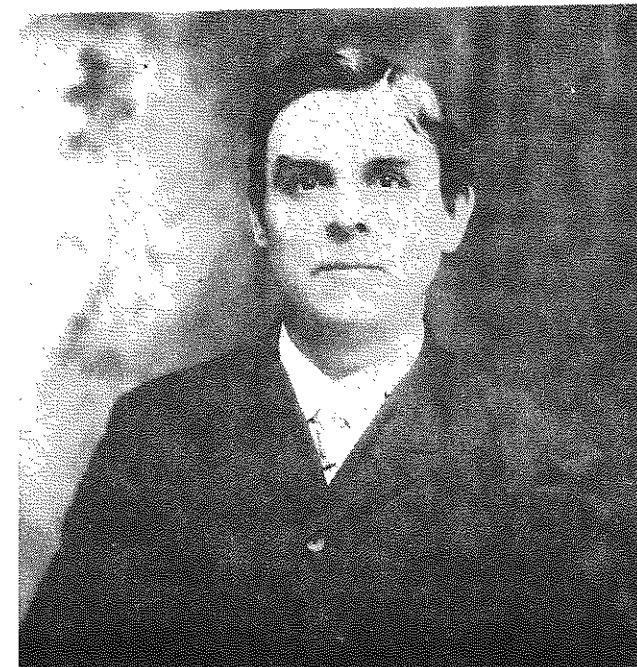
McKeesport Tin Plate Company



INTERIOR



WORKMEN



Burgess ISAAC BURBRIDGE

SCHOOLS

The Borough's first school house was a one-room structure situated on McClure Road and New York Avenue known as the Penny School, which was later destroyed by fire.

In September, 1892, Dale School was opened and its first teacher was Kate Henderson. In 1898, the school had expanded into two rooms taught by Miss Bertha McClure and Mr. Charles Rasel. Classes were discontinued in 1902 when the Tacoma Avenue School was built.

The Layton School, situated along the present Glassport-Elizabeth Road, a short distance past the Clairton Bridge, was located on the farm of David Pollock.

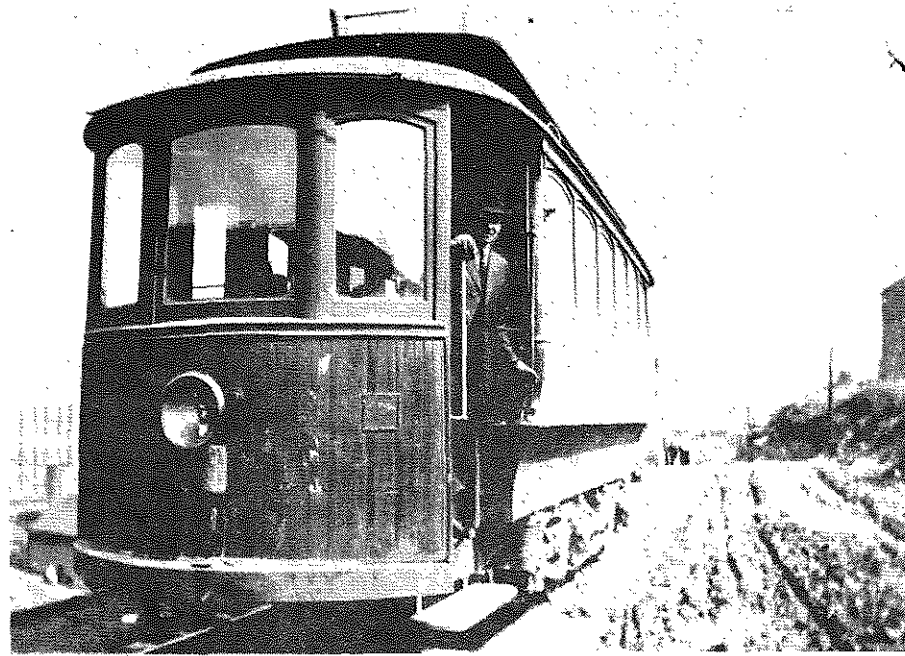
Jenny Lind School, later called No. 4, was located on the present site of the Liberty Borough Municipal Building.

Three modern schools now serve our community, Romine Avenue School, Myer Avenue School and St. Joseph's Parochial School. Romine Avenue School, the Borough's largest, accommodates kindergarten through eighth grades and has a spacious auditorium and gymnasium.

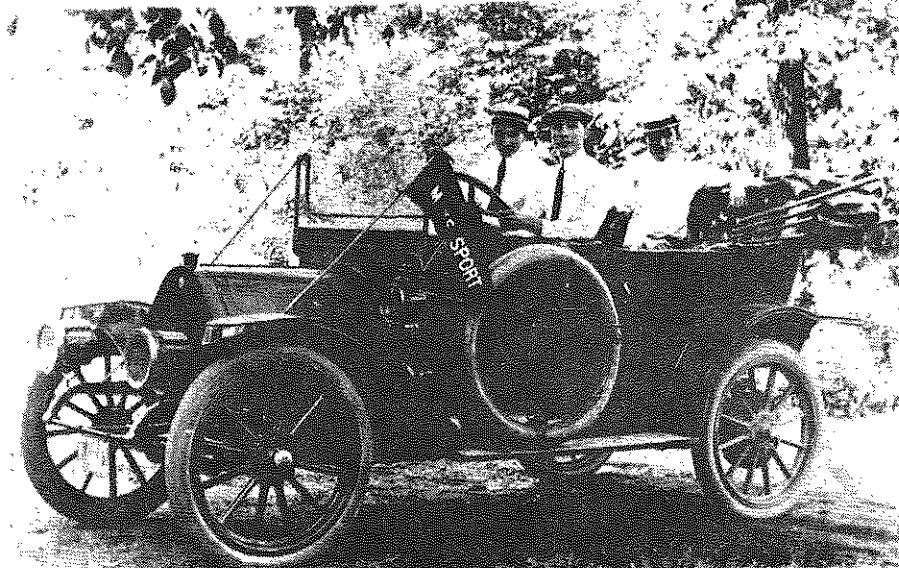
The Myer Avenue School was opened in 1913 with six rooms and during the First World War, two additional rooms were added.

The two-room Upston Plan School followed and in June, 1944, a tornado caused considerable damage and classes at the school were discontinued. Mr. Leffler was the School District Principal.

In 1958, there was a jointure of the Port Vue and Liberty School Districts brought about by pressure from the County and State. In 1963, the South Allegheny Senior High School was built at the cost of \$3,585,000.00 consolidating the school districts of Port Vue, Liberty, Glassport and Lincoln.



