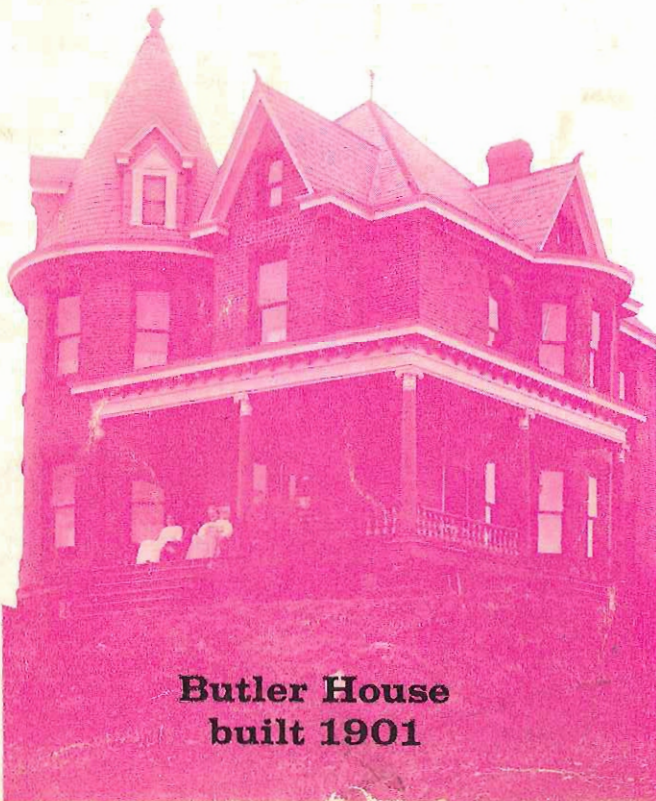


Boro Fire Bell...
cast about 1893



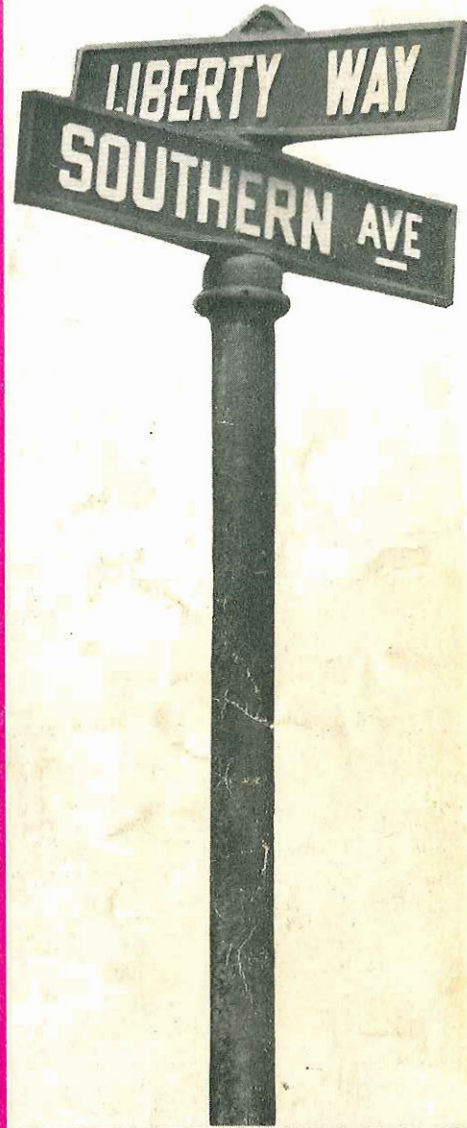
Dedication Stone



Butler House
built 1901



handmade pitchfork - McClure Farm - about 1850



**LIBERTY
BOROUGH**

**50
YEARS**

1912 - 1962

“LIBERTY BOROUGH 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION”

Program

Monday, July 23	SELECTION OF BOROUGH QUEEN..... 6:30 P.M. Liberty Women's Club
Tuesday, July 24	Precision Drill..... 7:00 P.M. Liberty Veteran's Drill Team
Wednesday, July 25	BICYCLE PARADE..... 6:30 P.M. Liberty Recreation Board
Thursday, July 26	FIREMEN'S PARADE..... 7:30 P.M. Liberty Borough Vol. Firemen's Assn.
Friday, July 27	OLD-FASHIONED CLOTHING SHOW..... 6:30 P.M. Liberty Mother's Club
Saturday, July 28	HOMEcoming DAY..... 12 Noon till ? CHICKEN BARBEQUE—LION'S CLUB..... 4 to 7:00 P.M. OFFICIAL PROGRAM—MAYOR DOUGHERTY..... 7:00 P.M.
Sunday, July 29	JOINT RELIGIOUS SERVICE..... 7:00 P.M. The Rev. Russell Bragg—Church of the Good Samaritan The Rev. William Darsie—Liberty Presbyterian Church Father Rowan—St. Eugene's Roman Catholic Church
Antique Display	MOTHER'S CLUB BUILDING Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat.,..... 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. Saturday..... 12 Noon to 4:00 P.M.
Kangaroo Court	LIBERTY BOROUGH VOL. FIREMEN'S ASSN.. 6:30 P.M. to ? <i>Each Evening</i>

All events, unless otherwise noted, will be held on the grounds of the new Liberty Borough Fire Hall.
Old pictures and records will be on display in the Borough Building during the entire week.

50th Anniversary Celebration



**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION COMMEMORATING
LIBERTY BOROUGH'S
50TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**



1912 TO 1962

LIBERTY BOROUGH, PENNSYLVANIA

BOROUGH OF LIBERTY

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

*50 Years of Progress**July 22 to July 28, 1962*

IN compiling and preparing this book, the History Brochure Committee, as well as organizations and others not on the "50th Anniversary" committees, have tried to the best of their ability to give you the historical highlights of Liberty Borough during the past fifty years as well as a brief history of the area prior to its legal formation as a Borough.

No doubt errors have crept in, and perhaps certain omissions of facts, names or events worthy of mention; but our aim was to set forth as clearly as possible in pictures and words the historical highlights of our Borough of Liberty. You are the sole judge in deciding whether or not we succeeded.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Rudolph Antoncic for providing us with the early history of the old joint Borough of Port Vue and Liberty. Mr. Antoncic is a life long resident of the Borough of Port Vue and is noted as an Abraham Lincoln historian. He is also the historian of the Borough of Port Vue. He resides at 915 Lysle Avenue, Port Vue; is married and the father of

two sons, Richard and Rudy. He has been an official of Port Vue for the past thirty years, serving as director of the health board, constable and Justice of the Peace. He is a non-veteran and the only man to be cited by the American Legion Post 447 for meritorious service. This award went to Mr. Antoncic for outstanding service in civic, fraternal, religious and political activities in the area.

We hope you—your children—and future generations may enjoy this book.

HISTORY BROCHURE COMMITTEE

Mayor William H. Dougherty, *Chairman*
Mrs. Earl Hitchens, Jr.
James Anglum
Kenneth V. Gleason
Robert Madden
Carl Murray
Stewart E. Owens
William G. Wunderly

GENERAL HISTORY OF THE AREA PRIOR TO 1912

Introduction

History is the crystallization of past events. The best and most authentic works are those wherein the author confines himself strictly to a narration of facts gathered from reliable sources and written in the simplest language. No man can manufacture history since all history is compiled from records or statements of others who have gone before him.

From a wilderness, the old Borough of Port Vue and Liberty has been converted into a highly cultivated and flourishing community which contains all the luxuries of civilization, industry, education and refinement which go to make the sum total of human progress and happiness.

