

BOROUGH OF BLAWNOX

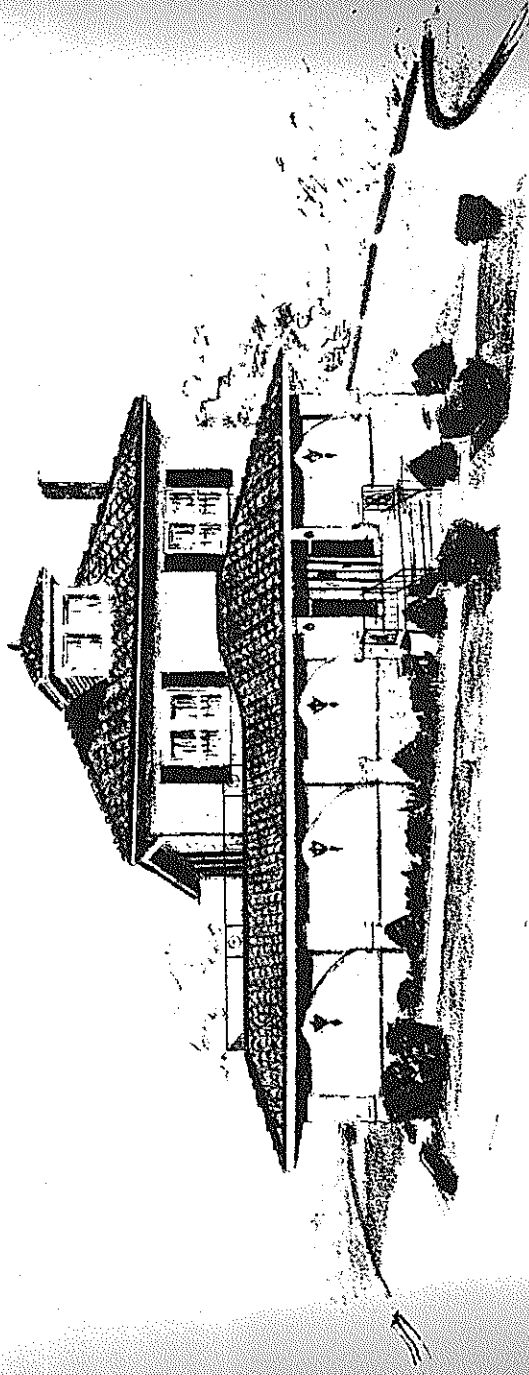


A STORY OF ITS PEOPLE

Attentive Service

THOMAS M. SMITH

Funeral Home



930 CENTER AVENUE

Blawnox, Pa. 15238

828-5700

THE HISTORY OF BLAWNOX

TO COMMEMORATE THE 50th GOLDEN JUBILEE

1925 — 1975



Presented By

Blawnox 50th Golden Jubilee Committee

Edited By

Elizabeth A. Roberts

New And Reproduction Photography By

Dale C. Roberts

Printed By

Jack Eddie Printing



Burgess Harry L. Evans 1925 - 1938

Born in Richardsville, Jefferson County, Pa. on May 7, 1875. Educated in the public schools of Jefferson County and Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio, he was a teacher for eight years in Jefferson Co. In 1917 he became employed with Blaw-Knox Co. at Wheatland, Pa. and moved to Blawnok, in 1918, attaining the position of Employment Manager with that Company.

In 1921, Harry L. Evans, helped organize the Blawnok Volunteer Fire Department. He was elected their first president, March 6, 1922.

In 1925, he and other citizens helped organize the area of O'Hara Township known as Hoboken and the Village of Blawnok into the Borough of Blawnok. He was elected the first Burgess of the new borough of Blawnok May, 1925. The population at the time was 2200 with a valuation of two million dollars.

Mr. Evans married Laura V. Vashbinder of Brookville, Pa. on June 25, 1897. Mrs. Evans died May 3, 1926. They had four daughters: Margaret who became Mrs. Nelson Zimmerman, Vera Ruth who is now Mrs. Charles W. Lodge, Edna Florence who is Mrs. Dr. J.P. McGee, and Alice Caroline who is Mrs. James Bowen. Two daughters still reside in Blawnok.

Burgess Evans was a member of the Hoboken Presbyterian Church, the Etna Elks, and the Odd Fellows Lodge, LOOF 1112, then in Hoboken. After 13 years as Burgess of Blawnok, he died August 7, 1939.

second Burgess of Blawnok January 3, 1938 and served three consecutive terms to that office until January 7, 1946.

From 1925 to 1935 he served on the Borough Council. He served a year on the School Board. He is a past president of the Fire Department, and of Aspinwall Kiwanis Club; member of the Masonic Order, President of the Board of Trustees of Hoboken Presbyterian Church for eight years and served as elder for two years.

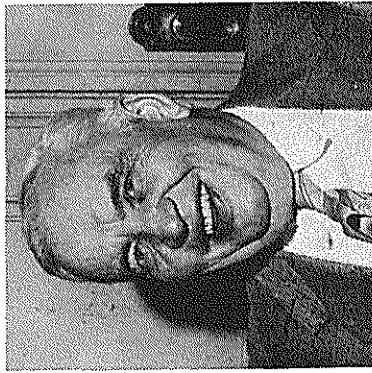
Mr. White graduated from Pittsburgh School of Speech in 1937, attended Dale Carnegie Human Relations instruction for two years, and spent three years in Toastmasters International.

During World War II he was a member of the Selective Service Board No. 11, Allegheny Co.

Burgess White and his wife, Alma Deemer White, moved to Vero Beach, Florida in 1959. He died July 7, 1974, at Indian River Hospital in Vero Beach. He is survived by his widow, two brothers John White of Vero Beach and George White of Aspinwall; two sisters: Mrs. Mary Clark of Brookville, Pa., and Mrs. Lena Plyler of New Bethlehem, Pa., and one granddaughter, Paula White.

He was preceded in death by his son William G. White, Jr. who died in 1965.

At his death he was a member of the First Methodist Church, and is buried at Crestlawn Cemetery, Vero Beach, Florida. He was 84 years of age.



Burgess William G. White 1938 - 1946

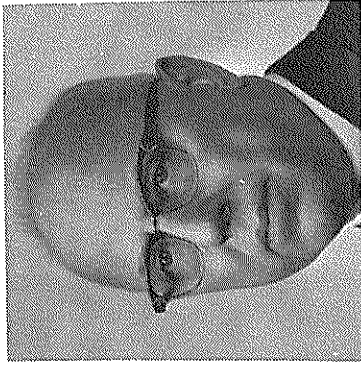
Born in Reynoldsville, Pa. on January 19, 1890, he came to Blawnok in approximately 1910, working for Blaw-Knox Co. until his retirement in 1955 with approximately 42 years service. He attained the position of Machinist Foreman. Burgess White was elected the

A life long resident of Blawnok, Carl Ferraro was elected Burgess of Blawnok January 7, 1946, with a salary of \$300.00 per annum. During Carl Ferraro's term the title of "Burgess" on the local Municipality level was changed to Mayor. He served 25 years as Burgess and Mayor of Blawnok, resigning from that office in November, 1972.

With his wife Mary and two daughters Mary Alice and Carol, he resided on Center Avenue. He was employed as a crane operator and rose to Personnel Manager, which held until his retirement in October of 1966, from Blaw-Knox Equipment Division of Blaw-Knox Co.

Because of his fondness of Florida, Mr. and Mrs. Ferraro, their daughters Mrs. John Walmsley and Mrs. Robert Ebel, and their families moved to Florida where they have invested in a motel.

Some of the projects of Mr. Ferraro's terms in office



Burgess/Mayor Carl Ferraro 1946 - 1972

Mayor Smith was born September 3, 1941, in Pittsburgh. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Smith, and has one sister Miss Jean Ann Smith. Mayor Smith attended school at Columbus Grade School, and Oliver High School graduating in 1959. He attended Grove City College 1960 and 1961; then went on to the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science in 1962. He served apprenticeship with his father in 1963; received his license as Funeral Director in 1964. He served 6 years in the Army National Guard with 107th Field Artillery from 1964 to 1970. He married Janet Schram in July of 1965, and they have two children Stacy age 8, and Thomas (T.M.) age 4.

The Mauro home on Center Avenue was purchased and converted into the Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home in 1965. It was opened for business in June, 1966. He was elected to his first term on Borough Council in November, 1967; and his second term in November, 1971, which was interrupted by the appointment to Mayor. Mayor Smith is a member of: Allegheny County Funeral Directors Association, National Funeral Directors Association, St. Edwards R.C. Church, Fox Chapel Area Kiwanis Club, Blawnok Area Business Association, Board of Advisors of the Allegheny Valley Bank, Allegheny County Mayors Association, Oakmont Elks Lodge 1668, American Legion O'Hara Post #555, Blawnok Sportsman's Club, and Blawnok Athletic Club.

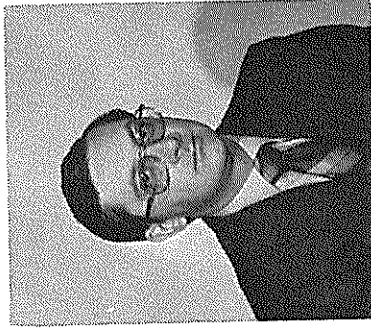
Thomas M. Smith finished Carl Ferraro's last term in office being sworn in as the appointed Mayor in November, 1972. He was elected to that office in November, 1973, and sworn in as Mayor of Blawnok in January, 1974.

Mayor Thomas M. Smith 1972 -

50th GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMITTEE



Vinnie Malec



Chuck Ward



Sally Whalen



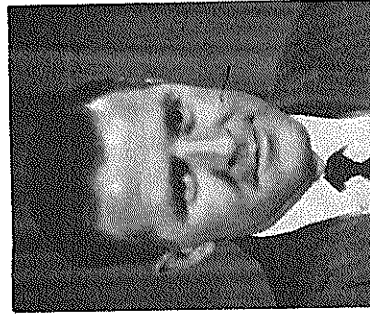
Elizabeth A. Roberts



Mildred Thompson



Phyllis Trail



Dale Roberts

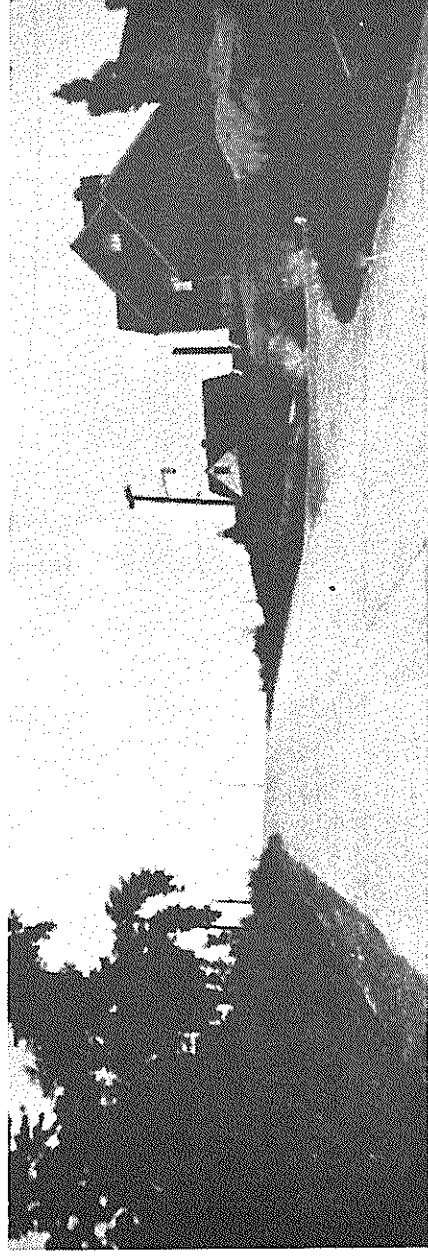
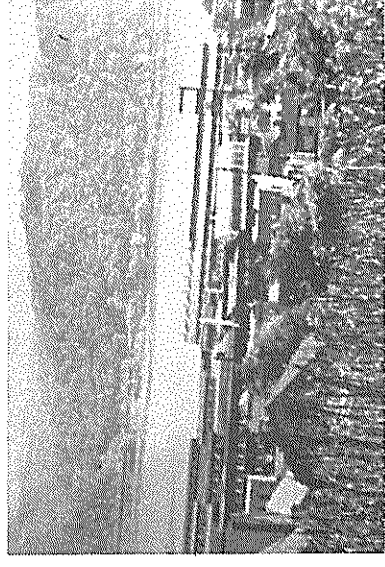
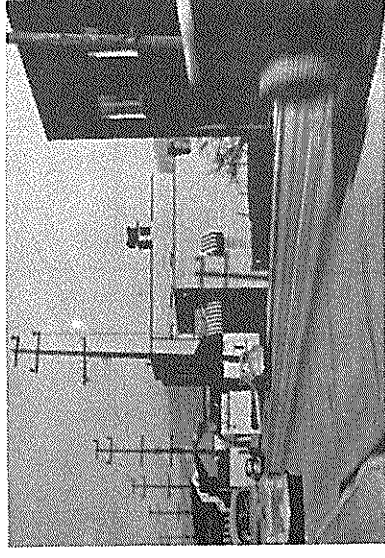
Auxiliary Committee:

Jean Hohman, Chairman
Miss Blawnox Pageant

Fred Thompson, Co-Chairman
Parade Committee

Charles T. Lodge,
Co-Chairman
Parade Committee

Joyce Ryan, Typist



INTRODUCTION

The Margaret Bryne Lang History, A STUDY OF A SMALL TOWN - BLAWNOK, was written and made available in very limited ditto and typed copies in approximately 1947. There was a treasured copy at the Blawnox Public School for study by the students. This single copy, kept in the Principal's Office, was handled with care. Therefore not all the students had the opportunity to read it. A few copies are among the residents.

Mrs. Margaret Bryne Lang, a resident of Blawnox, now deceased, has indeed written the history of our town with warmth. The pictures Mrs. Lang used were not part of the copy used for this History. Therefore the 50th GOLDEN JUBILEE Committee has chosen others from the many submitted by the residents. So that it may not be lost to all, we present the Margaret Bryne Lang History for 1975 and posterity.

This MEMORY BOOK was written and created from history, nostalgia, past and present Memories with Joyous laborious work.

STUDY OF A SMALL TOWN - BLAWNOX

Many persons in Our Town have contributed material necessary to complete this study. I wish to thank those who allowed me to examine personal, family, and church records. I also wish to thank those Trustees of the various churches, who submitted material gathered with some inconvenience to themselves.

The material has been typed and edited by Mrs. Jane Hankey. The pictures attached were loaned for reprinting by Mrs. John Condon and Mrs. Thomas Clawson and the Allegheny Valley News.

Many thanks.

Mrs. Margaret Byrne Lang

Our town is a small town, a very small town. It is just 5/8ths of a mile from the river bank to the borough line, three hundred feet north of the schoolhouse property, and just one mile along the river bank from the west line adjoining the Allegheny County Workhouse property to the eastern limits, where it meets the line which the Pennsylvania Railroad calls Glenover, but which we call, more familiarly Montrose.

Small as it is our town has a very exact place in the world. Our government, through one of its commissions, the United States Geological Survey has made it possible for us to know just where we live. The information recorded describes Blawnox as located at 40 degrees and 29 minutes north latitude and 79 degrees and 52 minutes west longitude.

Other maps called contour maps in the office of the Geological Survey, tell us that we live in the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains, that flat sweep of land from the river bank to the railroad is 745.45 feet above sea level, that the highest point in town, the schoolhouse property is 920 feet above sea level, and that the ascent though steep is gradual. The Geological Survey maps tell us too, that we live on the north bank of the Allegheny River nine miles from the point where the Allegheny and the Monongahela meet to form the Ohio River and that the two islands out in the river channel are called the Twin Islands or the Nine Mile Islands.

Now that we know just where we live let us take a look at our town from the school hill. The greater part of the town spreads out narrowly before us. The long turreted walls of the Allegheny County Prison and the fences of its farmland form the western boundary. As far as one can see houses are closely built on small plots of terraced land, the roofs of the houses on each tier rising sharply above the roofs of the houses on the tier below. There are tall three storied houses with dormer windows set close to angled eaves, the low flat roofs of business houses, the roofs of steepled churches, the slightly pitched roofs of one storied houses. From this point one may see, too, the upper decks of steamboats on the river and the tops of freight cars as the trains rush through the town; then toward the east there are high black painted buildings of the steel mill with the ventilating windows on the roof outlined in white. No one can see the eastern line of the town for our town is built within a wide armed curve of the river and just

beyond the place where the river turns and sweeps northward and out of sight, there is the village of Montrose.

Of the long, long past from which our town has so presently emerged, very little is known. Wise men have studies of the rocks and rivers and mountains and have reached certain conclusions, but even these are not always in agreement; then there was a known beginning gathered from the examination of the ruins of old villages and partly from the traditions of Indian tribes.

In the known beginning, this place upon which our town has been built was a part of a great forest. Great wide trunked elm trees grew, lived, died, began to rot, fell and returned to earth to form part of the deep soft mold that makes the floor of every forest. There were tall oak trees, and clumps of maples deeply red in autumn. Some trees, from time to time, were struck by lightning, burned, caused forest fires; then other trees grew in the barren places came to full height and strength and the forest was covered again. Some trees were uprooted by storms, crashed and died, and new trees grew again. There were walnut trees, hickory nut, and chestnut trees. There was little underbrush for the forest was too dark. There was too little sunlight on the forest floor.

Many animals lived here in the forest. There were deer, panthers, red foxes, wolves, raccoons, and possums. Melting snow ran down over the hills and cut gullies and ravines. Here the beavers built their dams. There were wild turkeys in abundance, pheasants, owls, orioles, and quail which we call bob-whites. Past the forest ran the river and in it were many fish of a kind we no longer see. Such was the forest and in it were born, lived and died, men, women and children.

Again, no one knows exactly what the first men who lived here were like, but the first men about whom anything is known were the Alleghewi Indians. They were mound builders or related to mound builders.

The ruins of these mounds have been found along the Allegheny River. Three mounds located at Harmarville were the closest to Blawnox. That these Alleghewi Indians were superior to those that followed is certain for the Alleghewi mounds were geometrically proportioned, a skill no later Indian tribes possessed. Sometimes these mounds in which the heroic dead were buried together with pottery and the insignia of their rank, were built in the form of a coiled snake, sometimes in

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

contribution of the aerial view and street map of Blawnox. Mary Bert Kincaid for advice and permitting the use of her private papers.

Gene Burke for his help. Additional contributions including pictures and historical documents.

Commissioners Information Specialists for advice concerning the Margaret Byrne Lang History, and extending helpful advice.

Legal Aid Society of Pittsburgh for legal advice pertaining to the publication of Mrs. Lang's History. Eastern Map Company of Blawnox for voluntary

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Barbara Benec | Lugarda McMunn |
| Elizabeth Benson | Pat Murray |
| Blaw-Knox Equipment Division | Mary Jane Roach |
| Blawnox Public School | Bess Roberts |
| Emma Chadonic | Dale Roberts |
| Mrs. Edward Connors | Jack Scharf |
| Racheal Cook | Mr. and Mrs. John Skanderson, Sr. |
| Mildred Crates | Cindy Skelly |
| Sally Cricks | Dave Smith |
| Mr. and Mrs. Matt Crnkovich | Bill Sproul |
| Glenn Degitz | Mary D. Sutton |
| Ann Dudek | Mrs. Charles Terrel |
| Eleanor McIntyre Fenton | Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Thompson |
| Alice Fleming | Mildred Petterson Thompson |
| Mrs. Gray Hamilton | Phyllis Welsh Trail |
| A. Isabella | Mrs. Elizabeth Van Horn |
| Mary Bert Kincaid | Mrs. Helen Ward |
| Mrs. James T. King | Tom Watson |
| Mike Leo | Mr. & Mrs. Frank Welsh |
| Local 1243 | Sarah B. Whalen |
| Charles Lodge | Mrs. Jean Whartenby |
| Joe Lombardi | Mr. & Mrs. George White |
| Malec Family | Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Wilson |
| Mrs. Edna McGee | |

the form of a turtle. The Alleghewis were less migratory than the Indians that came later. They built villages, made pottery and ornamented the deer hide robes of their chieftans with dyed geometrical figures.

No one knows when they left here, but there are Indian traditions of great battles fought by successive waves of Indian tribes. Great accumulations of arrowheads were formerly found in the fields at Hamarville, and at Squaw Run. These arrowheads were made of flints found in widely scattered parts of the United States and bear out the tradition that many different Indian tribes invaded the valley.

When the first white man crossed the Allegheny Mountains, the Iroquois Indians, called the Five Nations and later the Six Nations, were in control of the Allegheny and Ohio Valleys.

These Indians hunted through the forest upon which our town has been built. They built small villages near the river and creeks for the only way they could move about was on the rivers using small birch bark canoes or little round boats which looked like a tub and which were made of dried and stretched animal skins.

The forest and the river supplied them with all their needs for living. Their clothing and wigwams were made principally of deer hide sewn together with bone needles with thread made of animal sinews. Their shoes called moccasins were made of deerskin. In winter the moccasins were lined with fur of beaver or bear. In winter, too, they wore shawls or jackets fashioned from bearskin. There were no horses, no cows, no sheep, no chickens, no oxen, nor plows. Many infants died before they were a year old. If a young man survived the accidents of hunting, drowning, or disease until he were twenty, he was lucky. The older wise men of the tribes, the chieftans, were not often older than forty years.

After the Iroquois gained control there was comparative peace among the Indians for two hundred years. Then in 1754, a new era for the Indians that lived here began. Like all new aras this one had its beginning in happenings of earlier years. As early as 1675, French voyageurs had learned from LaSalle of the great hunting lands at the headwaters of the Ohio. They came to hunt and trap the deer, fox, the beaver, and raccoon, but only for their skins.

Not long afterward White settlers from the English colonies east of the mountains set out to explore the great lands beyond the mountains. They, too, began to hunt and trap and to set up fur trading posts. Soon the French and the English began to watch each other.

The French exchanged articles of trades for the right to hunt, and later to win their friendship against the English. The Indians needed such things as brass kettles, red ribbons, wampum. They had also learned the comfort of wool blankets, and wanted muskets and powder horns and bullet molds. Already they had learned to mold bullets of lead. The young braves also wanted rum.

The English sent Conrad Weiser, their official interpreter, and a man of great integrity, with presents and messages asking their friendship. It was then no to the Indians who lived here when on the morning of

April 16, 1754, they sighted a great batteau carrying the banner of France, rounding the curve of the river just east of our town. The French from Canada had, under the command of Pierre Claud Contrecoeur, come to claim the Allegheny Valley and the Ohio Valley for the King of France by the right of LaSalle's explorations. The river was high and swift in the channel and swollen from bank to bank with the flood of spring rains and the melting of ice and snow in the mountains. The leading batteaux was seventy feet long; following and grouped about it in a long parade were other batteaux and 300 canoes. They carried French soldiers in the blue and yellow uniforms of France, Canadian voyageurs in deerskin jackets and breeches and high leather boots and fur caps. There were Indians of the Abenaki's and the Iroquois, decked out in war paint and carrying, besides their arrows and great war bows, muskets and powder horns and ammunition.

Their numbers have been variously estimated as between 600 and 1000 men. They carried 18 pieces of cannon, food, clothing and supplies of ammunition. That afternoon, a few hours after they had passed the place of our town, and had disappeared around the western curve of the river, they captured Fort Pitt and this land on which we live became for the next four and a half years a part of New France. The new era from 1754 until 1794 was one of continuous struggle and warfare. The English again challenged the French and rewon possession. After that the Indians, knowing they would be dispossessed, grew more bitter and at length burst forth in the great simultaneous attack led by Pontiac and ably assisted by Kiachuta, the Seneca whom we later called Guyasuta, who was chief of all the tribes in this district. The attack against all the English Forts was led January 21, 1763. Pontiac was defeated, of course, but his followers were not subdued: They continued to prowl about their ancient hunting grounds and to attack settlers further up the valley. At length after the war of the Revolution was fought and won, the Commissioners of Pennsylvania arranged a conference and the sixth and last treaty with the Iroquois Indians was signed at Fort Stanwix, October 1784.

The Six Nations agreed to sell all their lands within the state of Pennsylvania to the state.

The treaty was reluctantly ratified and signed by the Indians at Fort Macintosh, now called Beaver, January 1785. The Indians for the most part withdrew from the Allegheny and the Ohio Valleys, but some remained until Mad Anthony Wayne defeated them utterly at the battle of Fallen Timbers, August 20, 1794.

At last all the land of which Blawnox is a part, on the north bank of the Allegheny River was cleared of Indians and opened for settlement. Forty years of war had been ended and there was again peace. During this time the game had been trapped and hunted out. The panther was extinct; the bears retreated further and further into the forest; only occasionally were deer seen making the crossings from high hill to high hill. Those that remained withdrew to the higher mountains. There were no more wild turkeys.

A different kind of men then began to paddle up the

river in small, flat boats and canoes for even then there was no other transportation. Eventually, they came to the site of our town. They were called Cunningham's men. They were neither hunters, nor trappers, nor soldiers, nor statemen, but engineers - heralds of progress, and order and civilization. They wore flat hats with brims or sometimes closely knitted round wool caps. Their jackets, breeches and shirts were of woven wool. Their boots were high topped and made of cowhide leather.

They were sent here by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to survey the land. That they camped here while they made the survey is certain, but there is no definite record of the place. With their instruments and measures they ran a line from the river at the foot of Blaw Avenue up over the hill and far beyond the limits of our town. Then they took axes and blazed the trees waist high on a straight line. The land west of Blaw Avenue to Squaw Run they named Clermont, and marked with that name on a map. From Blaw Avenue to Cable Avenue and Jackson Street, the tract was called Rich - point.

The land from Cable Avenue to the eastern line of our town and beyond the Montrose line was included in the place called Fairview. These lands were called depreciation lands and were given to those soldiers of the Pennsylvania Line in part payment for their services according to their rank in the Revolutionary War. The tract called Clermont was claimed by Edward Burd of Philadelphia. The tract called Richpoint was given to John Fisher. The place called Fairview was claimed by William Jessop. These were the first legal property owners within the limits of our town. Burd and Fisher never lived here. It is doubtful if they ever saw the land, but merely held it until such time as its value increased and it could be sold. There is no record that Jessop ever lived here, at least within the town. A map of this survey is in the Allegheny County Courthouse, framed and under glass.

During the next twenty-five years there is no record that anyone built a house or lived here although there are stories of timbemen and raftsmen who built log huts and lived here temporarily.

During these twenty-five years the Allegheny River grew in importance. Permits were given to timbemen to clear the forests and sell the timber. Great log rafts were floated down the river. Five rafts lashed together were called a fleet. During the floods of Spring and early Autumn thousands of feet of timber were floated down the river. The oars were made of young saplings mounted on high oarlocks. Two men steered at each oar. All the steersmen in a fleet operated in unison timing the pull on the oars with a chant. When they reached the Twin Islands the larger fleets were unlashed and each raft was floated separately down the narrow channel. When the rafts were tied up either on the island, or on either shore, there was a great deal of singing and rough clog dancing among the raftmen. There was also a great deal of whiskey and rum drinking and fighting and some murdering. It has been said that any man who could play a fiddle or a jewsharp or who could sing could get

a job on a raft even though he were not so skilled.

Other boats called flatboats floated down the river carrying salt and farm products from the upstream towns. Salt was very scarce and expensive. A bushel of salt was worth a cow in exchange.

Although traffic on the Allegheny increased tremendously during these twenty-five years, it was navigable at best for only five months of the year. During the dry summer months its level was eighteen feet lower then it is today and its channel was skrunken to half the then normal width. When the spring floods came on it became a raging torrent which the Indians called "river white with foam". It tore out chunks of land and even the most experienced found it difficult to locate the channel. Pittsburgh even then was called Gateway to the West. Emigrants were pouring into Western Pennsylvania eager to take fertile lands west of the Ohio and north of the Allegheny, but the Allegheny Mountains formed the great barrier between the Eastern Seaboard and the West. The journey from the east to Pittsburgh was made by horse pack, by stagecoach, or Conestoga wagon. Stagecoach and wagon trips were accomplished in twenty days. The great agitation throughout Pennsylvania, and for that matter all through the United States, was for improved transportation. Finally in 1824 the Pennsylvania Legislature recommended, after a great deal of study, that a canal be built. It would take too long to relate all the features of this great project, but it was and still is one of the great American engineering triumphs. The route of the canal from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh led through our town and with its building came the first settlers here.

One link of the canal, the one that passed through our town was completed in 1826. Its route was on the present right of way of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Through our town it was thirty feet wide and eight feet deep. Anyone who could build a flatboat and who owned a pair of mules or two horses could start business on the canal merely by paying toll charges.

The boats were pulled through the water by a horse or mule. Theirs was a slow, steady walk for the driver walked behind them on a path called the towpath at the side of the canal. The driver, called a towman, drove the mule for seven miles; then he would lead the mule onto the boat to rest while the other mule pulled the boat for the next seven miles. More ambitious boat owners drove two mules single file and changed them at mule stations which were also taverns. The drivers or towmen as they were called wore, except in summer, sheepskin coats and boots. The coat was wide belted and in it the driver carried his long towwhip. He also carried a horn in his belt and sounded the horn when he approached the locks or the homes of his regular customers and shippers. It was also said that a good towman carried a certain amount of fleas on his person. Whether this be true or not their's was no easy life. They took their turn behind the mules in snow and sleet and rain, in hot weather and in cool weather during the night and the day, and regularly walked the 379 miles from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh; then they walked back.

The first speed law enacted in Pennsylvania related to the canal. Boat owners who travelled at more than four miles an hour were fined. Such an unheard of speed tore the turf from the sides of the canal.

In 1834 when the canal was finally completed, 12,529 boats were locked through the canal. They carried 3,000,000 pounds of merchandise and 2,000,000 pounds of provisions. Pittsburgh then really boomed. The travelling time from the Eastern seaboard was shortened from twenty days to three and one-half days by passenger packets.

The passenger packets were painted dark green with the window frames painted white. Red curtains hung at the windows. There was a promenade roof deck as long as the boat - - seventy feet. The deck was fitted with comfortable chairs from which passengers viewed what the prospectus called "the grandeur of the incomparable scenery". It was very fashionable for newly married people to take their honeymoon trip on the canal. Business men along the valley boarded the packets at night and made the trip to Pittsburgh. The fare from Tarentum was twenty-five cents and included a berth and breakfast "cooked by the Leech Lines most accomplished Irish cooks".

Some very distinguished travellers rode through our town on the canal; Jenny Lind, for whom a packet was named, came through to give a most notable concert in Pittsburgh.

Charles Dickens rode through, but gives a very uncomplimentary account of his experience. Prince Louis Philippe afterward King of France saw our town, though doubtless the few people who lived here knew nothing of these travellers for there were no newspapers to tell of their coming. Not all persons who travelled down the valley rode the packets. That was first class passage. Humbler folk rode the freight boats. One of the earlier women who lived in our town said, "My mother, my father, my two brothers and myself came through on the canal on an ore boat. We bought straw and covered the ore that we could sleep on it. For payment my father

took turns driving the mules on the towpath."

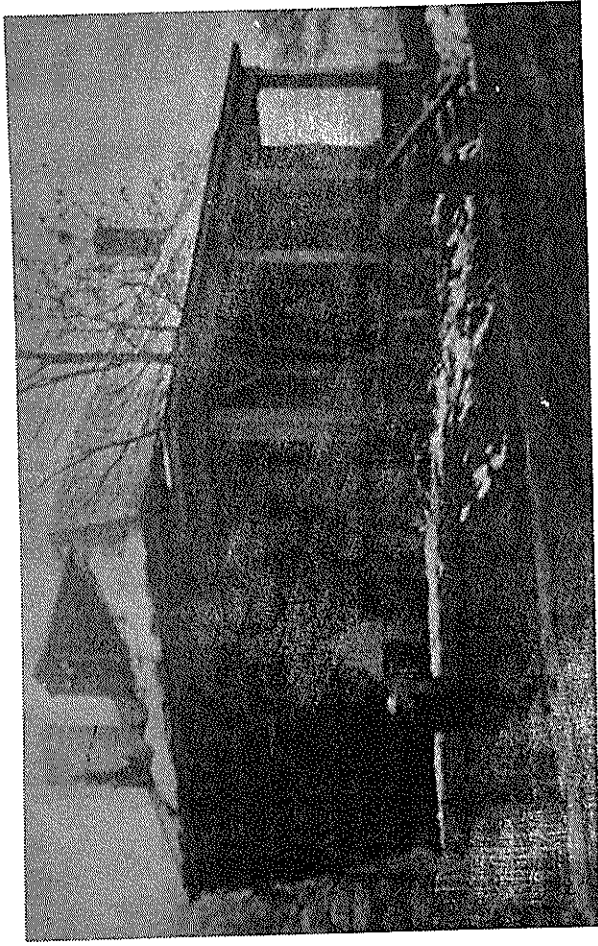
When the building of the canal was assured property along the route increased in value. In 1809 the first actual sale of land was made here. The Edward Burd tract - - Clermont - - was bought by Francis Beattie and the first house was built a few years later, about 1820, at what is now corner of Center Avenue and the railroad. A kind of clay suitable for brick making was found on that part of the plot now used by the Blaw-Knox employees for parking. The bricks for this house were baked from this clay in low, hand-made ovens. The house was built to face the canal with a long second story porch the entire width of the house. Underneath the porch was an entrance port paved with brick and onto which the kitchen and dining room doors opened.

On this brick court farm produce was stacked to await shipment on the canal. There was a wide brick walk slanted toward the canal dock down which the barrels were rolled for loading. In the long summer evenings the upper porch was the family gathering place to watch the passing of the boats and the townmen, and to listen for the sounding of the boatmen's horns as they approached.

Money at that time was scarce and seldom used. Produce was exchanged for needed goods. The boat owners took orders for merchandise either in Philadelphia or Pittsburgh and delivered the stuff on the return trip. The second house in the town was a log house located on the Richpoint tract. The tract was bought from John Fisher by John Cable in 1831. The place was torn down when the Blaw-Knox Company's office building was located nearby.

During the forty years following the building of the first house and the completion of the canal, the town grew slowly. In 1860 only four houses had been located here. Then with the beginning of the Civil War in 1861 all thought of local expansion was impeded.

The lives of the new settlers was solitary and rugged. The nearest neighbors were the farmers on the James Ross estate at Squaw Run and further up the



The "Canal House", corner of Center and Railroad Crossing. (Courtesy of Thelma King)

valley, the Boyd family who had acquired the Jessop tract called Fairview.

There were no schools. Until 1833 the nearest school was in old Allegheny City; then in that year a school was built in Sharpsburg, and a subscription school was begun on the farm of Jacob Strohman at Dorseyville.

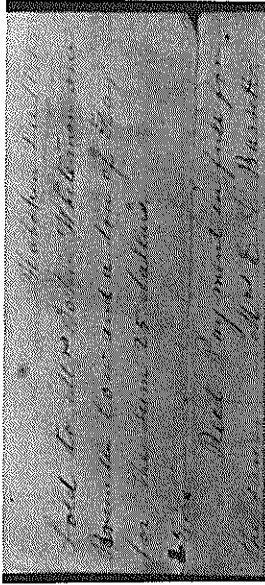
There were no churches. Circuit riding preachers and ministers of various denominations, who travelled through the town on the canal, stopped occasionally at the farmhouses and held prayer meetings. The nearest church was Covenantant church built of logs at Harmerville about 1820. In 1833 the Centenary Methodist Church was built in Sharpsburg.

There were no doctors. The nearest doctors lived in Allegheny City or in Pittsburgh. To consult a doctor one had to be well enough to make the trip on a canal boat and that involved a day's journey. Only in the greatest extremity and then only at the request of the more monied and more important people would a doctor consent to make the trip either on horseback or on the canal to visit a patient.

In 1840 a doctor located in Sharpsburg and in the next year a doctor came to live in Oakmont. Children were born with only the occasional good offices of the nearest neighbors. There were no medicines as we know them to ease pain. Diphtheria and membranous croup were the great family scourges. In almost every pioneer family one or two children died of these diseases. Those pioneers who died were buried on their own land. Houses were lighted by tallow candles which the housewife fashioned herself in a wooden mold using melted sheep tallow. Cooking was done in great fireplaces. A long iron swinging bar was fashioned at one side of the chimney. Thick iron pots and heavy brass kettles containing the food to be cooked were hung on this bar and then swung over the hot coals. Such simple things needles were scarce and carefully prized. All clothing was made by hand. Farm produce was exchanged on the canal boats for calico, woolen cloth, and linsey woolsey, a cloth made of linen flax and homespun wool.

Springs in the hillsides of our town have always been abundant. Small stone catch basins were built into the hills close to houses and the water conducted into the house through a small wooden trough. Every farmhouse had a rubble stone ice house. Ice was cut on the river and packed into the ice houses between heavy layers of sawdust and straw. Packed so, the ice lasted until next season. At first the settlers could use only small portion of the land for planting. The work of clearing the land of stumps was a great labor. At first oxen used for heavy pulling and hauling. Later horses

Bill of sale for a Cow - Dated:
"Hoboken Dec." 1878
(Courtesy of Jean Whartenby)



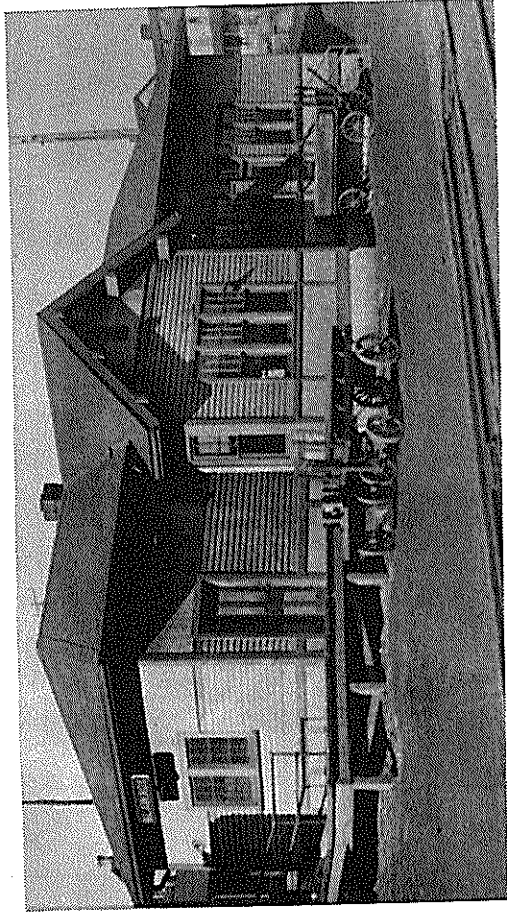
and cows and chickens were brought in on canal barges from Eastern farms around Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Household furniture for the most part was made by hand of cherry wood, oak and walnut. The trees were cut down, hauled by oxen to the Ross or O'Hara sawmill and cut into slabs. The sawmill gauges were not always true and slabs varied in thickness from a quarter of an inch to three quarters, but all thicknesses were used in the same piece of furniture and for flooring.

