



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

West Pittston Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

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April 2007

Our Next Program

"Reminiscing About West Pittston with Bill Hastie"

SUNDAY APRIL 22, 2007

2:00 PM

WEST PITTSTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EXETER AVENUE

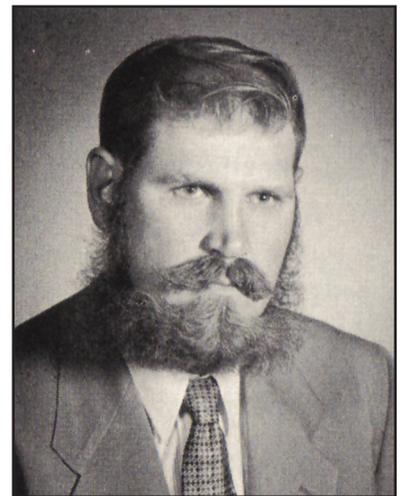
Historical society member and life-time West Pittston resident William Hastie is our guest for this presentation that will focus on recollections about West Pittston.

As Chairman of the 1957 Centennial, Mr. Hastie has first hand knowledge of the events and activities surrounding that important celebration in our borough's history. Bill's experience as a miner for many years

makes his knowledge of that industry invaluable to area historians. His keen recollections regarding the events and people of West Pittston have made Bill a great resource to the historical society.

We invite the public to attend and share their memories about life in the borough.

*Bill Hastie as he appeared in 1957
as Chairman of the Centennial
Committee and grand winner of the
Brothers of the Brush Contest.*



1857 West Pittston Sesquicentennial 2007

West Pittston Historical Society

Sesquicentennial Planning Meeting

Sunday April 22, 2007 - 1:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church, Exeter Avenue

Members of the historical society will be meeting to share committee reports and update activities for the up-coming West Pittston Sesquicentennial celebration.

This month we will finalize plans for our participation in the Cherry Blossom Festival.

The public is invited to share ideas and plans for this exciting event in our borough's history.

As we plan for our 150th anniversary celebration in West Pittston, it is interesting to look back at the events surrounding the West Pittston Golden Jubilee 50th anniversary in 1907. The following article, an editorial taken from the Wilkes-Barre Record June 7, 1907, describes the prevailing view of the borough at that point in time.

There is no fairer, more congenial, more desirable community in Luzerne County than West Pittston. It has been well named the Garden Village.

Although village it no longer is, the people as a body are of high tone, and one readily finds in the place a rare environment of intelligence and refinement. In these respects, West Pittston is far in advance of most of the other communities in the anthracite region. Her people are happy and con-

tented. They have no saloons within the corporate borders, although there is a population of over 6,000. Serious crimes are exceedingly rare. One hears of no graft scandals and no political thuggery. The well shaded streets with their handsome residences and beautiful lawns are the best evidence of the character of the population. From many points of view, West Pittston closely resembles a model, well kept, aristocratic New England town.

The borough is to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation next week, Wednesday and Thursday. In yesterday's Record was given a comprehensive historical sketch showing the community's association with the early days when, what is now West Pittston, was

a part of Exeter Township. In the present borough are some interesting memorials to those fierce and bloody times.

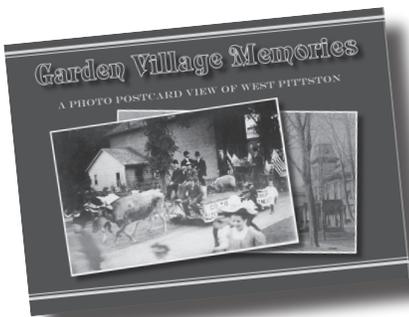
The good citizens invite the people of other parts of the county to join with them in the celebration. Those who had such a good time at the Wilkes-Barre centennial of last

year may expect something on the same order in West Pittston although, of course, not upon so large a scale. At any rate there will be plenty of amusement and entertainment. Let us all help to make this fiftieth anniversary the most memorable occasion in the history of the "Garden Village."

A Look Back...



The welcoming arch above greeted visitors arriving across the Luzerne Avenue bridge for the Golden Jubilee.



Garden Village Memories

It's not too late to purchase a copy of *Garden Village Memories*, our Sesquicentennial publication. Purchase your copy at the West Pittston Library or mail order using the form below.

Checks should be made payable to the *West Pittston Historical Society*

Please detach and return this form with payment to West Pittston Historical Society c/o Sandra Panzitta
914 Susquehanna Ave. West Pittston, PA 18643

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

_____ Number of books @ \$30.00 each (includes shipping)

Total _____