

HISTORICAL TOUR OF THE NORTH HILLS AREA

**THE OLD PLANK ROAD OF
YESTERDAY AND TODAY**



**Joseph Bullick, Curator
North Allegheny School District**

1993

HISTORICAL TOUR OF PERRY HIGHWAY

From the Pittsburgh City Limits to Marshall Township

*Speaker: Joseph Bullick, North Allegheny History Curator
and Diane L. Holleran*

- **Transmission Towers**

With its hills and high ridges, the North Hills is a popular spot for the area's broadcast stations to put their transmission towers. Two television stations and numerous radio stations send their signals from the North Hills. Channel 53 up Ivory Avenue.

- **I-279** - First 11 miles were opened August 1989. Raymond E. Wilt Memorial Highway, a stretch of I-279 from Perrysville to Franklin Park interchanges, was named for a state legislator from Ross Township who pushed for the construction of the highway in the late 1970's.

- **Pittsburgh City Line** - 1-1/2 miles south on Route 19. Waldorf Street (the old City Line), was the starting point of the later (1849) improvement of the Franklin Road, from there north was called the Perrysville Plank Road. There was the first Blair's Toll Gate.

- **Four Mile Inn** - Build 1819 - Operated by Peter Ivory, Sr. Ivorys gave their name to the intersecting road. Torn down to make way for the long delayed Interstate 279.

Peter Ivory, Sr. born in Ireland immigrated to America in 1817. Arrived in Pittsburgh in 1819 and purchased the farm on which he died November 11, 1849.

Later owned by Kasmerski.

ST Boudier

- **Keating Hotel** - Built about 1870

Rebuilt after a fire in 1912. Located across the highway from the West View Hotel. An interesting feature of the road side inns was a large enclosure, within a fence to keep the herds of cattle, sheep or hogs which the drovers frequently herded along the highways to the Pittsburgh stock yards.

- **Keating Car Barn** (Street Car Garage), Currently Port Authority Transit Bus Garage.

- **West View Hotel** - 1870-1880's, "German Tavern" (really Swiss), operated by Wilt and Deimling. First class accommodations for drovers and parties, during the 70s and 80s. Stood on the eastern side of Rt. 19 and the race track was near Cemetery Lane.
- **Samuel Hamilton School** - (North Hills School District 9 & 10 grades) Currently office building at the corner of Cemetery Lane and Perry Highway.
- **Holy Spirit** - Former Holy Ghost Academy, Girls school, now a home for retired sisters.
- **Ross Township Municipal Building** - Behind this building is where the second toll gate on the plank road was located, it was called Swann's Covered Gate.
- **North Hills Football Stadium** - WPA funds were obtained to purchase land in August 1940, for a football field. A Field House was dedicated in 1953 and eventually the field was named Matorelli Stadium for Mario Martorelli, long-time West View High School football coach and North Hills High School athletic director.
- **Five Mile House** - built around 1830 and was operated by Williams. Destroyed by fire in 1970. Current location of Brandt Oldsmobile.
- **Horseshoe Bend** - This steep transit was deplored by early teamsters. It originally ran from the intersection of Bellevue Road down over the steep hill to where the entrance of West View Park is. The better grade of the Horseshoe Curve, with its expensive sidehill cutting, was a luxury of the Plan Road, in 1849, and was acclaimed as a famous engineering accomplishment in this part of the world.

WEST VIEW BOROUGH

Formed from Ross Township on **March 20, 1905**. Named for the West View Inn, a popular hotel in the area.

- Oil was first discovered in the North Hills in West View in 1890.
- **West View Park** - 1906 - 1970
A popular amusement park which operated from 1905 to 1970. In addition to its amusement rides, it also became known for Danceland, where big bands such as Harry James and Guy Lombardo played in their heyday. Danceland burned

nation of "fireworks and sobs".

down in 1973.

High rise housing for the elderly and a shopping complex was built at this location in the 1980's.

- **Street Car Tracks** - Located along Center Avenue and Perry Highway
** 10 + 15 west view 1300*
- **Donegal Inn** - Built ____ - Original home of Frederick Schwitter. Frederick Schwitter had come to this country from Switzerland. He built a home along the Perry Highway where the West View Elementary School stands and began a very successful dairy farm. Legend has it that Mary Robert Rinehart used it as the location of one of her mystery novels. Demolished in 1924 to make way for West View Junior High/Senior High, now Elementary School.

