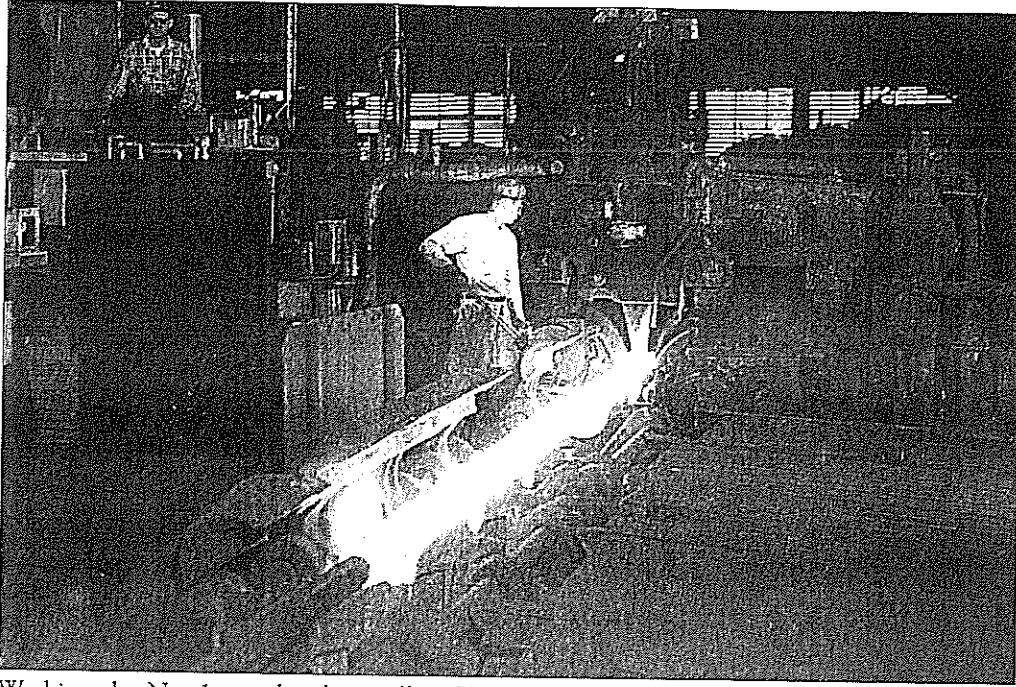


The U.S. Steel National Tube Works in McKeesport was 1.6 miles long and occupied 133 acres along the Monongahela River. This aerial view shows the size and complexity of this major industrial plant located in the heart of the city.



Everyone who grew up in McKeesport would undoubtedly remember the orange glow and reflections of light on the river caused by the "Bessemer Blow." This photograph was taken during the last blow at National Tube Works in 1965. After that time, steel came from Duquesne Works. Duquesne Works is in the foreground.

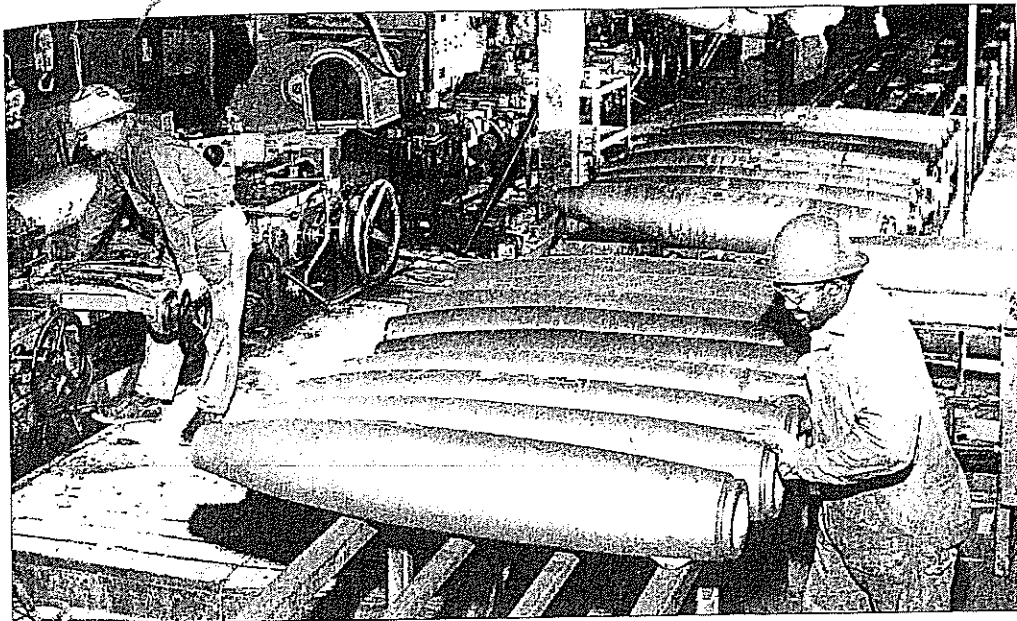




Working the No. 1 seamless hot mill at U.S. Steel National Tube Works was one of many dangerous and fiery jobs at the mill. The solid round billet is being pierced to create a seamless tube of steel. This was state-of-the-art tube making in the early 1960s.



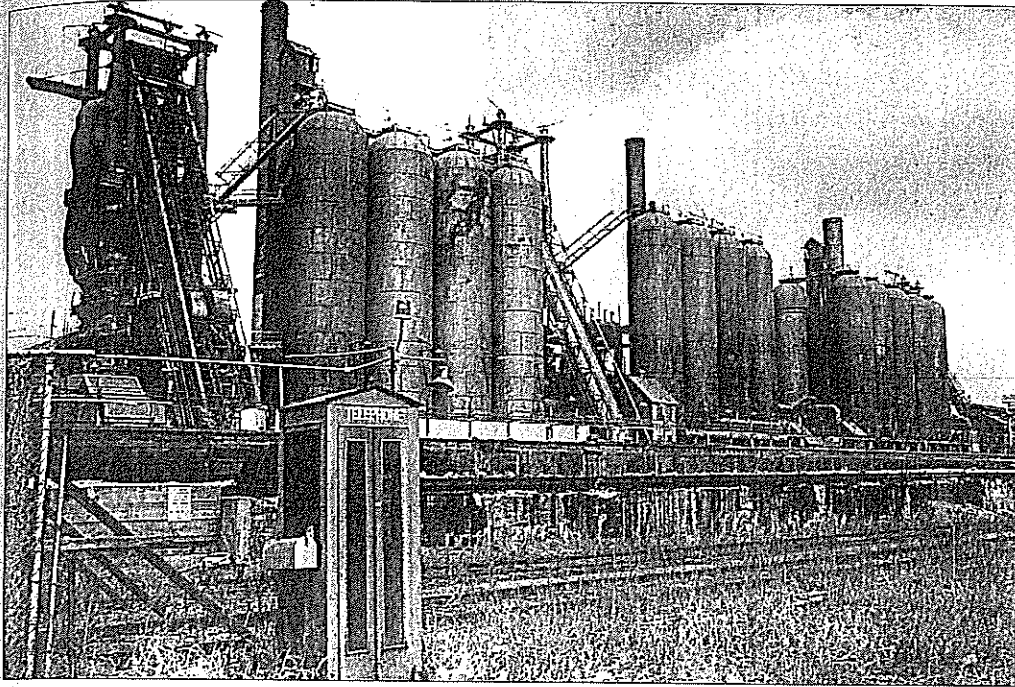
This dramatic photograph gives one the sense of the intense heat generated when pouring liquid iron from the blast furnace into a Bessemer Converter at the National Tube Works.



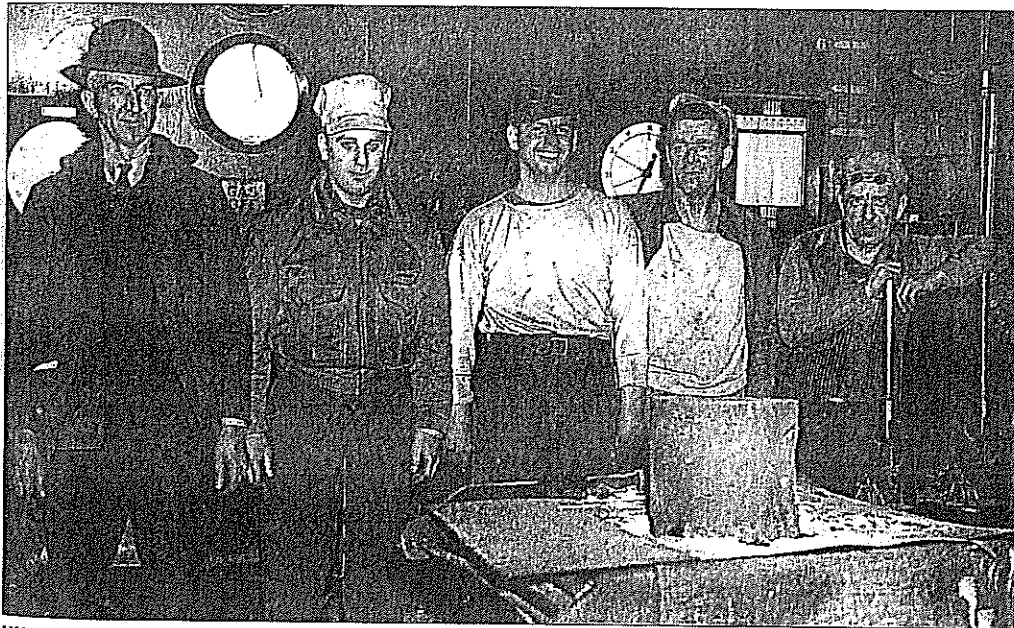
Workers at U.S. Steel's Christy Park Works on Walnut Street are shown finishing bomb casings during World War II. From 1940 through the end of the war in 1945, Christy Park produced over 22.6 million shells, 3.7 million bombs, 1.3 million rocket tubes, and one million cylinders and air flasks. At one time, Christy Park Works employed 7,500 people, but when the war ended and the government terminated its contracts, most workers lost their jobs.



After humble beginnings in 1902, the American Sheet and Tinplate Company became the largest tinplate manufacturing facility in the world. Shown here in 1920 is a group of retired employees. John Surgeon is the seventh man from the left in the second row.



