Just Her Cup of Tea

Dear Editor,

I have been a member of the Historical Society for several years now and I write to tell you how much I enjoy "Pittsburgh History.

The Spring 1990 story on the back inside cover about the Teapot, in Chester, W. Va., was of special interest. I lived in Chester in the 1950s and my best friend spent each summer working in the restaurant in that very Teapot!

Also, in the Spring 1991 issue I particularly enjoyed Robert M. Grom’s article about Dr. Daly. As a former employee of the Allegheny County Medical Society, Mercy Hospital and several individual physicians, I am always interested in learning about the medical history of Pittsburgh. From the earliest doctors such as James Craik (who was George Washington’s personal physician) to the transplant surgeons of today, our city has had a rich medical tradition. Since our many health care providers account for such a large share of employment in the region, I’m certain there must be others who also appreciated reading about the fascinating Dr. Daly. Thank you!

Susan J. Boulden
Oakmont, Pa.

What a Difference an Imagination Makes

Dear Editor,

I have visited Pittsburgh several times now, and when I get the chance, I enjoy shocking people by telling them about the wonderful and historic city Pittsburgh is. I tell them about the feel of the great old neighborhoods, the beautiful old buildings, the people of personality and character, and about how Pittsburgh, like few cities left in America, is some place different. Everyone in your city, and especially your government and business leaders, should zealously guard the things that make your city unique. Like every town, Pittsburgh has its problems, I’m sure. And every town nowadays also has steel skyscrapers, but in Pittsburgh, one cannot miss the respect shown to the imagination of past generations. America is still a young country, and Pittsburgh’s future as one of its great cities is secure only if the current generation realizes the long-term advantages of remaining distinctive.

I travel a lot in my job, and try to find out a little bit about the history of each city everywhere I go. I often make a point to search out local history magazines. On a recent trip, I found "Pittsburgh History," and I wanted to send you a letter expressing my congratulations. The combination of attractive graphics with articles of real substance is as unusual as a unique city.

So, thank you.

I like to tell people that with everything there is to see in Pittsburgh, it’s nearly impossible for a visitor to not take good pictures to remember the trip by!

Kevin Rudd
Detroit

Give and Take (Awards)

E VERY year the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, which publishes "Pittsburgh History," recognizes special excellence in regional history. The Solon J. Buck Award for Western Pennsylvania History, named in honor of the famous past director of the Historical Society, goes to the author of the best article published each year in the Society’s magazine. The winner is chosen by the Editorial Advisory Committee, and receives a $500 honorarium.

The Historical Society would like to announce that John J. Kudlik, professor of history at Community College of Allegheny County, won the award for 1990, with his work, “You Couldn’t Keep an Iron Man Down: Rowing in Nineteenth Century Pittsburgh.” The article appeared in the Summer 1990 issue.

On a distantly related note, "Pittsburgh History" was recognized this year by the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations with an Award of Merit, the Pennsylvania Federation’s highest honor for a publication. The award came in the magazine’s first year as a nominee.

Professional recognition of the Society’s work is no new achievement, with the Museum Programs Department having won numerous national and state awards since 1986 for its exhibitions and publications. And the Society’s general excellence was commended this year with the S.K. Stevens Memorial Award for outstanding accomplishment, as certified by the Pennsylvania Federation and the American Association of State and Local History.