Eventually he built another home on his property on a knoll just a little farther north and farther back from the road. Both houses were built in the same style, said to be a replica of the president's mansion in Switzerland.

Schwitter also donated to the congregation of St. Athanasius the property for the first church building and \$10,000. The church was built and dedicated June 6, 1909. School on the first floor of the building opened September of the same year.

- **West View High School/Junior High School/Elementary School**
- **Wellington Heights**
In the early days farmers that could not afford the Inns or to board their herds stayed in meadows along the road. A favorite spot, because of a fresh supply of water, was at the current location of the Wellington Heights plan.

Wellington Heights housing development was housing for the elite during the 1940's.

- **Casper Reel** - West View's first settler
Bought 727 acres of land.
Built first log house along creek between Cornell Avenue and West View Park. Indians attack and drove him back. He built his second log house in 1795, had twin sons (first white men born in area)

House moved and is now part of the Highland Country Clubhouse.

Casper was the first postmaster and Tax collector of the area.

VILLAGE OF PERYSVILLE

- In 1815 there were only three houses.
- North Hills Estates - Elite housing in the 1940s & 50s
- Hiland Church - 1807 Log Church
Families traveled long distances afoot and on horseback to attend Hiland Church from present day Allison Park, Bellevue, Emsworth and North Side because it was the only church around.
- Perrysville School (1798)
Original log structure stood on the Venango Path nearly on the same ground occupied by the two room Perrysville School that disappeared in 1924. These schools were in the front of the Hiland Church cemetery.

1949 Jointure was formed with Ross and West View Borough to form North Hills School District.
- St. Theresa's Church - July 4, 1866
St. Theresa's School - 1906 - currently making into a Banquet Hall. The bricks for the building of the church were made at the Keown brickyard on Ingomar Road in McCandless Township) Rectory purchased in 1872.
- Butcher, Tannery, Woolen Mill

ROSS TOWNSHIP

- Created from Pine Township in 1809 by a court order signed by **Judge James Ross** (7/12/1762).
- Keown Hotel (William Keown, grandson of Balzar Good)
Located at the corner of Three Degree and Sewickley Oakmont Roads.

Bar downstairs and rooms upstairs. A Porch that ran around like a veranda. There was a four-furlong race track north of the hotel and associated with it. Billy Keown owned horses, raced and exercised them there.

Daniel Webster stopped at this hotel in 1833, and Henry Clay stopped in 1848.

William Keown died in 1870 and the Brown's owned the building after that.

Hotel torn down and Treesdale Farm Market took its place in the 1920's. Later it became the Sparkle Market and Laundry, later Donahue's Market took over. Finally the building was torn down and a gas station marks the spot today.

- **Balzar Good Hotel** (1797)
Earliest hotel built. Located on the west side of the path beyond Perrysville at the northern corner of Sewickley-Oakmont Road, later moved to the east side. Taken over by William Keown, his grandson.
- **Pines Plaza Shopping Center** - opened in 1956
Second shopping center to open in the North Hills (first was the McKnight Shopping Center/Northway Mall).
- **The Pines** - One of the most widely known dining and outdoor dancing spots in Pennsylvania - current site of Pines Plaza.
- **Eight Mile Tree** - Franklin Road across from the Pines Plaza

- **HIGHLAND AREA**

- **Aldrich Flowers**

Behind the flower show was the Swann's, later Willoughby's Toll Gate for the Plank Road circa 1860's. Now entrance to Highland Pines. Bars were lowered across the roadway and raised when the tolls were paid. Perry Plank road was very wind in order to justify the collection of more tolls.

- **Beacon Cleaners** - current site of Woodcrafters

- **Gibson House**

MCCANDLESS TOWNSHIP

McCandless was founded in 1851 by Attorney and later **Judge Wilson** McCandless when Pine Township was divided.

- At the peak of the oil boom in 1916, more than 150 wells has been established in McCandless.