The blast furnaces of U.S. Steel National Tube Works were a familiar sight to many growing up in McKeesport. This photograph shows a telephone booth and mailbox outside the mill property.

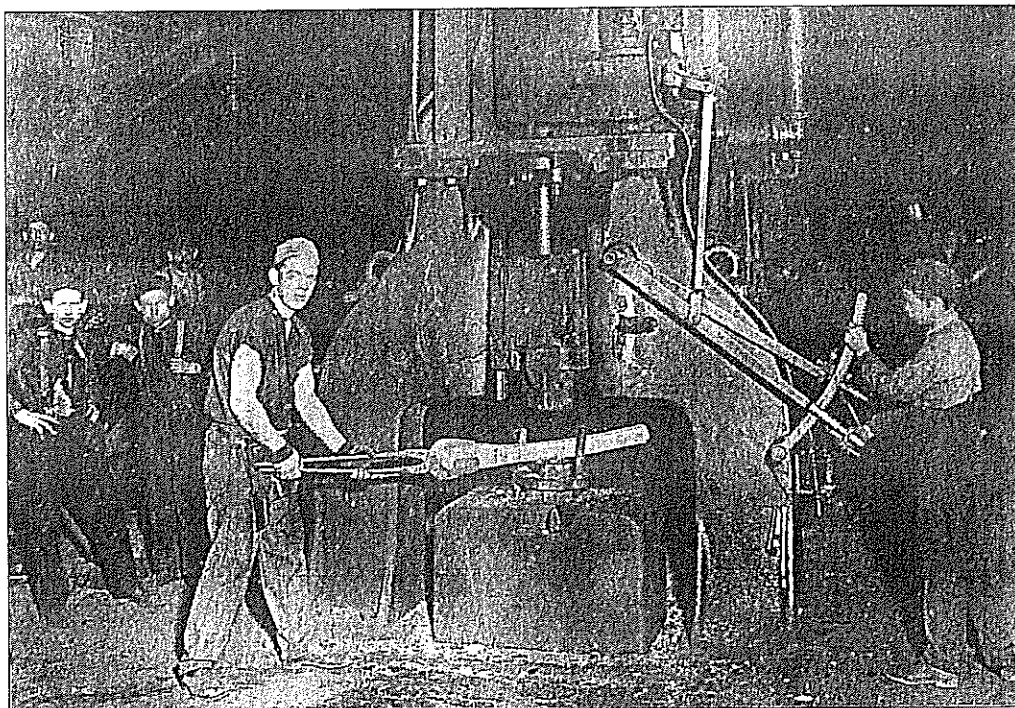


Workers of the open-hearth furnaces at National Tube Works are shown on the job. Notice the complete lack of protective garments, except for protective glasses, worn by the workers. Furnace temperatures in that part of the mill would reach 2,900 degrees Fahrenheit. Over the years, protective gear was added to protect the workers from the intense heat. Pictured from left to right are workers ? Crowley, ? Gonos, ? Conway, ? Hansen, and ? Stiers.

M4

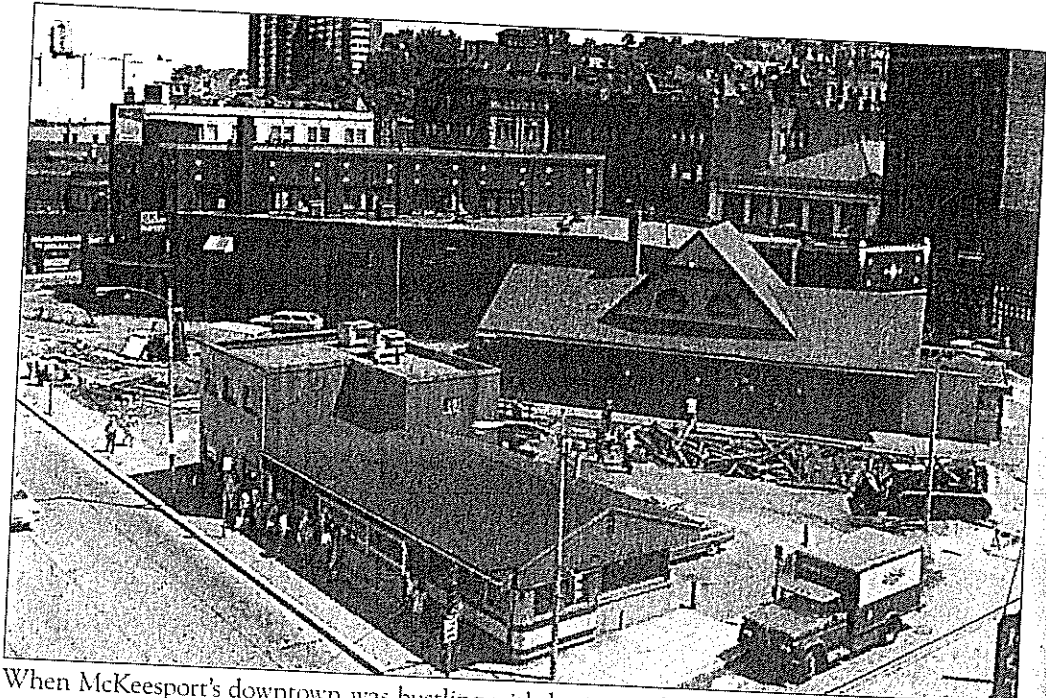


Firth Sterling Steel was incorporated in 1889 by Lewis John Firth of England. This plant was located under the McKeesport-Duquesne Bridge, where it produced high-grade specialty steels and powdered carbide that were primarily used for cutting tools. The facility closed in the mid-1960s.



In the early 1900s, prior to the passing of child labor laws, some of the laborers in the Firth Sterling Forging Department were extremely young to be working around such dangerous machinery.

M5

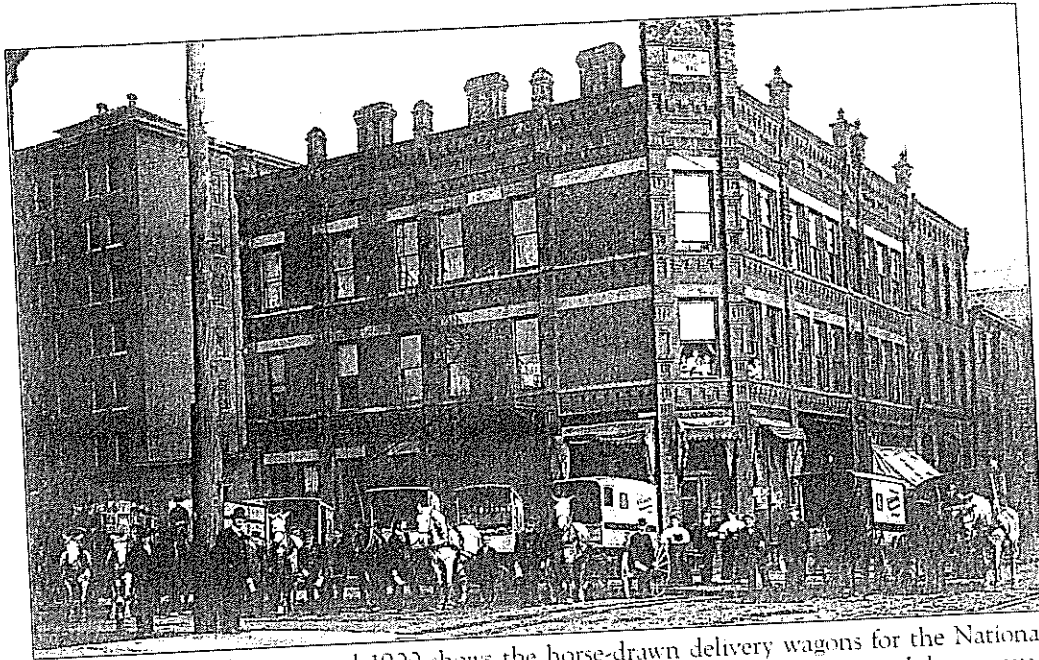


When McKeesport's downtown was bustling with business, the Club Car Diner was a popular eating establishment. Many workers and shoppers "did lunch" at the diner. It was the place to meet for breakfast after the bars closed at 2:00 a.m.

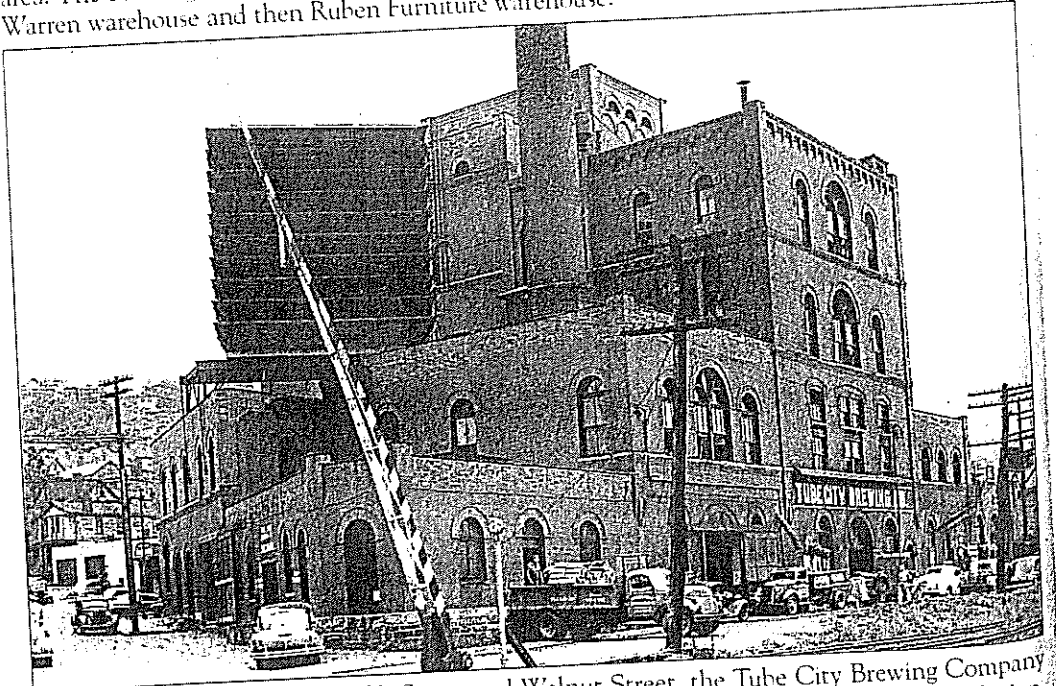


The Union Clothing Company was established in 1916 by Morris H. Levine in one small room above Woolworth's. Highly successful, it expanded to an entire floor in one year. Here in 1921, ladies pause for a photograph in the sewing room at the new location in the Ruben building at 225 Fifth Avenue.

