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# Portal to the Past

"Preserving Our Past . . . For The Future"

Volume 9 Number 6

JUNE 2009

*Serving the Local Communities from the original Mifflin Township of 1788: Baldwin, Clairton, Dravosburg, Duquesne, Hays, Homestead, Jefferson Hills, Lincoln Place, Munhall, Pleasant Hills, West Elizabeth, West Homestead, West Mifflin and Whitaker.*

**A reminder to all — the monthly member meetings are now held on the SECOND MONDAY of the month at 7 p.m. at the West Mifflin Borough building, 3000 Lebanon Church Road, West Mifflin**

**JUNE MEETING** ~~ Monday, JUNE 8, 2009 7 p.m.

## **WHEN THE TROLLEY CAME TO TOWN**

In 2005 George Gula, of the PA Trolley Museum, gave a slide presentation to the members of the society. We were fortunate to videotape that presentation. It is over one hour in length and shows over 100 vintage photos of the street cars that served the Mifflin Township area from the 1900s to 1960s.



## **WHAT'S YOUR HISTORY NIGHT —**

There will be NO WYH night for the month of June — a little vacation for everyone

**INDEPENDENCE DAY QUIZ**1. WHAT IS THE TITLE OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM?

- A. O, Say Can You See
- B. God Bless America
- C. America the Beautiful
- D. The Star Spangled Banner

2. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS IS GUARANTEED BY THE FIRST AMENDMENT?

- A. Right to Bear Arms
- B. Freedom of Religion
- C. Right to Vote
- D. All of the Above

3. WHAT IS THE TITLE OF THE HEAD OF CITY GOVERNMENT?

- A. Mayor
- B. Chancellor
- C. Governor
- D. Chairman of the Board

4. WHO HAS THE ABILITY TO DECLARE WAR?

- A. The President
- B. The Joint Chiefs
- C. The Secretary of Defense
- D. The Congress

5. HOW MANY FULL TERMS MAY A SENATOR SERVE?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 4
- D. No term limits for Senators

6. HOW MANY FULL TERMS CAN A PRESIDENT SERVE?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 4
- D. There are no term limits for President

7. HOW MANY YEARS IS A FULL TERM FOR A REPRESENTATIVE?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 4
- D. 6

8. WHICH AMENDMENT SETS THE MINIMUM VOTING AGE TO 18?

- A. 1st
- B. 19th
- C. 26th
- D. 18th

9. WHO BECOMES PRESIDENT IF BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT DIE?

- A. The Speaker of the House
- B. The Secretary of Defense
- C. The Chief Justice
- D. The First Lady

10. ON JULY 4, 1776 WE DECLARED OUR INDEPENDENCE FROM WHO?

- A. Germany
- B. Spain
- C. Great Britain
- D. Rome

11. HOW MANY BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT DO WE HAVE?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. Zero

12. WHICH IS PART OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL?

- A. The Supreme Court
- B. The Senate
- C. The Congress
- D. The Presidential Cabinet

13. WHO ELECTS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES?

- A. The House of Representatives
- B. The Senate
- C. The Electoral College
- D. The State Governors

14. HOW MANY STATES ARE THERE?

- A. 10
- B. 13
- C. 50
- D. 100

15. HOW MANY STRIPES ARE THERE ON THE AMERICAN FLAG?

- A. 10
- B. 13
- C. 50
- D. 100

16. WHO WAS PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR?

- A. George Washington
- B. Abraham Lincoln
- C. Ulysses S. Grant
- D. Lyndon B. Johnson

17. WHO IS THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. ?

- A. Bill Clinton
- B. Barack Obama
- C. Colin Powell
- D. Dick Cheney

18. WHO IS THE CURRENT VICE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. ?

- A. Bill Clinton
- B. Hillary Clinton
- C. Colin Powell
- D. Joe Biden

19. WHY DID THE PILGRIMS COME TO AMERICA?

- A. To establish a trade route to India
- B. To set up fur trade with the Natives
- C. To establish a new nation
- D. To find religious freedom

20. HOW MANY TOTAL SENATORS ARE THERE?

- A. 10
- B. 13
- C. 50
- D. 100

21. THE CONSTITUTION HAS HOW MANY AMENDMENTS?

- A. 23
- B. 27
- C. 31
- D. 33

22. HOW MANY AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED OFFICIALLY BY CONGRESS BUT NEVER RATIFIED?

- A.. None
- B. 1
- C. 6
- D. 12

23. WHICH OF THESE AMENDMENTS IS A RATIFIED AND CURRENT AMENDMENT?

- A. Declaring it illegal to desecrate the American Flag
- B. Equality of rights regardless of gender
- C. Restricting marriage in all States to between a man and a woman.
- D. Prohibiting the importing of liquor into States where it is illegal.