History Prior to the Formation of the Boroughs of Port Vue and Liberty 1753 to 1892

General History of Area

The celebrated Queen of the Delawares, Queen Aliquippa made her home in this area. It has been said that she took offense at George Washington for not paying his respects to her while passing through the area of her Royal Quarters in the fall of 1753. However, Washington later paid his respects to her on his return trip by presenting her with a match-coat and a bottle of rum. This is the first definite record of a visit of a white man to this area.

On the evening of July 8, 1755, the army of General Braddock encamped at the junction of the Monongahela and Youghiogheny rivers near Queen Aliquippa's Village. It has been reported that George Washington rejoined the army of General Braddock at this time. The officers and men were in good spirits and were anticipating an easy victory over the French and Indians at Fort Duquesne which was located approximately 15 miles down the Monongahela.

On the morning of July 9, 1755, the army had crossed the Monongahela River near the mouth of the Youghiogheny and traveled down stream until they reached a point located seven miles from Fort Duquesne. Here the army crossed the Monongahela River in the area which is now Turtle Creek and were ambushed near Braddock Borough by the French and Indians. Nearly two thousand men of General Braddock's army had lost their lives. False pride and stubbornness cost General Braddock his life and brought about the defeat of his army.

Early History of the Present Boroughs of Liberty and Port Vue

The area in which Liberty, Port Vue, Lincoln and Glassport Boroughs are now located had its first legal beginning when Elizabeth Township was formed in the year 1788. Elizabeth Township, one of the eight original townships in Allegheny County, was later sub-divided in the year 1869 by the formation of Lincoln Township on the North and Forward Township on the South. The Boroughs of Liberty, Port Vue, and Glassport later were sub-divided from the Lincoln Township area.

Lincoln Township was named in memory of President Abraham Lincoln. Mary Creigh made applications to survey the land consisting of 119 acres on August 26, 1833. This land was later conveyed to Elizabeth Phillips and John Calhoun.

Samuel Sinclair, the first settler on this side of the Youghiogheny River, lived at the junction of the Monongahela and Youghiogheny Rivers. His land allowance of 209¼ acres was surveyed on September 1, 1769 and this tract of land was called "Springfield". Samuel Sinclair later married the daughter of John McKee, the founder of McKeesport. Richard McClure, another early settler, was granted a 400 acre land allowance on August 17, 1784. The McClures were the first settlers in the old Borough of Port Vue & Liberty. Richard McClure was born in Paxtang Township in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on June 16, 1754. He later died in Lincoln Township on July 9, 1835. During the Revolutionary War he was a member of Captain Sherer's Company.

The original 400 acre land allowance of Richard McClure included part of the 10th ward of McKeesport as well as all of the present Boroughs of Liberty, Port Vue, Glassport and Otto. The ownership of this large tract of land was later divided between Richard McClure and his brother William McClure with Richard retaining approximately 200 acres.

Richard McClure's brother was the Honorable Judge Francis McClure who was a very prominent man in Western Pennsylvania for many years. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature and in 1812 was appointed associate judge of Allegheny County. He performed the duties

of this office with ability and distinction for 26 years or until 1838. On numerous occasions he rode horseback to Harrisburg to make disposition of certain of his cases. He resigned because his advanced age of 98 was hindering the performance of the duties of this office. His granddaughter, Laura Belle McClure Good still lives at 220 Atlantic Avenue in the tenth ward of McKeesport. Miss Jane McClure, Miss Elsie McClure & Mr. and Mrs. Francis Andrew McClure who are relatives are living at the old homestead in Port Vue and Liberty. Judge Francis McClure died at the age of 103.

Andrew McClure born on October 18, 1823, married Jane Edmundson. The Edmundson family was one of the old families in our vicinity. Andrew McClure inherited from his father, Alexander McClure, who was the son of Richard McClure, the old homestead and is remembered as a prosperous farmer and a most worthy citizen. His family consisted of Mary J. McClure who married Joseph Coughy, John McClure who married Margaret Kunkelmann and Francis A. McClure who married Irene Walker, and Sarah McClure and William McClure. Andrew McClure died on June 25, 1887 and he and his wife are both buried in the Versailles Cemetery, McKeesport, Pennsylvania.

About the beginning of the nineteenth century, the Edmundson family acquired the land owned by William Johnston which consisted of approximately 278 acres. The Edmundson farm contained pre-historic and Indian remains. Numerous stone graves could be seen on this farm. One of these graves was in an almost perfect state of preservation. It was formed by a rectangular stone wall built around the grave with implements of war placed upon the surface of the ground and then covered over with flat stones.

Levi Edmundson's father, Caleb Edmundson stated that he had uncovered iron weapons in some of these graves. He found iron hatchets together with stone implements which could indicate that they were used in common by two different races. The stone axes were made from a gray colored stone which was foreign to the stones in our region. Mr. Edmundson stated that they were well polished and had a groove around the center for attachment of a handle. Smoking pipes and various other relics were also uncovered by Mr. Edmundson.

The remains of a pre-historic race were also found in our district. Portions of old fortifications and Indian graves could be seen throughout the area. In an old fortification on the farm of James McKnight, various implements of the stone age have been found. There was also an ancient fort on the farm of M. M. Wilson. The walls of this fort were six feet high and as late as 1830, mussel-shells, arrow heads and flint chips were scattered throughout the fort. The only block house in our area was the one located near Boston or Elrod's Ferry.

Another peculiarity of our region was the vast drove of wild hogs which roamed the forests in the years subsequent to 1780. They were apparently descendants of the European stock since there were no native breeds in the United States. The descendants of the earliest residents concur in their statements that they were smaller than the domestic breeds and their bristles were very long and thick. The tusks of the male hogs were formidable weapons and often attained a length of over six inches. They were very

fleet and would jump fences with ease. They were the most dangerous animals in the forest.

One day Caleb Edmundson and another gentleman were walking in the woods when they noticed a large drove of hogs surrounding a wolf which no doubt had taken a pig. Upon being pursued the wolf had taken refuge on a high tree stump where he sat above danger and watched the enraged swine below. On seeing the men, however, the wolf was alarmed and immediately jumped among the hogs and was quickly devoured. It was common among the settlers to feed these animals occasionally when they came near their homes in order to lure them within shooting distance. They were considered as common property like all other wild game.

The early settlers in Liberty and Port Vue hauled their grain on flat boats to the grist mill operated by John McKee at the mouth of the Youghiogheny River.

The fruits and vegetables from the farms of the McClures, Edmundsons and others were also transported across the Youghiogheny River on flat boats to be sold at the market house located at Fourth and Market Streets in McKeesport.

The mining of coal was equally as important as farming in our area. A coal mine located near Washington Boulevard was operated by Caleb Edmundson and later by Levi Edmundson. The coal was hauled out of the mine in small buggies pulled by large dogs. There was a small railroad that transported the coal from the entrance of the mine down Hamilton Crossing to the river where it was hauled in flat boats to Cincinnati, Ohio. The McClures and J. Penny also operated coal mines and their coal railroad proceeded down the area of Loretta Street to the river. The coal from our vicinity was known as some of the best coal in the United States.

The first steam ferry was introduced in 1846 and was considered a major step forward in transportation in this area. It was called the "Yough" and was owned by H. B. Sinclair. In the year 1847, steam engines were used in towing coal boats and replaced the old method of floating these boats down the river.

