

(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

costs about \$20. And a little bit of time.

Having already tackled the Green Monster at Fenway Park in Boston with his previous “Build It Yourself” book, Len Martin turns to his beloved hometown Forbes Field. The scale model comes in 215 pieces on glossy card stock paper. The detail in the pieces is remarkable. Those who build the Forbes Field model will find ivy on the outfield fence, a scoreboard for either the last game played at Forbes Field or the 7th game of the 1960 World Series (when Bill Mazeroski... you know!), and the street facade on Bouquet Street that makes you want to buy a ticket and go inside. Alas, I did not attempt to build Forbes Field, leaving instead the book intact to enjoy page by page. Building this model is difficult, requiring a great deal of patience and attention to detail if you want the final product to look as fantastic as the one on the cover. However, if you are brave and have the patience to put these pieces together to build the model, buy two books, one to build and one to keep.

While the model is fascinating, I found the historical supplement of greater interest. Martin and Bonk (who wrote an article on Forbes Field for *Pittsburgh History*, Spring 1993) include a wonderful illustrated history of Forbes Field. The highlights of this section are 28 never-published color photographs of Forbes Field from the 1950s through 1970. The color photographs provide a great sense of the beauty of the ballpark and will make anybody nostalgic for the older parks — they alone are worth the price of this book. Bonk’s historical piece chronicles the Pirates at Forbes Field, along with the Negro League Crawfords and Grays, pro football’s Steelers, and other athletic and civic activities. Bonk also examines the development of the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh, as critical a part of the history of Forbes Field as any home run hit there. He also includes important dates in Forbes Field history and numerous interesting ballpark tidbits.

The authors have gone back in time and recreated the Forbes Field of the late 1960s, allowing us to forever remember this baseball landmark. It’s a tremendous addition to one’s bookshelf on Pittsburgh sport and architectural history. — *Corey Seeman, Library and Archives Division* ♦

The Negro Leagues Book

edited by Dick Clark and Larry Lester

Cleveland, Ohio: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994. Pp 382. Illustrated. \$29.95

Baseball in Pittsburgh

edited by Paul Adomites and Dennis DeValeria

Cleveland, Ohio: Society for American Baseball Research, 1995. Pp. 64. Illustrated \$7.50

From the Society for American Baseball Research comes two books that fill major gaps in the history of baseball in Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. *The Negro Leagues Book* is a ground-breaking biographical and statistical resource for Negro League history. *Baseball in Pittsburgh* is an anthology of

essays and illustrations documenting baseball in the region as played by the Pirates, Grays, Crawfords, and countless other teams. Both books provide excellent resources for people wishing to explore the many aspects of baseball in this region.

The Negro Leagues Book is an exceptional volume that reflects the diligent (and volunteer) work of members of the Negro Leagues Committee of SABR. Led by editors Clark and Lester, this committee has worked to solidify the biographical and statistical accounts of African Americans in baseball between the establishment of the color line in the 19th century and the decline of the Negro Leagues in the 1950s with the integration of organized baseball. Rather than a purely written account of the Negro Leagues (of which there are many), this book serves more as an encyclopedia. The book features a brief history of the Negro Leagues and the struggle to gain integration, year by year rosters and standings, biographical rosters, and complete statistics for numerous marquee players. A worthwhile feature is a historical section highlighting the “Great Teams” that naturally include the Pittsburgh Crawfords and the Homestead Grays. Impeding the work of the committee in its attempt to document the Negro Leagues has been the limited number of, and inconsistent resources for, this type of information. There is little doubt that this book will be modified as more information comes to the surface. While many may look at it as being no different than the *Baseball Encyclopedia*, the true value and worth of this book is its ground-breaking attempt to gather statistics that have long been scattered.

As primarily an encyclopedia, this book provides relatively few prose sections for casual readers. Still, interested fans and scholars will take interest in seeing (in most cases for the first time) career statistics for Negro League greats such as Satchel Paige, Cool Papa Bell, Josh Gibson, Turkey Stearns, and numerous others. Readers will see the full box scores of the all-star games and other statistics that help to illuminate the excellence of these players. This book is a wonderful and unique addition to the collection of anyone interested in the history of the Negro Leagues and a must for anyone who studies any aspect of baseball history.

Baseball in Pittsburgh was published in 1995 to accompany the SABR national convention in Pittsburgh. With each convention, SABR publishes a book that chronicles aspects of mostly major league baseball history in that community. Editors Adomites and DeValeria approached the book on Pittsburgh in a different light, pulling together an exceptional variety of essays and vignettes which document many aspects of baseball in the region. While many of the articles are about the Pirates (providing interesting approaches to the team and its two recent playing fields), many other entries go beyond the major leagues.

Topics include an interview with Pirates announcer Art McKennan; an article on the Negro Leagues in Pittsburgh by noted baseball historian Rob Ruck; the history of the 1887 Colored League and the Pittsburgh Keystones; a history of the Pennsylvania State Association that played in numerous regional