July 16 was perfect for the forty-second annual tour of The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. Director John W. Harpster, Mrs. Geraldine Gempel, and Miss Margaret Jackson "shooed" approximately 250 members and their guests into five PAT busses, after veteran tour "skipper" Robert D. Christie and Mrs. Christie, and President and Mrs. C. V. Starrett had greeted everyone. We were off to Economy Village near Ambridge.

Those members who had visited Economy Village in pre-restoration days recalled dingy buildings and unkept grounds. Now everything was Deutsch clean, gay with color, and polished; the grounds were manicured! It was as if everyone had momentarily left the beautifully proportioned rooms of the Great House, the printing shop, the gardens, the soup kettles of the Feast Kitchen; and as if Herr Müller's orchestra was about to return to instruments and music. The twentieth century had vanished.

The young volunteers in Economite costume who were assigned to "explain" each room were wholesome, friendly, and well poised. Coming from Ambridge and surrounding towns as far as Beaver, they devote many hours to Economy Village.

While waiting for the PAT busses, members sat beneath old trees, or admired neat garden beds aglow with midsummer zinnias, mignonette, larkspur, coleus, red geraniums, and greenish-gray herbs, all in keeping with the nineteenth century. Some admired the green patterns of grapevines on old buildings, the vines at once a practical and a religious symbol.

Busses carried the group to the Gateway Clipper and a fine buffet dinner served by clean-cut young people as the Clipper returned to Pittsburgh.

Captain Frederick Way, expert on Ohio River lore, pointed out places connected with Western Pennsylvania history. From the upper deck, members enjoyed the salutes of the Delta Queen; passing through river locks; wild ducks flying in formation after they had dined on table scraps from the Clipper; Sewickley Bridge and the dark river hills; Neville Island, associated with the Nevilles and Craigs; McKee's Rocks; and finally the lights of Pittsburgh, the Stadium with Pirate fans racing out after a victory, and the Allegheny Wharf. Next year's tour, anyone?