

The Allegheny City Society Reporter Dispatch

Summer 2002

24

Book On the Allegheny Fire Department By Mary Wohleber Available for Sale to Society Members.

"It was ten years in the writing," says Mary Wohleber, Troy Hill and North Side historian, referring to her book newly published *The History of the Allegheny City Fire Department*. The book traces the history of the Department from 1829 when the Borough Council purchased two engines and hose carriers that were manned by volunteers, through the organization of a paid Fire Bureau that ended with the annexation of Allegheny City by the City of Pittsburgh.. Using historic records and other sources, Mary listed every fireman who served the City of Allegheny. Also, the types of equipment that was used is documented. The major fires that plagued Allegheny City are recounted. The book has a number of hard-to-find photos of the Allegheny City Firehouses many of which have been razed.



However, to Mary, the book is more than a history. She wanted to publish what she calls "her legacy" to the North Side.

As part of the celebration of the publication, the Society along with the firefighters from Station No. 39 (Troy Hill) have planned a book-signing by Mary, scheduled for August 25, 2002 at the Troy Hill Fire House. The hours are 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Mary will speak about the book and her research at 1:30 p.m. Reservations are not necessary for the event, however, seating will be limited to the first 50 people who attend.

Only 300 copies have been printed. They will be numbered and signed by Mary. The cost per book is \$19.95 including tax. As a special offering, Allegheny City Society members will have the opportunity to purchase one copy of the book before they go sale to the general public. An order form on the last page of this newsletter. It must be received by the Society no later than August 19, 2002. Books can be mailed for an \$3.50 or can be picked up at the book signing on August 25th.

Board Member Dies

On Sunday June 23, 2002, Allegheny City Society Board Member C. A. Holmes Eubanks died. On June 26th his friends and relatives joined in a memorial services at Calvary United Methodist Church to remember Mr. Eubanks or as everyone called him "C.A." Allegheny City Vice President, Michael Coleman remembered C. A. with these words:

"Sunday evening, June 23rd, I lost a friend—and our neighborhood lost a gentleman. That is how I would describe C.A. Eubanks—a real, honest-to-God gentleman. But he was more.

He was a patriot who rejected the political flag waving of the far right; a non-church goer who often expressed his faith in a great and merciful God; a Christian who knew more Yiddish, much more, in fact, than I. He was a private person who delighted in leading tour groups though his neighborhood, his yard and his even his house; a Southerner who was as anti-racist as anyone I know. He was a fussy eater who loved to dine in good restaurants —"Green salad, no onions, no dressing, please." He would always say "Please" and "Thank you". He was taught well.

C.A. would address both female patrons of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and waitresses as "Ma'am". And waiters, male bartenders, and policemen were always, "Sir". He would always hold the door for others, even—no, especially—for his wife, Mary Ann. He would split the check, even when he had only one drink to the others' two.

He loved jokes, but rarely told one; enjoyed the Symphony, but couldn't play a note. He was an engineer who knew how to write an English sentence.

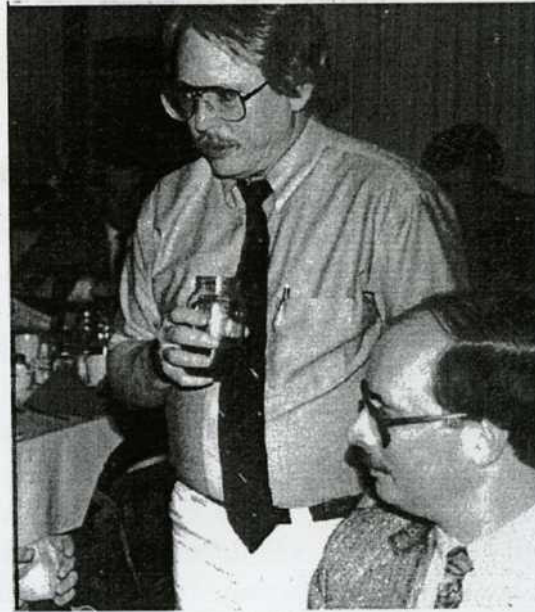
He felt a responsibility to share his time and energy. He was on the board of the Allegheny City Society, serving as Secretary, found time to coordinate the Saturday morning neighborhood tours, and oversaw the restoration of the Soldier's Monument. He was active, in a supporting role, with the Civic Council—co-chairing the Spirits of Allegheny West Halloween Tour, and leading as many Christmas Candlelight Tour Groups as could be scheduled for him.

C.A. was my neighbor and my friend who would lend me his truck or a drill bit. When he made a commitment, he always followed through. He was always on-time and never drove unsafely. He tolerated both Mary Ann's enthusiasm for anything that happened before 1920 and my bad puns. Smoked cigars but managed to encourage his wife to stay off cigarettes.

C.A. loved living in this city. He loved this neighborhood, and he loved his neighbors. And, we loved him.

C.A., we'll miss you."

It was the family's wish that memorial contributions in C.A.'s memory could be made to the Allegheny City Society. To date over \$1,000 has been received and placed in a special fund. If you would like to make a contribution in C. A. Eubank's name please mail to: The Allegheny City Society, P. O. Box 10255, Pittsburgh, PA. 15233



C. A. Eubanks was the speaker at a Society meeting at Max's Allegheny Tavern in 1998. His presence at board meetings and events will be missed by all who knew him

Soldier's Monument Repair Update by Ruth McCartan, Society Treasurer

June 2002 marked the start of the renovation of the Pittsburgh Civil War Soldiers Monument. Scaffolding encircled the 131 year old structure for almost a month, while the firm of Mariani and Richards cleaned and repointed.