24. WHICH YEAR WAS THE LAST AMENDMENT RATIFIED?

- A. 1868
- B. 1920
- C. 1961
- D. 1992

25. WHAT IS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE UNITED STATES?

- A. None
- B. Latin
- C. English
- D. Esperanto

QUIZZ . . . Continued

26. WHO WAS THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. ?

- A. George Washington
- B. John Adams
- C. Thomas Jefferson
- D. Andrew Jackson

27. WHO SAID "GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH?"

- A. Nathan Hale
- B. Patrick Henry
- C. John Wilkes Booth
- D. Thomas Paine

28. HOW MANY PRESIDENTS WERE ASSASSINATED WHILE IN OFFICE?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 4
- D. 6

29. WHICH OF THESE PRESIDENTS WAS BORN IN TEXAS?

- A. Dwight D. Eisenhower
- B. Richard Nixon
- C. Ronald Reagan
- D. George W. Bush

30. HOW MANY PRESIDENTS WERE INPEACHED?

- A. None
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 4

THE ANSWERS . . .

**1. "The Star Spangled Banner"**  
While it is true that the first line of the National Anthem is "O, Say Can You See" the title of the song is "The Star Spangled Banner". The words were written by Francis Scott Key after he witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry by the British during the War of 1812. The fort held and inspired Key to write his poetry. Later it was put to music and in 1916 was made the official National Anthem by President Wil-

son.

**2. Freedom of Religion.** The First Amendment guarantees the right of free speech, the right to petition, the freedom of assembly, as well as the freedom of religion. The right to bear arms is granted by the second amendment. Both amendments were adopted as part of the Bill of Rights (the first 10 amendments) and were drafted to check the powers of a centralized government over its citizens.

**3. Mayor.** A tradition carried over from England, the heads of City government are called Mayors. In some American cities there is a city court of which the mayor is chief judge.

**4. The Congress.** One of the complaints leveled against England when America declared its independence was the overreaching power the monarch had over the military. Fearful that even a President could abuse this power, the ability to declare war was given to Congress. Since then the office of the President has been able to work around this in several cases using the Emergency Powers of the Presidency. For instance, American troops were committed and served in Kosovo during the country's conflict, yet America never officially declared war.

**5. No Term Limits for Senators.** The Constitution has no term limits specified for any office (except for the President - see Question 6). Term Limits have become a hot topic in the last 10 years. Some states have tried to impose term limits on their candidates but this was found to be unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. The only way term limits at the federal level will ever come about is by the ratifying of an amendment to the constitution.

**6. 2 Terms for Presidents.** As the first President, George Washington set many precedents that later Presidents followed. One of these traditions was the voluntary limit to two terms in office. After Franklin Roose-

velt broke this tradition and held the office four times, some policy makers moved to keep this from happening again. The 22nd amendment to the Constitution was ratified in 1951 and turned Washington's two term tradition into binding law.

**7. 2 Years for a Representative's Term.** The length of a full term for a member of the House of Representatives is set by the Constitution at 2 years.

**8. 26th Amendment.** The fourth amendment ratified to clarify voter's rights was a result of protests against the war in Viet Nam. The argument was that a person old enough to fight for their country should be old enough to vote in its elections. Before its adoption the voting age was 21.

**9. The Speaker of the House.** In 1947 Congress thought it necessary to sketch out a line of succession in the case of both the President and Vice President becoming unable to perform their duties. This was in response to the realization that a nuclear attack could effectively wipe out large portions of our government. Policy makers wanted to ensure that the office holder was an elected official rather than an appointed official if at all possible. Thus the Speaker of the House and the Senate Pro Tempore were selected to be next in line for the Presidency.

**10. Great Britain.** The American Colonies were in the possession of Great Britain until America declared its Independence as a new nation on July 4th, 1776. Though most Americans still say we declared our Independence from England, this is technically incorrect.

**11. 3 Branches of Government.** Wary of a system in which one person can hold too much power, the drafters of the Constitution separated the powers of government among 3 branches: The Executive (President), The Legislative (The Congress), and The Judicial (The Supreme Court).