- Northmont Presbyterian Church
- Community College of Allegheny County - North Campus
Originally a farm, then Hills Department Store, later sold to the County for the new Community College North Campus. - 1989

Community College Parking Lot - former location of the Harmony Short Line Underpass. (Short history of the Harmony Short Line).
- North Allegheny School District's
Espe School - 1928
- Dave and Duffy's Tavern
- Cumberland Road
 - St. John's Lutheran Church(1799)
 - North Allegheny School District (Southern Campus)
McKnight Elementary School - 1955
North Allegheny Intermediate School - 10/24/54
Carson Middle School - 1968
North Allegheny Administration Building
- Ken's Cabins - across the street from Chuck's Auto Body
- Harry Hohman - current site of Suburban Buick.
Harry was 101 years old and never driven a car. Harry died in 1992.

VILLAGE OF INGOMAR - Named after a Broadway Show "Ingomar The Barbarian"

- North Allegheny School District
 - Ingomar Elementary School -

VILLAGE OF PINE CREEK

- Pine Valley Restaurant and Roller Skating Rink - current site of Levin Furniture/Chuck E. Cheese.
- Riding Academy - Nursery - current site of the YMCA.
- Eleven Mile House - Stage coaches ran regularly on the Franklin Road to Mercer, Meadville and Erie. Stage relay stations were established in Perrysville, Wexford

and Warrendale. Mail was delivered weekly as early as 1801. By 1818, mail came twice a week and three times by 1824. Mail was carried on horseback then by stagecoach, and in bad weather on horseback.

Tavern and lodging for travelers of the Plank Road.

- Gas Station
- General Store
- Old Perry Highway
 - St. John's Emergency Hospital - current site of the Wexford House
 - The Old Blacksmith Shop - Joe Bullick, owner
 - DeFreis Slaughter House
 - St. Alexis Church and School
 - Milbert's Farm
 - Logan School - 1890's had 70 students
 - Wagon Wheel Tavern - current site of Weigand Tavern
- Cabins - now vacant lot at top of Pine Creek Hill.
- North Allegheny School District's
 - Senior High School - Grades 11 and 12, opened 1974
- Weller Farm - current site of McDonalds
- Eichner's Farm
- Milbert's Farm - current site of Baierl Chevrolet, homestead current Toma Funeral Home.
- Wellers Hotel
- Polo Field - Current site of Wendy and Rax restaurants.
Teams: (1940's) Old Furnace • Darlington • Sewickley • Fox Chapel. Wright Pontiac had ponies that would play in the polo games. Joe Bullick helped to exercise these ponies.
- Milbert Farm
- Rudolph Farm - Sold to Howard Johnson Restaurant for \$50,000.00 it is present the site of the Ground Round and Wexford Plaza.

Boots Rudolph died 1992 in his 90's.

- **Brooker Farm** - current site of Brooktree Center and New Wexford Post Office. Had orchards and road side stands on both sides of the highway.
- **Weller Farm** - current location of Wright Pontiac.
- **Church Road**
 - **Wexford General Store**
1897 - Owned, remodeled and enlarged by Peter A. Callahan, included creamery, feed mill, slaughter house and butcher shop.
1900 - Became the Wexford Exchange, Ltd.
1906 - Sold to J.H. Cole
 - **Cole's Tavern and Hotel**
 - **North Pittsburgh Telephone** - 1st office 1906
In 1908 company had 111 telephones in Richland exchange and 147 in Mars. In April 1954 they became the first independent company in Pennsylvania to use microwave frequencies in transmitting telephone signals.
 - **Wexford Post Office Deli**
 - **Brooker Estate**
 - **St. Alphonsus Church** - 150 years old, built by farmers. Families owned pews for 10 cents each

WEXFORD VILLAGE - In 1800's it was known as Schaeffer's Corner.

- Stopping place for a night's lodging for travelers to the North and South as they passed through.
- Wexford residents may be found in four different townships: **Marshall, McCandless, Franklin Park and Pine**. The town's precise location on the map is at the intersection of Routes 910 and US 19.
- First hotel or inn near where the **Cole Hotel** stands was a log building owned by Mr. Schaeffer. The foundation of the Cole Barn in Wexford is the same foundation that sheltered horses which pulled stage coaches, ponies of express riders, and farmers' flocks and droves being driven to market in Fort Pitt.