In the meantime, while Pennsylvania was projecting and building its system of canals, new methods of transportation were being tried out. Hordes of people were flooding across the mountains and taking up land throughout the country. More and faster transportation was needed. Fulton built his first successful steamboat, the Clermont, in 1807, and made the run from New York to Albany and back in sixty-two hours. A steamboat was launched in the Ohio River at Pittsburgh in 1811 and not long after that, 1827, the first steamboat, the Albion made the trip from Pittsburgh to Kittanning on the Allegheny River and passed our town.

The gradual decline of the old order and the faint beginnings of the new occurred in 1833 with the building of the steam rail-road in the United States. The Charles-town and Hamburg Railroad, 136 miles long, was completed in that year. The Pennsylvania Railroad entered Pittsburgh from Philadelphia November 29, 1852. The three and one-half days necessary to complete the journey from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh by the way of the canal was shortened to twenty hours by way of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The canal became less and less useful until finally it was used for only local travelling and shipping. The immediate result of railroad building was a more plentiful and more varied and cheaper supply of goods in this district. Fine new steel cutlery from Sheffield, England was brought in; silverware from the East. Money in Pittsburgh became more plentiful. A number of men were growing rich. They bought tapes-tries from Belgium; fine cloth from France and some art objects; pianos from Germany. Carpets and finely polished furniture were to be had. There was a change in the style of clothing; French modes in hats and dresses and shoes.

The Pennsylvania Railroad bought the canal right of way from the state in 1857 for \$7,500,000. A railroad was talked about but not until the Civil War was fought and won did the new company fill in the Big Ditch and lay rails. The first passenger train came through our town, on a single track system on October 12, 1866. One of the most colorful features of our Valley had passed out of existence. No more was the townman's horn heard on the towpath. No more did the fashionable ladies and



The station called "Hoboken" was torn down to build this one. The first station was a four sided building with one side open, well floored, and roofed, and with benches around all three sides. (Courtesy of Jean Whartenby, and Nostalgia, Courtesy of Mary Bert Kincaid)

important gentlemen ride through the town on the packets. Another event that was important to the Allegheny Valley and to our town as well, in fact important to the whole world, was the drilling of the first successful oil well by Colonel Drake at Titusville in 1859. There was a mad rush of oil drillers, men with money to invest, workers, mechanics, merchants and adventures up the Allegheny River to Oil Creek. The river then became literally alive with freight. The Oil City Derrick carried the item March 26, 1863, that there arrived at the place 13 steam towboats, three passenger steamers, and 400 flat barges engaged in freighting oil to Pittsburgh. All this in one week. Much of the oil was lost both by a too intensive drilling and by the capsizing of overloaded barges. Oil flowed down Oil Creek and into the Allegheny River; then the river that had always been so blue, so clean and clear was covered with a yellow scum of crude oil, and it was called the "river of gold" and sometimes the Amber River.

From 1859 after Colonel Drake brought in the first oil well, Pittsburgh was the natural and leading oil refining center. In 1869, however, statistics prove that the Cleveland Refineries under the leadership of Standard Oil and John D. Rockefeller, in combination with the more important railroad systems, had surpassed Pittsburgh in the production of refined oil. In that year then was begun the great oil war between the Standard Oil and the independent producer of Pittsburgh and the Oil Creek region.

Small as our town in and removed by 110 miles from the oil producing region, the oil war brought the first industry to our town.

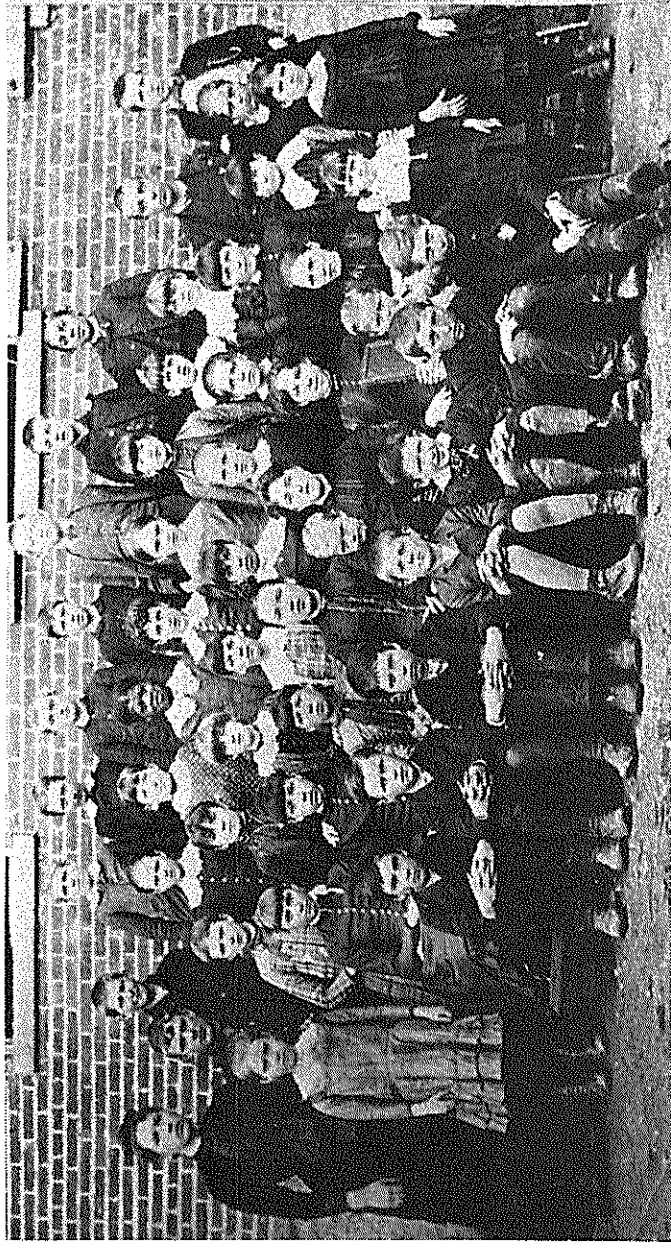
Dr. David Hostetter of Pittsburgh, who had made a fortune from the Medicinal waters he marketed called "Hostetter's Bitters", became interested in oil in 1872. He formed the Columbia Conduit Company and planned to lay a pipe line from the Oil City region to Butler, which had at this time become an oil producing field. From Butler he planned to lay the oil line to Pittsburgh and made an agreement with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to ship oil from Pittsburgh to Baltimore, principally for export. The pipe line emerged at Powers Run in May 1874. Dr. Hostetter claimed he had bought the creek bed

at Powers Run, over which the Pennsylvania Railroad ran their tracks on a stone bridge. The Pennsylvania Railroad claimed their right of way included the creek bed.

The workmen for the Columbia Conduit Company laid the line at night in the creek bed under the bridge and further, to the Allegheny River bank. The following day, Pennsylvania Railroad's Superintendent Tom Scott sent two flat cars loaded with railroad workmen, armed with clubs and handy-bills to Powers Run. They beat back the pipe line workers and tore up the line. Word spread throughout the oil regions, and the next day two hundred and fifty independent producers and their sympathizers arrived by horseback, by buggy and by river boat, ready for battle. They in turn, drove off the railroad workers and again attempted to lay the line, but Superintendent Scott appealed to the Allegheny County Sheriff, declaring that a riot was in progress. A number of sheriff deputies were rushed up the valley.

Thirty oil producers were arrested and jailed in Pittsburgh. Dr. Hostetter in disgust then leased the line to three young, independent oil men, B.D. Benson, David McKelvey, and Major Robert Hopkins. They continued the line along the present Freeport Road above the railroad to what is now Boyd Avenue and the River Road. In the field below Freeport Road they built storage tanks and then the general public, having railroad crossing rights, loaded the crude oil in the tank wagons and hauled it across the railroad to the river bank. They again turned it into storage tanks and pumped it to Pittsburgh. Soon they were doing a good business as independents. About 1880 the Butler oil fields having failed, Messrs. Benson, Hopkins and McKelvey abandoned the line and diverted their product from Bradford to New York.

After the Civil War was won by the North the inevitable expansion that follows every war spread to our town as well as throughout the country. The Western Pennsylvania Railroad was built through the town and with it came three major developments. On July 1, 1868, the first plan of lots called Hoboken, Indiana Township was laid out. The plan included that stretch of property from the river to Tenth Street and from Center Avenue to what is now Blaw Avenue. It also included the flat land



"No. 1 Class of No. 1 School". No. 1 School was located on the Workhouse Property where the entrance to Alpha Drive now is. It was called No. 1 School, not only because it was the first school convenient to the students of Hoboken, but it was on No. 1 Property of the Workhouse. The teacher in the picture (Left in 3rd row) is Agnes Wighman Bert, who is younger than some of her students. Mrs. Bert went to Sharpsburg (where you were required to go) to obtain her certificate to teach. "She had to take a test, and then she was able to teach," her family remembers. (Courtesy of Jean Whartenby)

west of Center Avenue to what is now the Allegheny County Workhouse line. The McCrum family who had acquired the property called Clermont from Beatties conveyed the land to Mr. Paul Hacke and ten Methodist ministers. Almost at once the lots were sold and a village was built.

During the same year Allegheny County was faced with a new and peculiar problem, the indirect result of the Civil War. During the war many soldiers from the north and east met and mingled with the regiments from Missouri, Kansas, and other mid-western states. They were told of the richness of the prairie land and of the money to be made there. The frontier that had been Pittsburgh had now moved further west and the returning soldiers had the great urge to try their fortunes in new places. Freight car riding was free and easy way to travel from place to place. The Hobo era was born. Many of them became stranded in Pittsburgh, the railroad center. To take care of these numbers of penniless, homeless, ragged men as well as other petty law breakers and inebriates, the County Commissioners planned to build a Workhouse and Inebriate Asylum at Clermont.

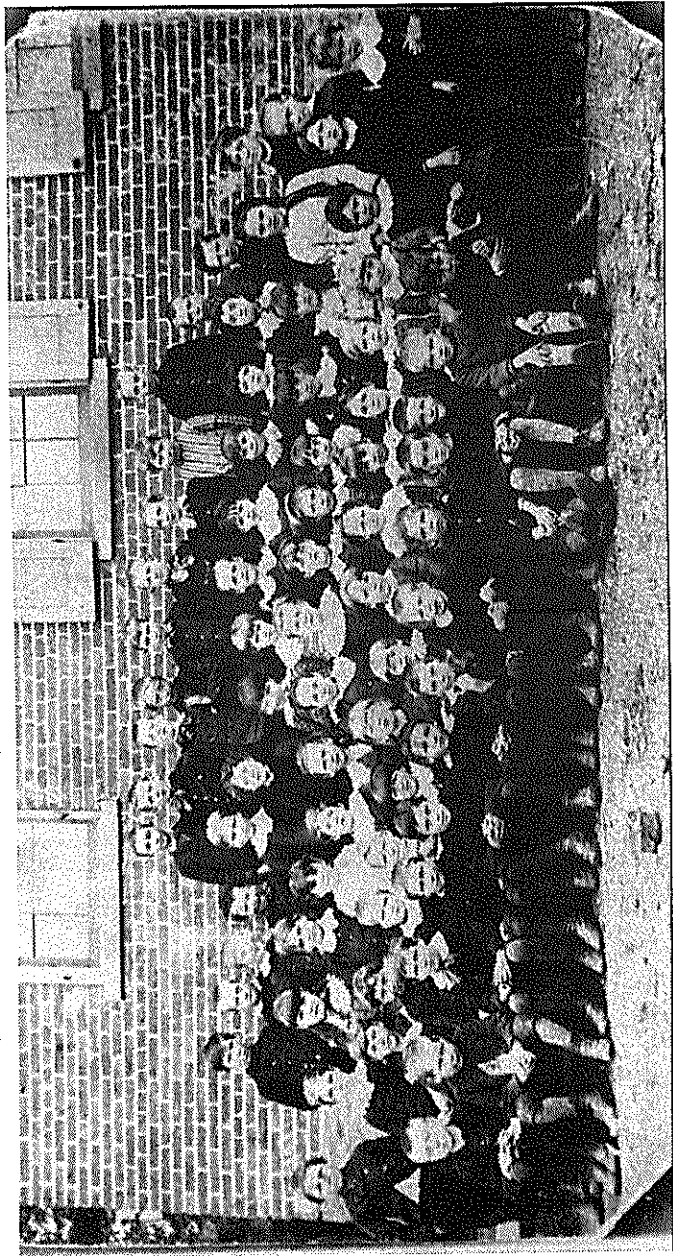
They also bought the land on the Beattie tract and started to build in 1868. Again, the clay field at Center Avenue became useful. The contractors set up their low ovens, scooped the clay from the field, molded and baked the brick for the workhouse buildings and its confining walls.

The Workhouse was ready for occupancy in 1870.

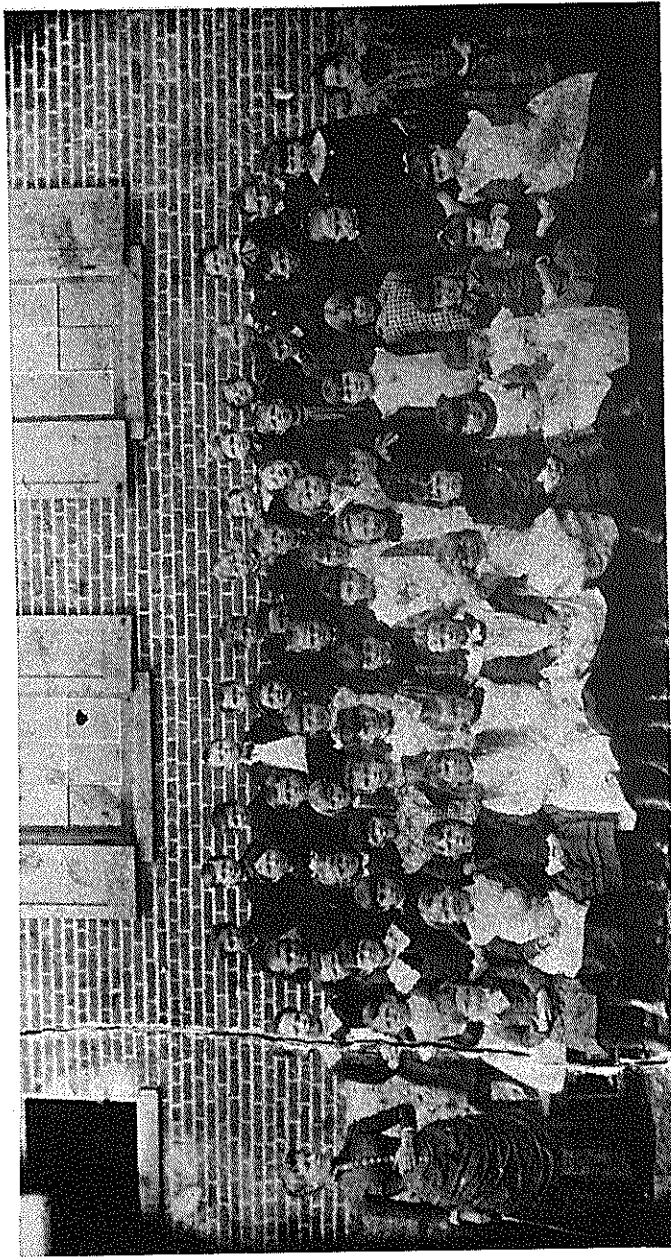
Henry Cordier, a noted penologist from Waupun, Wisconsin, came as the first Superintendent and organizer of prison routine. It followed that those who worked as guards and as other prison personnel needed homes here. The County provided some housing but other homes were needed. Some of these men built permanent homes in the plan of Hoboken.

That same year the authorities of Allegheny City decided to build a City Poor Farm at Clermont and bought the tract of land next to the Workhouse from Henry Beattie, heir to the Francis Beattie Estate. The price paid was \$57,000. Work on the construction of the Poor Farm was begun in 1871 and completed December 1873 at a cost of \$225,000.

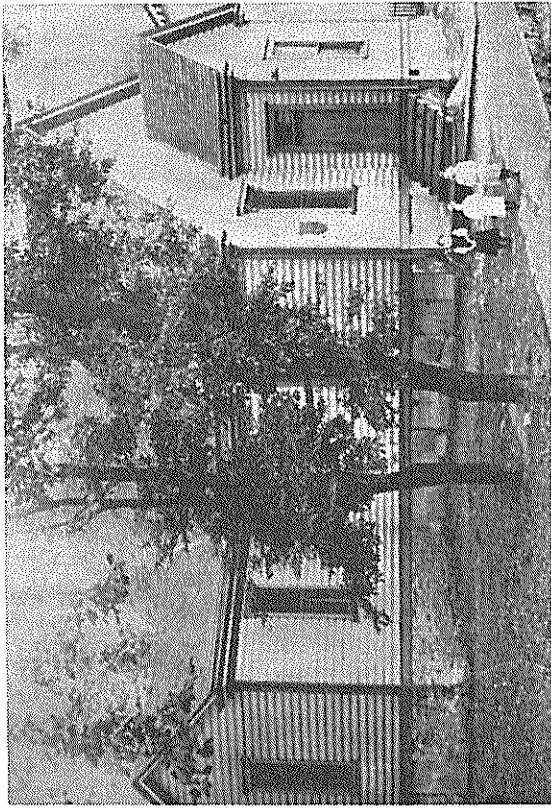
Soon there was need for a school. Those who came here were for the most part young people. Some of them lately returned from the Civil War, with young families of growing children. The first school was a small one storied brick building located just east of the Workhouse gates on the north side of Freeport Road. There were two school rooms. As far as can be learned the first teacher was Mr. Longabaugh. Spelling bees for adults as well as for the children of the town were held there in the evenings and Professor Slack conducted a singing school in that it differed little from most schools in Allegheny County outside the limits of Pittsburgh proper. Later, there were young lady teachers from the town whose duties often extended to the extra curricular, such as



Class picture of No. 1 School. Date unknown. (Courtesy of Elizabeth Benson)



Class picture of No. 1 School. Date unknown (Courtesy of Elizabeth Benson)



*Presbyterian Church of Hoboken,
located on Sixth Street where
Hart Hall now stands.
(Courtesy of Mary Bert Kincaid)*

seeing that Mary of Annie, who had the sniffles, would dry their shoes at the round bellied cannon stove before taking seats in class, or on receiving intimate and informal notes such as: Dear Aggie, please pull Johnnie's tooth, he's afraid to let me do it. The school was also in the beginning a religious center. A Mr. Hoge, a painter by trade, who worked at the Workhouse organized prayer meetings, read the Bible and sometimes preached sermons.

The organization of churches in our town began with these school house meetings. A group representing the Presbyterians, under the leadership of Reverend E. E. Swift, bought a lot on Sixth Street. Captain Robinson of Old Allegheny, one of the incorporators of the Land Company, donated two additional lots. The church was financed by the Reverend Swift at a cost of \$1250 and erected first as a mission of Pine Creek First Presbyterian. Since the number of persons in the town belonging to any one church group was small, it was decided that each church group would be represented by a minister of their own denomination on alternate Sundays. On the 17th of July, 1879, the Hoboken Presbyterian Church was formally organized by Reverend E. E. Swift and Reverend J. M. Shields with an enrollment of 33 members. For one year, Reverend O. H. Miller, Chaplain of the Allegheny County Workhouse, agreed to preach every other Sabbath evening. For his services that year he was paid \$75.00. During all this time the church was handicapped first by the limited number of members, secondly by the economic of 1878. Some of the church's dependable members lost their homes and had to move from Hoboken. The difficulty of raising the \$1250 owed to Reverend Swift was so great that Reverend Swift donated \$450 and the final sum of \$800 was finally paid. The church was united first with the Presbyterian Church of Springdale and later with the church of Aspinwall. At a meeting September 4, 1902, Reverend Orr was elected the first full time pastor of the church.

The Hoboken Methodist Episcopal Church was organized next. Beginning in 1879, the Methodist people held Sunday School and prayer meetings in the little

brick school. They made tentative purchase of ground at Sixth Street and Center Avenue and Reverend Demmitt of Springdale lifted the first shovel full of dirt that broke ground in the Spring of 1881. Reverend Demmitt was in a short time succeeded by Reverend Fink of Springdale who installed a pipe organ and whose daughter organized the choir. In 1886 the deed was formally conveyed by Hoboken Land Company to the trustees of the church. Reverend E. O. Krenz is the present pastor.

The Methodist Protestant church was organized, built and financed by the Reverend John Henderson in 1887.

Until now in the writing of this study, personalities, except where they involve the transfer of the property titles, or in the organization of churches, has been by common agreement avoided. Yet the history of the Methodist Protestant church is so peculiarly the history of its first and only pastor, John Henderson, that exception will be made.

Primarily Reverend Henderson was a disciple of Poor Richard. Constantly in and out of the pulpit he preached frugality, industry and integrity. He built the church on his own ground, financed the building of it and ministered there for the greater part of his years with little remuneration. He exacted one promise from his congregation: that he be allowed to remain there permanently since he was also Chaplain at the Allegheny City Poor Farm. Reverend Henderson was the self-appointed and unrecognized social worker and rehabilitation agent in the town. During his Chaplaincy at the Poor Farm, the care of destitute families was one of the major problems of the authorities of old Allegheny City. Often whole families were assigned to the Poor Farm. In not a few instance, Reverend Henderson made this problem his own. At this time there were in Hoboken several small abandoned houses in poor repair. Reverend Henderson would quietly talk with one of the several bricklayers in the town. After the bricklayer would, on a few evenings, take his trowel and level, start to point up

the chimney in a vacant house, repair the flue, and see that it was usable. Next, one of the town carpenters would spend his evenings repairing windows and doors and rickety porch steps, tack on shingles and glaze windows. Reverend Henderson had asked them to donate the work. Somehow, no one knows just how, furniture would be gathered up and an order of groceries put in the cupboard and a family would be moved from the Poor Farm into a home. After that Reverend Henderson kept an eye on that family. Just as often as not, Reverend Henderson found little improvement either in the morals or the industry of his adult charges, but he was the guardian of the children. It took time to prove his theories, But Reverend Henderson lived long enough to see that with few exceptions his young charges grew to self respecting persons. From time to time, other church groups in the town seconded his efforts. As time passed the expression "Hoboken always takes care of its own," became trite.

In 1889 the one storied brick building that had served Hoboken so well as a school, a religious and community center was found to be inadequate and plans were made to build a larger school. The new school, a two storied frame building with four rooms, was built at Center Avenue above the Freeport Road May 1, 1890. A dedicatory parade was formed with the American Mechanics bearing the flag they had presented to the school, leading pupils, teachers, and townspeople. The parade formed at the old schoolhouse followed Center Avenue to the railroad, continued to what is now Parkview Station, across the railroad tracks, up the Workhouse walk returning to Freeport Road and the old school, from there to Center Avenue again and the new schoolhouse, where after appropriate dedicatory exercises, the new school was formally opened and the pupils marched in.

At first only three class rooms were used, but the seating capacity of each room was greater than those of the old school. The fourth room was used as a voting room and for the always interesting and more or less turbulent Town Meetings. At these meetings purely local affairs were discussed although to the residents these matters were of even greater importance than national elections. Women were always represented and were distinctly articulate. The question, "Should Center Avenue be lighted from the Freeport Road to the river" was hotly debated. After ten years of discussion four gaslights were installed, Mr. Lightbody, the town constable, lit these lights every evening and turned them off every morning. Is it presumed he did this work as a matter of civic duty since there is no record that he was ever paid. The political opposition claimed he did the work solely to catch votes at the next election.

One night the school bell rang and most of the parents in town hurried up the hill to the schoolhouse to discuss whether or not one of the half grown problem

boys should be expelled from the school, whether or not he should be made to go to Allegheny to school, or whether or not school would do the boy good at all, or whether or not the teacher of Room 3, who was also the principal, should be "fired".

In those halcyon days for both parents and teachers, it was finally decided that "what the kid needed was a darn good lickin", and then sent to Allegheny to school that his parents would have to pay for the \$3.50 monthly train ticket to get him there every day."

Only once was the matter of adult discoussed, "Was it ethical to pretend sobriety, because you had a job at the workhouse and then have a case of beer delivered from Sharpburg along with the grocery order?"

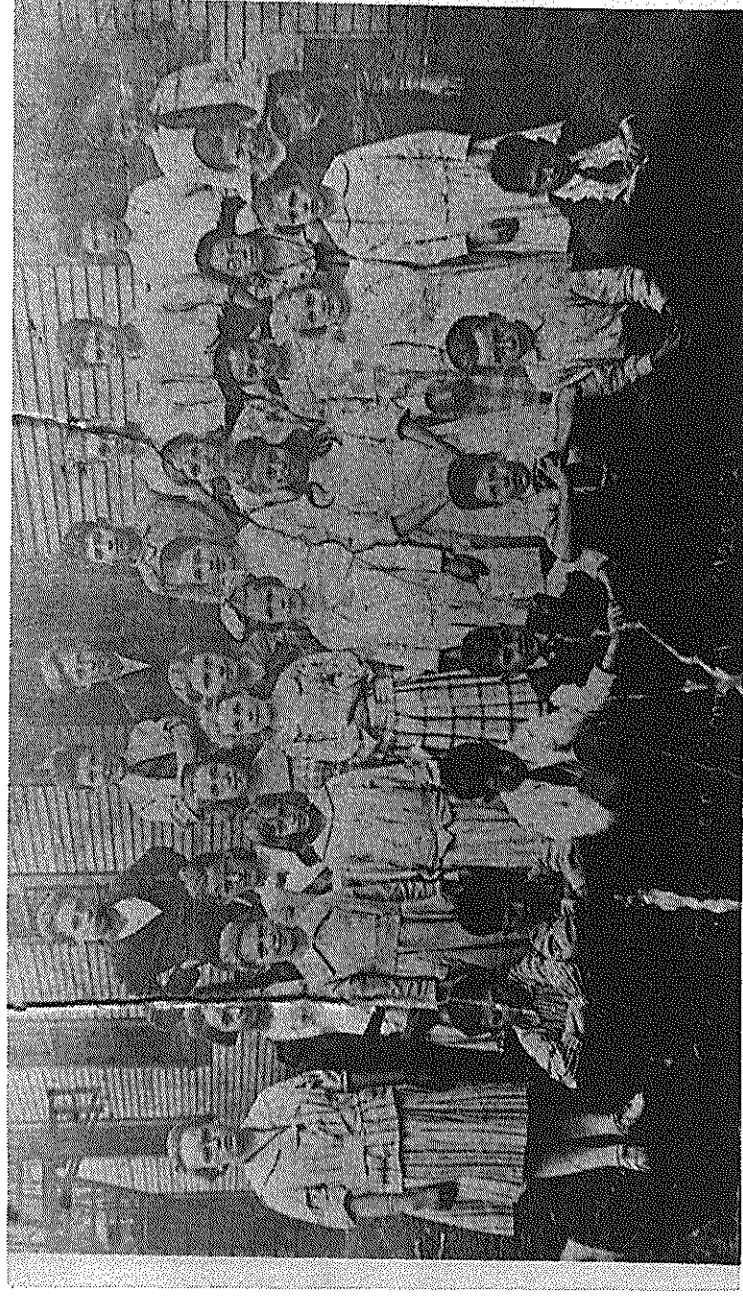
Two industries were located here in the 1890's; the Fitzgerald Plaster Works on the river bank at what is now the foot of Humbolt Street, and the John Flocker Rope Walk Company at the foot of Jackson Street, Fitzgerald Plaster, delivered in bags, was the first patent plaster used in the building industry. The Rope Walk burned in 1902. The plant was never rebuilt.

1868 until 1905 was the time of development in our Town. Houses were built on almost every lot from the river to Tenth Street and from the Workhouse wall to Blaw Avenue. In addition there were perhaps a half dozen houses from Cable Avenue to Lewis Avenue on Freeport Road.

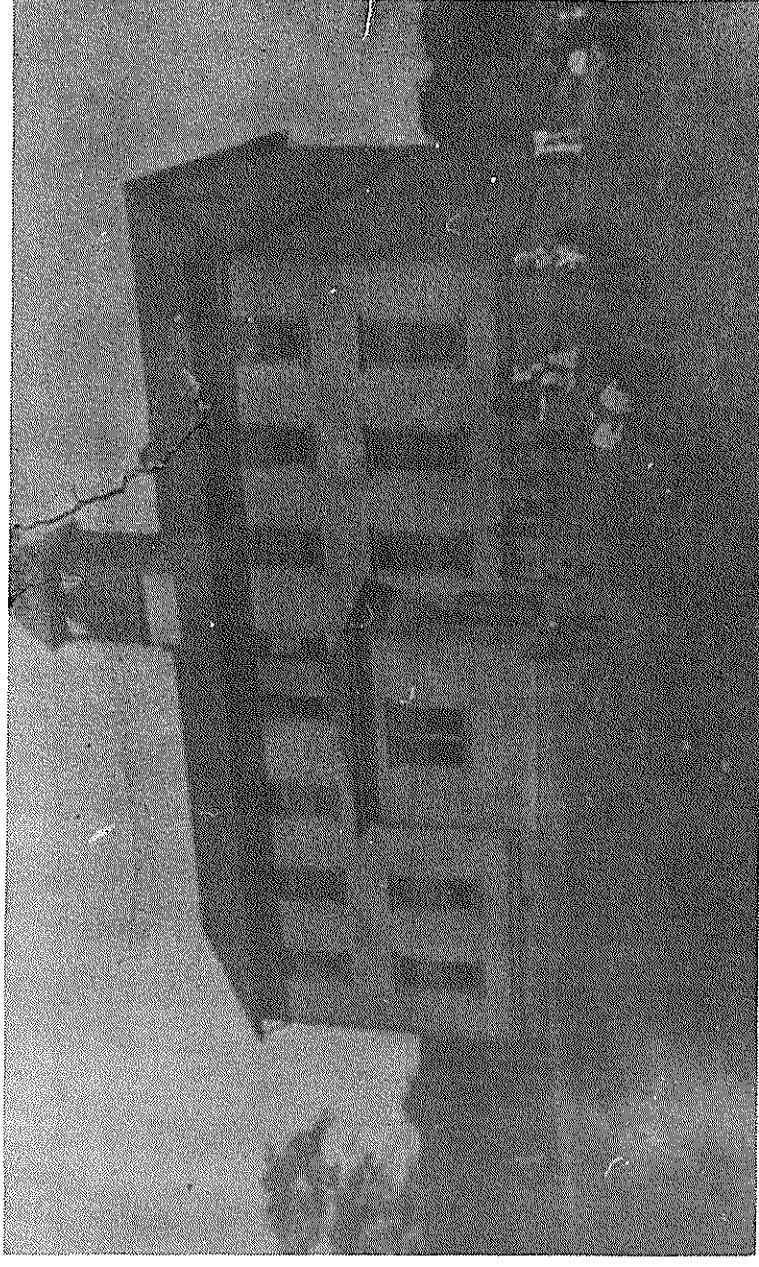
In these years candle light gave place to oil lamps. Houses were heated with coal fires and coal stoves were used for cooking, replacing the open fireplace and cranes. In summer, when river was low and the channel shrunken, coal was hauled across the river from the mines at Sandy Creek. Churches and schools had been built Grocery stores were located. Even the medical service was improved. Though as yet no doctor had located in the town. The resident doctor at the Poor Farm and Workhouse made visits in the town. After 1890 a resident doctor from Aspinwall made regular visits every morning. A slate was provided in each of the two stores, upon which those who wanted to see the doctor wrote their names. The doctor called at these stores every morning shortly after eight o'clock. Occasionally a patient felt that he couldn't afford even the \$1.00 fee charged for a house call. In that case the patient diagnosed his own symptoms, had the grocer write them on the slate, and asked that the doctor leave with the grocer the suitable red, green, blue or pink pills. The price of the medicines were added to the grocery bill and paid for along with the other commodities.

Occasionally ailing residents would just "happen" to come into the store at the time of the doctor's arrival. It was then foolish for the doctor to say, "Good morning, How are you?" The state of the casual's health would be gone into exhaustively. The doctor usually made recommendations or gave out the necessary medicine, depending upon whether or not this was a bona fide poor person really needing help, or a "moocher".

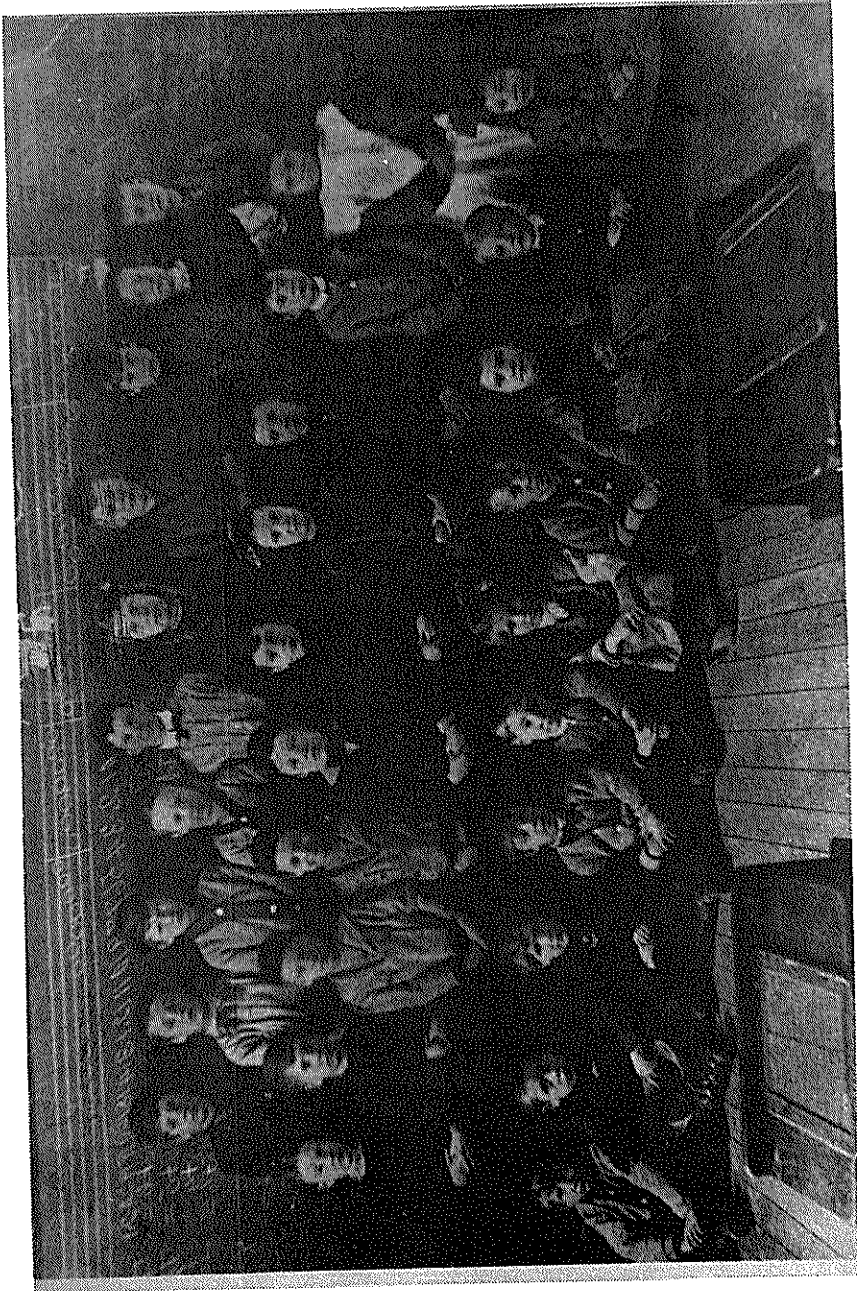
Although for the most part plain people lived in Our Town, living was not drab, nor harsh. Respectability characterized the people and they called themselves with pride "Freeholders".



Hoboken School - Room 4 - 1920 - 1921. (Courtesy of Alice Wilson)



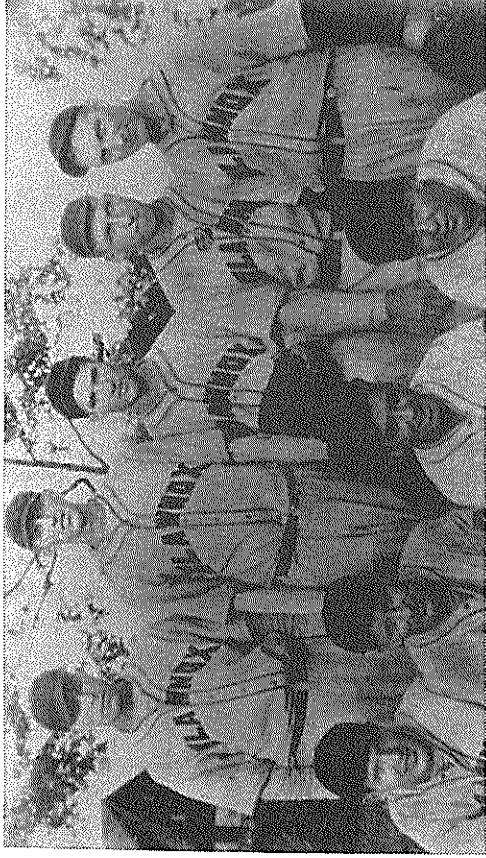
Hoboken School, located on Center Avenue where the Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home now stands. (Courtesy of Mary Bert Kincaid)



Hoboken Class - interior of school. Note slates on desks in foreground, which were used for writing lessons instead of tablet paper as used today. (Courtesy of Elizabeth Benson)



Hoboken class picture. Date unknown. (Courtesy of Elizabeth Benson)



*Blawnox Baseball Team (Courtesy of Tom Wilson)
1st Row - Kneeling (L to R): M. Lang, E. Wilson, D. Ferrone and T. Wilson.
2nd Row - Standing (L to R): F. Chadonic, J. Combs, R. Grays, unknown, E. Randolph.*

There was a good ball team in the town which played teams from other towns along the valley. The ball field was located near the river bank close to the present location of the Pittsburgh Asphalt Vault Company property. Owing to the partisan spirit of the town it was best that the visiting team lost the game. Occasionally courageous men on the visiting team dared to win a game. It has been said that one such team had to barricade themselves in the Clermont Railroad Station until train time. When the train arrived they made a dash from the rear window of the station master's office to avoid the threatening population.

