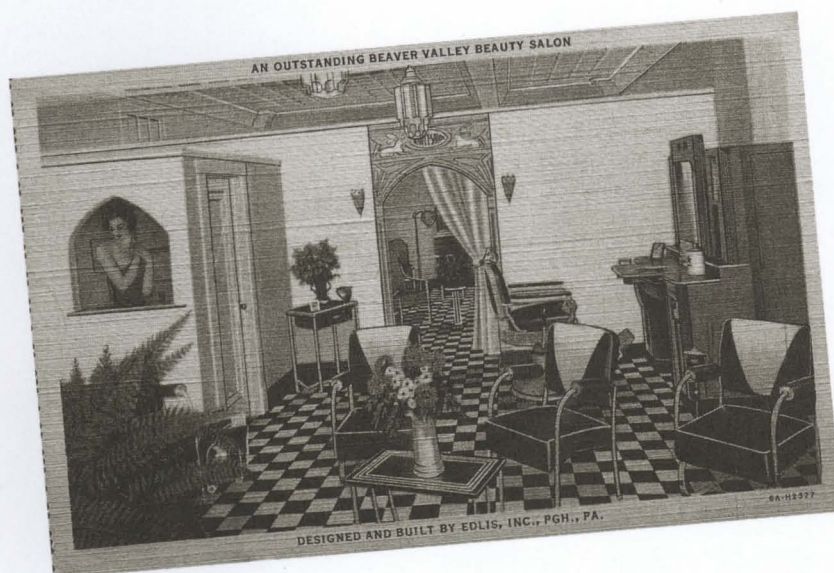


# Edlis

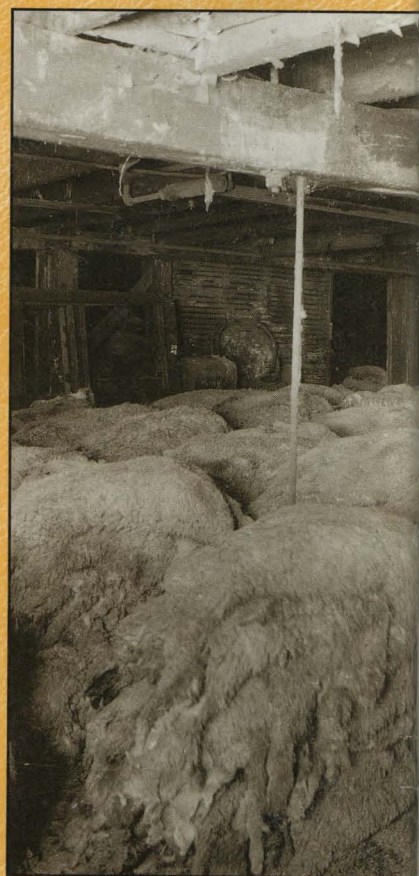
THE COMPANY that outfitted this beauty parlor, still operates in downtown Pittsburgh. In 1880, 20-year-old Adolph Edlis left Hungary for New York, supporting himself by mixing his own styptic powders. His dabbling evolved into barber, and then beauty supplies, and he set up shop in Pittsburgh in 1888. Increased emphasis on hairstyles in the 1920s led to the company's greatest expansion, construction of the eight-story Edlis Building, 329 Boulevard of the Allies. By its 50th anniversary in 1938, the company employed more than 50, with a branch in Charleston, W.V. Edlis not only sold merchandise, but operated a clinic to offer demonstrations and instruction, administered a laboratory to compound and test products, and manufactured furniture and fixtures through their subsidiary, Pittsburgh Beauty Appliances.

Adolph was elected to the Pittsburgh Common Council in 1902, and the state legislature in 1905. One of his reforms was the Edlis Act, later to become the Mann Act, which banned the transport of women across state lines for immoral purposes. In 1909, he was appointed city treasurer in the first administration of William Magee.

Bart Verick opened Bart's Beauty Salon in Beaver Falls in 1936. The building remains at 714 15th St. as a doctor's office. In Pittsburgh, the Edlis Building also stands, though the company resides next door, run by the third generation. — Text by Brian Butko, postcard from HSWP library and archives, used with permission of the Curt Teich Postcard Archives, Wauconda, Ill. ©







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