



ROLF HICKMAN'S large collection of Teaberry Gum materials came from his dad Ralph, the inventor of the fondly-remembered treat. Ralph was working at Clark Candy in the 1920s when he conceived of the somewhat-spicy gum stick. Clark Candy was incorporated south of Pittsburgh in McKeesport — prosperous enough to erect an 8-story building there in 1903 — and moved to Pittsburgh's North Side in 1911. Perhaps it's most famous (and now mostly forgotten) confection was Zig Zag, similar to Cracker Jack, even offering prizes in the box. Teaberry Gum be-



came a whole division in the company, and was still so popular in the 1960s that Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass debuted "The Teaberry Shuffle."

Son Rolf donated a variety of promotional items to the History Center, including this 1944 children's book which follows the manufacturing process. Along with a rainbow of plastic candy trays was the above tin display box. And among donated photos is this view of Ralph in Holly-



wood directing a promotional film he wrote in 1945. ☀

— Text by Brian Butko, box photo by Bill Kindelan.





Historical Society
of Western Pennsylvania

*1212 Smallman Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222*

Tel 412/454-6000