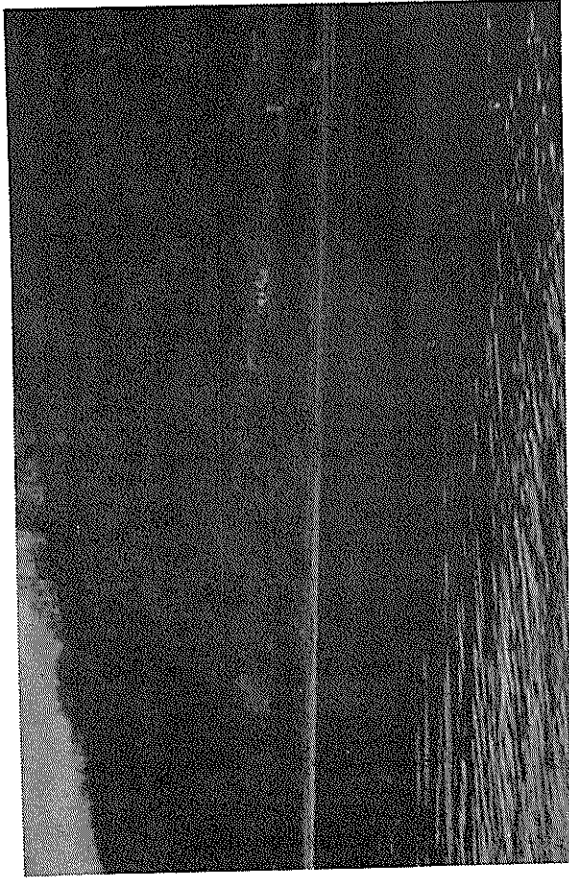
There was also a suitable hall for dancing and entertainment. Trilby Hall on the second floor of the barnlike warehouse and grocery store at the corner of Center Avenue and Freeport Road. Trilby Hall was really unique. The Odd Fellows, Junior O.U.A.M. and the Rebecca Lodges met there. The hall was furnished with forty-five roundback kitchen chairs and ten pews which the Presbyterian congregation found too straight backed for comfort. There were two cloak rooms, and a small stage, the curtain of which illustrated the two great hopes and dreams of the people. In the lower right hand corner, a local artist and housepainter had painted a scene showing a hard surfaced Freeport Road and a longed for street car with the trolley over large and greatly out of proportion making the trip over the Squaw Run bridge. The artist in appreciation of the annual Kick-A-Poo Indian medicine show had also painted an advertisement for these remedies portraying the Indians and bottles. Dr. Burgoon had also demonstrated the use of his famous hair tonic and beard lotion. That gentlemen with beautifully pompadoured hair, luxuriant beard and side burns was also pictured on the curtain. Hay ride parties from all over the valley made Trilby Hall their terminal for dancing and a well cooked supper.

The young folks of the town liked to dance and planned evenings at Trilby but transportation for the visiting orchestra was only one of their problems. Orchestra leaders from Sharpsburg charged \$27.50 a night to play and there was the last train down, the 10:45, to Pittsburgh to consider. The dancers wanted to dance until twelve. The Musicians objected to riding a

wagon, frequently the grocer's wagon, to Guyasuta, the end of the Pittsburgh street car line. Besides that there were not many couples and to pay the cost of the hall and the orchestra was a considerable tax. At last, a group of town musicians was formed. There was a flute, a trombone, trap drums, a cornet, a violin and a piano. Clearly the wind instruments outbalanced the strings, but music was made. No old fashioned square dances suited this group. They were modern. They danced the waltz, the Newport, the two-step and the schottische. All would go well until they essayed the Dutch waltz or the Polka; then the owner of the store would rush upstairs. He would tell them that they should be more restrained in their dancing, that the gas mantled lighting the downstairs cost ten cents a piece, that they should appreciate that he gave them the hall frequently for nothing, that the Polka and the Dutch dance were too rough, that their parents didn't approve of this dancing business anyhow and that, and that; then he would go downstairs and the dancing would continue. No Dutch dance or Polka was ever completed. On Halloween night there was a real frolic. Regularly the wood shed at the back of John Henderson's church was tied with a bull rope to the rear of the nine train to Allegheny. The shed would bump along the tracks until the train reached Clermont. The train crew with a great deal of very loud talking would untie the bull rope, remove the wreckage from the tracks and proceed. Regularly the congregation retrieved the wreckage and rebuilt the wood shed.

In 1905 there were six bathrooms in the town, usable under certain conditions; that the water be heated downstairs on the kitchen range and carried upstairs to bath tub. There was no water system in the town, no sewerage system except for open ditches, no lights.

1905 saw the fulfillment of one dream. Freeport Road was hard surfaced. The doctor now rode into town in the latest model Ford Runabout, although he still consulted the grocer's slate. In 1907 the long awaited trolley line was built by the West Penn Railways Company. With the power furnished by the Street Car Company, four lights were provided on the two corners of Center Avenue, 200 watts each. The grocers switched them on and off at the proper time.



Scenery taken near Popeye Beach in 1949.

During this time traffic on the river grew in importance. Lock and Dam Number 1 were built at Herr's Island. The dam raised the normal water level at Nine Mile Island seven feet. In 1906 Lock and Dam Number 2 were built at Aspinwall and again the normal river level was raised; this time eleven feet. The current was slowed; the river was stilled. No longer did it foam and race past the town. It was navigable the year 'round. That year also saw the last lumber raft pass down the river. What had amounted to a business of 9,000,000 feet of timber a year had come to an end. The rafts were too large to pass through the locks.

In 1910 Our Town was a small country village with adjacent farm land, railed fence pastures, and some fields of briar patches. That same year Mr. Moses Lehman bought a part of Cable tract of land and plans were made to locate the Blaw Steel Construction Company here.

Paragraphs taken from the pamphlet issued with the Annual Report of 1946 read:

"The story of the Blaw-Knox Steel Construction Company has been one of steady growth since its organization under the name of Blaw Collapsible Steel Centering Company in 1906. In 1917, it consolidated with the Knox Pressed and Welded Steel Company and adopted that name. The Company at that time manufactured steel forms for general concrete construction and water-cooled equipment for high temperature furnaces.... The scope of the Company's business was further extended by consolidation with other organizations.... many of which later were operated as Divisions of the Blaw-Knox Company.

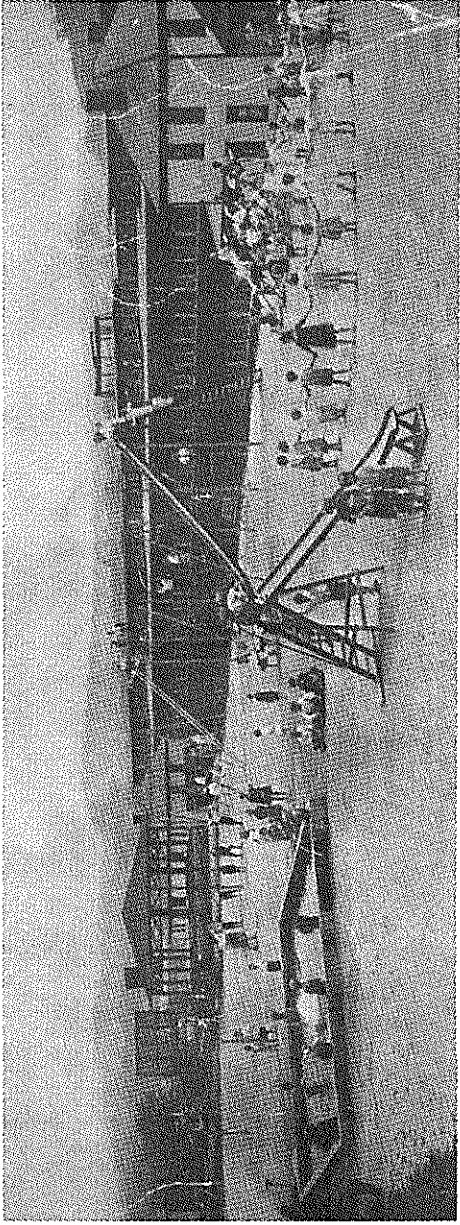
The Company's products are extremely diverse in nature ... it is often referred to as the Department Store of Fabricated Products. Industrial firms in all sections of the country utilize well known items made by the Company such as buckets for handling ore and other materials, alloy steel castings, radio and transmission towers -- steel buildings The Company has, for many years, laid particular stress on the importance of

developing new products and methods through its research and experimental departments. Results have been gratifying and in a large degree responsible for the Company's expansion and equipment within the scope of its production facilities."

The Blaw-Steel Company acquired the Knox Welded and Pressed Steel Company in 1917 and after the close of World War I removed most of that company's personnel to Hoboken. The Company became known then as the Blaw-Knox Steel Construction Company. The management asked the people of the town to change the name of the town from Hoboken to Blawnox and this was done.

Many new houses and two apartment houses were built to take care of the incoming families. The population of the town was about doubled and in consequence the O'Hara Township Commissioners were faced with new problems. The open ditch waste water system had never been satisfactory. It now became a menace. It was suspected that the back yard wells were already contaminated. There was an increased need for street lighting. The school was not prepared for the increased number of pupils. A fourth classroom was opened up and two portable buildings erected, but this was only a temporary solution. Fire protection was also needed.

The Blawnox-Glenover Fire Department was organized February 6, 1921, after a campaign soliciting support. The original members contributed the money necessary to obtain the charter. The first Fire Captain was Adolph Zigan. The equipment consisted of two dozen rain hats, two dozen raincoats, two dozen pairs of boots bought from Army surplus supplies. Until the following August the Fire Company was without a truck. Further subscription were needed. The first fire truck was a Ford, five ton body. It was necessary to push it up the hill since a five ton truck did not have sufficient power to pull the hills with a load. Two years later, a White truck was purchased. The Blaw-Knox Steel Company donated a corrugated steel building for a fire house and it was located on the corner of Seventh Street and Blaw Avenue. In 1936 the Blawnox Borough traded



A view of Blaw-Knox playground where the Post Office now stands.

the White truck for a new Stewart fully equipped fire truck, and full responsibility for the fire fighting apparatus passed from the Volunteer Firemen's Committee to the Borough. At this time, the equipment was moved and permanently located in the new Borough building on Freesport Road. The squad car and town ambulance is still owned by the Volunteer Firemen's Association, the money having been publicly subscribed.

All volunteer firemen are trained in first aid work and two men answer all ambulance calls. The ambulance serves the people of Blawnox and Glenover at any time, free of charge. At present, there are 35 active members in the fire company who serve without pay. Money for current expenses is raised by donations, raffles and street fairs. There is an active Women's Auxiliary. The present Fire Captain is Charles Lodge.

During 1922 the usual Town Meeting was called and the taxpayers throughout O'Hara Township were invited to attend. The farmers in the outlying districts opposed any improvement in Blawnox since they would be taxed without any compensating benefits. The matter rode for two years, but the Township Commissioners did decide to build a new school.

The new school -- the present one, was completed in 1925. The building of buff brick with an adequate play yard, contains 14 rooms, an auditorium, a principal's office and manual training shop. There is a small library and a home economics room. The curriculum includes eight grades and two Junior High School years. Pupils then progress to Senior High School at Aspinwall. There are twelve teachers and a supervising principal when the new school was opened and since the school was one of several in O'Hara Township he was also Superintendent of O'Hara Township schools.

In 1924 the people of Blawnox decided to petition for the incorporation of a borough and to separate from O'Hara Township. The borough was incorporated April 13, 1925. January 15, 1926, the new borough council voted a bond issue of \$115,000 to promote the improvement of the town. June 18, 1926, they voted to purchase

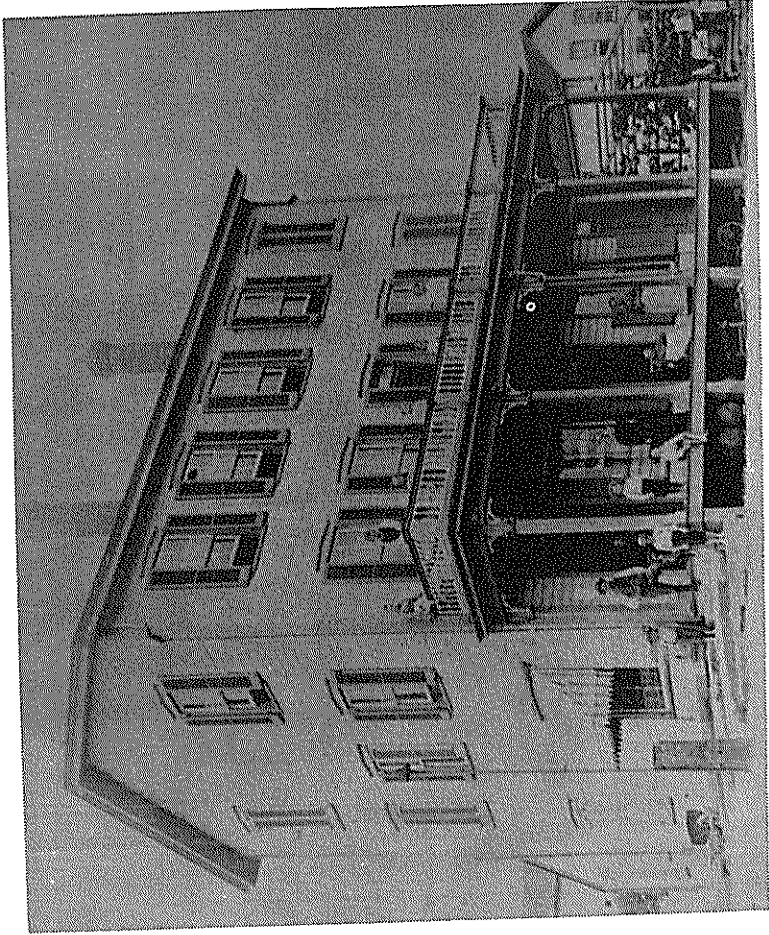
the present school building from O'Hara for \$80,000 and the school became known as the Blawnox Public School and Junior High School. The present principal is Mr. Barnhart.

Arrangements were made that same year with the City of Pittsburgh for an adequate supply of filtered water. In 1927 the water supply lines and a modern sewerage system with treatment plant was completed.

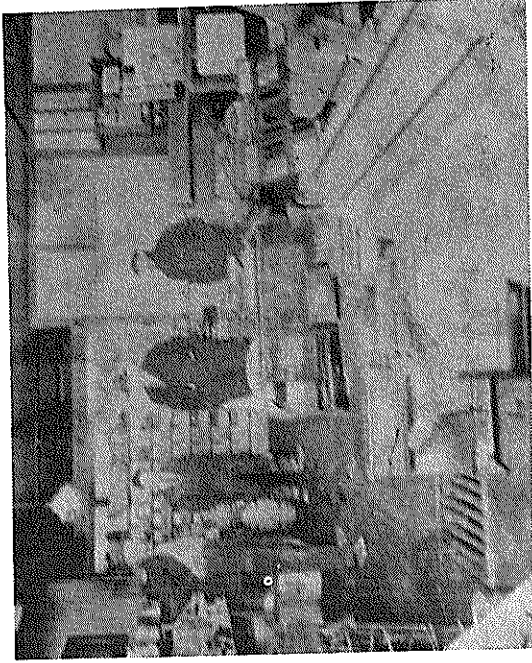
The first major building project after the close of World War I was the New Hoboken Presbyterian Church. The new building was first considered in July 1915 under the leadership of Reverend H.D. Ewing, but the war interrupted the program and not until March 25, 1923, was the new church dedicated. Reverend W.E. Howard, who had succeeded Reverend Ewing, was then the pastor. The new church of red brick was erected at a cost of \$35,000 exclusive of stained glass windows and furnishings. The dedication ceremonies lasted throughout the week with special services being held on Easter Sunday April 1, 1923. The church at present numbers 303 members and is located on North Avenue. The societies connected with the church are The Ladies Bible Class, King's Daughter's Missionary Society, Agnes Bert Missionary Society and the Men's Bible Class.

Reverend Raymond J. Salchi is the present pastor. The Presbyterian congregation had come a long way from the day of the simple opening exercises in the small frame church at Sixth Street with the Reverend Swift and the congregation struggling with the debt of \$1250.

In the meantime the number of Catholics in the town has increased and a church was necessary. A temporary frame building that had formerly been used as a recreation barracks by soldiers in World War I, and which had been donated by the Knights of Columbus was erected at the corner of Cable Avenue and Walnut Street. This temporary building was erected at a cost of \$4500 including the price of the lot. All labor was donated by the parishioners. The first Mass was offered

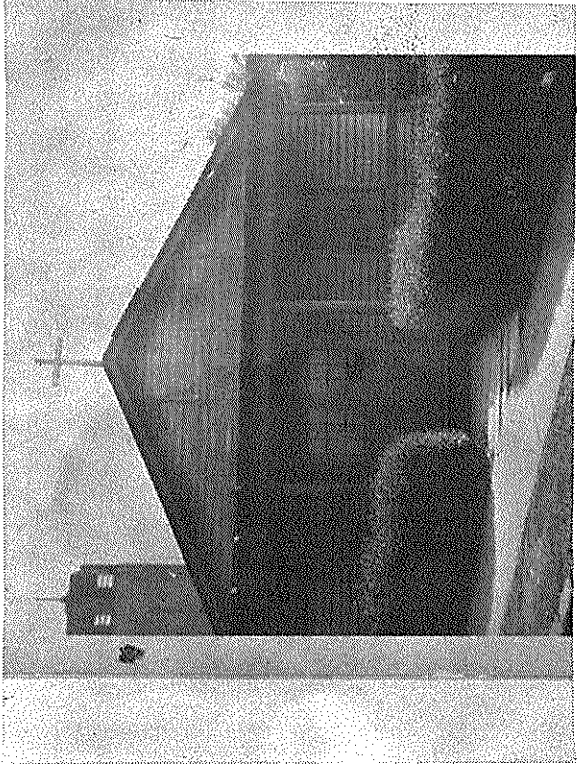
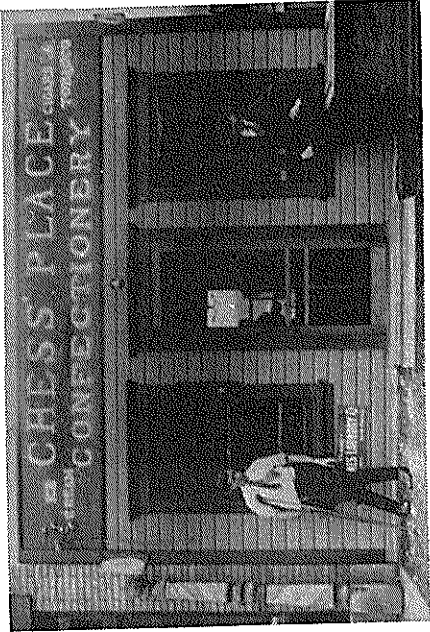


The original "Honeymoon Hotel" of Hoboken, located at the corner of Center Avenue and Freeport Rd. at the sight of the present Allegheny Valley Bank. The building was owned by the Bert Family and all the people in the picture are either relatives of the family or residents of the hotel. The man at the far right was a passing huckster who stopped for a drink of water at the pump. Date of Photo is unknown (Photo courtesy of Jean Whartenby)



Chess' Place, located next to Arlotti's Leather Goods. The man on the left is Chess Sproul, Proprietor and the other man is unknown. (Used by permission of Bill Sproul)

Bump Blackham's Hardware Store located where Cicola's Hardware Store now is. The man in the middle is Bump Blackham, and the second man from the left is Tom Wilson. (Photo courtesy of Tom Wilson)



The old St. Edward Church at the corner of Cable Avenue and Maple Way. Part of the new church in the upper background. (Courtesy of Pat Murray)

by Father M.P. Boyle of St. Scholastica's Parish, Aspinwall, of which Blawnox church was a mission, on Christmas Day 1920. The parish was established eighteen years later, 1938, and named St. Edward's with Reverend Edward J. Nemmer as pastor. At that time, the parish numbered 150 families. The cornerstone of the new St. Edward's church was laid March 7, 1948. Reverend Herman J. Kilmeyer of St. Ursula's Parish, Allison Park, Dean of the District officiating. The new church is of Gothic design in yellow brick with a seating capacity of 400. The parish at present numbers 275 families. The societies connected with the church are: The Catholic Women's Club, Holy Name Society, Young Ladies' Sodality.

The Gospel Mission Church held its first meeting in a new building at the corner of Seventh Street and Center Avenue, July 16, 1928. The congregation has held regular meetings since. This is the most recently formed church organization in the town and at present the membership is small. The Reverend E.L. Elenberber was the first pastor.

The Pittsburgh Asphalt Vault Company located in Blawnox January 1922. The company manufactures concrete burial vaults. In April 1940 the owners of the Vault Company organized the Royston Laboratories, Incorporated. The Company manufactures corrosive resistant coatings. Both companies, under the same management, employ about 25 persons.

The years 1930 to 1937 were difficult years for the people of Blawnox. The financial crisis of 1929 to 1933 affected the vast majority of the residents and added to that came the St. Patrick's day flood of 1936. It was during this flood that the members of the Volunteer Fire Company, still housed in the old corrugated iron building, earned the grateful appreciation of those who suffered from the flood. The Firemen evacuated the people from their flooded homes, provided meals and arranged for sleeping facilities until they were able to return to their homes. The next ten years were devoted not so much to development as to the improvement of existing facilities. A new borough building was built on the

Freeport Road in 1939. It houses the Volunteer Fire Department, has a large, well furnished council chamber, and adequate accommodations for the conduct of borough business. A large and beautiful Federal Post Office building was completed in 1940. Free delivery of mail throughout the town was inaugurated in 1947. Sidewalks were laid and streets improved throughout the town from 1936 until 1939.

In 1932 American Legion O'Hara Post 555 was organized. A monument honoring the soldiers of World War I was erected at Freeport Road and North Avenue. Our Town was fortunate that there were no fatal casualties suffered in this war. The Women's Auxiliary of the Legion was formed a year later.

Four hundred and eighty-three men served in World War II. Five gave their lives. No suitable monument has as yet been erected. The name of the single soldier from Our Town who served in the Civil War was Wylie Beattie.

The V.F.W. was organized in 1944 with an active Auxiliary.

It is now 153 years since Cunningham's men came up the river and made the survey which gave the land here to the first white settlers, Our Town, to venture an analogy, has now grown up. According to the present Burgess, Mr. Carl Ferraro, there are now 2300 persons living in the town and there are 475 taxable properties not including the manufacturing buildings.

As has been said, Our Town is a small town, a very small town, but it is not an unimportant town, neither is its name unknown.

During World War II, soldiers in the South Pacific saw the name Blawnox painted in white on steel communication towers. The air force in Calcutta read the name, and far away in the West Indies on the Borinquen Flying Field landing strips, the name Blawnox was known.



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Benson.

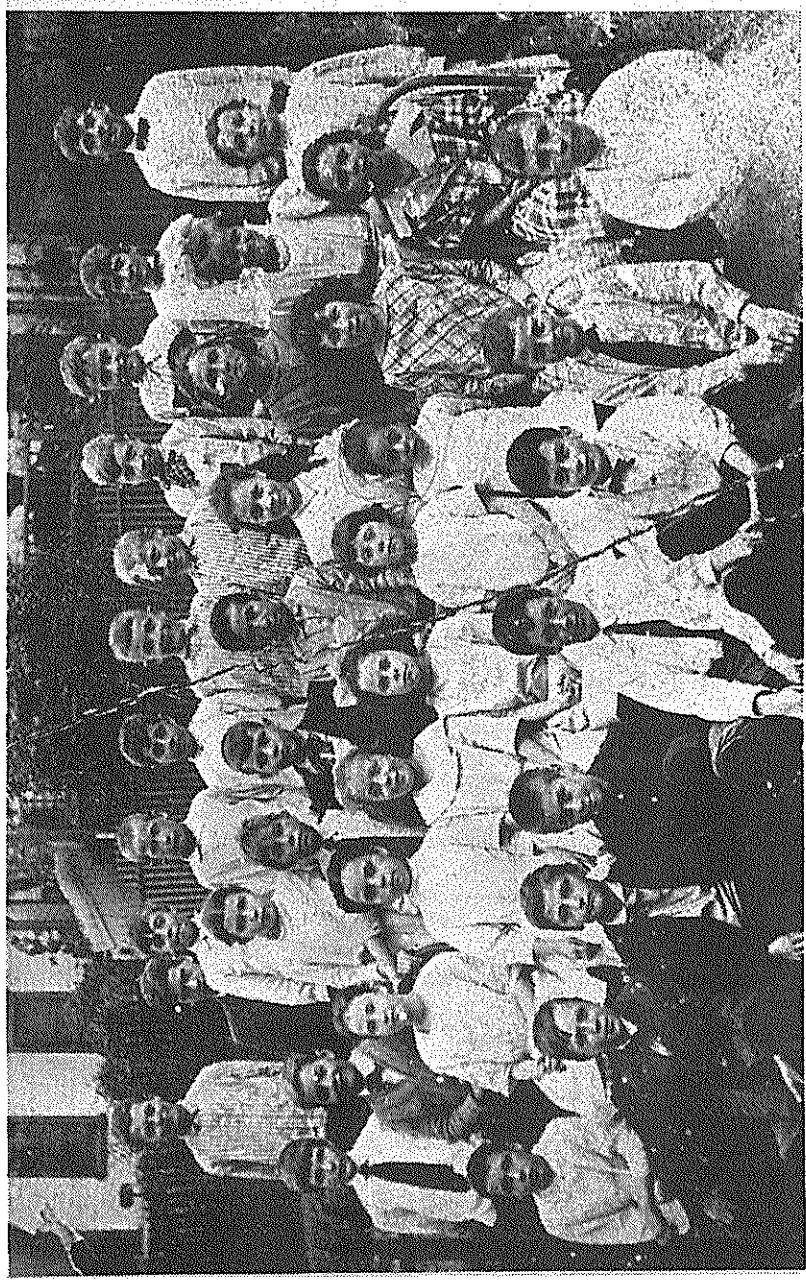
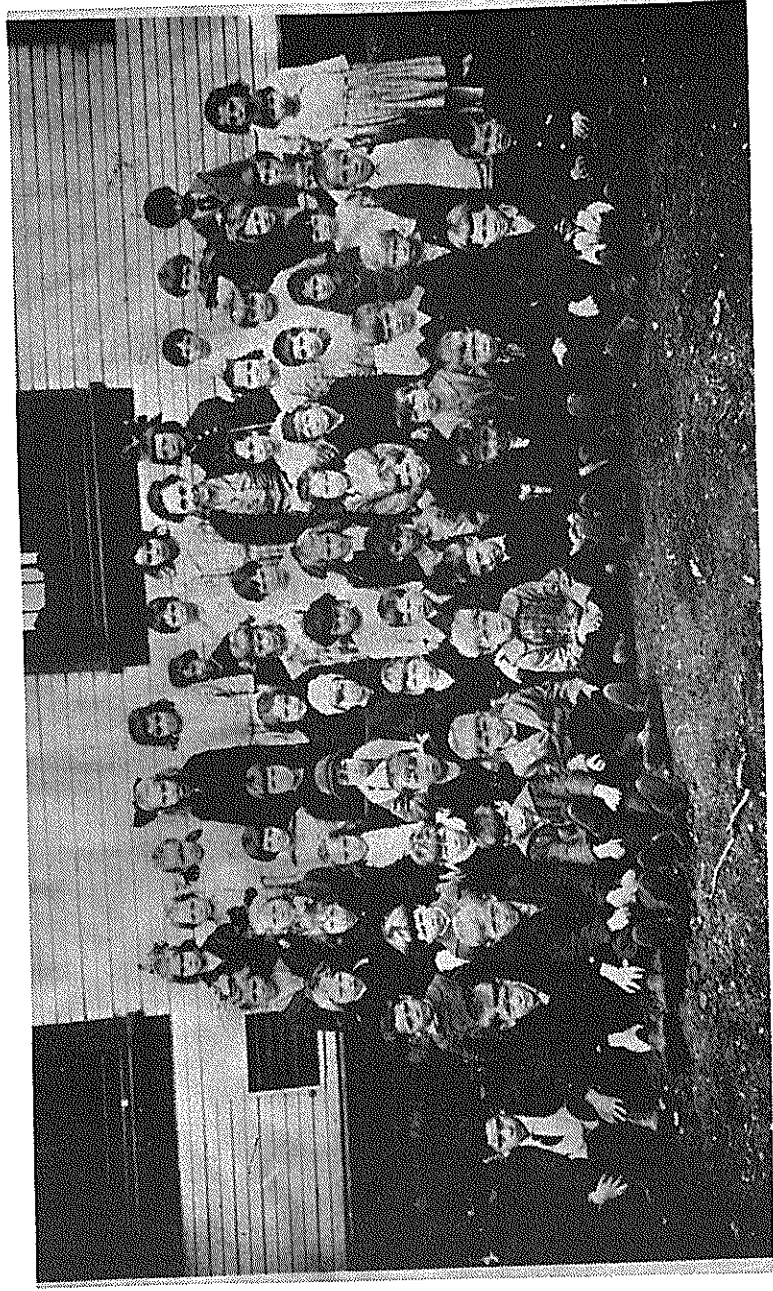


Photo courtesy of Phyllis Trail.

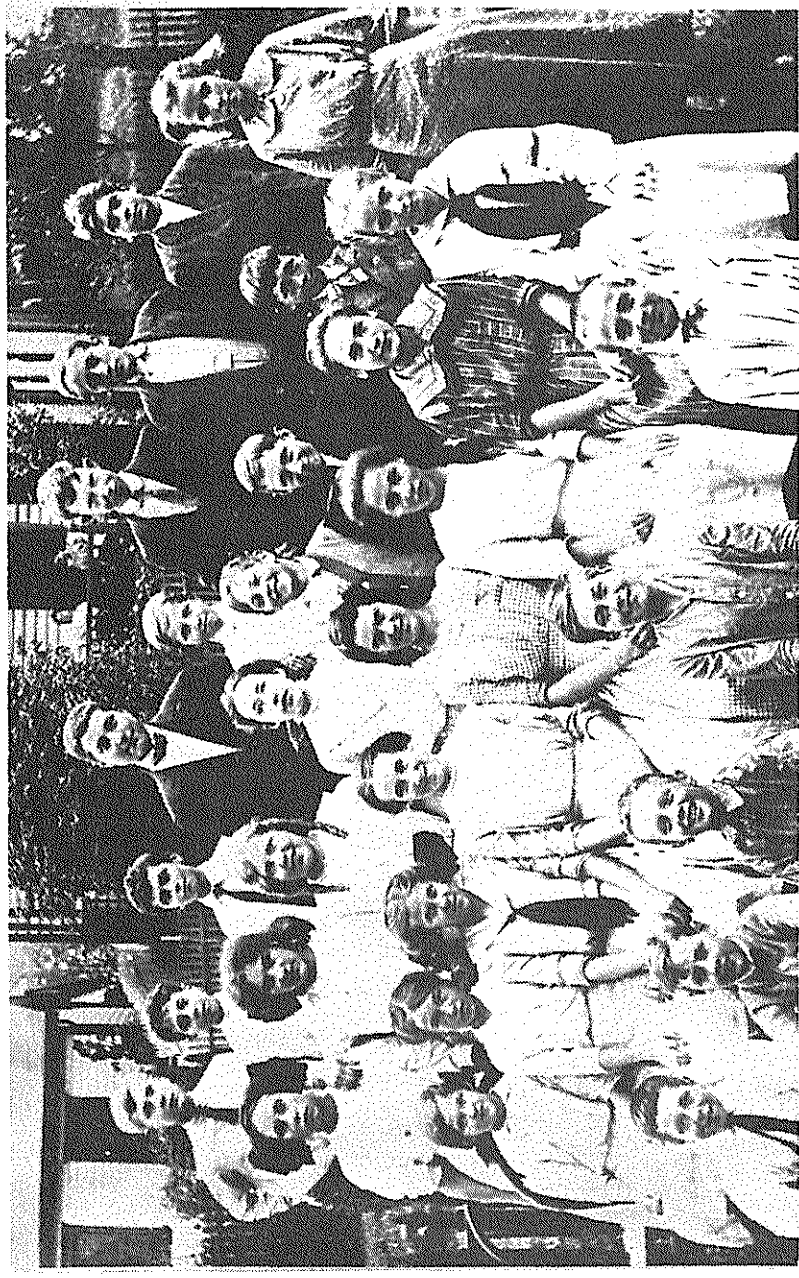
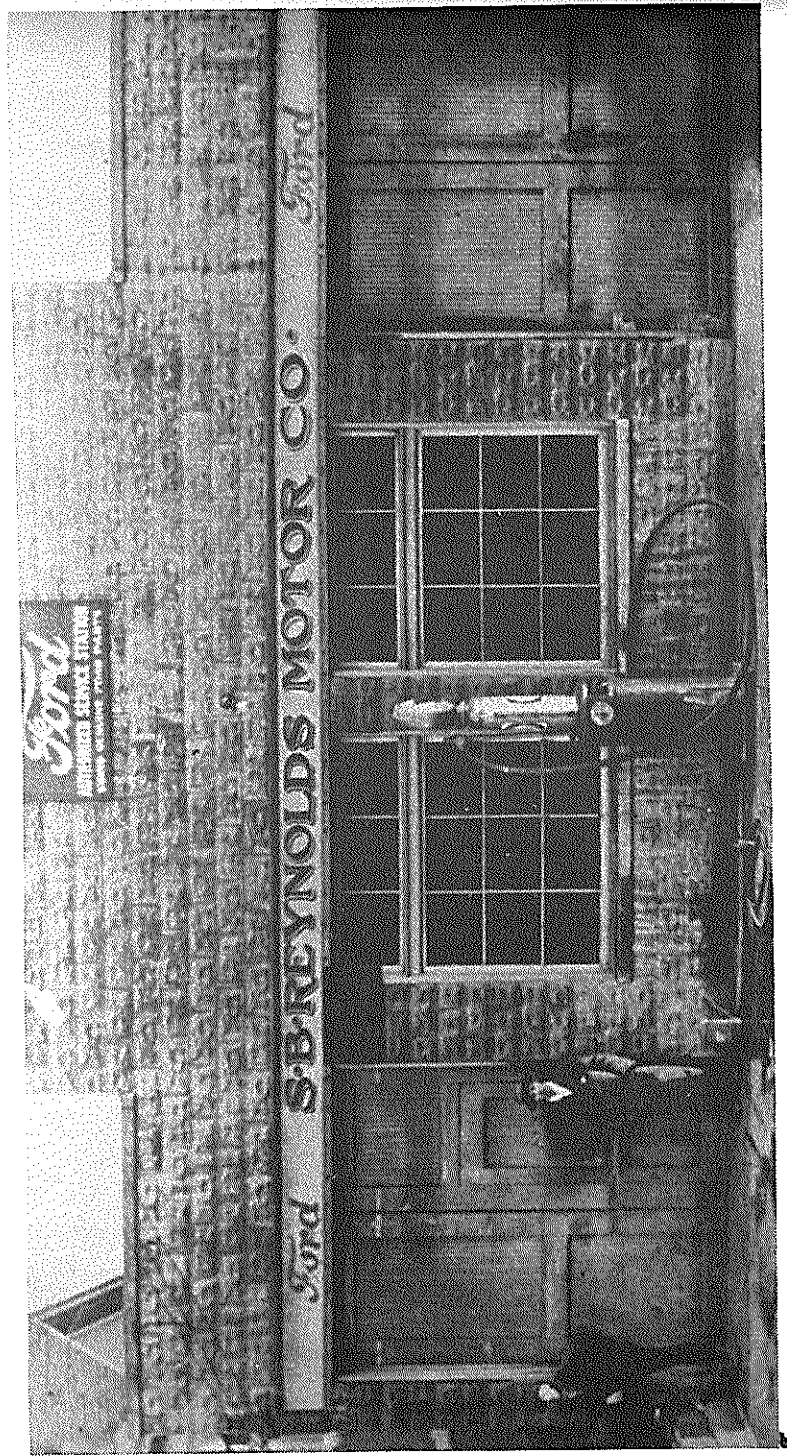
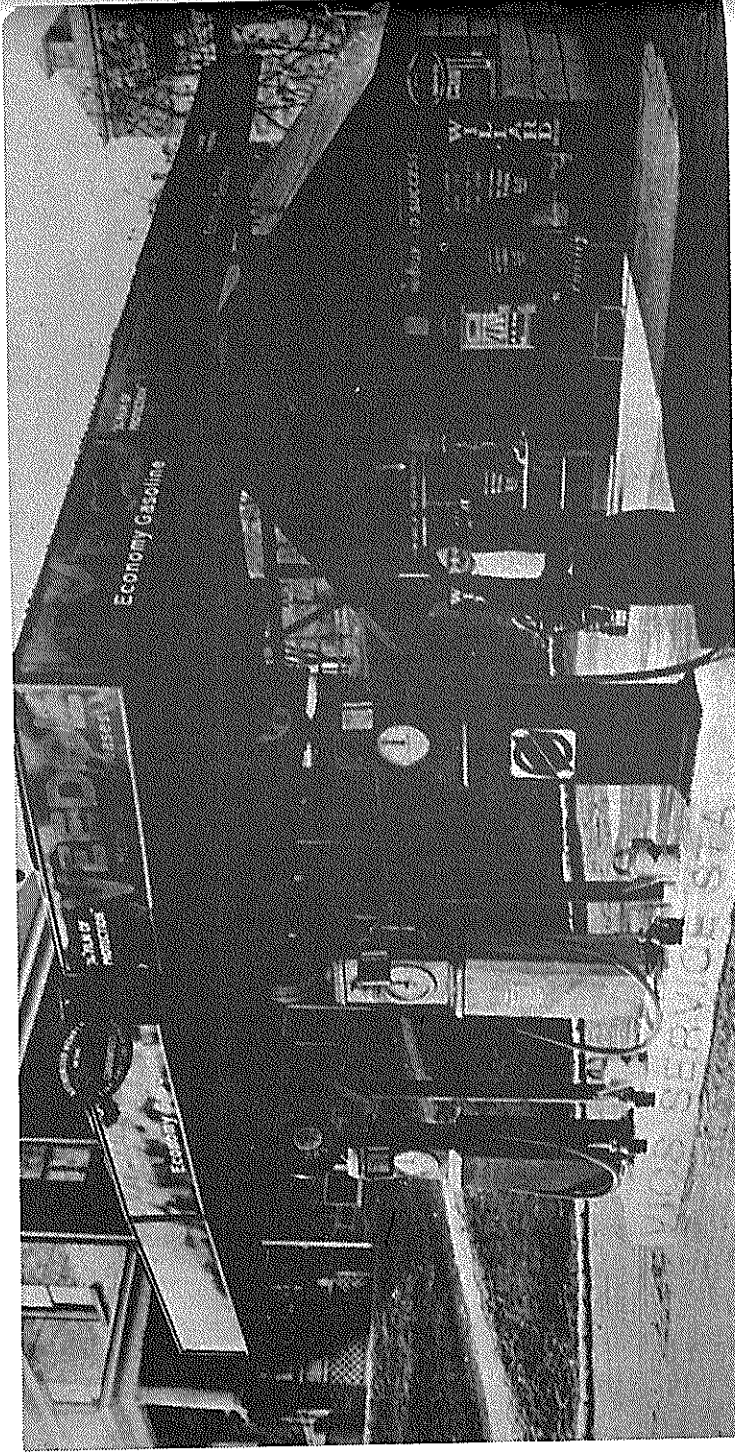


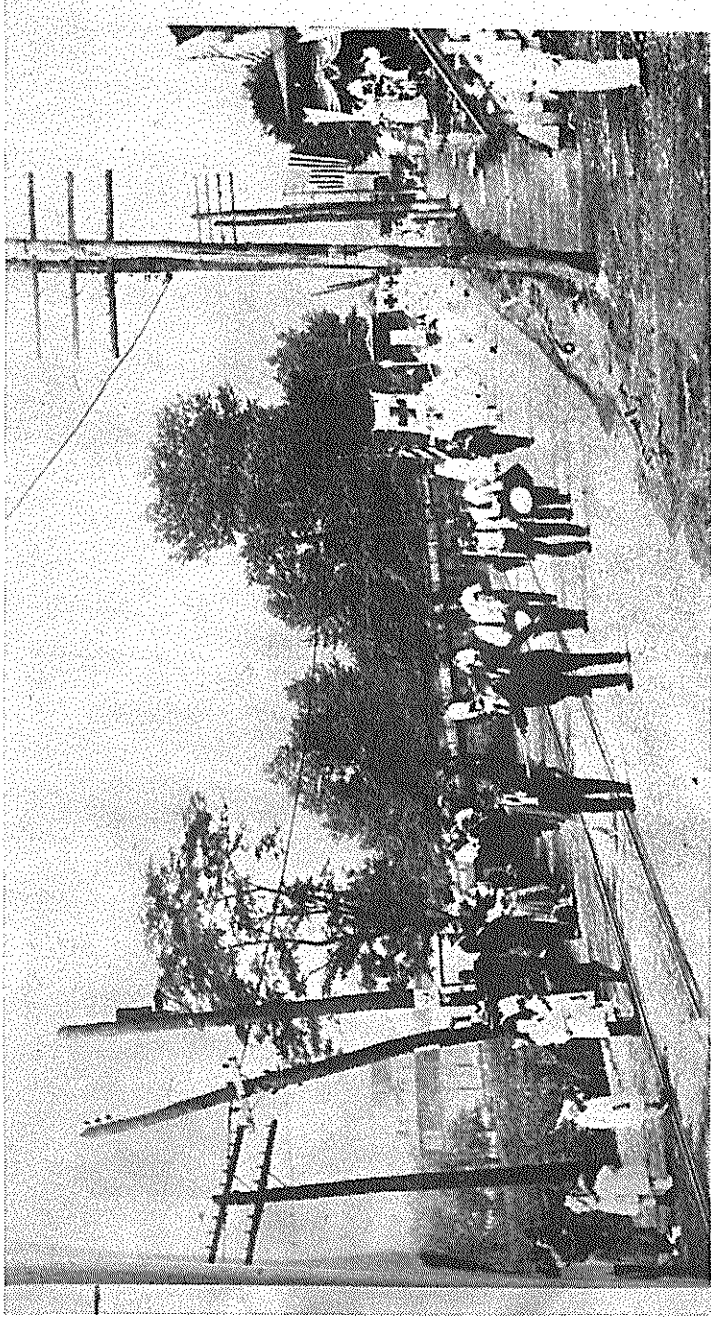
Photo courtesy of Charles Terrell.