In 1851, dams to improve water navigation on the Youghiogheny River were completed. Four men from the Borough of McKeesport, Bailey, Wigham, Hendrickson and H. B. Sinclair purchased two boats, the "Genesee" and the "Tom Shriver", and operated a packet line for three years between Pittsburgh and West Newton. The dams broke in 1854 and were never repaired. This ended steam navigation on the Youghiogheny River. The remains of these dams are still visible.

The early settlers obtained their reading materials from Elizabeth Borough and later from McKeesport Borough. Elizabeth was the oldest community in Allegheny County on the Monongahela River with the exception of Pittsburgh.

There were three newspapers published at different times in this area. During President Jackson's campaign in 1829 the "Pennsylvania and Jackson Free Press" was published by Samuel Frew. The Monongahela Valley Messenger was also published during the presidential campaign, however, both newspapers were discontinued after the Presidential elections. The Elizabeth Herald was published August 1, 1873 by Shaffer and Penny and was known at that time as the Messenger. The ready-print

covers were discarded and the name was changed to the "Black Diamond" on January 1, 1874. This paper was devoted especially to the coal industry. Shaffer and Penny published this paper until September 12, 1874 when it was purchased by T. J. Wedell. Mr. Wedell published the paper until January 1, 1875 when it was enlarged from twenty four to a thirty two column paper and the name was changed to the Elizabeth Herald. It was then known as a first class family Journal. In the fall of 1854 John Collins published one issue of the "McKeesport Standard" which was the first newspaper in McKeesport. This paper was later continued by various people for a period of five or six years.

Formation of Port Vue Borough in 1892

In the year 1891, the population of the present Boroughs of Liberty and Port Vue totaled approximately 500. These residents decided it was time to create a new Borough and separate from Lincoln Township. They met in the old Penny School House on the Edmundson Farm and decided at first to officially name it Grandview Borough. They finally agreed on the name of Port Vue due to the beautiful view of the port that the Borough of McKeesport had on the Youghiogheny River between First Street and Seventh Street.

Charles Weissert was appointed to circulate a petition among the residents and present this petition to the Court of Quarter Session of Allegheny County. The petition was completed and taken to the courthouse on May 5, 1892.

The petition requested the incorporation of the Borough of Port Vue from a portion of Lincoln Township in the County of Allegheny. The Borough was bounded by the Youghiogheny River, the Monongahela River, the Borough of Reynoldton and properties of the heirs of Alexander Fleming, Alexander Calhoun, John Edmundson, Robert Snyder, Cash Harper, T. H. Coursin, W. B. Hayes, Frank Downey, Mrs. Trich and the Phillip Heirs.

Some of the names appearing on the petition were John Dale, Joseph Balinsky, David Smith, Samuel Heath, E. Finney, William H. Crouch, N. S. Brown, Robert Coughy, Mary Edmundson, John B. Edmundson, George Crouch and F. A. McClure.

On September 20, 1892, the request of the petitioners was approved and the Borough of Port Vue was officially incorporated. The council consisted of six members one of whom was the Burgess or chief executive officer of the Borough. The Burgess had the full power of a councilman as well as being the chief executive officer and presided at the council meetings.

The first election was held November 8, 1892, and officials elected were as follows:

Burgess: Robert A. Coughy
Councilmen: Alexander Nimmo, Charles Weissert, J. C. McClure, John Parkins and John Baker
School Board: John Edmundson, S. G. Pollock, B. Y. Fife, W. P. Phillips, John Dale, David Finney and Lewis Moon

In the year 1893 an ordinance was soon passed prohibiting the running at large in the community of horses, mules, goats and hogs since it was considered a public nuisance.

In the year 1898, the council and Burgess, F. A. McClure passed an ordinance prohibiting bathing in the Mononga-

hela and Youghiogheny rivers from sunrise to sunset. All residents were ordered to dress in bathing suits when swimming in the river.

Horses and buggies provided the principal means of transportation in the early history of our area. However, the old joint Borough of Port Vue and Liberty had an electric trolley line for a short period of time. Patty Quirk was the first motorman and Isaac Burbridge was the first conductor. Mr. Burbridge was killed in an accident on one of these trolleys and the line was later discontinued in 1915.

Early History of Schools—Prior to 1912

The Penny School erected before 1800 was the first school house in the original joint Borough of Port Vue and Liberty. Another school house known as the Lincoln Township School was located on the farm of Levi Edmundson near the junction of the Youghiogheny & Monongahela Rivers. In the year 1878, the Elizabeth Township School District sold this building to Levi Edmundson for \$60.00. The Port Vue Dale School erected in 1898 was located on the present site of the Kelsey Hayes Plant. This school had two rooms and Miss Bertha McClure was one of the teachers in this school. The Number 4 School House was located on the present site of the Borough Building of Liberty Borough. This old school house later was used by Liberty Borough as its municipal office building until the present office building was erected in 1958.

Early History of Churches—Prior to 1912

The first church in the area was known as the Methodist Meeting House and was erected in 1848 on a parcel of ground purchased by John Wilkinson for the sum of \$5.00 from Caleb Edmundson.

The second church of record in the joint Borough of Port Vue and Liberty was the Port Vue Methodist Church which was dedicated on June 18, 1905. The first pastor was the Rev. James M. Mason.

Another church was the Pilgrim Holiness Church located on the farm of William Crouch. The pastor was Richard Flexon.

Industry

The first industry in our area was the McKeesport Manufacturing Co. The name was soon changed to the McKeesport Tinsplate Co. with Mr. E. R. Crawford being the president and founder of this company. The first five units of this mill were completed on March 17, 1903, and the next five units were completed on May 15, 1903. This plant is owned at present by the Kelsey Hayes Wheel Co.

Early History of Volunteer Fire Co. Prior to 1912

The first volunteer fire company in the old joint Borough of Port Vue was organized on July 18, 1908 with 26 charter members. Some of the original members were Arthur Davis, William Sinn, Fred Peterson, John Klotz,

Joshua Campbell, Gustof Gustafson, Joseph Stearns George Weissert, John Lickert, Ernest McMichaels, John Shaffer, Charles Sinn, Josiah Pearson, William Wildon, Calvin Brown, Emil Kreisel, Robert Jackson, Fred Ulm, Philip Hilgert, Peter McGafferty, Samuel Wilkes and Clifford Gustafson. Carl Gustafson was the first chief, Leo Stearns, assistant chief, Arthur Gustafson 2nd Lieutenant and Frank Esse, vice president. The first fire equipment consisted of a hand drawn hose reel which was purchased in 1908 and financed by a \$200 bank loan. This hand drawn hose reel was originally built in 1886 for the Sharpsburg Fire Company and later sold in 1908 to our fire company.

Sports

Quait pitching was a popular sport in our area in the early 1900's. William C. Hitchens brought fame to our community since he was the tri-state quait pitching champion for 13 years. His present age is 95 and he is residing at 2209 Harrison Street, McKeesport.

Ice skating and horse drawn sleigh riding were other popular sports around 1900.

Our residents used wooden planks as side walks in the early days to prevent mud from being tracked into their homes. During the winter months some of these wooden planks would disappear since the boys would use them for sled riding down the hills in our area.

Trap and clay pigeon shooting were also popular sports some sixty years ago. Contests were held on the farms of William and John Edmundson. Prizes of turkeys, chickens, ducks and geese were given to the winners. Mr. J. F. Calhoun was usually the champion in these contests. Mr. Calhoun was appointed the first solicitor in the old joint Borough of Liberty and Port Vue in the year 1892.