PINE TOWNSHIP

Pine Township was founded in 1796. Most of the townships in the North Hills were originally a part of Pine Township. The current township has an area of 17.1 square miles and a population of about 4,500 (1992)

- **Convict Inn** - Opened in 1946. McAfee's Convict Inn was built during World War II, using second-hand lumber. William H. McAfee modeled his roadhouse after a similar place he operated in Connellsville, PA. For some reason lost to time, he used a jail theme at both places.

The Inn featured a bar and restaurant that had jail cells for booths. When you sat down, the waitress closed the cell door on you! There was a lunch counter, a dance floor and 12 rooms for rent upstairs. On the roof was a chain gang of 12 convicts, their arms and legs were hooked up to a motor which made them swing back and fourth.

Outside the place offered a driving range and archery range. On warm evenings Mr. McAfee would hang a bed sheet and show movies. The popularity of the movies led to the construction of a drive-in theater. In 1949 it became the Wexford Starlite Drive In. The Drive In closed in 1989.

The Convict Inn was leased in 1953 and renamed Kelly & Weeks, then Starlite Lounge, Wexford House, and finally Brendan's. The nightclub burnt down in November 1990.

- **Cloverdale Housing Development**

BRADFORD WOODS BOROUGH

- **North Allegheny School District Schools**

North Allegheny School District was formed as a joint school district from Bradford Woods, Franklin Park, Marshall and McCandless Townships. Each district maintained its own school board and budget until the official merge in 1965.

- **Marshall Elementary School** - 1992
- **Marshall Middle School** - 1993
- **Bradford Wood Elementary** - 1915

- **Swinderman Farm**

- **John Fowler**, one of the first settlers (1792), purchased 350 acres of land.

The Fowler homestead is the present site of Manor House Furniture.

Chester J. Fowler built the Fowler Motel (part of the farm) in 1953. It is now owned by Jacob and Kathleen Delac.

WARRENDALE

- Warrendale was originally known as **Brush Creek**, 1907 it was changed to Warrendale in honor of **George W. and Caroline Caldwell Warren**, early settlers to Brush Creek.
- Was the only town in Marshall Township.
- In the early days Marshall Township was almost entirely made up of **large and small farms**, except for an occasional grist or sawmill, hotel, store, school or church.
- **Oil Wells** - late 1800's and early 1900's many farmers raised a crop of "crude" instead of corn. This increased the population in Marshall Township.
- In 1932, **Dr. Lewis E. Etter** built the **Warrendale Clinic** and ran it for nearly 50 years. He was a famous radiologist from the University of Pittsburgh. His property was known as the Pinewood Farm, this name given to his property after his extensive landscaping. He purchased more than 8,525 evergreens to be planted on his property and that of his neighbors in Warrendale to replace the trees lost from logging and oil wells.
- **Pennsylvania Turnpike** - Ground breaking for the link between Irwin and the Ohio line began October 24, 1949, and was opened to traffic on December 26, 1951.

MARSHALL TOWNSHIP

- Marshall Township was formed from **Franklin Township** in 1863.
- Marshall Township was named for **Thomas Mercer Marshall** a famous attorney in Western Pennsylvania. He was born in 1819, an immigrant from Ireland.
- Thomas Mercer Marshall became famous as a **criminal lawyer** because of his flamboyant style and impressive success rate. His courtroom style was a combi-

HISTORY OF PERRY HIGHWAY

√ KUSHKUSHKEE TRAIL

Many centuries before the coming of the white men to this area, the narrow corridor of north-south communications afforded by long regular, connecting ridge tops - which geologists inform us were the glacial moraine of the Wisconsin Glacier - was first utilized by the buffalo herds that then roamed this country. These animals with an uncanny sense of selection found this a dry route with intermittent springs in their migrations. The red men emulated them by making use of these beaten and deeply worn thoroughfares to travel incredible distances.

This trail was traveled by George Washington and Christopher Gist on the return trip from Fort le Boeuf in 1753 after their meeting with the French Commandant there.

In the summer of 1760, the year after the building of Fort Pitt, another famous traveler of this trail, Colonel Henry Bouquet marched a small army of his famous Royal Americans (British Regulars) with some Pennsylvanians and Virginians.

