

## 1976 HISTORICAL TOUR

Skies threatened rain as 306 Society members and guests filed aboard the *Gateway Party Liner* on July 28 at the Three Rivers Stadium wharf on the Allegheny across from the Point. At 4:05 P.M. crewmen pulled in the hawsers and the boat drifted out into the Allegheny's current. Almost immediately the showers began, forcing a retreat by most passengers from the vessel's upper deck to the enclosed protection of her lower two decks. As the *Party Liner* gathered speed and headed upstream, the Sixth, Seventh, and Ninth Street bridges, and the massive Pennsylvania Railroad (now ConRail) Bridge appeared through the mist and rain and were quickly left astern. Society Director Joe Smith provided passengers with a concise and authoritative historical narration of the journey, which he spiced with anecdotes and personal recollections of the sites along the river. The boat passed Troy Hill, the Thirty-Sixth Street Bridge, Lawrenceville, the historic Fortieth Street (Washington Crossing) Bridge, Etna, Sharpsburg, and the beautiful Sixty-Second Street Bridge before arriving at Lock and Dam No. 2.

At 6:00 P.M. everyone eagerly lined up for a delicious buffet-style dinner as the *Party Liner* continued her journey past Aspinwall, Nine Mile Island, Verona, and the Oakmont Yacht Club. By the time Lock and Dam No. 3 came into view the rains had subsided and passengers found their way to the top deck to enjoy the spectacular views along this stretch of the Allegheny. Industry, it seems, has not yet spoiled the Allegheny as much as it has the Ohio or Monongahela. At the New Kensington Bridge the boat turned to head downriver. A band played and a few brave souls ventured onto the dance floor, but most people gathered into small groups to talk as the *Party Liner* sailed through the misty twilight. As darkness fell the vague outlines of the lighted buildings of the Golden Triangle appeared off the port bow. The captain took the vessel past the Fort Duquesne Bridge — always busy with traffic — and skillfully steered her to within feet of the brilliantly lighted Point Fountain. It was a view of the fountain that many of us had never seen before and would not soon forget. The *Party Liner* returned to the stadium wharf shortly after 10:00 P.M., dropped her bow stage, and thus ended another enjoyable voyage on Pittsburgh's rivers.