**12. The Supreme Court.** The Su-

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preme Court is the highest court in the country. It interprets the meaning of laws set forth by Congress and it determines if these laws, as well as State laws that come before it, are legal under our Constitution.

**13. The Electoral College.** This question does not seem as difficult after the 2000 Presidential election. The electoral college came under scrutiny after it was illustrated that a candidate can win the election without having a majority of the vote. In 2000 Al Gore won the popular vote and George Bush won the Electoral College vote.

**14. There are 50 states** in the United States. The last, Hawaii was admitted to the Union on August 21, 1959. There is a political movement for a 51st state, Puerto Rico, to be added.

**15. There are 13 stripes** on the American flag that stand for the original 13 American Colonies.

**16. Abraham Lincoln.** By the time Lincoln was inaugurated into the office of President 7 states had seceded and the Civil War was on its way. He was shot during his second term of office and died on April 15, 1865. He lived long enough to see the end of the Civil War but was unable to implement his plans for the rebuilding of the nation.

**17. Barack Obama** is the 44th President of the United States. He was elected the 44th President of the United States on November 4, 2008, and sworn in on January 20, 2009. He and his wife, Michelle, are the proud parents of two daughters, Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7.

**18. Joe Biden** is the current VP of the United States. Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr., was born November 20, 1942, in Scranton, PA, the first of four siblings. At age 29, he became the youngest person ever elected to the United States Senate.

**19. To find religious freedom.** While this statement is considered the correct answer on the Citizenship Test and is the most correct out of the multiple answers, it is not entirely true. The Pilgrims did leave England to avoid religious prosecution but first went to Holland. This was not to their tastes either as the more radical religious groups insulted their sensibilities. The solution was to create their own colony where they were free to practice their own beliefs and free from the tainting of other belief systems.

**20.** The Constitution provides for **2 Senators from each state** no matter its size or population. With 50 states that makes 100 Senators. This provides an advantage for small states.

For instance Rhode Island, our smallest state, has 2 Senators, the same number of Senators that represent California or Texas. This balances out the House of Representatives where the number of Rep's a state receives is based on population.

**21. 27 Amendments.** Amendments to the Constitution began immediately after its ratification. An amendment must pass the House and the Senate by 2/3rds vote and then passed by no less than 3/4ths of the States.

**22. 6 Amendments.** Six Amendments have been proposed by Congress but never gained enough States' votes to be ratified. They are: One of the first amendments in the Bill of Rights laying out representation, one outlawing titles of nobility, one guaranteeing a state's right to practice slavery, one that gives the Federal Government control over child labor laws, The Equal Rights Amendment, and one that would have given D.C. full representation in the House and Senate. All of these amendments failed.

**23. Prohibiting the importing of liquor into States where it is illegal.** While the 19th amendment guarantees a woman's right to vote, the Equal Rights Amendment, guaranteeing their equal protection under the law was never passed. This does not mean women have no rights, it is considered implied elsewhere in the Constitution. Making flag desecration illegal was given much discussion in the early 90's but never passed the House or Senate. President Bush supported an amendment to ban gay marriage, but, again, that has never passed the House or Senate. The 21st Amendment repealed the 18th Amendment that prohibited the consumption and sale of alcohol. To ensure a State's right to maintain the ban, the 21st also made it illegal to import liquor into dry states.

**24. 1992.** When the amendment process began, no time limits were put in place for ratification. The 27th amendment, putting delays on Congressional pay hikes, was originally proposed with the Bill of Rights. It sat without ratification until 1992, when Gary Watson, an aide to a Texas legislator, took up the cause and won the required States to pass the proposed amendment.

**25.** None. The United States has no official language; it is right reserved for the States. Currently 29 States have English as an official language.

Louisiana includes French, Hawaii includes Hawaiian, and New Mexico includes Spanish as official languages.

**26. John Adams.** When selected for the job, Adams wrote that the Vice President was "the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived or his imagination conceived." It seems little has changed with the office over time.

**27. Patrick Henry.** Legend says that when the Virginia legislature was balking at committing troops during the Revolutionary War, it was Patrick Henry's speech that inspired them to change their mind. As an interesting note, Henry was a critic of the Constitution and campaigned against its adoption. He believed it gave the Federal Government too much power and was instrumental in the ratification of the Bill of Rights.