Early Residents During Period 1900-1912

Some of the early residents of Liberty Borough prior to its legal formation (1900-1912) were as follows:

Families of:

Joseph Ankarana	Andrew Harris
Robert Butler	Thomas Hoak
William, Rachael	W. J. Hoffman
and Sadie Butler	Edward Johnson
Paul Berger	Mrs. Margaret Kier
Frank Belsuor	John Kaslo
Edward Bentz	Robert Kaler
George Baker	John Kaler
Stanley Chmiesleski	John McClure
William B. Dougherty	John Minear
Godfrey Dannenhauer	Richard Miller
David Dannenhauer	Adolph Miller
Jacob Diehl	William Nagle
Thomas Evans	President of 1st
Michael Evanchak	National Bank
Michael Freidhofer	of McKeesport
Jacob Guster	Mark Naylor
Michael Gribbons	John Owens
Howard Hamer	W. Prosper Phillips
George Hamer	Frank Phillips
Thaddeus Hibbon	George Potersnak
John Hoak	William J. Robinson

Ludwig Sinn
Ira D. Sacket
David Sword
Charles Snyder
Collian Thompson
William Wood

Thomas Williams
William Will
Charles Weissert
William Wunderley Sr.
Charles Wisener
Martin Ziegler

School Board: Harry L. Kier, George L. Sinn, Robert B. Kaler, John W. Minear and William A. Wunderley

When Liberty was first incorporated in 1912, it was considered the smallest borough in the state since it contained only 100 residents.

At the time of separation from Port Vue in 1912, the School District of Liberty Borough was also created and consisted only of the legal limits of the Borough of Liberty.

History of Liberty Borough
Incorporation of Liberty Borough
September 7, 1912:

Because Port Vue Borough was not sharing improvements for which tax money was paid, the residents in the present Borough of Liberty petitioned the Quarter Sessions, Court of Allegheny County in 1912 to be separated from Port Vue and form a new borough. The major item of disagreement was the financing of new water lines in Port Vue Borough from real estate taxes paid by all residents. These water lines were not extended into this section of the borough and therefore our residents complained of paying for this improvement and at the same time were



not receiving the benefits of it. They obtained their water from their own wells. The name of Liberty Borough was decided upon by these residents since they were attempting to obtain their liberty from the Borough of Port Vue. Charles Weissert and John McClure were two of the many residents that led the request for separation from Port Vue Borough.

On September 7, 1912, Quarter Sessions, Court of Allegheny County approved the petition of the residents and Liberty Borough was legally incorporated. The court appointed the following officials until the date of the first election in the fall of 1913:

Burgess: Charles Weissert
Council: John McClure, *President*
David Dannenhauer
Richard Miller
Robert Butler
Charles Snyder
Collian Thompson
John Owens

Nathan Robinson was the first secretary.

General History of the Borough

Of general interest to the early residents will be the memory of a picnic grove called Dale Grove. This grove was located on a plot of ground bordering the Youghio-gheny River near where Heaths' Run empties into the river. This grove was named for the Dale Brothers who owned the land. This shaded grove was the scene of quiet family picnics and Sunday School outings. The McKeesport Tin Plate Company later erected their plant on this site.



CAMP WALDHIEM
GERMAN CHURCH OF McKEESPORT

Many early residents will also long remember the Sunday School picnics on Sinn's Farm as well as the old German Church park area which was located near Owens Avenue and 'E' Street.

The entrance to Liberty Borough through Port Vue was once known as "Merry England" because of its predominately English populace. It was also and still is known as the "slip". Many people who call this area the "slip" may not know how this name originated. The McKeesport Tin Plate Company was in need of railroad sidings and began to excavate the dirt from the hillside that extended out close to where the railroad tracks are now located. As this work progressed, the hillside began to slide. There were a number of homes up on the hill above and many who remember, say that these houses could be seen gradually slipping down over the hill. Approximately five or six houses slipped over the hill at that time. A stone wall was built along Liberty Way where it joins Port Vue Avenue in order to prevent further slipping of the hillside and it still stands as a silent reminder of this past occurrence. Hence, the name "slip" was originated.

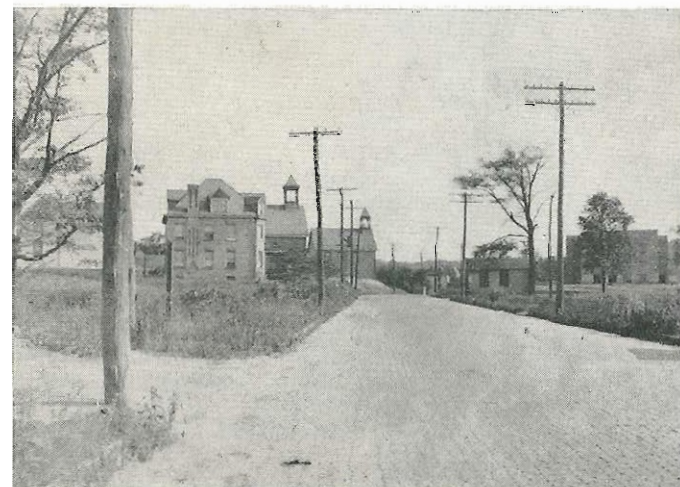
At one time the main road into Liberty was not up Liberty Way hill in the manner now familiar to us. The main inlet at that time was along the river road to the bottom of Latrobe Street and then up Latrobe Street to Liberty Way. This road is still usable but a sign is now posted warning residents to travel at their own risk.

In the early days of our borough, there were dairy farms operated by Mr. Sinn, Mr. Hibbs, Mr. Phillips and Mr. Robinson. These men distributed their milk and dairy products to the residents by means of horse and buggy. Another well known farm was the Firestone Farm.

The mode of travel in the early days of our borough was by horse and buggy. Many thankful horses and riders alike quenched their thirst at a watering trough which was located at a point where Liberty Way intersects with Latrobe Street. Water was supplied by a spring which came out from under the old Butler House. This is the house which is better known today as the 'castle'. It was in this same watering trough that many dunkings occurred. One person who can still remember being a victim of a number of dunkings is William Waldbaum.

The oldest existing home in Liberty is believed to be a stucco and shingled house located at 3215 Liberty Way. It is believed this house started as a log cabin and was improved over the years.

Perhaps one of the most familiar characteristics of Liberty Borough is the use of letters A, B, C etc., for street names. However, years ago Liberty Way was known as 7th Street; "F" Street was 6th Street and "A" Street was



LOOKING UP LIBERTY WAY

known as 1st Street. With the beginning of mail delivery through the McKeesport Post Office, the names of the streets were changed to their present names since McKeesport already had streets by number in their city.

In the year 1927 the construction of the first water lines was completed in Liberty Borough and many of the residents were no longer required to obtain their water from wells.

During the depression years, three enterprising young brothers, William, Louis and John Wunderley built a greenhouse dubbed the "Wunder Box". They made a living raising and selling potted plants, flowers and vegetable plants.

When horses were replaced with motorized transportation, the time spent traveling between McKeesport and Liberty Borough was considerably less. There were many instances, however, when bus transportation seemed to increase the traveling time. These were the times when the bus service provided by Mr. Rudberg of Bryn Mawr either broke down or for some other reason failed to arrive or depart. As a result the residents were forced to request a public hearing with the P.U.C. and backed the application made by Carl A. Boe to have the franchise transferred to him. The P.U.C. approved the transfer of the franchise and in January, 1945, the Ridge Lines began operation in Liberty Borough and Port Vue Borough.

