Didja know?
A few quick facts from History Center exhibits.

World-renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright was among those who submitted a plan for redeveloping Pittsburgh's Point in the late 1940s ... despite his earlier advice to city planners that "It would be cheaper to abandon it."

Jeannette Glass Company of Jeannette, Pa., once produced bud vases as automobile accessories. These were popular in upscale models of the 1920s.

Pittsburgh's three rivers take their names from Native American words. Allegheny means "fair waters," Monongahela translates to "falling banks," and Ohio means "beautiful river."

Across My Desk
By Brian Butko
Editor

Last summer, the History Center debuted its Isaly's Dairy exhibit, and I published Klondikes, Chipped Ham, & Skyscraper Cones: The Story of Isaly's. The brevity necessary for both exhibit and book left the Isaly story wanting for more recollections ... not that we didn't have any. Since starting my research, I've received hundreds of letters from workers and customers recalling their ties to Isaly's. Almost all were positive experiences, at least until the 1960s, when time — and suburban shopping — caught up to Isaly's.

Likewise for "memory sheets," which are available at the exhibit for visitors to leave comments. This issue features some of those recollections.

The Internet has at least two Isaly's discussion boards, where you'll find the same outpouring of affection, such as this one from www.iseli.org:

"My father, Vincent Miller, was the manager of Isaly stores in Ohio (Akron, Bellefontaine, Galion, Piqua, and Troy) during the early 1950s. His direct boss was David Isaly of the Marion division. He was so impressed with David that when I was born in 1953, I was named David in honor of David Isaly."

I've learned as much about Isaly's in the past year as in the preceding decade of research, but still, so much remains a mystery — who really did conceive the Klondike? Who thought of the Skyscraper name? Did Christian Isaly really bring the famed copper cheese kettle from Switzerland 170 years ago? A lot has been lost to time, though I suspect some things are known but only whispered at family and employee reunions.

My favorite "discovery" happened during a book signing at Main Street Books in Mansfield, where more than one person told me the original name of the Klondike bar was the Polar Dainty! Revelations like that — and the interesting people who share them — make Isaly's an ongoing adventure.