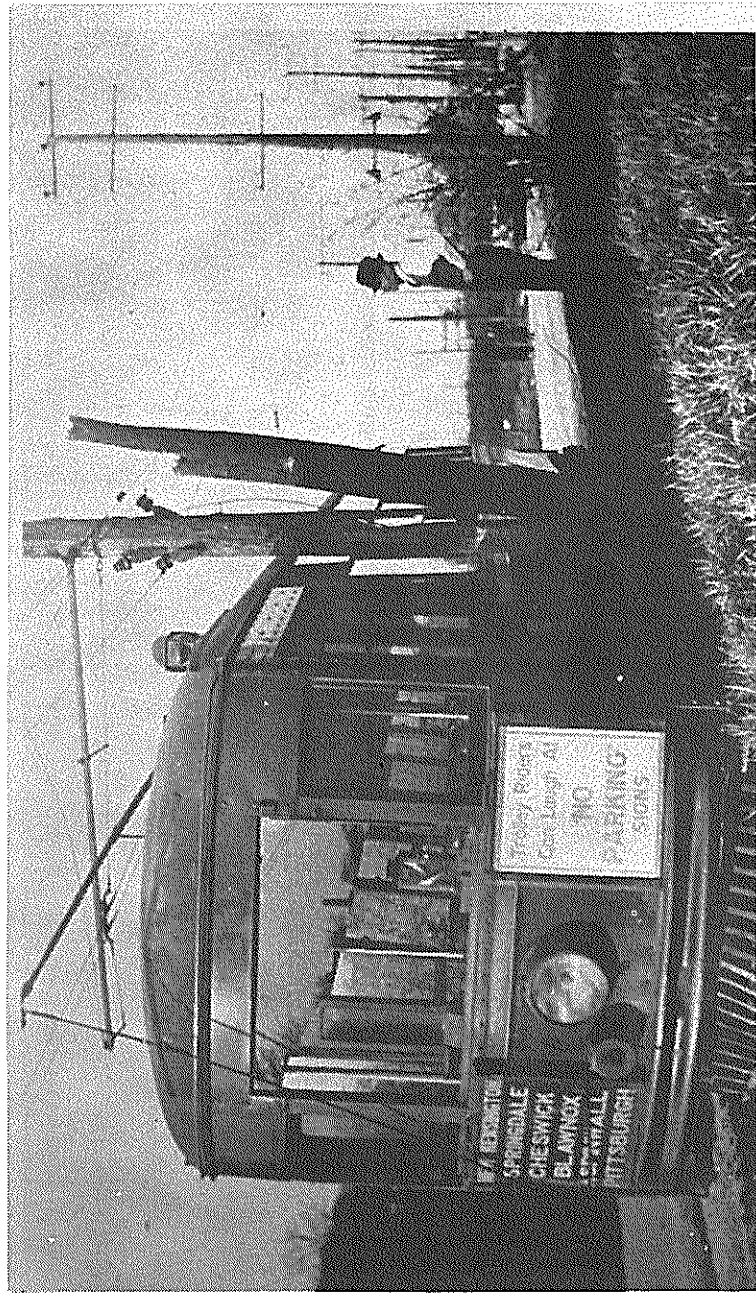
Sam Reynolds Motor Company, located where Herbert Auto Body Shop is now., Sam Reynolds, the owner is second man from the left. (Photo courtesy of Jean Whartenby)



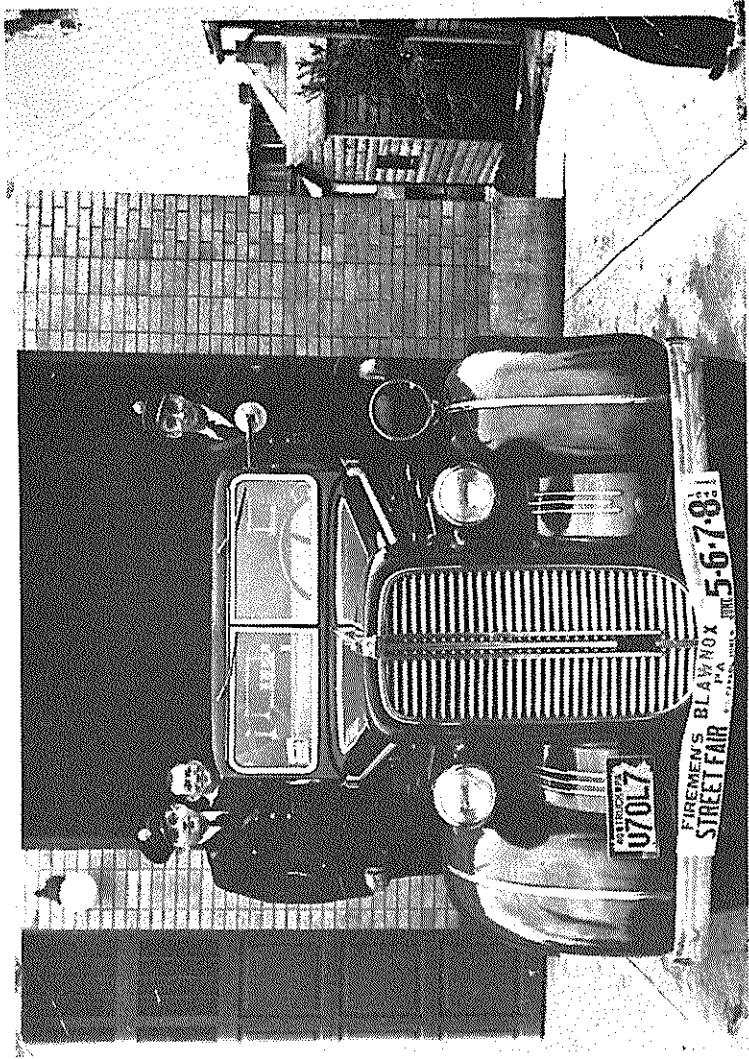
Vic's Service Station, located where Witas Market now stands., Owner was Vic Grenesko (Courtesy of Edward Grenesko (Mrs. Connor)



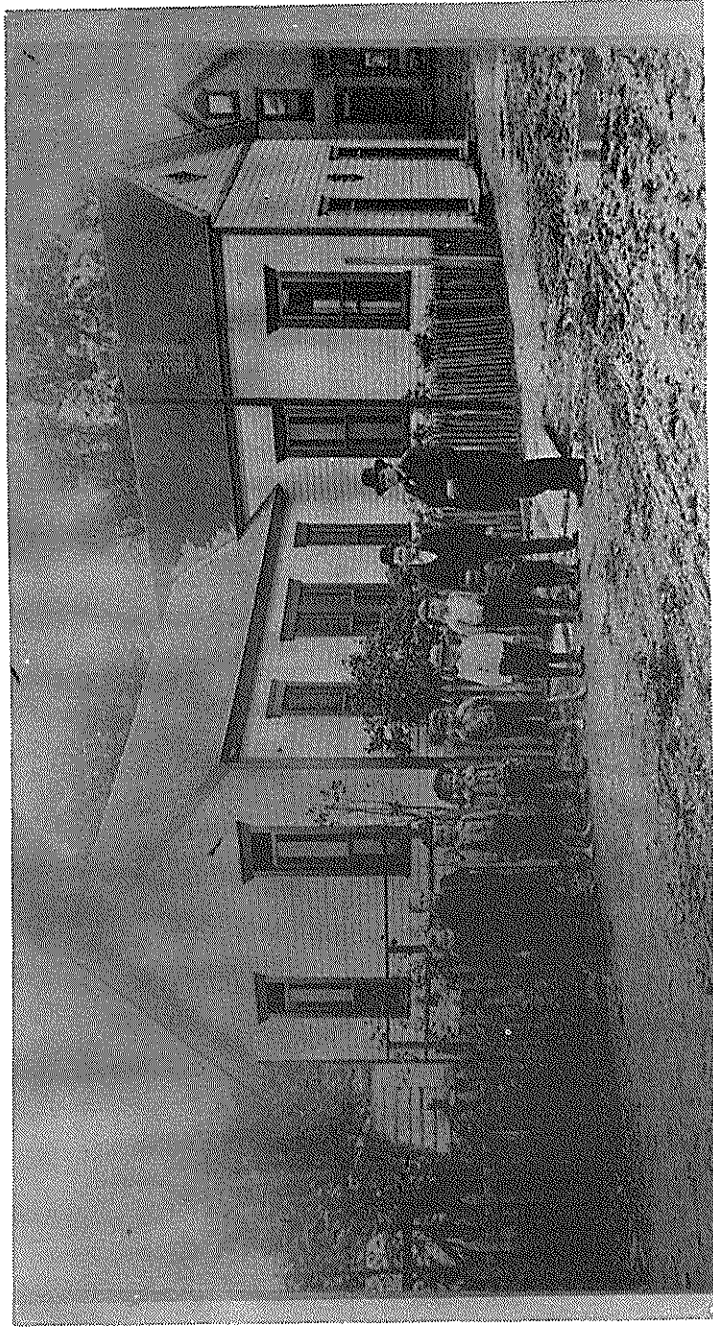
PARADE - 1914 - Commemorating the laying of the street car tracks. Paradeers are leading a streetcar into Hoboken from the West. Workhouse wall to left; with the streetcar about middle right in background. The children in white dresses are standing at top of Center Avenue. Drummers in photo wearing Civil War caps, and the unidentified parade marshalls are waving American flags. (Courtesy of H.W. Thompson)



Derailed streetcar -- approximately 1935. (Courtesy of The Ima King)



Blawnox Fire Truck in 1940 at the new firehouse on Freeport Road. Firemen in the picture are (L to R): Ray Schneider, Alex Netzel and Tom Reitz. (Courtesy of Tom Watson)



This is a picture of what old timers report to be the Methodist Protestant Church, located on Center Avenue where Bill Sproul's Store now stands. Date unknown, except it is after '36 Flood. Those identified in picture are (L to R): Olive Dickey Eva Dickey, Schwartzlander, Bob Campbell, unknown, unknown, Clarence Coss, unknown, Lang, and Rev. Henderson. Rev. Henderson always wore a frock coat as he is wearing in this picture. It was of a grayish green color. (Courtesy of Bill Sproul)

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A NOSTALGIA OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 40's, 50's, 60's.

They Were Distinguished:

Many remember the congenial **John Chadonic**, active in sports and community affairs until his untimely death at such an early age.....Holding the office of President of Council 25 years out of 34 years of service. **James T. King**, not only distinguished himself as a Public Official, he was a fireman and holds the longest record for public office.....**James "Buck" Wallace**, longtime Borough Solicitor was responsible for the many ordinances still in existence today. Dedicated, he saw the community grow from the Depression years to prosperity!

.....**John P. McGee, M.D.**, affectionately known as "Doc McGee" for 40 odd years, had his little office on North Avenue. Walking to visit his many patients he was tremendously proud of Blawnox. A school board member, Doc was much against the merger preferring the little schoolhouse on the hill. Son, John, has followed in his father's footsteps is an M.D. in the Armed Services.

.....**Billy Neilan**, Poet Laureate of Blawnox, had a contagious personality and a Scotch sense of humor that made him the most wanted master of ceremonies in the area. The Neilan poems are now priceless.

People We Remember:

.....**Al Meredith** rose from the ranks of Private to Colonel. Al's sisters, **Patty and Evelyn Williams**, and Al, himself were talented singers. It was Evelyn who sang with well-known bands in the area.....Native sons, **Mel and George Ranii**, became physician and dentist respectively.

.....**Judy Chadonic**, danced her way from the Kenley Players to the Broadway shows.....Serving 23 years as a Borough Secretary, **Alice Wilson** was the mainstay of the Boro Office. She handled complaints, welcomed new visitors, and was an excellent liaison between council and people.....**Jimmy Morece**, worked on the Blawnox maintenance crew. Jimmy knew every sewer line in the Borough from memory.....And dear old **Henry Worshek**, who swept our streets clean had a smile for everybody. Henry was related to the **Cichoski Family** who came to Blawnox in 1910.....**Tommy Shelnick** distinguished as a deep sea diver was involved in government work.....**Ray Dessy** had a patent for an invention.....**Grayce Latus** took us around the world and it never cost us a cent. We saw the world through her adventures as one of the most beloved teachers of the Blawnox School.....**Evelyn Henry** the only kindergarten teacher our kids remember.....One of our most respected men was **William J. Hayes** who served on council, long-time tax collector, prominent in real estate growth, was a special friend to all who knew him.

The Sports World:

.....Blawnox became synonymous with sports. All the great athletes came from Blawnox.....**Joe Chadonic**, Duquesne University; **Ernie Bonelli**, **George Ranii** great Pitt Stars; **Bob Malec** 1943 WPIAL Championship team; **Harry "Buzzy" Lodge** North Carolina; **Walter "Bucky" Voelker** baseball great.....The giants, **Gary and Barry Nelson**, later went into pro basketball: **Jim Walmsley**, **David Diemidio** soccer, and **John Skanderson** bowling; **Frank "Lucky" Burka** golf great.....And who could forget the greats of high school - **Billy Baker**, **Tommy Tomko**, **Eddie Worshek**, **Billy Mauro**, **Eugene Consolo**.

And Who Could Possibly Forget:

....Victory gardens all over Blawnox....Lamb roasts on the workhouse property.....**Jim Ruggeri's** saxophone, **Jimmy Puskar's** trumpet, **George Dominick's** accordion, **Terry Chuvala** practicing his trumpet for all the Woodland Roaders....Canteen dances and chaperones screaming "put the lights on.".....Movies at the Maryland.... "Hells-a-poppin Show," PTA and Blaw-Knox Company chorus and the Old Time Minstrel show.....Then came World War II, five **Wysocki Brothers** and six **Sasinowski Brothers** all serving at the same time.....**Frank Morgan** and his six sons served in three wars.....During World War II everybody gathered at **Peanut Joe's (Compararo's)** or **Bosco's (Leo)** especially when the guys came home on leave.

Gone But Not Forgotten:

....**Mosca's Drug Store** where boys watched the girls go by....**Gerry Ferrone**, distinguished citizen and benefactor who built the monument.....**Sara Sapulski** our only lady grocer.....**Rubin's Department Store....Clawson's Ice Cream Parlor** where everybody met everybody.....And those beautiful cold, snowy, winter evenings and all the hills in Blawnox that were made for sleds riding....The kids burning the school hill every year....Only folksy news you got was the **Blawnox Beams** column in the **Herald**....Remember the **Blawnox Boosters?** Blawnox Borough donated the land and the building was built by the dogged determination of many people. **Charles Lodge** and **George Machen** taught the drilling and marching, **Jesse Walter** marched with the kids and **Lawrence "Deak"** and **Martha Burns**, **Sarah** and **Rege Whalen** worked hard and diligent for the crack outfit. **Alice McIntyre** sewed the uniforms and money which was ever so scarce was donated with loving pride by the parents, community, and **Mr. Schrum**, the great benefactor. And the kids? Well they were sensational! They trooped and marched and won many honors.

The Highlights Of The 70's:

.....**Mary J. Hetzel** 98 years of age, our oldest resident.....**Mrs. Roup**, 93 years young.....**Mrs. Sadie Graham** is also 93.....Our longest living married couples are **Mr. and Mrs. Gaspari** wed 59 years; **Mr. and Mrs. Voelker**, 58 years; **Mr. and Mrs. Borelli**, 54 years; **Mr. and Mrs. Panza**, 54 years; **Mr. and Mrs. Senecal**, 53 years; **Mr. and Mrs. Martin Thompson**, 53 years; **Mr. and Mrs. Smithhammer**, 52 years; **Mr. and Mrs. Crnkovich**, 50 years.

Organizations:

....The Campfire Girls, under the direction of **Vinnie Malec**, had the first disc jockey show. They worked feverishly to pay \$75 to Tony Graham of WEEP Radio to spin records for their first dance. A hole in the roof after a rainy night, **Mary Roach**, **Carole Wateska**, **Betty Cassidy**, **Alice Belotti**, **Jan Sutton**, **Carol Watson**, **Jeanne Neilan** had a mop and bucket brigade until the VFW's **Emil Knezivich** and **Frank Reitze** came to their rescue; the dance was finally held at the old VFW Building, next to **Arlotti's Shoe Store**.

Mary Carol Neiswonger, **Kay Roach**, **Shirley Habura**, **Dorothy Moon**, **Gloria Milashin**, **Carol Witas**, and **Eileen Grover** were some of the many girls who spent a weekend at Conneaut Lake, Pa. **Dorothy Milashin**, **Sara Neilan**, and **Julie Sutton** had an enjoyable task of chaperoning the girls.

Generations Of Families:

....Some of the long-time residents whose families go back for generations were the **Irelands** (father was a river boat captain), the **Altmans**, the **Whitemans**, the **Welshes**, the **Burts**, the **Langs**, the **Dominicks**, the **Terrills**, and the **Moons**.

It tooks so many people contributing just a little of themselves to make the beautiful things that happen.....right here....in Blawnox our town.....and still going strong.

EARLY MEMORIES OF HOBOKEN (Now Blawnox)

Submitted to the History Committee of the 50th GOLDEN JUBILEE by Sally Cricks. The author is not named. It is an old ditto manuscript. It is copied to be preserved.

* * * * *

We had no railroads but there was a canal boat making the trip to Pittsburgh one day and coming back the next, this boat was drawn by horses that walked along the tow path. The canal was near where the railroad now is. No street cars or bus service.

Beginning at the borough line separating Montrose and Blawnox, coming down Freeport Road in the early days of 1889 or 1890, there was just a mud road, wide enough for a team of horses and wagon (no autos), no sidewalks, if you were going to the store at Hoboken and there was a horse and wagon on the road, you had to get off the road and walk in the field until they passed -- not enough room for all. On the right hand side of the road coming down to Hoboken, there were only two houses, both are still standing today. The first one coming down was occupied by the Mr. James Combs family now owned by Mr. John Lichauer. The other old house is the one on the right hand side of the street going up to the Catholic church, and was owned by the Tom Coffey family. From there down to the street going up to the Presbyterian church, all that ground was owned by John Cable and used for pasturing cows. Walnut Street was part of this pasture and from there all back up the hill was woods.

On the left hand side of Freeport Road coming down, there was only one house. It is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lays, Sr. -- at time owned and occupied by P.S. Duganne -- a civil war veteran. This house is at Fountain Street.

From Fountain Street down to Blaw Avenue (then just a path) nothing but fields, but there was one old log cabin near to the present railroad.

About the place where Sara's Meat Shop now is, at that time there was a blacksmith shop -- where the farmers had shoes put on their horses.

On the right side of Blaw Avenue to Center Street, there were only a couple of houses. if I remember right, the home of Mrs. Hamilton was one. On the other side of Freeport Road from Blaw to Center, there was a couple of two story houses, build together. That was called the Taylor Row, the space is now occupied by the A & P store. There was a red brick house and that is still there at the present time.

At Freeport and Center there was a house on either side of Center -- the one is covered with Insulbric and the other is the house where McIntyre family lived until moving to Montrose Hill. This house was the General Store and Post Office -- this building has been changed

some to improve the appearance. At that time was owned and occupied by Mrs. Hetzell, who had charge of the Post Office. There were not many customers in those days -- when you opened the door to enter the store, a little bell fastened at the door rang and Mrs. Hetzell would leave her work and come to wait on you. The Post Office on one side of the building occupied about fifteen feet of wall space -- but it was the Post Office nevertheless. The general store was the kind you perhaps have read about in books. -- anything and everything. Yard goods, overshoes, carbon oil lamps (as that the only light we had and coal fire, no gas). Then there were shoe strings, chewing and smoking tabacco, salt fish in kegs, molasses in barrels (you bought by the gallon) groceries, no cigarettes or booze. In the center of the store a round stove sat, where you could get warm and hear any news, -- at the store the old coal bucket and box with saw dust in for the men to spit in when chewing tobacco. Many times they missed the box and spit on the store floor, but that was all in the day, no excuse. Also at the store there was a large barrel of pickles without a cover on it and a barrel of soda crackers.

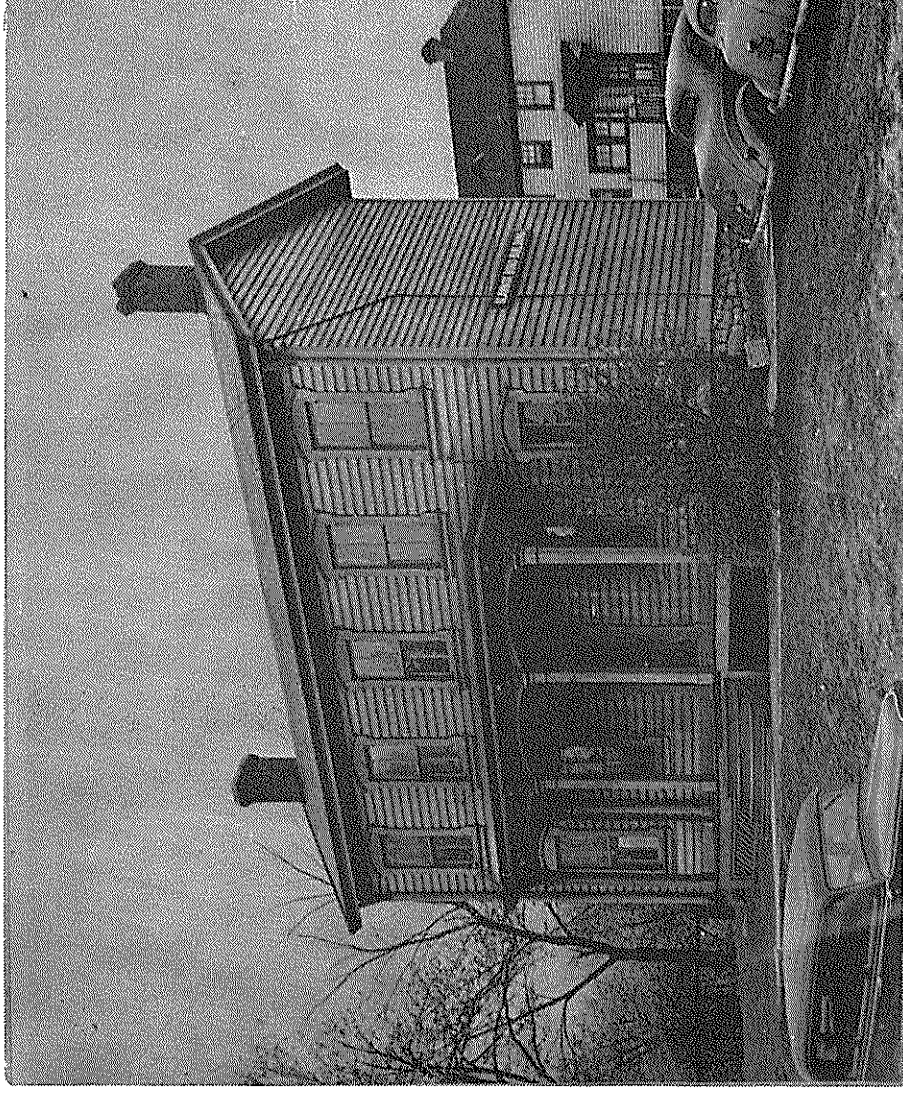
Going down Center Street from Freeport Road (on the left) there was nothing but the Methodist Church, the same church is still standing today), but it has been made larger and other improvements -- the Presbyterian Church was further back of the Methodist on Sixth Street. I think it is now used as the C.I.O. building.

On the right side of Center, there was nothing but the old house near the railroad, that house was occupied by the McCrum family (Mrs. McCrum was a sister of Mrs. H. J. Heinz, the wife of H.J. Heinz. Mrs. Heinz was an aunt of Myra and Dave Boyd of Montrose.) Below the railroad at Center (on the left) the John Henderson Methodist Church, on the right side of Center the old frog pond (such noise). There were not many houses -- just a few. The Wightmans lived there at that time. There was nothing along the railroad from the Montrose crossing to the Center Avenue crossing, but the Flocker Rope Works (a small place with a large name) Blawnox station was then called Hoboken and it was just a shed like the one at Glenover is now. Parkview was then called Claremont and was quite a nice station at that time. The prisoners from Pittsburgh were brought up on the noon train (for the workhouse, handcuffed two by two and officers with them).

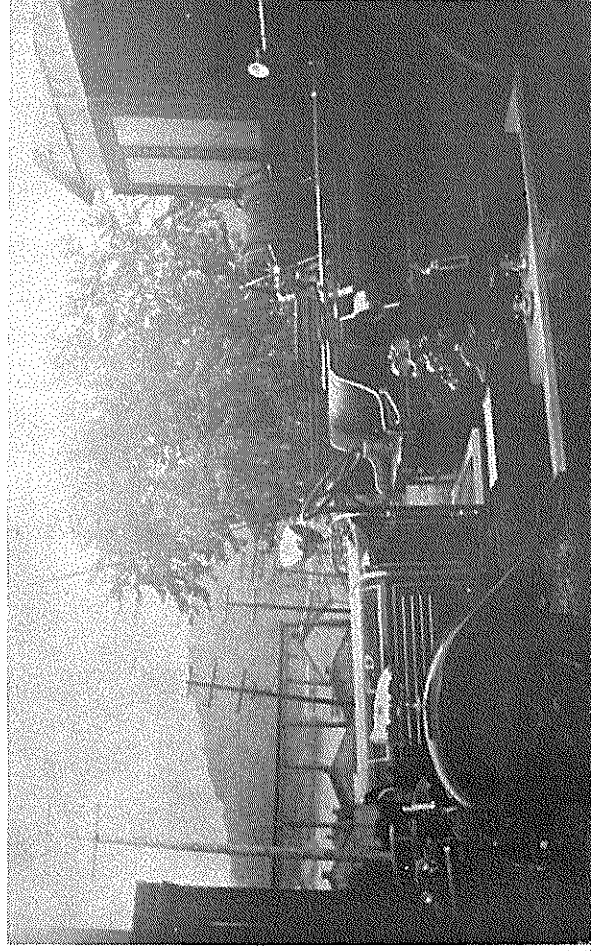
No daily papers -- if one could afford a newspaper, it came by mail and was a day old when received, -- in other words you read yesterdays news today.

Our first street cars were in use in the fall of 1907 or 1908.

If you had to travel at night (I mean walk) you carried a lantern to help light the way.

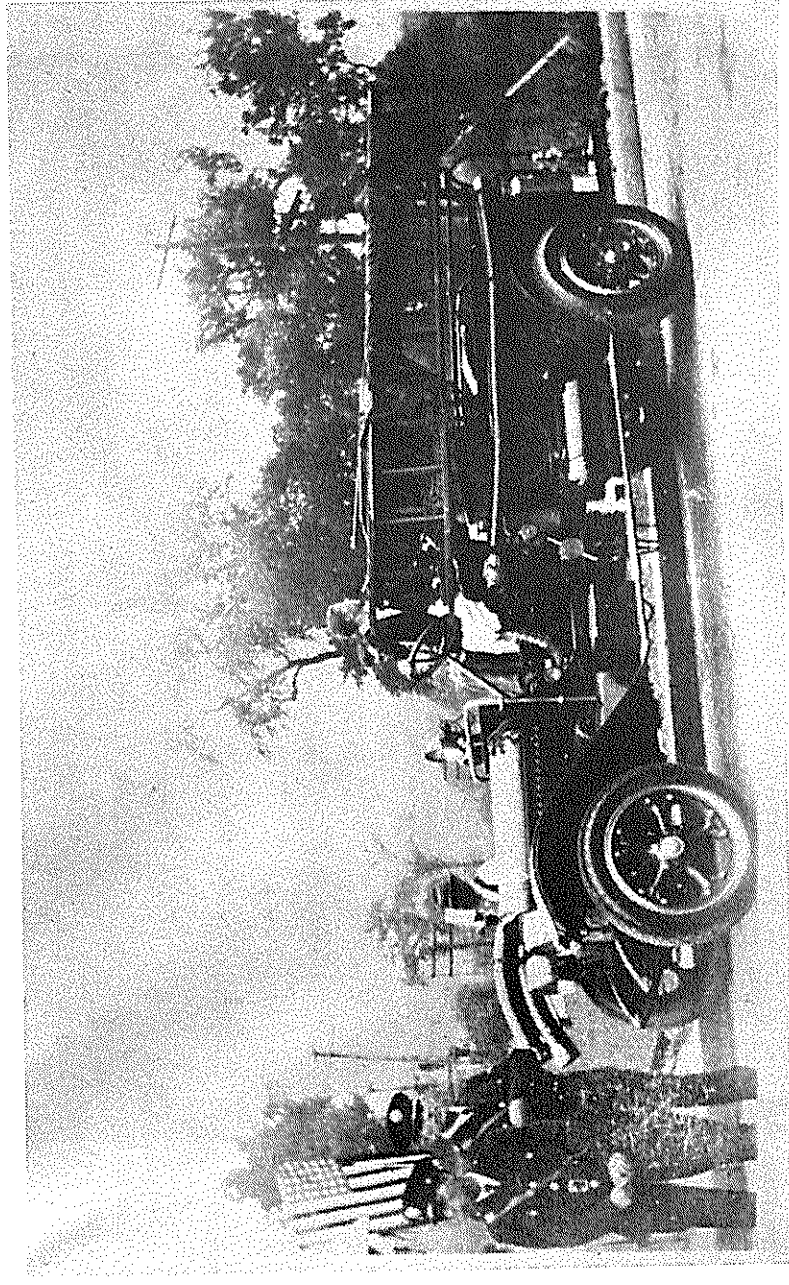


Blawnox Borough Building. Located on Seventh Street-- 1925 to 1939 (Courtesy of the Borough of Blawnox)



"OUR NEW FIRE TRUCK" -- 1936 at Fire Dept. Bldg, on Corner of Blaw Ave and Eighth Street. (Courtesy of Thelma King)

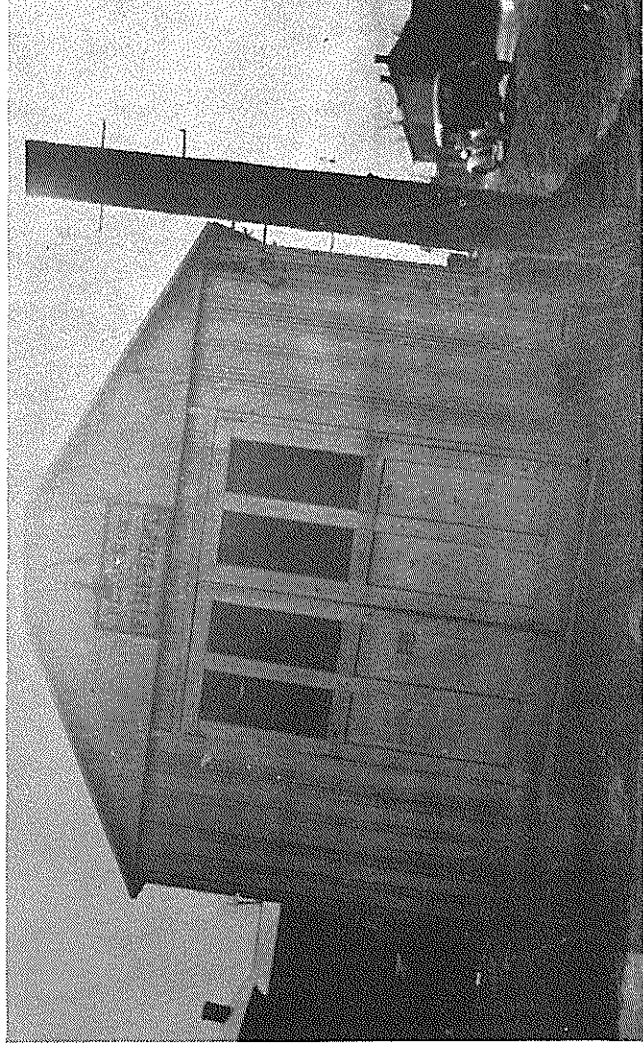
"OUR FIRE TRUCK" (Courtesy of Thelma King)

