YOU are reading the eighth issue of Pittsburgh History, A Magazine of the City and Its Region, which completes the Historical Society’s 73rd year of publishing a regional history magazine. I thought a little report on our enormous progress would be nice.

I am told that ours is the oldest continuously published periodical in the area, and we have made giant strides in the last year at making this less of a secret. The magazine’s circulation — arrived at by adding the 280 libraries around the world which receive the publication, plus the people who receive it as a benefit of membership in the Historical Society, plus those who buy it in a store — has nearly tripled since we began producing it in this larger format two years ago. All the other people at the Society, along with a highly supportive Board of Trustees, deserve a lot of credit, for it is their hard work — staff and board members alike — that has caused the Society’s membership to nearly triple as well. This has occurred as our organization steers its way to a heightened presence and new home at the Pittsburgh Regional History Center, described many times in these pages over the past months by Executive Director John A. Herbst in his “Director’s Gallery” features.

For 71 years, we published the Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine, an authoritative publication whose sole bit of flash was the monotone color photograph of our Oakland headquarters on each cover. We usually sold about 50 copies a quarter, total, at a handful of bookstores around the region. Pittsburgh History is now available at some 350 retail stores, and people now buy about 1,000 copies of each issue. Our circulation nears 2,500 each quarter, a figure on par with regional history magazines in much larger cities and a testament to the intense interest that citizens in this region have for local history. By the way, we sell the magazine here at the Historical Society also. Visit on the day of one of our programs; check out our Museum exhibitions and our Library and Archives.

Lest this turn into a simple sales celebration, I want to mention the other group responsible for our success — our contributors. I wrote in this space two years ago about the world being overstocked with people who communicate with one another about complex subjects through extremely specialized publications, often full of nearly impenetrable “professional-speak.” I hoped to take the magazine along a different path, in which outstanding researchers (and their ideas) share space with other people, the nonspecialists who often have as much to say, in different ways. There are few, if any, magazines in America achieving this goal as consistently as ours, and I want to thank everyone — university and college professors, amateur and professional writers, and all the others, friends, critics, sympathizers — who have chipped in countless good ideas. It is, literally, a dream come true for me.

Each year, the Historical Society singles out someone for making an especially notable contribution, by awarding that person the Solon J. Buck Award for Western Pennsylvania History. A special advisory committee gives the honor to the author of the best article published in the last volume of the magazine, and the winner receives a $500 honorarium. Professor Edward K. (“Ted”) Muller of the University of Pittsburgh won the award for “The Legacy of Industrial Rivers,” in the Summer 1989 issue. His article was the cornerstone of our first year of Pittsburgh History. Expect to see more of Dr. Muller’s work in 1991.

Mystery railroad bridge identified

Dear Editor,

In a recent Pittsburgh History article there was a photograph of a railroad bridge, from the 1940s, that could not be identified (“The Business Career of Henry Clay Frick,” vol. 73, no. 1, Spring 1990, page 10). The place is North Bessemer, Penn Hills Borough, Allegheny County, Pa. Leechburg Road goes under that bridge, the “Bessemer Bridge.”

Engine 902 (pictured) was one of the passenger train engines for the Bessemer line. The train went from Greenville, Pa., to North Bessemer in the morning, and from North Bessemer to Greenville in the afternoon. My father worked for the railroad from 1916 to January or February 1963. I rode the passenger train from North Bessemer to Mercer, Pa.

I now live in North Bessemer, and I still regret that the Bessemer changed from steam engines to diesel engines. The large steam engines had a very majestic appearance.

The freight yard in North Bessemer is very quiet since the steel industry’s demise in the 1980s. At one time the freight yard was always full of hoppers going north or loaded hoppers going to the steel mills.

Howard Clark
Penn Hills

Editor’s Note: Beginning operations in 1869, the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad is the only Lake (Continued on page 189)
changes in women's fashions during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

In a serious historical publication, one reasonably expects standards of visual documentation to be as high as those for written scholarship.

That said, let me congratulate you on the attractive new format and interesting content of Pittsburgh History. It is a credit to the magazine staff, the Historical Society and the Western Pennsylvania region.

Grant C. Dinsmore
Professor of Photography
La Roche College

Editor's Note: Guilty as charged, although we do pay attention to detail. Unfortunately, neither Mr. Dinsmore, author S. Trevor Hadley, nor a half-dozen other people

the foreground blackboard appears instead to be "C1," the "C" being written in typical Spencerian script of the day. Additionally, the stones visible on the background facade of that photograph are identical with those partially discernible in the photo of the 1872 building at Bedford and Crawford streets (page 73).

Such egregious errors in photographic chronology are all too common but can be avoided by some attention to detail and even an elementary acquaintance with

we consulted upon receipt of Mr. Dinsmore's letter could answer the question, "Well, what then does 'C1' mean?"

Pink cheeks were nice

Dear Editor,

I surely do admire your magazine.

I liked the pink-cheeked family on the cover of the Spring issue.

My mother attended Central High School and was in one of Willa Cather's classes. I looked for my uncle in the photograph of the class of 1908, but he must have been absent that day.

Congratulations!

Evelyn Pearson
Pittsburgh

Photograph Credits

Inside the Wicket Gate: A Child's Adventure in Glenshore
Page 149  Courtesy of the author
Page 150-55  Glenshore Public Library Collection
Page 156  Sewickley Public Library
Page 157  Bicen Gallery, Sewickley Valley Historical Society
Page 158  Bicen Gallery, SVHS—R.W. Johnston, photographer

Looking for Appalachians in Pittsburgh: Seeking 'Deliverance' and Finding the 'Deer Hunter'
Page 160-61  Pittsburgh Department of City Planning
Page 163  Map prepared by Curtis Miner, Pittsburgh History

The Conquest of Millsboro
Page 171  Courtesy of Florence Giles
Page 175  Map prepared by Debbie Prelaz
Page 172-79  Courtesy of Terry A. Necciai

Mind's Eye, Minds Manipulated: Society Seen Through Photography
Page 181  Courtesy of Hunt Library, Carnegie Mellon University

Editor's Note
Page 189  Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania Archives