One of the major early improvements in Liberty Borough was the elimination of a very bad curve located at the old stone bridge which crossed Heaths' Run at the dividing line between Liberty and Port Vue. This bad curve together with the poor bus service at that time seriously hindered the future growth of our community. Burgess William H. Dougherty was responsible for starting the move to eliminate the curve and he convinced the County Commissioners that they should undertake this project. The work on this project was completed in 1940 and the curve was eliminated.

Many of our residents will long remember the tornado that swept through the Fritchie Plan section of our borough in June, 1944. Several homes were destroyed and many were damaged. David Dannenhauer, one of our early residents, died while assisting the residents whose homes were damaged or destroyed during this tornado.

Another important project that contributed to the growth of our community was the filling of the valleys and wasteland with slag from the steel mills in the area. The slag began pouring into Liberty Borough during the early 1940's and especially during World War II. The February 7, 1947, issue of the Daily News contained a full page article which showed our community as a home building site. At that time 19 modern brick homes located on Owens Avenue were already in the process of construction and the housing boom was started. Some of the major housing projects were located in the Liberty Manor, Memory Lane, Owens Avenue, Elizabeth Street, "H" Street and Valley Street sections of the borough. The major contractors during this housing boom were John M. Wunderley, the Late Glenn Sinn and Charles Wills.

The tremendous growth of Liberty Borough is best illustrated by the number of residents reflected by the census as follows:

1920.....	601	1940.....	1,085
1930.....	906	1950.....	1,898
		1960.....	3,622

The growth is also evidenced by the fact that there were only 198 homes in our borough in 1934 as compared to 1,011 homes in 1962.

As the borough grew more business establishments were required to meet the needs of the residents. As a result, we have a dairy store, drug store, three service stations, an auto repair shop, supermarket, shoe repair shop, a small grocery store, real estate and insurance offices, doctor, dentist and attorney. We also have dry cleaners, barber shops, beauty salons, taverns, cabinet shop, bowling

alleys and a corporation which produces pre cut homes. The first motorized police ambulance was placed into operation on July 2, 1954 and as a result improved police protection was made available to the residents. Another important event was the paving of Washington Boulevard in the year 1956. This project included the widening of this road and the elimination of many dangerous curves; and greatly improved the traveling conditions between the Borough of Liberty and Glassport. The old frame Number 4 Schoolhouse located on Liberty Way also served as the Borough Building during most of the past fifty years. However, in the year 1958 this old landmark was torn down and was replaced by our present modern Borough Building. On December 8, 1958, the first council meeting was held in this new building.



OLD NO. 4 SCHOOL HOUSE
LATER CONVERTED TO BORO BUILDING



NEW BORO BUILDING
ERECTED IN 1958

Burgesses and Mayors

The Borough of Liberty has had only seven burgesses or mayors since its incorporation in 1912 as follows:



Burgess Charles Weissert
Term of Office
1912-1918
1919-1922
1922-1926
1930-1934

First Burgess and Leader in Movement to form Liberty Borough.



Burgess Myrl Dougherty

Term of Office
1918-1919

Died while in office in April, 1919. Unexpired term filled by Charles Weissert.



Burgess Ernest Kemp

Term of Office
1926-1930



Burgess William H. Dougherty

Term of Office
1934-1958

Held office of Burgess for 24 years which is the present record. He was the brother of Burgess Myrl Dougherty.



Burgess George Snyder

Term of Office
1958-1960

First democratic burgess. Mr. Snyder died in 1960 and council appointed Mr. Owens to fill unexpired term.



Mayor Stewart E. Owens

Term of Office
1960-1962

Appointed by Council to fill unexpired term of George Snyder



Mayor William H. Dougherty, Jr.

1962-Present

First Elected Mayor of Liberty Borough. He is the son of Burgess William H. Dougherty and nephew of Burgess Myrl Dougherty.

Current Events

The Glenn Avenue Project was completed in 1961 and the traffic bottleneck at the entrance to our community was eliminated as a result of one-way streets expediting traffic in this formerly congested area. This was the second major improvement to the main entrance to Liberty Borough with the previously noted Stone Bridge Project being the first improvement.

One of the hardest blows suffered by our community was the moving of the Kelsey Hayes Plant to Michigan in 1961. Many of our friends, relations and officials were forced to move with the company in order to maintain their jobs.

The sanitary sewer system was extended to include virtually all of the houses in the borough during 1961 and 1962 and on July 1, 1962 the sewer trunk lines were connected with the McKeesport Sewage Disposal system. The original sanitary sewers in our borough were installed by the W.P.A. during the depression years of the 1930's and resulted in a substantial savings to the future taxpayers as the borough developed during the inflationary period of the 1940's and 1950's.

History of Liberty Borough Schools

The School District of Liberty Borough was created in 1912 at the same time the Borough of Liberty was incorporated and separated from the Borough of Port Vue. The date of the first school board meeting was December 27, 1912.

The original school building was the old Number 4 School House better known to present day residents as the old borough building which was located on the present site of our new borough building. The number of students totaled approximately 82 in grades 1 to 8 at that time. In 1917, work was started on the present yellow brick Liberty Way School Building and a heavy tax burden was placed upon the small number of residents at that time. Late in the 1940's as the number of students began to increase substantially, the school board planned to add 8 rooms to the Liberty Way School. The state, however, would allow only the addition of 4 rooms and an all-purpose room. This annex was dedicated on October 22, 1954. Due to the rapid growth in the number of students, an additional grade school was required and on February 17, 1958, students moved into the new 6 room Manor School. The high



PRESENT BORO OFFICIALS

Present Borough Officials

The present borough officials are as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| <i>Mayor</i> | William H. Dougherty, Jr. |
| <i>Council</i> | Edward R. Slater, <i>President</i>
Kenneth V. Gleason, <i>Vice President</i>
James Byard
William Duncan
Robert Hayes
Robert Kessling |
| <i>Secretary</i> | Mrs. William Beech |
| <i>Solicitor</i> | Mord Taylor |
| <i>Engineer</i> | William Edmundson |

school students during these years attended the McKeesport High Schools on a tuition basis.

In the year 1958, there was a jointure of the Liberty and Port Vue School Districts which is now named the Port Vue-Liberty Joint School District. This jointure was brought about by pressure from the County and the State to consolidate school districts. This joint school district is currently erecting a modern senior high school at a cost in excess of \$3,000,000 in Liberty Borough on part of the old Firestone Farm near Washington Boulevard. It is anticipated that this school will be completed in the fall of 1962 and within two years there will be none of our students attending McKeesport High School. Once again the residents of our community have had a heavy tax burden placed upon them to finance the cost of our school system.

The need for an expanded school system can best be explained by the following growth in school students.

