Crossing Paths with the President

By Lauren Uhl, museum associate and co-curator, and Ben Keller, intern

The Smithsonian Institution’s traveling exhibit, *The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden*, covers a variety of topics from inaugurations to assassinations to life after the presidency. Although no presidents have been born in the region, there are many interesting tales to tell of Western Pennsylvanians’ encounters, friendship, or influence on the presidents. Artifacts in the Historical Society’s collections have been added throughout the exhibit to tell some of these local stories. Following are just three – visit the exhibit to find dozens more.

**AROUND THE WORLD WITH PRESIDENT GRANT**

William Armstrong Hadden was born in Uniontown, Pa., in 1848. He graduated from the Naval Academy as a midshipman in 1869 and served on a variety of ships traveling all over the globe. When Hadden was commissioned as a Lieutenant in 1875, his promotion was signed by President Ulysses S. Grant. Two years later, he had the opportunity to meet the former president and get to know him personally.

After stepping down from a tumultuous presidency, Grant and his family set off on an international trip that took them to Europe, Africa, and Asia. The Grants traveled the Mediterranean aboard the American naval sloop *Vandalia*, which they boarded in Villefranche, France, on December 13, 1877. Hadden was one of the officers on the *Vandalia* and he spent the next three months accompanying the Grants to ports in Italy, Egypt, Turkey, and Greece before they departed at Naples in March 1878.

On trips home to Uniontown, Hadden regaled family and friends with tales of his Navy travels, especially his time on the ship *Vandalia*. Hadden told of the special Christmas dinner he and the other officers hosted for the former president, and the time in Egypt when he was chosen to accompany Grant on a journey up the Nile River to see the pyramids while the *Vandalia* remained anchored near Alexandria.
President Ulysses S. Grant flanked by his wife and son with the officers of the sloop Vandalia, 1878.

Lieutenant Hadden had this officer's dress coat made in Nice, France.
FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

Henry Ellenbogen, a native of Vienna, Austria, came to Pittsburgh in 1921 at age 21. He worked at Kaufmann’s department store during the day and studied at Duquesne Law School at night. He served in the United States House of Representatives from 1932–1938. A proponent of the working class, Ellenbogen’s philosophy dovetailed nicely with President Franklin Roosevelt’s promotion of New Deal programs. Ellenbogen sponsored legislation to assist veterans and the unemployed and established a pension system that foreshadowed Social Security. He also sponsored the Home Owner’s Loan Corporation Act to provide funds for the creation of new housing and low interest loans for home buyers.

MUTUAL ADMIRATION

Cyrus Cotton Hungerford worked as a cartoonist for Pittsburgh newspapers for over 65 years, first at the Pittsburgh Sun and later at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Unlike many of the biting and sarcastic cartoons drawn today, Hungerford drew good-humored and often patriotic cartoons that frequently dealt with the presidents and their accomplishments. His upbeat drawings endeared him to presidents from Franklin Roosevelt to Gerald Ford. Hungerford sent many of his original cartoons to presidents, vice-presidents, and presidential candidates, often at their request. In return, he received gracious thank you notes and even Christmas cards. Hungerford’s work is well represented in presidential libraries. The Lyndon Baines Johnson Library has 40 of Hungerford’s original cartoons.
Dear Mr. Hungerford:

Mayor Barr has forwarded to me the original of your cartoon, "Walking Together," which you so kindly inscribed for me. Thank you for this welcome addition to my collection.

With appreciation and best wishes,

Sincerely,

Mr. Cy. Hungerford
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Opening March 11, 2004 for a 3-month engagement, Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area presents Reel Steel, a new exhibit featuring rare cartoons and vintage films of the Big Steel Era!

MATINEES MON.-SAT. Schedule subject to change
Wonders of Steel.............. 11:00 & 1:30
Steelmaking brought to life through music and animation.
A Superhero and a Duck..... 11:50 & 2:20
Join a Pittsburgh legend and a famous duck for family fun!
Hardcore Steel................. 12:40 & 3:10
A graphic and in-depth look at the industry for the true steel enthusiast.

EXHIBITS OPEN MON.-SAT. 11 AM TO 4 PM
FREE PARKING - REAR OF BUILDING

Bost Building
623 E. 8th Avenue
Homestead, PA 15120
412-464-4020
www.riversofsteel.com
One hundred years ago, in August 1904, 17-year-old Ernestine F. Atwood plunged into high waves off the Atlantic Coast and pulled a drowning man to safety.

Joseph Arcaris of Fort Lauderdale saved a man by facing down five lions on February 9, 1940.

In 1956, Theodore Henderson, Sr., braved poisonous snakes and alligators to free a young Floridian trapped in her car at the bottom of a muddy, 12-foot-deep canal.

Addie S. McCormick of Ottawa, Ontario, lost her life in 1964 when she remained at her hotel switchboard to warn guests about a fire.

Shot three times, Andrew W. Mathieson still managed to prevent a murder in a Pittsburgh parking lot in 1986.