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THE FOUNDING AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF PITTSBURG

A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate Division in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree
of Master of Science

By

Sister M. Augustine Clarahan

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Pittsburg, Kansas

June, 1934

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FOREWORD

In the preparation of this work, we have striven to secure data from those of the pioneers who have borne the burden of the day and are with us to tell the story beautiful of the New Pittsburg.

Many factors have contributed to the work; not the least among them is the encouragement received by contact with the pioneers and the spirit in which the information was furnished.

The history of four decades of development is more than a series of local annals and detailed events. It is a hope for the future and herein is included the wish that the thread of 1916 may be taken up by another and woven into a tapestry to show forth the events and to trace the developments in the additional achievements which make the Pittsburg of today.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
FOREWORD.....	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iii
CHAPTER	
I. PITTSBURG 1876—1916.....	1
New Pittsburg.....	1
Growth and Population.....	4
Municipal Development.....	6
Ordinances.....	7
Liquor Regulations.....	8
City Hall.....	10
Police Department.....	12
Courts.....	12
II. INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.....	14
Coal Mining.....	14
Mine Disasters.....	17
Strikes.....	19
Zinc Smelting.....	20
Powder Plants.....	23
Foundries and Machine Shops.....	24
Brick Industry and Clay Products.....	27
Pottery Plant.....	31
Mercantile Enterprises.....	32
Hull and Dillon Meat Packing.....	36
Banks.....	37
Pittsburg Clearing House.....	40
Real Estate and Loan Associations.....	40
III. PUBLIC UTILITIES.....	43
Railroads.....	43
Post Office.....	47
Electric Lines.....	52
Forest Park Electric Railway.....	54
Pittsburg Frontenac and Suburban.....	54
Girard Electric Coal Belt Railway.....	56
Joplin and Pittsburg Electric Railway.....	57
Light and Gas.....	58
Water Works.....	61
Sewage System.....	68
Paving.....	70
Telegraph.....	71
Western Union.....	71
Postal Telegraph.....	72
Telephone.....	73
Express.....	76

	Page
IV. PUBLIC ENTERPRISES.....	77
Fire Department.....	77
Public Health.....	81
Pittsburg Charity and Humane Society.....	83
Hospitals.....	85
Pittsburg City Hospital.....	85
Mt. Carmel Hospital.....	86
Pittsburg Emergency Hospital.....	91
Library.....	92
Chamber of Commerce.....	94
V. RECREATION FACILITIES.....	96
Theatres and Amusements.....	96
Parks.....	101
VI. SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS.....	104
Schools.....	104
Grade Schools.....	104
Parochial Schools.....	111
High Schools.....	114
Business College.....	118
Kansas State Teachers College.....	119
Newspapers.....	129
Salvation Army.....	133
Clubs.....	134
Churches.....	137
Baptist Church.....	137
Zion Lutheran Church.....	138
First Presbyterian Church.....	138
Methodist Episcopal Church.....	139
First Christian Church.....	139
St. Peter's Episcopal Church.....	140
St. Mary's Catholic Church.....	140
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church...	141
Mt. Hebron Church.....	142
Bethel Church.....	142
United Presbyterian Church.....	142
United Brethren Church.....	143
First Spiritualist Church.....	143
Mt. Hope Baptist Church.....	143
First Church of Christ, Scientist.....	144
Latter Day Saints.....	144
Spiritual Science.....	145
Union Mission.....	145
CONCLUSION.....	146
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	148
APPENDIX.....	153

CHAPTER I

PITTSBURG 1876—1916

New Pittsburg

The Pittsburg of today began in an unpretentious way under the name of New Pittsburg, May 20, 1876, when the first plat was filed with the register of deeds at Girard.¹ On that date it emerged from a rural community with a country school and a few scattered farmhouses to a town with a promising future.

A forecast of the future of Pittsburg was printed a few weeks before the plat of the town was filed for recording:

The new town in Baker township is named Pittsburg, a good cognomen in view of its location and future prospects. Its nearness to immense beds of coal must give the place a great advantage over other towns. . . . The town will not only have a large share of the smelting for the Joplin and lead districts, but it will also be the center for the making and repairing of machinery.² . . .

The location of Pittsburg was linked with the sale of the unpreëmpted Neutral Lands and with the building of a railroad through the coal region in order to connect Joplin, Missouri, with large outside markets.³ When E. R. Moffett

¹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

²Girard Press, April 27, 1876.

³F. W. Blackmar, Kansas, I, 471.

and J. B. Sargeant of Joplin, in 1876, built the first railroad in the territory from Girard to Joplin, the original townsite was located at a strategic point to serve as a good location for the shipment of coal.

Until this time coal interests in the district had been tested in a small way but there was no outlet for shipping until the coming of Moffett and Sargeant who were induced by Franklin Playter, the father of Pittsburg,⁴ to build a railroad. The extent of the coal interests and the probability that New Pittsburg would be the site of manufacturing enterprises were the chief reasons for founding the town.

From many points of view the most important phase of the struggle in the early history of Pittsburg and Crawford County was the contest waged between the so-called Leaguers and those who favored the construction of the railroad.

The problem which then confronted those interested in the project was the location of the railroad station. This would eventually determine the site of the town. It was no easy task, for the majority of the people were unfavorable to the railroads on account of the Neutral Lands controversy. Because of this ill feeling it was necessary to make a personal canvass and convince the people that the proposition was for the greater interests of the township at large.⁵

⁴The initiative and enterprise of Mr. Playter, to whom we shall again refer, gave the city its principal assets and resources during the first quarter century of its history.

⁵Interview with Mrs. True, daughter of the late R. E. Carleton, one of the promoters of the project.

Four promoters each agreed to donate forty acres of their adjoining farms. These one hundred sixty acres would constitute the site, a section corner to be the center of the town. The streets which were called Broadway and Fourth were each graded one-half mile.⁶

The first house built on the original townsite stood on the northwest corner of section twenty-one where the two-story brick building occupied by the Lindburg Drug Company on Fourth Street now stands. The building was a box house, fourteen by sixteen feet, and eight feet high, and was built as a farm dwelling by Martin Brown in 1868. Mr. Brown sold his claim the following year to a Mr. Esam, who afterwards sold it to Jacob Pugh.⁷

The first building erected after the town was laid out stood on the corner of Fourth and Broadway. It was occupied and owned by George E. Richey. This was sold to John R. Lindburg, who later had it moved away and a more substantial building was erected in its place.⁸

The growth of the new town was slow and steady. During its first few years life was much the same as that of the average town of southeast Kansas at that particular period. Business developed along the lines of merchandise and coal interests. The following comment, taken from the Girard

⁶Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 35.

Press, gives us an idea of its early growth:

If Pittsburg continues to grow as rapidly during the next two years, as it has in the two just passed, it will be second only to Girard in point of population and business importance.⁹

It was not until 1880 that the desired name was finally secured. The confusion arising from the fact that there were two towns in Kansas with practically the same name caused C. Wood Davis, president of the Pittsburg Coal Company, to take up the matter. He succeeded in having the name of the Pittsburg post office in Mitchell County changed to Tipton. Soon after that time the Post Office Department dropped the "New" from the Crawford County town.¹⁰

Growth and Population

In the beginning the population was made up of homeseekers from the adjoining states. From what is learned through tradition and press reports the original intention was to engage in farming. No record is made of Indians inhabiting these parts in early times. We have scattered accounts of a few transients who remained for only a short time. Another type of people is represented by the "Leaguers" who in the Neutral Lands controversy were persistent in maintaining that the land could be claimed only through preemption and homesteading. For several years they kept up this prejudicial opposition to railroad building.

⁹Girard Press, January 9, 1879.

¹⁰Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 36.

Several colored families came to this section in the early seventies, among them the Duvalls,¹¹ the Peoples and the Wallaces. These settlers came from St. Louis in covered wagons.¹²

New Pittsburg had a population of 100 in 1876 and had reached a total of 624 in 1880.¹³

On January 9, 1884, Pittsburg having a population exceeding 2000 became a city of the second class by the proclamation of Governor G. W. Glick.¹⁴ The actual population that year reached 4000.

There was an increase of 973.24 per cent in the population of Pittsburg from 1880 to 1890.¹⁵ At that time the population had become more cosmopolitan as the economic status of the city was changing rapidly and new industries were being developed.

Additional parts of Baker township were annexed to the original townsite in 1906 and in 1907. On September 14, 1906 Pittsburg was proclaimed a city of the first class by

¹¹Bud Duvall, a member of the above mentioned family, who still resides in Pittsburg, served in the Spanish-American War.

¹²Interview with Mr. Will Pierce, proprietor of a Coffee House at 201 North Locust Street.

¹³United States Census report has no detailed statistics on Pittsburg until it became a city of the second class.

¹⁴Record of Council Proceedings of Pittsburg, Kansas (hereafter cited City Records), I, 151.

¹⁵Total population 6697, listed by wards. Compendium of Eleventh Census, I, Table 20, 684.

Governor W. R. Stubbs.¹⁶ Industrial, political, social and cultural¹⁷ conditions had each contributed to the steadily increasing population.

Municipal Development

The little mining camp which had its inauspicious beginning with the platting of New Pittsburg on May 19, 1876 had reached the status of a third class city when on June 21, 1880 the town was incorporated. The official order was entered on the records of Judge B. W. Perkins in the district court of Oswego.¹⁸

The first meeting of the city council was held July 7, 1880, in the office of W. W. Watson, and the first official business transacted was the appointment of J. W. Jennings, city clerk; C. W. Long, city treasurer; Fred B. Southerland, city marshal; and George L. Bennet, street commissioner.¹⁹

Pittsburg's increase in population was steady but not phenomenal. It more than doubled in twenty years, since by 1904 it was considerably over the 10,000 mark but the city records show that the proclamation as a first class city

¹⁶Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

¹⁷The Kansas State Manual Training Normal (now the Kansas State Teachers College) was opened in 1903 and attracted students to the city.

¹⁸City Records, I, 1.

¹⁹Ibid., pp. 1-11.

²⁰Ibid., p. 151.

was issued on September 14, 1906.²¹ The commission form of government was adopted and became effective on February 21, 1910. The adoption of this plan relieved the city council of specified duties.

Ordinances.—The records of the proceedings of the city council give detailed accounts of various improvements under supervision of the city council. Many pages are given to regulations regarding paving,²² the water and sewage systems, franchises for the electric railways and the issuance of bonds for city improvement.

A general revision of all the ordinances relating to special improvements was authorized March 1, 1899. This greatly facilitated the process of recording because all appropriations which had been previously given and the improvements made were to be set out by title only. That the city officials have had a busy career is attested by the fact that 2408 ordinances had been proclaimed by 1916, the close of this survey.²³ J. W. Jennings was the first city clerk and Leonard T. Boyd, the present incumbent, has held this office since 1913.²⁴

²¹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

²²More than two hundred ordinances refer to this exclusive topic.

²³A general study was made of City Records, I-V.

²⁴Mr. Boyd has arranged yearly statistical facts concerning the city under the title, A Mine of Information, which proved very helpful in summarizing municipal accomplishments.

Liquor Regulations.—In 1880 the people of Kansas adopted the amendment to the state constitution prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors except for medical, scientific and mechanical purposes. Later laws were enacted to enforce the amendment. Nevertheless, an illicit liquor trade was carried on in Pittsburg since the beginning of prohibition.

Ordinance No. 4 which became effective July 21, 1880 provided that

On application the city council may license any respectable person in the city of Pittsburg to keep one or more billiard or pool tables or other tables on which to play games of chance or skill. Any person applying for such license shall, in his application, set forth the number and kind of tables he wishes to keep and for each table shall pay into the city treasury the sum of \$10 per year and to the city clerk the sum of 50 cents for issuing the license. All saloons or places where such tables are kept shall be closed at or before 12 o'clock midnight and shall not be opened again during the night, and under no pretense shall any one except the owner and his regularly employed clerk be allowed in or around such saloon or other place where such games are played after said hour.²⁵

With the passage of Ordinance No. 6, which also referred to the illegal sale of liquors without a dram shop license, the city council became more serious about the saloon proposition and provided that all saloons must close at 11 o'clock each night, and at the same time the city legislated against the playing of games of chance.²⁶

²⁵City Records, I, 4.

²⁶Pittsburg Sun, February 28, 1926.

Though strongly opposed by Temperance Unions and the Y.M.C.A., still the joints prevailed, for the newspaper reports show that there were from twenty to thirty-five whisky joints in Pittsburg in 1890.²⁷

Original package houses were tolerated and the city council authorized the city marshal to collect fifty dollars per month from "original package house venders."²⁸

In 1897 a reform movement was made in Pittsburg. The Pittsburg Kansan, of January 28, 1897, contains the following item:

About a dozen ladies visited all the saloons in Pittsburg one night last week. Short talks were made and songs sung in each place. The visitors were treated courteously in every place.

The saloon was sometimes an issue in politics during the city campaigns. Perhaps one candidate and a majority of voters would favor a liberal saloon policy, while a civic league would be busily engaged in law enforcement. The work of the civic league had no important bearing on the policy of the city administration.²⁹

In 1909 all joints and drug store prescription liquors were placed under contraband orders and it was said that the only way any thirsty Pittsburger could quench his

²⁷Pittsburg Kansan, March 26, 1890.

²⁸City Records, II, 352.

²⁹Pittsburg Kansan, April 5, 1897.

thirst was to visit some nearby town. It can hardly be proved how strictly the regulation was kept. Soon after this the open saloon disappeared from Pittsburg and the liquor business was carried on under cover.

City Hall.—When Pittsburg became a city of the third class and for six years afterwards, the city council had no regular place for meeting. As there was not much official business to transact, the members could meet one place or another as the occasion demanded. In 1886 the citizens realized the need of a permanent home for the city government, its officials and wards.

A proposition was then submitted to the voters for the issuance of a bond of \$5,000 to build a city hall and jail.³⁰ An election was held and the proposition received a majority vote. The site selected was on the north side of Fourth Street between Broadway and Pine, now Fire Station No. 1. The contract to erect the building was awarded to Fred Massman for \$3,095. Another contract for the necessary equipment was let on September 18, 1888.³¹

The new city hall being a two-story building, the upper floor contained the offices of city clerk and mayor, and a council room. The rear of the lower floor contained the iron cells and was used as a jail. The front was a storage room

³⁰City Records, I, 234.

³¹Ibid., p. 215.

of the volunteer fire department and held the hose reels and the hook and ladder wagon.

The steady growth of the city necessitated additional equipment for the fire department and it was evident that the city hall was too small. There was an imperative need for a paid fire department and the city officials, together with the general public, responded. This necessitated the erection of a new building because the fire department alone needed all the room for storage and sleeping quarters.

The question of locating the new city hall confronted the councilmen at their regular meeting on July 28, 1899.³² Two locations were submitted, one at the corner of Fourth and Pine, the other at Fifth and Pine. It was determined to let the people make a decision of the location at the election for voting the bond issue scheduled for August 1, 1899. The choice of the voters was the first-named location,³³ and the original building continued to serve as Fire Station No. 1, as has been explained.

The contract was awarded to Fred Wiswell December 6, 1899, and the building erected is the present city hall. The city library occupied the west portion of this building until January 12, 1912, when the Pittsburg Public Library was dedicated and ready for use.³⁴ The city clerk occupied the rooms

³²City Records, Ordinance 434, IV (no page given).

³³Ibid., Ordinance 448.

³⁴Wm. E. Connelley, Kansas and Kansans, III, 1358.

later used by the clerk of the District Court, and the City Council Chamber was the room now occupied by District Court No. 1. The entire upstairs was originally a public auditorium with retiring rooms. It later became court room for Division No. 2, except one room used by the city engineer.³⁵

Police Department.—Since the incorporation of Pittsburg as a city, there has been a well established police department. Before the establishment of a fire department by city ordinance, the Chief of Police, by special arrangement, assumed the charge of managing the volunteer fire department.

Although Pittsburg and the adjoining camps have a decidedly cosmopolitan population, law and order have been well maintained. No accounts of real violences are available and perhaps police duties were largely concerned with violations of the liquor and traffic laws. Fines collected in one month, May 1898, amounted to \$1345.60.³⁶

Courts.—Crawford County, upon its organization, was a part of Linn and Bourbon for judicial purposes. The sixth judicial district embracing Miami, Linn, Bourbon, Crawford and Cherokee Counties was created by the state legislature on February 26, 1867. The sixth judicial district was reorganized on February 21, 1889, and on February 8, 1901 the

³⁵Interview on July 7, 1933 with officials in city clerk's office.