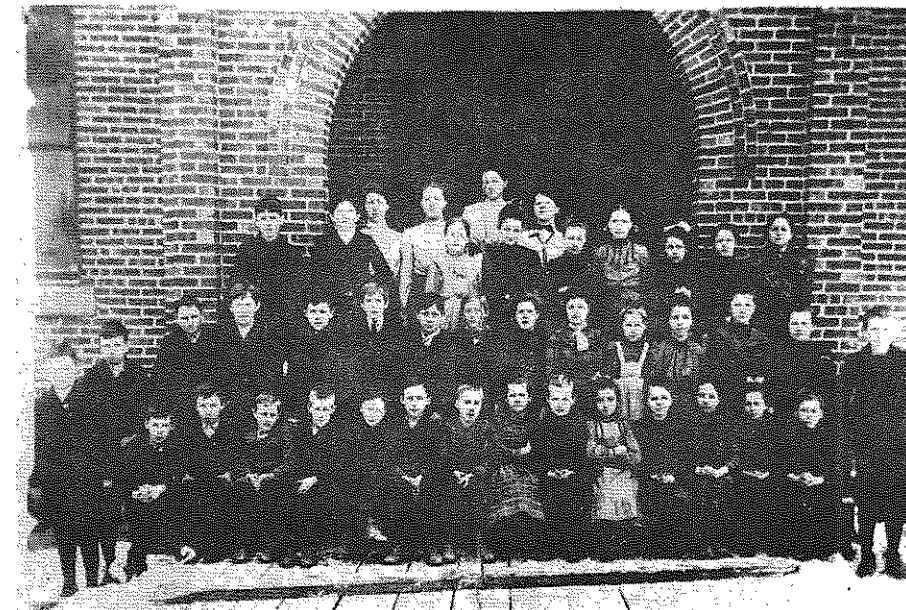
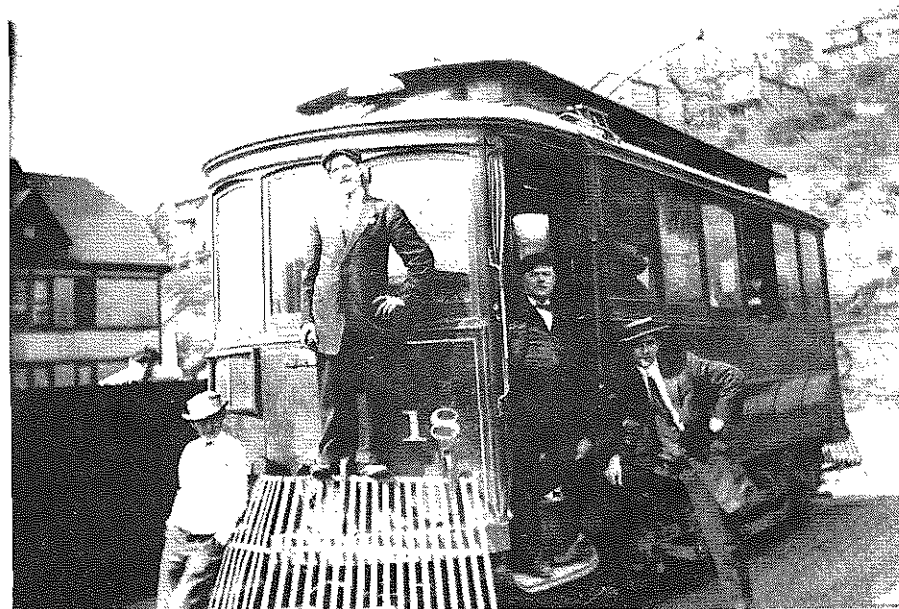
PADDY QUIRK
Port Vue Street Car



BILLY BROTHERS

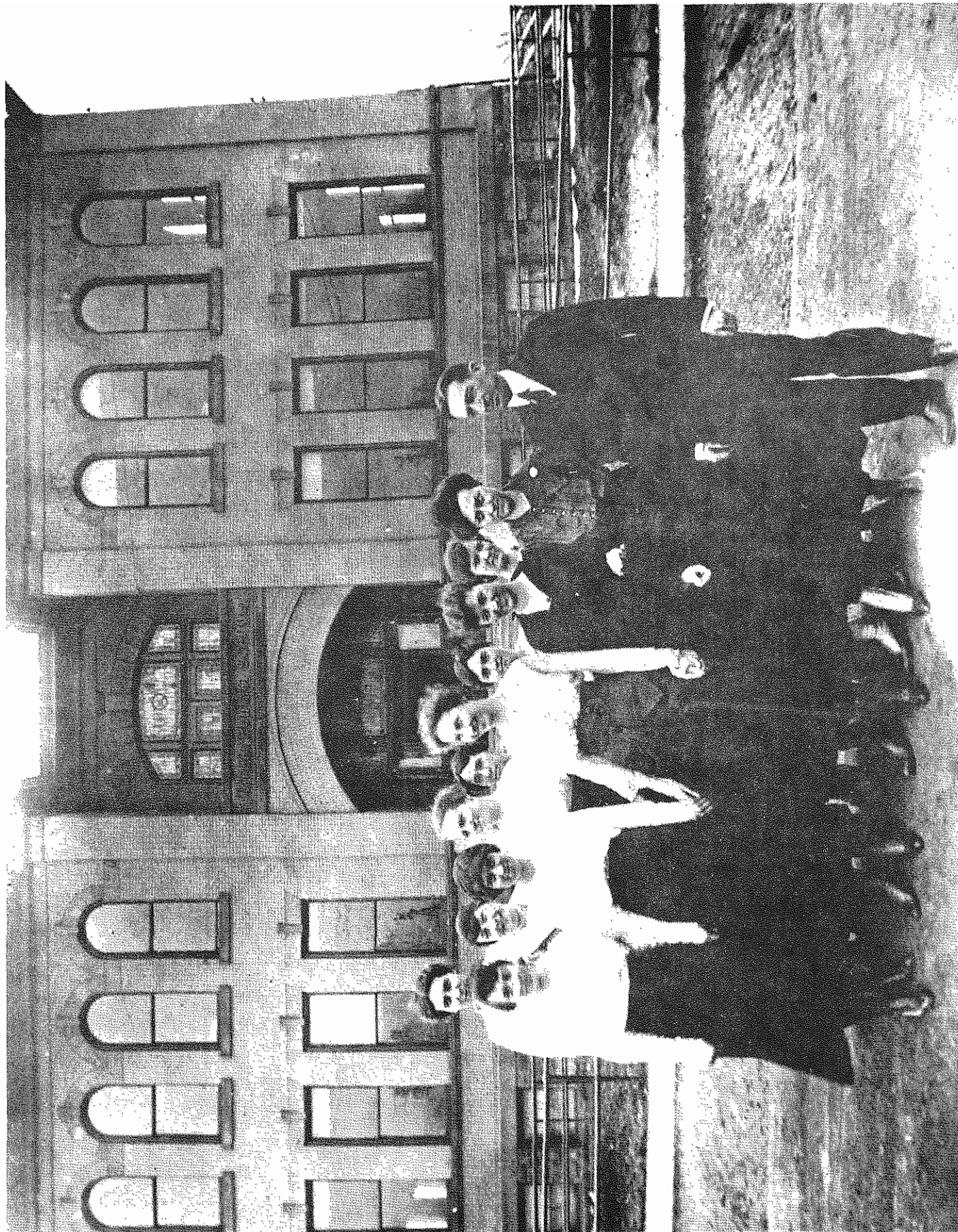
George
Mike
Joseph

1920

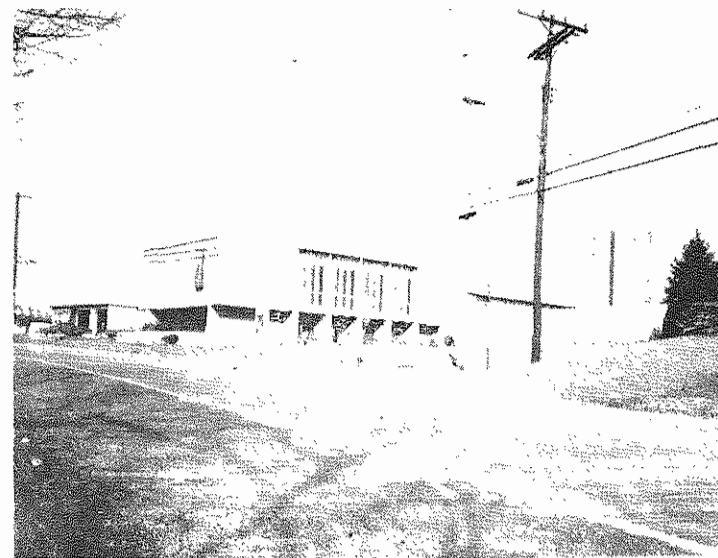


TACOMA AVENUE SCHOOL

1900



PORT VUE METHODIST CHURCH



The second church erected in Port Vue was our Port Vue Methodist Church on Port Vue Avenue. It was dedicated on June 18, 1905. Port Vue's first Sunday School was started by Mr. and Mrs. McPherson. It was held in the Old Dale Schoolhouse near the P & L E tracks. William Hitchens was Superintendent and Louis Sinn was Assistant Superintendent. Another Sunday School was held on the top of the hill under the trees near the G. F. Myer homestead. In case of inclement weather, services were held in Myer's barn or house. Later services were held in newly built homes which were not yet occupied.

G. F. Myer wanted the Port Vue people to have a Church and offered any two lots on the hill, free of charge, for a church building. Dr. Murray, District Superintendent at that time and T. D. Gardiner from McKeesport chose the site on Port Vue Avenue.

The Tenth Anniversary was celebrated by burning the mortgages by G. F. Myer on September 2, 1915. During the first 50 years, Port Vue Church was connected with E. McKeesport, Glassport, Christy Park, First Methodist, Coulter and West Side Churches.

Four former members are now in the ministry: Dr. Sidney Davis, Rev. Lester Hillegas, Rev. Wesley Blaha and Rev. David Herman. We like to believe that some early influence from the Port Vue Church was instrumental in helping them make this important decision.

