

The Allegheny City Society

REPORTER DISPATCH

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The Journal of Old Allegheny History and Lore

Number 47

"Old Chester" A Tour Spanning 3 Centuries

By John Canning

Sunday, May 14th was the perfect day for the tour of one of the most historical communities in "Old Allegheny." Over 60 folks joined the Allegheny City Society's program telling the story of Manchester from its earliest years as a small village on the banks of the Ohio to present day developments.

With a base at the lovely HQ of the Manchester Citizen's Corporation, we headed out on a bus trip throughout all sections of this community. The bus driver skillfully steered the bus through the broad avenues and narrow alleys on one of the county's largest historic districts.

Two stops along the way were at the Sheffield Street home of Dennis Weber, built in the early 1870's, and at the Mascaro Construction Company's corporate offices on Metropolitan Street. We saw the wonderful mural of the international artist Douglas Cooper in the entrance to this office building and had the great opportunity to meet with Janet O'Conner and her mother, Ruth O'Conner, who was born in Manchester in 1919.

At the conclusion of the tour, several video taped oral history interviews, developed by students from the Manchester Academic Charter School, were shown on the "big screen." Many tour participants shared their own fond recollections of the Manchester community as it was in the 30's and 40's. This tour was part of ACS tours through the historic neighborhoods of Allegheny City.

ACS Participates in History in the Park Event

By Emilia Boehm

On May 15, ACS participated in "History in the Park", a gathering of nearly twenty regional historical organizations. Sponsored by Franklin Park Borough and held at the Blueberry Hill Park activity center, the event was free to the public and attracted a large

crowd of visitors. Other participating organizations included the Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Roundtable, Lawrenceville Historical Society, Mechling Bookbindery, and Sewickley Valley Historical Society. History in the Park provided ACS with the opportunity to introduce itself to new faces and connect with current and former members of the Society.

Be sure to look for the ACS table at upcoming community events and visit www.alleghenycity.org for more information about other events and programs on the ACS schedule.



ACS Board members Emilia Boehm and Tiffani Emig talk with visitors at History in the Park.

Rare Allegheny Automobile on View at the Frick

By Emilia Boehm

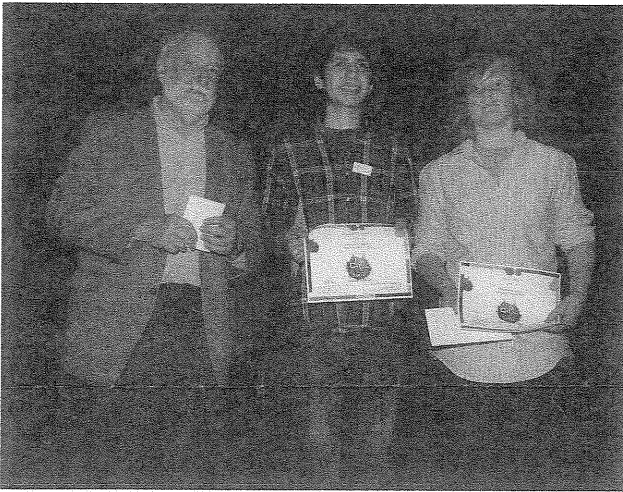
Early Alternatives, an exhibition now open at the Car and Carriage Museum of the Frick Art & Historical Center, features a car made in Allegheny City. The c.1904 Foster/Artzberger Steam Surrey was produced by William H. Artzberger (d. 1936) while he lived on Cedar Avenue. Before his brief entry into automotive production, Artzberger was a noted artist with an award-winning fresco and painting business, W. H. Artzberger & Co., which operated on Lacock and Cedar avenues. He later ran an art school from his home on Milroy Avenue in Perry South.

Artzberger's unique Allegheny auto is on view at the Frick until October 25. For more information about the exhibition please call (412) 371-0600 or visit www.thefrickpittsburgh.org.

ACS Awards two Young Artists

By John Canning

For the past few years the Allegheny City Society has presented \$50 Cassatt Awards to two art students whose works are displayed at the Pittsburgh Public School's All-City Art Exhibition. Every May a panel of artists and art teachers selects the works worthy of these Cassatt award.



On May 14th this years awardees were Alexander Monsour, a Senior at CAPA and David Love, a ninth grade student at the same school. Alexander's work was titled "Bag Head." It was one of several award winning works on display at the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild gallery. Alexander will go on to study art in Philadelphia, in the same school where Cassatt studied well over a century ago. David Love's print titled "Renew" was designed and crafted in a class taught by "Alleghenian" Shannon Pultz.