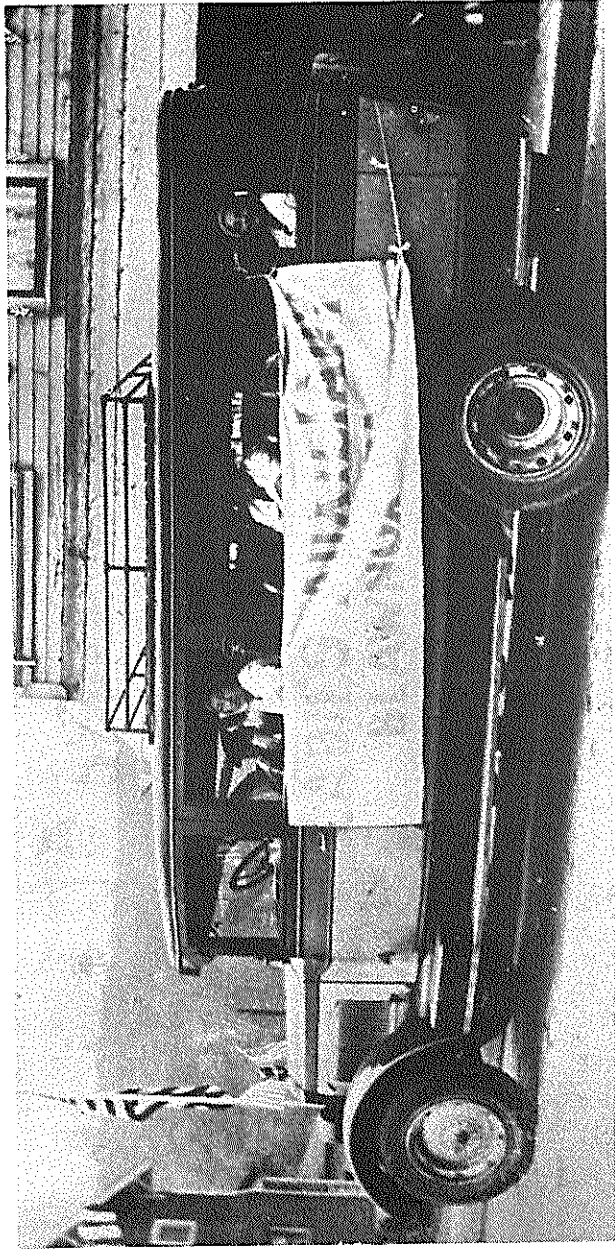


1st (L to R) Guy Postelwaite, George Lingle, Paul Hartman, Charles Lodge, Al Holden, (Unknown) 2nd Row- Frank Fisher, Lester McMillen, Sam Reynolds, Mike Lodge, (?) Charles Terrell, C.T. Lodge and David Bright. 3rd Row John McInyre, Red Muller and Ed Bowser, Ed Donnelly, Ellwood Jackson, and Leo Schultz. (Glass Neg. Courtesy of Jean Whartenby)



1st. Row (L to R.): George Linge, Whoopy Smith, Bill Roberts, Mike Lodge, "Fats", McMunn, Gail Stewart, (2nd Row) Frank Fisher, (Name Unknown) Leo Schultz, Jim King, Al Downing, (3rd. Row) Eddie Long, Vince Ray, Stan Belitski (4th Row) Bill Hughes, and (?) Snyder. (Courtesy of Blawnox Borough and Jim Smith)

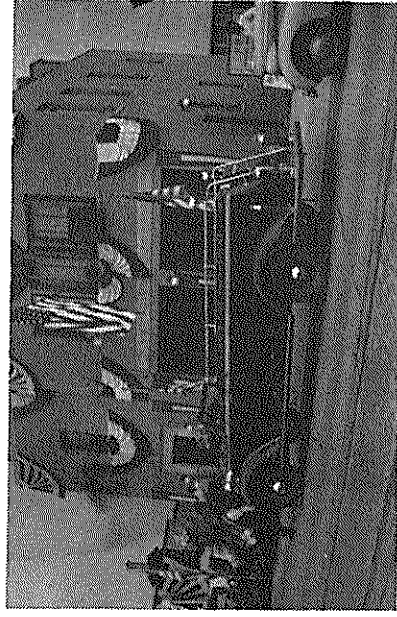




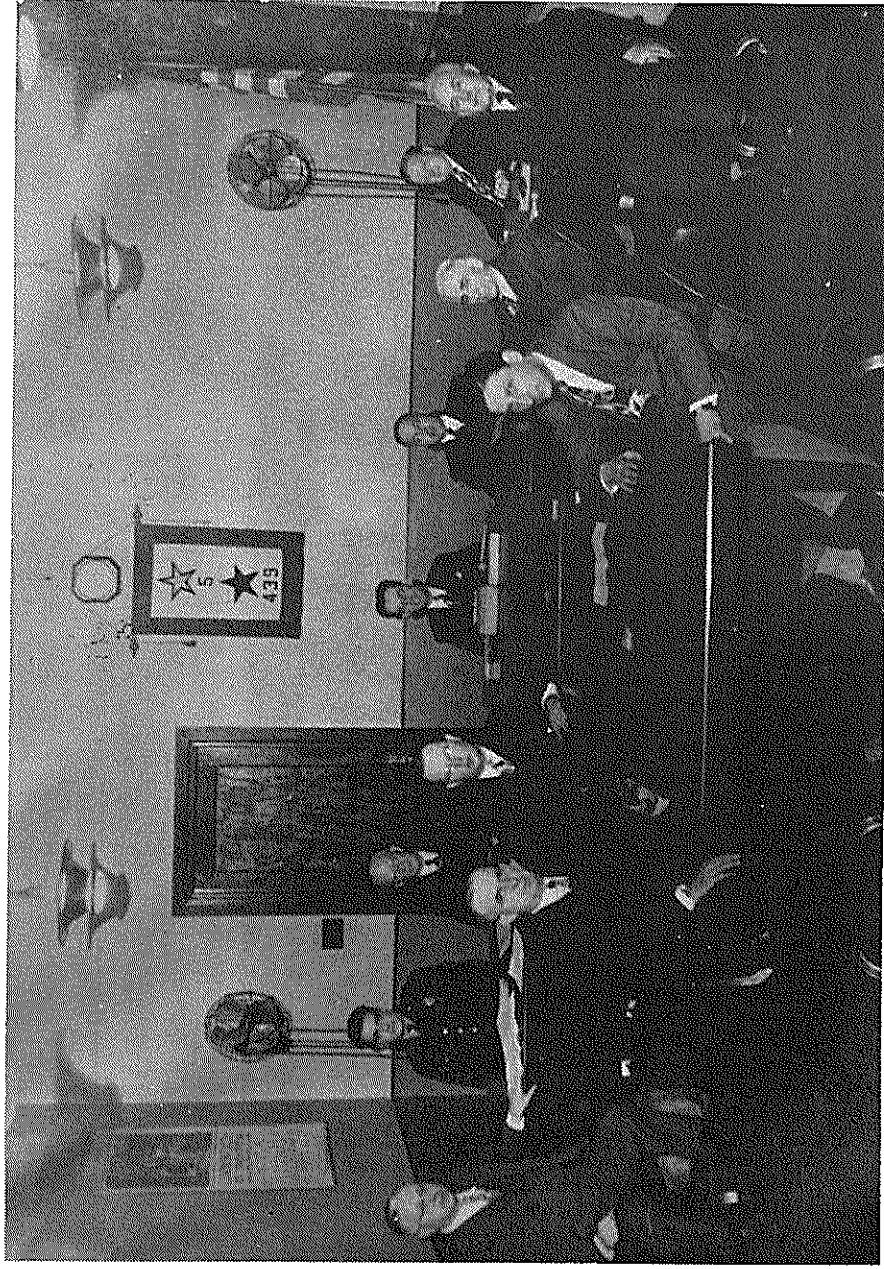
Blawnox Fire Ladies Auxiliary at Connelsville Convention 1935 - 1940
(Courtesy of Thelma King)



Christmas Party for Children of the Firemen
(Courtesy of Angeline Isabella & Eleanor Fenton)

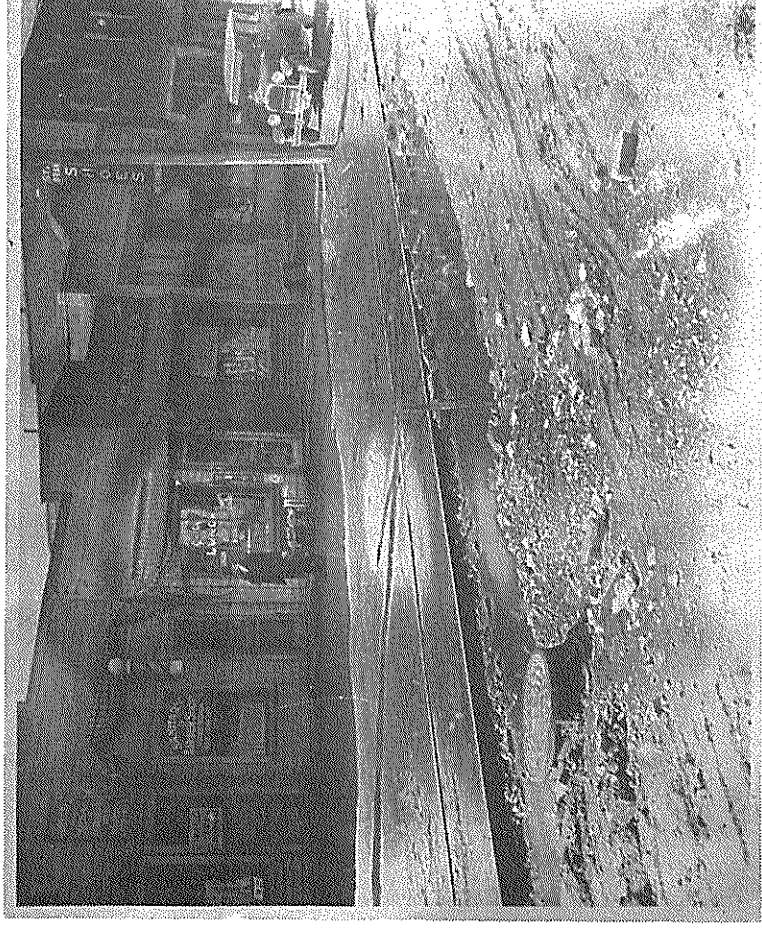
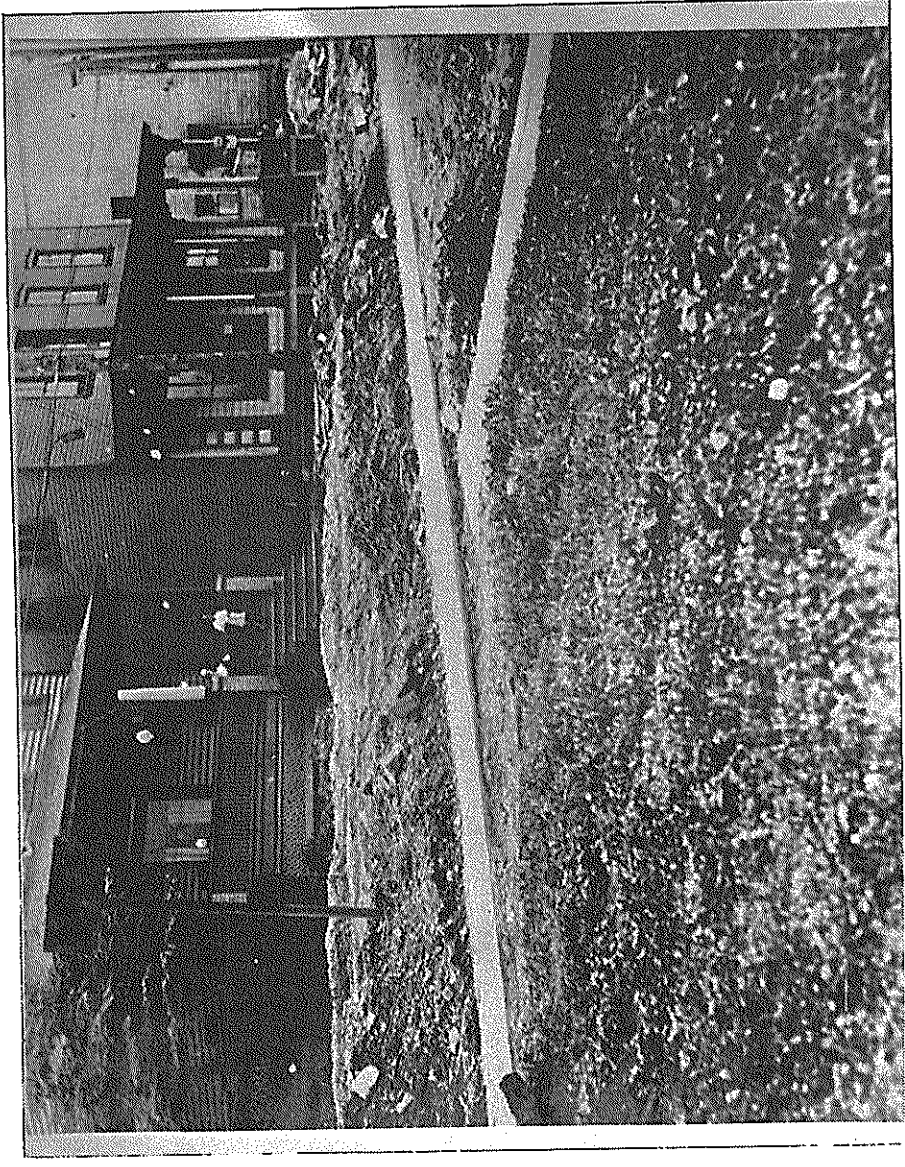


Dedication of New Borough Building, June 8, 1939 (Courtesy of Thelma King)

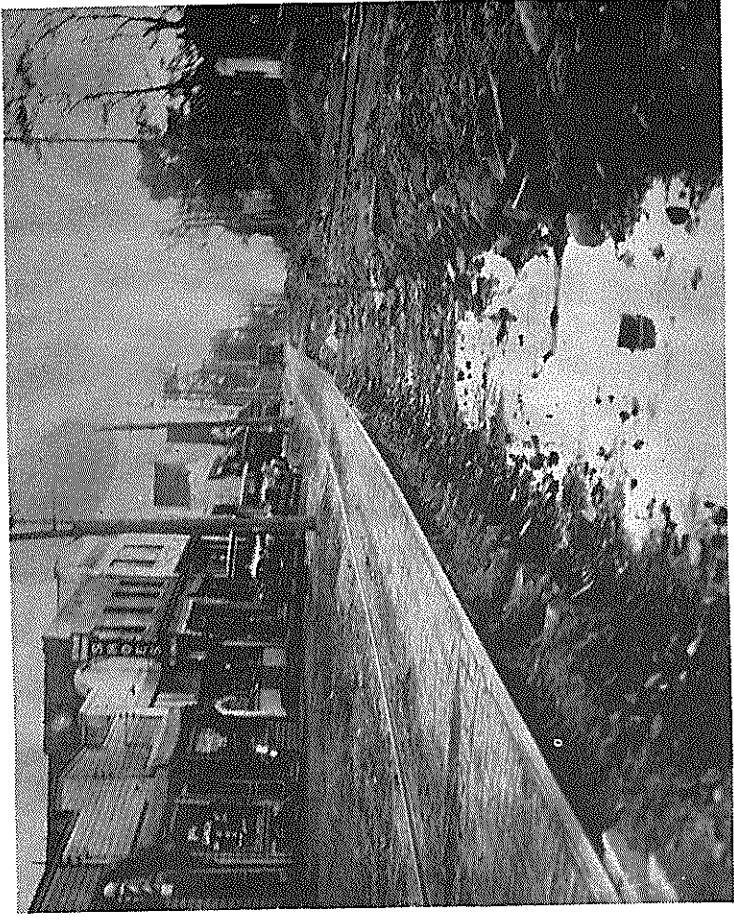
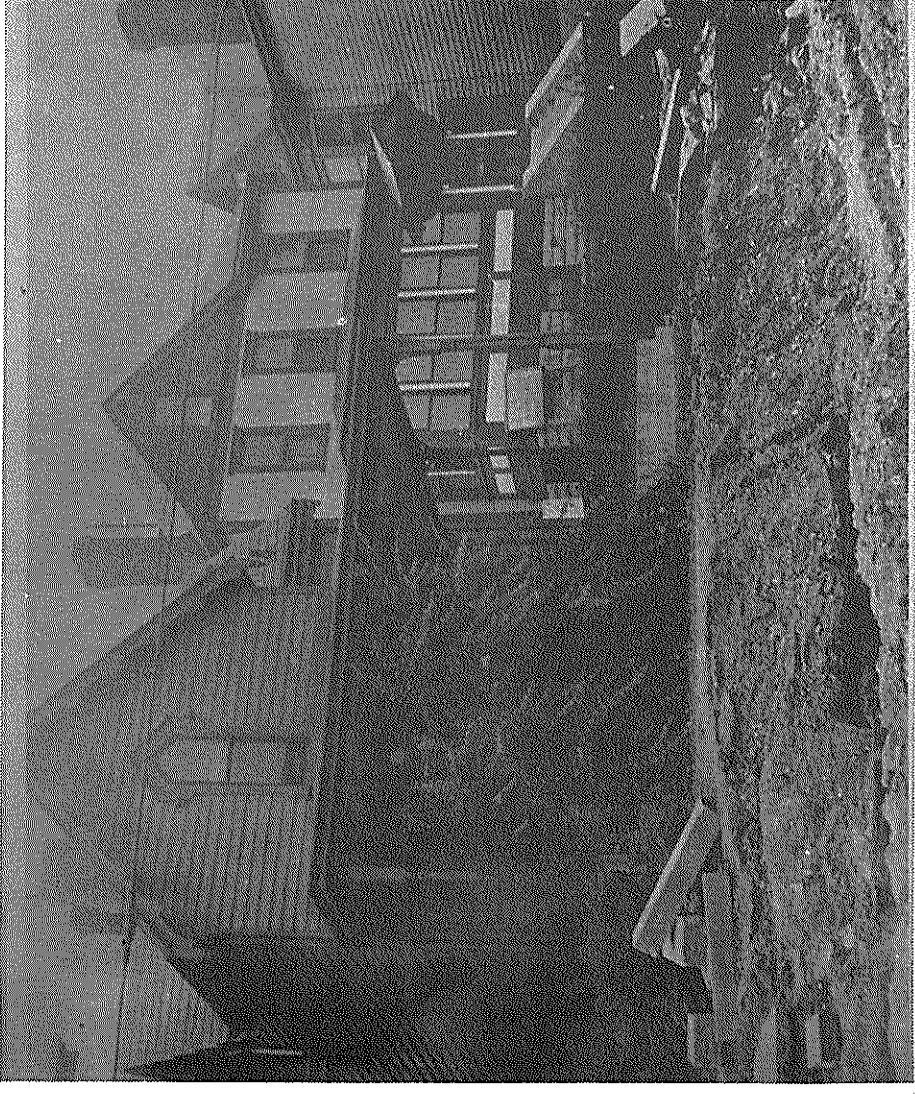


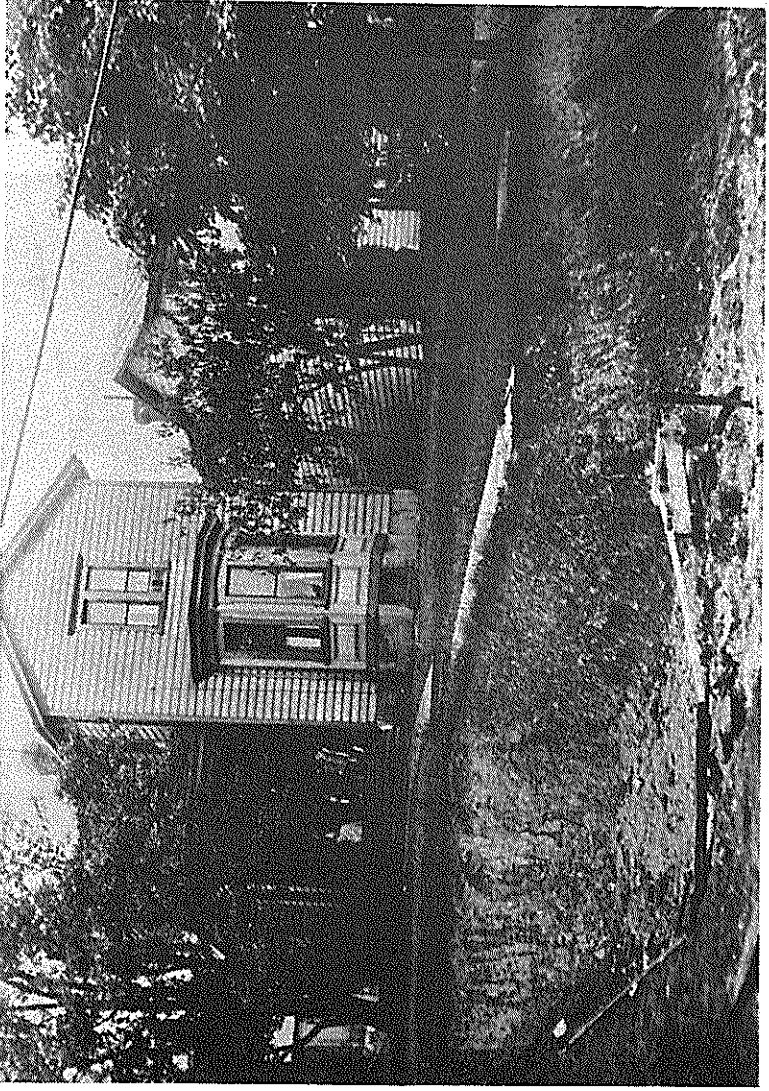
1946-1947 COUNCIL L to R- Buck Wallace, Mike Bellotti, Walter Dripps, James T. King, Carl Ferraro Tom Sheridan L. R. Front of Table Lawrence Deak Burns, Ray Butson, Chuck Gries, Ray Welch, James Shrum. (Courtesy of Thelma King)

ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND
CONSTRUCTION IN BLAWNIX
During 1936 to 1939. (Pictures
are from glass negs, courtesy
of Jean Whartenby. The photo-
grapher was her brother John
Bert.

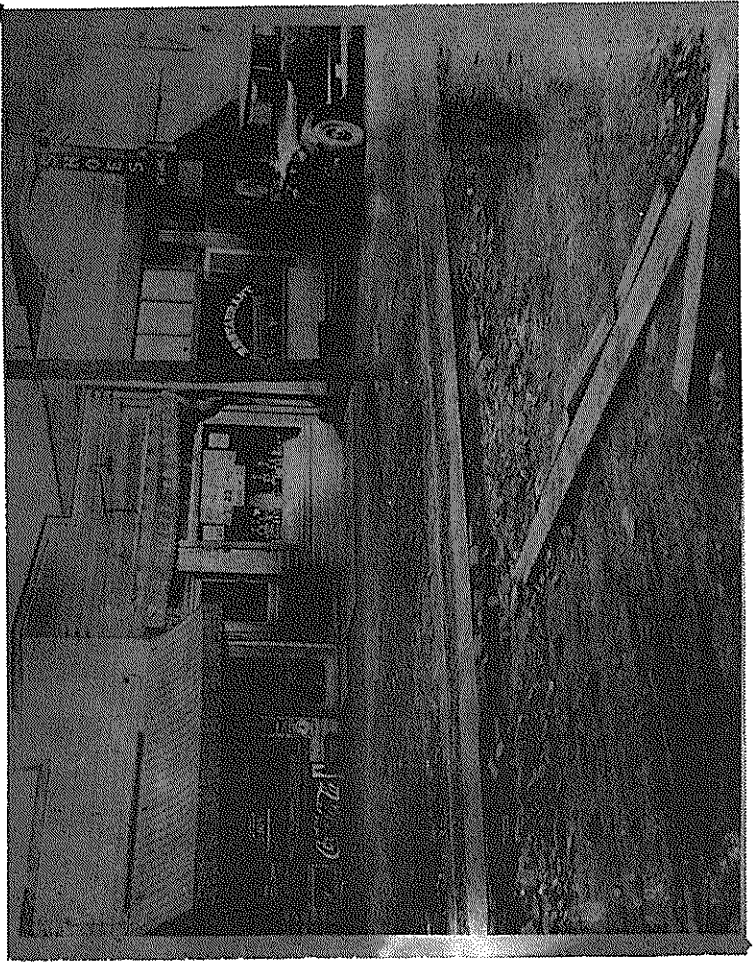
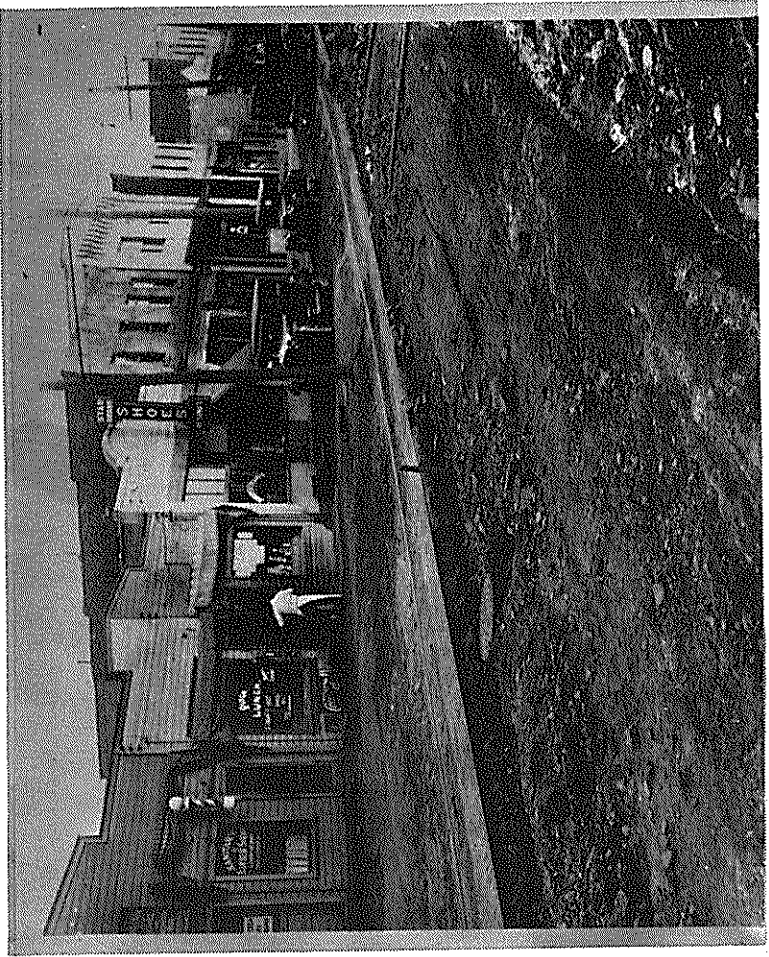
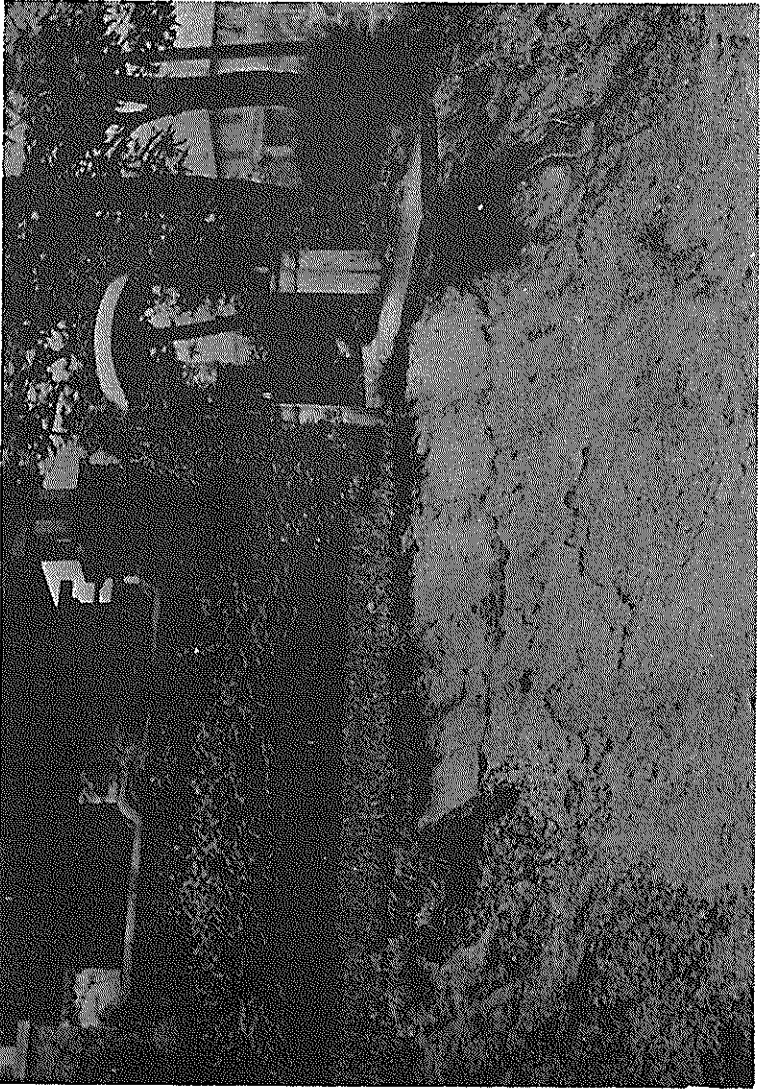


Road Improvement

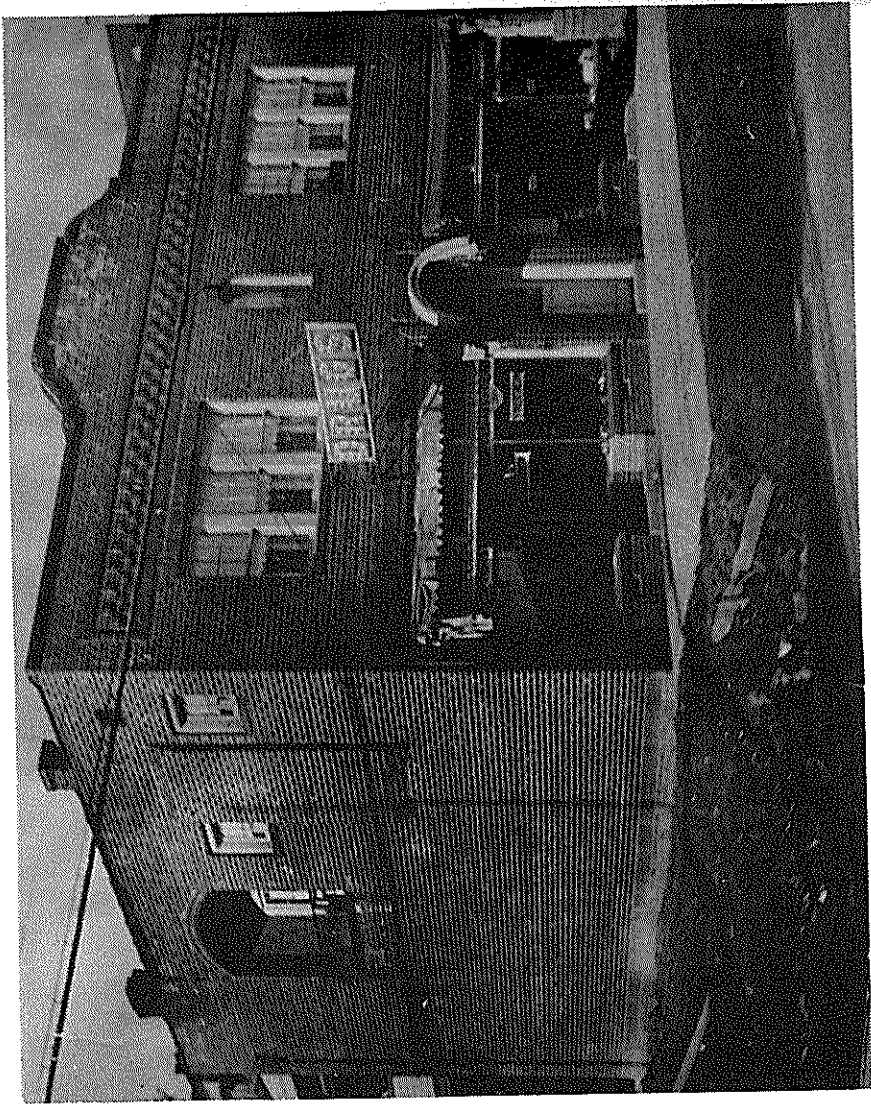




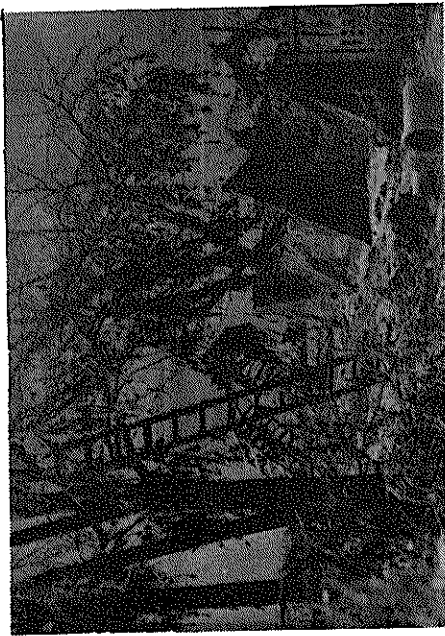
Road Improvement



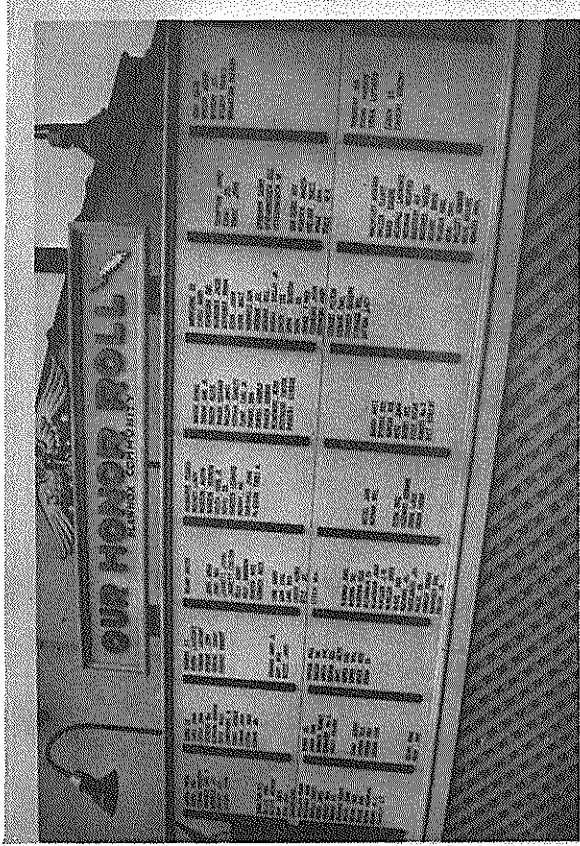
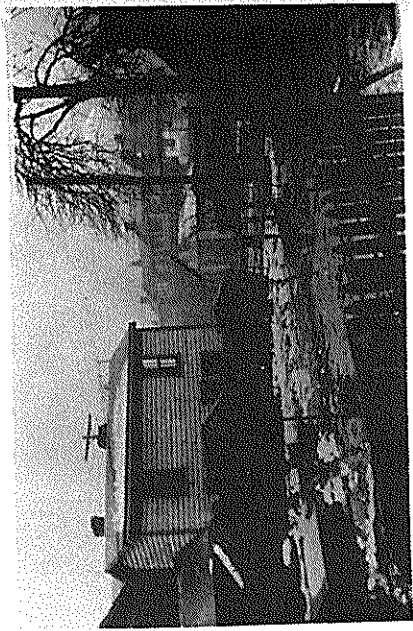
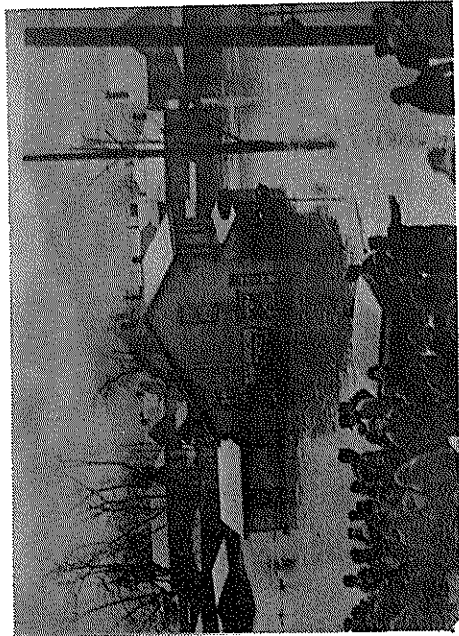
Series of Road Improvement pictures from the Corner of Freeport & North Avenue on the Northern Side of Mosca's Drug Store (Courtesy of Jean Whartenby)



This is the debris left after the '36 Flood in the back yard of the Peterson home on First Street. The flood water left the ladder leaning against the pear tree as though it were time to pick pears. (Courtesy of Mildred Thompson)



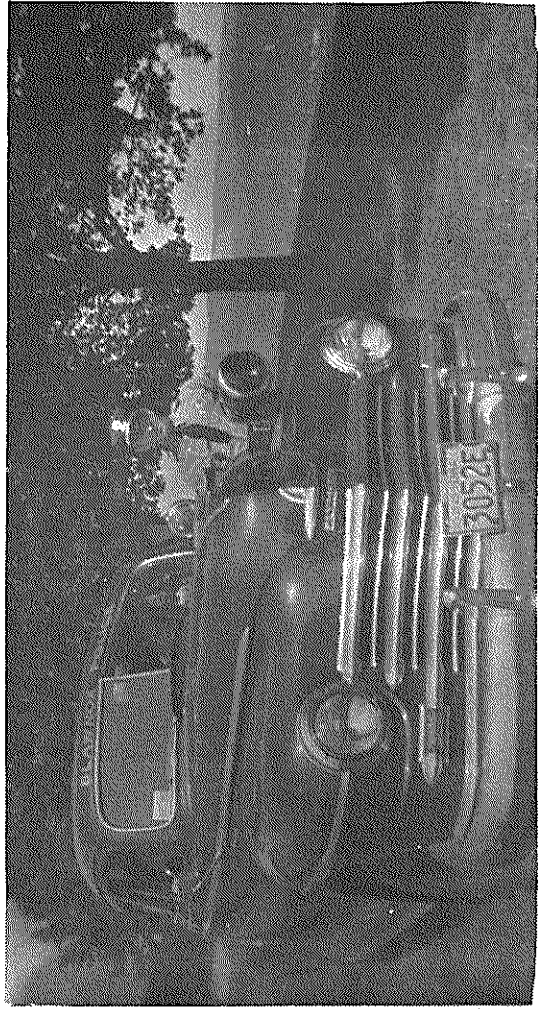
(Left) 1936 Flood - Corner of Railroad and Center Avenue. The building in the middle of the picture is Kapola's Grocery Store, now torn down, on the corner of Fourth and Center Ave. (Courtesy of Thelma King)