³⁶Information received through a study of the Records of Council Proceedings and interviews with officials in the city hall.

legislature of the state of Kansas divided the district court of Crawford County and established courts at Pittsburg and at Girard, with Crawford County still remaining a part of the sixth judicial district.³⁷

In the winter of 1899 the legislature of Kansas created a common pleas court to accommodate the large number of litigants living near Pittsburg. Some cases were tried, but the legality of the law creating the court having been attacked, the law was held to be unconstitutional, and the cases were remanded for retrial.

At the following session of the legislature, an enabling act was passed to permit the holding of an election to divide the terms of the district court, so that alternate terms might be held at Pittsburg and Girard. The election resulted in favor of the change. Pittsburg then built a courthouse and gave the use of it free to Crawford County.³⁸

On March 9, 1905 the legislature of the state created the thirty-eighth judicial district composed of Crawford County alone, with court held at Pittsburg and at Girard.³⁹

³⁷Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

³⁸Ibid.

³⁹Interview on July 13, 1933 with Judge L. M. Resler, in Court Office.

CHAPTER II

INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Coal Mining

Coal mining has been the industrial backbone of Pittsburg and Crawford County since 1877. Even before the Civil War coal was taken from strip and slope workings in the southeastern part of the county by settlers.¹ The pioneers who made a meager living at that time took coal from the croppings and traded it for supplies in Fort Scott and Carthage.

For a time little attention was paid to the coal prospects in the county; the capitalists did not realize that there was a fortune awaiting development. When the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf railway was built through the county in the memorable race from Fort Scott to the Indian lands, no consideration was given to the fact that the lines passed through a coal district.²

Although the railroad company owned nearly all of the land which later became the coal belt of the county, they failed to appreciate the underground riches. It was known that coal cropped out of the surface and had been removed for years but there was no realization that it had a profitable future. The company sold the land to the settlers for less

¹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

²Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 102.

than five dollars an acre.³

Soon after the construction of the Gulf railroad through the county several small companies were formed for the purpose of prospecting and mining coal from strip and slope banks along the railroad. There was no move made to sink a shaft for the coal could be taken from the surface too readily to incur any further expense.⁴

Moffett and Sargeant started the coal mining industry in Pittsburg and Crawford County. With the production of lead and zinc came a demand for fuel, thus the Joplin men were the first to appreciate the importance of the underlying coal. Colonel E. E. Brown of Girard suggested to them that a railroad southeast from a junction with the Gulf road at Girard to the zinc mines and passing through the coal fields would be an invaluable enterprise. They furnished the capital and bought hundreds of acres of land, which included the townsite of Pittsburg.⁵

There is some disagreement among pioneers regarding the first shaft in the county. Some maintain that Peter and Matt Coyle of Joplin, who, in the spring of 1877, sunk a shaft in Pittsburg on East Pine Street where the Pittsburg Ice Plant was later located, were the first. A James Vincent of Girard was pit boss at that time. Others dispute the point and maintain that a gin shaft on Carbon Creek (now known as Cow Creek)

³Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 102.

⁴Ibid., p. 103.

⁵Ibid., p. 104 ff.

erected in July 1877 was in operation before the Coyle mine was started.⁶

The Oswego Company sunk a shaft in 1880. By 1882 shafts were struck promiscuously over the county and the Frisco railroad company soon owned eleven mines. In 1885 the state legislature passed a law prohibiting railroad companies from owning coal lands or doing a coal business. The name of the firm was then changed to the Kansas and Texas Coal Company. This new company sunk seven additional mines, five of which were in Pittsburg. Later all of these shafts were abandoned and the region is now covered with homes or business buildings.⁷

The years 1885 and 1886 marked the beginning of the boom in the coal district.⁸ Ten new companies began operations and the coal business in general was quite extensive. Its history for a period of nearly forty years was one of rapid development. Outgoing shipments amounted to millions of tons yearly.

The principal strip mining operations were in the Cherokee vein where the overburden varied from ten to forty feet and the seam averaged three feet in thickness. The outcroppings in the Dunkirk region were on the upper vein and extended north to Weir and to the east of Pittsburg

⁶Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 104 ff.

⁷Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁸Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 111.

into the Missouri region. Farther west from this region the veins were too thin to make strip mining practical.

It was estimated that in 1910 more than 50 per cent of the coal available through strip mining had been worked out.⁹ In regions where the overburden was extensive, the later use of steam shovels made it possible to recover the coal.

Among the pioneer promoters of the mining enterprise were the various railroads whose lines entered the town, the Oswego Coal Company, the Patmor Brothers, the Rogers Coal Company, the Midway Coal Company and the Pittsburg Coal Company. One distinctive characteristic of the Pittsburg field was the independent action on the part of the operators. This was evident in purchasing and leasing coal lands, also in production and market of the output. There was little or no merging.¹⁰

With the mining history of Crawford County began the growth of Pittsburg, and with the growth of the mining industry in the county has likewise grown Pittsburg, the center of the coal industry and the metropolis of the Missouri-Kansas coal district.¹¹

Mine Disasters.—The worst disaster in the history of the coal mines in the Kansas district happened on November 9,

⁹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

¹⁰Ibid. Pittsburg Headlight, November 7, 1898.

¹¹Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 101.

1888 in Frontenac. An explosion occurred in Santa Fe Mine No. 2 and the violence of the shock affected Pittsburg and the surrounding territory. The Pittsburg Headlight of November 10, 1888 gave a vivid description of the accident. The number of lives lost was not known, but the number of persons employed at the time of the explosion was 164. Those who escaped reported horrifying tales. Rescue parties attempted to enter the mine but were driven back by foul air. The air fans had been demolished by the explosion and when these were replaced, entrance was gained into the place of disaster. About fifty bodies were identified and claimed but many of the recovered bodies were beyond identification.

An investigation was brought about and a coroner's jury on Friday, November 16, returned the verdict, setting forth that it found that the disaster was caused by the explosion of powder and gas; and that the mine had considerable quantities of gas and bad air in it before the explosion; and that the mine was extremely dusty and unsprinkled.¹² Soon after the accident, a mass meeting of miners adopted resolutions providing that mine operators be required to employ special men as shot firers and also that no miners other than the shot firer be in the mines when the shots were fired.¹³ From that time greater precautions were used to guarantee safety as far as possible. Private companies

¹²Pittsburg Headlight, November 7, 1888.

¹³Pittsburg Headlight, November 17, 1888.

made provision and later legislation provided for an inspector to be employed and relief equipment to be furnished.

The inspector's office was located in Pittsburg,¹⁴ and the School of Mines, which had previously been located in Weir, was moved to Pittsburg.

Strikes.—In September 1893 a strike occurred in the Pittsburg district over a disagreement concerning the price of screened coal. Previously pay had been demanded for lump coal only, and at this time a law was passed compelling the operators to pay for all the coal produced. It was no easy matter to determine a satisfactory price for the screened coal. Many miners left the district during the strike and it was six months before the matter was satisfactorily adjusted.¹⁵

The strike of 1893 was revived in 1899. The United Mine Workers suspended operations to obtain better conditions for the miners. This was known as the "Big Four Strike" because the four largest producers were pitted against the Union. The companies included in the group were the Kansas and Texas Coal Company, Central Coal and Coke Company, Western Coal and Mining Company and the "Katy" Mining Company.

After five months the Santa Fe, who had large mining interests, and minor companies entered into an agreement with the

¹⁴The inspector's office maps are still maintained at the Kansas State Teachers College but the equipment has been removed to Arma, according to Professor G. E. Abernathy. Courses in rescue work are given at the college.

¹⁵Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

Stanford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 107.

union and made a new contract. In return the union authorized its members to resume work in the mines operated by the "Big Four" and normal conditions were established.¹⁶

In 1911 there was another strike of less significance. Operators and miners could not agree on a wage contract. The strike lasted from April to September but had little bearing on general conditions because the activities in the coal industry usually decline during the summer months.¹⁷

During the labor difficulties Alex Howatt took a strong stand for the union and was unwilling to come to terms. Much dissatisfaction and hard feelings resulted from his attitude.

Zinc Smelting

It may be truly said that smelting combined with mining gave Pittsburg its start in life. With the introduction and development of that industry the small mining camp became a prosperous city. It was Robert Lanyon who changed the course of affairs and definitely assured the permanency of the city.¹⁸

In the spring of 1878, Robert Lanyon came from Peoria, Illinois, in search of a location for zinc smelting. He was attracted to the new town of Pittsburg where the fuel necessary for the smelting of the ores was being mined.

¹⁶Pittsburg Sun, February 28, 1926.

¹⁷Ibid.

¹⁸Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 107.

After a careful investigation of the coal fields and the price at which he could purchase coal, he located his proposed plant on Smelter and Second Streets, fronting on the south side of the railroad.¹⁹

Together with his brother, S. H. Lanyon, he began the construction of his first smelting plant. The new firm contracted with Joplin miners for ore which was freighted to Pittsburg. The low price of coal gave Pittsburg other similar industries and caused a boom for the new town, and it was but a short time until five different smelting plants were in operation.²⁰

The name of Lanyon was well linked with this industry for W. V. Lanyon and J. Lanyon also erected a large zinc plant and engaged in producing metallic zinc. Their plant was located southeast of the other Lanyon plant and adjoined the tracks of the Cherryvale branch of the Frisco railroad. The capacity of this new establishment was equally as large as the other plants in operation.

The Granby Smelting and Mining Company whose plants were located north of the Missouri Pacific tracks on Eleventh Street, facing Broadway, in 1882 consisted of five large furnaces and over nine hundred retorts.

Another smelter, the St. Louis, was located northeast of town but was short-lived because the competition between

¹⁹Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 39.

²⁰Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

free natural gas and coal was too strong; hence, the St. Louis smelter had to suspend operations.²¹

By 1883 three large smelters were in operation and the manufacture of zinc was an important industry in Pittsburg. The zinc ore which was smelted here was shipped from the Missouri mines because it was cheaper to ship ore to the coal region than to ship coal to the ore region.²² Nearly three tons of coal are required to smelt one ton of zinc.²³ In 1887 Pittsburg produced 21,900,000 pounds of spelter valued at \$825,000, and there was an investment of \$1,000,000 in capital.²⁴

The existence of an abundance of cheap fuel so near to the zinc region made possible the rapid growth of the smelting industry in Pittsburg and the operations increased steadily in volume up to 1896.²⁵

The year 1896 marked the beginning of the decline of the smelter operations in Pittsburg, for the development of gas in the following year revolutionized the smelting industry in Kansas, and moved the district center first to Iola and finally southward into the Oklahoma field. In the production of coal, the high costs incurred made it impossible to compete

²¹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

²²Kansas State Historical Society Collections, XI, 166 ff.

²³Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

²⁴Kansas State Historical Society Collections, XI, 170.

²⁵Ibid.

with free gas; hence the change in industry.²⁶

The closing of the zinc smelters was followed by a loss in population of about 2500 and a reduction in the payroll of approximately \$25,000 monthly. So severe was this blow that it required hard work on the part of the citizens to recover from it.²⁷

Powder Plants

Development of the coal mining is responsible for the establishment of powder plants. The need of explosives in connection with the mining industry brought about the erection of two such plants in the local district. During the early times, the powder was shipped from Pennsylvania but as the industry developed extensively, the freight charges became a big item. In order to economize in this phase of operation, the Pennsylvania and Kansas Powder Company established a plant at Alston (later called Kirkwood) about four miles southwest of Pittsburg. This was in 1901. W. A. Smith was in charge of the construction of the plant, which was ready for manufacturing the next year. Three mills were set up on the company's holdings, a plot of approximately 1000 acres. The output amounted to about 10,000 pounds per day. The powder was put up in four hundred twenty-five-pound kegs. This gave work to a number of men.

²⁶Kansas State Historical Society Collections, XI, 170.

²⁷Ibid. J. T. Young.

²⁸Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

H. B. Foster was manager from 1903 to 1905. By 1905 the output of the manufactured product was almost doubled. The establishment was taken over by the Laflin and Rand Company in 1905 and in 1907 it passed to the Dupont Company and did not change ownership again until it was organized as the Atlas Powder Company in 1913.

The Hercules Powder Company, in 1913, established a plant consisting of a number of substantial buildings at Turck, four miles southwest of Pittsburg. The buildings are so situated that should an explosion occur in one of the group it would be confined only to that unit.²⁸

Foundries and Machine Shops

The immediate need of necessary machinery prompted Franklin Playter to open a little shop on Locust Street near the Frisco tracks. This was in 1882. The making of picks for the mines of the district was the principal work of the new shop. These picks found a ready sale until the revolutionizing of the mining industry.²⁹

After a few years' operation, Mr. Playter sold the shop to C. Chapman and E. G. Emerson, both of Kansas City. The plant was operated under the supervision of the two men and the establishment became known as the Pittsburg Foundry and Machine Company. Under the new management the plant tripled

²⁸Interviews on August 7, 1933 with the managers, Earl Dickey and J. T. Young.

²⁹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

in size and gradually branched out until it encompassed many departments, making it a complete machine shop. The manufacture of mining and smelting implements is a specialty of the concern although other machinery is included among the products.

In 1903 the United Iron Works, Incorporated, of Springfield, Missouri, acquired the property from the Pittsburg Foundry and Machine Company, the plant becoming one of the five owned and operated by the same firm. The merging of the plant into the system gave it a wider scope of activity. It was necessary to enlarge the place of business, the plant then covering an entire city block and furnishing employment for more than three hundred workmen.³⁰

During the years when Pittsburg experienced a great era of development, the civic organization known as the Commercial Club³¹ offered to donate a site to any industry which would move into the city. This proposition was accepted by the late Thomas McNally Sr. (father of Thomas J. McNally, now president of the company). Mr. McNally came to Pittsburg from Ashland, Wisconsin, in 1889 to establish the Pittsburg Boiler and Machine Company. The plant was first conducted privately in a small frame structure, located north of the Frisco tracks on the west side of Olive

³⁰Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

³¹The Commercial Club was a forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce.

Street. This concern has grown to be one of the largest of industrial plants in the state. In 1912 the establishment became incorporated with T. J. McNally as president; W. H. Sagstetter, vice-president; and T. J. Stevenson as secretary. The business continued to expand and field crews of wrecking equipment worked in the other states. The number of employees on the payroll of the company increased from the initial ten to more than twenty times that number. Store rooms, warehouses, and various buildings were added at different times, and by 1916 the entire plant occupied more than a block of space. Various types of machinery are manufactured, but this firm, like the United Iron Works, makes the construction of mining machinery and equipment a specialty.³²

The General Machinery Company, a third institution of its kind to operate in Pittsburgh, has its salesroom located at the corner of Second Street and Broadway and a large warehouse at 501 North Joplin. Besides mining supplies, general hardware, implements and railway supplies are included in the stock.

The establishment was opened by Pittsburgh men who saw the need of such an enterprise and is managed by S. A. Rose.³³ Mr. Rose began work in Pittsburgh in 1902. The firm name at that time was Iron, Metal and Metal Railway Supplies. With the changes that came in industries came the change in

³²Interview on August 7, 1933 with T. J. McNally.

³³Interview on August 7, 1933 with S. A. Rose.

materials handled, including the collecting and shipping of junk.

The Deckard Steel and Iron Works opened a similar plant in 1905. This was located at First and Locust until the business had expanded to such an extent that larger quarters were required and they moved to their present location on Smelter Street. All the machinery is for the manufacture of equipment for mines and mills. Each succeeding year brought with it a marked increase in business and this enterprise furnished employment for more than sixty laborers.

The specialty of the Deckard plant is the welding apparatus. The work is done in the shop when possible, but a portable welding machine is provided for emergencies. This in itself is a great factor to expedite conditions when the time element is to be considered.³⁴

The foundries and machine shops as a whole have been valuable to Pittsburg not only in furnishing an important need but also in giving employment to many of the inhabitants of the city, in promoting home patronage and in adding another industry.

Brick Industry and Clay Products

The earliest history of the manufacture of clay products in Pittsburg is almost co-existent with the earliest history of the town. The names of the forerunners of clay industrialists

³⁴Interview on August 21, 1933 with E. V. Lanyon.

who started the industry have been lost in the succession of years.

The first brick plant in the vicinity was located just south of the Quincy road at its junction with Cow Creek. The product of the plant was mud brick, dried in the sun and burned in an open kiln.³⁵

A brick yard located near Cow Creek was established in 1880 by Fred Massman. His first contract was for the construction of a brick building on Broadway between Third and Fourth Streets. With his own manufactured bricks, he erected the Globe building, which was used by the Kansas and Texas Coal Company. He built the Washington and Central school buildings and continued in the building business long after he sold the plant in 1903.³⁶

In the fall of 1890 John Moore and Robert Nesch Sr. came from Atchison to Pittsburg to establish a plant for the manufacture of brick for paving and building purposes. They had previously discovered that the clay of this vicinity was well suited to withstand the severest tests.