Observatory Hill's History Wall

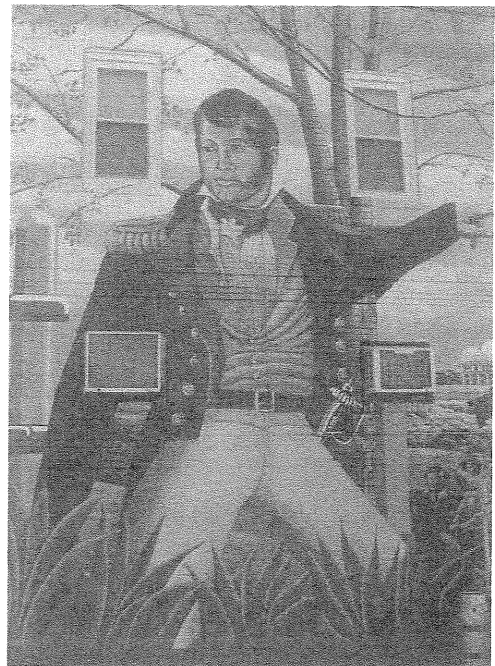
By Ruth McCartan

You can't miss it if you drive into the city via Perrysville Avenue. A mural on the wall takes up the complete north side of the market at the corner of Perrysville and Vinceton Avenues. History highlights of the neighborhood, both past and present, are shown on the wall. A larger-than-life Oliver Hazard Perry takes up the left side which is the beginning of the mural story. Looking closely, you will also see the

dome of the Riverview Park Observatory in the center, ending on the right with the various faces of the current residents.



But who did this work of art? The answer was found in the summer 2009 issue of the "North Allegheny Community Magazine." The artist in question is Dave Hawbaker, a teacher at North Allegheny Intermediate High School. Mr. Hawbaker spends his summer sabbaticals painting murals all over the city. The work is endowed by the Sprout Fund, a Pittsburgh non-profit group that pays artists to paint large-scale murals on buildings around Pittsburgh each summer. Thank you to the Sprout Fund and Mr. Hawbaker for this enhancement of our community.



Admiral Oliver Hazard Perry

In Remembrance...

On Saturday, August 2, 2009, former Allegheny City Society Board member Michael Eversmeyer passed away after a battle with cancer. After receiving his master's degree in architecture, he moved to Pittsburgh in 1985 to take the position of the city historic preservation planner. He worked for a time with Perkins Eastman Architects and later was the -chair of the Historic Review Commission of Pittsburgh. Michael made a very lasting impact on the preservation community in Pittsburgh. He sat on the boards of the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh, Preservation Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to the Eversmeyer family.

Save the Date

Saturday, November 14th -Train from Pittsburgh to and from Johnstown to visit historical sites relating to Allegheny City. Flyer will be sent in October.

The President's Letter

By Ruth McCartan

The quarterly newsletter is the best way for the Allegheny City Society board to keep our members informed, so it has been suggested that a letter addressed to the members be included in the newsletter. So here goes.

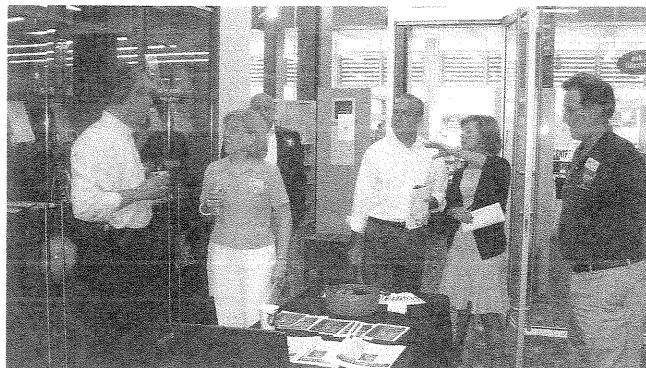
Board members elected at the April annual meeting are working and planning for the next year. We were given a firm foundation by our former executive committee members. Special thanks to Mike Coleman, the past president, who guided the board with hard work and vision, and Tiffany Emig, former treasurer, who got our bank accounts in better shape.

The next time you are in Allegheny, check out the Cassatt garden located at the corner of Allegheny and Ridge Avenues. It lost a few trees over the winter but is still an enhancement to a busy corner. Watch for a surprise in this garden soon.

The final production touches have been added to the "The Glorious Parks of Allegheny" DVD, first viewed at the annual meeting. The DVD contains views of the different Allegheny parks set to original music composed by Tom Roberts. The cost for this DVD is a mere \$5.00, plus \$2.00 shipping and handling. Tom Wilson has once again produced a superb product.

The Allegheny City Society received a grant from the State of Pennsylvania, with the help of Senator Jim

Ferlo, to document all the veterans' names on the monuments in Allegheny. We will begin collecting names this summer and adding them to a searchable database which will be accessible to the public on our website.



The big event for the lovers of Allegheny City was the opening of the new Carnegie Library on Federal Street on August 29. The written treasures of Allegheny have come back to us. Here in the "Allegheny City Room" can be found copies of the rare books documenting the stories that made Allegheny so memorable. The ACS board was out in force greeting members and old friends.

Watch for upcoming fall events. See you in Allegheny City.





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