World War II Honor Roll Listing Men From Blawnox as They Went Into Service. Stood at front of Borough Building (Courtesy of Thelma King)



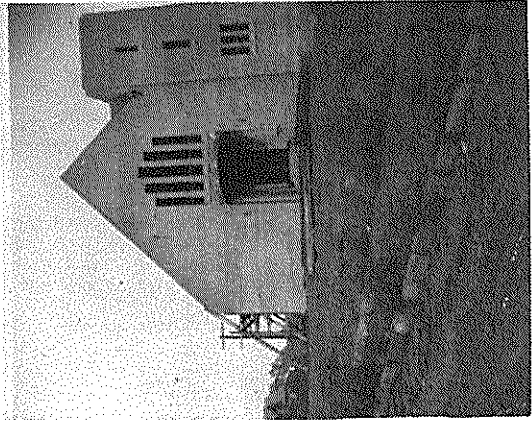
Charles Terrell and Tom Wilson, First Day of Mail Delivery in Blawnox -- May 1, 1947 (Courtesy of Charles Terrell)



1948 Plymouth Police Car with Patrolman Gail Stewart, Blawnox's First. (Courtesy of Thelma King)



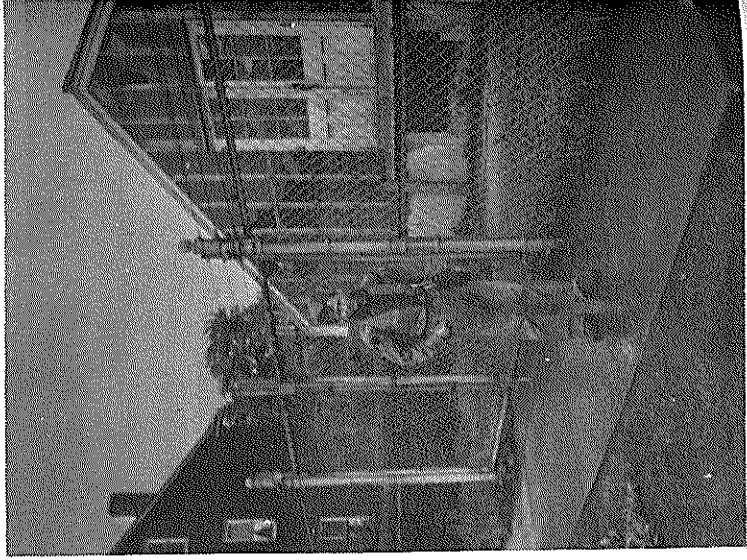
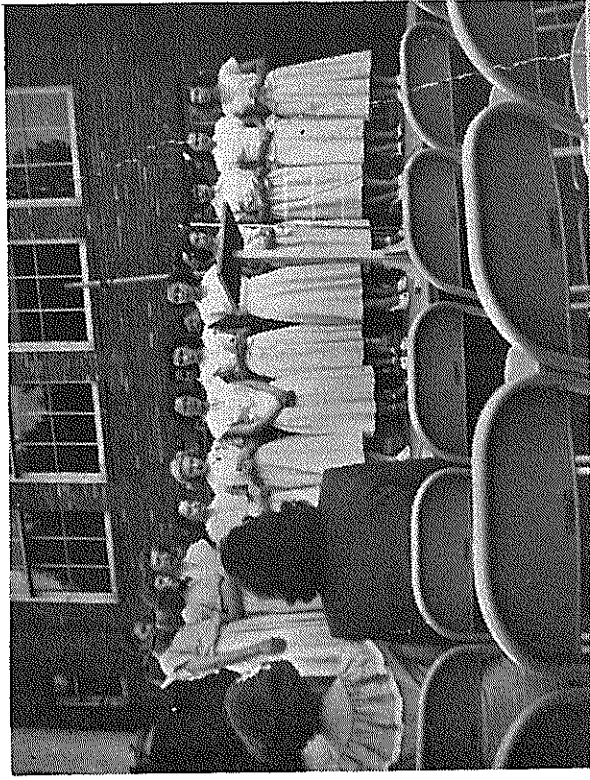
FATHER NEMMER (Courtesy of Phyllis Trail)



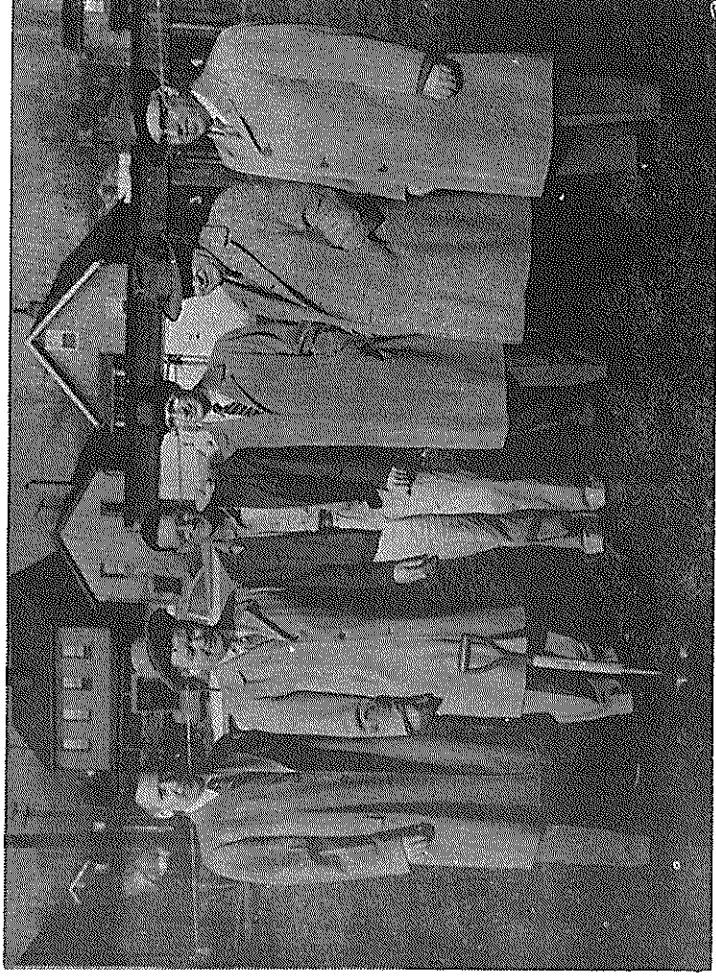
Bishop & Altar Boys entering Church for Dedication May 29, 1948 (Courtesy of E. A. Roberts)



First Graduation Ever Held at Blawnox School — 1949 (Courtesy of Pat Murray)



Earl Vance, General Manager of Blaw-Knox Equipment, Inc. 1975 (Courtesy of Blaw-Knox Equipment, Inc.)



Ground breaking for the Building of Hart Hall on Sixth Street. June 15, 1958. (L to R) Joseph Ivancucci, Bill Hart, Bill Bechtold, Alex Jackson (Manager of Blaw-Knox Equipment), Mr. Thomas Joyce, and Carl Ferraro. (Courtesy of Local 1243)

History of Blaw-Knox Company

Author Unknown

Prior to 1904 Mr. Jacob B. Blaw, a Pittsburgh Man, had an idea for collapsible steel concrete forms for use primarily in sewer construction work.

After promoting this idea, Mr. Blaw was satisfied with the merits of his invention and presented, in 1905, this invention to Moses Lehman and his two sons A.C., Lehman and I. F. Lehman. They, being satisfied, incorporated in April 6, 1906, the Blaw Collapsible Steel Centering Company.

During the period from 1906 to 1907 the forms were manufactured by the James Lapham Manufacturing Company and R. Monroe and Sons. During 1907 the building of the Atchison Manufacturing Company at Rankin, Pennsylvania, which had been used by them as a brass foundry, was leased and at this place the company started to manufacture its own forms. In 1908 the company started to manufacture its own forms. In 1908 the company purchased the plant of the Pittsburgh Industrial Iron Works at Reynoldsville, Penna. and for sometime operations were carried on at both plants. Soon thereafter the Rankin plant was closed and all of the forms were manufactured in Reynoldsville.

Operations began on a large scale at Reynoldsville with a daylight force of 150 men. A night crew of approximately 50 men was added. These men were organized under John J. Conley, the shop superintendent. Manufacturing conditions within the company changed very rapidly. New products were being patented and manufacture included arches for bridges, clamshell buckets and forms for aqueducts.

The new plant acquired at Reynoldsville became inadequate for handling the products of the company making it necessary to re-locate in order to take care of the expanding business.

In 1911 and 1912 the properties now owned by the company at Blawnox were purchased and construction of a new plant was started during the earlier period of 1912. This construction period continued until March 1914, at which the plant was operated in full. A great deal of the equipment used at Reynoldsville was dismantled and transferred to Blawnox which included a plate shop and the cafeteria. The trusses and columns of these two structures were those that were transferred from the Reynoldsville plant.

It is interesting to note that the overhead crane in the machine shop and the wall cranes in #2 shop and Bucket Shop were also brought from Reynoldsville and have been in continuous use.

It should be noted at this time that concurrently with the moving of the plant and transferring of operations from Reynoldsville to Hoboken, the name of the company was changed from the Blaw Collapsible Steel Centering Company to the Blaw Steel Construction.

In 1917 Blaw Steel Construction Company was consolidated with the Knox Pressed and Welded Steel Company under the name of Blaw-Knox Company. It might be of interest to note that the first part of the Company's name refers to Mr. Jacob B. Blaw, the originator of the Blaw forms and the second part of the company's name refers to Mr. Luther Knox, the inventor of the equipment manufactured by the Knox Pressed and Welded Steel Company for the open-hearth furnace development.

With the inclusion of the Knox Pressed and Welded Steel Company, we are now manufacturing all kinds of steel forms, doors and frames, water-cooled equipment for steel plants, transmission towers, structural steel, structural steel buildings, dredge buckets and many of the present day products. In order to meet the expansion, the buildings were extended to include the "Light Aisle", #3 and #4 shops, and a larger storeroom. Approximately 250 feet were added to the length of #1 and #2 shop and the steel yard was extended to Blaw Avenue. Formerly, the steel yard extended up to the point where the foot bridge now crosses to the cafeteria.

It was at this time that the name of the town was changed from Hoboken to Blawnox. The town was growing, the company having built housing facilities for over 150 families. Many of these houses are owned today by Blaw-Knox workers.

The Grating and Process shop properties were purchased about this time and all the property owned by the company below the railroad was purchased from the T. A. Gillespie Company and on this property the National Alloy Company* was established.

The Hammerweld process was developed by the Blaw-Knox organization which became a national leader in this type of work.

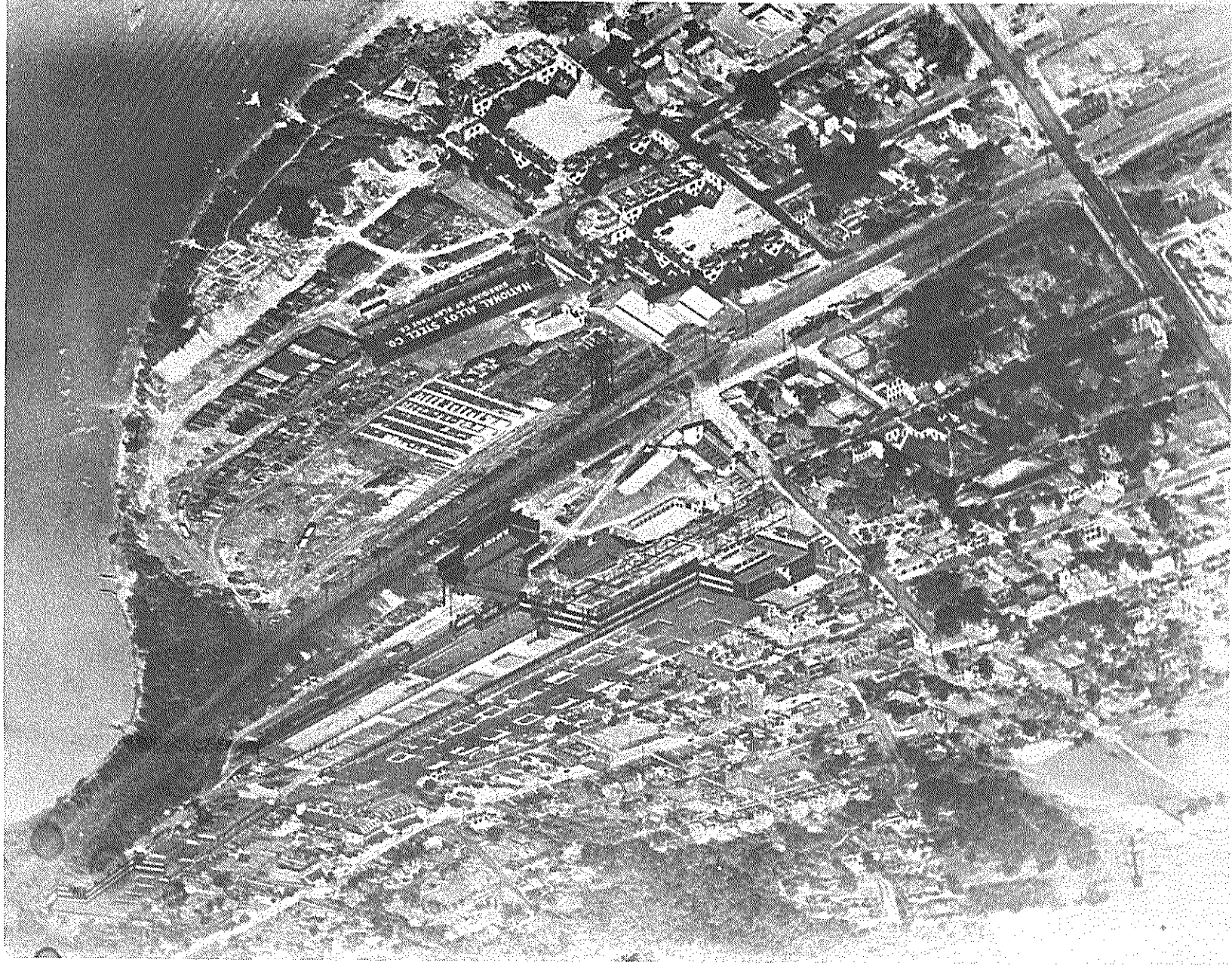
The company recognized the merit in a patented type of grating and acquired this manufacturing rights, built the grating shop for its production. Considerable development work, again by the Blaw-Knox Organization, resulted in a widespread demand for this product and necessitated extending the building to its present size.

Our history has been one of continuous development and expansion. This expansion occurring without interruption of production.

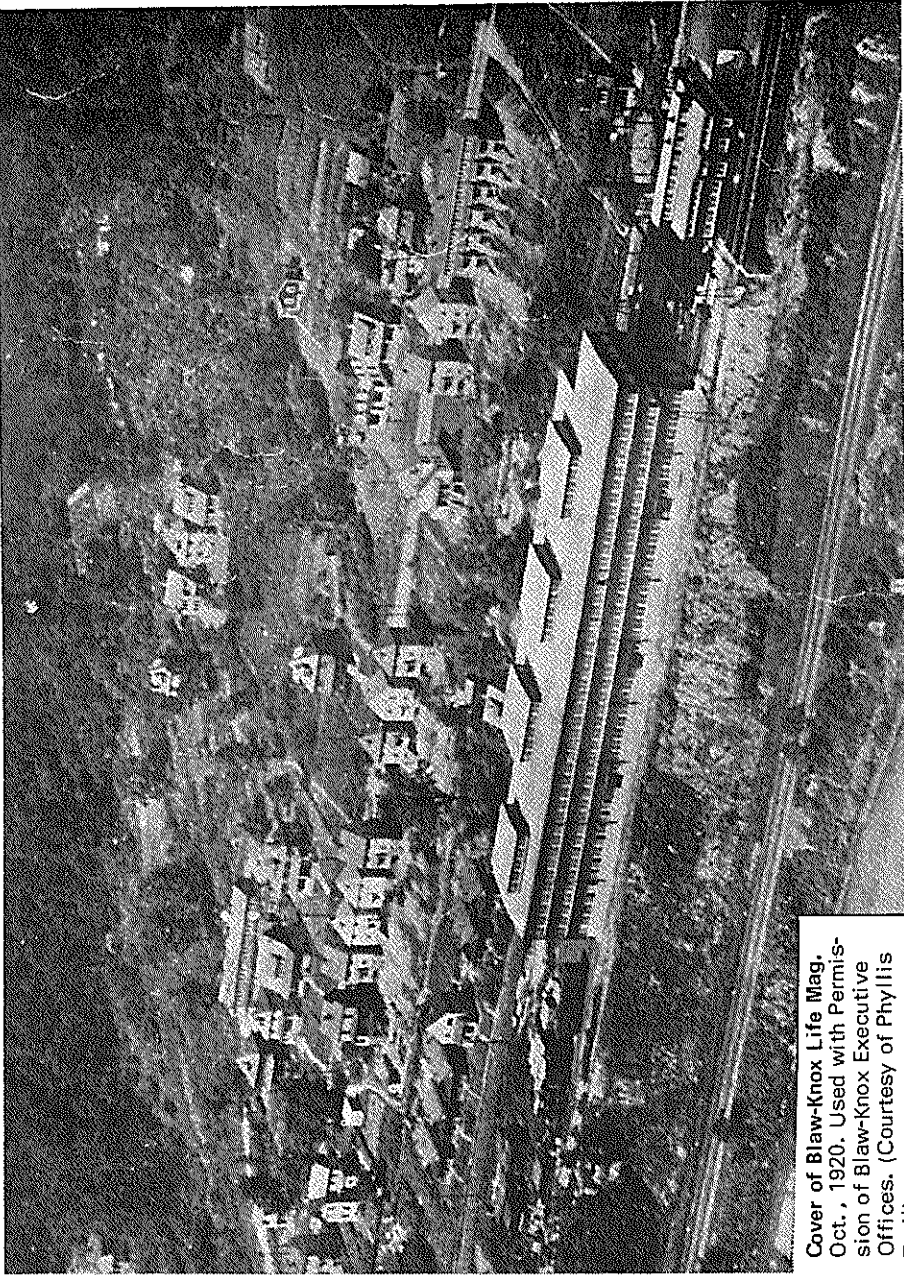
Today this organization consists of eleven divisions, fabricating a great variety of products. This variety is so great that our company is sometime referred to as the "The Department Store of Fabricated Products."

Courtesy of Sally Cricks

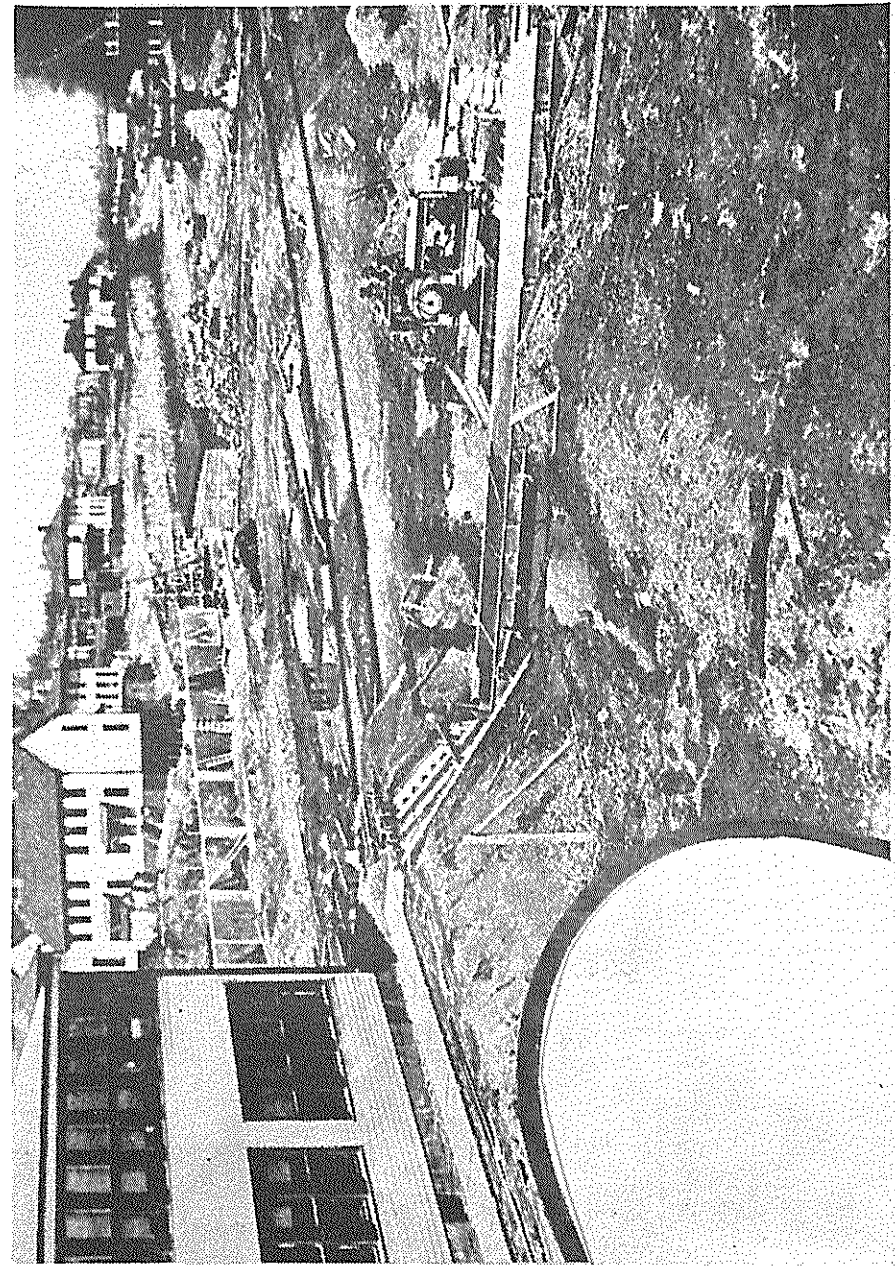
*NOTE: The National Alloy ceased operation on February 2, 1975.



AERIAL VIEW OF BLAWNOX AND BLAW-KNOX TAKEN APPROXIMATELY 1930
(Courtesy of Blaw-Knox Equipment, Inc.)



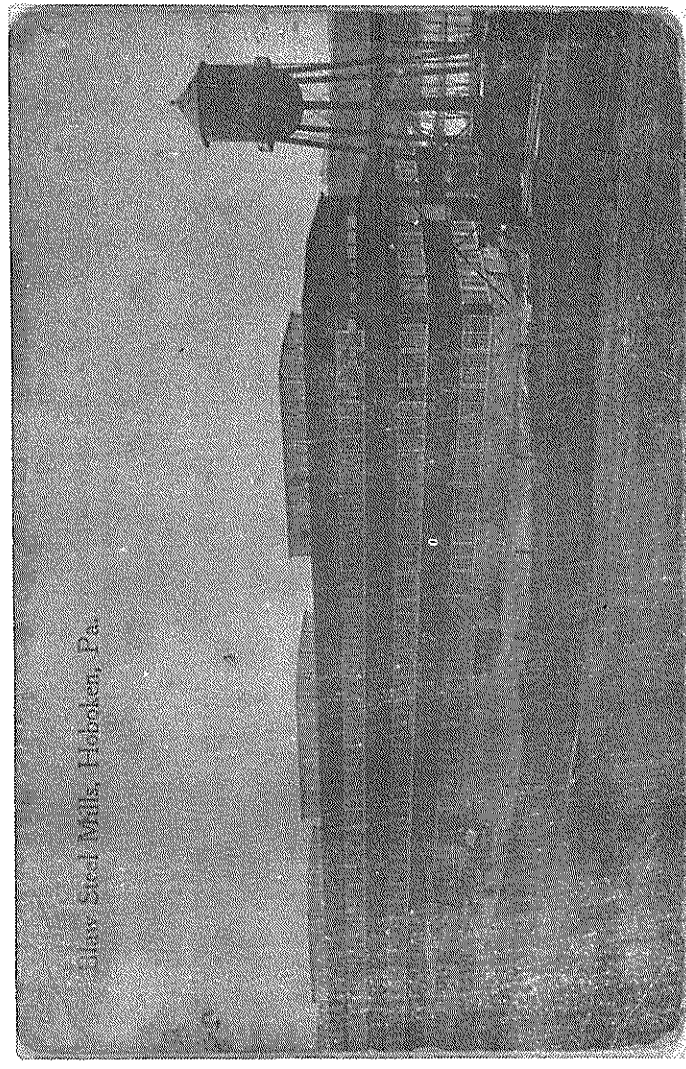
Cover of Blaw-Knox Life Mag.
Oct., 1920. Used with Permis-
sion of Blaw-Knox Executive
Offices. (Courtesy of Phyllis
Trail)



1919 Construction (Courtesy of Blawnox Equipment, Inc.)



(Right) JOHN E. WIGHTMAN in
the chair given him by his friends
the day he retired from the
Machine Shop, December 29, 1939.
(Courtesy of Mary Bert Kincaid)



Blaw Steel Mills, Hoboken, Pa.



Thomas M. Smith
Mayor



Hilda A. Utiss
Secretary

BLAWNOX BOROUGH COUNCIL



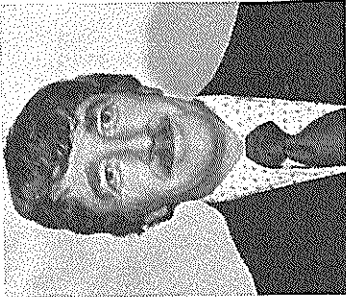
1st Row - Standing (L to R): Henry Witas, William Adamski,
George F. Bubash
2nd Row - Sitting (L to R): Robert G. Jenets, Richard E.
Jackson, Michael Bosilovich.

On June 5, 1920, Nelson Smith was appointed Post Master of "Blawnox". President Woodrow Wilson issued the "Birth Certificate" of Blawnox, in the County of Allegheny, State of Pennsylvania, thus changing the name from Hoboken on June 28, 1920. By consent of residents, Hoboken was incorporated into the Borough of Blawnox on April 13, 1925. The name officially changed, was adopted from Blaw-Knox Company.

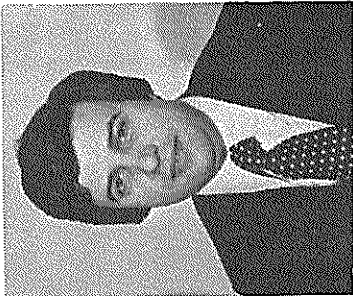
FIRST COUNCIL appointed—
E. F. Flynn, O. S. Herold, S. B. Reynolds, Ray Eck,
H. A. Steele, J. E. Wightman, W. G. White, A. W.
Bowser, Secretary of Boro.; Harry Roberts, Police Chief
Wm. Ewing, Night Policeman. 1st Burgess was H. L.
Evans.

COUNCILMEN who have served the Borough of Blawnox,
and the number of years they served:

James T. King	34 yrs.	Wm. B. Hays	8 yrs.
Ray Butson	22 yrs.	Gerry Ferrone	8 yrs.
Laurence Burns	21 yrs.	J. E. Wightman	7 yrs.
Thos. Sheridan	20 yrs.	Henry Witas	7 yrs.
Chas. Gries	17 yrs.	Chas. Reitz	6 yrs.
Ray Welsh	16 yrs.	Fred Scharpf	6 yrs.
J. A. Shrum	15 yrs.	E. F. Flynn	5 yrs.
H. A. Steele	13 yrs.	Gordon Clawson	5 yrs.
Phil Wise	13 yrs.	Thos. Smith	5 yrs.
Jos. Watson	13 yrs.	Richard Jackson	5 yrs.
Jos. Socha	13 yrs.	Chas. McCauley	4 yrs.
Wm. White	11 yrs.	John McDonald	4 yrs.
Ray Dessy	9 yrs.	J. A. Thompson	4 yrs.



John Holman
Pres. of Council



James Dodara
Solicitor

H. P. Reineke	4 yrs.	Dave Bright	2 yrs.
Ray Gray	4 yrs.	Wm. Parkinson	2 yrs.
Ronald Densmore	4 yrs.	Harold Heckman	2 yrs.
Dan Laskey	4 yrs.	Wm. McIntyre	2 yrs.
Dr. G. Wilson	4 yrs.	Frank Reitz	2 yrs.
Michael Bosilovich	4 yrs.	Vernon Morton	2 yrs.
O. S. Herold	3 yrs.	Sam Reynolds	1 yr.
Frank Welsh	3 yrs.	Frank Armstrong	1 yr.
G. H. Ireland	3 yrs.	Norman Handzlik	1 yr.
Guy Moon	3 yrs.	Wm. Adamsky	1 yr.
A. W. Benson	3 yrs.	Geo. Bubash	1 yr.
John Chadonic	3 yrs.	Robt. Jenets	1 yr.

Burgesses and Mayors

H. L. Evans	13 yrs.
Wm. F. White	8 yrs.
Carl Ferraro	27 yrs.
Thos. Smith	2 yrs.

Secretaries of Borough

Ad Bowser	4 yrs.
Walter Dripps	23 yrs.
Wm. Ward	17 yrs.
Wm. Roberts	2 yrs.
Alice Wilson	23 yrs.
Hilda Utiss	4 yrs.
W. H. Thompson	4 yrs.
A. G. Bert	4 yrs.
Chas. Reitz	4 yrs.
Wm. Hays	28 yrs.
Sarah B. Whalen	8 yrs.
Thelma King	2 yrs.

Police Officers

Harry Roberts
Wm. Ewing
L. D. Skinner
Regis Whalen
Howard Geyer
Verono Gerhart
Frank Bodzwich
Mike Belotti
Pat Murphy
John Grover
Geo. Bucha
Ray Eck
Ray Zelong
Lee Simon
Joseph (Bud) Wysocki

Collected by

Mrs. Sarah Whalen

DEMOCRATIC PARTY



1st Row - Sitting (L to R): Agnes Skanderson, Joe Belotti - Chairman, Debbie McBriar.
2nd Row - Standing (L to R): Ida Bosilovich, Charles Specht, Marian Hernen, Nickie Leo.

The Democratic Party within the Borough of Blawnox was the minority party prior to 1932, but then Committee man John Chadonic took over and re-organized the Party with himself and Alma (Sheridan) Hake as the Committee people in the First District and Michael Moroff and Martha (Marty) Burns as Committee people in the Second District. John Chadonic is recognized as the first active Chairman in the Blawnox Democratic Party and under his leadership the first Democratic Burgess and Council members were elected in 1946 and held control of the elected Council till 1970 when we faultered but again regaining the Council control in 1974.

Those who have served the Democratic Party as Chairman were: John Chadonic 1932-1946; Michael Moroff 1946-1948; Carl Ferraro 1948- 1/8/1970; John A. Piasecki 1970-1974; and Joseph Belotti, Jr., the present Chairman having won over John A. Piasecki by a tie breaking vote.

First District Committeemen were: John Chadonic, George Smith, Nickie Leo, Joseph Benec, and Nickie Leo, returning for a second term, continuing unto the

present. Committee Women of the First District were: Alma Hake 1932-1946; Ema Chadonic 1946-1950; Margaret Perrine 1950-1958; and Agnes E. Skanderson till the present.

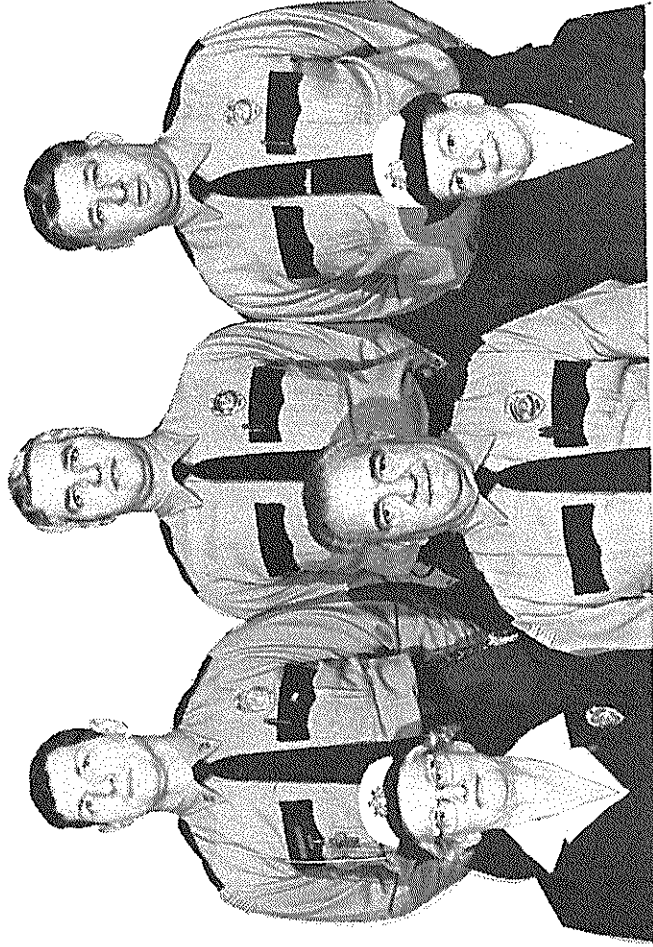
Second District Committeemen were: Michael Moroff until 1964; William Ward, Jr. 1964 only to marry and leave the Borough of Blawnox. and Geo. Smith was appointed to serve the balance of term in 1964, and elected and served until 1974; Charles Specht (1974) is the present Committee Man. Committee Women were : Martha Burns, better known as Marty till she moved from the Borough in 1964. She was followed by Ida Mae Bosilovich and also is the present Committee Woman of the Second District.

Leaders in the Democratic Party of Blawnox Borough today are: Joseph Belotti, Jr., Chairman; Agnes E. Skanderson, Vice Chairman; Debra McBriar, Secretary; Marion Hernan, Treasurer; Agnes E. Skanderson and Dominick (Nick) Leo, Committee people of the First District and Ida Mae Bosilovich and Charles Specht, Committee people of the Second District.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

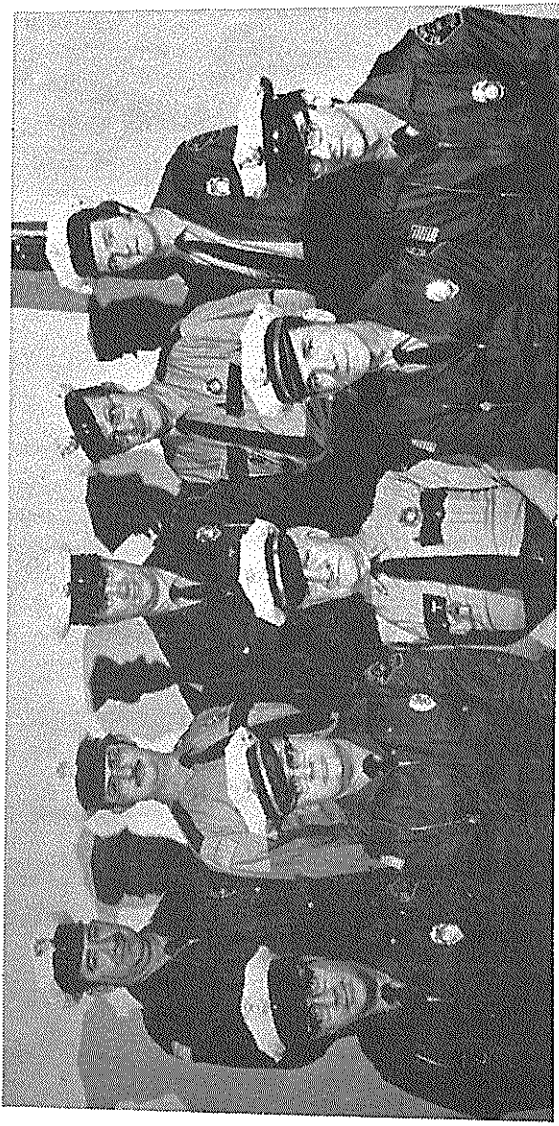


Republican Committee (L to R): Earl Wagner, Loretta Laskey, Tony Arlotti - Chairman, Flossie Conner, (Absent) Auggie Guzzie, Sr.



1st Row - Sitting (L to R): Cleo Adamsky, Mike Belotti, Ellen Simon
2nd Row - Standing (L to R): George Bucha, Ray Eck, Ray Szelong

BLAWNOK AUXILIARY POLICE



1st Row - Sitting (L to R): Lt. Robert Jenets, Capt. George Dominick, Charles Lodge, Lt. Jack McBriar, John Skanderson.

2nd Row - Standing (L to R): Walt Trail, Bart Ballantine, Paul Predmore, Herb Michaelis, Phil Sedor.

Absent: Joseph Belotti, Eugene Cawley, Robert Malec, Sam McNaughton, Harry Novicki, Leon Pawelak, Louis Adamsky, Richard Roach, William Roach, and Wayne Senecal.

The Blawnox Auxiliary Police organization was formed in December of 1957 with the help of Mayor Carl Ferraro and Chief of Police, Michael Belotti. Mr. Donald Kreisberg was appointed as Captain of the organization and started with a seven-man outfit which rose to 10 men by mid - 1958. In 1965, due to Mr. Kreisberg's leaving Blawnox, Mayor Ferraro asked George E. Dominick, Jr. to take over the duties as Captain of the Auxiliary. Mr. Dominick started a recruiting program with the help of Lt. Charles Lodge, Robert Jenets and Louis Adamsky, which boosted the force to 19 auxiliary police. Up to this time the organization was relatively inactive. Monthly meetings were started and bylaws were enacted.

The duties of the auxiliary police consist essentially of the same duties required of the regular police when extra assistance is needed. These include traffic detail, stakeouts, parades, dances, assisting other police departments, and special assignments. In addition, they are always ready to assist the Fire Department with traffic control during fire calls.

The organization keeps abreast on latest techniques involving first aid and emergency treatment. At the present time 15 men have taken courses in advanced first aid training and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Three men have also taken ambulance training courses and are registered with the Penna. Dept. of Health as Emergency Medical Technicians. The men have also set up their own firing range and at present eight men, with the qualified instruction of Lt. Charles Lodge, have been trained in pistol and rifle firing. The remainder of the force will have their training completed in the near future.