In order to secure a city contract for the use of their brick they made a proposition to build the plant in Pittsburg provided that the city would pave Broadway from Eleventh to Second Street. The contract was agreed upon and Pittsburg

³⁵Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

³⁶Interview on August 7, 1933, with A. Massman, son of Fred Massman, builder and contractor from 1880 to 1916. Mr. A. Massman resides at 307 East Ninth Street.

was one of the first cities to have a vitrified brick pavement. The laying of this pavement attracted the attention of neighboring cities and there was so great a demand for Pittsburg vitrified brick that the plant had to be enlarged. A ten acre tract about one and one half miles northwest of Fourth Street and Broadway was purchased for the site. There was an enormous amount of brick clay in that region and a greater part of the site was underlaid by a good vein of coal which furnished fuel for the kiln.³⁷

The demand for paving brick continued to increase and the plant was enlarged from time to time, until seventeen kilns were in operation. The company provided its own electric power plant, a power house with four 80 H. P. engines and one 250 H. P. engine. There was in addition a 14-ton Davenport engine which hauled the shale from the pit, where an immense steam shovel did the digging of the shale. A deep well supplied the water which the plant required in each department. There was a growing demand for vitrified brick for municipal improvement for a period of ten years.³⁸

The Pittsburg Vitrified Brick Paving Company had two large plants in operation with a combined output of 100,000 bricks daily, and the payroll exceeded \$10,000 per month.³⁹

³⁷Interview on August 17, 1933 with R. J. Nesch, who resides at 510 West First Street, and who is a member of the firm.

³⁸Interview on August 17, 1933 with Mr. Nesch.

³⁹Kansas State Historical Society Collections, XI, 203.

At its own expense the company built a switch from the Missouri Pacific tracks to the plant in order to handle orders successfully.⁴⁰

In 1899 Loose and Taylor, experienced brick manufacturers from Terre Haute, Indiana, came to Pittsburg to look for satisfactory shale land from whose product vitrified brick could be made. They took several bags of clay from the ground (now the site of the Dickey Clay Works) back to their home plant and made experimental blocks which seemed satisfactory. In about two weeks they returned, formed a corporation, took sixty per cent of the stock (Pittsburg citizens took the balance) and established a plant which was a success as a manufacturing enterprise. Loose and Taylor finally bought out the local people's interest at exactly what they had put into it. A little later a disagreement arose between the two partners and Robert Nesch bought the plant.

Mr. Walter S. Dickey, known to the people of Pittsburg through his paper, the Kansas City Journal, was the head of a group of clay product plants and was engaged in the manufacture of clay products. He became interested in the Pittsburg plant and bought the Nesch interest in the plant. Mr. Dickey manufactures and has a big sale for vitrified sewer tile, drain tile, and conduits.⁴¹

⁴⁰Interview on August 17, 1933 with Mr. Nesch.

⁴¹Interview on August 7, 1933 with E. E. Walker, manager.

Pottery Plant.—The pottery plant of Pittsburg can hardly be listed among the early industries. It owes its origin to a number of business men who conceived the idea that Pittsburg shale could be manufactured into stoneware and flower pots. Chemical analysis had shown that the clay of Pittsburg coal fields was equal to the famous Akron, Ohio clay.⁴²

¹⁹¹³ In 1905 a company was formed with J. T. Moore, president, and J. B. Smith, secretary. The list of stockholders included the names of more than thirty of Pittsburg's prominent business men. They bought a tract of land on the west side of Broadway on a hill north of Pittsburg and erected a small building equipping it with machinery to carry on the industry on a small scale. They began on an experimental basis and when their products were submitted to local dealers, they were assured of future sales. This gave confidence of their meeting competition in price and quality.

Since the experimental manufacture proved successful, the company desired to put the plant into regular operation. They secured a competent superintendent and pattern maker to design and supervise the work in an economical manner. The first person chosen was Fred V. Maxwell of Texas. He seemed to understand the manufacture of clay thoroughly but was unable to temper the manufactured product to withstand burning without

⁴²These tests were made by Dr. J. A. Yates, Head of the Department of Chemical and Physical Sciences at Kansas State Teachers College. See Pittsburg Daily Headlight, 30 April 1913, p. 1.

too great a percentage of loss in drying. Many of the pieces cracked in the process so he was not successful in making the plant commercially profitable.

The Pittsburg stockholders made repeated unsuccessful attempts to induce pottery manufacturers of the East to take over the plant for operation. Additional machinery was purchased but the venture was still unprofitable. Inability to understand the process of handling clay seemed to be the chief source of trouble.

The plant was finally turned over to other local people and they succeeded in securing more experienced men to operate the plant. Freight rates were cheaper by this time and new markets were secured in the West. They soon began the manufacture of all kinds of clay and stoneware. Their work was so extensive that two branch houses were opened for the distribution of their manufactures, one located in Kansas City, Missouri, and the other in Tulsa, Oklahoma.⁴³

Although it was a losing business at first, much credit is due to the perseverance of the company who started the enterprise, as well as to those who have made the manufacture of clay products a successful undertaking in Pittsburg.

Mercantile Enterprises

Industrial development in and around Pittsburg, an abundance of comparatively cheap land in the vicinity and

⁴³Interview on August 7, 1933 with E. E. Walker.

the independent spirit generated by pioneer life, even in the early times, made it imperative that mercantile enterprises should develop apace in order that the needs of the people be properly supplied.

A drug store which was built and operated by George E. Richey was the initial mercantile venture in Pittsburg.⁴⁴ Mr. Richey did not long continue business in that location as J. R. Lindburg and John Stryker had taken over the store when the little town could boast of only forty-nine inhabitants. Mr. Lindburg afterwards bought the building and lot.⁴⁵

The first general store was built by W. G. Seabury in the winter of 1876-77. It was a one-story frame building, twenty feet square. Mr. Seabury operated a general store in Girard.⁴⁶ One evening after closing hours in the spring of 1877, he loaded a wagon with a few bolts of calico, other dry goods and notions and started for Pittsburg. The next morning the store was opened for business.⁴⁷

In those very early days, C. S. Clanton put up a building

⁴⁴Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 35.

⁴⁵Mr. Lindburg moved the frame building away and put up a substantial brick structure. This corner has been occupied as a drug store ever since.—Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁴⁶Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁴⁷Mr. Neal Wood was the general manager of the store. Shortly after the opening he saw a woman approaching on horseback. This customer was Hortense Ferguson, who carried with her a brass kettle filled with eggs. The eggs were traded for calico—the first transaction in the new store.

south of the Richey store. He first set up a barber shop; since he was not experienced in that line, he put in a stock of general merchandise and groceries. His business then flourished.⁴⁸

The first lumber establishment in Pittsburg began business in 1879. This was located near the Frisco station at Broadway and is now known as the Nuttman--Lemon Lumber Company. The Pittsburg Lumber Company, which later became the Carey--Lombard--Young Company had its beginning in 1881. The Long--Bell Lumber Company opened a yard in 1882.⁴⁹

Much had been accomplished in the later seventies to add to the prosperity of the new town. The early eighties also made generous contributions. Prior to 1881 three flourishing flour mills had been established by Bruner and Warren. E. H. Klock opened a butcher shop in 1880 on West Fourth Street, but he sold out two years later and opened up a grocery store on the adjoining lot. Mr. Klock continued to carry on his business in that same location for twenty years.

Different agencies prompted the rapid growth of the city. Henry Kettler⁵⁰ who came from Paola and worked as a

⁴⁸Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁴⁹Ibid.

⁵⁰Mr. Kettler opened his own store a few years later and was associated directly or indirectly with the drug business beyond the time of this survey. He has had his store in several different locations.

clerk in a local drug store did much to encourage civic interests. James B. Smith opened an exclusive dry goods store in the building now occupied by the John Sell Hardware Company.⁵¹

The population had reached 3500 by 1883 and the following establishments were flourishing: eight general stores, four meat markets, four drug stores, three blacksmith shops, three lumber yards, three millinery stores, two shoe shops, one clothing store, one exclusive grocery, and one furniture store.⁵²

Among the older business enterprises of the city is the Pittsburg Elevator Company, located at Third and Grand. It composed the grain department of the Sanford—Robinson—Lemon Lumber Company which had been organized in 1884. This new department began to operate in 1886.⁵³

The later eighties and early nineties brought additional concerns to the growing city.⁵⁴ While the last decade of this survey has not witnessed the opening of a great variety of businesses, it has foreshadowed the merging of some of the smaller stores and the beginnings of several wholesale establishments as well as the thriving business connected with the

⁵¹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁵²A. T. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas, p. 1129.

⁵³Interview on August 29, 1933 with A. L. Scott, president and manager of the Pittsburg Elevator Company.

⁵⁴A list of these enterprises will be found in the Appendix.

automobile industry.⁵⁵

Hull and Dillon Meat Packing

The beginning of the Hull and Dillon Packing Company dates back to 1885 when Louis Hull came from Parsons to Pittsburg and opened a shop on the west side of Broadway between Third and Fourth Streets. Mr. Hull, who was enterprising and industrious, enjoyed an excellent trade and soon found that it was necessary to enlarge his place of business. He secured larger quarters across the street. He was joined by his brother-in-law, Thomas Dillon, and it was in the new quarters that the foundation was laid for the packing plant, which now occupies fourteen acres on Cow Creek, west of the city.⁵⁶

The Pittsburg Headlight of May 19, 1926 contains the following article in regard to this business:

From a modest little "meat market" to one of the largest and best known packing plants in the triangle of the three states of Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma, is the record of Hull and

⁵⁵This survey, as has been stated before, covers the first forty years of Pittsburg's existence.

⁵⁶The site, an old homestead with a history, was purchased from C. B. Smelker on April 21, 1887. According to tradition, the H. M. Mayberry family landed on that spot October 21, 1859 and took up their home in a rude hut. This hut, erected on the site of the future city of Pittsburg, consisted of a number of old wagon boards nailed together, with mud plastered in the cracks. The Mayberrys endured many hardships, not the least of which were the raids made by the "busy whackers" or rebel sympathizers. After leaving the place because of bandit danger the family did not return and the homestead passed into the hands of C. B. Smelker.—Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

Dillon, whose enterprise forms an important link in the industrial life of Pittsburg, with a volume of business that approaches the million dollar mark yearly. . . . The market it affords to the farmers, with minimum shrinkage, is regarded as a most important and genuine asset to the community.

An outstanding feature of the Hull and Dillon products is that they are all government inspected. The plant does not operate unless there is a United States inspector at hand. This means that all the meat is tested according to best scientific standards as adopted by the government.⁵⁷

Banks

The financial institutions in a city have much to do with its growth and development. The untiring promoters of Pittsburg saw this and in the early days of the city, they showed great interest in organizing banks.

In August 1880 what was then known as the Bank of Pittsburg, the first bank in the city, was established by the owners of the Bank of Girard as a branch of that bank (both were private banks); the branch in Pittsburg was in charge of E. G. Chapman and H. Adams. It was situated in a small frame building on the east side of Broadway between Third Street and Fourth Street.⁵⁸

⁵⁷Interview on August 15, 1933 with E. D. Henneberry, manager.

⁵⁸Interview on August 15, 1933 with E. C. Webber, cashier. Mr. Webber has been associated with this bank for thirty-five years.

In 1882 the entire concern having a \$10,000 stock was organized by S. H. Lanyon, F. W. Lanyon, H. C. Willard and James Patmor⁵⁹ who continued to conduct the institution as the Bank of Pittsburg. One of the first acts of the new proprietors was to increase the capital stock to \$20,000. The business of the bank increased so rapidly that it soon became necessary to have more commodious quarters and the little frame building was moved into the street where business was carried on until the new building, a brick structure on the old site, was ready for occupancy.

In March 1886 the bank was incorporated as the National Bank of Pittsburg, familiarly known as the Lanyon Bank, and the capital stock was increased to \$50,000. The first meeting of the Board of Directors was held on March 18 and officers were elected.⁶⁰ The capital stock was increased to \$100,000 in 1890 and the surplus to \$20,000. The bank moved to its present location in May 1896 and on May 4, 1904 purchased the building and installed new fixtures.⁶¹

The First National Bank of Pittsburg took out its charter on February 1, 1886. It was located between Third Street and Fourth Street on the west side of Broadway, and had a capital stock of \$25,000.⁶²

⁵⁹The names of Lanyon and Patmor have been connected with the banking business in Pittsburg since 1882.

⁶⁰See Appendix.

⁶¹Interview on August 15, 1933 with Mr. Webber.

⁶²See Appendix.

When Pittsburg was booming in 1888, Franklin Playter with eastern capitalists promoted the building of a new opera house and at the same time talked of a new bank. The result was that the Opera House building was erected on the corner of Fourth Street and Broadway, now known as the State National Bank building. The corner room was arranged for the new bank, which took form as the Manufacturers' National Bank and was sponsored by A. L. Chaplin, Jno. A. Nuttman and Charles S. Smith. Hardly was this done when E. F. Porter, with others, organized the Pittsburg Savings Bank. It occupied a portion of the room reserved for the Manufacturers' National Bank. Shortly afterwards the Manufacturers' National Bank found it advantageous to take over the Pittsburg Savings Bank without loss to the depositors. In the meantime, the National Bank of Pittsburg had built and occupied a brick building which is now a part of the room where the Up-to-Date Furniture Company is located.

The Manufacturers' National Bank put up a new building on Fifth and Broadway. When it vacated the Opera House building, the National Bank purchased the Opera House building and moved into the corner vacated by the Manufacturers' National Bank. In 1896 the Manufacturers' National Bank liquidated without loss to its stockholders, and the First National Bank purchased the building and moved into its new location.⁶³ In January 1903, James Patmor disposed of his

⁶³Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

holdings in the National Bank of Pittsburg and organized the First State Bank of Pittsburg.⁶⁴

The organization of the National Bank of Commerce was brought about by Bert Maxwell in 1906 and the last bank whose organization is included in this survey, the Pittsburg State Bank, was founded and chartered by the Miller Brothers of Mulberry, Kansas, in 1914.⁶⁵

Pittsburg Clearing House.—During the panic of 1907 the Pittsburg bankers called a meeting and agreed on certain lines that kept the credit of the city on a sound basis. Cash was paid at all banks; no scrip was issued. The necessity for coöperation was the initial step in organizing the Pittsburg Clearing House Association. Mr. E. V. Lanyon was elected president of the association and still retained that position in 1916.⁶⁶

Real Estate and Loan Associations

Value of Pittsburg real estate increased steadily. Contributing factors in the big advancement in value were due chiefly to development of the various resources which attracted capital and enterprise. The early growth through

⁶⁴The names of the bank officials will be found in the Appendix.

⁶⁵See Appendix.

⁶⁶Interview on August 15, 1933 with Jay N. Patmor.

railroads, zinc smelters, railroad shops, foundries, the manufacturing of clay products and many others had much to do with the value of Pittsburg real estate.

Since the very foundation and organization of the city, prominent and enterprising citizens have been alert in the promotion of home building. This enterprise was started not only as a financial venture but also for the betterment and upbuilding of the town. *all its branches, including insurance*

In 1881 C. A. Miller opened a real estate and loan office. This was the nucleus of the building and loan organizations. The Pittsburg Building, Saving and Loan Association was organized in 1883. A state charter was granted in March. The books were then opened for subscription, with an authorized capital of \$1,000,000. Among the pioneers engaged in this business may be listed the names of C. A. Miller, F. C. Werner, John Lindburg, Franklin Playter, E. H. Klock, W. J. Watson, D. J. Dean, F. B. Wheeler and E. E. Coulter.⁶⁷

F. C. Werner was the first insurance agent in Pittsburg.⁶⁸ In 1889 he started the business in which he is still engaged. His field has always been extensive and includes policies for twelve fire insurance companies, three

⁶⁷Mr. Coulter has been associated in this business under different firm names: Coulter-McCormick, 1904-1906; Coulter-Ralston, 1906-1930. Since 1930, his son, B. R. Coulter has been a member of the firm Coulter and Coulter.—Interview on August 18, 1933 with E. E. Coulter.

⁶⁸Interview on August 18, 1933 with F. C. Werner. *and E. E.*

bonding companies and three casualty companies. In 1916 he sold the insurance business to John Blair but continues to handle loans.

The Home Building Company, conducted by Coulter and Ralston, began business in 1906. Their general plan was to build homes and sell them on easy terms; this, however, was not the only phase of the business in which they were interested. They engaged in all its branches, including insurance and loans.⁶⁹

The real estate, loans and insurance companies expanded with the town and their contribution to the promotion of the city's rapid development cannot be overlooked.

The first line. In 1879 it was bought by the St. Louis and San Francisco railroad, commonly known as the Frisco. The Frisco was the first trunk line to connect with the town by means of a branch line. Soon after the transfer of the roadbed of the Joplin Railroad Company to the Frisco, the latter company acquired large coal producing lands and became the largest coal producer of the section. In this way the Frisco Company gave impetus to the development of the zinc and coal fields.⁷⁰

The next road to reach Pittsburg was the Missouri Pacific. A branch line from Nevada, Missouri, through Pittsburg to Chetopa, Kansas, where it connected with the main

⁶⁹Interviews on August 18, 1933 with F. C. Werner and E.E. Coulter.