Passers by watched as the workmen slowly revealed the beautiful pink and tan shades of the Massillon sandstone contained in the monument shaft. The most revealing discovery, obtained during the whole cleaning process was the sculpture of "Fame". The allegorical figure, which sits on the top of the shaft was never clearly visible. Observers can now determine what "Fame" held in her hands, what she was wearing or what she was standing on. The theme of the Paul Reniers work was lost because of the years of dirt, stone weathering and neglect.

Now "Fame" is back to her former glory and the poignant theme of the sculpture is unmasked. The Ladies Monumental Committee wanted to honor the 4, 000 men, from Allegheny

County who gave their lives for the preservation of the Union. The cleaned "Fame" beautifully reveals how Reniers captured in stone the desire of the committee.

The next phase, of the renovation project will be the most delicate. The removal of the original sandstone tablets currently in asphalt at the base of the cement retaining wall and their remounting on that wall. - Come to the park and take a look at the work!!

"Poor is the nation having no heroes...Shameful is the one that forgets"

Soldier's Fair a success

The Fourth Annual Pittsburgh Civil War Soldier's Fair was held on June 22 and 23 at West Park in front of the National Aviary. Despite competition from the Pittsburgh Air Show, Three Rivers Arts Festival, Rib Cook-off and Pittsburgh Pirates games, the Fair attracted a large number of visitors who got to watch cannon firing demonstrations, military drills, a temperance pageant, and several speakers.

Generals Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee were on hand to meet fairgoers and participate in skirmishes and review the troops.

One highlight of the fair was the placement of over 400 luminaries around Lake Elizabeth on Saturday night. Volunteers filled bags with sand and candles. Other volunteers lite the candles some of which burned until late Saturday night. For some pictures of Fair activities visit the Society's web page at <http://trfn.clpgh.org/acs/>



Hampton's Battery fires a volley during a skirmish between Union and Confederate troops



Mary Wohleber and new board of directors member David McMunn at the Soldier's Fair

We have enclosed a copy of the Camp Gazette that was given to all those who attended the Fair this year. We hope to see you at next years Soldier's Fair. Remember all money raised by the Fair goes to the

restoration of the Soldier's Monument in West Park.

Society Plans Fall Events

This fall the Society is planning two major events: In **September a Brighton Heights Tour**, a bus tour featuring the architecture of Frederick Osterling. Osterling is remembered for a number of important buildings he designed in downtown Pittsburgh and the North Side. The Times & Commonwealth Buildings on Fourth Avenue, the Arrott Building on Wood Street and the Bradbury Apartment Building (behind the Garden Theater and Masonic Hall on W. North Avenue were designed by Osterling.

When it came to family homes Osterling rejected the "planned community" approach where "houses in planned communities, if not exactly identical in appearance, at least bear a strong family resemblance. A number of homes along California Avenue were designed by Osterling. These will be the focus of the September tour.

In **October the Society will sponsor a tour of North Side Churches**. This combination walking-bus tour will feature the churches of the lower North Side. Many of the lower North Side churches were founded during the early days of Allegheny Borough and City. Members of each church will be on hand to discuss the history of the church and congregation.

The dates for both of the tours have not been confirmed, but members will be notified as soon as all the details can be worked out.

Volunteers Needed

The Allegheny City Society is looking of volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors and/or to help during our special events. The pay is low (none) but the work is rewarding and you will meet and work with others who share pride in the North Side's history. To volunteer call (412) 322-8807. There is no obligation, only the Society's gratitude.

Saturday Morning Walking Tours

The Society in cooperation with Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation and the Alcoa Foundation sponsors a walking tour of Beech Avenue in Allegheny West every Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. The tour leaves from the corner of Beech and Allegheny Avenues and features an up close look at the magnificent Louis B. Tiffany windows in Calvary United Methodist Church. The cost is \$3.00 per person. Plan on attending soon.

Manchester House and Garden Tour

The Manchester Historic Society, Inc. presents the Sixth Annual Manchester House and Garden Tour on Sunday August 11, 2002 from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12.00 at the door or \$10.00 in advance. The tour will also feature a Special Exhibit of Pittsburgh Glass of the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries, sponsored by the Historical Glass Club of Pittsburgh. For more information, tickets or directions, call (412) 321-7707 or visit the Society's web page at www.historicmanchestersocietypa.com

Lawrenceville Then & Now is a photographic exhibit to be held at Emma's Coffee Emporium, 4407 Butler Street features photos taken between the turn of the century to the 1940's coupled with "now" photos of the same structures. The exhibit opens on September 13, 2002 with a special program from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. featuring entertainment by Joan Dickerson, a young African-American musician and Homefront, a local folk duo (who entertained Society members at the Solider's Fair). Costumed volunteers and historic re-enactors will also participate.

Book Order Form

To Order a copy of Mary Wohleber's new book *The History of the Allegheny City Fire Department* please complete the section below and mail so that it reaches the Allegheny City Society **no later than August 19, 2002:**

Yes I wish to order a copy of The History of the Allegheny City Fire Department. Enclosed is my check for \$19.95.

(If you wish to have the book mailed to you add \$3.50 for postage and handling.)

Please Mail to:

Name _____

Address _____

Enclosed is my Check. I will pick my book up at the book signing on August 25, 2002 ()

Please make check out to The Allegheny City Society.

For any questions, please call (412) 322-8807

Mail to: The Allegheny City Society, P. O. Box 100255, Pittsburgh, PA 15233