This past summer the auxiliary sponsored a bicycle inspection program in conjunction with the Allegheny County Police and the AAA. They plan to conduct this program annually.

The residents of Blawnox can be proud of this volunteer organization. They are a loyal and dedicated group of men who can always be depended upon when needed by the citizens of Blawnox.

BLAWNOX-GLENOVER FIREMEN



1st Row - Sitting (L to R): Chuck Secrist, Harry Novicki-Pres., Bucco Witas, Frank Rizza, Charles Lodge.
2nd Row - Standing (L to R): George Martin, Frank Miller, Jim Walmsley, Charles Chopski, Art Skelley,
Mike Lodge, Dick Thompson, Bob Thompson and Stan Bilicki.
Absent: Kathryn Clifford - R.N., John Skanderson - V. Pres.

On March 6, 1972, the Blawnox - Glenover Volunteer Fire Company celebrated its 50th Anniversary.

Present Chief, Charles W. Lodge, writes, "The first fire station, which at one time had been an office for a few draftsmen of Blaw-Knox Co. sat on Blaw Avenue just across the road from Blaw-Knox Co. office. When Blaw-Knox no longer needed it for office space they donated it to us for a fire station. We had larger front doors placed on the side facing Blaw Avenue, lined the building, put an addition on the back. We rigged up a pot bellied stove, got a pool table, a few chairs, and another small table and we were in business."

Due to the fact the motor in the first truck was not strong enough to pull up Blaw Avenue on an alarm, with the men riding; a rule was made: no fireman, excepting the driver, was permitted to get on before we reached Freeport Road. The rest pushed up the hill then mounted the truck. "Since we had very few alarms," Mr. Lodge wrote, "we answered alarms as far away as Verona, Oakmont, Springdale, Harniarville, and Cheswick."

The fire department was formed on February 6, 1921, following a fire at a store on Third Street in Hoboken. Mr. Warner Repine, then station master at Parkview (workhouse stop), who was also Justice of the Peace, sent application to Harrisburg for charter. It was granted on March 6, 1922. All meetings were held in the metal building at the corner of Eighth Street and Blaw Avenue.

Raising money through street fairs and carnivals, the new fire department was able to purchase old army

raincoats and oil skin hats. Their first dress uniform consisted of white duck trousers, white shirts, black bow ties, and a railroad conductor's hat with a fire badge on it. The first major fire was at Freeport Road and Center Avenue where John Thompson now has his trucks and the corner garage is now located. This was a store owned and operated by David "Daddy" Lang. Glogfelty's home, next door, was severely damaged. Glogfelty was the town dentist at the time. Outside companies were called in and they, along with the City, came and helped save the rest of the property.

The present Municipal Building of the Borough of Blawnox was dedicated on June 8, 1939. The Fire Department was moved there.

The Blawnox Fire Company is a member of the Lower Allegheny Valley Firemen's Association, and we reciprocate with these 21 other companies in all emergencies, including ambulance calls as well as fire calls.

In 1974 our two stations answered 17 fire alarms and 102 ambulance calls in the Borough of Blawnox. There are now 25 active men, 6 of whom have passed State Examinations for Emergency Medical Technicians qualifying them to drive and act as First Aid men on ambulance calls.

To be eligible for membership in the Blawnox-Glenover Volunteer Fire Company, one must be 21 years old and have been a resident of the Blawnox-Glenover area for one year. Chief Lodge says, "We need good men, over 19 years of age to come in and help with the load."

AMBULANCE SERVICE



1st Row - Kneeling (L to R): Tom Mackay, Wayne (Gus) Senecal, and John Skanderson.
2nd Row - Standing (L to R): Bob Dayo, Harry Novicki, Bucco Witas, Charles Lodge, Charles Chopski, and Frank Rizza.

Since 1972, the Ambulance Service has had changes to its personnel, as demanded by the Federal and State Governments, six Emergency Medical Technicians, and eight Advanced Red Cross men. There are now ten R.N.'s in our community who have volunteered their services. They are: Nancy Fitzpatrick, Ann Sperber, Donna Mathews, Helen Petronic, Joan McKay, Betty Clifford, Marie Colclaser, Carolyn Santel, Mildred Petrie and Charlotte McDermott.

Response time has been improved by joining up with the Shaler Radio Base.

At present the Ambulance Service is working on a direct set up with St. Margaret's Hospital so that the ambulance attendants can contact them or the doctors while in transit. This is a big advantage for the attendant as well as the patient as it will put us in direct contact with the "on duty physician" to direct in treatment as well as alerting the hospital of an approaching emergency.

Blawnox Ambulance Service is free for the residents' use.



R.N.'s (L to R): Nancy Fitzpatrick, Ann Sperber, Helen Petronic, and Marie Colclaser.



1st Row - Sitting (L to R): Pat MacKay, Dolores Thompson, Gail Drischler, and Thelma King.
2nd Row - Standing (L to R): Ruth Ann Witas, Lola Luther, Angeline Isabella, Ann Schneider, and Arline Cicola.
Absent: Eva Ferris, Marie Hartman, Ada Holden, Marie Neiswonger, and Terry Waldschmidt.

The Women's Auxiliary to Blawnox-Glenover Fire Company was organized October 7, 1929, at the old fire house on Blaw Avenue. The first President was Helen Bert Evans. Four members are still on the present membership roll.

The degree for the Charter was given in the Common Court Pleas on March 12, 1941. The Charter was signed by Judge John P. Egan and the solicitor was D. S. Thomas. When the Charter was issued there was a mem-

bership of 31. Mrs. Aileen Lingle was the President. Of that membership ten are deceased and five members are still on the membership roll, four of these have belonged to the Auxiliary since it started in 1929. These members are Marie Hartman, Ada Holden, Thelma King, and Marie Neiswonger. The other member that was on the Charter is Angeline Isabella. Our present President is Dolores Thompson.



1st Row - Seating (L to R): John Rehm, George Bubash.
2nd Row - Standing (L to R): Michael Bosilovich, Henry Witas, Patrick Connolly and James Walmsley.

American Legion Blawnox-O'Hara Post #555 was chartered September 2, 1932. The Chartered Members were as follows:

Howard P. Altman, Frank E. Armstrong, L. R. Blackwell, A.W. Bowser, L.B. Chantemele, Gordon L. Clawson, Charles Comara, John W. Cook, C.W. Cramer, E.S. Doak, C.W. Eichenlaub, John W. Eiffler, Chester Friedman, F. E. Geisler, Robert A. Good, John Gray, Edward Jindra, Harry A. Law, Steve Malec, Francis Marshall, Geo. F. Metro, Joseph Moschella, Harry P. Mutch, William Neilan, Samuel H. Norman, John E. Olson, Joseph Panza, William Parkinson, Antonio Posteraro, Hamlin Postlethwaite, G. Ranii, Earl Rea, Charles Ruggeri, C.A. Sandman, Charles J. Schuck, Allan N. Simons,

Raymond R. Skehan, Daniel S. Smith, Sylvester H. Smith, E.O. Steele, John Stoop, Joseph Tenuta, Luigi Vitaro, James B. Wallace, H.M. Westfall, Frank Welsh, J.W. Wolfe.

The present officers of American Legion Post #555:

Commander	George F. Bubash
Vice Commander	Patrick J. Connolly
Jr. Vice Commander	John Rehm
Adjutant	Michael J. Bosilovich
Finance Officer	James T. Walmsley
Service Officer	Henry Witas
Chaplain	Donald Hamley
Historian	Dennis Chuvala
Sgt. at Arms	Eugene Schmitt



1st Row - Seating (L to R): John Marshall and Joe Lombardi
2nd Row - Standing (L to R): John McMunn -Comm., and Gabe Bruno.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is a patriotic organization dedicated to the preservation of our freedom, care of the nation's disabled and needy veterans, assistance to our veterans' widows and orphans and the promotion of Americanism. The strong bond of comradeship that exists stems from the eligibility requirements restricting membership to only those who have served overseas in a war zone.

Establishment of a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in Blawnox had been the dream of several men for many years. In October, 1944, that dream became a reality with William McIntyre being the first Post Commander. Installation of Post 185 of the V.F.W. was performed by Joseph Stack, who was then the State Commander, in Mechanics Hall on Sixth Street (the present site of Hart Hall). This was to be the post meeting place for the next two years.

The end of World War II in 1945 brought home many

new eligible veterans and post membership grew to over three hundred. In those post war years, with the assistance of an extremely active Auxiliary, the organization flourished. A Post Home was purchased at 272 Freeport Road. Hard work, dedication and unselfishness was commonplace for so many individuals that it would not be possible to single them out. Working with American Legion Post 555, the most impressive and memorable Memorial Day parades and services were conducted during this period of time.

In recent years membership has declined and it became prudent to sell the Post Home and enter into a rental agreement with American Legion Post 555 to share their building. The V.F.W. Post is, however, financially sound and has a stable membership. Although it is not in the public eye as it once was, V.F.W. 185 is still fully functioning and working for its organizational objectives.



First Row - Sitting (L to R): Angie McDermott, Lucy Nagg, Flo Vitari, Cecelia Ozimek, Doris Sheehan. 2nd Row Standing (L to R): Mary Megrenne, Kathryn Tomko, Virginia Dow, Agnes E. Skanderson, Flossie Connors, Thelma Krause, Junella Heintzinger, Patricia Mackay.

The Auxiliary to the Blawnox Veteran of Foreign Wars to Post #185 was organized and chartered on November 29, 1944 with Ethel Morgan being installed as its first President. The Charter remained open until November 29, 1945 and closed with one hundred and twenty-nine Chartered membership. Among these was one Gold Star Mother, Mrs. Gertrude Pitman.

As in all organizations there are drop-offs, migration factions and tragedy and this organization has been a victim too. As a result at present there are only fifty-three members as of today. Among this membership you can find three Gold Star Mothers, Mrs. Gertrude Pitman, Mrs. Barbara Crnkovich and Mrs. Theresa Consola.

The organization has been very active in hospital work, promoting benefits for veterans and others through all phases of Government; sponsoring recreational programs within the community; providing a good blood banking system to our local veterans and their families by being a member of the Allegheny County V.F.W. Blood Banking Program; assisting victims of floods and fires in any way possible; sending packages to the boys over seas and being a supporter of the V.F.W. National Home at Easton Rapids, Michigan where Pennsylvania has two cottages at present, and Scotland School, Scotland, Pennsylvania. They offer help to the young and to the old whenever possible.

The Past Presidents Association to the Blawnox V.F.W. Auxiliary was organized on October 22, 1950. It is an arm to the Blawnox V.F.W. Auxiliary but formed to have all those serving one year as President given recognition in future years. In June of 1963 they joined the Allegheny County Past Presidents and gained County recognition and later through this organization were recognized as far as the National level. When the active membership had dropped to four the regular monthly meetings were canceled until such a time when the membership made it more profitable to again assemble. The last meeting being June 8, 1973.

On February 1, 1955 the Allegheny County V.F.W. Blood Banking System was organized by Leslie Carlyle and others. Blawnox V.F.W. Post #185 and its Auxiliary

have been members from the beginning and at present are represented though Agnes E. Skanderson, who serves as the Blood Bank Chairman, 1965 and as a Trustee of the Allegheny County V.F.W. Blood Bank since 1967. This Blood Bank in recognized not only Nationally but Worldwide. In 1974 they boast of a membership of 12,214 with the doors left open for others. During 1974 they have answered over 116 blood calls and not only given over 400 pints of blood for recipients but also have picked up the administrative costs of administering the plasma. The V.F.W. Blood Bank is associated with Central Blood Bank and the American Association of Blood Banking.

In November 1970 the Blawnox V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary to Post #185 celebrated its TWENTY-FIFTH Anniversary. At that time there were ten members who served twenty-five years consecutively or more. They were: Ethel Morgan, Gladys Roach, Mary Roberts, Elsie Simmons, Minnie Altman, Alice McIntyre, Jane Wilhoit, Gold Star Mother, Gertrude Pitman, Jessie Walders and Irene Everson.

Others who have served this organization as President are: Ethel Morgan (1945), Hazel Humphreys (1946), Alice McIntyre* (1947), Ethel McVicar (1948), Gladys Roach (1949), Mary Roberts* (1950), Edice Young* (1951), Laverne Kennedy* (1952), Nettie Rote* (1953), Dorothy Schlessman (1954), Eve Donnick (1955), Ethel Morgan (1956), Clara Roberts* (1957), Gladys Roach (1958), Jane Wilhoit, completion of seven months of Margaret Perrine's* term (1959), Jane Wilhoit (1960), Martie Lustick (1961), Agnes E. Skanderson (1962), Pauline McMunn (1963 & 1964), Margie Lustick, nine months to finish the term of Margaret Megreene (1965), Margie Lustick (1966), Lucy Nagg (1967), Margie Lustick (1968, 1969 & 1970), Dorothy Yingling (1971 & 1972) and Angie McDermott (1973 & 1974).

Newly elected in 1975 is Margaret Megreene as President.

At the present time this organization has twenty-three members on its Honor Roll.

NOTE: * after name identifies now deceased.

ST. EDWARD CHURCH



Most Reverend Canon Howard J. Laffey

St. Edward Roman Catholic Church had its beginning in the year 1917. At this time there were three large buildings located on property adjacent to the Allegheny County Workhouse. After World War I one of these buildings was purchased by the Knights of Columbus and used as a recreation center. Upon learning that these buildings were to be dismantled, the Church Committee decided to purchase the hut used by the Knights of Columbus. The building was dismantled and moved section by section to a lot on Cable Avenue where it was reassembled.

A church meeting was held and by agreement the 40 Catholic families residing in Hoboken donated \$30.00 each for the purchase of the land on Cable Avenue. Catholic families at this time had to travel by streetcar to St. Scholastica in Aspinwall.

Volunteers worked at night transferring the recreation hut from the Poor Farm to the lot on Cable Avenue. Two teams of men worked in the transfer of the building. One team worked at dismantling the building and another reconstructed it on the new site.

The first mass was offered on Christmas Day, 1920, by Father Boyle. The small church remained a mission church of St. Scholastica until St. Edward Parish was instituted in 1938. On July 28 of that year Rev. Edward J. Nemmer was appointed permanent pastor. At this time the parish consisted of 192 families.

Ground was broken in 1947 for the new church; the laying of the cornerstone was in March of 1948 and the present St. Edward Church was dedicated on May 29, 1949. St. Edward School building construction in 1956 and was completed in 1958 on the site of the original church.

The nuns of the Holy Ghost Order of West View, Pa. were appointed to serve St. Edward's in 1957. Until the school was completed, the nuns taught classes in the basement of the church and commuted between Blawnox and West View by bus.

Construction of the parish plant continued. A new parish house was built and Father Nemmer moved into it March 1, 1959. In September of 1961 Father Nemmer was appointed to St. George in Allentown and Rev. Howard J. Laffey became the new pastor of St. Edward's.

Ground was broken for the new convent on July 29, 1962 and the cornerstone laid on October 14, 1962. The convent was dedicated on July 7, 1963 at the time of St. Edward's Silver Jubilee.

In 1975 with Most Reverend Canon Howard J. Laffey as Pastor and Rev. John F. Bench, Associate Pastor, St. Edward's Parish and School serves the communities of Blawnox, Montrose Hill, Oak Hill Manor and the Powers Run Area.

HOBOKEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



(L to R): Vera Lodge, Mary Jane Roach, and Harriet Hamilton - Chairman.

Sometime in the year 1873, at the suggestion of a number of Presbyterians, worship service were conducted by a representative from the Allegheny Presbytery in an old one-story brick school house, which stood on a site belonging to the Allegheny County Workhouse. In due time, it was thought advisable to build a church, which was built by voluntary contributions and aid received from the Board of Church Election of the Allegheny Presbytery. The church was built on property purchased and some donated by the Hoboken Land Company, at a location presently known as Sixth Street. Upon the completion of the building, a Presbyterian Church was constituted as a mission of the Pine Creek First Church. On July 17, 1879, the church was organized by a Committee from the Allegheny Presbytery, as the Hoboken Presbyterian Church of Hoboken, Pa., with an enroll-

ment of thirty-six members. On August 16, 1884, a charter was granted by the Courts of Allegheny. Pastors were shared with the Springdale and Aspinwall Presbyterian Churches until September 4, 1902, when the first full-time pastor was called. In 1920, the building on Sixth Street was sold, and services were held regularly in the Officers' Club on the Old City Home Grounds at Parkview. In the meantime, property was purchased on North Avenue, and the present building was dedicated on March 25, 1923. In June 1926, the Manse, Doctor's and parking lot property was purchased, completing our present real estate holdings. The Church, over the years, has enjoyed a fine working fellowship with its sister churches in the area, and has observed 92 years of faithful service in Christ's Work, and looks forward to continued service.

BLAWNOX METHODIST CHURCH



John Thompson, Lay Leader, and Rev. Bowman

The Hoboken Methodist Episcopal Church was organized during the summer of 1880. Rev. Dermitt, a local preacher, was appointed by the presiding elder of Allegheny District, and acting under this authority, he came to Hoboken and formed a society. In the spring of 1881 the Society resolved to build a church. A lot was purchased from W.-Hackey of Pittsburgh and arrangements made for building. On December 11, 1881, the building was formally dedicated, at its present site on Center Avenue.

In 1883, John Henderson, another local preacher, secured the position of pastor from the Presiding Elder. He served one year, or until October 1884. Then in 1884 until 1886 the church was declared to be Methodist Protestant Church. In July 1886, Rev. S. H. Bell of Sharpsburg helped reorganize the Methodist Episcopal Church, beginning again with five members.

Rev. Cable, a local preacher, filled the pulpit until the session of the Pittsburgh Conference early in October 1886, when Hoboken was recognized for the first time in the list of appointments. Hoboken was attached to Simpson Chapel in Allegheny City and the two constituted a pastoral charge. Rev. J.E. Williams was appointed

pastor. The membership rose to 50 members.

In October 1888, Rev. A.P. Leonard was appointed to Simpson and Hoboken. He moved his family to Hoboken and during the winter held revival meetings for five weeks. This was the first revival meeting ever held in Hoboken. During this time there were 12 conversions and several added to the church. During this year also the entire debt of the church was paid off.

In 1891, at the conference session at Uniontown, Hoboken Methodist E. Church became part of Tarentum Circuit. In 1901, with the dedication of the Harnmarville Church, the Hoboken Circuit then consisted of three appointments, Hoboken, Harnmarville and Walter Chapel.

Significant changes came again to the Methodist Church at approximately the same time that Hoboken became Blawnox. "Blawnox" became part of its name, and it became self-sustaining to remain so for many years.

In 1956, the Blawnox Methodist Church became "yoked" with Fox Chapel, and Rev. Donald Steeb served both churches. Presently it is "yoked" with Aspinwall United Methodist Church with Rev. Bruce Bowman serving as minister for both churches.

BLAWNOX AREA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



1st Row - Sitting (L to R): Vinnie Malec, Ralph Arlotti, Charles Specht, Bill Sproul, Mary Alice Specht, Bill Ward.

2nd Row - Standing (L to R): Tom Smith, John Stanowski, Joe Flanagan, Paul Stellitano, Arline Cicola, Angelo Ruggeri and Henry Witas.

In November 1964, Mrs. Robert J. Malec held a meeting of business people at Malec's Tavern at 278 Freeport Road for the purpose of organizing, consolidating, and improving community relations in Blawnox. The outgrowth of this meeting was unanimous in forming the Blawnox Area Business Association to be chartered in 1965. Working diligently the spirit of the community saw this group sponsor the Christmas Nativity on the main street. Halloween Parade, and the return of the Fireworks display for the July Fourth Celebration.

On Christmas Eve 1965, Blawnox glowed with candle luminaries on every street at every home with the great-

Original Charter Members are as follows:

Malec's Tavern	Isabella Cleaners
Hays Real Estate	Chadonic's Tavern
Puskar Auto Parts	Overbeck Nursery
Cicola Hardware	Sproul's Grocery
Sarah's Kitchen	Angelo's Barber Shop
Kay's Kitchen	Arlotti's Cleaners
Prince Beer Distributor	Witas Grocery
Flanagan Barber Shop	Skalski's Tavern
Flanagan Beauty Shop	Arlotti Shoe Repair
Starlite Lounge	

est spirit of love the people of Blawnox could display. Encouraged by the people the Association formulated by-laws and were chartered. Contributing monies for various charities these small existing business people gave much of themselves for the community, including an Inhalator and Nozzle for the Fire Department. The spirit of the BABA 11 years later is visible in 1975 by their continued striving to improve property and business support from the townspeople. Mrs. Malec served as the first President of the organization, Mrs. Arline Cicola, Secretary and William Hays as Treasurer.

In 1975, the Officers of the Blawnox Area Business Association are:

Ralph Arlotti	President
Charles Specht	Vice President
Bill Ward	Secretary
Bill Sproul	Treasurer

BLAWNOX RECREATION AUTHORITY



1st Row - Sitting (L to R): William B. Ward, Jr. - Solicitor, Daniel J. Laskey - Vice-Chairman, Mary M. Roach - Secretary, Charles S. Specht - Chairman, Patricia J. Murray - Corresponding Secretary, James Dolhi - Treasurer.
2nd Row - Standing (L to R): Loretta Laskey, Anne Shick, Ida Mae Bosilovich, John Simmons, Kay Connolly, Edith Olszewski and Joyce Dudek.

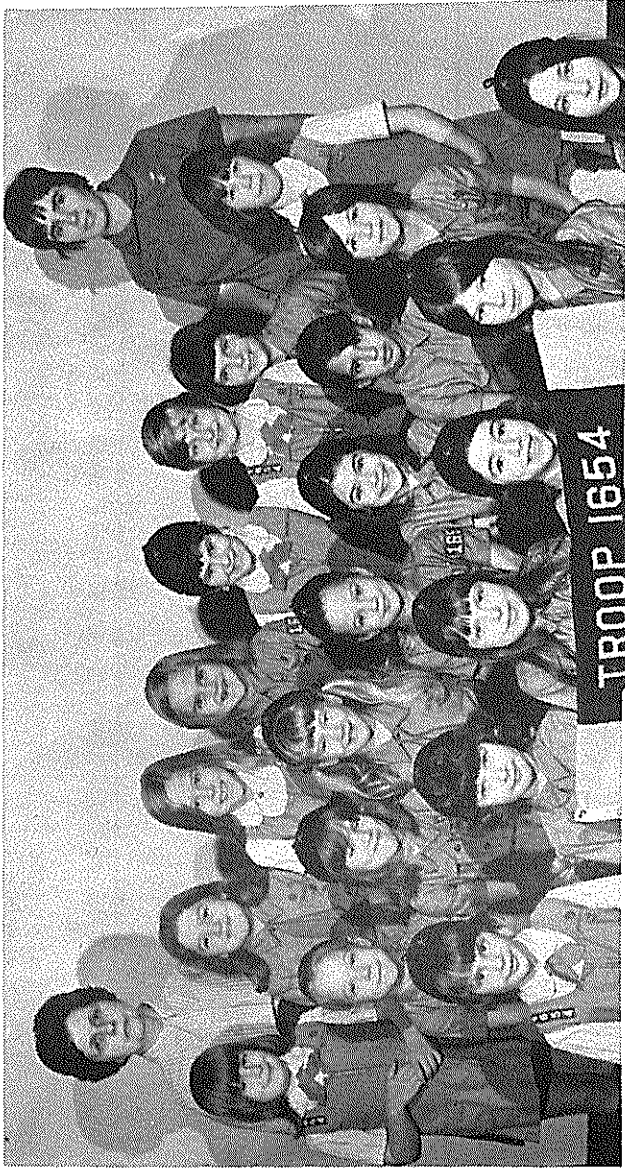
On January 3, 1974, the Blawnox Recreational Authority was officially chartered. The five volunteer Board members took the oath of office, administered by Judge Maurice Louik of the Court of Common Pleas.

The Blawnox Recreational Authority was organized to be self-sustaining, and to further develop the recreational needs of the community. The board recognized the need for community input in planning activities for each year that would appeal to all ages. The first year of operation witnessed the involvement of other community

organizations in conducting functions such as teen and adult dances, community picnic, flower sales, Spring and Fall Craft Shows, Hole-in-one contest, and Senior Citizens Christmas dinner party. Saturday movies for children and an indoor winter sports program are also on the agenda.

The board acknowledges their responsibility to identify the needs of all the people and to pursue those goals to the enrichment of the community.

TROOP 1654 BROWNIES



1st Row - Kneeling (L to R): Sherri Radovich, Leigh Anne Sipple, Carol Uminski, Mary Ann Vitari, Janet Nowak and Gail Planz.
2nd Row - Sitting (L to R): Michelle Lantz, Laura Nowak, Bridget Belotti, Katie Specht, Maureen Murray, Pam Danastasio, Donna Mesing.
3rd Row - Standing (L to R): Jackie Mulley, Sur Ellen Simon, Stacy Smith, Pam Caldwell, Michelle Sperski, Carol Meister, Diane Schafer and Patty Richards.
4th Row - (L to R): Dolores Nowak and Sue Johnson - Troop Leaders.

TROOP 70 CADETTES



1st Row - Kneeling (L to R): Debbie Wescott, Missy Marzullo, Michelle Bucilli, Ruth Drischler.
2nd Row - Sitting (L to R): Linda Bucha, Francine Trail, Kim Wadsworth, Beth Bosilovich, Amy Doerfler.
3rd Row - Standing (L to R): Bonnie Doerfler - Leader, Lynn Rapp, Mary Schafer, Donna Rapp, Judy Montemurro, Gloria Gasperi, Kathy Craft, Lou Ann Olszewski - Leader.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP #1550 - JUNIORS

1st Row - Kneeling (L to R): Allison Cricks, Nancy Lombardi, Patty Lombardi, Tracey Densmore, Linda McNaughton.
 2nd Row - Sitting (L to R): Tammy Morgan, Linda McRandal, Rhonda Densmore, Lauren Murphy, Pam Stephens.
 3rd Row - Standing (L to R): Debbie Predmore - Color Guard, Lois Predmore - Leader, Debbie Schafer, Beth Specht, Mary Olszewski, Sally Morgan - Leader, Judy White, Cindy Bobby, and Karen Vulgris - Color Guard.



Girl Scouts of the United States of America was first incorporated in 1915.

Their constitution reads: "We do dedicate ourselves to the purpose of inspiring girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism and service, that they may become happy and resourceful citizens. We maintain that the strength of the Girl Scout movement rests in the voluntary leadership of its adult members; in the cooperation and support of the community."

In September 1959, with this purpose, Mrs. Louis A. Olszewski met with 20 girls at Saint Edward's Church hall. From this meeting Troop #1654 was born.

This Brownie Troop is still registered in Blawno along with Junior Troops #1550 and #743 and Cadette Troop #70.

Without the many adult volunteers during the past 10 years, we could not have brought the fun of scouting to approximately 800 girls.

Our churches have also been most generous in letting the troops use their facilities for meetings.

With this community cooperation and our capable adult volunteers, we know the young girls of Blawno will enjoy scouting for generations to come.



GIRL SCOUT TROOP #743 - JUNIORS

1st Row - Sitting (L to R): Natalie Stevens, Lisa Francioni, Kelly McDade, Cheri Roach, Kim McNally and Patty Khovsky.
 2nd Row - Standing (L to R): DeDe Nowak - Color Guard, Kristen Heinz, Belinda Herman, Colleen Kennedy, Deanna Panyon, Patty Fichter, Sheri Rocco, Brenda Wadsworth - Color Guard.
 3rd Row - Standing (L to R): Carol Khovsky and Carole McNally - Leaders

BOY SCOUTS TROOP 720



1st Row - Kneeling (L to R): Mike Drischler, Danny Friel, P.J. Wagner, Michael McRandal, Tony Vitari, Ronnie Vulgris, J.T. Friel, Bobby Reinsfelder.
 2nd Row - Standing (L to R): Russell Petronic, John Hohman, Mark Olszewski, Mark Hannisick, Eugene Paolini, Tommy Witas, Dave Mugridge.
 3rd Row - Standing (L to R): Danny Thomas, Teddy Socha, John Dietrich, Wes Thompson, Walter Trail, Jr.



Jack Skanderson - Eagle Scout

BOY SCOUT TROOP #720

Blawnox Boy Scout Troop #136 went back to the early 1920's. Mr. Milt Hays was Scoutmaster at the time. In 1927 Mr. Otis C. Williamson, a teacher in Blawnox School, was Scoutmaster, also Milt Hymen, Scoutmaster-shop teacher, and they met at the school. Cliff Croft was a member of the troop.

Mr. Stan Machoskey, presently living in Dorseyville, was Asst. to Mr. Williamson in the early 30's. In 1933, at the old Duquesne Gardens Troop #136 was recognized for extraordinary Merit Badge Exposition.

In 1934 or 35, Rev. Harold Lutz became Scoutmaster and Mr. Dale Simons was Asst. They met in old Mechanic Hall, present site of Hart Hall. Later they move into the old fire hall on Blaw Avenue, which was turned over to them when the Fire Department moved to the new Borough Building.

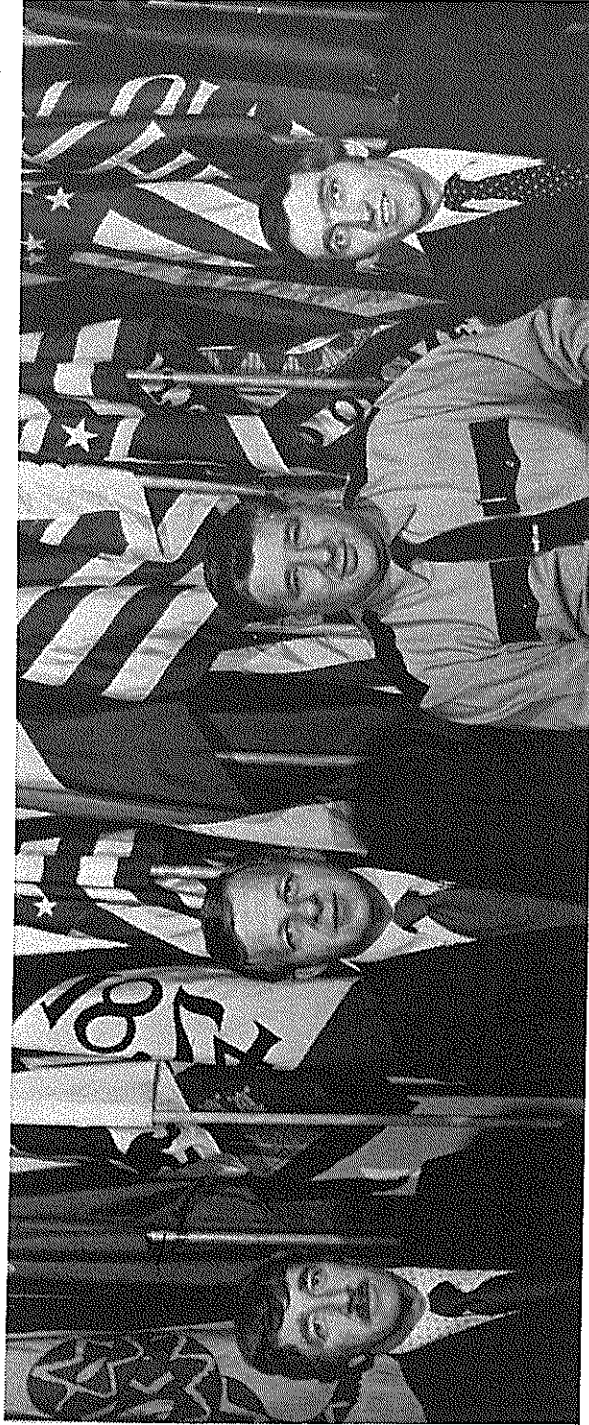
After the war Mr. Harry Needham was Scoutmaster of #136.

Mr. Robert Ferris, presently of Chicago, was Eagle Scout and won a trip to California. Jack Skanderson of Blawnox and Stanley Socha now residing in Huntington Beach, California were also Eagle Scouts. Troop #136 was phased out in the late 50's.

Scouting was brought back again to Blawnox in 1965 as Troop #720 sponsored by St. Edward Church with John Petronic as Scoutmaster. Today Mr. Petronic is still Scoutmaster of a very active group of scouts. The troop has consisted of 30 to 40 boys yearly. It has been a steady summer camp unit selecting Camp Tionesta as their summer camp base for the past ten years. The troop has won many awards at Camporees, window displays and other outdoor projects. They have participated in Conservation and Environmental projects. Services to their community have been numerous but most of all you can rest assure Troop #720 has been and will always be present and accounted for at the town's Memorial Day Services.



John Petronic - Leader



EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

(L to R): John Hohman, Lou Olszewski, Ray Szelong, Jack Friel.

BCA LITTLE LEAGUE



1st Row - Kneeling (L to R): Jeff Stephens, Gary Waldschmidt, Steve Lo, Bobby Bolton, Paul Lo, Harry Kelly, Brian Murray, Adam Roach.

2nd Row - Sitting (L to R): Jimmy Conroy, Ron Vulgris, Pat Murphy, Kevin Murray, Mike Dolhi, Richy Rouch, Anthony Vitari, Bob Jenets.

3rd Row - Standing (L to R): Andrew Uminski, John Skowronski, David Bolton, Tom Witas, Mark Hofer, Rich Chene, Jeff Campbell, Billy Conroy, David Skowronski, Jimmy Dietrich

4th Row - Standing (L to R): Richie Skowronski, Ted Socha.

The Blawnox Community Association has operated its baseball programs in the Borough since 1951. In this time over 1000 young people have participated in organized baseball in Blawnox.

The initial successes of the Blawnox baseball program can be attributed to its early pioneers: Elmer Wilson, Tom Wilson, Ray Gray, Ed Randolph, Mayor Carl Ferraro, and others, for they brought the BCA through its infancy and established a healthy precedent.

As the organization got older, it enlisted the help of many area residents that are to be commended for their unselfish service namely Ray Szelong, Joe Lombardi, Andy Dolhi, James Devine, Gary Miller, Paul Predmore, and many others. Without these men, the BCA and its baseball program could not have existed. They gave their time, money, interest, and knowledge for the benefit of the youth of Blawnox area.

On the playing field since 1951, Jim Devine coached the Little League Pirates to six consecutive league championships, while five sons of Andy Dolhi starred in the infields of several teams. Ed Udanis and John Simmons Coached a Colt League team, considered to be

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BLAWNOX: 1925-1975!!

the best in Blawnox history, to a section championship with a 16-6 record.

Over the years, infielders like Larry Panyon, Alan Peruzzi, the Dolhis and Art Farrina turned over countless double plays, while swift runners burned up the basepaths of Dick Groat Field.

Hundreds of Colt Leaguers went through infield drills in the shadows of the Workhouse, and many a Little League parent nervously watched their son in his pitching debut. Trains rattled past many a daydreaming rightfielder, and victorious teams of later years gathered at Pep's Drive-In after a tiring game.

The list of personally memorable events contained in 24 years of BCA baseball could go on forever and probably will in the minds of those once involved.

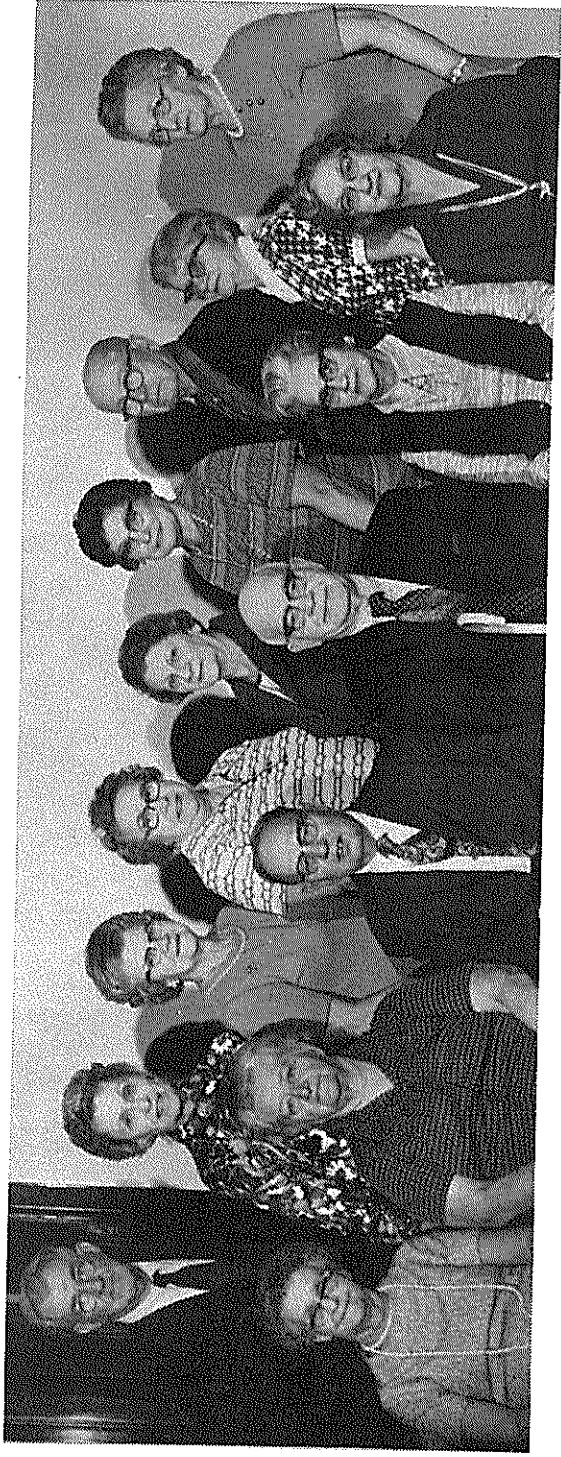
As this Borough grows and prospers beyond 1975, so shall its baseball organization. Hopefully, the work of those involved will be remembered by Blawnox, by all its ballplayers, and by future operators of the Blawnox Community Association. It has produced not only better baseball players but more capable individuals, both young and old, in its service to the community.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BCA: 1951-1976!!