⁷⁰Pittsburg Star, February 28, 1926.

CHAPTER III
PUBLIC UTILITIES

Railroads

The history of the railroad service begins with the founding of the town, for the construction of the railroad between Joplin and Girard was contemporary with the establishment of Pittsburg. Although the Joplin—Girard road was a short independent line, it gave the town direct communication with outside markets.

The Joplin—Girard railroad did not long remain an independent line. In 1879 it was bought by the St. Louis and San Francisco railroad,¹ commonly known as the Frisco. Thus the Frisco was the first trunk line to connect with Pittsburg by means of a branch line. Soon after the transfer of the roadbed of the Joplin Railroad Company to the Frisco, the latter company acquired large coal producing areas and became the largest coal producer of the section. In this way the Frisco Company gave impetus to the development of the zinc and coal fields.²

The next road to reach Pittsburg was the Missouri Pacific over a branch line from Nevada, Missouri, through Pittsburg to Chetopa, Kansas, where it connected with the main

¹Records, Crawford County Abstract Company.

²Pittsburg Sun, February 28, 1926.

line of the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas. This was brought about through the ingenuity of the founder and "booster" of Pittsburg, Franklin Playter.³ Work was begun on the project in November 1885.⁴ Three months later the surveyors laid out a roadbed on Tenth Street along which the road was soon built, and train service was then established. The first passenger train arrived in Pittsburg July 3, 1886.⁵

The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe soon followed by extending its line from Girard to the coal pits north of Pittsburg. By November 1886 the line connected Frontenac, Pittsburg, and Girard.⁶ This line, no doubt, was established to obtain coal interests, for soon after its coming, the company was operating two of the largest coal mines in the Pittsburg field.

The laying of a spur off the Frisco track leading to what was known as Litchfield Junction was the next railroad-ing project. That point served as a coal operation base where strip mining was carried on rather extensively at that time.⁷ It was intended that this line would connect with

³Playter conceived the idea of a cut-off to Chetopa and convinced Jay Gould, the principal owner of the road, that the shorter route would be an advantage to his interests. Gould wished to block the advance of the M. K. & T.

⁴Pittsburg Headlight, November 7, 1885.

⁵Pittsburg Headlight, July 6, 1886.

⁶Pittsburg Headlight, November 18, 1886.

⁷Pittsburg Sun, February 28, 1926.

the main line of the Frisco at Columbus, but the work was stopped when the road reached Weir City.

The last road to reach Pittsburg was the Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf. This, with the Pittsburg, Fort Smith and Southern, later became known as the Kansas City Southern.

In 1891 A. E. Stilwell and associates were promoting a railroad from Kansas City to the Gulf of Mexico. The first section was to run as directly as possible from Kansas City to Joplin, and small towns were to be disregarded. Since Stilwell had interests in Pittsburg,⁸ he favored having the road run through the town. E. L. Martin, who was president of the road, opposed the measure and stated frankly that the new road would not be swerved aside to hit small towns.⁹

Franklin Playter was again Pittsburg's leader in promoting the measure. He began at once to negotiate with Mr. Martin and to try to persuade him to relent in the matter. The following account of the transaction appeared in the Pittsburg Headlight, in a special Jubilee Edition, May 19, 1926.

Mr. Playter went to Kansas City to get the new road to enter Pittsburg. E. L. Martin of Kansas City was president of the road. Mr. Playter called on him. The first meeting with Martin was not a satisfactory one. . . . He told Martin that the company was making a big mistake in missing Pittsburg, pointing out the various advantages of touching the growing city.

"We have adopted the policy of going straight to Joplin regardless of how near we

⁸Mr. Stilwell erected the Stilwell Hotel at Seventh and Broadway in 1889.

⁹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

are to other cities along the route," Mr. Martin told Pittsburg's ambassador. "You are wasting your time and my time to attempt to get us to change."

"I will be here to see you every morning until you change your mind," Mr. Playter responded.

Finally, after three or four days, Mr. Playter met with a different reception when he made his usual call on Mayor Martin.

"We will build into Pittsburg," Mr. Martin told Mr. Playter. "You are to get us the right of way from the time we enter Kansas until we leave it and give us a bonus of \$25,000."

"There are some conditions we shall insist upon," Mr. Playter replied. "We want Pittsburg made a division point, your shops built there, and the name of Pittsburg put into your road's name."

There may have been some argument about this, but Martin, having surrendered partially to Pittsburg, now made a complete surrender.

"I want twenty-four hours to give you an answer to your proposal," the Pittsburg man told him. This was agreeable.

Mr. Playter came jubilantly back to Pittsburg on the first train. He fixed up a bond guaranteeing that the money for the bonus and to provide the right of way would be forthcoming. He asked Frank W. Lanyon of the National Bank of Pittsburg and John R. Lindburg, president of the First National Bank of Pittsburg to sign the bond. They did.

Back to Kansas City he went with the bond, and the matter of the new railroad's coming to Pittsburg was settled. By a vote of four to one the citizens of Pittsburg endorsed the work of Mr. Playter when on September 13, 1892 they put up \$40,000 to carry out Pittsburg's part of the agreement, made by the town's solitary and resourceful salesman.

The raising of funds for the guarantee was brought about through a spirited campaign for the issuance of city bonds and was authorized at an election on September 13, 1892 by a vote of 1053 to 397.¹⁰ Under the laws governing the issuance of bonds to aid railroad companies in securing

¹⁰City Records, III, 234.

right-of-way and facilities, it was stipulated that no second class city could extend aid to exceed twenty thousand dollars to any railroad. To evade this obstacle, it was necessary to vote the bond issues to two separate companies. One bond of twenty thousand dollars was issued to the Kansas, Pittsburg and Western Railroad Company and another of the same amount was given to the Pittsburg, Fort Smith and Southern Railway Company.¹¹

The two railroad companies constructed their lines, each with a small amount of mileage in Kansas. On June 29, 1893, the Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf, the name under which the different parts of the line were operating, established both freight and passenger service through Pittsburg.

The Kansas City Southern Railway Company was organized in the spring of 1900, and took over the property and franchises of the Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf Railroad Company and its subsidiaries. With this consolidation, Pittsburg became the headquarters for the superintendent of the northern division which extends from Kansas City to De Queen, Arkansas, a distance of four hundred thirty-three miles.¹²

Post Office

In the days of the cowboys, the Indians and a few

¹¹City Records, III, 223-224.

¹²Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

struggling settlers, one of the settlers, George Hobson,¹³ took up a claim two miles south and one-half mile east of what is now Pittsburg, as a soldier's homestead.¹⁴

The home was a one-story log cabin which also served as a general store and, it may be said, the post office, for even in the days of the late sixties, Mr. Hobson, who was mail carrier, clerk and postmaster, rode to Fort Scott to get the mail for the settlers. This point of mail distribution came to be called Iowa City.¹⁵

After the town site was plotted with the advent of the railroad, New Pittsburg was the logical place for mail distribution. Previous to this time, the postal authorities induced Mr. Hobson to resign and Iowa City ceased to exist as a post office but the building remained. In the early nineties it was enclosed by a stockade and served as a dance

¹³Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 36.

¹⁴It is interesting to note that this farm which furnished land for the site of the first post office also furnished the ground for the first cemetery. After the death of Mr. Hobson, his son, John, wishing that his father's grave should be located where it would have care, made interment on the far corner of the farm. This location is on Broadway, south of the main entrance to Highland Park Cemetery. Thus the old Hobson cemetery on South Broadway is now a part of Highland Park Cemetery. The land comprising the Catholic cemetery was sold by the Hobsons to the church committee in 1886.

¹⁵Mr. Hobson left southeast Iowa in August 1865. He made the trip overland with a wagon train of relatives and friends. The trip required several months as droves of cattle were herded along by the pioneers to start farming.—Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

hall. It was later torn down.¹⁶ the fourth postmaster, was

Prior to 1876 mail was also distributed at the following places in the vicinity of Pittsburg: Hope, two miles east and one and one-half miles south; Stronghold, five and one-half miles northwest on the Alfred Williams' farm; Lecoy, six miles northeast on the Jones' farm (afterwards moved to the Magie farm); Carbon (afterwards changed to Litchfield), five miles northeast.¹⁷

Thus we see that the early settlers in this vicinity had the mail service common to the times. A. J. Georgia received the appointment as postmaster when President Grant, in 1876, established the post office at New Pittsburg, a little coal camp of thirty-one people.¹⁸

Alfred E. Nau, the second postmaster, served from 1886 to 1890 and was followed by O. S. Casad who had charge from that time to 1894. On August 2, 1893 a petition was made to the postmaster general to furnish free city delivery in Pittsburg.¹⁹

The first post office was located at Third Street and

¹⁶Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

¹⁷Crawford County, Kansas; by Home Authors, p. 36. This particular article was written by A. G. Georgia, who before receiving the appointment as postmaster had served as superintendent of Crawford County schools and later was a teacher in the Pittsburg school.

¹⁸The Kanza, the second annual of the State Manual Training Normal (now Kansas State Teachers College), published in 1911, p. 145.

¹⁹City Records, II, 288.

Broadway. While Charles Patmor, the fourth postmaster, was serving, the post office was moved to Sixth Street and Broadway. This building is now occupied by the J. C. Penney Store.

It was also during Mr. Patmor's term that the city passed the 10,000 mark in population and was entitled to city delivery. However, it was not until early in W. H. Yarcho's term (1898-1902) that the delivery was fully established, with five carriers, four of them foot carriers and O. S. Casad as horseback man. This was on April 16, 1899.²⁰

The rural free delivery with two routes was also established during Mr. Yarcho's term, on October 9, 1899, through the efforts of Charles Curtis (then U. S. Representative) and Cyrus Leland. The rural routes from Pittsburg were among the earliest established in the United States.²¹

W. J. Watson began in 1902 to serve as postmaster. His term was longer than that of his predecessor and extended to one year before the close of the present survey. During his incumbency, two changes were made in the location of the post office. The building in use during the first part of his term increased in value with the expansion of the city until the government considered it too high a rental and decided on another move. Consequently the post office was removed to 712 North Broadway.²² It is interesting to note

²⁰Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

²¹Interview on August 7, 1933 with Fred Fitch, assistant postmaster.

²²Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

that in 1906, thirty years from the date of establishment, the office had grown to employ eight clerks, eight city letter carriers, and eight rural carriers; and had established regulation screen wagon service with three wagons with which to deliver all mail from the railway depots.²³

In 1907, through the efforts of U. S. Senator Charles Curtis and U. S. Representative Phil Campbell an appropriation was secured. After a spirited contest for the site on which to locate the new building, the corner of Seventh Street and Locust was selected. The half block of ground was purchased by business men and residents and given to the government for the sum of \$1.00. The acceptance of this generous gift made it possible for the entire appropriation, seventy-five thousand dollars, to be put into the building.²⁴

The Pittsburg post office had the distinction of being designated the first Postal Savings Bank in the state of Kansas. It was opened on January 4, 1911, and in a very short time had a large number of patrons. Many citizens of foreign birth regarded Uncle Sam as the proper person to handle their savings. In four months, the Postal Savings Bank received \$11,015 in deposits, divided into one hundred sixty accounts.²⁵

²³The Kanza, 1911, p. 145.

²⁴Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

²⁵The Kanza, 1911, p. 145.

The federal building, for which an appropriation was obtained in 1907, was completed and ready for occupancy July 12, 1911.²⁶ The general public on that day viewed with pride the beautiful structure which is fifty-six by ninety feet and occupies a lot one hundred fifty by one hundred seventy feet. The style of the building carries the entablature effects of Grecian architecture, and its exterior reflects in its modest severity the policy of its substantial owner, while the interior is beautiful in rich construction of high quality.²⁷

The post office in Pittsburg was rated and declared an office of the first class on July 1, 1913.

Lou Johnson, an appointee of President Wilson, succeeded Mr. Watson in 1915.²⁸

Electric Lines

The history of the electric railway systems of Pittsburg as recorded in the city records had its beginning March 20, 1890 when the city council granted to the Pittsburg Railway Company, promoted by B. F. Hobart, the right

²⁶Interview on July 13, 1933 with Mr. Fitch.

²⁷Since the closing date of this survey (1916), another appropriation was received to be used in enlarging the structure and providing accommodations for an inspector and an income tax collector. The work was completed in December 1931.

²⁸At this writing, July 16, 1933, Mrs. Minnie True, daughter of R. E. Carlton of pioneer days, is in her eleventh year in charge of the Pittsburg post office.

to construct and operate a street railway line on Broadway. The ordinance granting the franchise specified the construction and operation of not less than two miles of track. It also provided for a double track on Broadway from the Frisco to the Missouri Pacific tracks. Another feature was "that all repair shops, rolling stock and offices shall be in Pittsburg, Kansas."²⁹

The work of constructing the road progressed rapidly and the first cars were run over a part of the line October 20, 1890. The road extended north to the zinc smelters and was an accommodation to the employees in going to and from their work. It may be added here that this extension to the smelters meant an additional mile beyond what the contract called for, because Mr. Hobart was interested in promoting the growth of the city and he was a heavy stockholder in both the zinc and smelter companies.³⁰

The company did not build a power house but purchased power from the Pittsburg Gas, Light and Coke Company. When David Ramsay became general manager of the system, a car barn and shop for light repair work was built at the southwest corner of Twentieth and Broadway. The line was operated for several years but was sold to the Pittsburg Frontenac

²⁹City Records, III, 253-258; also Ordinances 216-218.

³⁰Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

and Suburban.³¹

Forest Park Electric Railway.—The next electric line to operate was a cross-town system. The franchise for this was granted to Dr. George W. Williams on July 15, 1891.³² He in turn assigned the franchise to the Forest Park Electric Company. The line again changed management before being completed. It was then in the hands of W. A. Swan, W. D. Ford and Edward Van Gundy.

Forest Park was located at the west end of the line and the company determined at once to make this a place of amusement. A band which had previously entertained crowds on the street at the corner of Fourth and Broadway was engaged to give evening concerts at the new center of amusement, which proved to be quite an attraction to the park.

The line was finally sold to the Pittsburg Frontenac and Suburban Street Railway. It was later abandoned from east Pittsburg to Grand Avenue on Fourth Street and the track and ties were removed.³³

Pittsburg Frontenac and Suburban.—The Pittsburg Frontenac and Suburban Railway secured a thirty-five year franchise shortly after having purchased the Forest Park Line and its

³¹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

³²City Records, II, 18-23.

³³Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

equipment.³⁴ These two lines were to be linked and operated as one.

The new company built its own power house and proposed to extend the line south to Chicopee, a new mining camp. A franchise was drafted and presented to the city council. Although strongly opposed by a rival company,³⁵ the ordinance granting the franchise was passed by a standing vote of five to three.³⁶

The Chicopee extension was constructed during the winter of 1896 and the spring of 1897. The Pittsburg Frontenac and Suburban completed its electric lighting and proceeded to furnish current for electric lighting. Regular service began on April 17, 1897. The entire line extending from Frontenac to Chicopee was then under one management.

The Pittsburg Frontenac and Suburban in 1901 changed its name to the Pittsburg Railroad Company, operating the street railway, and the Pittsburg Light and Power Company operating the electric lighting and power plant. With the completion of the Chicopee line, there was no more extension of the electric railway for nine years.³⁷

³⁴The franchise was granted on September 5, 1894, according to Revised Ordinances (1899), p. 265.

³⁵The Pittsburg Gas Light and Coke Company was serving the city at that time.—Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

³⁶City Records, II, 506.

³⁷Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

In April 1905 Mr. Fred H. Fitch, who had become manager and principal owner of the road, began an extension to Scammon which would eventually end at Columbus. The work was rushed along as fast as conditions would permit. The line was completed from Chicopee to Weir on March 9, 1906, and on March 11, the initial trip was made.³⁸ Service was irregular on account of limited power. The completion of a new power plant at Scammon gave an assurance of sufficient current, and regular service was thus established.

The next move was to extend the line on to Columbus. A provision of the Columbus franchise that the line must be completed by October first, or the company would forfeit a two thousand dollar bonus given it by the city, made it necessary to hasten the last few miles with all possible speed. In order to save this bonus, a large force of workmen worked all night long on the thirtieth of September stringing trolley wires. By morning the line was completed and the bonus was saved. The towns thus linked together by the line were: Frontenac, Pittsburg, Kirkwood, Chicopee, Fleming, Schwab, Daisy Hill, Weir City, Scammon, Stipville, Turck and Mineral.³⁹

Girard Electric Coal Belt Railway.—On March 14, 1907, the Girard Electric Coal Belt Railway Company was launched. All the stockholders were residents of Girard and the capital was

³⁸Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

³⁹Ibid.

home capital.⁴⁰ The line was built from Girard to Ringo and thence to Dunkirk. The main line branched off at Ringo and ran east to Edson, Franklin, Arma and Croweburg. The principal object in constructing and promoting the road was to secure better steam road connections for the mineral output. This road was operated several years and was finally sold to the Heim interests.

