



**T**RAVEL IN THE good old days was not always so good for non-whites. Mid-century motorists encountered many

whites-only establishments, even along northern roads. *The Negro Motorist Green Book* began publishing in 1936 to "give the Negro traveler information that will keep him from running into difficulties, embarrassments, and to make his trips more enjoyable." This 1949 edition had 80 pages of restaurants and hotels, barber and beauty shops, and other establishments serving African-Americans.

Most of the 10 Pittsburgh businesses listed in this edition were in the Hill District. Five were hotels — the Avenue, Bailey's, the Colonial, the Park, and the Palace. All but one of those were on Wylie Avenue. Two tourist homes were also in the Hill, while a Mrs. William had one on Claybourne Street near Shadyside Hospital. Nearby towns with listings were Altoona, Bedford, Erie, New Castle, Oil City, and Washington, which had some restaurants and night clubs on North Lincoln Street. Philadelphia had nine times as many listings as Pittsburgh.

The cover quotes Mark Twain, sometimes now accused of racism himself, as saying "Travel is Fatal to Prejudice." Indeed, first the automobile, then interstate highways, would lead to an intermingling of races and regions as never before and help break down racial barriers. The publishers hoped, "There will be a day in the near future when this guide will not have to be published." — *Text by Brian Butko. Photograph from the collections of Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Mich.*



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