M4

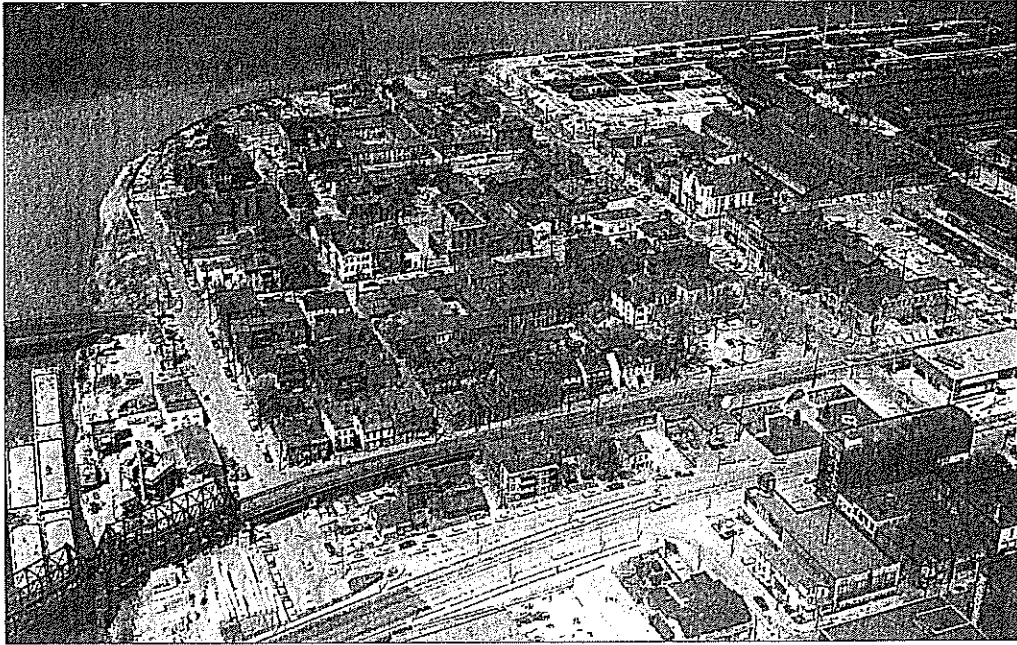


This photograph from around 1900 shows the horse-drawn delivery wagons for the National Biscuit office in McKeesport, located at the corner of Seventh and Walnut Streets. It later moved to the corner of Peebles Lane and Tenth Street, and then to Versailles in the Schwebel's Bakery area. The building on the left is the Dulaney grocery warehouse, later called the Patterson and Warren warehouse and then Ruben Furniture warehouse.

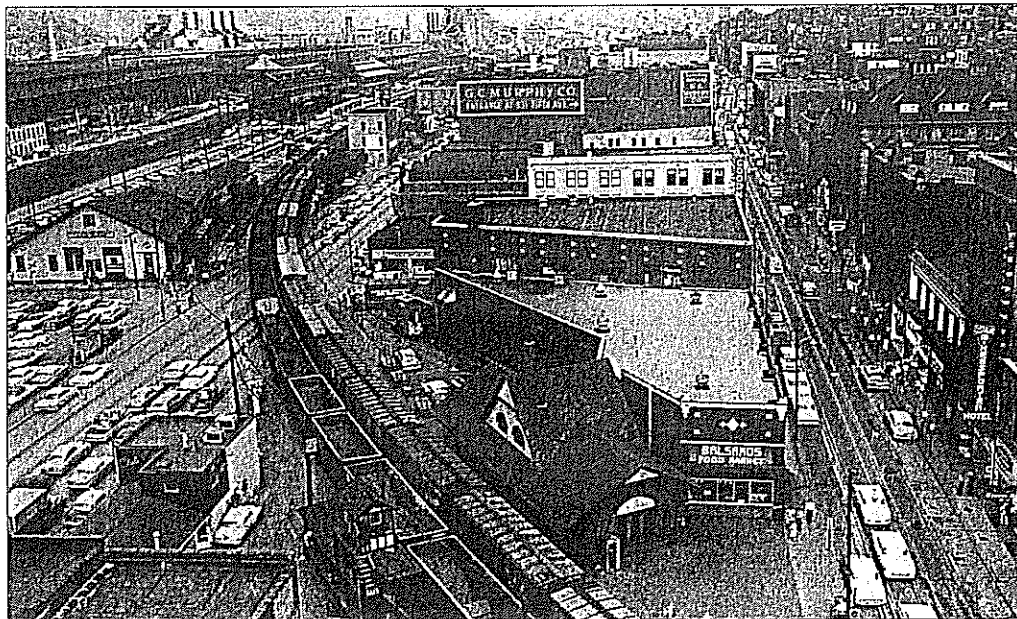


Located on the corner of Twelfth Street and Walnut Street, the Tube City Brewing Company opened in 1904. At that time, there were five breweries in McKeesport. During Prohibition, most closed down or depended on offering cold storage to survive. Tube City Brewing Company closed in 1955.

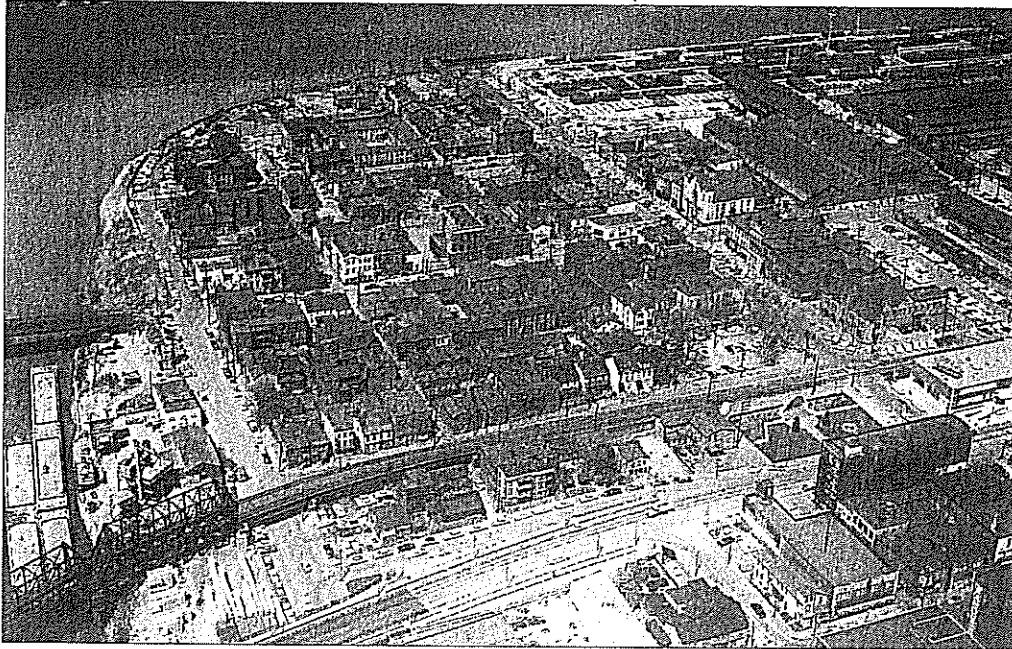




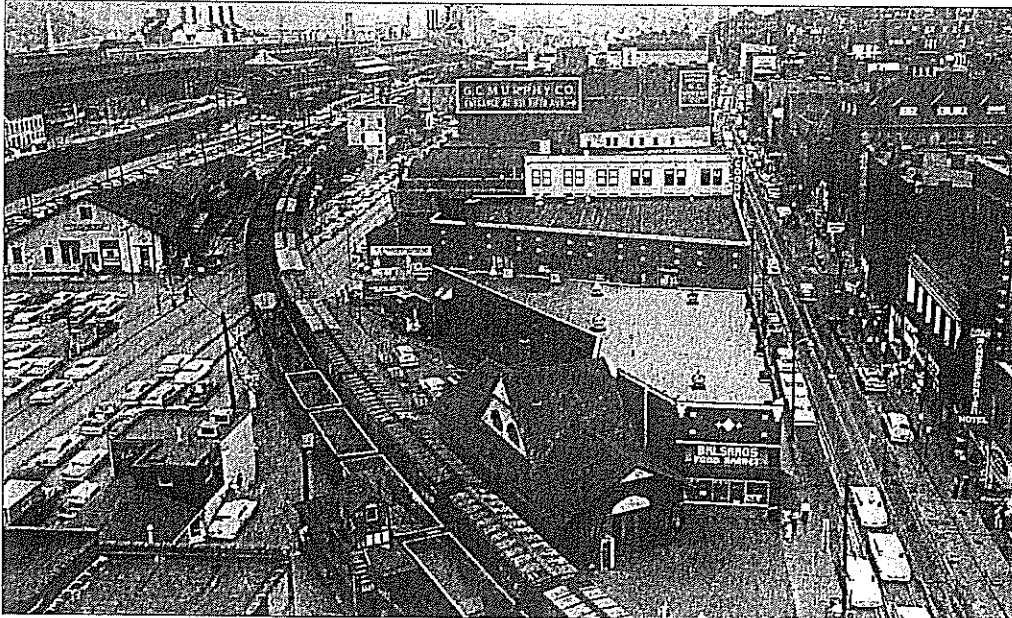
When founder David McKee arrived, he settled at the confluence of the Youghiogheny and Monongahela Rivers. Immigrants to the area settled in what became the 1st Ward, shown in this aerial view. In 1959, 240 families were relocated and the homes were demolished to make room for the U.S. Steel's expansion.