**28. 4.** While John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln come to mind, there are two other Presidents who were assassinated in office. James Garfield was shot only 4 months after taking office and died 80 days later. William McKinley was shot at the Pan-American Exposition while greeting the public and died in office of natural causes. Four other presidents (Reagan, Truman, Ford and Jackson) all survived attempted assassinations.

**29. Dwight D. Eisenhower.** A trick question! While George W. Bush is associated with Texas and lived there his adult life, he was born in Connecticut. Nixon was our only president born in California, and Reagan (though Governor of California at one time) was born in Illinois. Eisenhower grew up in Kansas, but was born in Texas. Texas was also the birth place of one other president, Lyndon B. Johnson.

**30. Two.** Two Presidents have been impeached, Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton. Andrew Johnson took office after Lincoln's assassination. His conciliatory policies toward the South and his blocking of Civil Rights legislation caused a bitter confrontation that resulted in his impeachment. Clinton was impeached for perjury and obstruction of justice during the Monica Lewinsky scandal. Both Presidents were eventually acquitted. Richard Nixon resigned before he could be impeached, though proceedings to do so were underway.

## A History Lesson

*Editor's Note: It is interesting to note how things from the past affect our present day lives . . .*

The U.S. standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches) That's an exceedingly odd number.

Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates built the U.S. railroads. Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did 'they' use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing. Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long-distance roads in Europe (and England) for their legions. The roads have been used ever since. And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.

Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot . . . Bureaucracies live forever!

So the next time you are handed a specification/procedure/process and wonder 'What horse's ass came up with it', you may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses (two horses' asses). Now, the twist to this story . . .

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRB's. The SRB's are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. When engineers who designed the SRB's would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRB's had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRB's had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad

track, and the railroad track, as you know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two-thousand years ago by the width of a horse's ass. And you thought being a horse's ass wasn't important.

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sandwich spread or  
**Liver Chubs** 8 oz. **39¢**

**Armour's Gold Star Hams**

3 lb. can \$4.89      5 lb. can \$7.89

**Irish Ham** 5 lb. can \$5.95

**Easy-On Speed Spray Starch** 15 oz. **49¢**

**Chicken of the Sea**

**Chunk Tuna** 6 oz. **45¢**

**Solid White Tuna** 6 oz. **59¢**

**Dole Pineapple**

13¼ oz. can **29¢**      8½ oz. can **21¢**

**ENDUST** 7 oz. can **79¢**

**Kahn's Weiners**

**89¢**

**Irish Brand Skinless Franks**

**79¢**

**Woolite**

8 oz. **89¢**

16 oz. **\$1.29**

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**Aerowax**

27 oz. can **85¢**

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**Maxwell House Coffee**

2 lb. can **\$1.79**

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**Skippy Peanut Butter**

16 oz. jar **59¢**



## Forget your troubles for a day...

*Submitted by Andrew R. Nixon  
MTHS member living in Las Vegas.*

The so-called Greater Pittsburgh Area includes hundreds of years of history and a diverse population. Pennsylvania is reported to have the most senior citizens of any state save Florida, although many of the seniors who save Florida hail from other states including Pennsylvania. The various communities that touch the three rivers, their tributaries are made up of what may be the most diverse population in the world – young, old, Native Americans, Italians, Greeks, Slavs, Anglos, African Americans, Latin Americans, Asians, Middle Easterners, and dozens of other ethnicities. The area is made up of Catholics, Protestants, Mormons, Christians, atheists, Jews, Muslims, and scores of other religions. Young, old, immigrant, and local born, white collar, blue collar priest collar, and dog collar. Differences among area residents are legion, but one activity cuts across all groups of residents – Kennywood Park.



KIDDIE LAND --- KENNYWOOD PARK

3D-H564

Children of all ages await that most happy of holidays each year, the Kennywood Picnic. Kennywood Park is nestled on the edge of West Mifflin, just above the Monongahela River's Lock and Dam #2. It has been standing there for more than 100 years and predates Disney World, Disneyland, Seven Flags, or any of the other major amusement parks. Each year surrounding communities have their "Day" at Kennywood. The tradition is decades old. Grandparents and great grandparents had their annual Kennywood Picnic when they were children. Some arrived by train, others by public transport or

family cars, but there is no richer, more long-lasting tradition than the annual Kennywood picnic.

Through the era of both World Wars to the rise and fall of the steel industry, family-owned Kennywood Park has been a haven to the kids of the area. Through the 1990s and into the 21st century the Greater Pittsburgh area continues to struggle economically – homes can be purchased for less than the price of a new car. Still, Kennywood, remains a haven to take the kids and get away, at least for a day, from economic woes.