Rev. John Hartley served as the first full-time pastor. In 1956 ground was broken for the new building on Washington Boulevard. The first worship service was held on Palm Sunday, March 22, 1959. A consecration service was held on November 1, 1959

The new parsonage was erected in 1966 at 1105 Portsmouth Drive, next to the church. The present membership, headed by Rev. Philip Wilson, numbers 543.



SAINT JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

On April 27, 1947, the Roman Catholics of the Borough gathered as a community in the auditorium of Myer Avenue School, Father Anthony J. Gonet offered the Mass and this marked the beginning of the St. Joseph Parish.

In the months that followed, Bishop Boyle appointed Father Gonet as Pastor and Father Zygmunt Szarnicki, Assistant Pastor. Together they began administering the spiritual needs of the Borough. The

Parish began growing by leaps and bounds and so a permanent structure was planned on the site on the corner of Gumbert and Romine Avenues.

In the summer of 1948, Father Stephen Schneider was appointed Pastor. It was with a spirit of total involvement that Father Schneider, a carpenter prior to entering the seminary, not only supervised the construction but actually did much of the work himself. In March, 1949, the Church was dedicated and blessed.

On April 24, 1952, Father Francis Rieke arrived to begin a Pastorate that was to last 19 years. During that time, he planned and built an 8-room school. As the Borough grew, St. Joseph's progressed right along with it. The 50's saw large families moving to the Borough, and to meet the educational needs of the children, 10 more classrooms were added along with a combination cafeteria-auditorium. A home was purchased for the priests and one for the Felician Sisters who, along with a lay faculty, staff the Parish School.

In May of 1972, Father Rieke retired and Father Patrick J. Jones was named Pastor. Father Jones saw as his mission the development of a true Parish Family that would go out and share the Good News of Salvation with all men. To accomplish these goals, Father Jones and his associates, Father Harold Baily and presently, Father James G. Salberg, formed a 15-member Parish Council to share in meeting the spiritual, temporal and apostolic needs of the more than 900 families in the Borough. One of the first decisions of the new Council was the renovation of the temporary Church into a permanent structure, which now stands on Romine Avenue and houses original artifacts from Europe and the United States.

DEPRESSION YEARS

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, son of James Roosevelt and Sara Delano Roosevelt, was born on January 30, 1882, at Hyde Park, New York. In November, 1932, he was elected President of the United States by the largest vote, both popular and electoral, ever recorded.

Upon entering his first term in office as President, unemployment was everywhere, banks were going under, people were losing their homes and soup kitchens were being established to help the needy. President Roosevelt inaugurated sweeping reforms, "The New Deal", declaring the bank holiday and sponsored legislation for the benefit of agriculture and labor. He initiated a vast public works program that was beneficial to our Borough in that it caused our "junior high school" to be erected. Past School Board President, George Billy, Director and Board Secretary, George F. Hess; School Directors, Alice McGee, the first woman in the history of our community to be elected to the office, Edward Potersnak and other members of the board sought funds and labor for the grading and sewerage of our junior high school field and for work done at other schools.

Funds were also sought for the grading of streets and the installation of sewers and sidewalks.



Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected to four terms as President. He died on April 12, 1945, at Warm Springs, Georgia, and is buried at Hyde Park, New York.

He shall always be remembered by millions of Americans as being a President who aided a working man; gave us the right to organize; made our banks secure; Social Security; unemployment benefits and old age pensions.

WORLD WAR II

During World War II, a general meeting was called by Burgess Llewellyn, Chief Air Raid Warden. Committees were elected as follows: Welfare-John A. Mihalek, Margaret Wukuson, Jane Petted and Thelma Brown; First Aid-John E. Obusek; Knitting-Martha Brown; Sewing-Victoria Waskowitz; Finance-George F. Hess, C. H. Petted, James Blaha, Isabella Vogt and John Pavlock; Recreation-George W. Hess; Laura Belle Hess, Leda Belpuliti, Agnes Goffus and Thelma Smith; War Gardens-Lester E. McGee; Membership-Squire Rudolph Antoncic, Mildred Holmes and Charles Kinzie; Fire Warden-Fire Chief Alex Chontos.

Tax Collector, John "Skeets" A. Mihalek, was Port Vue's No. 1 correspondent in keeping the men in the Armed Forces informed of the events in the Borough. He was the recipient of more than 150 Christmas greetings from our Borough's servicemen alone. He was aided by Miss Bertha Olack, the Borough Secretary, and Mrs. C. H. Petted.

Housewives of the First and Second Wards also began a campaign collecting strained fats which were to be turned into glycerine for war ammunition. The women on the committee in the First Ward were Mary Jane Opatrny, Mary E. Mihalek and Mary Bury. The Second Ward was divided into the upper half headed by Ann Charney, Julia Chontos and Betty Kushner and Margaret Vavrek; Ethel Hollis, Stella Howard and Blanche Griffin in charge of the lower half of the ward. The women collected over 150 pounds of fats.

BOROUGH'S DEBT WIPED OUT

In December, 1942, a long-standing debt of the Borough was paid off. The ceremony was held at the Borough's Office at the Tacoma Avenue School with Burgess G. E. Llewellyn presiding. Councilman Hugh T. Heath applied a match to the papers which were being held by Miss Bertha Olack, Borough Secretary, which symbolized the paid off improvement certificate bonds. Other in attendance were Councilpersons, Michael J. Goffus, John Estvanick, Steve Kiki, Joseph Bubonic, Joseph Gerosky, Police Chief Edward Macko and Solicitor Leroy Broder.

Nineteen women of the Ladies Community Club's Red Cross Sewing Unit set about making a huge service Flag to remember and honor the community's servicemen. The flag measured 9½ feet by 15 feet and contained over 200 blue stars on a white background, each star having the name of a serviceman embroidered thereon. The stars were arranged on the flag in a "V" shape with the name of George Begandy, a ten-year Air Force Veteran, at the top. Four stars on the flag represented the four brothers in the Totin Family.

PORT VUE'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

A gala week celebration of Port Vue's Fiftieth Anniversary was held in the fall of 1942. The program arranged by former Burgess G. E. Llewellyn included a religious service held at the Romine Avenue School featuring the dedication of the service flag honoring the more than 200 men serving in the Armed Forces.

Other events during the week included a Youth's Day, bicycle parade, doll exhibits for the girls, a hobby display for the boys, sport events for both girls and boys, a baseball game, pie-eating contest, pageant by school pupils and photo exhibits.

The event closed with a gigantic patriotic parade. Those who served on various committees were John Waskowitz, Sr., Martin Mihalek, Anna Krajack, Lester McGee, Joseph Billy, John A. Mihaelk and Dorothy Hranicky.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Law and Order has its first beginning in July, 1901, when Council appointed a Borough patrolman at a salary of \$2.00 per day. Other patrolmen that followed were: T. Ruppert, Arthur Davis, Steve Palmer, Al Potersnak, Police Chief Andy Macko, Chief Abe Potersnak and Louis Horvath. During World War II there was a great turnover of chiefs due to the war. Those who served as Police Chiefs were Andy Svitko, Martin Rogan, Ed Macko and Steve Shiner. World War II is the reason Port Vue has no jail today. The jail house, located at the rear of the old fire hall, was dismantled and contributed together with the Borough's old steam roller to the scrap drive to be melted and made into bombs and shells.

The Borough's Auxiliary Police Unit was organized in 1954 with John H. Cooper as its Chief. In 1957, the police unit numbered 15 men. Members of the force were: Sgt. Michael Kobulnicky, Sgt. Carter Cooper, William Herman, Charles Eicholtz, Sgt. Leonard Obusek, John Savage, Andrew Pastor, William Cooper, Andrew Orrvick, Paul Long, Robert Kaylor, Edmund Judy, Edward Figas, Leonard Zielinski and Paul Wolf. Each member was on 24-hour call by order of Burgess Adolph Jacobyansky, Jr.