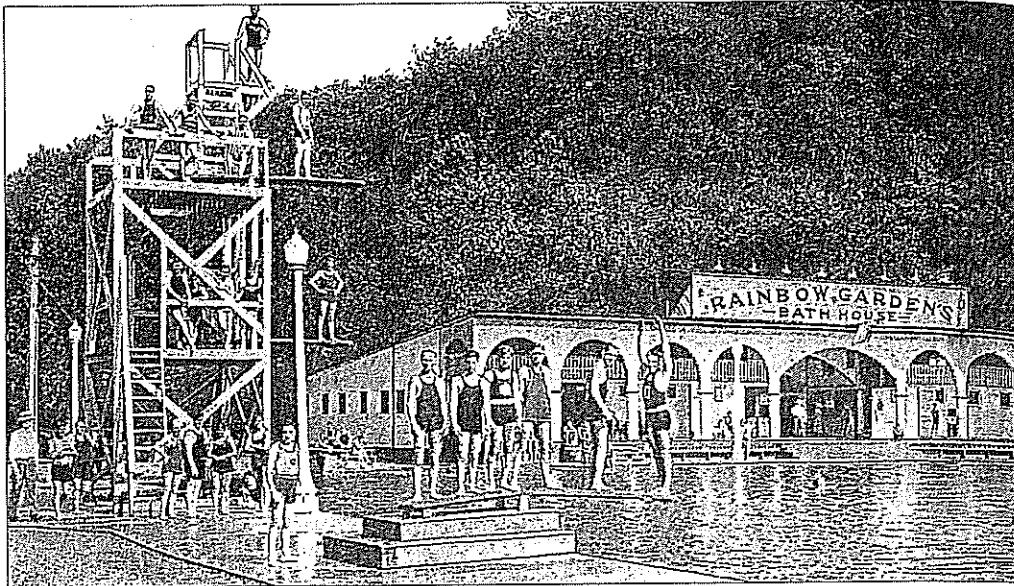
At one time, the city had trains running through the center of town, bringing pedestrian and car traffic to a halt on both sides of the tracks. Long trains could cause major disruptions. For years, city leaders talked about the need to redirect the trains, and in 1970, that change was finally made. In the foreground is the train station that sat between Balsamo's Market and the Club Car Diner.



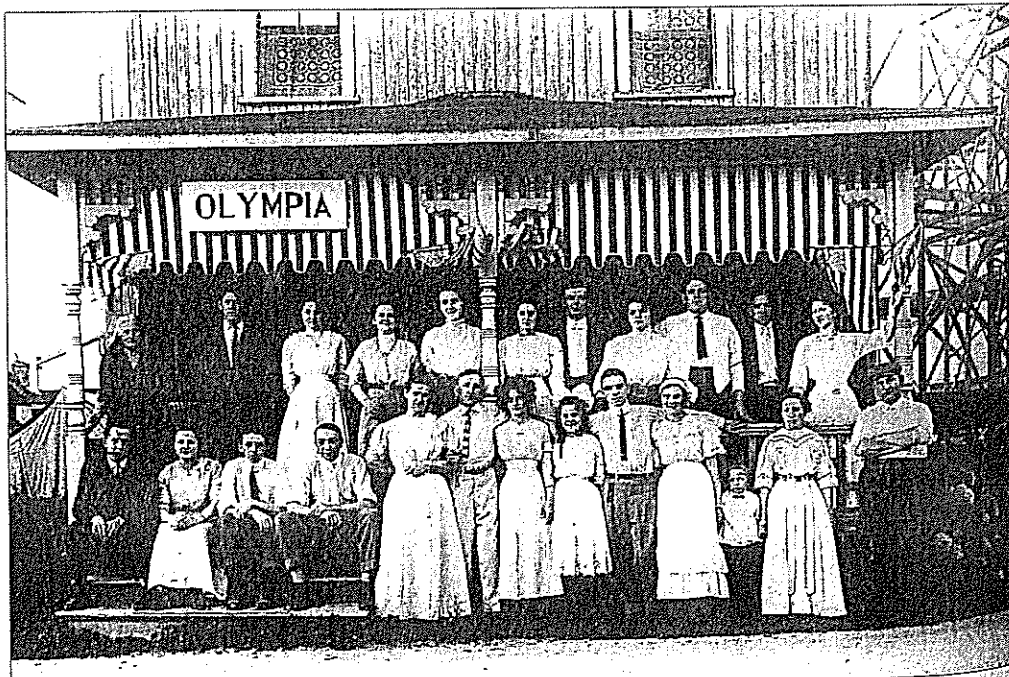
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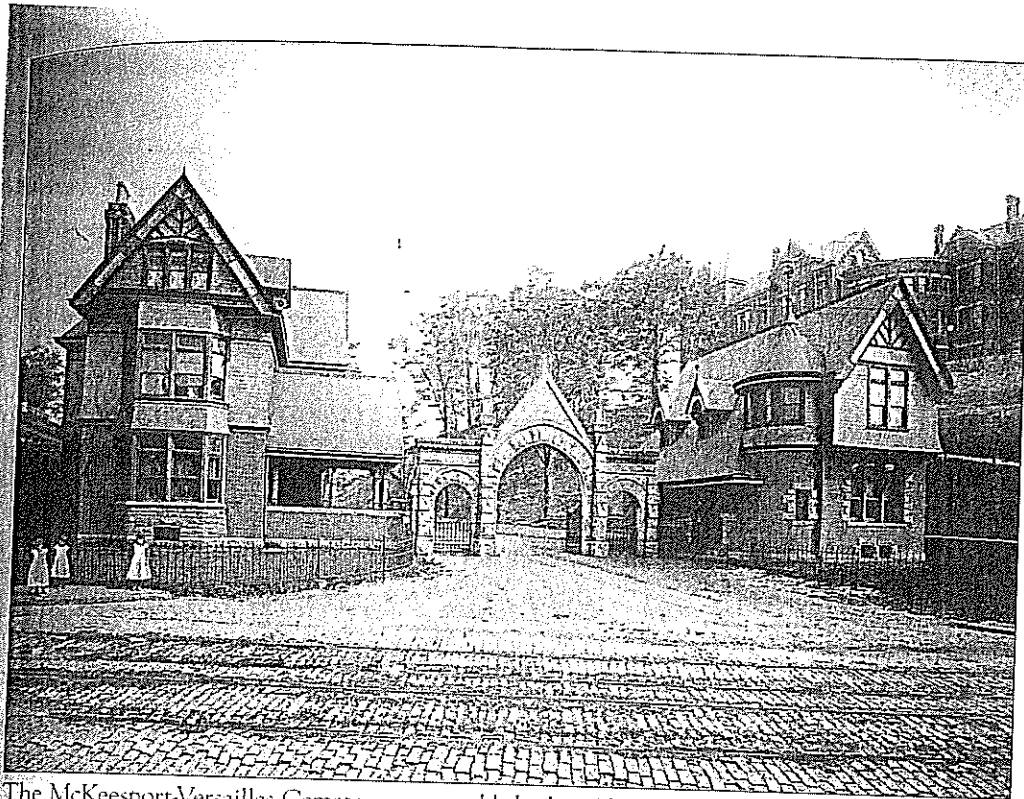


The bathhouse at Rainbow Gardens Pool is the backdrop for a line-up of athletes, bathing beauties, and maybe even a lifeguard or two in this 1920s postcard.

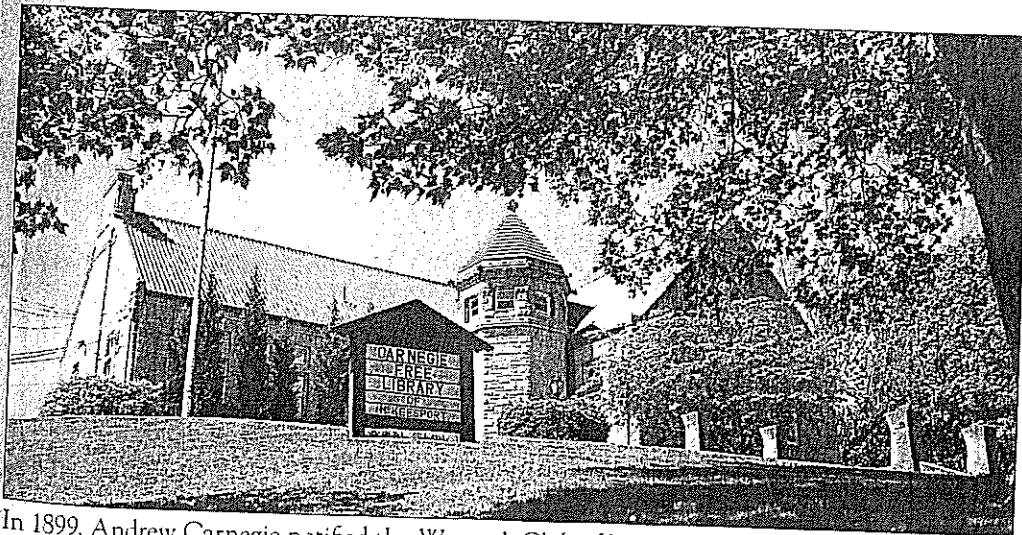


This group picture was taken at Olympia Park in Versailles Borough. Olympia boasted an amusement park, picnic area, Rollerdrome, boating lake, and Danceland. The park operations ceased in 1942. The lake was drained, and Long Run Road (Route 48) was built.