The park was actually started in 1898 when the Monongehela Street Railway leased a picnic grove from Anthony Kenny. In 1902 Fredrick Ingersoll built one of the first figure-8 roller coasters at Kennywood and in 1906 two families, Henningers and McSwigans bought the park and their families owned it for more than 100 years. In 1910 a second roller coaster, the "Racer" was built at a cost of \$ 50,000 and was the world's largest racing coaster at the time. The double dip Jack Rabbit and the other coasters at Kennywood became legendary.

To take a twist on a trite saying, "This ain't your grandpa's Kenny-



SWIMMING POOL --- KENNYWOOD PARK

3D-H558

wood,” not only has the park been updated and improved, it has sailed into the digital age. Witness the Kennywood web page <http://kennywood.com> which encourages readers to “Make a new memory.” The web page even offers the latest road closures for incoming traffic and will suggest alternatives. Park standards include paddleboats, introduced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the merry-go-round, Kiddieland, and the Whip – first introduced in 1918, as well new and updated attractions such as the Ghostwood Estate and Cosmic Chaos. To keep up with the times, there are Kennywood links at MySpace, Youtube and other social networks.

Area residents from the 1950s and 60s era remember special times at Kennywood that included the custom of families taking picnic baskets with them for the day. Baskets were placed on a picnic table under a shelter and everybody went to the park to ride, swim, or to watch “The Amazing Cannonball Man” be shot out of a cannon and into a net. At lunch families would return to their picnic baskets which were untouched. Food always tastes better at a picnic. The following reflections of spending a day at Kennywood in the 1950s include taking the train from Clairton:

“As the train pulled out of the Clairton station probably none of us realized but that was the very spot that many of our grandparents and even some of our parents saw Clairton for the first time. They rode the rails into Clairton from Ellis Island. For some of them it might have been their first train ride too – coming to a place where the people spoke a different language and one that held hope for their future and the future of their offspring. But for us the rails were an adventure. We rolled alongside the Monongahela River through



NOAH'S ARK ---- KENNYWOOD PARK

35-1158

Wilson, and could see Glassport across the river. Most of us weren't looking at the sites as we passed Bud's Red Hots and followed Route 837 toward the McKeesport Bridge. We couldn't see Paule's Lookout from the train either, although it would be where many of us would have a romantic dinner or two when we got older.

When the train pulled to a stop, what seemed like thousands of kids scrambled off and up the steep hill that seemed to go on for miles. My buddy Jay had his tickets that had purchased at school. I also had mine. Some of the attractions cost two or three tickets per ride but I had a special book of “teacher” tickets. Each teacher received a special book of tickets for free and a friend my parents gave us hers. Those tickets were good on any ride – one ticket per ride no matter what the ride.

“We spent the day on every action ride in the park starting with the Jackrabbit. We went on the rowboats, and one kid was acting stupid and fell into the lake. But other than getting wet and having to call his parents he didn't get hurt because the lake is only

about 2 feet deep. We spent some time in the Penny Arcade and made a good luck penny. It was inside a horseshoe that said, ‘Keep me and you'll never go broke.’ The Old Mill was dark and boys would often tell girls that last summer snakes nested in the Old Mill. The plan was to get girls to snuggle but if they shrieked, somebody who worked inside the ride shined a flashlight on the boat.

“After a long hard day playing, riding, walking, watching circus acts, eating junk, and generally having a good time, we headed back to the train. The walk down the hill was a lot easier and nobody was running. We boarded the train for the short trip back to Clairton. The kids were mostly quiet. Some dozed off. My parents were among the many waiting for the train when we arrived in Clairton and I spent the night dreaming of one the best days of my life.”