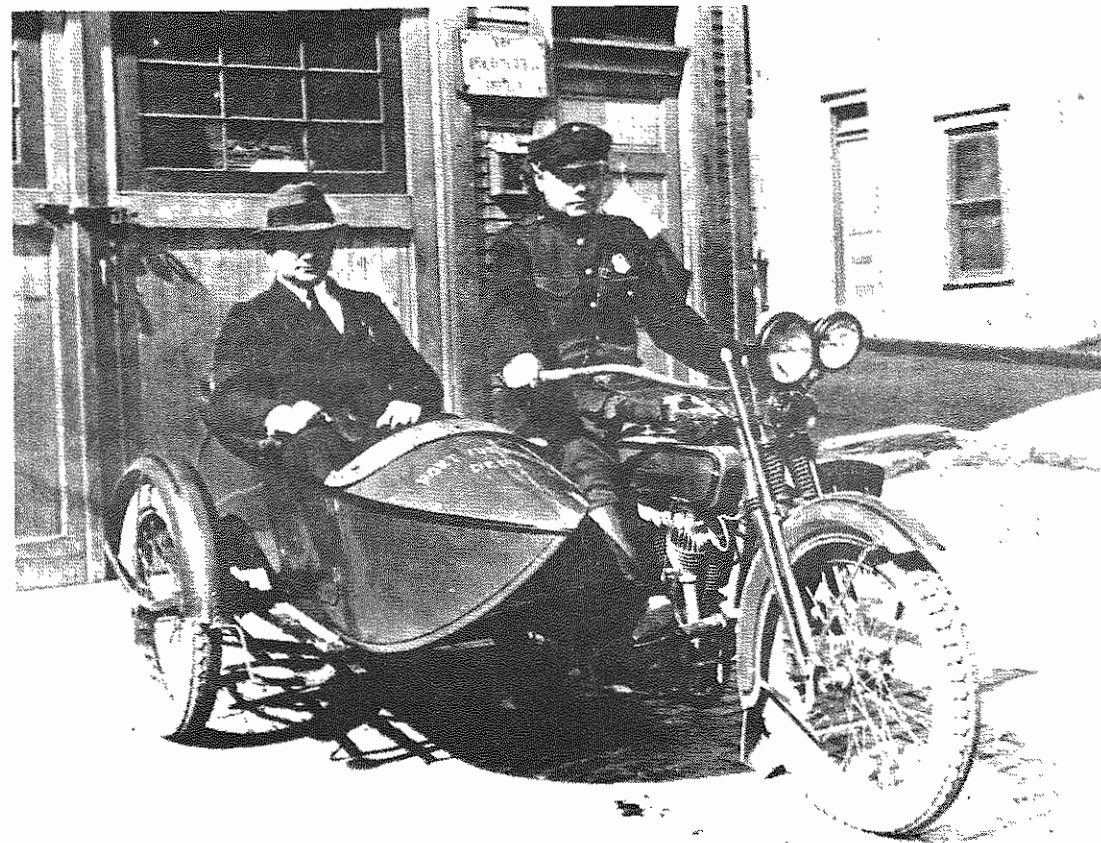
Today, we have a full-time Police Department consisting of Police Chief Howard Judy, and Patrolmen Andrew Billy, John Dudash, Steve Tomovcsik and Steve Sabol. In addition to the regular police, we have eight part-time patrolmen: Charles Whalen, Robert Engster, Patrick Conley, Daniel Jacobs, Bernard Lopretto, David Walls, Edward Ambrocik and Albert Irwin.

County Police Superintendent Robert G. Kroner and Director James Slusser held an in-service basic training program for our police and surrounding area departments with 56 police officers attending an 8-week classes that covered such topics as firearms, legal restriction, search and seizure, arrest procedure and disaster preparedness.

These men are civic minded, well-trained in police work and an asset to our community.



PORT VUE POLICE



1925 Police Chief Andy Macko and Duke Kushner
Front of the old Fire Station

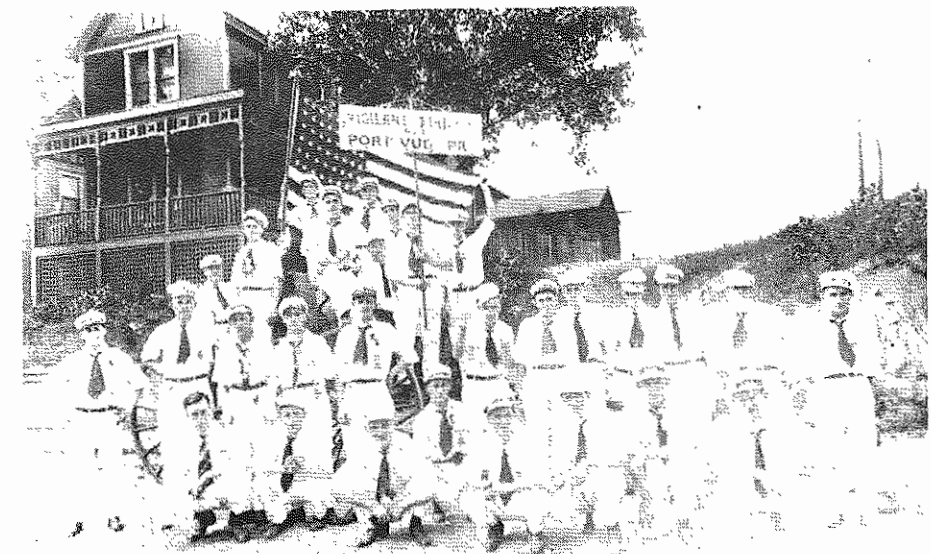
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

The first volunteer fire company in the Borough was organized on July 18, 1908, with 26 charter members. The original members were: Arthur Davis, William Sinn, John Lickert, Fred Peterson, John Klotz, Joshua Campbell, Gustaf Gustafson, Joseph Sterns, George Weissert, Ernest McMichaels, John Shaffer, Charles Sinn, Josiah Pearson, William Weldon, Calvin Brown, Emil Kreisel, Robert Jackson, Fred Ulm, Philip Hilgert, Peter McGafferty, Samuel Wilkes and Clifford Gustafson. Carl Gustafson was the first Chief; Leo Sterns, Assistant Chief; Arthur Gustafson, 2nd Lieutenant; and Frank Esse, Vice President.

The first equipment consisted of a hand drawn hose reel, built in 1886 for the Sharpsburg Fire Company, which was purchased in 1908 and financed by a \$200.00 bank loan. Now used for parade purposes only, it was used to fight the three million dollar fire at the McKeesport Tin Plate Company on June 6, 1921.

Port Vue's marching unit and Fireman Band has gained recognition throughout Western Pennsylvania. It has appeared against several hundred fire companies and has come out with top honors. In 1954, our unit won 15 prizes. They won major prizes at the Western Pennsylvania Convention Parade at Latrobe and the Allegheny County Fair at South Park as the Best Appearing Company. It is quite an honor to hold and we are very proud of them.

Our fire company consists of over 100 men who volunteer their services in maintaining, supporting and operating our emergency equipment. They are to be highly praised for the commendable work they have done for our community. No matter what time of day or night, they are on duty to help the community. They deserve our cooperation.



PORT VUE AMBULANCE SERVICE



The Port Vue Ambulance Service is attempting to provide an adequate emergency service for the residents of Port Vue.

The organization has been in existence since March 29, 1960, and was chartered as the Auxillary Police of Port Vue. In 1971, this organization withdrew from police activities and rechannelled our energies into an ambulance service.

Our corps is comprised of a volunteer membership, under the auspices of the Council of Port Vue, who, in accordance with the By-laws have Advance First Aid Training. Some members are also active in Emergency Medical Technician-I.

The present officers of the organization are:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Paul Beisler | President |
| Claudia Pollick | Vice President |
| Ron Cathell | Secretary |
| Edward Burnett | Treasurer |

Since their reorganization in 1971, they have replaced a worn out vehicle with a 1973 commercial Dodge van which was modified into a functional ambulance by the membership.

PORT VUE OFFICIALS



Elected Borough officials now holding office have proven themselves able and willing to do a good community job and are highly capable in operating the affairs of the Borough.

Our official family consists of Mayor Rudolph Antoncic, Council President, C. John Novaseda, Council members Robert C. Erkel, Isador Steiner, Orlando DiMarco, John Waskowitz, Jr., Martin Mihalek and Edward Szalankiewicz. Former councilperson, Beatrice Pesante, was the first woman in the history of the community to be elected to such a position.