Mg

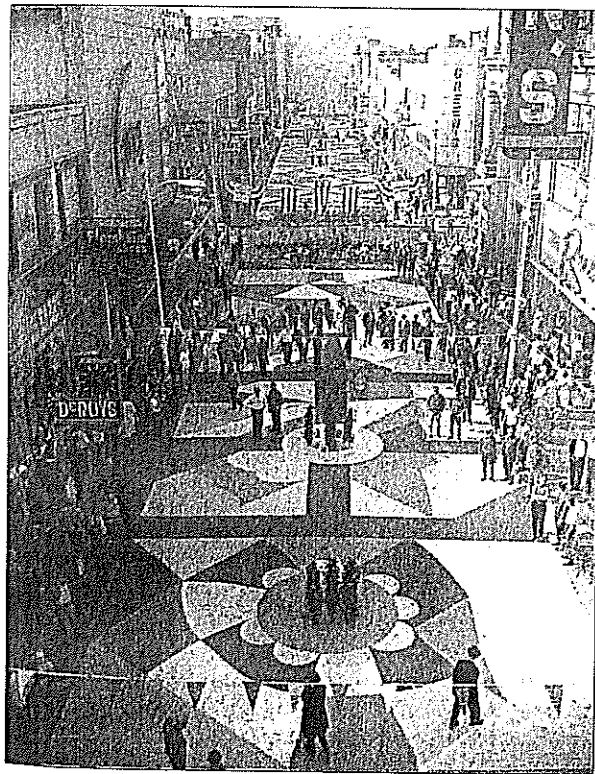
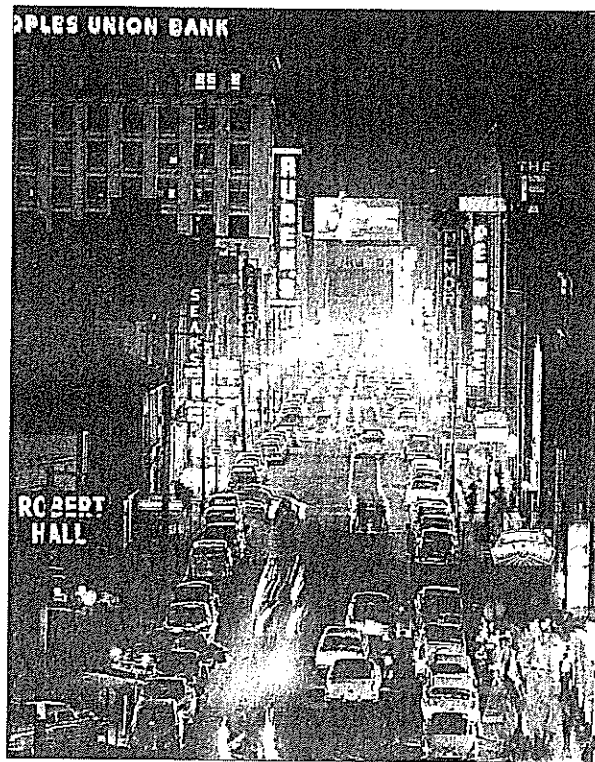


The McKeesport-Versailles Cemetery was established in 1856. The cemetery has two entrances; the main entrance shown here is on Fifth Avenue, and the other entrance is on Versailles Avenue. The city's founding fathers and their families were laid to rest here. There is a special section paying tribute to McKeesport's Civil War veterans. The building on the left is no longer standing.



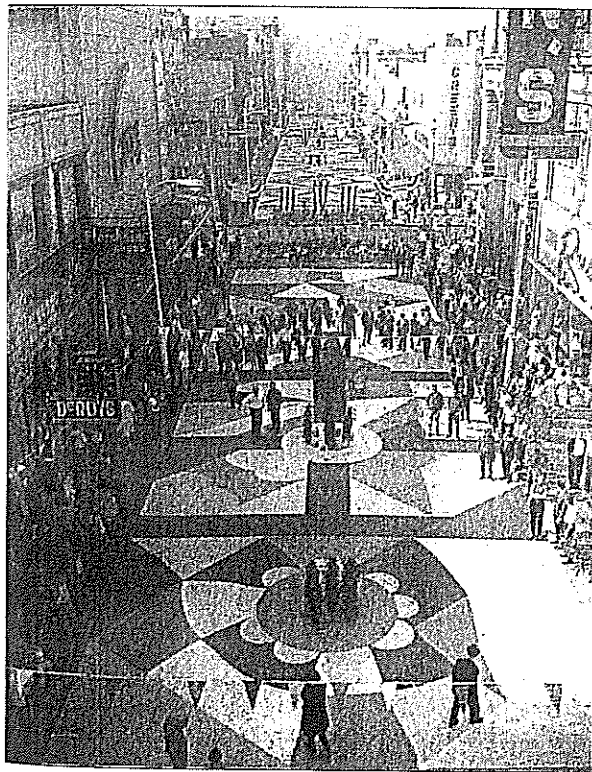
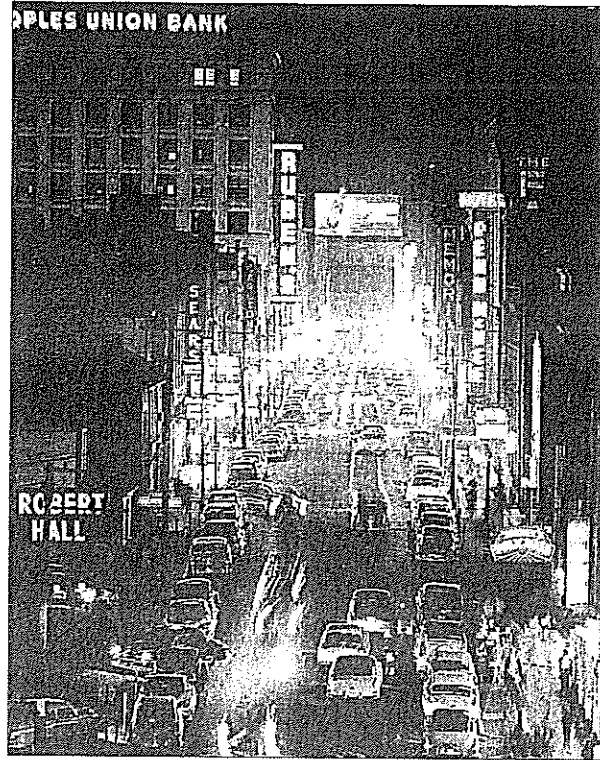
In 1899, Andrew Carnegie notified the Women's Club of McKeesport that he would contribute \$50,000 for a library as long as the citizens provided a suitable site and at least \$3,000 annually for the upkeep. The James Evans and Oliver Evans estate donated the 1.5 acres of land at the corner of Union and Carnegie Avenues where the library still stands.

Is this New York City? No, wait, it is Fifth Avenue in McKeesport in the 1950s. The city was in its heyday and was the hub of activity for the entire region.

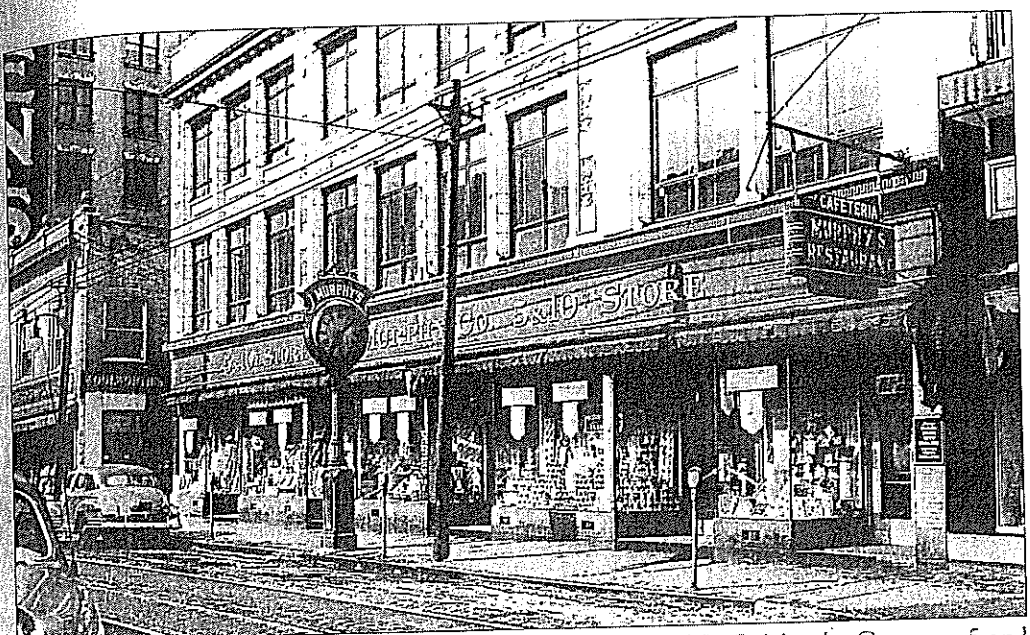


In the early 1960s, malls became a part of the area's shopping scene. To compete with this, the city, under Mayor Andrew J. Jakomas, decided to turn Fifth Avenue into a shopping mall. No cars could be driven on Fifth Avenue, and shoppers could walk freely on the street. However, a few years later, the street was returned to the automobiles as the experiment failed dismally.