*Andrew R. Nixon is a native Clairton blogger and lives in Las Vegas. Other reflections of Clairton of the 1950s can be found on his blog: <http://drforgot.com>.*



## The Mystery of Hays PA

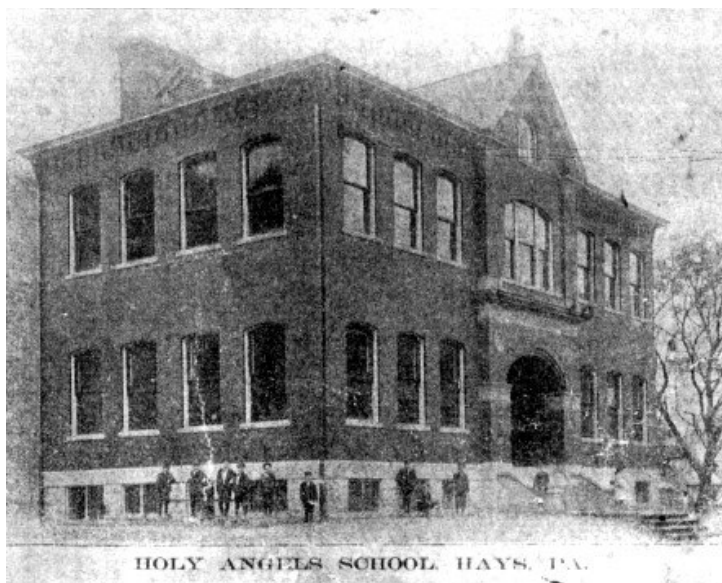
By Stephanie Paul — Member of MTHS

Nestled mid the hills of South Pittsburgh, there once was a thriving community by the name of Hays, Pa. Does anyone wonder what happened to it? Many times I wondered myself, but had no one to ask.

Recently I attended a social affair, and asked, did anyone grow up in the community of Hays? I received many strong responses, I was just taken aback. I understand the daughter of a Hessian soldier, J. Hannes Crede had a daughter who married James Hays, a coal baron, and perhaps this is the origin of the name.

I have recently had a conversation with Theresa Ciolli, living still on Glass Run Road, and she related some history to me. Yes, Hays was a thriving community, with numerous businesses, three churches many local taverns and a Fire Hall which can still be seen, on Baldwin Road, just south of Holy Angels Church.

Theresa and her family lived in a little candy store/house with her father John, mother Helen, sister Dolores and brothers John & James. In 1932 John Ciolli purchased property and built an Atlantic Garage and Auto Repair run by himself, at that time 25 years old and had a mechanic by the name of Edward Colizza. Then in 1942 John built a little home, 248 Glass Run Road extension. In 1945 he became a sub dealer to sell Nash Autos. Also added two more children to the family, LaVerne & Gilbert. In 1947 he took on the first Kaiser Frasier Auto Franchise with Henry J's, and ran this with his wife Helen, cousin Eddie and em-



ployees. In 1965 he renovated the front of the building and added a showroom in the space of the previous home, and became a Studebaker franchise. With the help of his children he operated Ciolli Motors in the same location for 32 years.

This was all changed later in 1965, when the Glenwood Bridge was approved, and by eminent domain, the property was dismantled and moved to Pleasant Hills for another 32 years. There were two schools in Hays, Hays Public School & Holy Angels Catholic School. The Slaughter House operated, near the river, and another existed across the street as well.

The Hays Hotel was there, as well as the GBU Organization, along with the Italian Club. Somehow, Italian heritage was the predominate ethnic situation. Who remembers Joe Lerro's Tavern, Carp's Supermarket, Dizzy Smelts Meat Market, Caruso's Meat Market & Rosie Ciolli's little grocery store. There was a Bank, a Pa. State Liquor Store, Dom Papes Confectionary as well as the OK Grocery Store which was originally an A&P Grocery store. Cil & her Dad Kuenzig had a drug store,

later relocating to Custer Avenue in Carrick.

Scott's Feed was prominent for many years. They delivered valuable feed and items for the farmers when Glass Run Road was a mere mud road. Pernina Colosi & her brother Charlie ran a huge three story building which housed a beer distributorship. This was later to become "The Green House" but more on that later. There were actually two pharmacies, along with two shoemakers, and numerous other small business'. Where are they now??? Theresa Ciolli drove a two-seater Kaiser Darrin sports car to St. Rosalia's, and some young ladies boarded a trolley at Hays Glen Street to attend same school. Does anyone know where Hays Glen Was? It ran parallel to Baldwin Road, near the Galvtec Plant, and Ashby Street was behind Baldwin Road, which continued further down, now under the 'New Road'. Also further down there, was a brick manufacturers group of employee homes, since he had his brick yard on 18th Street & Josephine Street, South Side.

To Be Continued.