Other members of our family include: Borough Secretary, Joann O. Gubanic; Water Clerk, Mildred Wasil; Street Commissioner, Charles Kijowski; Tax Collector, Nicholas Pavlovic; Engineer, John Kelmar; Building Inspector, George Poljak; Constable, George Vennebuch; and Solicitor Walter Baczkowski who succeeded the Honorable Nicholas P. Papadakos.

Their government has brought about the installing Rebecca Street storm sewers, repaving of Romine Avenue with the aid from the County, recreation development including tennis, hockey, basketball and tot lot; placement of huge haul bins for trash collection, Mercury vapor street lighting, resurfacing most alleys, snow removal second to none, the elimination of all bonded indebtedness and the installation of new water lines.

PORT VUE PATRIOTS

On August 21, 1975, Port Vue Borough was officially designated as a National Bicentennial Community by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration in Washington, D. C. A Bicentennial Flag was presented and is flown daily at the Municipal Building.

Port Vue's commitment to participate in the commemoration of our Nation's 200th Birthday started with a meeting of the Port Vue Bicentennial Committee at the request of Mayor Rudolph Antoncic. Each organization of the Borough was asked to send two representatives to the initial meeting held on Sunday, May 18, 1975, at 2:30 P.M. in the Municipal Building.

Mayor Rudolph Antoncic appointed C. John Novaseda Chairman of the Committee with Mildred Wasil serving as Secretary and Betty Judy, Assistant Secretary. Ida Jacobyansky was appointed Vice Chairperson and Irene Kozey, Treasurer.

The Ways and Means Committee was comprised of Isabel Zidek, Billy Bagshaw, Joseph Boyko, Orlando DiMarco, Charles Gibson, James E. Jenkins and Edward Pollack.

The name "Port Vue Patriots" a name suggested by Dotty Bagshaw, was adopted as the official name of the Bicentennial Committee.

A winning emblem representing the Port Vue Patriots was submitted by eleven year old Kyndil Hickman of 1329 New York Avenue, Port Vue, who was the recipient of a \$25.00 U. S. Savings Bond.

The official opening of the Bicentennial celebration was the observance of "Bicentennial Sunday" on June 29, 1975. Father Patrick Jones and Father James Salberg of St. Joseph's Church and Reverend Philip Wilson, of the Port Vue Methodist Church, each celebrated a service with a Bicentennial theme.

William Butella, along with Celeste Dworek and Leslie Conley, cleaned and repainted the large bell located in front of the Romine Avenue School. This refinished bell was selected by the Port Vue Lions Club to be the front cover of their 1976 Birthday calendar. Kathy Menzies, Denise Farmer, David Judy, Michele McKinney, Timothy McKinney, Donna Angelo, Jamie Stanislaw, Leslie Conley, John Youhouse, under the supervision of William Butella, painted every telephone pole along Romine Avenue six feet high with circles of red, white and blue. Edward Pollack acquired the paint for these poles.

Each organization in Port Vue is a participating factor in the successful celebration of the Nation's 200th Birthday along with the Port Vue Patriots.



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

IN MEMORY OF

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| George Andrews | Joseph Fencik |
| Albert Barnocky | Charles Gulasky |
| Alex Bredacs | Wilbert Henry |
| John DiBattista | James Drago |
| Charles Drago | Ignacius Dominick |
| William Draskovich | John Fencik |
| Joseph Istvanick | William Miller |
| Harry Knight | George Sabovic |
| Andrew Kushner | Gust Sundquist |
| Kay Liptak | Steve Vidnovic |
| George Littleton | Joseph Vukovich |
| Charles Jackson | Thomas Padjen |
| Dennis Minkus | John H. Mayher, Jr. |

Who gave their lives to preserve our free nation. Their names and deaths are recorded in the archives of our country, and its grateful citizens honor them as of their noble army of martyrs. May they rest in peace.

SPORTS AND ATHLETES

FOOTBALL

One of the most powerful sandlot football teams in Western Pennsylvania was the "Port Vue Quakers" organized by Chuck Winso, Boots McGee, John Billy, Jr., Hohn F. Obusek and Skeets Mihalek. They made their presence felt on district gridirons during the seasons 1918 to 1928. In the 1927 season, the power-packed Quakers battled right down to the end of the season for the Western State Title, only to be eliminated by the East Pittsburgh Firemen.

Team coaches during their 10-year history were Frank Rusnock, George Reed, Pete Kline, Dr. "Porky" Evans and Dash Kline. Manager for eight seasons was John Mihalek; Andrew "Shape" Thomas was manager in 1927 and Michael Rogan in 1928.

Al Potersnak, Peck Minnick, Beff Charney and Hop Chontos were named to the All Western Pennsylvania Independent Football Team in 1928.

Other notable football players were:

Andy Zoltak of the East Pittsburgh Firemen and the Port Vue Quakers.

Frank Mallick of the Valley Ironmen.

Becky Hettler of the Old McKeesport Olympics.

Raymond Liptak of the McKeesport High School football team.

Joe Turkaly for McKeesport High School and Miami University.

Ray Matthews for Clemson University and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Jim Cope for Ohio State.

BASKETBALL

March, 1954, Port Vue Junior High won the Section Six WPIAL Championship with a 62-44 triumph over Edison Junior High. Port Vue enjoyed a perfect season of twenty victories and no defeats, elevating their winning streak to 38 straight games.

Members of the team were: Tom Markovich, Ronny Protz, Dennis Kuremsky, Regis Griffin, Jerry Falish, Jack Sivak and Cliff Whitehead. Their coach was Duke Hess.

BOSTON GREENOCK SUMMER LEAGUE

In 1961, Port Vue won the Boston Greenock Summer Cage Championship, defeating the National Tube All Stars. The players were Rudie Antoncic, Ron Sipkovic, Dennis Marhefka, Gene Jasper, Tom Bubonic, Eugene Jasper and Mickey Feterik.

In 1964, Port Vue Macko's won the McKeesport Summer Cage Championship by a score of 56-54 over John and Glens. The players were: Captain Rudie Antoncic, John Stulak, Dave Graban, Jim Tyson, Paul Misenhelter, Mike Graban, Bill Valalik, Bill Dunley, Henry Livingston, Mike Fleischauer and Tom Swalwell.

BASEBALL

In 1931, Port Vue Pavlic's won the championship in the McKeesport Daily News Junior Baseball League. Players were Andy Jakomas, former Mayor of McKeesport, Nick Tate, Gene Hall, Barr Spalla, Frank Obusek, Burke Milo, Sam Vidnovic, John Kovacevich, John Richel, and Alex George. Martin Mihalek was the team's manager.

Gary Ross was the first in our Borough's history to pitch in the Major Leagues. He played in 1968 for Chicago and pitched the Cubs to a 10-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

AMATEUR BOXING

Billy "Bull" Winso won the Middleweight, Light Heavyweight and Heavyweight Championships. Other boxers of the Borough were Martin Mihalek, Willie Opatrny, Jimmy Bruce, John Gdovic and Johnny Wasilko.

Billy "Clutch" Kargle wrestled in the heavyweight class at California State College.