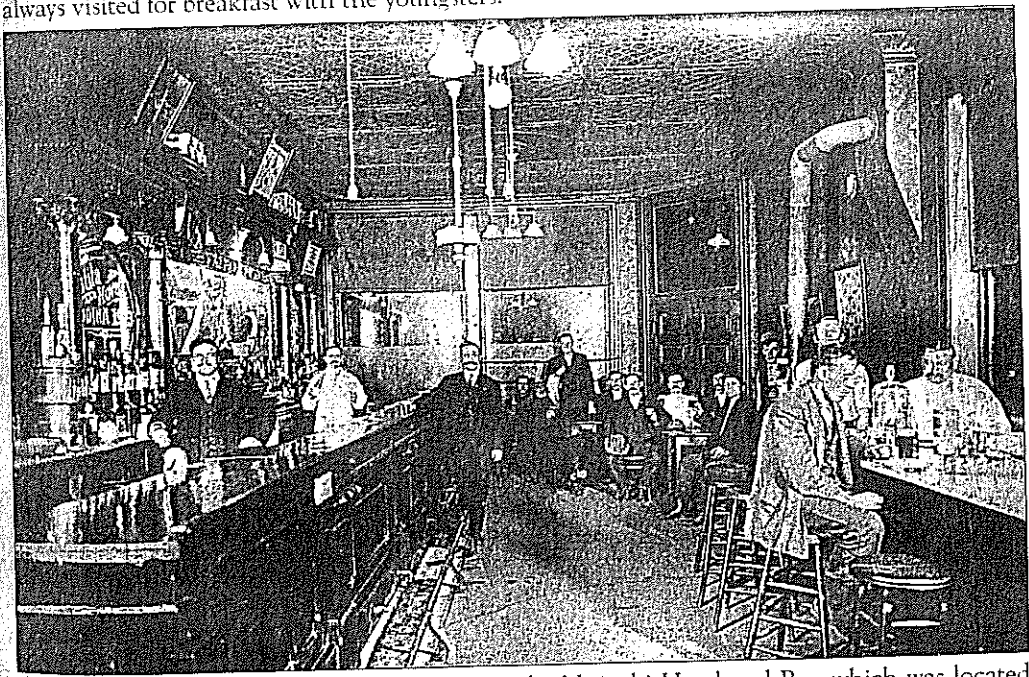
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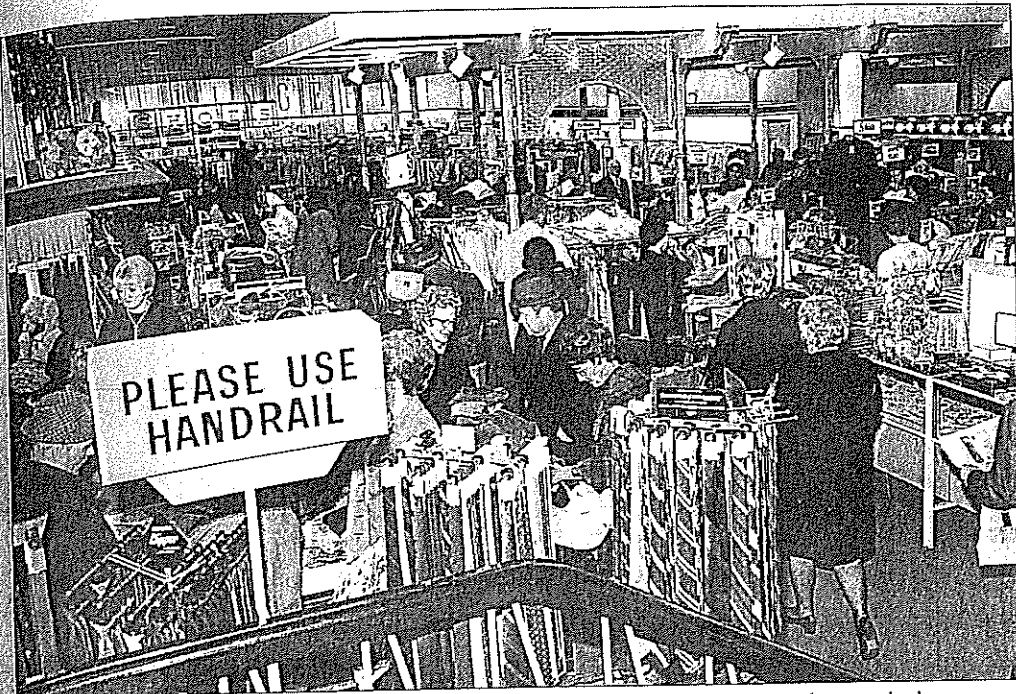
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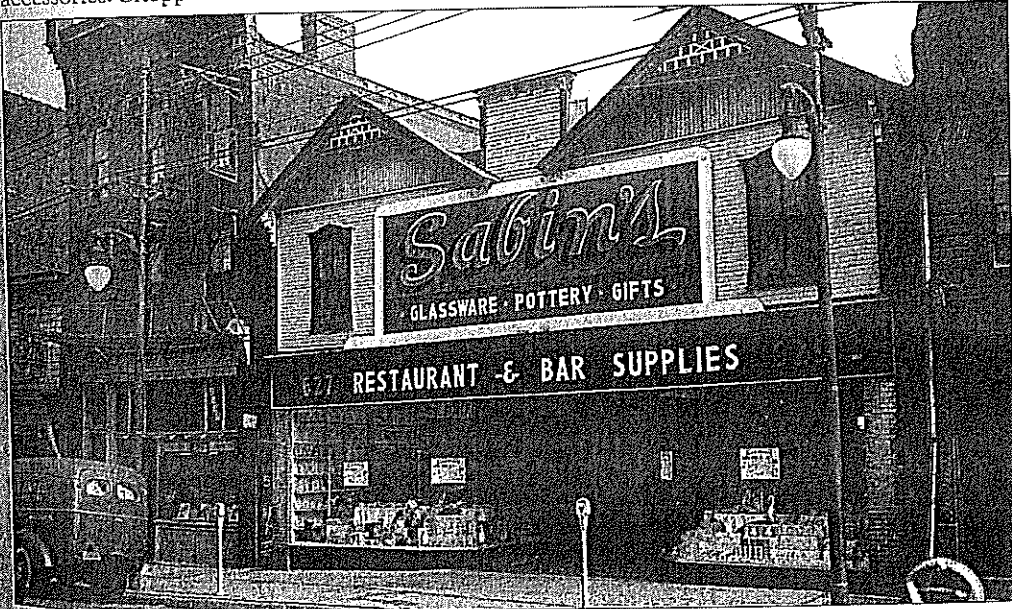
This late-1940s photograph shows the Fifth Avenue location of G. C. Murphy Company 5 and 10¢ Store. McKeesport was the national corporate headquarters of Murphy's, which was started in 1906 and bought out by Ames in 1985. At one time, there were three G. C. Murphy stores in McKeesport proper. Murphy's Restaurant was a popular place for lunch and, at Christmas, Santa always visited for breakfast with the youngsters.



This early-1900s photograph shows patrons at the Nizinski Hotel and Bar, which was located at 1227 Fifth Avenue. George W. Nizinski was born in 1872 in Poland and immigrated to the United States at the age of 15. He held numerous labor and bartending jobs until purchasing his hotel and tavern in 1914.



Jaison's was a popular department store in McKeesport specializing in shoes, clothing, and accessories. Shoppers are shown here in 1970 taking advantage of bargains at a rummage sale.

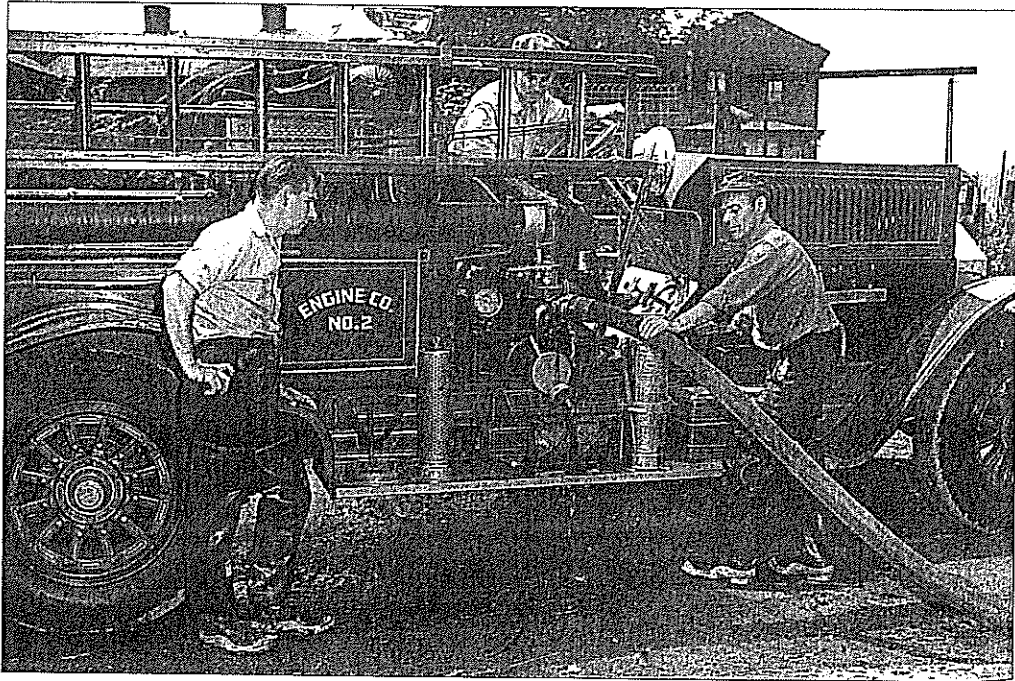


The Sabin China Company was founded by Leonard Berkovitz and Sam Sabin in the late 1930s. Known for manufacturing and decorating fine china, it started in a small shop on Fifth Avenue and later moved to Juniper Street in Versailles Borough. One section of the plant was devoted solely to lining the rims of plates with 18-karat gold. The showroom displayed giant piggy banks and cookie jars. In 1967, the business was sold, and it closed in the 1970s when it was destroyed by fire.





Loosely organized in the beginning, fire protection was done on a volunteer basis in the 1870s. The first paid fire department started in 1885. This 1920s photograph shows firefighters at the No. 3 station on Evans Avenue.