**Don't Slow Up  
Appetites  
on Fast Days**



**LENTEN  
FOODS  
SALE**

**Heinz Baked Beans** 6 <sup>12 oz</sup> cans **45c**  
3 18-oz cans 29c      2 25-oz cans 29c

**Pink Salmon** Tall Can **10c**  
**Argo Red Salmon** 2 Tall Cans **39c**  
**Tuna Fish** Light Meat 2 8 oz cans **25c**  
**Del-Monte Tuna Fish** 2 8 oz cans **29c**  
FANCY WHITE MEAT  
**Anchovey Fillets** 2 2 oz cans **25c**  
**Sardines Filets** Hovden Brand 8 oz can **10c**  
**Fancy Crab Meat** can **29c**

 **DOLE'S Pineapple Juice** 3 <sup>12 oz</sup> cans **25c**  
46 oz can **25c**  
Large cans sliced or gems **19c**

**Shredded Wheat** 2 for **23c**  
**Wheaties** 2 for **23c**  
Get One of Jack Armstrong's Lik-O-Meters for Only 10c and Box Top.  
**Gold Medal Flour** 24 1/2 lb sk **83c**  
3 lb. Bag 23c  
**Tomatoes** 4 no. 2 cans **25c**  
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Early Garden Variety

**MARRACCINI FOOD STORES**

## THE CITY POOR FARM

*The following is continued from the article on the CITY POOR FARM which started in the April 2009 issue from THE LOCAL NEWS of August 1890.*

*The Local News*

*Saturday, September 13, 1890*

### WONDERFUL STRENGTH

It was a noticeable fact, that frequently we had amongst the insane, several of the same family. We had at one time three sisters of that class. Two of them were brought from Dixmont with a batch of what they called convalescents. Two of them went by the name of Prue and Proe. Mild in manner, refined and tidy in appearance, never speaking unless spoken to and answering in the briefest manner. Prue being the spokesman while Proe echoing her words, and being continually together, were always heart-broken to be separated if only for a short time. A short time after there came another sister, Julia, was brought to the Home by her husband, a perfect maniac. She was very slight in build and delicate in appearance, but during her mania her strength appeared to be super-human. I was compelled to put her in a barred room in which was one of the steam radiators, which without doubt would weigh a couple of hundred pounds, and screwed to the floor as well as to the connecting pipes. The first intimation we had of her doing any mischief was that she had broken the heater loose, got it to the door and getting on it was trying to get out the transom over the door, using it as a stepladder. I then got some iron bars, slapped them over the heater, spiked them to the floor after replacing it, and in an hour or so she had all loose again, without any tool or implement that I could find, but her hands.

There was also, during the early days of the Home, a character known all over the country by his peculiar dress, as well as his musical proclivities, having always with him a triangle, and so was known by every one as Johnny Triangle. It was impossible to keep him any great length of time at the Home unless he was locked up; but being harmless, it was cruelty to do so, and Johnny frequently was missing more that likely would be heard of in a few days being in the County Home, but he was so well-known that almost everyone would give him something to help him along and Johnny would repay them by a tune on his triangle. The worst feature connected with him was the filthy condition in which he would be when returning from one of his journeys making it necessary to burn all his clothes. Johnny died, I believe in the County Home years ago, and the boys of

the city and country lost a target for their sport.

Before Dr. Tanner

We had one case that tended toward the Dr. Tanner theory of abstinence from food, but went somewhat further in its peculiarities. An inmate of the insane department, a man of ordinary height and build, one that could talk to you on an ordinary subject intelligently but whose actions were such as to show a mind unsettled. While with us, he went through the cataleptic state many times. The fit would strike him instantly and he would fall and lay there until he was removed, and while in it, no matter what position you would place him, he would remain so until placed otherwise. If you would raise one arm erect it would stay there, and so with the leg, and a drop of water or food could be forced into him while in that state and one time I knew him to be thirty-five days under its influence, and frequently from two days to two weeks. The fit would leave him as suddenly, apparently, as he was taken and would astonish all by jumping to his feet as well as ever. He was always very careful in commencing to eat afterwards. He came to the first meal, only eating a small piece of bread, gradually increasing the amount until his stomach could stand the regular amount, but nature could not stand such a strain and at last succumbed and he died.