QUOIT PITCHING

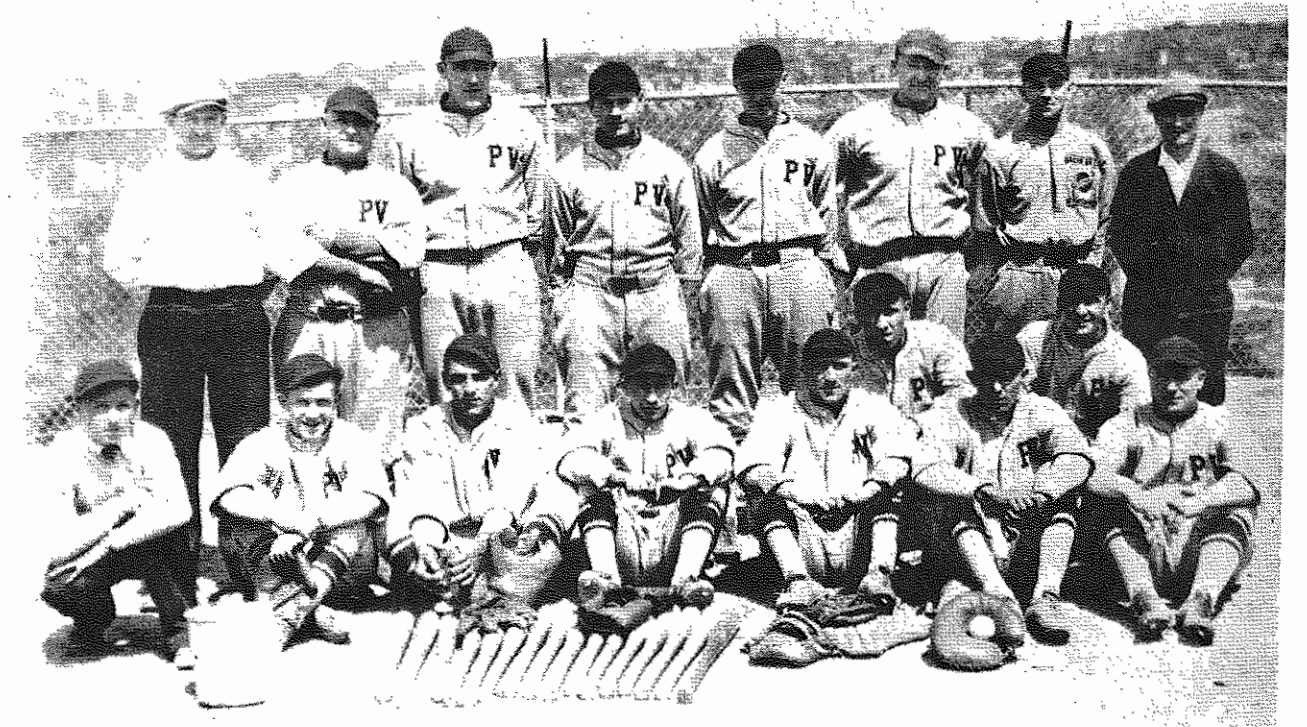
Quoit pitching was a popular sport in our area in the early 1900's. William C. Hitchens brought fame to our community and area by being the Tri-State Quoit Pitching Champion for 13 years.

HAND BALL

Jimmy Bruce of 1121 Portsmouth Drive is considered the best hand-ball player at the McKeesport Y.M.C.A. and has won double championships for 3 years. In 1970, Bob Thompson was Bruce's partner. In 1971, Tony Orlando shared the honors and in 1972, Y.M.C.A. Director, Hank Culp, teamed with Bruce for the title.



PORT VUE ODDS 1917



PORT VUE'S TOP BASEBALL TEAM

ATHLETES ALL

Few families anywhere can match the record of the seven Vidnovic brothers, whose mother still resides at 932 Monroe Avenue.

All seven starred in high school football and baseball - Sam in 1929-30; Burke in 1929-32; Milo in 1930-31; Nick in 1932-33; Steve in 1938-39; Bob in 1940-42; and Ted in 1948-49. Steve and Ted played football only; Sam was a baseball star and the rest were outstanding in both sports. Nick played professional baseball in the Old Penn State Minor League for McKeesport. Milo starred for Villanova University; Burke at Catholic University; Steve at Augusta Military and Bob at Pitt University.

MUNICH OLYMPICS

Captain Rudolph Antoncic was a Special Liason Officer for the U. S. Olympic basketball team and Coach Hank Iba at the Munich Olympic games in 1972; specifically maintaining game statistics, arranging accommodations for the team members' families and reserving the military gymnasium for practice sessions.

He was the Officer of the Guard 66th M.I. Group Reaction Force, September, 1972. His specific mission was to protect American lives and property during the time the Arab terrorists invaded the Olympic Village and took captive members of the Israeli Olympic team.

PORT VUE-LIBERTY-LINCOLN NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION 1571

Charter received May 3, 1968. Sponsored by Community Action Center, Isador Steiner, President, and Arlene Clark, Volunteer Director.

Officers for 1968-69 were as follows:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Frank Kampman | President |
| James Blaha | Vice President-Treasurer |
| Ruth Patterson | Secretary |

Officers for 1970-72 were as follows:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| James Blaha | President |
| Joseph Tobias | Vice President |
| Ann Pavlock | Treasurer |
| Mary Adams | Secretary |
| Helen Schwiekert | Assistant |

Officers for 1973-75 were as follows:

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Vincent Piatt | President |
| Martin Mihalek | Vice President |
| Ann Pavlock | Treasurer |
| Gene Clark | Secretary |

Officers for 1976 are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Harry J. Livingston | President |
| Martin Mihalek | Vice President |
| Betty Lang | Treasurer |
| Mary Humenik | Secretary |

The purpose of the organization is to inform all elderly, widowed, retired, pensioned and disabled workers of all legislation and to enrich the lives of all senior citizens. Meetings are held twice a month. The first Wednesday of each month is a social meeting and the third Wednesday of each month is the regular meeting. Meetings are held in the Port Vue Municipal Building.

SOUTH ALLEGHENY ITALIAN SOCIAL CLUB

The South Allegheny Italian Social Club began in 1968 as the Monte Bello Lodge associated with the Italian Sons and Daughters of America in Pittsburgh, and was originated under the leadership of Orlando DiMarco, Joseph Petrulli, Vincent Restauri, Victor Scotti, Michael Romano and Joseph Mazzei.

The original officers were:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| President | Orlando DiMarco |
| Vice President | Michael Romano |
| Orator | Anthony Corsaro |
| Secretary | Annette Glaser |
| Financial Secretary | Benjamin Ciotti |
| Treasurer | Joseph Petrulli |
| Trustees | Anthony Marcenelli |
| | Ermo D'Amico |
| | Lawrence Maiola |
| | Marie Raymer |
| | Edward Burnett |
| | Dominic Danna |
| Ceremonial Officers | Martin Cichon |
| | William Raymer |
| Sentinel | Nicholas Todaro |
| Reporter | Connie Mazzei |

The members agreed to withdraw from the Italian Sons and Daughters of America and in 1971 became the South Allegheny Italian Social Club headed by President, Joseph Petrulli. Senator Edward P. Zemprelli issued the charter to the club.

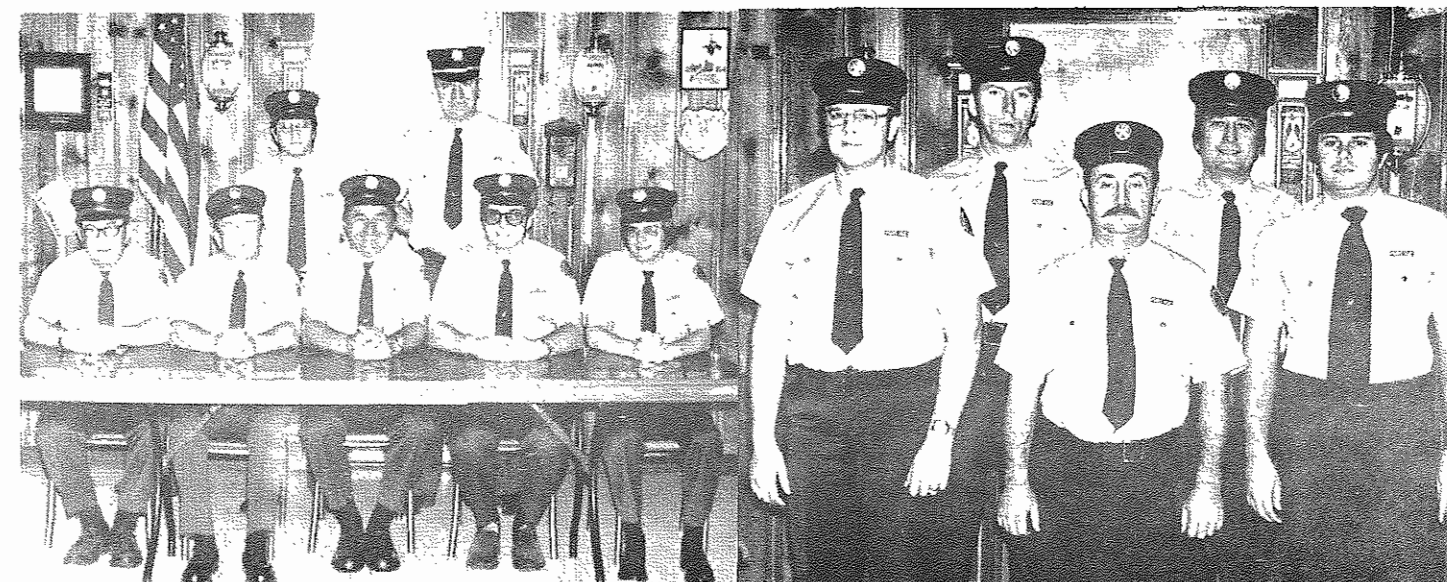
Meetings are held in the Port Vue Municipal Building on the third Sunday of each month.