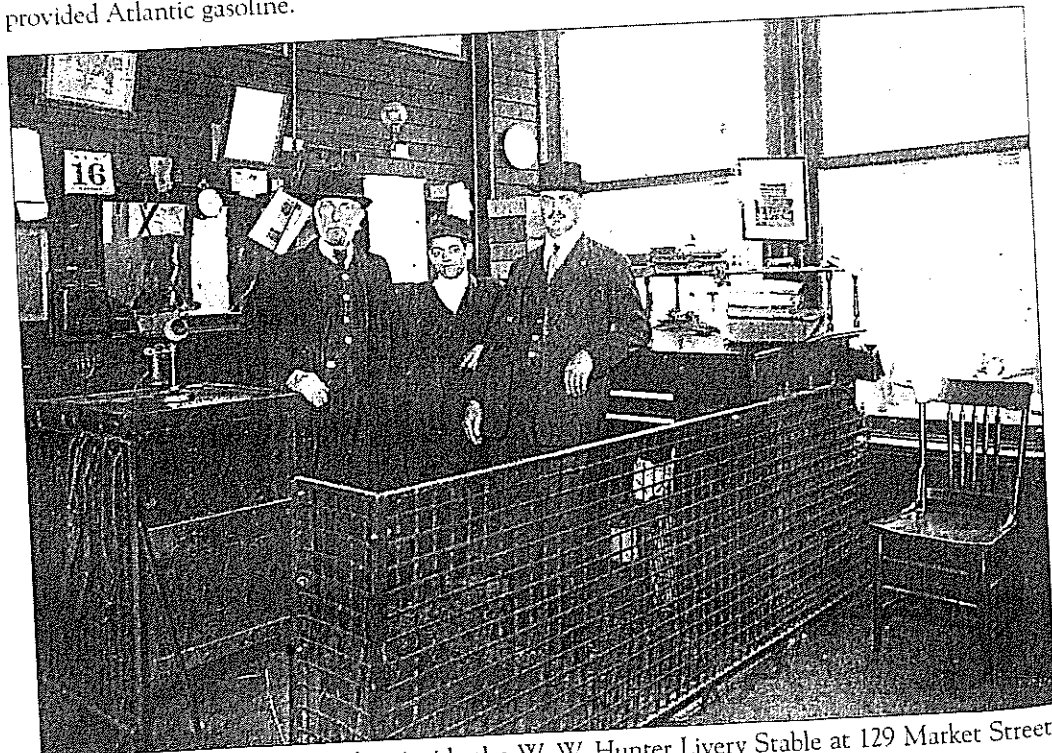


Shown here are firemen checking out equipment in the 1930s. Engine Company No. 2 had to be ready to respond in an instant with men and machines. Note the dirt street in front of the fire station.

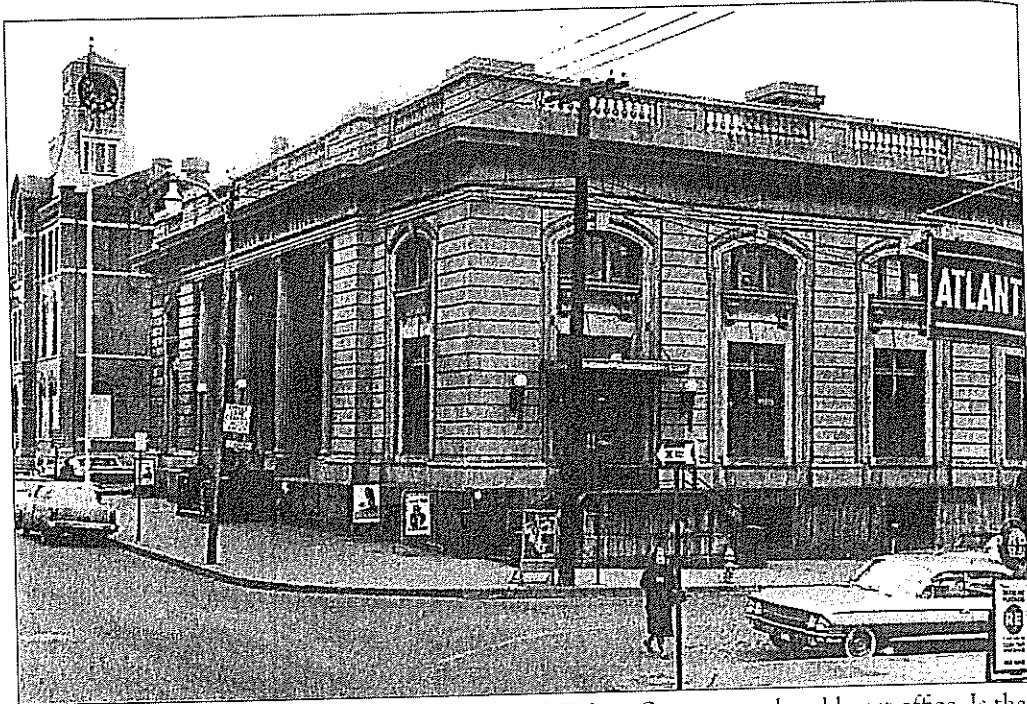
M<sub>13</sub>



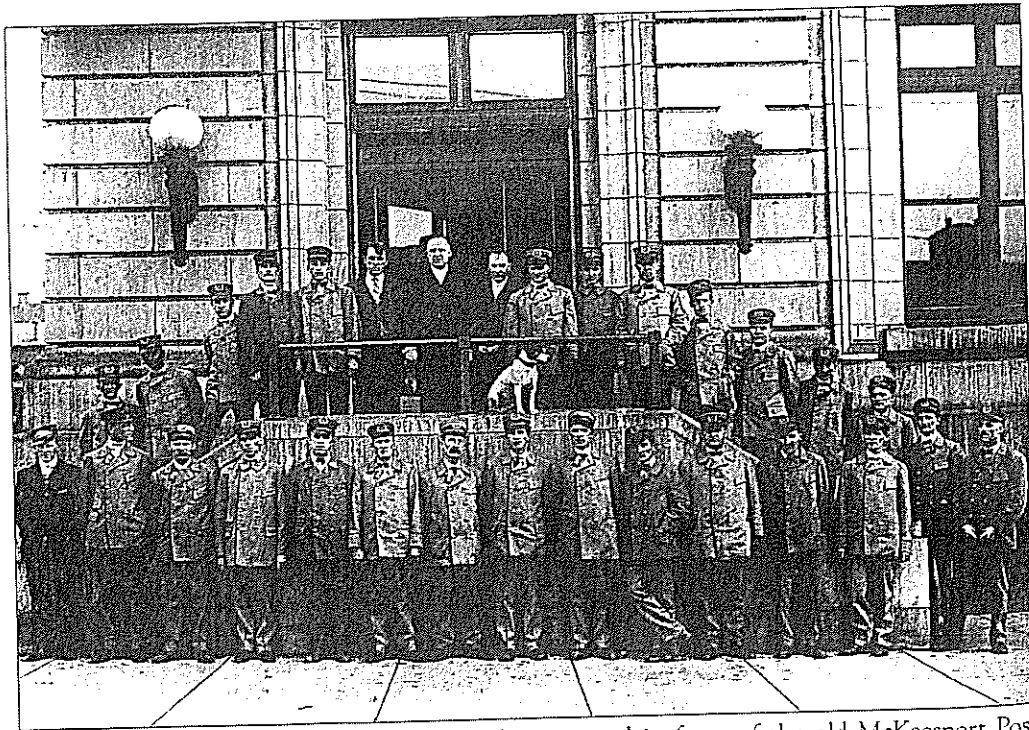
Originally a livery stable, Hunter's provided a horse and buggy for \$1.50 or \$2 a day. The building later became Hunter's Garage. Here in 1937, the space is occupied by a Buick dealership, which provided Atlantic gasoline.



This 1914 photograph was taken inside the W. W. Hunter Livery Stable at 129 Market Street. Seen here, from left to right, are Doc Martin, Billy Smith, and Frank Rhoades.



A customer hurriedly crosses the windy corner of Walnut Street near the old post office. Is that a babushka she is wearing? Walnut Street School is pictured in the background.

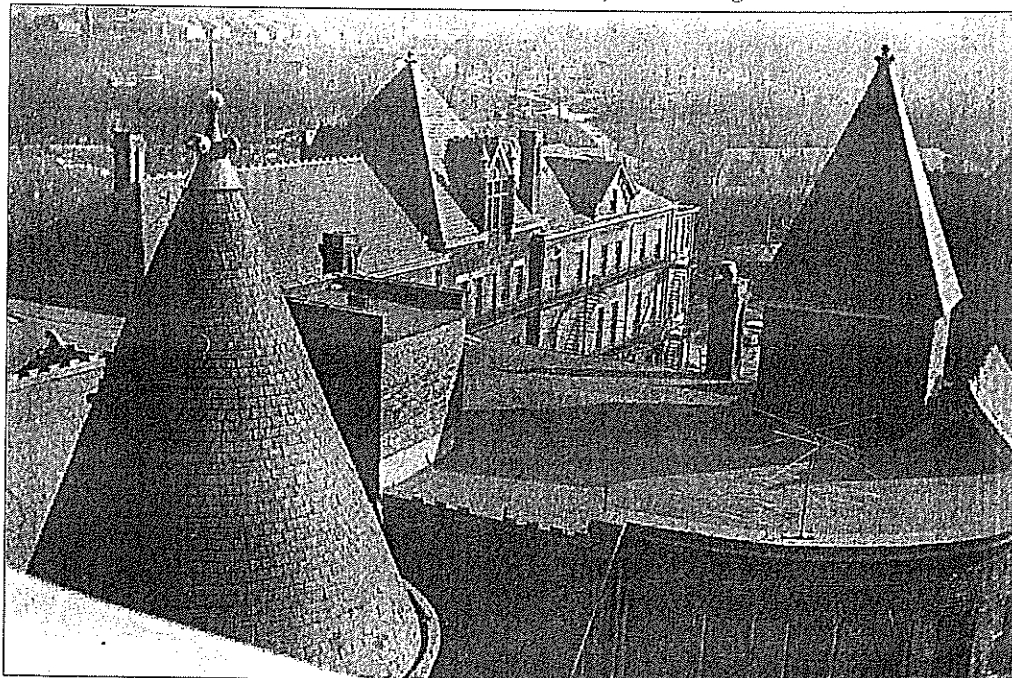


Shown here in the early 1900s, proud employees stand in front of the old McKeesport Post Office. Postmaster John Dersam stands in the middle of the second row.