Joplin and Pittsburg Electric Railway.—In July 1907, the Joplin and Pittsburg Railway Company agreed to build and have a line in operation between Joplin and Pittsburg within one year. They were granted a franchise for the operation of a street car system but there was no provision for lighting.⁴¹ The Heim interests had been granted a franchise by the city of Joplin and it was rumored that it was their intention to build and operate a street car system linking the coal and mineral belts. Some rivalry was met in this undertaking and the deal was not consummated at that time.⁴²

During the period of construction, the Heim interests, under the name of the Pittsburg and Kansas City Railway Company, purchased the roadbed and rolling stock of the Girard Electric Coal Belt Railway Company and soon afterwards united it with the Joplin and Pittsburg Railway Company. This union

⁴⁰Girard Press, March 14, 1907.

⁴¹City Records, II, 7; also Ordinance 993.

⁴²Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

gave the one system one hundred six miles of electric lines, more than twelve miles of which were within the city limits of Pittsburg.

This system was the connecting link between the coal fields of southeastern Kansas, southwestern Missouri and northern Oklahoma. It was one of the greatest factors in the advancement of Pittsburg, giving the people a regular and dependable passenger service as well as freight service.⁴³

Light and Gas

The old time lanterns, replaced by the coal oil lamps, served satisfactorily in furnishing light during pioneer days. The homeseeker, being thoroughly comfortable with an available supply of cheap coal and common stoves, had no vision of the gas stoves or modern appliances that would replace these lighting and heating facilities in less than two decades. As the town expanded, modern conveniences came to be in demand.

Electricity for lighting was first furnished by a private individual. O. T. Boaz was granted a franchise to furnish the city with electric lights as early as September 11, 1886.⁴⁴

⁴³The decline in the mining industry, the general use of automobile and truck service and the depression in business made the demand for interurban lines less imperative. The service was discontinued gradually, the Frontenac line being the last to withdraw service (1933).

⁴⁴City Records, II, 7; also Ordinance 157.

The Pittsburgh Gas, Light and Coke Company was incorporated in the city in February 1889. On November 1, 1889, this company obtained a franchise to establish, operate and maintain a system for twenty-one years.⁴⁵ Some corrections of the terms were made on February 21, 1890.⁴⁶

The entrance of the electric railway into the city in March 1890 links another phase in the history of lighting facilities. The electric railway company did not build a power house when the line was first built but purchased power from the Pittsburgh Gas, Light and Coke Company. The promoters of the extension of the electric lines were also interested in the smelting industry and the operations of the two were closely allied. The management of the electric railway changed hands several times. The need of furnishing power at the company's expense was evident from an economic standpoint. In 1894 the Pittsburgh Frontenac and Suburban purchased the electric line and erected a power plant on East Twentieth Street. Regular service for the distribution of power from this plant began July 1, 1895. A contest for competition in serving the city then began between the Pittsburgh Light and Coke Company and the Pittsburgh Frontenac and Suburban. It was the all-absorbing question in the minds of those interested and was the occasion of many special

⁴⁵City Records, II, 241; also Ordinance 225.

⁴⁶Ibid., p. 268.

meetings of the city council.⁴⁷ The street car company secured the franchise on April 14, 1897, enlarged the electric lighting plant which they had previously constructed and furnished the current for commercial lighting. The light plant at that time had a capacity of 1000 lights with 800 in use. By 1916 there were more than 5000 users.⁴⁸

The Pittsburg Frontenac and Suburban changed its name to the Pittsburg Light and Power Company in 1902 and still continued to furnish light and power.

In 1905 the Home Light, Heat and Power Company was organized by Morris Cliggit, a prominent attorney. This company purchased the holdings of the Pittsburg Gas, Light and Coke Company in 1905, and in 1907 the holdings of the Pittsburg Railway and Light Company. The stockholders of the Home Light Company were Pittsburg men and the enterprise was financed exclusively with Pittsburg capital. It was the policy of this corporation to make the project a success financially and Mr. Cliggit announced that there would be no extensions for a year at least.⁴⁹

The Home Light Company merged with the Kansas Gas and Electric Company in April 1909 and continued to operate

⁴⁷City Records, II and III; also Revised Ordinances 142, 157, 161 contain detailed accounts of the proceedings.

⁴⁸Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁴⁹Ibid.

under this name until July 15, 1925.⁵⁰

Natural gas was first brought into Pittsburg by the Home Light, Heat and Power Company in 1905. Extension of gas into the city was made possible by making connections with a gas line between Columbus and Joplin. File records show that in 1909 Pittsburg had 2000 users of gas and in 1916 the number had increased to 2800.⁵¹

Water Works

One of the difficult problems that confronted the earlier inhabitants of Pittsburg was the securing of a supply of good water for domestic and public purposes. Wells and cisterns seemed unsatisfactory. The water obtained from the wells was often distasteful, and cistern supply was inadequate. There were no conveniences in cases of fire and the furnishing of water became a serious problem.⁵²

At that time the city was not financially able to construct a water system. A group of public-spirited citizens, who were determined that city water should be provided,

⁵⁰Mr. T. F. Cole, who was superintendent of the Home Light, Heat and Power Company during its existence, became manager of the Kansas Gas and Electric Company. This concern was taken over by the Pittsburg Gas Company, a subsidiary of the Doherty interests under the Cities Service Corporation, July 15, 1925.—Interview on August 15, 1933 with Miss Jennie McClay, office, Pittsburg Gas Company.

⁵¹Interview on August 18, 1933 with Miss McClay.

⁵²Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 44.

arranged to install the plant at their own expense. As in other proposed projects, the usual "Pittsburg Way"⁵³ of doing things was for a number of enterprising citizens to secure a bonus or local aid and to exert every effort until the measure was successfully accomplished.

S. H. Lanyon, H. C. Willard, J. R. Lindburg, D. Miller, A. J. Georgia and O. T. Boaz were the promoters of this project. Early in 1884 O. T. Boaz was sent to Kansas City to make a contract with W. A. Swan for boring a well. The well was to be located on Pine Street, one-half block west of the Stilwell Hotel, on a lot that had been purchased. The work was begun in April and by December, the well had reached a depth of 1203 feet. An abundant supply of water was secured at an expense of five thousand dollars.⁵⁴

The stockholders voted to offer the well as a donation, provided the city would install the works. Even this offer was not accepted. A. H. McCormick came from Parsons the following spring (1885) to make Pittsburg his home. He made a proposition to Mr. Lanyon that he would purchase the property and well provided that he be permitted to subject the well to a severe pumping test before making the purchase. The proposition was accepted; Mr. McCormick made the test. He pumped the well to the capacity of the pump installed

⁵³Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁵⁴Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 44.

and found that it was impossible to lower the water to any appreciable extent. He then purchased the plant on February 28, 1885 for \$3000. He secured a franchise from the city and erected the water works.⁵⁵ A tower was built and surmounted by a large tank which could be filled with water pumped directly from the well. Gravity pressure forced the water from this tower into the mains. Mr. McCormick operated the plant three years under the name of the Pittsburg Public Water Works. He disposed of it to Franklin Playter in 1888.⁵⁶

In 1889 an unaccountable shortage was discovered in the water supply which brought about great consternation among the people. Water was pumped from Playter's lake into the mains during the period of deficiency. This brought many objections and resulted in action being taken by the city council. Mr. Playter was commanded to cease using pond water and to supply the city with pure water, otherwise necessary proceedings would be taken to bring about forfeiture of the franchise granted to the water company.⁵⁷

It was then decided that the city officials be permitted to test the well. The arrangements were that if the inspection disclosed an adequate supply, the owners were to pay for the test, but if it proved that the supply was

⁵⁵Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 45.

⁵⁶Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁵⁷City Records, I, 219.

inadequate, the city should bear the expense. The test was made and an obstruction in the well was discovered. When this obstruction was pushed down by probe, the flow of water again became normal. The water works management gladly paid the expenses of the test which did not exceed \$100.⁵⁸

In the meantime those who considered the water system a failure brought about action to reconsider the question. A meeting at which various plans were proposed was held August 12, 1889, at the Central School building. One plan was to purchase a large tract of land along Cow Creek, northwest of town, to build a dam and levees, and with pumps, mains and settling basins to prepare to pipe water into the city.⁵⁹ This proposition was rejected because it involved too great a cost. Another suggestion was to bore deep wells and in that way obtain an ample supply. Nothing definite came out of this meeting except the appointment of different investigating committees.⁶⁰ At a second meeting it was decided to adopt the deep well plan. The discovery of the obstruction settled the question temporarily.⁶¹

In 1894 Playter and his associates sold the water system to E. O. Emerson of Titusville, Pennsylvania. The new owner

⁵⁸Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁵⁹Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, pp. 44-45.

⁶⁰City Records, II, 224.

⁶¹Ibid., p. 233.

bought additional property (the north quarter of the same block) from W. A. Swan, drilled another well and installed additional facilities. One provision of his franchise was a clause permitting the city to buy the plant, by appraisement, at the termination of any five-year period.⁶²

The agitation for city ownership became so tense that by October 1904, the city council under the leadership of Mayor C. N. Price took steps toward the purchase. For a period of two years little progress was made in the transaction. Mayor H. C. Lemon, who succeeded C. N. Price in 1904, employed the W. E. Palmer Company of Kansas City to make an appraisement of the plant. Palmer's valuation (\$175,822) on July 6, 1906 was unsatisfactory to the water company, and another firm under the management of W. Kierstead of Chicago was employed to make a second appraisement. The result of this award of \$294,100 plus added improvements did not meet the approval of the owners.⁶³ This report was made during Mayor A. B. Kirkwood's term and no definite action was taken. The agitation continued during 1907 and 1908 under Mayor C. A. Fisher's administration. His successor, Morris Cliggitt, took active measures to settle the trouble. He appointed a committee of eighteen citizens and four councilmen to make an investigation whereby terms could be negotiated. The investigation committee at first proposed

⁶²Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁶³Ibid.

to agree on a franchise with the company but its efforts were in vain. The company claimed that the franchise then held was a self-renewing one, and either with or without negotiations constituted a renewal. However, a purchase price of \$360,000 was named.⁶⁴ According to the city expert's estimation, this price was exorbitant. This agitation continued for another three-year period.

The citizens held a special election July 12, 1910 and voted bonds to build a new plant according to plans prepared by W. A. Earl and Company. Notice was then served on the Pittsburgh Water Company that the city intended to build a new plant and that the charter would expire by limitation, April 21, 1911. The question of the legality of the bond election was then presented to the court and later to the legislature.⁶⁵ The question became a very live one in the 1911 session of the legislature. Bills were introduced legalizing all points on which the water company was contesting the question in court. The bill finally passed both houses of the legislature. After continued negotiation, the Pittsburgh Water Company consented to sell the plant for \$225,000 plus an inventory of the material on hand. Again a special election to vote bonds for the purchase was called, and although the

⁶⁴Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926. also interview on

⁶⁵Ibid.

proposition was contested, the vote carried. This, however, did not end the trouble. Buyers refused to buy this bond issue. Six Pittsburg citizens borrowed the money from St. Louis banks to purchase the bonds. They paid five and one-half per cent interest on the money until they could sell the bonds. In this way, the city of Pittsburg became the owner of the water plant in 1911.⁶⁶

The purchase of a water plant already in operation was far more advantageous to the city than the installation of a complete system. The subsequent showing of the yearly receipts and expenditures proved that the purchase was a timely one. Those who had so strongly opposed municipal ownership were thoroughly convinced of their error in the opposition which they had so strongly maintained.⁶⁷

The system has been improved in many ways and increased service has afforded the extension of mains, which have materially aided fire protection. There were thirty-eight miles of mains at the time of the purchase and fifty miles in 1916. Three additional pumps are used to supply the mains. The four wells (two 12-inch, one 8-inch, and one 6-inch), bored to an average depth of 1500 feet, have a capacity of 47,000 gallons of water per minute. The plant is equipped with a 250-horse power boiler.

⁶⁶Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁶⁷Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926; also interview on August 18, 1933 with J. P. Lapworth, superintendent and chief engineer, who began his service with the plant in 1902.

Sewage System

The need of a sanitary sewage system was evident as early as 1887. Those interested in building were handicapped unless a sewage system could be provided. The proposition was discussed at council meetings and by the citizens in general but no definite action was taken at that time. A committee was appointed to investigate the type of system to be used and the probable cost. Some of the citizens preferred a storm system and others insisted on a sanitary drainage system; consequently, little progress was made until 1888.⁶⁸

About this time there was a movement for securing an opera house and other large buildings. The plans for these buildings could not be executed unless sewage could be afforded. The agitation for a sewage system immediately became more active. There was much opposition on account of taxes, but those interested in the erection of the opera house regarded it absolutely essential.⁶⁹

Mayor William Lanyon went to St. Louis and other cities to investigate their sewage systems. On his return he advised the council and citizens that if a drainage system was all that was required, it could be put in at a small cost; but if a sanitary sewer system were built, it would

⁶⁸City Records, II, 80.

⁶⁹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

require a careful investigation and an outlay of possibly \$1000 for plans.⁷⁰

On January 29, 1889, a resolution was submitted and adopted whereby the necessary arrangements were made providing for the construction of sewer and drainage.⁷¹ At the next meeting of the council on February 11, 1889, communication from the city engineer relative to the sewer district was read. Specifications were made for the main sanitary sewer district No. 1 with laterals in the alleys on either side of Broadway, extending north to Sixth Street on the west side and to Seventh on the east side. Ordinance 204 relative to the sewer district was read, considered, passed by sections and passed as a whole on February 14, 1889.⁷²

The council then received bids for constructing the sewer system. These bids, six in number, ranged from \$2066.92 to \$32,724.80 and were referred to the committee on sewage.⁷³ At the following meeting of the city council, the committee reported on these bids. Since J. B. Jenkins and Company offered what the councilmen considered the best as well as the lowest bid, the committee recommended the acceptance

⁷⁰Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁷¹City Records, II, 160-161.

⁷²Ibid., pp. 165-167.

⁷³Ibid., p. 175.

this bid.⁷⁴

Plans and specifications for sanitary sewer district No. 2 were approved by the city council on February 21, 1900.⁷⁵ The plans for creating sewer district No. 3 were introduced January 16, 1901,⁷⁶ and arrangements for the construction of the main the following month.⁷⁷

The construction of the sewage system really meant the inauguration of a building era in the business section and many additions were made both north and south on Broadway. In addition to the sewer systems mentioned, the city has also built storm sewers to provide for the flood waters of the streets. This was an added expense but has proved its worth in the long run for the sewer was too small to carry the volume, resulting in back water and flooding of basements, which caused the city expense for damages.⁷⁸

Paving

Pittsburg, now essentially a city of paved streets, has become largely so since 1912, because previous to that time

⁷⁴The passage of this ordinance meant the erection of the opera house, now the Globe Building, on the southwest corner of Fourth Street and Broadway, and the McCormick Building on the northeast corner of Third Street and Broadway.

⁷⁵City Records, Ordinance 467, IV (no page given).

⁷⁶Ibid., Ordinance 488.

⁷⁷Ibid., Ordinance 489.

⁷⁸Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

only forty-eight projects had been completed.⁷⁸

The first petition for paving was submitted to the city council on August 25, 1890.⁷⁹ Separate bids were let for curbing and paving. The price of paving at that time was \$1.63 per square yard. Later quotations indicate that prices have more than doubled. Previous to 1909, wages of street employees were fixed by agreement between the street superintendent and employees, and ranged from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day. In 1916, laborers were paid \$2.50 and laborers with teams received \$4.00.⁸⁰

Paving and resurfacing the streets has been a great problem to the city and has also furnished labor for many workmen. The city maintains over fifty miles of pavement, and the records of council proceedings prove that the question of street building, widening or improving is foremost among the city's concerns.⁸¹

Telegraph

Western Union.—Telegraph service in Pittsburg was first dispensed from the Frisco railway station. The local agent served also as telegraph operator. The city records show that the Western Union was granted the right to maintain poles and

⁷⁹City Records, II, 320-328.

⁸⁰Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁸¹City Records, II, III, IV.

⁸²Information furnished by Mrs. M. V. Arnold, present operator, August 7, 1933.

lines in streets, alleys and public ways in 1892.⁸²

The first office in the down town section was opened in a small room under the old Playter Opera House, three doors east of the Lanyon Bank. Mr. Fred Fretwell, the first operator in charge, kept the position one year.⁸³ A small room back of the Lindburg drug store served for an office next. In 1900 the office was moved to 105 West Fifth, with Oscar Sharp in charge.