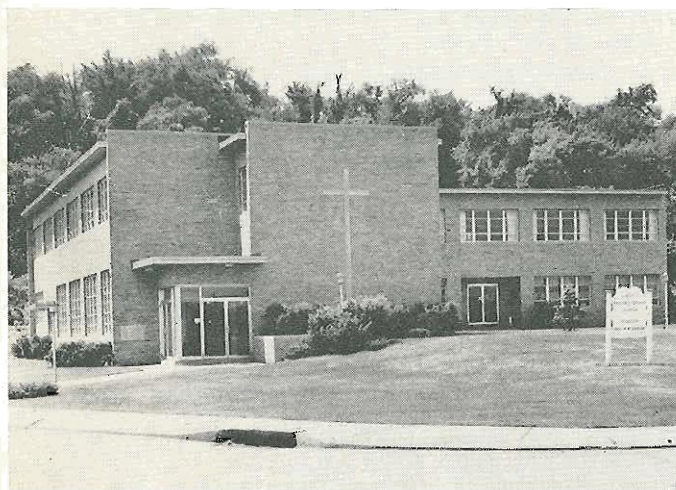
1917	82 Students
1947	163 Students
1957	433 Students in Grade 1 to 6 only
1962	914 Students

The present school directors are as follows:

Wilbur Reedy—*President*
 Albert Johnson—*Vice President*
 William G. Wunderley—*Secretary*
 Adolph Dominick—*Treasurer*
 Cecil Peers

HISTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS, CHURCHES

Liberty Presbyterian Church



LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ERECTED 1956

Liberty Borough was part of Port Vue on July 2, 1899 when the local Port Vue Union Sunday School was organized with 57 charter members. Mr. Thomas Hitchens was the first Sunday School superintendent and Miss Edna Phillips, now Mrs. James Martin, was elected the first organist.

The Sunday School met in the old school building, located on the site of the present borough building. The original Sunday School was independent of all denominations. On September 24, 1899 a survey of all the homes of the community was authorized to ascertain the denominational background of the residents.

The first reference to "Presbyterian" was on October 3, 1900 when a committee was appointed to wait on Presbyterian people to see "what could be raised," for a church building. About this time Mr. and Mrs. Robert Butler volunteered to provide 2 lots in Section A of the Kaler Plan for the site of a church building, and these were deeded to the Board of Trustees to be held in trust for the First Presbyterian Church of Port Vue.

The site proved to be the center of the community. As a result, the Sunday School voted on October 31, 1900 to build the church at once. This church was to become the

Port Vue Mission of Redstone Presbytery. At this meeting the first Board of Trustees was elected, and these constituted the building committee, namely, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Butler, Mr. Kaler, Mr. Phillips, and Mr. McClure.

The congregation was organized May 11, 1902, as the First Presbyterian Church of Port View by the Presbytery of Redstone of the Synod of Pennsylvania of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., with the following original elders: T. T. Hibben, William M. Roberts, and William J. Hoffman. Rev. M. S. Bush was the first pastor and served until November 1, 1903.

The name of the church was authorized to be changed from the First Presbyterian Church of Port Vue Borough, to the Liberty Presbyterian Church of Liberty Borough, on June 28, 1916. Liberty had become a separate borough in 1912.

Due to the need for additional space, a new Educational Building was erected at the corner of Elizabeth and Valley streets. Work was begun on April 8, 1956 and the first church service was held in the new building in November of 1956. The new Educational Building was officially dedicated on January 20, 1957. The present pastor is Rev. William W. Darsie.

The ground for the new church was donated by Mr. and Mrs. John M. Wunderley.

St. Eugene's R. C. Church



ST. EUGENE CHURCH
ERECTED 1961

On November 9, 1954 a group of Catholics met for the first time to start a ways and means of forming a parish in Liberty Borough. The Catholic Social Group was formed on December 2nd of the same year.

In February, 1955 the Group received encouragement when it was learned that the Diocese of Pittsburgh purchased four acres of ground at the corner of Liberty Way and Scene Ridge Road.

Liberty and Lincoln were made a Mission of St. Peter's under the title of St. Eugene in 1957. On June 16th the first Mass was offered at the Mother's Club. In September

the first School of Religion was organized and classes were held in the Mother's Club, V.F.W. Hall and private homes.

On Palm Sunday, 1959, the Catholic Social Group went to Duquesne University to meet Bishop Wright. Whether this meeting with the Bishop had any effect, is a matter of conjecture, but at any rate, less than three months later we were made a Parish on June 3, 1959.

The present pastor, Rev. E. F. Rowan, took over his official duties on June 10th. A home on Overlook Drive was purchased as a temporary rectory on July 1, 1959.

In August of the same year the first meeting with Bishop Wright was held to discuss the building of a church for the Parish. Ground breaking took place June 19, 1960 and the first Mass in the new Church was offered August 13, 1961.

May 6, 1962 was the official Dedication Day with the blessing of the Church and a Solemn High Mass celebrated by Bishop Wright followed by dinner in the Church hall. The dinner was attended by clergy, borough officials, friends and parishoners.

Church of the Good Samaritan



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN
ORGANIZED 1959
Original Presbyterian Church

The history of the Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan is short due to the fact that it only began in the early fall of 1958. At that time some members of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in McKeesport conceived the idea of starting a Mission Church in the old Presbyterian Church at the corner of Liberty Way and Southern Avenue which had been vacated by the Presbyterians due to the fact that they had constructed a new Church in the Borough. The owner's of the property, Misses May and Della Butler, life-long residents of Liberty Borough were contacted by a committee and arrangements were made to procure use and ownership in the direction of the Rev. Perry Porter, Rector at St. Stephen's.

In October of 1958, The Rt. Rev. William S. Thomas, D.D., Suffragan Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, called a meeting of all interested people at the Liberty Borough School. At this meeting an Executive Committee of eight was appointed by the Bishop to pursue plans for renovating the Church building. Renovation work was started in November 1958 and after many many hours of work by members of the Congregation this new Mission Church called the Church of the Good Samaritan due to the great personal effort put in to it, was opened for the first Service on Palm Sunday, March 22, 1959.

This Mission Church has been served by various Clergy: The Rev. David Dillon from Trinity Church in Monessen, the Rev. William Lewis from St. George's in Jefferson Borough and the Rev. William Leggett from the Allison Park Mission. As of January 1, 1961 the Rev. W. Russell Bragg was appointed by Bishop Thomas as Priest-in-Charge on a part time basis. The Rev. Mr. Bragg is also Priest-in-Charge of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Clairton.

At the present time they have approximately 50 or more families; (79 Communicants and 157 Baptized members).

The Church of the Good Samaritan owes much to St. Stephen's, McKeesport, to it's Vestry; to the Rev. Mr. Perry Porter and his assistant the Rev. A. W. Archer for their insight, help and guidance and especially do we owe much thanks to Misses May and Della Butler.

FIREMEN

Liberty Borough Volunteer Firemen's Association

The organization meeting of the Volunteer Firemen's Association of Liberty Borough was held on September 24, 1927. The first officers were as follows:

President—William G. Wunderley
Vice President—William Sinn
Secretary—Gunard Barkman
Treasurer—Frank Moon
Financial Secretary—Lloyd Griffiths
Chief—Mike Mehara
Asst. Chief—George Austin
Captain—Frank Chmielecki
First Lieutenant—John Lamp
Second Lieutenant—John Lickert

The old school bell which is now placed on the roof of the new fire hall was the first fire signal in Liberty Borough.

The first piece of fire equipment was a hose reel purchased in November, 1927 from Chalfant Borough for the sum of \$65.00.

The firemen have purchased three other fire trucks up to the present time.

The firehall owned by the Borough of Liberty on Liberty Way was the official headquarters of the firemen during the past years. However, due to the lack of space, a new firehall is being constructed near Haslage and Elizabeth Streets. It is anticipated that this new building will be completed in the fall of 1962.

