

(The state as a whole has 17 million forested acres, nearly two-thirds its area.) Both books are enjoyable reads for those interested in recent state history. — *Brian Butko* ❁

A Track Through Time: A Centennial History of Carnegie, Pa., 1894-1994

by V. Robert Agostino

Pittsburgh: Wolfson Publishing, 1994. Pp. 124. Acknowledgements, sources, photos, drawings. Available for \$28.00 postpaid from Historical Society of Carnegie, P.O. Box 826, Carnegie, PA 15106.

East Pittsburgh: 1895-1995

by East Pittsburgh Centennial Committee

East Pittsburgh: East Pittsburgh Centennial Committee, 1995. Pp. 277. Available for \$25 (add \$2.50 by mail) from Patrick Lanigan Funeral Home, 700 Linden Ave., East Pittsburgh, PA 15122. (Lanigan was a writer and editor, and his third-generation business is the town's oldest.)

The value of a local history book lies in the reader's needs. If you're a local resident wanting to peruse old photos and read about the movers and shakers, these books succeed grandly. Researchers, however, are typically frustrated by the assortment of oral accounts and uncredited photos. Both Carnegie and East Pittsburgh have produced volumes which follow this pattern.

The design of the Carnegie volume looks dated, but the contents are more solidly produced than East Pittsburgh's, and it's easier to read. The chapters are roughly chronological, though there is an abrupt switch to the town's churches in chapter seven. The concluding chapter, in a diversion from the norm, features profiles of local families, businesses, and other organizations which wrote their own stories in place of ads so pervasive in commemorative books. It ends with a page on sources, but general advice is offered, not the keys to locating photos and documents.

The beautiful color view of the Westinghouse Bridge on the cover of East Pittsburgh's book promises good things inside; indeed, its design is more modern and many more historic photos are found, but the overall impression is confusing. The book begins with more congratulatory letters than you'll ever want to read. Chapter openings are nonexistent, and can only be discerned by the odd numbering of pages by chapter. Once you find them, the chapters are mostly topical, but often haphazard. Family profiles, paid for by those families, offer family trees. Some of the photos will leave unfamiliar readers puzzled — "New Playground" (where?), "Tar Baby" (the steet? a house?), a fuzzy photo of an "East Pittsburgh Penguin Fan." It's more info-packed than Carnegie's, but just as undeveloped.

Both books contain a wealth of history but lack adequate documentation or logical organization. They're filled with information and fond recollections, but one wonders if future researchers will be able to realize the books' full potential. — *Brian Butko* ❁

Salt of the Earth: A History of Immaculate Conception Parish, Carnegie, Pennsylvania, 1893-1992

by Rev. James W. Garvey

Pittsburgh: J. Pohl Associates, 1994. Pp. 71. Illustrated. Available for \$30 plus shipping from the publisher, 1706 Berkwood Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15243.

Rev. Garvey's well written history of the Immaculate Conception Parish of Carnegie, Pa., is hardly a typical church history, serving in many regards as two distinct stories. The first part follows a more traditional path for church histories, focusing on the founding of the Parish, its early years, and its service to the Polish American community that settled in this Pittsburgh suburb. Garvey has included early histories of the parish from 1905 and 1944 that were originally in Polish; now translated, these accounts allow people to read in English for the first time the early history of the parish and the Polish American community in Carnegie.

The second part of the book follows the later years of the parish as the changing demographic and economic conditions of Carnegie prompted the Diocese to consolidate the number of churches in that community. To this end, Garvey includes a detailed history of the reorganization-revitalization program of the Diocese of Pittsburgh between 1989 and 1994 that resulted in a significant reduction in the number of operating churches in the Pittsburgh region. Garvey includes invaluable primary resource documents including the minutes for the Carnegie Cluster Task Force meetings, the committee that was responsible for merging five churches into one, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Also included in this portion of the book are statistics that document the social and demographic change to the Carnegie area in the 1970s through the closing of the parish.

Church histories provide a vital, though often one-dimensional, approach to the history of a community. However, Garvey has written a book that not only documents the important early history of the parish and the Polish American community in Carnegie, but also provides scholars and interested readers with a case study of the process for closing church parishes, an all too common practice in recent years. Garvey has written a rare church history, one that is an interesting read for not only parishioners, but anyone interested in the recent history of Pittsburgh.

— *Corey Seeman, Library and Archives Division* ❁

Build It Yourself Forbes Field

by Len Martin, with an introduction and history of Forbes Field by Dan Bonk

Oakmont, Pa.: Point Four Ltd., 1995. Pp. 58. \$19.95 paperback

As Pirates team owner Kevin McClatchy and Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy begin the process of designing a new baseball stadium for Pittsburgh, they are sure to incorporate some, if not many, of the features from Pittsburgh's beloved Forbes Field. While building a new Forbes Field will cost in excess of \$200 million, building the old one (on a smaller scale), now only