1st Row - Sitting (L to R): Ed Udanis - Vice-President, John Simmons - President
2nd Row - Standing (L to R): Henry Klak, Dave Cotter, Dave Stephens.

SENIOR CITIZENS



1st Row - Sitting (L to R): Edith Bartlett, Mary Malec, Ed Grabb, Al Smith, Lola Luther, Lela Ballentine.

2nd Row - Standing (L to R): Ed Bartlett, Stella Conley, Doris Grabb, Polly Grant, Betty Phillips, Isabella Schreiber, Martin Luther, Violet Shaw, Marie McKeown.

The Blawnox Area Senior Citizen's Council was organized March 5, 1970. Our first officers were as follows: Rev. Albert Smith - President, George Hunzeker - Vice President, Elizabeth Quigley - Secretary and Lola

Luther - Treasurer.

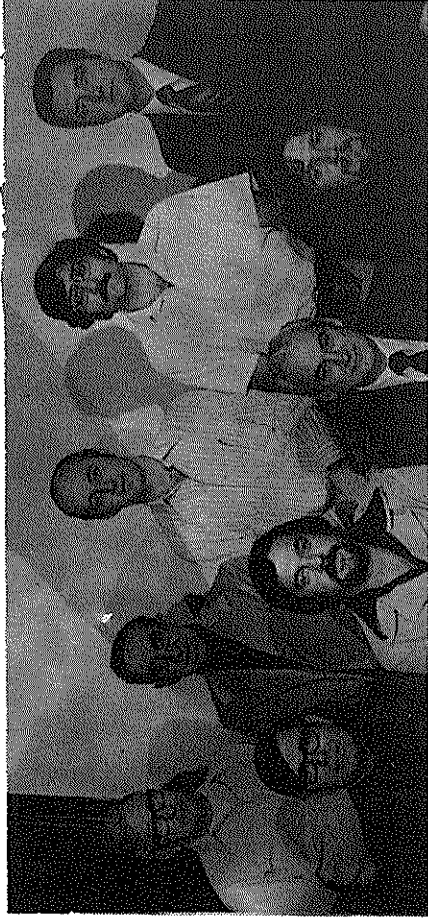
There are approximately 50 members to date. Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month.



1st Row - Sitting (L to R): Irene Glessner, George Hunzeker, Marie Hunzeker, Mildred Crates, Stanley Kobus.

2nd Row - Standing (L to R): Cecelia Woznicki, Eleanor Connor, Ed Connor, Sarah Whalen, Jessie Walder, Marie McElwee, Angela Michler, Ed Mechler.

"A" CLUB



1st Row - Sitting (L to R): Mike Bosilovich - Sec., Ron Vulgris - Treas., Pete Murray - Pres., and Bill Baker - Dir.

2nd Row - Standing (L to R): Bob Freidhof - V. Pres., Frank Fusaro - Dir., Fred Thompson - Dir., Ron Lavia - Steward, and Bill Adamsky - Dir.

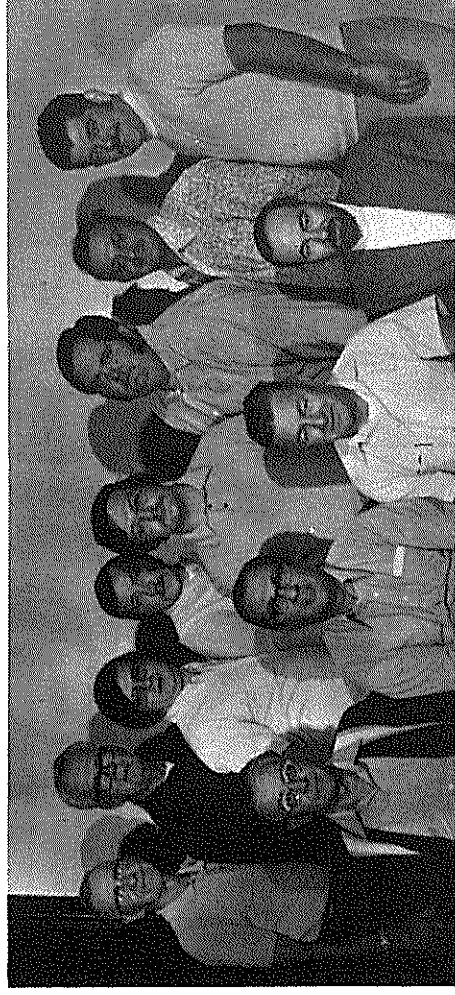
Absent: John Grover - Sgt. at Arms, Wayne Fusaro - Dir., and James Dolhi - Dir.

The Athletic Club was established in Sept. 1934, with nine members. The only one of the original group still active in the Club is Mike Leo. Present membership is 350.

The Club has sponsored a team in the Slow Speed

Softball League, and sent teams to tournaments in Virginia and Delaware. The Little League Team is another one of the many Community Projects in which the "A" Club is involved.

BLAWNOX SPORTSMEN CLUB



1st Row - Sitting (L to R): John Carney - Treasurer, Bernie Salsbery - President, Gene Lutz - Vice-President, Ed Frank - Secretary
2nd Row - Standing (L to R): Matt Cassidy, Carl Sutton, Frances Verderber, Jim Verderber, Jim Curran, Don Pickel, Roy Hitt - Sargent at Arms, Butch McCaslin.

The Blawnox Sportsmen Club was organized Nov. 7, 1935. The charter was granted on March 27, 1936. The charter members were: John A. Thompson, George R. Walzer, Ira Condon, Homer Thompson, Harry J. Walzer, Gerry Ferrone, Adam Soother, W. H. Thompson, Harry Roberts and A. Otterbeck. There were a total of thirty members.

The first club building was located where Eastern Map Company now is on Freeport Road. We moved to our present location in 1944.

Activities included rifle shoots for turkeys and chickens, horse shoe pitching and archery.

Founded

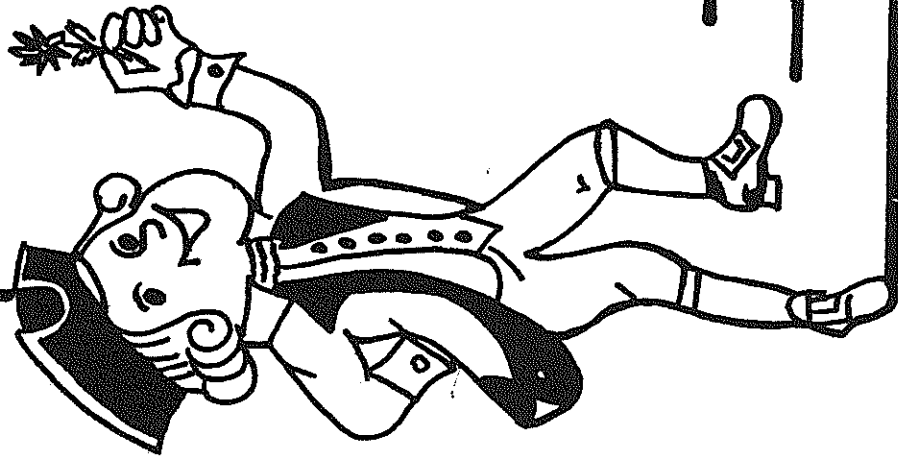
1965

Compliments of
Blawnox Area Business Association

**Congratulations on your Fiftieth Anniversary! As in the past we dedicate ourselves to taking an active part in the progress of our community.*

An organization dedicated to improving our community!

Accents by Specht, Florist
Allegheny Valley Bank
Allegheny Valley Sewing & Stereo Center
Angelo's Barber Shop
Anzotti Brothers Cleaners
Anzotti Handbags & Leather Goods
Cari-Lynne, Inc. Lounge
Chadonic's Tavern
Changing Times Clothing Boutique
Cicoria Hardware
The Country Craftman Shop
H. N. Crosby Co.
Flanagan Barber Shop
Flanagan Beauty Salon
Isabella Cleaners
Jim's Blawnox Bonon Station
Joyce Beer Distributor
Papercraft Corp.
Royston Laboratories
Skalski's Tavern
Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home
Spruiell's Superette
Starlite Lounge
Sterling Hospital Supply, Inc.
Charles W. Thomas, Public Acct.
Lower Auto Sales, Inc.
Ineck Photographic
Ward & Thomas, Attorneys
Wine Cellar Restaurant
Witas Market, Inc.



We salute Blawnox on its 50th Golden Jubilee.

in 1922

Three years before you became Blawnox, we were with you as Pittsburgh Asphalt Vault Company.

in 1938

When you were 13 years old, we became Rosco Laboratories.

in 1940

When you were 15, we took our present name, Royston Laboratories, Inc.

in 1975

We are one of the world's leading manufacturers of corrosion resistant coatings and tapes for the gas, oil, pipe line and bridge industries.

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BOROUGH OF BLAWNOX

On Your

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" Our 75th Year "

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" Modern Banking With Old Fashioned Courtesy "

MEMBER F. D. I. C.

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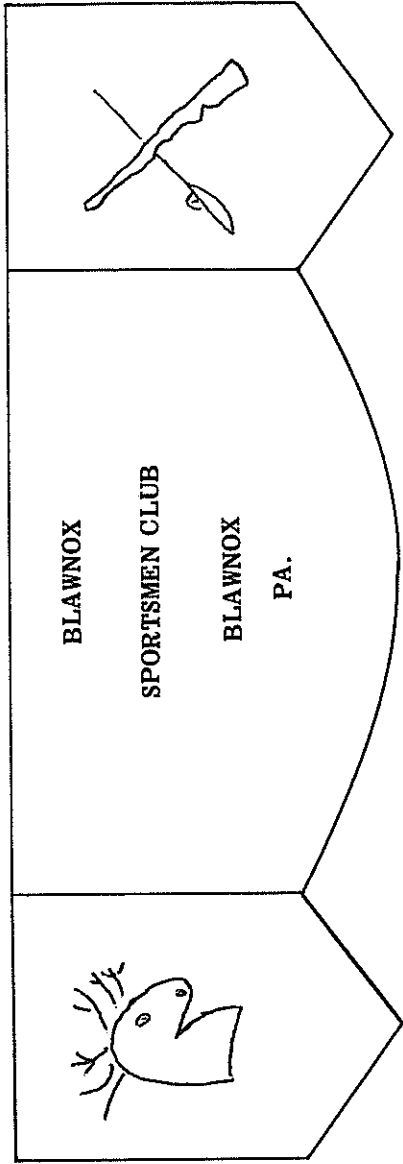
Blawnox Office

Shaler Office

Happy 50th Anniversary

BLAWNOX SPORTSMEN CLUB

BLAWNOX PA.



We've Grown With You !

May Our Next 50 YEARS

Be More Prosperous Than Ever

CONGRATULATIONS

BLAWNOX BOROUGH ON 50 YEARS OF GROWTH

From

THE AMERICAN LEGION

O'HARA POST 555

392 Freeport Road

Service To The Community

Chartered September 12, 1932

Commander
Vice Commander
Jr. Vice Commander
Adjutant
Finance Officer
Chaplain
Historian
Sergeant at Arms

George Bubash
Patrick Connelly
John Rehm
Michael Bosilovich
James Walmsley
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Dennis Chuvala
Eugene Schmitt

Congratulations

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Happy Birthday to
BLAWNOX BORO
50 years young
1925 - 1975

we are privileged to serve
our friends for twenty years
Dom, Larry, and Porco
Starlite Lounge
Established 1954
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1953 — 1975

Come Lift a Cup of Kindness For Auld Lang Syne

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Prop.
Ed. Skalski

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BLAWNOX BOROUGH

50 YEARS

BLAW - KNOX EQUIPMENT, INC.



A PIONEER MEMBER OF THE INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY RECALLS
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Capital equipment for the metals industry
Principal supplier of radio transmission towers
Forms for building subways - dams - hydroelectric plants

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Designed and built the first synthetic rubber plants

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Designed and manufactured Distant Early Warning Antenna

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A N D N O W

Forms for building subways - dams - hydroelectric plants
Grating used in power plants - chemical industry - railroads
Capital equipment for the metals industry

Our Congratulations Blawnox

on your
50th

Anniversary

We salute you and your fine
Police Department

Chief Michael Belotti, George Bucha,
Raymond Eck & Raymond Spiegel

from your Auxiliary Police

<i>Capt.</i>	<i>George E. Somnick Jr.</i>	<i>Eugene Gawley</i>	<i>Richard Roach</i>
<i>Lt. Louis Adamsky</i>	<i>Robert Malec</i>	<i>William Roach</i>	
<i>Lt. Robert Genetti</i>	<i>Sam McNaughton</i>	<i>Phil Sedor</i>	
<i>Lt. Charles Lodge</i>	<i>Herb Michaelis</i>	<i>Lus Senecal</i>	
<i>Lt. Jack McBrien</i>	<i>Harry Norvicki</i>	<i>John Skanderson</i>	
<i>Bart Ballentine</i>	<i>Leon Pawelak</i>	<i>Walter Trail</i>	
<i>Joseph Belotti</i>	<i>Paul Fredmore</i>		

Growing With Blawnox TOWER AUTO SALES, INC.

Congratulates Its Residents On Its

50TH

ANNIVERSARY

NEW and USED CARS

Guaranteed Because We Try Harder



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President



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ISSUED TO THE PUBLIC

Insurance Work

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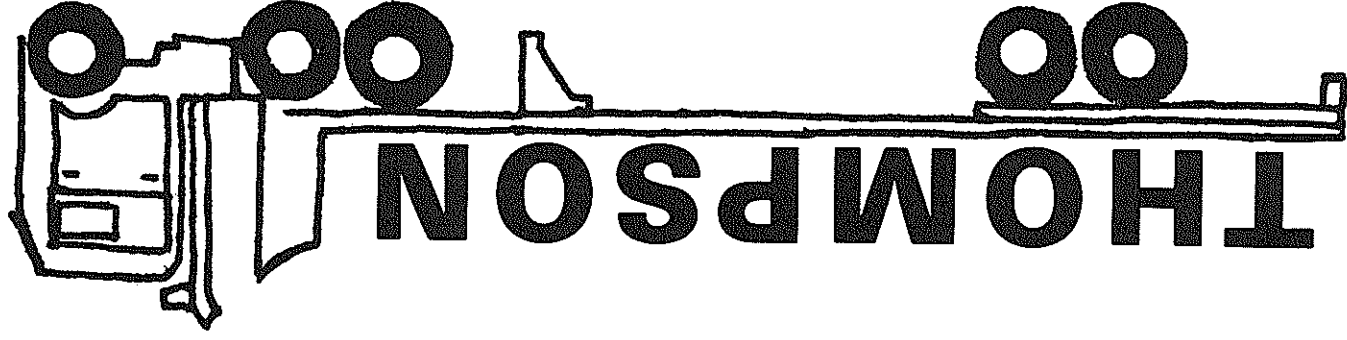
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Blawnox - Glenover Vol. Fire Co.



We are proud to have been a member of the
community for everyone of the 50 years!



Keep on Truckin', Blawnnox

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CLUB

OF A

PROUD COMMUNITY

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Same Location

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Ralph & Joseph Arlotti - Partners

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BUILDER OF QUALITY HOMES

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

COMPLIMENTS OF A FRIEND

Congratulations Blawnox
on your

50TH BIRTHDAY

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY BLAWNNOX-GLENOVER FIRE CO.

1929 - 1975

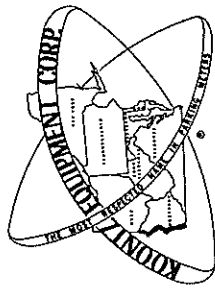
IN MEMORY OF OUR DECEASED MEMBERS

Martha Burns
Edith Cashdollar
Agnes Condron
Helen Evans
Mrs. Everson
Catherine Hahnel
Hazel Humphrey

Helen Kuczynsky *
Frances Lang
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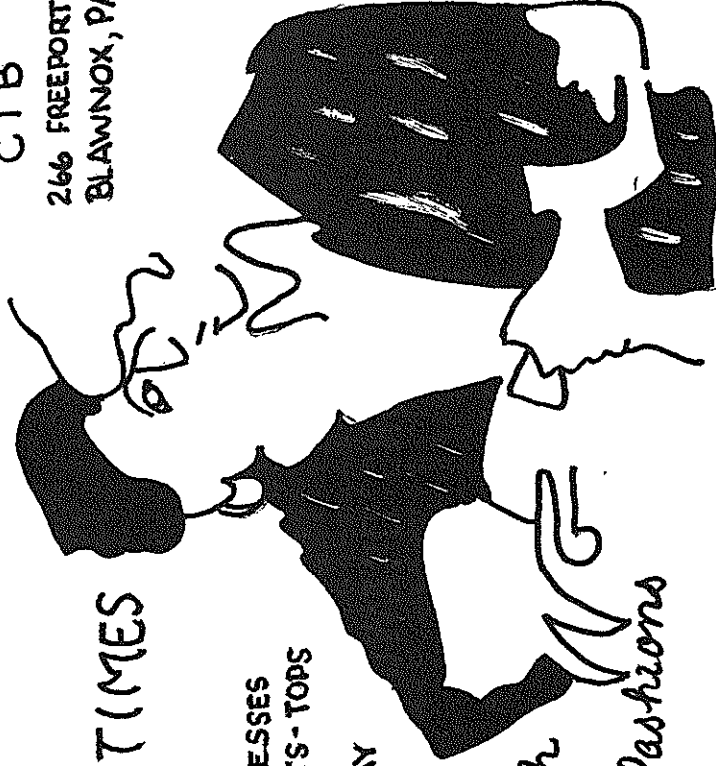
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the times
New Looks new fashions*

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BLAWNNOX, PA.



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Proud to Serve this Great Community

Hilda A. Utiss

Borough Secretary

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Started by Charles Ruggeri 1924 - 1968

We are the oldest Barber Shop in Blawnox

PLEASEING YOU IS SUCCESS TO US

ANGELO'S BARBER SHOP

THE FINEST IN HAIRCUTTING ANYWHERE

Angelo Ruggeri, Proprietor

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Vice Chairman:
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Agnes E. Skanderson
Debra J. McBriar
Marion Hernan

Committee Persons:

1st. District

Dominick J. Leo
Agnes E. Skanderson

2nd. District

Charles S. Specht
Ida Mae Bosilovich

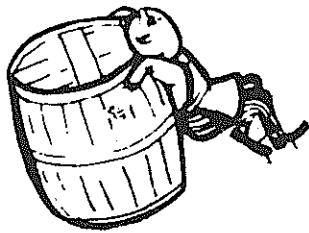
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JOSEPH & CAROLINE TENUTA

Owners of the CLOVER FARM STORE in Blawnox

Our fond childhood memories were here
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Fine Food – Fine Wine
After A Day At The Pool

We Cook
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Bring The Family Cook-Out To THE WINE CELLAR

BROILED PRIME SIRLOIN STRIP STEAK (8oz)
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Parmigiana with Pasta... or
BAKED STUFFED FRESH FLOUNDER with
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FRESH FRIED SHRIMP and ½ Bottle of Cold Duck
Includes: Rolls, Butter, Dessert, Tea, Coffee or Coke

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2 ADULTS-2 CHILDREN 2 ADULTS - 4 CHILDREN
\$14.50 Above Menu \$18.00 Above Menu
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\$16.25 Above Menu \$19.75 Above Menu

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of Blawnox

Organized in 1879

Unites in Congratulating the Borough of Blawnox on its

50th ANNIVERSARY

Serving the Community Through CHRIST Since 1887

God Bless and Good Luck to the Borough of Blawnox on its

50th Year...

THE BLAWNOX UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Congratulations Blawnox

1948 – 1962 We were called “Blawnox Supermarket”

1962 – 1975 We moved to the Fox Chapel Plaza

STILL AND ALWAYS A PART OF BLAWNOX

“We specialize in the best cuts of meat and fresh fish”

JIM RUGGERI MEAT MARKET

Fox Chapel Plaza

Telephone: 782-2400

WITAS MARKET, INC.

HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY



**Your District
Magistrate**

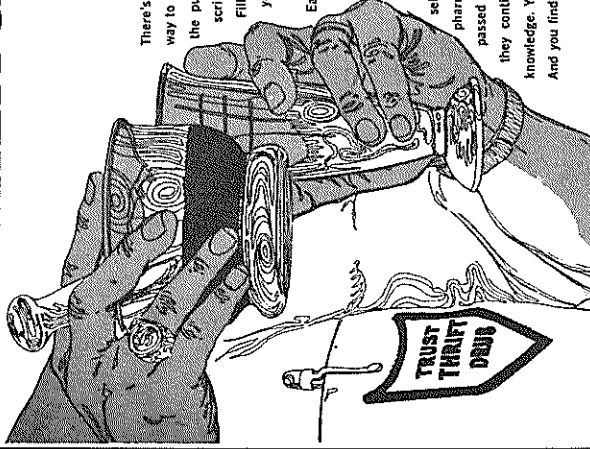
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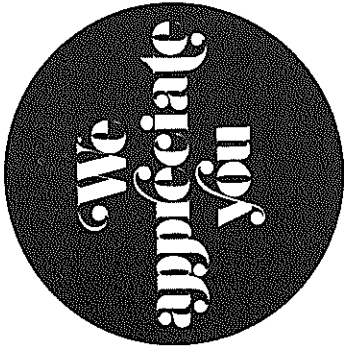
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on the

50th Anniversary

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EQUIPMENT COMPANY

IN MEMORY OF

ANTHONY ISABELLA

Died January 13, 1953

A. ISABELLA

Cleaning - Pressing - Repairing

336 Freeport Road
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44 Years Same Location

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Lynn's**

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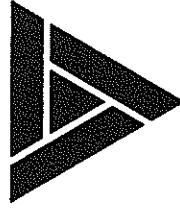
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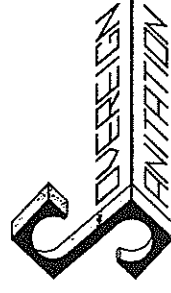
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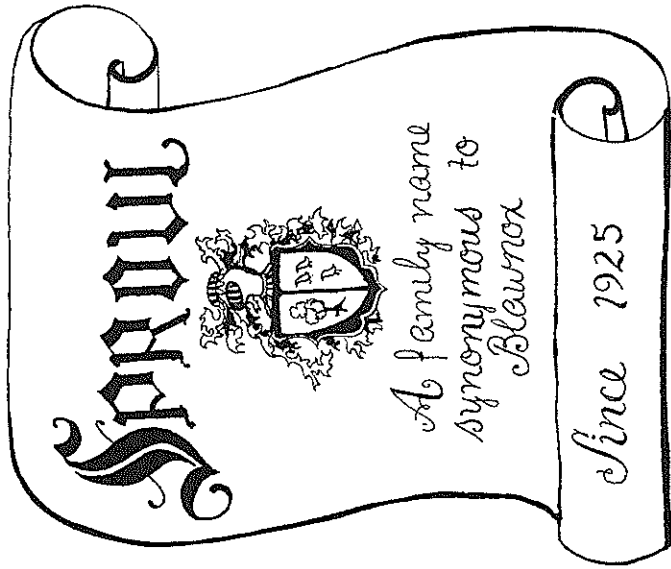
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To our Deceased Father

LAWRENCE WHITEY EBEL

*Although you are not with us
anymore, our love and memories
will always be with you.*

The Children of

L. G. Ebel

" Whitey "

Owner : Mrs. Keites

KEITES RESTAURANT

" Home Cooking "

We Serve Lunches And Beer

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and

Mr & Mrs. John A. Welsh

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WALTER " LEFTY " WATESKA

Wanda & Carol

CONGRATULATIONS

BLAWNOX PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

CONGRATULATIONS

Agnes E. Skanderson

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For His Many Dedicated Years With
the Blawnox -- Glenover
Volunteer Fire Department

His Grandchildren

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In Memory of Our Father

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Remembered for his great athletic
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Martha Mary and Robert Jr.

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Elmer, Betty and Dennis Mikulla	Charles and Joanne Prendergast	Mr. and Mrs. William Schuster, David, Michael, Janet and Steven	Mrs. George H. Swart
Mrs. Dorothy Milashin and Edward	Mary Przywitoski and Frannie	Rae and Tom Scotty	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Thomas and sons Joe, Danny and Gary
Rich, Sonja, Ricky, Tom and Scott Moline	Dan, Barbara, Sherri, Jamie and Dana Radovich	Mrs. Stanley Secrist and Family	Fred H. Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Monsour	Dr. and Mrs. George Ranii and Family	Phil, Karen, Valerie and Laurie Sedor	Homer Thompson Family
Frank Wm. and Agnes E. Moore Family	Mrs. Guiseppe Ranii and Jenny	Stephen S. Sedor	John, Mildred, Wesley and Randi Thompson
Ethel Morgan	Henry Ringelholz Family	The L. V. Senecals Blawnoxers for 50 Years	Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Thompson and Bobby
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Moroff	Mr. and Mrs. Earl Roach and Family		
Alvin L. Morton	Mr. and Mrs. Marshall J. Roach (Mary Jane Ireland)		

Walt and Phyllis Trail and Children,
Phyllis Marie, Walter Jr., Jeannine, Francine and
Michele

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Tunnecliff

Mr. and Mrs. George Utiss

Anthony A. Verardi Family

Bill and Flo Vitari and Family

Dominic P. Vitari Family

Mrs. John (Pauline) Vulgris

Jessie, Mildred and John Walder Family

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Walmsley and Family

Jim and Mary Walmsley

Ed, Hope, Eddie and Mike Walter

Lestor Watson Family

Helen and Bill Ward Sr.

Bill and Pat Ward

Chuck Ward

Sally Whalen

Thomas and Gerry Whalen and Family

Col. and Mrs. Jack Williams

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Wilson

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Zorich,
Gayle and Edwynna

Mr. and Mrs. John Malec and Lisa

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Manni and Family

In Memory of

Agnes Wightman and Albert G. Bert

Mr. and Mrs. John Bristol

Harry L. Evans Family

Paul Hartman, Fireman

James T. King

Charles T. Lodge Family

Robert J. Malec

Steve Malec

Alex McKeown

Edward Milashin

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Murdock, Sr.

William D. and Clara F. Roberts

Joseph Scarcella

Joseph and Martha Scharf

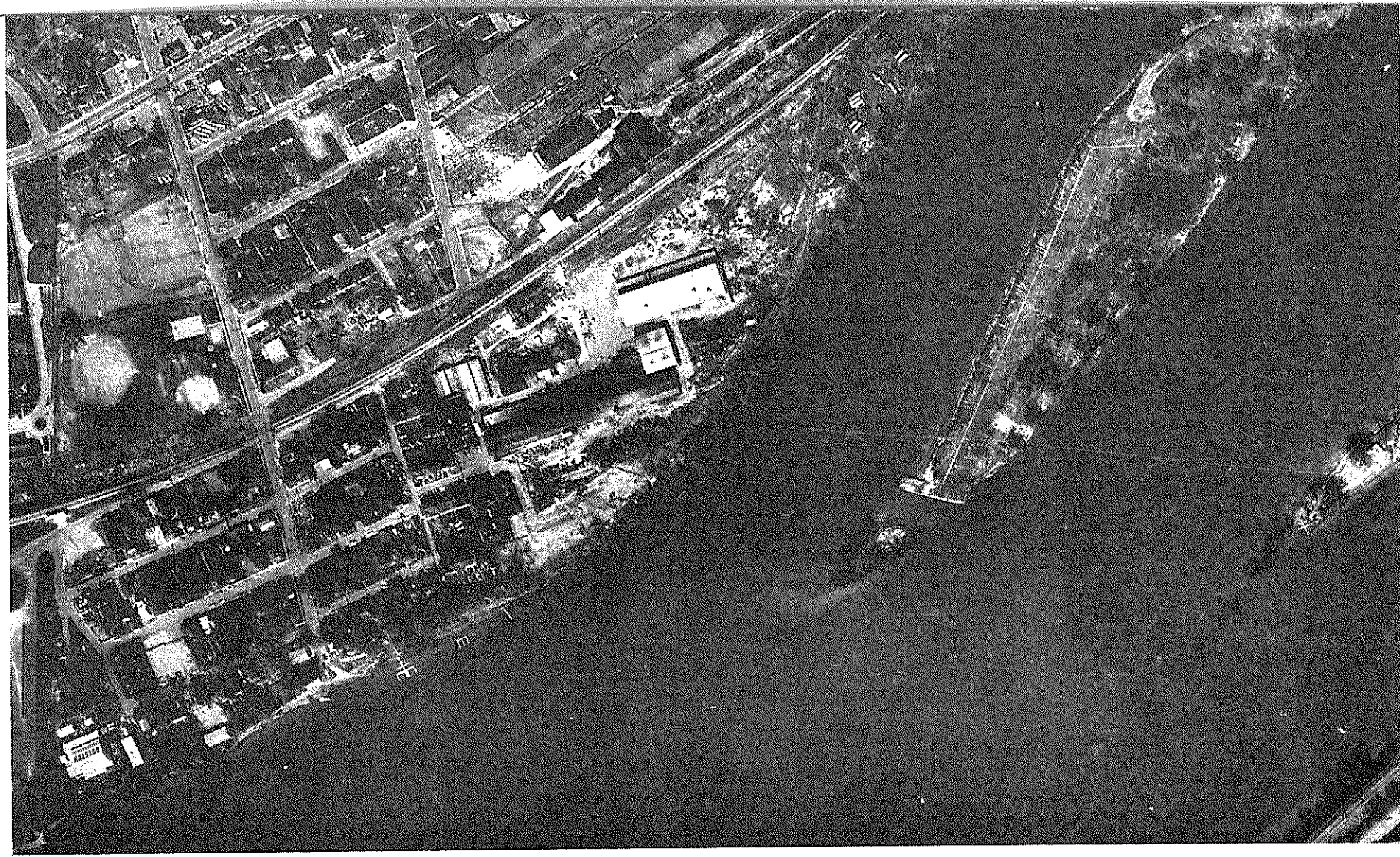
Edward A. (Whoopee) and Lucy Smith

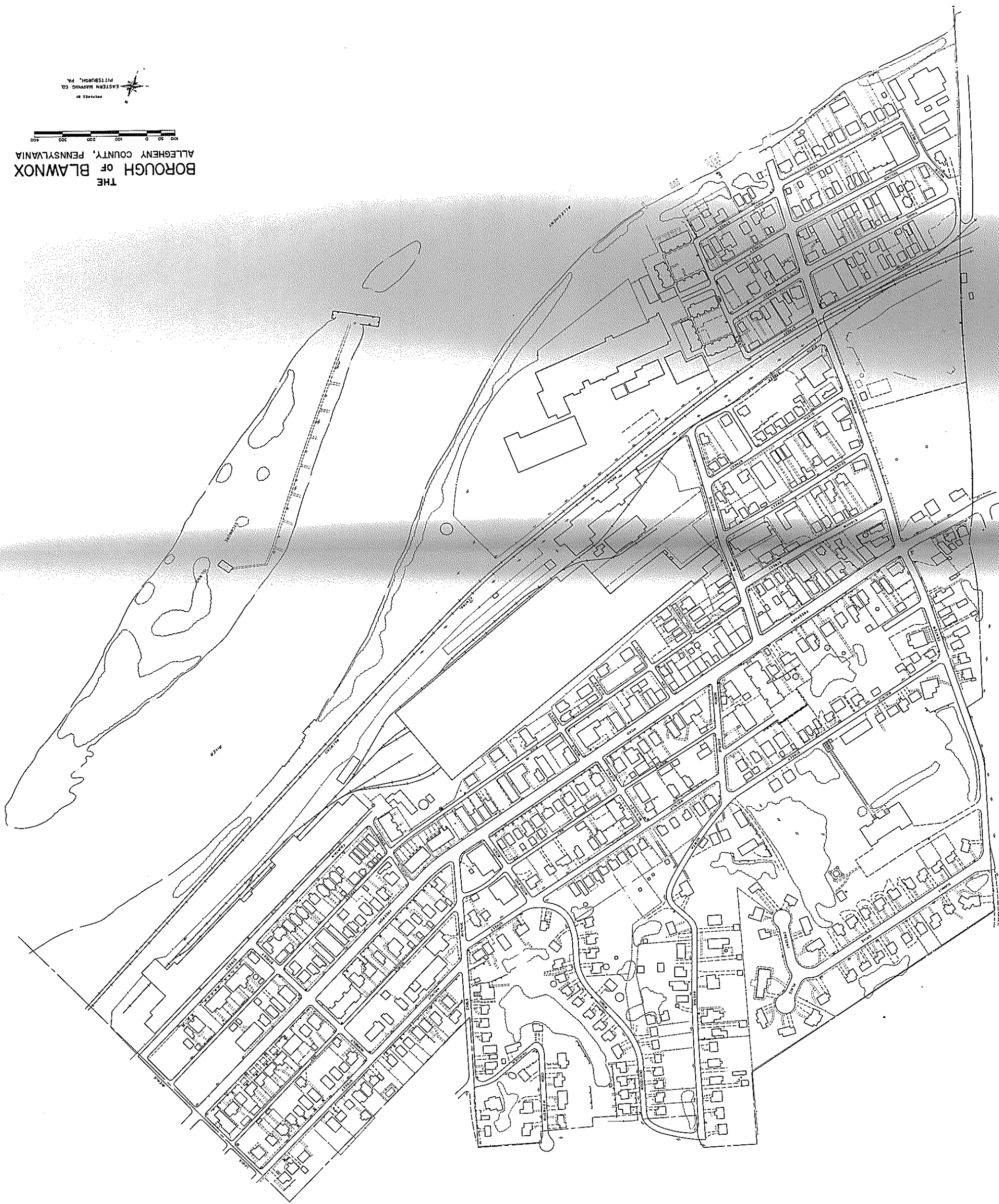
Mr. and Mrs. Parker B. Evans

Robert W. and C. A. Whartenby, Sr.

Miss Margaret E., John E., and Robert Wightman

COURTESY OF EASTERN MAPPING COMPANY
1973 AERIAL VIEW OF BLAWNOX

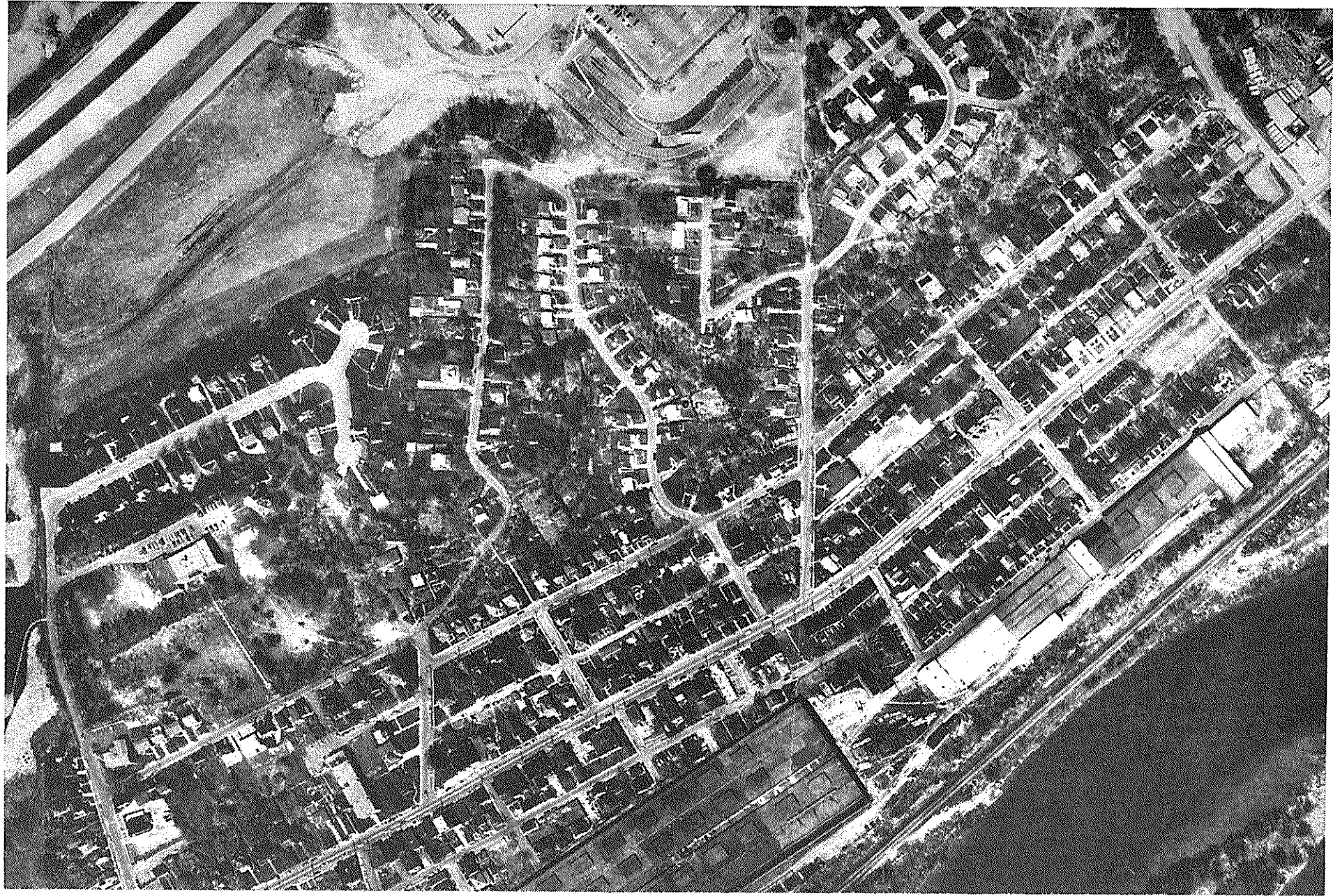






COURTESY OF EASTERN MAPPING COMPANY

1973 AERIAL VIEW OF BLAWNOX



It is our wish that the residents of Blawnox have continued happiness and success in the future.

YOUR BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Thomas M. Smith
Mayor

John C. (Jack) Hohman
President of Council

William L. Adamsky
Vice-President
Administration and Finance

Henry Witas
Water

Robert G. Jenets
Recreation and Cable T.V.

George F. Bubash
Citizen and Property Protection

Michael J. Bosilovich
Streets and Traffic

Richard E. Jackson
Health and Sanitation

CONGRATULATIONS BLAWNOX
on your first 50 years...