The present officers are as follows:

President—Robert Forney
Treasurer—Robert L. Raymer
Financial Secretary—John F. Hailstones
Recording Secretary—Leroy Storch
Chief—Forrest Forney
Asst. Chief—Louis Wunderley, Jr.
Captain—Robert Forney
First Lieutenant—Harry Marth
Second Lieutenant—Robert Wunderley

Ladies Auxiliary to the Firemen

The Auxiliary was organized on April 14, 1948. The first officers elected were:



LIBERTY BORO'S
FIRST PIECE OF FIRE EQUIPMENT

President—Hazel Forney
Vice President—Bertha Chmielecki
Recording Secretary—Pearl Fritz
Financial Secretary—Virginia Byard
Treasurer—Ruth Zimmerman
Chaplain—Mary Dougherty

During the fourteen years of organization they have completed various projects, giving assistance to the firemen's Band, local school and civic league and charities. Their first obligation is to be of assistance to the firemen at any time. A committee has been formed to work with the Red Cross in case of any emergency or disaster.

At the present time they have purchased complete equipment for the kitchen of the soon-to-be-completed Fire Hall.



OLD FIRE STATION—LIBERTY WAY
Frank Chmielski—Mr. Fireman of Liberty Boro



NEW FIRE HALL BEING ERECTED IN LIBERTY BORO

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Mothers Club

The Mother's Club was organized in 1917 by Mrs. I. Hubbard with five women present. The five original members were: Mrs. William Wunderley, Sr., Mrs. Ella Lickert, Mrs. Anna Hamer, Mrs. I. Hyland, and Mrs. Edward Elliot.

In 1922 a Mrs. J. C. Smith donated the ground that the Mothers Club Building now stands on. Mr. E. R. Crawford of the old Tin Mill arranged for the building materials with Mr. Edward Elliot acting as chairman for the building. This same year the charter was received. The Mothers Club purpose was primarily to aid the school which they have done down through the years purchasing books,



MOTHER'S CLUB

chairs, a hall clock, a hectograph, movie projector and pictures of Lincoln and Washington which hang on the walls. They also provided a place for any plays the school put on and Eighth Grade Graduation exercises.

Many organizations have met in the Mothers Club during the past years. The Liberty Mission as well as St. Eugene's got their start in the building. Through the years the building has changed as improvements have been made. A modern kitchen, fluorescent lighting, a gas furnace, and the latest, aluminum siding.

During the first World War the mothers were busy selling war bonds and after the tornado of 1944 supplied a place for families who had lost their homes. This year the organization will be celebrating their 45th anniversary.

Liberty Woman's Club

The Liberty Woman's Club was organized January 30, 1953 as a Federated Club. Mrs. Emery Stash, one of the founders, was the Club's first President. Other women who have served in that capacity include:

Mrs. James Kane Mrs. Roy Goodyear
 Mrs. Robert Hoffman Mrs. Michael Chernicky

Mrs. Harrington Thomas Mrs. Howard Steudler
 Mrs. Robert Wayne Mrs. Robert Lindberg

The main project of the Woman's Club is the staffing and maintenance of the Community Library located in the Liberty Way School. The Library was first opened in the Spring of 1955.

The Club contributed through the State Federation of Woman's Clubs a substantial amount to the restoration of Independence Hall in Philadelphia and the Club's name is recorded there as one of the contributors.

Other projects have included the presentation of television sets to local schools, sponsorship of a Brownie and Girl Scout Troop, contributing to after Prom Parties and providing refreshments twice a month for USO dances in Pittsburgh. They have also been responsible for several drives in the Borough—Cancer Drives, WQED television station drives, and Tag Days for Children's Hospital.

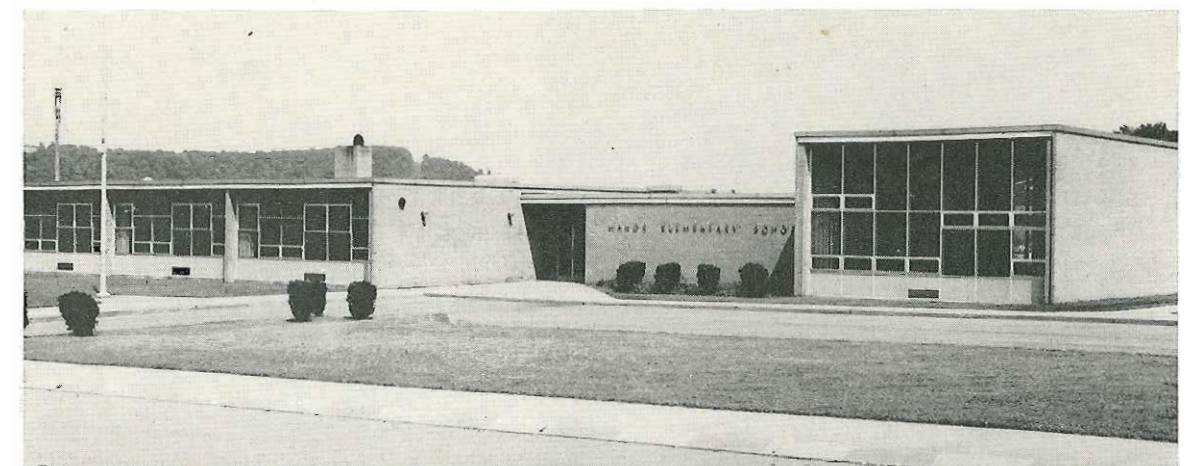
This Year the club has been honored by the Federation by selecting one of its members, Mrs. Robert Hoffman, as 7th District Vice President.

Liberty Borough Lions Club

Liberty Borough Lions Club came into existence on Tuesday Evening, May 13, 1947 at its Charter Night held at the Mothers Club. The club was sponsored by the McKeesport Lions Club. Officers of the club consisted of:

President—Curtis P. Westcoat
First Vice President—Franklin Elliott
Second Vice President—Louis A. Wunderley
Third Vice President—George Will
Secretary-Treasurer—Edmund Wunderley
Lion Tamer—Fred Stewart
Tail Twister—Wayne Snyder
Directors—William G. Wunderley
 Roger Sullivan
 Carl Boe, Jr.
 George Kier

The main purpose of the Lions Club is to help the Blind. However, the club has always looked forward to Community Betterment and Development for the residents of Liberty Borough.



MANOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Liberty Borough Veteran's Association

The Vet's Association was organized in January, 1946 with 30 members present. Officers were elected as follows:

- President—Carl Lamp
- Vice President—Sam Dilullo
- Secretary—Jay Dennison
- Treasurer—Steve Pribish

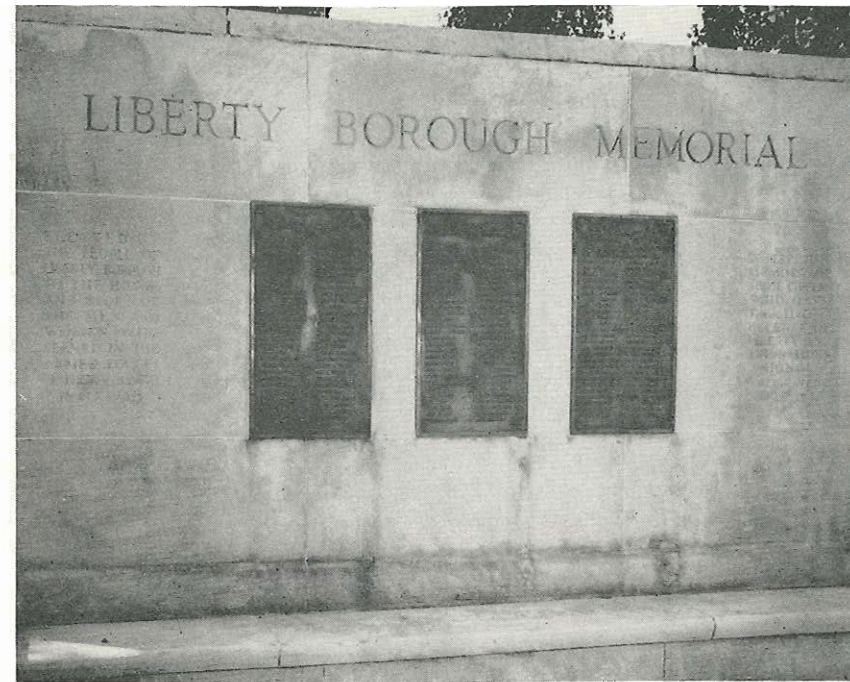
In March of 1948 they received their State Charter. The members, using their talents, completed the Vet's Hall, 2701 "C" Street, in 1950.