As business expanded, more space was needed and new quarters were taken up at 306 North Broadway.⁸⁴ A manager, an operator, one bookkeeper, one clerk, four messengers and one janitor were employed to take care of the work.⁸⁵

Postal Telegraph.--The volume of business through telegraphic service had increased to such an extent by 1913 that the Postal Telegraph found it profitable to open an office. On September 1, Mrs. Olive G. Ashford was sent here by the company as first manager and provided with an office in the Stilwell Hotel.⁸⁶

⁸²City Records, II, 199.

⁸³Interview on August 28, 1933 with Mr. Dick Fretwell, son of Fred Fretwell. Mr. Dick Fretwell is dispatcher for the Kansas City Southern.

⁸⁴Interview on August 7, 1933 with J. G. Stinnett, present operator.

⁸⁵Two years later, an operator and a messenger were added to the force. New quarters were taken up November 1, 1923 at 105 East Fourth Street. The work is taken care of at present by the manager, one operator and two messengers.

⁸⁶Information furnished by Mrs. M. V. Arnold, present operator, August 7, 1933.

Telephone

Pittsburg's first telephone service came over the Girard Exchange. City records show that maintenance for this exchange was provided by Ordinance 176, under date of June 1, 1887.⁸⁷

In the early days of the smelter, there was telephone connection between the plant and the down town office.⁸⁸ Telephones were becoming more common by December 1887. Provision was made at that time to set up a line to be completed within 120 days.⁸⁹ The rates were fixed; the maximum charge for business houses was to be three dollars and for dwelling houses, two dollars.⁹⁰

A proposition to install a telephone exchange was made by several companies. G. E. Claflin and James A. Bendure made such a proposition to the city council on February 7, 1890,⁹¹ but they did not get a hearing until the twelfth of February, that same year, when the measure was voted on and was passed.⁹² Specifications were not given on this record as to where the line was to run and no reference was made to the location of the office. A. Besse, W. E. Robson and B. D.

⁸⁷City Records, II, 59.

⁸⁸Interview on August 7, 1933 with E. V. Lanyon.

⁸⁹City Records, II, 90.—The record of the minutes of the meeting does not give the name of the company that received the franchise.

⁹⁰City Records, Ordinance 182, II, 90.

⁹¹Ibid., p. 267.

⁹²Ibid., p. 293.

Rankin were subscribers from the opening of the exchange; not one of them claims to have installed the first instrument.⁹³

On June 18, 1890, the time for completion of the telephone system was extended sixty days provided that three free phones would be installed at once for city use and that no poles would be set on the main street.⁹⁴ At the council meeting, June 26, 1890, permission was granted the telephone company to put poles on all streets except Broadway and Fourth Street.⁹⁵

The Missouri-Kansas Telephone Company offered to put in a telephone exchange if the city council would grant a franchise. Action on the proposition was deferred at the meeting on November 19, 1890.⁹⁶ The proposition came up again at the meeting on March 15, 1892 and the permission was granted under Ordinance 298.⁹⁷

Continuous telephone service may be traced from 1892 when the Missouri-Kansas Telephone Company established its system in the Kirkwood building. Henry Love was the first manager. There were 3 employees and 60 subscribers in the beginning; 16 employees and 2,421 subscribers in 1916. A new building was erected at 103-105 West Seventh and was

⁹³Pittsburg Headlight, February 27, 1926.

⁹⁴City Records, II, 308.

⁹⁵Ibid., p. 310.

⁹⁶Ibid., p. 365.

⁹⁷City Records, III, 188.

ready for occupancy in March 1909.

Grant Hornaday, C. W. Penneman and W. B. Hearst, an independent company, installed an exchange in 1892.⁹⁸ Another organization, the Phoenix Telephone Company, built an exchange in 1895. The enterprise was not successful. The equipment was later sold at a sheriff's sale and realized \$500.

On May 3, 1899, under Ordinance 427, U. S. Baressey was granted a franchise to operate a long distance telephone, and on June 1, the Metallic Telephone System, under the direction of E. H. Berry, was given permission to operate in the city.⁹⁹

The following article published in the Pittsburg Kansan under date of January 10, 1901 shows that another system was introduced in Pittsburg.

The Pittsburg Telephone Company is just beginning operation in our city. For several months past a large force of men have been putting in the line. H. E. West is the name of the manager. Eighty-five phones are in working order. Orders are in for over two hundred. The price has been reduced.

The Home Telephone Company, with Mr. E. H. Chapman as manager, began the work of installing an exchange in June

⁹⁸This company was bought out by the Southwestern Telephone Company about 1920. Information furnished by P. V. Jordan, District Manager, Southwestern Telephone Company, on August 15, 1933.

⁹⁹City Records, IV (no page given).

by the various express companies were taken over dated under the name of the American Railway Express Agency. Another change was made in 1929. Since that time the management handling express is known as Railway Express Agency. The records of the several companies forming the consolidation are not available according to Mr. J. J. Fogarty, the local agent.—Interview on August 25, 1933 with Mr. Fogarty.

1903.¹⁰⁰ By October 1 that same year, the line was in operation. The company had a payroll of about twenty employees. The Home System was confined largely to local calls and the Missouri-Kansas operated the long distance exchange.¹⁰¹

Express

In the early days in Pittsburg, express was delivered from the railway station instead of from a special office as in later years. The Adams Express Company was the first to give service. This was in the late seventies. The Pacific Express Company, which handled express which was routed over the Missouri Pacific lines, gave service in the late eighties. John Jennings was in charge. A down town office was opened at 606 North Broadway in 1895.¹⁰² About this time, the Wells Fargo Express Company opened an express office at 112 West Fourth. E. E. Brayman and Elmer Jones were associated with this company in the early days.¹⁰³

¹⁰⁰Interview on August 24, 1933 with Mr. Chapman.

¹⁰¹The Home Telephone Company sold to the Southwestern Company in 1921. A thirty-foot addition was made to the building, located at 106 West Seventh Street, in 1932. This consolidated system now has 82 employees and 4,647 subscribers. —Interview on August 15, 1933 with Mr. P. V. Jordan.

¹⁰²Information furnished by E. V. Lanyon and T. J. Crowell. Both of these men are old time residents and have witnessed the various phases in the development of the city.

¹⁰³In 1918 the various express companies were taken over by the railroad company as an after-war measure and consolidated under the name of the American Railway Express Agency. Another change was made in 1929. Since that time the management handling express is known as Railway Express Agency. The records of the several companies forming the consolidation are not available according to Mr. J. J. Fogarty, the local agent. —Interview on August 25, 1933 with Mr. Fogarty.

CHAPTER IV

PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

Fire Department

Pittsburg, like all towns, had in its infancy the "bucket brigade" for its fire department. There are no records to show that Pittsburg had any large fire hazards in the early times, but records do show that provisions were made to take care of any immediate dangers through organization of volunteer workers.¹

Soon after the first city hall was built in 1886, the hose cart was given a place in the front of the building. When the fire bell rang as a signal, the volunteer firemen, who lived nearest the hose station, would run from their work or from their homes and rush the cart to the fire by their own motive power.

A second company was organized as the town grew and a hose cart was provided for the protection of property in the south part of town. This hose station was a small galvanized iron structure located at the south end of Pine Street on Kansas Avenue.²

The growth of the city, as well as advancement in style of architecture bringing increased height to buildings,

¹City Records II, 311.

²Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

necessitated ladders. A truck with hooks, ladders and ropes was provided and housed in the central station where another team of volunteer workers was organized. W. H. Holmes, then chief of police, was captain of the central team with R. L. Berger, assistant police head, as Holmes' assistant. Residents of East Pittsburg, who were employed at the smelters, organized a company and a hose cart was provided for them.³ The city records of July 1, 1890 give a report made on the locations of two fire stations, one on the city lots on Forest Avenue and the other on the first lot south of the Missouri Pacific station.⁴

The city government passed ordinances regarding the fire department. By December 16, 1890, each member of the team was being paid a small compensation in addition to pay for regular fire calls.⁵ On March 2, 1892, an ordinance was passed to provide for the protection of the fire alarm system.⁶

With expansion of the city, runs were too long and often the firemen were exhausted before reaching the scene of the fire. In the winter of 1897, it was suggested that a paid fire department be instituted and provided with horses, equipment and everything necessary to insure speedy

³Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁴City Records, II, 311.

⁵Ibid., p. 374, Ordinance 264.

⁶City Records, III; 186, Ordinance 296.

arrival at the scene of disaster.⁷ It was decided that the two departments could work in conjunction, the paid department doing the regular work and the volunteer department being subject to call on second alarm. W. H. Holmes and R. L. Berger were appointed by the city council on November 11, 1897 to find out the cost of equipment. They estimated that a hook and ladder, two horses, harness and hangars and the remodeling of the hose house would cost \$735.⁸

The first paid fire department was established February 11, 1898. The city council appointed W. H. Holmes chief at a salary of forty dollars a month. There were three other members appointed. The driver was paid forty-five dollars a month and each fireman forty dollars a month. All members were to be on duty subject to call day or night. Sleeping quarters were provided over the first station.⁹ The minutes of the council meeting of March 1, 1899 carried an account of the fire marshal's report. This report for the year ending March 1, 1899 showed the expenses to be \$2389.¹⁰ At this same meeting, it was suggested that a telephone be put in the fireman's room to serve as a fire alarm.¹⁰

⁷City Records, III, 526.

⁸Interview on August 21, 1933 with Thomas Howe, fire chief. Mr. Howe served in this capacity from October 1891 to September 16, 1916. He resumed this position in May 1933.

⁹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

¹⁰City Records, IV (no page given).

¹¹City Records, IV (no page given).

The growth of the north end of the town was so great by 1907 that the people in that district demanded better fire protection. To meet the demand, the city council called an election for the purpose of voting bonds. The bonds were voted and the station was built at 1412 North Joplin and was fully equipped. *Pressure, made on November 1, 1913, showed*

Because of the increased growth of the south part of Pittsburg around the Teachers College it was found necessary either to locate a station where the runs would be shorter or to install speedier service. Motor truck equipment rather than a third fire station was the solution of Mayor N. H. Skourup. The council supported him and a plan was worked out to rebuild the central fire station and to install motor trucks. The council called a special election August 22, 1913 to authorize a bond issue for this purpose, designating September 30 as the time for voting. The plan of the council was to build a new central station on the city lots at the rear of Fourth and Pine, across from the Y. M. C. A. building. This bond issue was defeated.¹¹

City authorities decided their plans were essential for the proper protection of property and they had a special bill passed in the legislature at Topeka authorizing cities owning water plants to take funds from their profits and improve the fire fighting facilities. The theory advanced to secure this law was that the water works were in part

¹¹City Records, IV (no page given).

created for fire protection and that unless there was a way provided to get the water from the mains to the fire, there could be no protection. This law gave the city council the right to get the needed fire fighting equipment. Mains were extended to the Teachers College and the first test of the water pressure, made on November 1, 1913, showed that the pressure was adequate. Since then all of Pittsburg has been amply protected from fire and few severe fires have gained headway.¹²

Public Health

A board of health, such as we have today, was not known in the early days of Pittsburg. The greatest difficulties confronting the pioneer doctors were the enforcing of quarantines and the inadequate means of checking epidemics.

City records show that provision was made in the early eighties for the building of a pest house,¹³ but no data are furnished as to what disease was making headway or where the house was built.

Another ordinance under date of January 4, 1882,¹⁴ was stated thus:

¹²Interview on August 21, 1933 with Mr. Thomas Howe, fire chief.

¹³City Records, I, 98.

¹⁴Ibid., pp. 49-50.

¹⁵City Records, Ordinance 422, IV (no page given).

Jan. 4., 1882. At meeting of city council it was voted to purchase \$5.00 worth of vaccine for the purpose of vaccinating poor people or those unable to pay for the same and that it be left in the hands of the city clerk for distribution to all physicians who would vaccinate free of charge and furnish to the city clerk the names of all vaccinated.

In the early times as occasion demanded, the mayor appointed a board of health, but there does not seem to be any definite regulation as to the function of the board or time of service.¹⁵ Such an appointment was made by Mayor R. E. Carlton, April 16, 1886, and approved by the city council.¹⁶

As the town grew, more professional men including doctors became its inhabitants. Regulations were made for these doctors to take up their practice.¹⁷ In a council meeting in September 1898, an ordinance regulating the practice of medicine and surgery was introduced and referred to the committee on ordinances.¹⁸ The ordinance passed at the regular meeting of the city council on December 21, 1898.

Only indefinite data are available as to particular work ascribed to a formal board of health or to accomplishments until 1913. Records are kept since that time.

¹⁵Interview on August 15, 1933 with Dr. A. Moberg.

¹⁶The following officers were appointed: C. A. Fisher, G. W. Williams, Andrew Brown, J. C. Morrill and O. Scott.

¹⁷The law requiring doctors to register was not passed in Kansas until 1901.

¹⁸City Records, Ordinance 422, IV (no page given).

Pittsburg Charity and Humane Society.—To a local minister is due the credit of initiating the Pittsburg Charity and Humane Society. The Reverend Gardner, pastor of the Congregational Church, was walking down the street in October 1909 and noticed a number of children playing and loafing in the street. He inquired the reason and found that the children did not have suitable clothing or books; hence, they were staying out of school. He stated the case to his congregation the next Sunday. It was voted to make inquiries, to provide a meeting place in the basement of the church then located on West Third, and to engage Mrs. Sara McFarlane to organize the work and try to improve conditions. The members of the congregation contributed to the cause and agreed to pay Mrs. McFarlane thirty-five dollars a month for her services.

The Women's Federation of Clubs became interested immediately in the project. They called a meeting at which W. A. Gibbons, a welfare worker from Kansas City, was invited to speak and give an outline for the organization of welfare work. Otto Greef and J. A. Wells were appointed to draw up a charter. The work was organized and the charter was granted under the name of the Pittsburg Charity and Humane Society on December 14, 1909.¹⁹ A membership drive was launched and three hundred members secured. The fee was one dollar a year. This started a fund and with the liberal donations made by

¹⁹See Appendix for names of officers.

some of the merchants of the city, the new organization was able to do some work. Mrs. McFarlane was then authorized to investigate conditions to promote sanitation and to help the needy.²⁰ A free employment bureau was established. Mrs. McFarlane was made police matron in 1913. In June 1913, the headquarters were moved to West Fourth; then to a house at 206 North Pine; and in 1915 to the former city hospital.²¹

In the meantime, the public health was also promoted by the efforts of the doctors who labored to improve conditions in general. Valuable services have been rendered by the different doctors who have filled the office of county health officer, and also by the Public Health Nursing Association.²² The different church organizations took care of the members of their respective congregations.

²⁰The report for the year 1913, submitted January 1914 by Mrs. McFarlane shows that 535 visits were made; 7,920 garments, 10,075 loaves of bread and 559 baskets of provisions were distributed; clothing and school books furnished to 950 children.—Interview on August 23, 1933 with Mrs. Elizabeth Drake, a co-worker of Mrs. McFarlane in the later years.

²¹The Pittsburg Charity and Humane Society moved quarters from the old city hospital in March 1917 because of the expense of the upkeep and used an ordinary dwelling house until 1925. The next move was to 407 North Walnut, to a house belonging to the city. In October 1931, it was decided to change headquarters again. The place selected was 707 North Pine.—Interview on August 23, 1933 with Mrs. Drake.

A new arrangement was made on December 1, 1932 when, after investigation by a committee of five with Mr. E. D. Henneberry as chairman, it was decided to consolidate the local Red Cross with the Pittsburg Charity and Humane Society. All relief, public and private, is centralized under one unit. Miss Marie Youngberg is trained executive and manager.—Information concerning the new arrangement furnished by Miss Youngberg.

²²Interview on August 28, 1933 with Miss Theo Babcock, Public Health Nurse.

Hospitals

Pittsburg City Hospital.—An old building located at Third and Walnut served as the first hospital in Pittsburg. This was founded by Dr. George Williams in 1894. Doctor Williams came to Pittsburg in 1881 as the successor of Doctor Watkins. He saw the great need of a hospital. He often found it necessary to perform an emergency operation in the homes. He is said to have performed the first major surgical operation in Pittsburg.²³

It was with some difficulty that the hospital was started as there was no fund back of the institution to provide for non-paying patients. Though called "City Hospital," it received no specified appropriation from the city; it was maintained and operated almost exclusively by private capital.

The city records show that on October 12, 1896 the sale of thirty-five tickets at \$10.00 each was authorized by the city council. The money was to be used for charitable purposes—the erection of a city hospital.²⁴ The new building, called the Samaritan Hospital, maintaining thirty-five beds, was built at Eighth and Olive in 1897.²⁵

As time went on, the charity list assumed proportions

²³Interview on August 24, 1933 with Mrs. Charles Smith, daughter of Dr. George Williams.