√ VENANGO TRAIL

After the building of Fort Franklin, in 1787, by troops who marched from Pittsburgh to French Creek (present Franklin, PA) under the command of Major Jonathan Heart, the road became known as Franklin Road. This was the wagon road that followed the old Venango Path with a few digressions to improve the grade.

√ FRANKLIN ROAD

It became necessary that inns be established. Of a necessity, the inns along the road, provided large fenced enclosures where the animals could be penned up over night. Farmers to the north drove their cattle, sheep and hogs along the Franklin. Even huge flocks of turkeys were driven along and would roost upon the trees and fences until they could proceed in the morning. Herds would be driven from Mercer or Crawford counties or even from Ohio, for sale in Pittsburgh's slaughter houses.

The poorer farmers who could not afford the price of lodging at the inns, used open meadows along the road to bed their herds and flocks. One of the favorite spots, because of the supply of fresh water available in a pond, was at the corner of the highway and Highland Avenue (now Wellington Heights).

√ PERRY HIGHWAY

Franklin Road became Perry Highway following the War of 1812 when supplies for Commodore O. H. Perry's fleet in Lake Erie were transported along it.

√ PERRYSVILLE PLANK ROAD

1849 Franklin Road became the Perrysville Plank Road when planks of wood were laid to eliminate the mud. Only one half of the road was planked. The loaded wagons rode on the planks and the empty wagons rode on the mud side. 1849 the Plank Road was constructed through to Wexford.

West View's famous Horseshoe Bend was constructed at the time of the 1849 improvements. Prior to that, the road had run from the intersection of Bellevue road down the steep hill (to West View Park entrance). Acclaimed as a famous engineering accomplishment in this part of the world.

Installation and maintenance of the planks turned the road into a toll road, and the toll gates were located at:

- **1st Toll Gate - Blair's** - Waldorf Street (on the old city line)
- **2nd Toll Gate - Swann's** - Covered gate (back of the Ross Township Municipal Building.
- **3rd Toll Gate - Cunningham's** - (Rochester Road and Perry Highway)
- **4th Toll Gate - Swann's later Willoughby's** - (entrance to Highland Pines).

Plank Road was the only road north until the road was paved with bricks as far as Keown's Hotel on Three Degree Road in 1911.

√ U.S. ROUTE 19

The automobile made the bumpy road obsolete and a macadam surface smoothed the way until concrete arrived. It was November 24, 1929 before a \$40,000, 30-foot wide reinforcement concrete road was constructed from the Five Mile House to the City line

McCandless Township is one of four geographic divisions which have been combined to form North Allegheny School District. The present multi-million dollar school complex has been the result of many years of growth, planning and preparation. To understand the present, some explanation of the past must be made.

The present McCandless Township was not formed until 1851, at which time Pine Township was divided and the southern portion was named McCandless for Judge McCandless of Pittsburgh. Prior to the year 1800, James Duff, James Amberson, Phillip Sarver (the author's great, great, great, great-grandfather), and Henry Moon had settled on the northern part of the land of this new township. Duff's was the first permanent settlement and dates back to 1795. His tract contained about four hundred acres. After his death it was sold by his widow for an old mare and saddle. Fifty acres of the same land was later sold for \$11,000.

James Amberson had made some improvements on the land that Moon later settled on, but had not been there long enough to gain a settler's right.

Moon came to the township in 1796, sometime in the month of July. At that time he built a cabin and in 1797 moved his family here. Some of the old logs of this cabin are still remaining on a part of his place, which was later owned by his son, J. M. Moon. Henry Moon had originally come from Ireland. He had served in the British army under Burgoyne, but had deserted and served with the American army after reaching these shores. His settlement in this area was along Pine Creek.

Phillip Sarver's place was also on the same stream and on its banks he erected the first saw and grist mill sometime before 1800. Some delving into this matter by the author in the form of questioning older members of the family has led to the discovery that Phillip Sarver and his wife are both buried in a family plot about a half mile from Pine Creek on what must have been the original tract. The tombstones were known to be visible around 1920, but since that time they have been covered or removed. Numerous descendants of Phillip Sarver's lived in the vicinity (and still do) and played an important part in the growth of the Pine Creek area of McCandless Township. Church records during the 1800's reveal many listings of Sarver's as members and several ministers.

