

## Kirschler's Loving Cup

Last mayor's commemorative cup gets a new home  
by Ruth McCartan

Charles F. Kirschler, the last mayor of Allegheny City was presented with a loving cup by this staff as an award for his fight to win the mayor's office in the 1906 election. A *loving cup* normally a two-handled ornamental wine vessel was given historically as a trophy to a winner of a competition. Mayor Kirschler won the election but lost the fight to keep Allegheny City from being annexed by the City of Pittsburgh in 1907.



Visitors to the Great Hall can view the restored Kirschler Loving Cup in a specially designed cabinet that also displays the original scrapbook that accompanied the cup.

Kirschler's loving cup, which is three handled, had been in the possession of Troy Hill historian Mary Wohleber who had rescued it from the trash years ago. Mary wanted it to be in a place that people could see it and not in the basement of a museum. The Graffs, owners of the Great Hall at the Priory, came to the rescue and made Mary's dream a reality.

A hand-craved and specially designed walnut display case was created to house the re-silvered cup. Engraved around the body are the names of the members of Allegheny's last City Councils. Included in the case under the cup is a restored scrap book of newspaper clippings relating to the contested mayoral election and the struggle to keep Allegheny from being annexed. The permanent, lighted case has a prominent location at the grand entrance to the Great Hall.

On May 12, the Graffs held a special reception for the unveiling of this unique piece of Allegheny history. As Mary Ann Graff told the gathered, the Kirschler loving cup cabinet "keeps the City of Allegheny alive in the City of Pittsburgh."

For more information on Charles F. Kirschler, see *The Story of Old Allegheny City*, pages 133 and 134.

## The Other Alleghenies

Our fair Allegheny is not alone!

by Tom Wilson

The Native-American word, *Oolikhanna*, "The Beautiful Stream," has been translated variously as "Allegheny," "Alleghany," and "Alleghany." The name has been applied to many locales around the country besides our fair city. For example, there are six different Allegheny Townships throughout Western Pennsylvania.

Our Allegheny River starts in the highlands of northern Pennsylvania, and double-crosses the border with New York State (but the Alleghany County in New York must refer to the "beautiful stream" of their Genesee River, because New York's Alleghany County never touches the Allegheny River!). But Seneca Indians still dwell on the banks of the Allegheny in New York on the Alleghany Indian Reservation.

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Below the Mason-Dixon Line, Allegheny County in Maryland probably refers more to the Potomac River than our beautiful river. And since the word Allegheny also refers to the mountain chain which passes through several states, you will find an Allegheny County in Western Virginia as well as North Carolina.

There is even an “Allegan” County in Michigan. Scholars consider that this coinage by Indian ethnologist Henry Schoolcraft may be an attempt to merely “sound like” an Indian word.

And should you ever find yourself in the Sierra Nevada along Kanaka Creek Canyon, you’ll find the unincorporated town of Alleghany, California.

The California Gold Rush drew adventurers from all parts, but two natives of Allegheny City, Perry Bonham and Jim McCormick started the Alleghany Mining Company in 1853 with several others, and struck gold in their Alleghany Mine in 1855. Bonham and McCormick laid out the town of Alleghany in 1856. When the nearby town of Chips Flat went

boom and then bust once the gold dried up, their post office was moved to Alleghany.

Gold mining drew all the supporting industries to Alleghany: a bank, stores, express companies, a butcher shop, a hardware store, drug store, a bookstore, hotels, brothels and saloons. One saloon even boasted a bowling alley!

Gold continues to be mined in the area, but the town has shrunk considerably. They still boast a Post Office and one saloon, and Alleghany’s former livery stable is now home to the Underground Gold Miners Museum.

What of the town’s founders? Perry Bonham turns up as Senior Warden of Forest Lodge, Number 66 of the Free and Accepted Masons in 1882 in Alleghany. While it could be assumed that Mr. Bonham became wealthy from his mining exploits and devoted his remaining years to Masonic service, Gilbert Love wrote a story in the May 18, 1966 *Pittsburgh Press* citing a clipping describing the murder of Perry Bonham at the hands of “a sinister-looking man with a peg leg.”



All City Arts Showcase program

## Cassett Scholarship Awards

Two scholarships awarded to high school seniors  
by Amelia Gehron

The Allegheny City Society presented the annual Mary Cassett Scholarship Awards at the Pittsburgh Public High Schools All City Art Showcase held at the Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild on May 21, 2010.