²⁴City Records, II, 507.

²⁵The staff consisted of the following doctors: George W. Williams, William Williams, A. C. Blair and A. C. Graves.

and aid was sought from the state. An appropriation of \$800 annually was received for several years.²⁶ A report on the work for one year was read at the council meeting, February 6, 1901.²⁷

The new hospital continued to serve the needs of the people for a time, but the commercial and industrial development of the city demanded more facilities for hospitalization.

The Samaritan Hospital was operated for about eighteen years and was closed in 1912, a short time before the death of its founder, Dr. George W. Williams. The building was occupied after 1915 by the Pittsburg Charity and Humane Society.²⁸

Mt. Carmel Hospital.—The need of additional hospital facilities was felt soon after the Samaritan Hospital was established in the new location (1897). Although that small institution was serving well, the town was growing fast and many of the doctors were anxious to secure a location outside the city limits and in the immediate region of the mining district. It was quite desirable to secure a site easy of access so that the victims of mine accidents could

²⁶Information furnished by E. V. Lanyon. Mr. Lanyon was mayor, 1897-1898.

²⁷The total number of patients attended was 485; of these 320 were railroad cases, 132 were citizens of the community and 49 were charity cases.—Pittsburg Kansan, February 7, 1901.

²⁸Information furnished by Mrs. Charles Smith.

receive prompt attention. Those interested in the project consulted Rt. Rev. John J. Hennessey, bishop of the Wichita diocese, as to the possibility of getting some Sisters from Wichita to take charge of the proposed hospital in Pittsburg.²⁹

The establishment of a hospital was assured in 1898 when C. J. Devlin, manager of the Mt. Carmel Coal Company, presented the Sisters of St. Joseph a forty-acre tract of land, two miles north and one-half mile east of Pittsburg.³⁰ The land was donated with the understanding that a hospital should be erected and Mr. Devlin issued the first check to be used in the construction of the building.³¹

Another substantial aid and encouragement to further progress was the mutual agreement with the Santa Fe railroad and operating companies to take care of their employees for the consideration of eighty dollars and fifteen tons of coal each month. Business men of Pittsburg and Frontenac and miners of District 14 aided with funds for the erection of the first structure and continued to contribute liberal amounts during the following year for the maintenance of the institution.

Early in 1901, four Sisters of St. Joseph came from Wichita to plan and superintend the details of furnishing

²⁹Kennedy, Sister M. Louis, Thesis, History of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the Diocese of Wichita.

³⁰Ibid.

³¹This check was for the generous amount of \$5000.

the hospital. The work was personally supervised by Mother M. Bernard Sheridan with Sister M. Francis Hayden, local superior.

Records of the hospital indicate that work was begun in the fall of 1901. The contract for furnishing the brick for the entire building was given to the Pittsburg Vitrified Paving Brick Company, of which H. R. Nesch was manager. In November 1901, F. M. Ferrell contracted for placing the sewer, grading the ground and erecting the foundation.

In less than two years the building, which accommodated forty patients, was completed and furnished and ready for occupancy. It was formally opened to the public with appropriate exercises on the day of its dedication, April 13, 1903.

The Pittsburg Headlight of April 14, 1903 in commenting on the new hospital, following its dedication, says:

The plans and intentions of the Sisters are to eventually enlarge the hospital, the complete edifice to be a structure of three large wings and built at the cost of \$75,000. For the present, however, the hospital consists of the south wing. It is in itself, however, a complete hospital and one of the best arranged buildings of its kind in the West.

Mount Carmel Hospital is a credit to the Sisters of St. Joseph and to the Catholic Church of the Wichita diocese. It is an institution which Pittsburg is proud to have located here. It is an institution of charity, and will especially prove a blessing to the unfortunate miners of the district.

Interview on August 15, 1933 with Sister M. Leo, superior.
The rooms are well arranged; the laundry, kitchen, dining

rooms and storerooms are located on the lower floor; the nurses have been graduated from the training school.—Interview on August 23, 1933, with Sister M. Benigna, M. N., Superintendent of Nurses.

office, reception room, patients' rooms and wards, laboratory and storerooms on the second floor; chapel, dormitory, six wards and the operating room on the third floor; dormitory and storerooms on the fourth floor. All portions of the building contain equipment equal to that of any modern hospital of its day.³²

An early venture that has proved successful was the establishment of a training school for nurses. There were no student-nurses, however, until 1906, at which time Sister M. Alphonsus assumed charge of the training school. The number of students enrolled increased with the growing institution.³³

Within a few years after the construction of the original building, it was evident that the structure was inadequate for the needs of the district. Some changes were made which provided more rooms for patients, and the first addition to the building was opened in 1907. This provided a chapel, dormitories for the Sisters and nurses, and three rooms for patients.

In 1915 an annex was constructed providing a heating plant in the basement, a thoroughly modern equipped laundry on the first floor, and nine rooms for patients on the

³²Interview on August 15, 1933 with Sister M. Leo, supervisor of Mt. Carmel Hospital.

³³Since that time approximately two hundred registered nurses have been graduated from the training school.—Interview on August 23, 1933, with Sister M. Benigna, R. N., Superintendent of Nurses.

second floor.³⁴

During the years of its existence, thousands of patients have been cared for.³⁵ Persons of all denominations receive equal attention. Many patients who are unable to pay are admitted and accorded the same good care as those who can take care of their hospital expenses. It is the first and foremost principle of the Sisters to extend charity to those in need.

In addition to fifteen Sisters actively engaged in the hospital work, there are twenty student nurses. The hospital retains the services of many registered nurses and has a payroll of sixteen employees.

A large corps of medical men and nurses serve the public from this institution. The hospital staff includes many of the prominent physicians of Pittsburg and surrounding district.³⁶ The city doctors have benefited the hospital

³⁴The latest addition built on the east of the original structure is the new main building which was completed in May 1919. This portion consists of emergency room, offices, record room, drug room and living rooms on the first floor, patients' rooms on the second floor, operating rooms, X-ray room, laboratory and kindred departments on the third floor, and the student-nurses' apartments on the fourth floor. With this addition, the hospital now maintaining eighty beds and having all modern equipment, was ranked "A" by the American College of Surgeons.

³⁵The total is 30,540; 1,028 of which were admitted in 1916, according to Sister M. Pius, recorder.

³⁶Nine doctors composed the staff in 1916. The present number is seventeen.—Interview on August 21, 1933 with Sister M. Leo, Superintendent of Mt. Carmel Hospital.

materially and in turn have contributed their share in alleviating the sufferers. Pioneers in the promotion of the hospital were the late Dr. R. Gibb, and Dr. H. H. Bogle and Dr. A. Moberg.³⁷

The untiring efforts of the doctors and the indefatigable labors of the Sisters following the course paved by the pioneers have made possible the success of Mt. Carmel Hospital. The efficient and far-sighted management which brought about modern equipment has proved that Mt. Carmel ranks high among the assets of Pittsburgh.

Pittsburg Emergency Hospital.--The Pittsburg Emergency Hospital, located at 126 East Third Street, was operated by Dr. U. A. D. Collelmo, assisted by Doctor Nichols in 1915. As the name indicates, the real purpose was to meet the immediate needs of the city. It had modern equipment and accommodated twelve patients. Doctor Hartman of this city and Doctor Deal of Weir were on the staff.³⁸ A trained nurse, assisted by three practical nurses, was supervisor.

The hospitals in general have had a far-reaching effect in promoting public health. The doctors and nurses have

³⁷The late Dr. C. A. Smith, after his return in 1907 from a year's study abroad, gave twenty years of devoted service to Mt. Carmel. Doctor Smith served as chief of the staff for several years.

³⁸This hospital closed in 1918. The equipment was sold to the Girard Hospital.--Interview on August 28, 1933 with Dr. U. A. D. Collelmo.

rendered valuable services.³⁹

city election on April 5 of that year and was carried by a large majority.⁴¹

Library

The nucleus of the Pittsburg Library was an Academic Literary Club founded by the Reverend J. A. Pompeney, D. D. in September 1894. The purpose of the organization of this club was the circulation of books for the use of members and their friends. Later the club promoted the use of the state traveling library by citizens.⁴⁰

The club also engaged in weekly social functions. At one such gathering in September 1896, the idea of a public library was suggested and met with the hearty approval of all present. Mr. J. Randolph, a prominent lawyer of the city at whose home this meeting was held was most active in promoting the enterprise.

The Pittsburg Public Library was organized January 5, 1898, when the citizens presented a monster petition and asked for a library. A tax levy was then proposed for its

³⁹Other hospitals that have been established since the closing date of this survey are: Dr. E. Owensby's Hospital (1920) whose first location was over the Coulter-McGuire Clothing store, Fifth and Broadway, and later in the South Broadway Apartments; Community Hospital (1922) located on the second floor of the Globe Building, Fourth and Broadway; Dr. M. Montee's Maternity Hospital (1923) on South Broadway. The Community Hospital is the only one of these which is now in existence. This hospital accommodates thirty-five patients. Dr. R. M. Markman is chief of the medical staff.

⁴⁰Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

See Appendix for the names of the club members.

⁴¹Interview on July 6, 1933 with Mrs. Theresa Randolph, Librarian.

maintenance. The question was submitted to a vote at the city election on April 5 of that year and was carried by a large majority.⁴¹

Mayor E. V. Lanyon appointed a library board⁴² whose members very consistently saved the money derived from the levy, bought books and equipment and set aside a sum sufficient to meet the current expenses. This continued until January 18, 1902 when the public library was formally opened with Miss Ella Buchanan serving as librarian.⁴³

The first building to house the library was a part of the city hall.⁴⁴ The west end of the section now used by the city clerk and commissioners was shelved and contained 1,601 volumes.⁴⁵

Morris Cliggit was elected first president of the Library Board. Through his efforts much was done to build up the interests of the library. At his death, he bequeathed his private library which consisted of 3,345 volumes to the project he had so earnestly promoted.

In 1909 funds were solicited for the erection of an

⁴¹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁴²See Appendix for names of the members of the library board.

⁴³Miss Buchanan served in this capacity until 1908. At that time Mrs. Theresa G. Randolph, the present librarian, assumed charge.

⁴⁴City Records, V, 80.

⁴⁵Interview on July 6, 1933 with Mrs. Theresa Randolph, Librarian.

exclusive library building. The site selected extends from the city hall grounds to Walnut Street, fronting Fourth Street.⁴⁶ The building is of stone and is so arranged that the whole library is maintained on the main floor. It was designed by Patton and Miller of Chicago, and the contract was let to S. S. Geatches for \$37,122.⁴⁷ The corner stone was laid September 10, 1910 in the presence of the library board, city officials and a host of citizens. The work progressed rapidly and the building was dedicated on January 12, 1912.⁴⁸

The growth of the library has been phenomenal. The number of books added each year has increased the original number 100 per cent. In 1916 there were 15,397 volumes and 9,152 registered borrowers.⁴⁹

Chamber of Commerce

This corporation had its beginning in 1885 under the name of the Pittsburg Commercial Club. In 1889 a reorganization was effected under the title of Pittsburg Board of Trade. At that time a fund of \$100,000 was raised to promote

⁴⁶See Appendix for the names of the building committee.

⁴⁷Wm. E. Connelley, op. cit., III, 1358.

⁴⁸Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁴⁹The number of volumes at present is approximately 25,000; the number of registered borrowers, 16,000; active borrowers, 12,000.—Interview on August 25, 1933 with Mrs. Randolph.

August 25, 1933 with C. B. Weeks, Secretary and Manager of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce.

enterprises in the city. This resulted in the establishment of smelters, lumber yards, sash and door factories, brick plants, a boiler factory and other industries. Most of these enterprises prospered and many of them became large and influential industries that gave employment to many of the citizens of Pittsburg.⁵⁰ Pittsburg has been well provided

with The Board of Trade eventually gave place to the Chamber of Commerce which has done a splendid service in advancing civic and industrial progress in the city and surrounding vicinity. and engaging in races or games. A race track

was The Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce has a definite program whose major projects include industrial, agricultural, highway, trade and civic development and college affairs.⁵¹

directly across from the Lindburg Drug Store.²

Charles Hunter, who built the Hunter Amphitheater, was the pioneer showman in the city. He started out with wagon and made Pittsburg his winter quarters for the circus and menagerie. The amphitheater was the chief center of amusement in the early eighties. It occupied one-half of the block on the northwest corner of Third Street and Locust, having the part of the structure facing Third Street circular in shape. The Hunter Amphitheater was used by traveling

⁵⁰Wm. E. Connelley, op. cit., V, 2276.

⁵¹The present membership is three hundred. The Chamber of Commerce has recently engaged in a new phase of activity in the present National Relief Association work.—Interview on August 7, 1933 with G. B. Weeks, Secretary and Manager of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce.

CHAPTER V

RECREATION FACILITIES

Theatres and Amusements

From her early days, Pittsburgh has been well provided with various types of amusement. The earlier sports included foot races, horseshoe throwing, horse races, wrestling matches and croquet games. The back yards afforded the first places for meeting and engaging in races or games. A race track¹ was laid off in the pioneer days; it was located on West Fourth Street across from the Hull and Dillon Meat Packing Plant. A croquet ground was located on Fourth Street directly across from the Lindburg Drug Store.²

Charles Hunter, who built the Hunter Amphitheater, was the pioneer showman in the city. He started out with wagon and made Pittsburgh his winter quarters for the circus and menagerie. The amphitheater was the chief center of amusement in the early eighties. It occupied one-half of the block on the northwest corner of Third Street and Locust, having the part of the structure facing Third Street circular in shape. The Hunter Amphitheater was used by traveling theatrical companies and also for entertainments given by

¹The race track was later abandoned as other types of amusement were developed.

²Interview on August 7, 1933 with T. J. Crowell.

local talent. This building served the general public many years and was the forerunner of a real opera house. Very often small traveling circuses or old-time wagon shows other than Mr. Hunter's³ took up winter quarters in Pittsburg and helped to provide occasional entertainments.

In 1887 the Payton Comedy Company arrived in Pittsburg. The cast included thirty performers. There was no theatre to accommodate the troupe. The second floor of a store building on the east side of Broadway between Third Street and Fourth Street was equipped with a temporary stage and facilities for performances. The place was rented and for more than five weeks the actors played to crowded houses, exhausted their repertoire of plays and moved on, leaving to the amusement seekers of Pittsburg the idea of the necessity of a real show house.⁴

Franklin Playter, who was always active in promoting projects for the advancement of the city, succeeded in interesting J. Foster Rhodes of Chicago in the new undertaking. The type of structure desired necessitated a basement for sanitary drainage and the heating system under the entire building. At that time Pittsburg had no sewage system, and the promoters of the opera house and other proposed buildings

³Mr. Hunter was also interested in farming. He owned a farm southeast of town and kept some of his animals there; eventually he became a resident of Pittsburg.—Interview on August 15, 1933 with C. B. Hunter Jr.

⁴Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁷Both banks later liquidated.

asked the city council for aid in the project. No definite action was taken immediately. The final decision of the council to grant the petition⁵ insured the building of the opera house and preparations were then begun for its erection on Fourth Street and Broadway.

The Rhodes Theatre was the first building erected in Pittsburg that was modern in every respect. The building was three stories high, with frontage of fifty feet on Broadway and one hundred seventy feet on Fourth Street.⁶ One portion of the lower floor was occupied by the Manufacturers National Bank and another division was Mr. Playter's office. The latter eventually became the Pittsburg Savings Bank.⁷ The second and third floors were equipped for the opera house. This was the chief center of amusement until the erection of the La Belle Theatre. When it was no longer needed as a theatre, the second floor was remodeled into office rooms and the third floor became lodge and living rooms. The National Bank of Pittsburg now owns and occupies the building.

The next center of diversion to be established was a park theatre at Forest Park in 1891. This was erected and operated by W. W. Bell. The great impetus to its patronage was the completion of the Forest Park Electric Railway's

⁵City Records, I, 160-161; also Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁶Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁷Both banks later liquidated.

western terminus, band concerts and other amusements besides the vaudeville theatre furnished further attractions.⁸

The La Belle Theatre, located at the corner of Locust Street and Fourth Street was another project promoted by W. W. Bell in 1894. Mr. Bell was instrumental in forming a corporation interested in the erection of a three-story building. The stage was large and the auditorium had a seating capacity of one thousand five hundred.⁹ The venture was not a paying one and the proposition was abandoned. The building went into the hands of the investors who reopened it with moving pictures. In 1896, the La Belle Theatre and the Braden livery barn on the east were destroyed by fire.