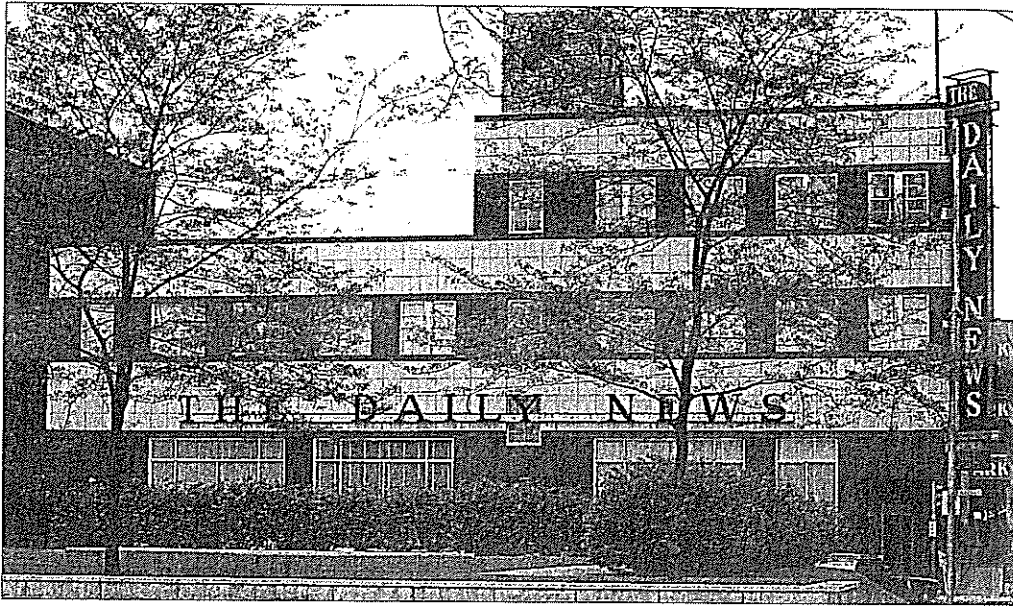
M16



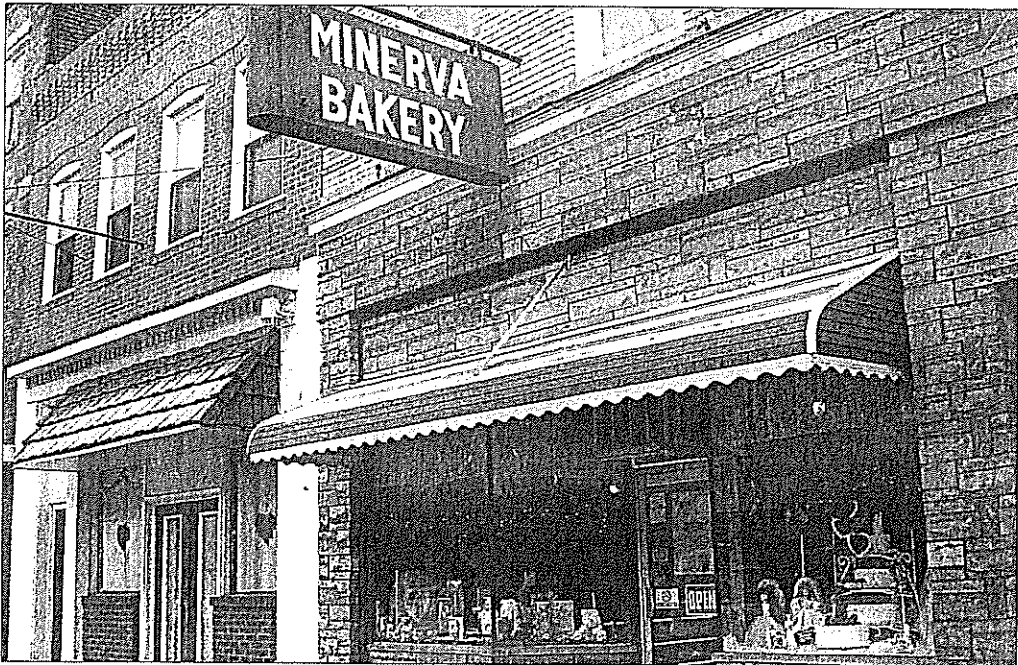
McKeesport Hospital was organized in 1890. Construction was finished in 1894, and the hospital opened for business on April 18, 1894, with 185 beds. Over the years, with the addition of the Shaw and Crawford wings, the capacity expanded to 600 beds. The "Old Main" building was razed in 1955. The hospital is now part of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.



A creative photographer took this photograph from the rooftop of the "Old Main" building of McKeesport Hospital. The building in the background is the Painter Memorial maternity building where most McKeesport-area residents were brought into the world.



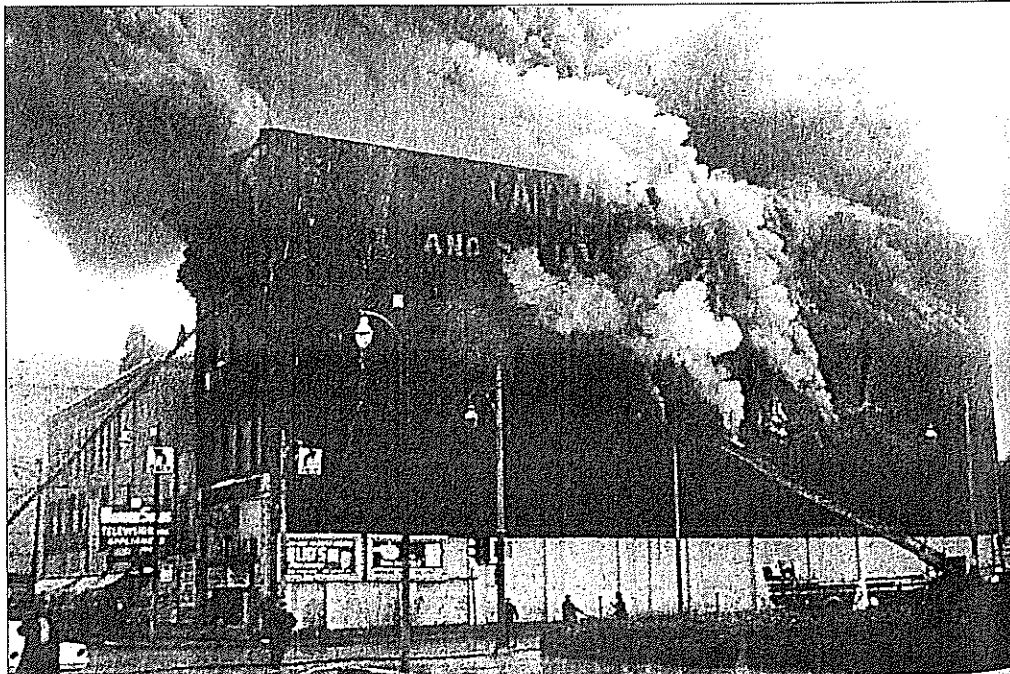
The first edition of the *McKeesport Daily News* was published on July 1, 1884, on one of the old-style cylinder presses. Harry S. Dravo and Wesley Dravo were the organizers who chose F. B. Clark as the editor and J. L. Devenny as the reporter. It later became the *Daily News* and was owned and operated by the Mansfield family. The Miles Publishing Company recently purchased the paper. It is the only daily paper in McKeesport.



Minerva Bakery on Fifth Avenue, a family business started more than 80 years ago, was founded by George Monezis, a Greek immigrant born in 1887. First located on Walnut Street, it became and remains a McKeesport favorite. At Easter time, crowds stand in long lines to purchase Minerva's famous paskas.

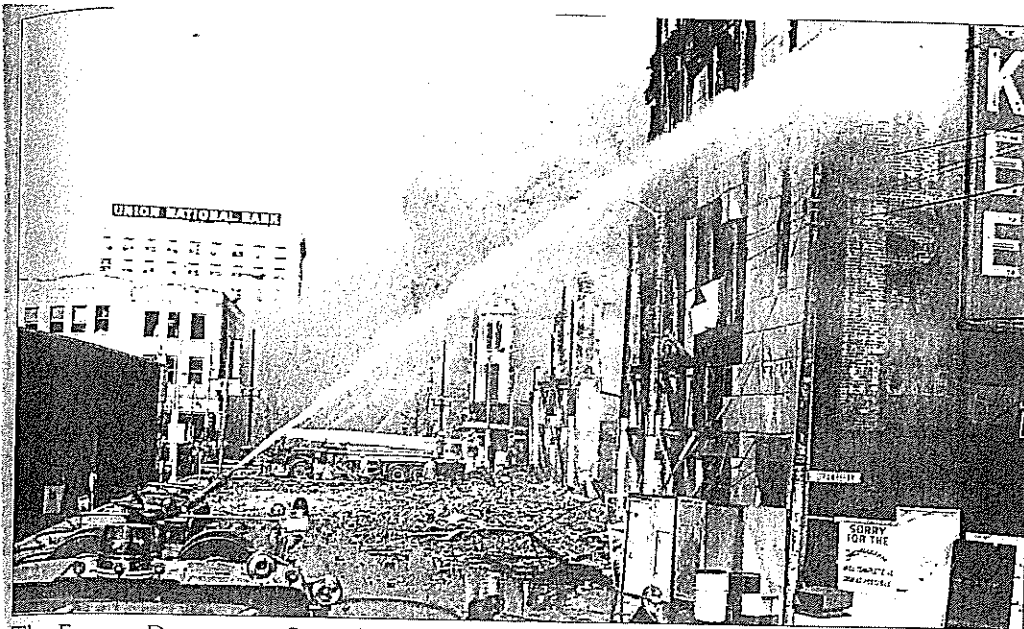


In 1956, the Menzie Dairy Garage was hit by a devastating fire. The garage was on Walnut Street in the Christy Park area. It housed the trucks that made home deliveries. The dairy itself was located on Riverview Avenue in the 7th Ward of the city and closed on November 1, 1976.



The Stone Furniture Building burned on June 10, 1963. Lightning was blamed for destroying the top two floors in 1953, as well as in the 1963 blaze. The building housed Wander Sales, Shulhof Tire Company, and Stone's, whose slogan was "Try Stone's for soft beds."

M<sub>19</sub>



The Famous Department Store, located at 514 Market Street, burned in a fierce blaze in May 1976. Loss was in excess of \$4 million. The fire engulfed the store within five to seven minutes. Fortunately, no lives were lost. The flames forced nine businesses to close, including the Memorial Theater. McKeesport Fire Department was assisted in fighting the fire by companies from Duquesne, Clairton, and Pittsburgh, as well as over 50 volunteer companies.



McKeesport Little Theater was situated at the corner of Penney and Jenny Lind Streets from 1962 until it was destroyed by fire in April 1972. The fire started at the adjacent vacant Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church and spread to the theater. The theater was in the middle of a run of *The Sound of Music*, but opened the following weekend at the Elks Lodge. It continued to perform at Versailles Elementary School until it purchased the Tree of Life Synagogue in 1974.