Always Enough to Eat

The dining room is a large, airy, well lighted room, with tables stretching the entire length at which all the inmates who were able, were expected to be present at meals. At six o'clock in summer the bell rang and all filed into the room and took their places at which was a large bowl of coffee, white bread in abundance for all, and molasses for any who wanted it. At the workers table each had meat of some kind. The dinners were four days in the week soup, with bread, potatoes and pickles of some kind mostly, the soup being more like a pot pie than anything else. On Wednesday and Fridays some kind of fish. Supper was much the same as breakfast, with the addition of a stew of some kind. The hospital department was supplied on orders from the doctors, the patients receiving anything the case might require as a diet. When grapes, fruit, etc. were ripe, it was always the habit on Sabbath to take baskets of it around the Home, and give every inmate a quantity of it. Nothing was sold from the farm, but all fruits, vegetables, etc., used by the occupants of the Home. This large room was also utilized on Sabbath as a chapel, as we

had service every Sabbath afternoon at which all inmates able to be present were expected to be there. Rev. John Wilkinson, a very good Methodist minister from the city acting as chaplain for quite a number of years, and no weather, be it ever so severe, would keep him from his post of duty. I have known him to ride horseback from the city, with the thermometer ranging around zero, in order to be on hand for services. After Mr. Wilkinson's death, supplies came p, but eventually one of our Homestead ministers took hold of it, Rev. Lyle, of the Presbyterian church. There was also a Catholic priest visited us once a month, to give those of his faith the consolation of the gospel. Rev. Father Pallard of the South Side was one of them, but the one at Braddock had them under his particular charge. An occasional entertainment was also given the inmates in this room. Adjoining this room was the kitchen, a very primitive affair, compared with that of the present days. Large open kettles were set in a furnace for cooking almost everything, while roasting and baking had to be done in the large bake oven. By the way, it was quite a treat to visit the bake house with its cleanly appearance and great piles of snow white dough ready for the oven, which held about a barrel and a half of flour at one baking and had to be filled every day for our large family. The head baker was a hired man but all his assistants were inmates. In fact all the work done in the house or on the farm was by the inmates, we having only two matrons for the house and an overseer for the farm hired, and I made it a rule to have each inmate that had the ability, to have some regular duties to perform daily, and I found to place some little responsibility on a man or woman, gave them an idea that their manhood or womanhood was not entirely lacking and as a rule their duties were performed regularly and efficiently.

But Mr. Editor, I could go on in this strain for some time, but discretion is the better part of valor, and I had better bring my articles to a close, for fear of tiring you as well as your readers. Many other illustrations I could give, and many of such a character as would hardly suit for publication, but I have accomplished the end and idea of these articles, to try and convince some that human beings that have souls inhabit the Alms House, and not, (though some may be low in the moral as well as social scales) without feeling and desires the same as their more fortunate fellow men and that kindness will do more to elevate and urge them on to a better life than harsh, unnatural treatment, I can say to you and all.

"AU REVORIE"

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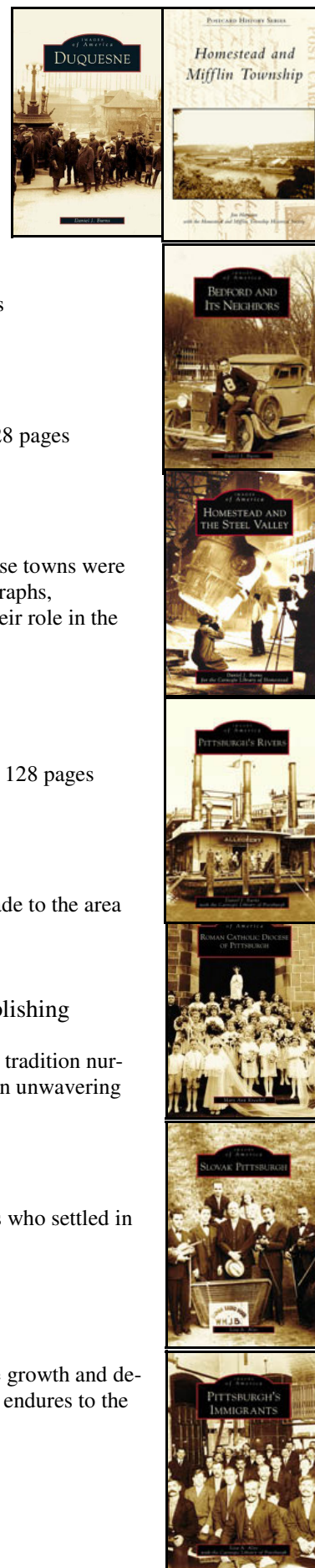
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The MTHS Office is located on the second floor of the West Mifflin Borough Building. The office is staffed by volunteers on Fridays from 10 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.. Please contact Jim Hartman 412-600-0229 for more information or for special appointments

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