The showcase was a shining reflection of the outstanding dedication of students and their craft. The Cassett Scholarship Awards were presented to Jehosha Wright and Jason Fullmer.

Mr. Wright is a senior at Oliver High School. His ceramic bust titled *The Boss* was inspired by the work of sculptor Robert Arneson (1930–1992), who Jehosha first encountered through his classwork. This piece was also awarded the Huffman Ceramics Award, First Place.

Jason Fullmer’s large-scale self portrait was a traditional project that CAPA High School seniors undertake. Jason took his portrait beyond the mechanical exercise, and created a work where he says he was “content with the final outcome....” The piece also received the Scholastic Art & Writing Gold Key Award.

This showcase of city talent is a great representation of hard work, dedication, and creative expression. What a wonderful way for Allegheny City Society to honor Mary Cassett.

# ACS Annual Meeting

Business, awards and anniversary observance

The Allegheny City Society held its annual meeting on Wednesday, April 28 at the newly reopened Penn Brewery. The occasion was also marked by the observance of the 170th anniversary of the Allegheny City Charter.

At the business meeting, the slate of incoming Board of Directors was accepted by the membership, the annual financial record was presented for review, the accomplishments from the past year were reviewed, and the projected lectures and trips for the coming year were previewed.

The William Rimmel Award was presented to Tom and Mary Beth Pastorius for their keen interest in the North Side and for bringing back the Penn Brewery to all of its former glory after its sale and eventual closure. We welcome them back and encourage all to visit for dinner or a friendly pint of beer!

Michael Coleman was awarded the President's Award for service to the Allegheny City Society. Mike has been involved with the ACS since the reconstitution of the organization back in 1992. Mike and Eleanor (Mike's wife) have been stewards of the membership list and mailing list and have kept meticulous bookkeeping in all these years. We thank him for his hard work and recognize him with this award at the annual meeting.

Dr. Michael Shaughnessy, German professor at Washington & Jefferson College, was the featured guest speaker. Mr. Shaughnessy addressed the group on the German community of Allegheny City. His recent book published by Arcadia Press covers the German community in all of Pittsburgh.

The restaurant staff prepared a lovely buffet dinner for the group from a variety of German favorites. Everyone had a great time. Plan now to attend the ACS annual meeting in April 2011.



Mike and Eleanor Coleman after Mike received the President's Award for service to the Allegheny City Society

## Architecture Tour a Success

Spring tour highlighted work in the North Side  
by David McMunn

The spring tour, *Architects In Allegheny*, was led by Board members of the Allegheny City Society on Saturday, April 17.

This tour was a rewarding and educational look at the vast array of architectural styles and periods that make the North Side such a wonderful place to study architecture. From the Widow's Home designed by John Chislett in the later 1830s to the very contemporary annex to the Children's Museum (former Buhl Planetarium and Institute of Science) designed by Koning Eizenberg in the mid-1990s, our day was full of interesting stories about the architects who plied their profession here, and the social and progressive community that supported the realization of their designs in stone, brick, steel and glass. This tour was popular and may be repeated in the future.

Watch for announcements in the *Northside Chronicle* and in the *Allegheny City Society Reporter Dispatch*. Special thanks to Donald Zeilman and John Canning for making this day so well-researched and enjoyable for all.

# Railroad Trip to Altoona

Outing rescheduled for October 16

The Society's Railroad trip to Altoona has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 16. We will depart from the Amtrak station at 7 AM and head to Altoona where we will visit the Railroader's Museum. After a box lunch at the museum we will head off to the Horseshoe Curve, which should be in its autumn glory. From the Curve we will head west to the Portage RR, National Site for a look at this section of the Pennsylvania Canal System.

Then it is off to Johnstown for dinner at Harrigan's. At 6 PM we board the train at Johnstown and arrive in Pittsburgh at 8. Parking in Pittsburgh is available at the new parking lot just across Liberty Avenue from the Amtrak station. Tariff for the Altoona trip is \$100. This includes train tickets, admission fees to all sites, and both lunch and dinner. Reservation deadline is October 1.

Reservations can be made by calling John Canning 412 322-3974 or by e-mail [johncanning@hotmail.com](mailto:johncanning@hotmail.com)



Railroad trip participants will visit the well-known Horseshoe Curve.

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