



"Not to live in the past, but to have the past live through us"

West Pittston Historical Society Newsletter

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May 2008

Our Next Program

"Memories of West Pittston in Photos"

featured speaker:

William Hastie

local historian

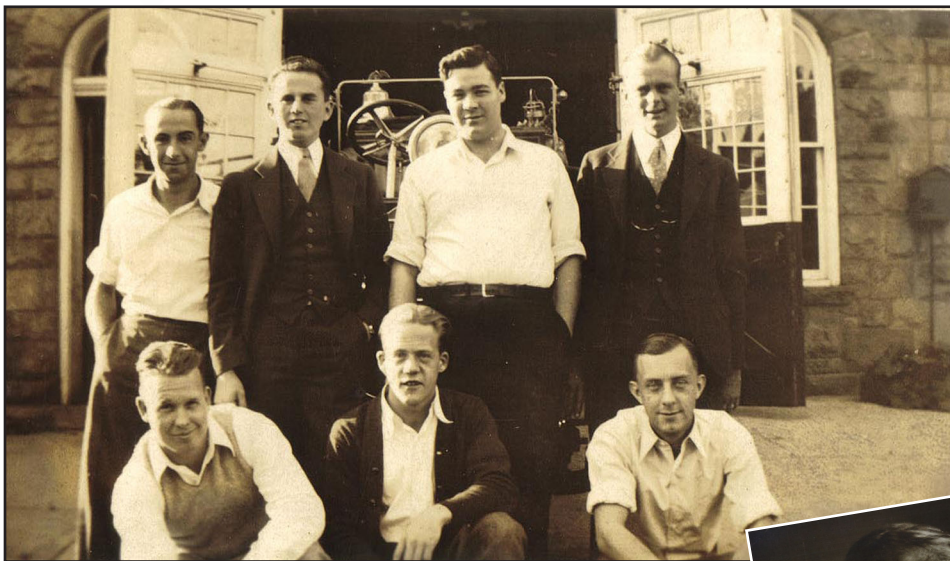


SUNDAY MAY 4, 2008

2:00 PM

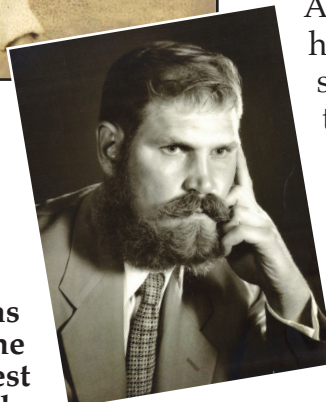
WEST PITTSTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EXETER AVENUE



Members of the West Pittston Hose Company in front of the original firehouse on Spring Street pose with their new fire engine in the 1930's.

William Hastie as he appeared at the time of the 1957 West Pittston Centennial.



We are pleased to present many newly discovered photos of West Pittston featuring mostly 1930's and 1940's views of daily life in the borough. Each of the photos in this collection tells a story - hard at work, family life and lost landmarks. Perhaps you'll find a relative or two in the vintage photos.

Additionally, West Pittston historian, William Hastie will speak about his memories of the borough and guests are invited to join in the discussion. This program is free and open to the public. Please join us and bring a friend.

Times Leader Abstracts

Interesting news items regarding West
Pittston from Times Leader issues over the
20th century.

December 12, 1915 - First -Presbyterian Church of West Pittston dedicates a large addition to the edifice.

June 6, 1916 - Exeter Machine Works at West Pittston closed, and the affairs of the company in the hands of receivers.

July 16, 1917 - 3d Artillery goes into encampment on the old Wyoming fair grounds near West Pittston; the camp named "Col. R. Bruce Ricketts," in honor of a Wilkes-Barre citizen who has a distinguished Civil War record.

Feb 2, 1926 - Dedication of the Fort Jenkins bridge between Pittston and West Pittston, parade and dedicatory exercises in the afternoon and a banquet in the evening

March 21, 1926 - West Pittston has an experience with enforcement of the blue laws, a number of arrests made of persons who sold gasoline, cigars, etc., on Sunday

Feb. 13, 1931 - Ground broken for extensive alterations to Fox Hill Country club

Feb. 23, 1934 - Transfer of headquarters of Battery B, 109th field Artillery, from Tunkhannock to West Pittston seen when Armory Board rejects plan to build Armory at Tunkhannock but approves one for West Pittston.

Oct 6, 1934 - West Pittston High School dedicates its new \$35,000 stadium.

Feb 12, 1934 - Three West Pittston youths killed when hit by D.L.&W. train.

Aug. 18, 1938 - West Pittston residents protest culm-pile heat which burns paint from houses and makes tenants ill..

Feb 10, 1939 - Traction company opens trackless trolley service to West Pittston on West Side.

April 16, 1941 - West Pittston buys \$11,300 fire engine.

Sept. 9, 1941 Voters of West Pittston Borough approve sale of liquor

June 1, 1942 - New contract at West Pittston Iron Works includes clause that company shall

supply workers with vitamin tablets

Jan 16, 1943 - Mine settlements in West Pittston causes minor damage to homes on York Ave.

Jan. 13, 1944 - Consolidated Cigar Corp. announces opening of new plant at West Pittston to employ 600 workers.

Jan. 28, 1945 – 35 homes in WP damaged by mine cave in.

March 29, 1945 – State grants WP Schools \$16, 500 for repairs caused by mine cave

December 22, 1946 – Salvation Army Citadel, Salem St. WP destroyed by fire.

February 27, 1951 – Hitchner Biscuit Company WP dissolved.

April 17, 1952 – U.S. Plywood Corp. opens distribution center in WP.

July 3, 1952 – Fire damages WP market and two apartments

June 3, 1954 – Juveniles use "Cherry Bombs" to blow WP mailboxes apart.

MEMBERSHIP

For new memberships or renewals you may contact Drew at 655-1776 or email info@westpittstonhistory.org