In the southern part of the township John Deer and William Williby first located. Deer was probably the first in that vicinity. The date of settlement is not known but there is a little doubt that he was there sometime during the year of 1797. He was German, as were most of the settlers who later moved into that area. He took up the land formerly owned by Jacob Deer, deceased.

As most of the early settlers were German, the first church of the area was built by them and styled "The German Church of St. John". In historical records now kept by this church, the date of May 3, 1829, is recorded as the time for the first petition for incorporation. For an unknown reason this petition was not presented, but a later one of May 30, 1829, was signed by 31 persons.

At the time of the 1922 additions to Ingomar, the Board decided to close the three schools which had experienced little growth and to transport the students to Ingomar. These were the Logan, Willoughby and Walters Schools.

While McCandless Township has played an important role in the background of the present day North Allegheny School District, three other municipalities have also contributed much. These three areas are Franklin, Marshall and Bradford Woods. Each has its own history of one room schools and later growth in population which necessitated additional schools, as had been the case in McCandless Township.

Franklin Township, which was formed from a separation with Ohio Township in 1823, is the oldest of the four municipalities now comprising North Allegheny School District. Its first known school was a log structure named Forsyth School, and was located near the present day Brookside Drive-In Theatre. Five other one room schools were being used in the township at the time the present consolidated school was opened in 1936. These other schools were Fairmont School on Fairmont Church Road, Neely School on Rochester Road, Brandt School on Brandt School Road, McDevitt School on McAleer Road, and Simpson School on Reis Run Road. An additional school, Duff's School, was located near the site of Duff City, but had been closed in the 1920's.

Marshall Township, which was created by a division from Franklin Township in 1863, had four one room schools prior to the time of consolidation. Old Brush Creek School was located on old Route 19 in Warrendale. Neely School was on Neely Road and on the Crea farm, near the present day Youth Development Center of Warrendale, stood a school known simply by the name of Woodpecker School. On the Pine Grove Farm stood the Pine Grove School. All of these were closed at the time the township built a consolidated school in Warrendale in the early 1930's.

Bradford Woods Borough was not created until 1916, at which time it was separated from Marshall Township. One two-roomed building, each with four grades, was maintained by the township until the creation of the present school district in 1948.

Although each of these municipalities operated individual school systems, a movement was begun in the 1940's for the formation of a joint school district to provide adequate high school facilities in the area. Until this time, area high school students were attending as many as twenty different high schools located in the cities of Pittsburgh, Ambridge, Mars and other communities of Allegheny County. Tuition was paid by the local school district for students attending these schools.

The process of bringing together neighboring communities, with their varied population and economic makeup, to form a single educational reality, was a long and detailed one. The first official meeting with this purpose in mind was held August 22, 1946, when, at the invitation of the directors of McCandless Township, school directors from Bradford Woods Borough, Franklin, Marshall, Pine and Richland Townships attended a meeting to explore the desirability of merging for the purpose of constructing a community high school.

On June 10, 1948, five school districts: Bradford Woods, Franklin, Marshall, McCandless and Pine, signed a ten year renewal agreement to operate as the North Allegheny Joint Schools. The guiding principle as set forth in the Articles of Agreement, was to furnish the best possible educational opportunities for the school children. . . including elementary public schools, high schools, or any other schools or departments.

On January 30, 1950, the Pine Township Board of School Directors voted in favor of complete withdrawal from the Joint Schools, the separation was to be complete on June 30, 1950. From that date until the present, the jointure, the North Allegheny Joint Schools, has consisted of the remaining four school districts.

Now that the jointure had taken place, the most immediate step was to secure a location and begin construction of the new high school. At the same time the Joint Board had to keep the elementary schools adequate to the ever-increasing growth of the local communities. Thus additions to the existing schools were begun and totally new elementary schools were begun. By October 10, 1950, an addition to the Franklin School had been completed and bids were already being opened for further addition and renovation. On February 4, 1952, a new elementary school, Peebles, was opened and by April of the same year, bids were being accepted for a six room addition to this school.