The South Allegheny Italian Social Club was instrumental, together with other organizations in the Borough, in raising funds for a kidney machine used by David Falis and in organizing the Port Vue Blood Bank. The organization also sponsors a Little League Baseball team each year.

The present officers of the organization are:

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| President | Sam Grese |
| Vice President | Richard Pomycala |
| Treasurer | Joe Petrulli |
| Secretary | Stella Wolk |
| Sentinel | Carmen Costa |
| Reporter | Lena Mondak |
| Trustees | Joe Mondak |
| | Emil Yates |
| | Lillian Yates |
| | Orlando DiMarco |
| | Philomena Lyle |
| | Mario Stoffiero |

VIGILANT HOSE COMPANY NO. 1



The present officers of the fire company are:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Fire Chief | Alex Chontos, Jr. |
| Assistant Chief | Vincent McGinty |
| Captain | Michael Shiner |
| First Lieutenant | Joseph T. Orzulak |
| Second Lieutenant | R. Richard Tedesco, II |
| President | William Mihalek, Sr. |
| Vice President | Barry Coburn |
| Recording Secretary | Edward F. Bartko |
| Financial Secretary | Bernard M. Bubonic |
| Treasurer | Charles Witkowski |
| Trustees | William Bagshaw, |
| | James Danna, and |
| | John Piesak |

The equipment consists of a 1968 Mack R-611F, 750 gallon Pumper; a 1956 Howe Defender 750 gallon Pumper; a 1953 Squad Truck; a 1500-watt generator; a 300-gallon portable pumper; four masks; a smoke ejector; 3,000 feet of 2½ inch hose; 2,000 feet of 1½ inch hose; and a portable light system.

The present fire station was dedicated June 16, 1962, and the mortgage was burned on April 12, 1975. This building was paid entirely by our street fairs and fund-raising activities. It did not cost the taxpayers of Port Vue anything.

LADIES COMMUNITY CLUB OF PORT VUE



The Ladies Politician Club of Port Vue was organized October 8, 1931, the officers were: Mary Ludjuan, President; Suzanna Smith, Vice President; Julia Billy, Secretary; Julia Macko, Finance Secretary; Mary Kunkler, Treasurer; and Anna Petach and Helen Petach, Auditors. The Club's name was then changed to Ladies Community Club of Port Vue, the present officers are: Dorothy Stash, President; Ann Restauri, Vice President; Helen Ochap, Recording Secretary; Mary Bury, Treasurer; Marie Petrulli, Finance Secretary; Ann Lorber, Publicity; Ann Valecko, Flower Fund; Ann Yuhas, Chaplain; and Pat Vasko and Stella Wolk, Auditors.

The Ladies Community Club, affiliated with the Port Vue Patriots, sponsored a fund raising Bicentennial luncheon to benefit future projects of the Borough's Bicentennial Committee. Members of the Club preparing decorations for the event, pictured above, are left to right, Mrs. Elaine Valecko, Co-chairman of the luncheon; Mrs. Henrietta Kushner, Chairman, and Mrs. Dorothy Stash, President of the group.

The luncheon was held Wednesday, December 10, 1975, at 12:30 P.M. in the Port Vue Fire Hall. Reservations were made in advance through each of the club's members.

PORT VUE WOMEN'S CLUB



The Port Vue Women's Club celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 1975. The club was organized as the Westwood Hills Women's Club in April, 1950, and federated in April, 1951. In 1959, its name was changed to the Port Vue Women's Club to encourage membership from the entire Borough. Of the past thirteen presidents, ten are still active members; three charter members still belong to the club. The present membership is 57 active members and 3 honorary members. Originally gathering in the homes of its members, the club now meets every second Friday of the month, September through May, in the Port Vue Municipal Building.

From its beginning, the club has been involved in community and charitable activities. As the young Westwood Hills Club, it agitated, among other things, for bus service, street signs, the planting of trees, a kindergarten and a PTA. The club initiated a program for Campfire Girls, published a newspaper, distributed holiday baskets to needy families, volunteered its membership to collect for organized charities, such as the Community Chest and March of Dimes. Each year the club sponsored a tea for girls leaving the Romine Junior High School for McKeesport High School and later when Port Vue's own high school was established, the tea was held for all graduating senior girls.

Our very active members have been involved in innumerable card parties, games parties and bake sales to finance our many activities. We have presented a Minstrel Show, children's shows; we have held spaghetti dinners, hat shows, square dances and fashion shows.

Throughout the years, some of the projects in which we have taken pride were our children's library, the securing of the bookmobile's service to the Borough, and our annual scholastic scholarship to a graduating senior girl.

Shown in the above picture, seated left to right, are Margaret Stokan, President - Pat George, standing, Alice Pollock, Nan Schneider and Pauline Schneider.

PORT VUE MOTHER'S CLUB



The Port Vue Mother's Club was founded on October 14, 1921, by Florence B. Kohler. The first meetings were held in the homes of the members. Later, they moved to Tacoma School, Myer Avenue School and then to its present place at the Port Vue Borough Building. The group meets on the third Friday of the month at 7:30 P.M. The Club's motto is "READY TO SERVE". The Mother's Club is the sponsor of Port Vue Cub Scout Pack No. 57.

The officers of the Port Vue Mother's Club are:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Jean Goffus | President |
| Francis Moore | Vice President |
| Elaine Crews | Secretary |
| Irene Daugherty | Treasurer |

The members are:

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| * Hilda Blamick | Bessie Higginbotham | Marge O'Toole |
| * Margaret Cambell | Ethel Hollis | Lotte Penner |
| Elaine Crews | Mildred Kampman | Alice Sanner |
| Irene Daugherty | Agatha Klimate | Virginia Scott |
| Gladys Godard | Anna Lyle | Inez Smith |
| Beverly Goffus | Wanda McCartney | Anna Sundberg |
| Jean Goffus | Hazel McClure | Dorothy Vidnovic |
| Blanche Griffin | Sophie Merrill | Loretta Winnett |
| Florence Harrig | Francis Moore | Ruth Zundel |
| Jane Henderson | Anna Noel | |

* Charter Members

PORT VUE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION 25th ANNIVERSARY 1951-1976

Little League Baseball in Port Vue was founded in 1951 by a few civic-minded people interested in providing an organized baseball program for the youth of the Borough. At that time the league was known as the Mon Yough Midget League and competed against teams from neighboring communities. This team functioned until 1953 when a four team league was formed and was affiliated with the official Little League of Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The original sponsors were: Carl Boe's Ridge Lines, Blue Rock Club, A.S.H.A. and the Port Vue Firemen. As of this date, Blue Rock Club and the Port Vue Firemen are still sponsoring teams. Facilities were limited to Romine field and New York field.

In 1956, the program was expanded to include boys of Pony League age (13-14). Operating expenses at that time for four Little League teams was approximately \$400.00, and for the Pony League team, \$200.00. At this time, the organization was known as the Port Vue Baseball Association.

Because of increasing interest in the program, it was expanded to include a Colt League (15-16) also causing us to look elsewhere for additional facilities for a rapidly growing program. This was made possible through the generosity of a Borough land owner who allowed us to use land in the Mon-Vue area.

