THE EARLY YEARS

In 1834, a group of pioneers, concerned that the next generation would lose sight of its roots in a rapidly changing world, formed the “Historical Society and Library of Pittsburgh.” This well-intentioned group collected everything its members could lay their hands on and quickly learned that running a museum and library was a lot more work than they had supposed. This Society continued, in fits and starts, for another 45 years. In 1879, it reorganized as “The Old Residents of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania.” Rival societies competed for collections and members until 1885, when all of the groups interested in historic preservation merged as the “Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.”

Today, the HSWP is the largest organization dedicated to historical preservation and education in the region, operating the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center, the Meadowcroft Museum of Rural Life, and a nationally recognized library and archives. Two off-site artifact storage facilities house thousands of objects significant to regional history. In addition to these facilities, the Society hosts tours, lectures, and plays; publishes newsletters, magazines, and books; and produces outreach programs designed for adults and children.

There is a lot going on! In fact, it seems like too much for one organization to do, even with a dedicated volunteer corps and extraordinarily talented staff. Fortunately, we have lots of partners—individuals and organizations with similar missions that have pledged to work with us to achieve common goals. The Society staff works on a regular basis with 120 museums and local historical societies in nearly every Western Pennsylvania county. The Civic Light Opera is working with the Society’s Stages in History program to develop an opera and school program based on Pittsburgh’s steel history. The Allegheny Intermediate Unit is helping the Society reach out to 40 school districts in Allegheny County. The Society’s Education Department is coordinating museum “sleep-over tours” for young adults with the Carnegie Science Center. Other partners include Pittsburgh History and Landmarks, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Steel Industry Heritage Corporation, U.S. Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Pittsburgh International Airport, just to name a few.

Working together, Western Pennsylvanians can provide a national model for collaboration—preserving our past to build a better future.

Andrew E. Masich
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

CONTACTS

Gerald M. Kuncio
AGNES DODDS KINARD
BRIAN BUTKO

is an historian living in Pittsburgh. A former historic preservation specialist with the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, he is the principal of Steel City Historical Consulting. This is his first article for Western Pennsylvania History.
is "seized by the urge to record everything for posterity, especially for granddaughters Melissa and Katharine." A lifelong Pittsburgher and Female #60 admitted to the Allegheny County Bar Association, Ms. Kinard, 84, now lives in Verona, Pa.
is author of Pennsylvania Traveler's Guide: The Lincoln Highway, coauthor of Diners of Pennsylvania (available this fall), and is completing works on Isaly's Dairy and roadside attractions. He is Projects Editor at the Historical Society.
EAT'N PARK'S ANNIVERSARY: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SMILES THROUGH SEPTEMBER 12
Stroll down memory lane through a whimsical collection of memorabilia, photos, and video. Walk through a re-created entrance to the first Eat'n Park, and sit in booth displays representing the 1950s, '70s, and '90s. (See feature on page 84).

HEINZ 57 THROUGH 2001
This fascinating exhibit tells the story of the H.J. Heinz Co. from its beginnings in 1869 with homemade horseradish to its modern history as a premier prepared food giant that feeds the world.

GLASS: SHATTERING NOTIONS ONGOING
Before steel, before transplants, before high-tech... Pittsburgh was America's Glass City. You'll find beautiful antique collectibles; fascinating industrial and scientific glass; and interactive displays tracing the industry's history and global contributions.

POINTS IN TIME: BUILDING A LIFE IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA, 1750-TODAY ONGOING
Explore 250 remarkable years of the region's past. Enjoy artifacts, furniture, costumes, models, interactive videos, live theater, reconstructions of three period homes, and much more.

DISCOVERY PLACE ONGOING
Stop by our children's playground for hands-on fun with history! Eighteen activity stations and games provide tons of enjoyment for kids of all ages.

GENERAL INFORMATION
1212 SMALLMAN STREET, IN THE STRIP DISTRICT (412) 454-6000
hswp@usaor.net www.pghhistory.org

PARKING
$3 in the lot at 11th and Smallman with History Center validation.

HOURS
Center & Museum Shop: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily.
Library & Archives: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.
Center closed on Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

ADMISSION (EFFECTIVE JULY 1)
Members & children under 8: free; Adults: $6; Children (ages 8-18): $3; Seniors & Students: $4.50.

GROUP SALES
Discounted rates for adult and student tours of the History Center. Group visits must be booked in advance. Call (412) 454-6304 for information and reservations.

MUSEUM SHOP
Whether it's a child's toy, a good read, sparkling glassware, or memorable jewelry you're looking for, the Museum Shop features history-making gifts and souvenirs for every interest. Members receive a 10% discount.

CAFE
Hungry? Reymer's Cafe has seating for 80 with snacks, lunches, beverages, and desserts.

VISITOR SERVICES
Wheelchair-accessible, with a limited number of wheelchairs. Restrooms on the first, second, third, and sixth floors. Baby care facilities on the first and third floors.

FACILITY RENTAL
Your special event or wedding is a historic occasion. A timeless and distinctive setting, with superb dining provided by Common Plea Catering, the History Center is the perfect place to host your next banquet, party, reception, seminar or meeting. Call (412) 454-6435 for information and reservations.