Their present membership includes 185 members and 85 social members.

The organization meeting of the Liberty Veteran's Drill Team was held at the home of Joseph Benyak on August 2, 1960. Officers were elected from a group of 24 members.

- Commander—James Anglum
- Vice Commander—Patrick Kelley
- Treasurer—Bernard McGinty
- Secretary—John Kunicky
- Drill Master—Joseph Benyak
- Assistant Drill Master—Stanley Kuzio
- Advertising and Publicity—Homer Kemp

The Drill Team participates in Firemen's Parades and in holiday parades.



HONOR ROLL—WORLD WAR 2

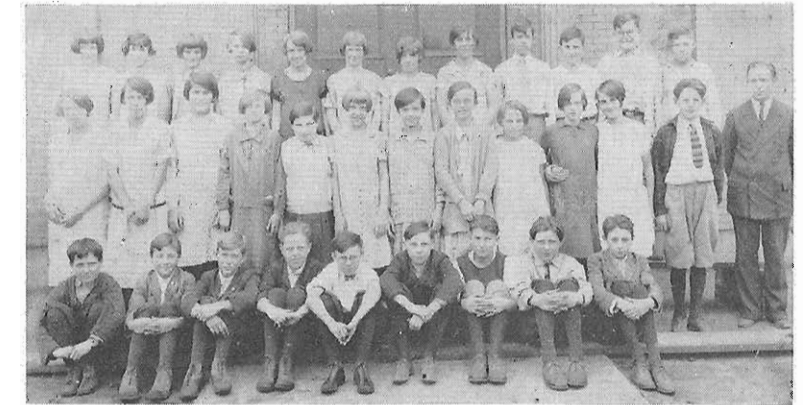


HONOR ROLL—WORLD WAR 1



PRESENT CLASS OF 1962—
LIBERTY WAY SCHOOL

Do You Remember?



It's Nice To Be A Neighbor . . .

CONGRATULATIONS

JEAN KOLANKOS' DAIRY STORE
Dairy Delite — Groceries — Lunches
LIBERTY WAY, LINCOLN BORO

Congratulations From A Neighbor . . .

MIHALEK'S FUNERAL HOME
325 Gumbert St.
PORT VUE, PA.

Phone OR 3-6644

Compliments Of . . .

STEVE'S PLACE
LIBERTY WAY - LIBERTY BORO

Congratulations and Best Wishes . . .

RAYMERS ESSO SERVICE
LIBERTY WAY, LIBERTY BORO

Phone ORchard 2-8028

Congratulations Neighbors . . .

PORT VUE FLORAL
1192 Washington Blvd
PORT VUE, PA.

ORchard 8-1233

Here's To Fifty More Wonderful Years . . .

PAUL ROBERTS AND FAMILY
YOUR LIBERTY BORO PENNZOIL DEALER

Phone NO 4-9528

Happy Birthday To Our Home Town . . .

FRANK SHAW'S' LIBERTY DAIRY STORE
Groceries — Delicatessen
LIBERTY WAY, LIBERTY BORO

Phone OR 8-9814

Compliments of . . .

MARK MANNING
General Repairs — Parts
2805 LIBERTY WAY, LIBERTY BORO

Phone OR 8-9311

Compliments Of . . .

RYAN INSURANCE AGENCY
613 Owens Ave.
LIBERTY BORO

Compliments Of . . .

FRANK & LEONA BLAHA

Compliments Of . . .

A FRIEND

Compliments Of . . .

BERTOK CONSTRUCTION CO.
BRICK — BLOCK — STONE CONSTRUCTION
OR 8-6488 John Bertok, Jr.

Compliments Of . . .

B & B BOWLING LANES
Liberty Way
LIBERTY BORO

Compliments Of . . .

ATTORNEY JOSEPH M. GAYDOS

Compliments Of . . .

GIBBONS AGENCY

Congratulations from

LIBERTY CABINET COMPANY
Custom Bilt Kitchens
LIBERTY WAY, LIBERTY BORO

Phone OR 2-0863

COMPLIMENTS OF . . .

**KESSLINGS
PRESCRIPTION PHARMACY**

2929 LIBERTY WAY

OR 3-5529

Your REXALL *Druggist*

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
CITIZENS OF LIBERTY BORO ON THEIR
50TH ANNIVERSARY

Sincerely,

Peoples Union Bank and Trust Company

Compliments of

**MOTIVE PARTS CO.
OF PENNSYLVANIA**

201 TENTH STREET

OR 8-0125

"AL" NEILSON
Manager

THANKS TO ALL PERSONS
WHO CONTRIBUTED PICTURES
AND HISTORICAL FACTS
FOR THIS BROCHURE

History Brochure Committee

Compliments of

ALBERT E. JOHNSON

BUILDER

3616 LIBERTY WAY—LIBERTY BORO

OR 2-6879

Congratulations from

**THE
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
of Liberty Borough**

ADOLPH DOMINICK, CHAIRMAN
GEORGINE WASKOWITZ
ANN BANICK
BERTHA CHMIELESKI
ROBERT ASHTON
WILLIAM BEVIL

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE CITIZENS OF LIBERTY BORO
ON THEIR
50TH ANNIVERSARY**

Sincerely

**NATIONAL BANK
OF McKEESPORT**

**MARY & STANS'
BARBER & BEAUTY SHOP**

**WISH TO THANK YOU FOR
YOUR 15 YEARS OF PATRONAGE
OF STYLES AND CUTS**

3112 LIBERTY WAY

LIBERTY BORO

COMPLIMENTS OF . . .

ANTHONY J. PICONE

SLAG HAULING CONTRACTOR

3007 VALLEY RIDGE ROAD

Telephone OR 3-5009

Congratulations from

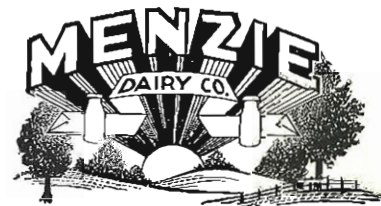
**THE
REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE
of Liberty Borough**

AL NEILSON, CHAIRMAN
IRENE MEHARRA
LAURETTA ARTHURS
JOHN BERTOK
DORIS PHILLIPS
DON ZIMMER

Compliments Of . . .

BELMONTE VILLAGE

Greetings From Your . . .



MILKMAN

COMPLIMENTS OF . . .

**GOODYEAR CLOVER FARM
SUPER MARKET**

LIBERTY BORO

Thrift Plus Satisfaction

HOURS

9 A.M. TO 10 P.M. MONDAY—THURSDAY—SATURDAY

Congratulations to
Liberty Borough
on their
50th Anniversary



Western Pennsylvania National Bank