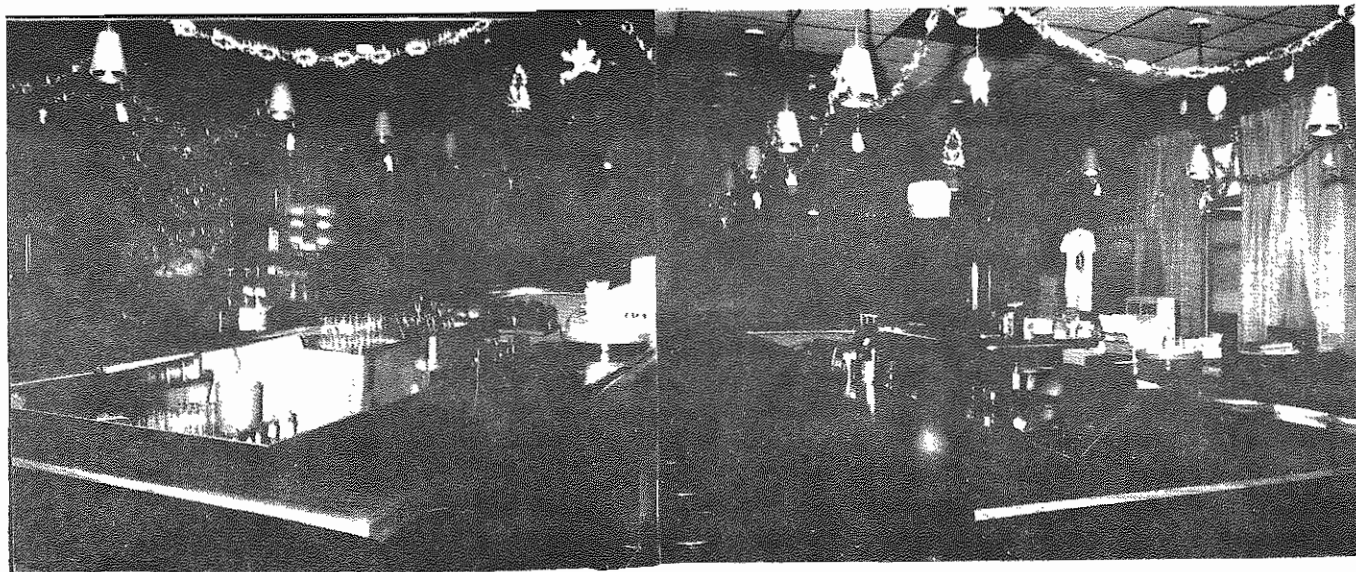
Through the efforts of the Borough, the land was acquired and designated as a permanent recreation area and park.

Through the determined efforts of the members of the organization, three new ball fields were constructed on this site.

In the late 1960's, the name was changed to the Port Vue Athletic Association to accommodate a girl's softball league, American Legion baseball, and a winter recreational basketball program was added.

In the past few years we have improved the facilities to include a new building which houses a refreshment stand, equipment storage room, modern rest rooms and a broadcasting booth. Today's cost of operating the program has increased ten-fold, from \$600.00 in 1956 to approximately \$6,000.00 in 1975. We sincerely hope that this program can continue to expand in a like manner in the future.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, including players, parents, managers and coaches, volunteer workers, sponsors, and civic-minded leaders who have made our program a success over the last twenty-five years.



The Blue Rock Club in Port Vue will celebrate its 46th Anniversary during our nation's bicentennial.

The building that houses the organization today was opened in 1911 and was originally known as Bohemian Hall. Bohemian Hall served many purposes before it became today's Blue Rock Club. During the school years of 1912 and 1913, the hall provided classrooms for Port Vue's children. In the year of 1918, Port Vue faced a disastrous flu epidemic and the building became a valuable asset to the residents as a community hospital. The Independent Fire Company of Port Vue based its headquarters in Bohemian Hall during the year of 1915.

The Blue Rock Club was organized in 1930, its first officers were: Joseph Sucha, President; Joseph Blaha, Vice President; James Viverka, Financial Secretary; Joseph Opatrny, Recording Secretary; Joseph Richel and Joseph Zajic served as trustees.

As one of Port Vue's most successful organizations, the Blue Rock Club is known for its athletic attitude. It takes pride in being the oldest continuous sponsor of Little League Baseball in the community. Many of the club's members are coaches, managers or officers of the Port Vue Athletic Association. The club also sponsors a team in the summer league basketball of South Allegheny High School and it offers bowling for both the young and old in our club lanes. As dedicated Pittsburgh Steeler fans, the club lately formed the Jack Ham Fan Club, better known as "DOBRE SHUNKA".

The present officers of the club are: Charles Jones, Jr., President; William Brennan, Vice President; Frank Dippolito, Financial Secretary; James Tamblyn, Treasurer; Daniel Majzer, Recording Secretary; Charles Jones, Sr. and Jerome Kobulnicky and Nicholas Marovich, Trustees; Thaddeus Majzer, Jr., Bowling Manager; and Charles Nicomatti, Club Manager.

In early 1953, two veteran residents of Dersam Avenue, Port Vue had a back yard chat. Lawrence Furlong, a son-in-law of past Dept. Cmdr. Trainor, approached Robert Locke, a past commander of Post 230 in Wilmerding. He wanted Mr. Locke's aid in forming a Boy Scout troop in the Borough. Bob's return was, "I'll help you with your Boy Scouts if you will help me form an American Legion Post". Various veteran friends were contacted and a meeting was arranged at the old Fire Hall on Romine Avenue. A temporary charter was applied for on April 2, 1953.

Shortly thereafter, the post moved its meeting place to the ASHA Club on Trimble Avenue where the permanent charter was issued by the National Organization on March 14, 1955.

On December 15, 1958, papers were drawn to form a corporation and on February 2, 1959, the post applied for a club liquor license. It was during that year the post moved to Port Vue Avenue by purchasing the old Methodist Church property and it remained there until 1975 when the post purchased the St. Joseph Church Youth Center.

Post 447 has distinguished itself among the parent organization by its continual outstanding performance in community affairs, helping hospitalized veterans and child-youth work.

The Post also has been among the leaders in the State on attracting the younger Vietnam era veterans, and at present, one of them, Jim Jenkins, has risen to the Post Commander level.

It has also produced a District Commander for a two-year term 1973-1975 in Guy Eisenhower, representing nearly 10,000 Legionnaires of this area.

Two members of the Post serve on the Port Vue Borough Bicentennial Committee. They are Jim Jenkins and Joe Boyko.

Of the nineteen Commanders this post has produced, only one, Milton Whoolery, has gone to the post everlasting.

The following men have led the Post 447 since its inception: Robert Locke, Albert D'Annunzio, John Cooper, Lawrence Furlong, Roy Cassidy, Joe Zlotziver, Robert Myers, Robert Thumm, Henry Denney, Clarence Shuker, Jack Hampe, Forney Walls, Philip Nelson, James Reilly, Milton Whoolery, Guy Eisenhower, Dom Naccarato, James Elliott, Joseph Boyko and James Jenkins.

The officers and members of Port Vue Legion Post 447 wish to extend a hearty Bicentennial greeting to all of our friends in the Borough. The American Legion believes in a return to patriotism and invites all interested individuals to help rekindle faith in a free America.

PORT VUE LIONS CLUB



In January, 1954, an idea came to Port Vue and materialized into what is now and has ever been known as the Port Vue Lions. Names and faces have come and gone but the idea is still there in a small group of dedicated men who give of themselves. There is the crux of the idea - GIVING OF YOURSELF.

This is not the sole creed of the Lions but of every man, woman and child in all the world who has seen a need. A man said it long ago and it is still true today. Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. But remember this always, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link and a Lions Club or any other service organization dedicated to community improvement or the needs of anyone is only as strong as its members who make up the links. Of course, the more links there are, the longer and stronger the chain. There just happens to be more than a million men who make up the Lions chain that stretches around the world. Men who give of themselves are proud to be called Lions. Do you know who your Lion men are in this Borough? Make it your commitment to find out and go ask one of them why he continues to be a Lion. Maybe the answer he gives you may convince you to become a Lion also, and you, in turn, will be given the opportunity to give of yourself. One man doing a great service is a wonderful thing, but many men doing many things for many people is a beautiful thing to behold. This is what Lionism is all about. Many men doing many things for many people who just happen to be less fortunate at that time.

Pictured on this page are men, Lions, who make up the Lions Chain. They are your friends and neighbors, but most important they are part of the Port Vue Lions who give of themselves to perform services much needed in this Borough. As people need a helping hand, so do organizations, and a Lions Club is no exception. When a fellow Lion asks you to buy a broom or light bulbs or buy a calendar or just to donate to their fund drive, you are, in reality, supporting many worthwhile charities which they, in turn, support, such as Eye Research, Leader dog school, Eyemobile, glasses for the needy, school for the blind and many other services that may be needed.

In summation, your Lions Club which has done many worthwhile and and needed services in this Borough, thrives on support and participation and without that we would cease to exist. So it is as much your responsibility to see that we are active. Help us remember our motto - WE SERVE.