Prior to these building programs, on November 7, 1949, the North Allegheny Joint Authority had been created. Its purpose was to carry out the actual planning and financing of the building program for the North Allegheny School District.

The biggest problem of the new authority was finding a suitable location for the proposed high school. Serious consideration was given to this of this site. The architects, Mitcheel and Ritchey, were conferred with on the possibilities of each site offered. At a meeting of the Joint School Committee on January 31, 1950, it was agreed to take the matter before the public and to seek its cooperation in finding a tract of land, presumed to be the purchasable and meeting the requirements as set by the Board and architects. On March 28, 1950, the Joint School Committee met with the architects and reviewed each of the considered sites for the high school. The site which most adequately met the specifications was that of a tract owned by the McCandless School Board on the St. John's Lutheran Church road, close to the geographical center of McCandless Township. The Joint Committee, consisting of two members for each of the four districts involved, voted to recommend this tract to the North Allegheny Joint Board as the committee's choice for the high school site. At the regular meeting of the Joint School Board on April 4th, the site was approved by a majority vote of the four boards involved.

By June, 1951, the plans for the North Allegheny Joint District Junior Senior High School were approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, the State Board of Education, and all state authorities whose approval was required.

When the plans for the new school were presented by the architects in 1951, a new type of school building was envisioned. The designs were recognized nationally when they were chosen, "Best School Design of the Year", by a jury of professional architects in the magazine, Progressive Architecture in 1952.

GROWTH IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Grades 1-8	1948*	989
Grades 1-12	1949	1097
Grades 1-12	1950	1288
Grades 1-12	1951	1402
Grades 1-12	1952	1640
Grades 1-12	1953	2005
Grades 1-12	1956	3239
Grades 1-12	1960	4300
Grades 1-12	1964	5100
Grades 1-12	1966**	5717

* year of jointure
** as of September

Each district is responsible for local taxation for the support of the joint school program. The four districts contribute to the joint school treasury money for the support of current operational expenses of schools and the expenditures. The support of current expenditures by the districts is based upon the average daily pupil membership, determined as of October 1, of the current school year. The districts support capital expenditures on the basis of assessed valuation. School financing is always a matter of concern to the community wherein the school operates, and North Allegheny is no exception. For this reason annual information bulletins are published and presented to the community by the board.

With the comparison of the income and expenditures of the North Allegheny School District from the years of 1952 to 1964, an idea may be obtained of the high finances necessitated by a modern school system.

The North Allegheny School District has come a long way from the one room log house of Cornelius McCauley in 1802. The apparent growth is easily seen in the shiny new buildings and educational facilities. But buildings, buses and playgrounds do not make a good school system. North Allegheny has always maintained a policy of not only providing adequate physical facilities, but has also supplemented these with the most progressive and competent personnel available. The aims as set forth by the new district at the time of the jointure to "furnish the best possible educational opportunities for the school children. . . including elementary public schools, high schools, or any other type of schools or department" have been met as adequately as possible.

Expansion and renovations were completed at Franklin and Peebles elementaries in 1966. Plans for Carson Jr. High were unveiled. In 1967 enrollment increases caused the Board to authorize additions to both Ingomar and McKnight elementaries. Summer recreation programs are underway. The opening of Carson Jr. High took place in 1968 as well as the satellite lunch programs for the elementary schools. 1969 brought portable classrooms to meet the growing enrollment demands. Fifth graders also started the tradition of the Outdoor Education Trip to Camp Kon-O Kwee. More portable classrooms were purchased in 1970, while plans for a new senior high school are submitted to the state for approval. Kindergarten became a regular part of the elementary program in 1971. Hosack elementary also opened and was dedicated to Dr. Ivan Hosack, the first joint school board president.

The present North Allegheny School District (1992) is made up of eleven schools with two under construction. Seven elementaries include: Bradford Woods, Espe, Franklin, Hosack, Ingomar, McKnight, and Peebles, followed by Carson and Ingomar Middle Schools. The Intermediate High School consists of ninth and tenth graders and the Senior High educates until graduation. The two schools being built are Marshall Elementary to be opened in the September of 1992, and Marshall Middle School which should be completed by September, 1993.