The Indian God Rock
and ‘all like that there’

Dear Pittsburgh History,


For one thing, I’ve been passing Celeron Street since the mid-1930s when, as a Boy Scout, my streetcar traveled to the environs of Pitt Stadium in Oakland and passed Celeron as we turned onto Forbes Avenue from Peebles. For another, I was drafted from Peebles Street and, after returning from the Great War, was visiting friends on the nearly-at-Forbes Avenue end of Peebles when we received word that my father had died at Deshon Hospital near Butler, and my friend who drove me to Deshon was parked on Celeron.

But I suppose my real association with Celeron Street and Céloron de Blainville is that the Indian God Rock, 36 VE 25 as coded by the Carnegie Museum, is immortalized (again!!!) in my Rock Art of the Upper Ohio Valley (Graz, Austria: Akademische Druck-und Verlagsanstalt, 1974) p. 72-76, plates 76-80.

It’s a thrill, of course, to be associated in any fashion with a rock, an inscription by vanished Native Americans, a connection with the early French explorers of the Allegheny River, and all like that there, but one of the real thrills of working with the God Rock was associating with Birgitta Linderoth Wallace and W.C. Reeves in the on-the-spot recording of the rock, and lunching on bologna sandwiches and champagne brought to temperature perfection by dangling for three hours in the Allegheny. That’s living.

Cheers,
James L. Swauger
Professor Emeritus-
Anthropology
Carnegie Museum of
Natural History

The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, which publishes this magazine, wishes to announce the most recent winner of the Solon J. Buck Award for Western Pennsylvania History. The Society makes the award, named for the prominent past director of the organization, for the best article published each year in Pittsburgh History.

The $500 honorarium for the best article in our 1991 volume will be shared by Dave Demarest and Eugene Levy of Carnegie Mellon University. Demarest, a professor of English, and Levy, a professor of history, co-wrote “Touring the Coke Region,” which appeared in our Fall 1991 issue (volume 74, no. 3). Their imaginative use of a broad range of research sources resulted in an engaging, authoritative account that prompted more responses from readers than any piece yet to appear in these pages.

Congratulations to the authors and many thanks to those responding readers.