Mr. Bell's next speculation was an open air summer theatre for showing vaudeville, known as the Airdome, located at the northwest corner of Tenth and Broadway. The venture was rather short-lived; the Airdome was abandoned and later torn down.¹⁰

The first moving picture show in Pittsburg was given in a store building at 208 North Broadway on September 17, 1907. This was a local undertaking operated by John Simion and R. A. Williams. In January 1908, the show was moved to 314

⁸Horse racing again became popular. A number of fast horses were brought in.

⁹Interview on August 25, 1933 with Mrs. M. Sanford, daughter of W. W. Bell.

¹⁰Interview with Mrs. Sanford.

North Broadway. Movies immediately became popular and it was not long until the Mystic (1908) and the Electric (1909) theatres were operating. The latter was finally absorbed by the Klock Theatre.¹¹

The Pittsburg Amusement Association, formed in 1915, built the Colonial Theatre and took over the management of the Klock. Both were leased to the Midland Theatre. These places were provided with large stages and were suitable for use by theatrical companies. The Grand Theatre, erected in 1914 by Ira Clemens, was used exclusively for motion pictures.¹²

The Kansas State Teachers College, since the time of its establishment as the State Manual Training Normal, has provided a large share of amusement and entertainment for the people of Pittsburg. The rendition of the "Messiah" begun in 1910, as the climax of the spring musical festival, has been an annual affair since music was added to the curriculum. Many other notable attractions are presented by the college.¹³

¹¹E. H. Klock had been engaged in the grocery business. He gave that up and remodeled the building for a moving picture and vaudeville theatre, and has made a success of the theatre business.

¹²Interview on August 28, 1933 with Mrs. E. T. Frazier, daughter of Mr. Klock.

¹³Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

¹⁶Pittsburg Sun, February 28, 1926.

¹⁷Ibid.

Parks

Forest Park, which was mentioned in connection with electric railways, was perhaps Pittsburg's first fixed public place for outside recreation. By 1891 it furnished many attractions.¹⁴ In the pioneer days of the city, the inclinations for amusements were as varied and as numerous as we find them today, though the types of recreation were entirely different.

Idle Hour Park, located about six miles southwest of Pittsburg, was the scene of many revels; before it became semi-public, it was largely patronized by the business men of the city.¹⁵ Eventually it was abandoned as a place of recreation and in 1914 the same grounds became the permanent location of the Country Club.¹⁶

Playter's Lake and surrounding grounds, later to become Lakeside Park, were laid out by Mr. Playter; it was generally understood that he intended the site to be a city park, provided it would be used for this exclusive purpose. His aim was to increase the value of his property and beautify the city. The mayor and city council refused the offer so it remained private property for years.¹⁷ The citizens in the

¹⁴City Records, II, 203.

¹⁵The land was owned by the Heim Brewery Company of Kansas City.

¹⁶Pittsburg Sun, February 28, 1926.

¹⁷Ibid.

vicinity of the lake attempted to interest others in the purchase of the property. Two bond elections were called but both times the measure was defeated. It was finally purchased in 1913 by private individuals.¹⁸

Lincoln Park had its beginning when the Russell Post, G. A. R., the local Civil War veterans, took the initiative in fitting up the wooded section between Catalpa and Georgia and extending from Tenth to Twelfth as a place to hold reunions and Chautauqua assemblies. It was used by these war veterans for many years and proved to be a successful enterprise, for the Lincoln Park Association, in 1905, asked permission to introduce park amusements.¹⁹ As the ranks of the veterans lessened and financial responsibilities increased, they offered to sell it to Pittsburg for a city park. A communication was sent on August 9, 1905 to the city council suggesting this disposal.²⁰ This proposition was referred to a committee who advised Mayor H. C. Lemon to call a special election for the purpose of voting bonds for the purchase. The council decided to wait until the petition for purchase should be presented by the people.²¹

¹⁸In October 1920 a number of public-spirited citizens purchased the land and donated it to the city as a public park--Lakeside. It has become a popular rendezvous for all but is especially enjoyed by the children as a favorite haunt in all seasons.

¹⁹City Records, V, 530.

²⁰Ibid., p. 589.

²¹Ibid., p. 600.

The City Federation of Women's Clubs was largely responsible for the movement which brought about the purchase in 1906. The original site, containing thirty-one acres, has been enlarged through other purchases and donations.²²

A pavilion was erected in 1911 and various improvements have been added from time to time. Lincoln Park proved to be one of the popular recreational centers in southeast Kansas.²³

Transportation to and from the park was limited at first, but at length the Joplin and Pittsburg electric lines extended their service in May 1914, offering convenient transportation on all occasions.²⁴

The park is maintained through an annual levy and the people feel that it is an excellent investment. Much gratitude is due the promoters who encountered bitter opposition when the city was asked to consider the purchase.

Grade Schools.—The first school in the new town was not built until 1877 although there was a rural school in nearly the same location as early as 1870. This school was known as District No. 50.¹ A. J. Georgia, Pittsburg's first postmaster, who later became one of the teachers in the new town,

²²Fourteen acres were purchased in 1915 and six acres in 1923. The Nesch family presented a larger tract to the city in 1924. In 1925 the Lions' Club leased ten acres adjoining the park for a golf course.

²³Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

²⁴When automobiles became the common means of transportation, the street car service was suspended, except for special events.

received \$22.50 per month CHAPTER VI

Apparently the SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS a school building until 1874. Notation 1: Schools the records³ that on May 13 of that year a bond election was called and nine votes were cast favoring the issuance of bonds to purchase a house for

sch Material prosperity and education go hand in hand. A history of the schools of Pittsburg forms an important chapter in the growth and development of the city.

Scho It has been said that the development of schools in a mining town is quite uncertain because the population is often transient. Pittsburg, however, may be cited as an exception. The earliest settlers of the town had the opportunity to patronize a district school which, though poorly organized as compared with the system of later times, gave some advantages to the pioneers.

Grade Schools.—The first school in the new town was not built until 1877 although there was a rural school in nearly the same location as early as 1870. This school was known as District No. 50.¹ A. J. Georgia, Pittsburg's first postmaster, who later became one of the teachers in the new town, was one of the teachers in District No. 50. His salary was \$37.50 per month. The other teacher, Julia E. Darrow,

¹The records of this school, showing a total of fifty-nine pupils enrolled with an average daily attendance of thirty-two pupils were found on May 11, 1926 in a sealed vault in the Junior High School, according to the Pittsburg Headlight of May 19, 1926.

received \$22.50 per month.²

Apparently the district did not own a school building until 1874. Notation is made in the records³ that on May 13 of that year a bond election was called and nine votes were cast favoring the issuance of bonds to purchase a house for school purposes.⁴

With the location of the first school (District No. 49 in Pittsburg) District No. 50 passed out of existence. School District No. 49, which now comprises Pittsburg, was organized early in January 1877. This was the last official act of A. J. Georgia, the retiring county superintendent.⁵

An extract of the report⁶ which was made to the Board of Education on June 30, 1916 is here cited:

There are 5360 acres of land in the entire district of which 2780 are within the city limits. . . . There are 8-3/8 sections of land in the district. . . . The greatest length is on a north and south line west of Broadway and is 4 miles long; the greatest width is on an east and west line on Fourth Street and is 3 miles long. . . .

²See Appendix for names of the members of the school board.

³Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁴The amount of the bonds was not recorded.—Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926; also interview on August 15, 1933 with Miss Thelma Werme, Secretary of the Board of Education.

⁵Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁶Annual Report of the Board of Education of Pittsburg Public Schools, 1915-1916. The report was made of all the schools in District 49 of Crawford County and included the entire city of Pittsburg and considerable adjacent territory.

During the summer of 1877, the first schoolhouse, a frame building twenty-eight by forty, two stories high, was erected at a cost of \$1200. The building was located on Walnut between Fifth and Sixth Streets where the Central School building now stands.⁷

From the time school was started in the frame building until April 16, 1884, except in two instances, records of the school board activities evidently were not kept or, if kept, they have been lost.⁸ One instance of which there is a record is that of the construction of a two-story frame building on the same site with the original building. This building, erected some time before April 1884, later known as Tinsdall Boarding House, was sold and moved to Third Street and Walnut where it was used as a hospital. No construction price was recorded. The other instance of a school board activity in the period is furnished in the minutes of a special meeting called on June 14, 1883 to vote \$10,000 in bonds for a new school building. This building, familiarly known as the "Old School Building," was located between Tenth and Eleventh Streets on Broadway and later became Pittsburg's first high school.⁹

⁷C. M. Light, "Crawford County," in Columbian History of Education in Kansas, p. 115.

⁸Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926, and interview on August 15, 1933 with Miss Thelma Werme, Secretary of the Board of Education.

⁹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

Evidently the school board in those times had power to call bond elections. According to the minutes of a school meeting held June 14, 1883, such an election was called.

A petition praying the school board to call an election to vote bonds to the amount of \$10,000 for the purpose of building a schoolhouse in said district 49 was presented and considered by the board.¹⁰

There were 414 signatures on the petition. On motion the prayer of the petitioners was granted and the election was ordered to be held June 25. The election was held, the bonds voted and the contract given to Craig, Sullivan and Gibbs of Pittsburg. The building was completed and turned over to the board, May 9, 1884.¹¹ On May 16, that same year, Howard Gates of Fayetteville, Arkansas, was employed to take charge of the schools.¹²

There was some difficulty in maintaining schools in the early eighties. In 1884, the term started on September 9, and half-day sessions were held until the following February when arrangements were made with the teachers to hold full day sessions. The teachers were given the 2 per cent which had been deducted from their warrants by the banks while the school board was unable to pay them.¹³

¹⁰Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

¹¹The site and building were sold to B. H. Wilson and Company on August 5, 1889 for \$20,000. The school board immediately opened negotiations for the present Lincoln building. —Information furnished by Miss Werme.

¹²Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

¹³Ibid.

The census report to the school board on June 6, 1887 gave a total of 1097 pupils, 19 of whom were colored.¹⁴ During the previous school term, the question of segregation arose but did not carry on the grounds that the number of colored children attending the city schools did not warrant such action. In 1887 the direct regulation of the city schools passed from the responsibility of the school board to the superintendent. Mr. D. E. Pence was elected to that position in 1887 and served for three years. The school board had previously passed a resolution allowing teachers to rule their rooms as they saw fit, but in case of any dispute the board was to make the final decision. The later ruling gave the superintendent complete charge of all the city schools and the power to use such means of control as his judgment might dictate.¹⁵

Rapid growth in the city's population soon brought congested conditions in the buildings thus far erected, and it was necessary to provide more accommodations. The school board, on January 7, 1888, successfully petitioned the mayor and council for \$10,000 to erect a building at Euclid and Locust. An additional amount of \$2500 was furnished later to complete the modern building, which was a three-story structure. It was ready for occupancy March 16, 1889. The building was

¹⁴School Census, 1887.

¹⁵Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

remodeled and the third story was removed by Asa Messenger in 1911.¹⁶

The contract for the construction of the Lincoln School, then referred to as the "North Building," was awarded to Fred Massman, September 12, 1889. The consideration was \$17,994.50. The building was to be completed March 1, 1890. This was one of the new buildings of the day to have a water system installed in it.

The "West Building" or Forest Park School on Fourth and Chestnut, costing approximately \$5300, and the "East Building" or Eugene Field School on Sixth and Rouse, costing approximately \$4300 were completed in October 1891.¹⁷

The first bond issue of \$8000 for the erection of the "Central Building" which was to have a division for the high school was made in 1893.¹⁸ The records concerning the construction of this building were lost. The next available records are under date of 1897.

The building program went forward another step when on June 17, 1910, it was voted to put a \$3971 addition on the Lakeside School and also to provide for improvements. The contract was awarded to S. S. Geatches.¹⁹

On December 14, 1911 the question of separate schools

¹⁶Interview on August 15, 1933 with Miss Werme.

¹⁷Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

¹⁸City Records, II, 352.

¹⁹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

for whites and negroes came up again and was submitted to a vote. The proposal carried. A bond election was held on February 2, 1912 and bonds were voted. The contract was awarded to S. S. Geatches and called for a two-story brick building to be located at Eleventh Street and Olive. The cost was \$19,000. The school board accepted the building, Douglass School, May 14, 1913. A. N. Wright was the first principal.²⁰

A petition was presented to the school board on March 3, 1913 asking for a new eight-room building in the Forest Park district. The petition was granted. On September 3, that same year, the board asked for an issuance of \$22,000 for general repair work on the old Forest Park School and for the construction of an addition. The contract was given to S. S. Geatches. The building was completed in September 1914.²¹

During the school year 1915-1916, three overflow buildings were erected: one at Lincoln, one at Eugene Field and one at Forest Park.²² These buildings are similar in size, material and finish.

²⁰Interview on August 5, 1933 with Mr. W. Pierce.

²¹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

²²The continued growth of the city has demanded more schools and additional modern equipment. Five new buildings have been erected since 1916.—Interview on August 15, 1933 with Miss Werme.

Superintendent M. M. Rose has been in charge of the Pittsburg schools since 1924.

The first summer school was organized in June 1915. No data were furnished which gave enrollment or number of teachers employed. A total of 159 pupils from grades three to eight inclusive were enrolled in the second summer school the following year. Of these, ninety-four had failed in the regular work. The remaining number consisted of pupils who had been promoted but who were nevertheless weak in certain subjects and needed to strengthen themselves in order to prevent future failure. Of the ninety-four who entered as failures, eighty-four took examinations and seventy-nine of them were promoted. A tuition fee of one dollar a month was charged to each pupil. The cost to the Board of Education was \$148.75. Five teachers were employed.²³

The night school opened in October 1915 for sessions three nights a week for twenty weeks. One hundred men and women were enrolled.²⁴

Parochial Schools.—The general purpose of the parochial schools is to provide for religious training and instruction in addition to the secular branches ordinarily taught in the public schools. St. Mary's Catholic School was the first of this type to open in Pittsburgh.²⁵ It was organized in 1884

²³Annual Report of the Board of Education, 1915-1916, p.16.

²⁴Ibid., p. 17.

²⁵The Zion Lutheran Parochial School which antedates this was not within the city limits.

by the Reverend Eugene Bononcini, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church from 1882 to 1885 and from May 1886 to September 1886.²⁶ Miss Amy Lee Hughes was the first teacher.²⁷ The Reverend Robert Loehrer, who became resident pastor of St. Mary's Church in 1885, took an active interest in the work of directing the school.²⁸ Two wings, twenty-four by twenty, were added to the church building, one to serve as the school and the other as the pastor's residence.²⁹ These rooms were still serving as school rooms when the Sisters of St. Joseph were engaged as teachers in 1895.³⁰

The Reverend J. A. Pompeney was pastor of the local church when the Sisters took charge of the school. The rooms were overcrowded with an enrollment of one hundred ten pupils. Heating and lighting facilities were also inadequate. These conditions, in addition to low finances, made it impossible to maintain the school, and in 1906 it was closed.³¹

One hundred thirty-eight pupils were enrolled at the

²⁶Letter from Mrs. Josephine Scanlan, niece of the Reverend Bononcini, October 28, 1933.

²⁷Letters from Mrs. C. A. Miller, sister of the late Miss Hughes, October 28, 1933 and November 9, 1933.

²⁸Interview on October 8, 1933 with Mrs. Krois, a pioneer resident.

²⁹When the enrollment increased both rooms were used for school purposes and two teachers were employed.

³⁰Interview on August 15, 1933 with Sister M. Leo, one of the first teachers.

³¹Interview on August 18, 1933 with the Reverend J. A. Pompeney.

second opening of the school in September 1915. Four teachers were in charge. The accommodations were not ideal but were somewhat better than those furnished before 1906. The present St. Mary's Church had been built in the meantime (1903) and the old structure, to which an addition was made, was used for a school building.³² The enrollment increased and it became imperative that a new structure be provided.³³

In 1876 the charter members of the Zion Lutheran congregation opened a school in the small frame church which was their first place of worship in Baker township. Members of the congregation hauled lumber from Arkansas and likewise did the construction work on the new building.³⁴ The first teacher was Mr. Heinke. Although the school was established for Lutheran children, other pupils were permitted to attend.

The building was moved to a location near the new church in 1889. As the enrollment had increased, it was necessary to add another room. A full-time teacher was employed in one room and the minister also served as a teacher. The enrollment for a part of the time was seventy-two, but there was a

³²Interview on August 15, 1933 with Sister M. Gregory, principal from 1915 to 1916.

³³In 1922 the rectory was moved from its location and work was begun on the new building, an eight-room structure with library and office on the same floor. The basement is arranged to serve as an auditorium and one section is equipped for cafeteria service. There are two club rooms on the same floor. The school was dedicated on March 9, 1924.

³⁴Interview on August 19, 1933, with Mr. Heinke. Mr. Heinke was a theological student but also conducted services until a regular pastor was appointed.

gradual dropping off in attendance.³⁵

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran School was opened in 1885 in connection with the church of the same denomination. The first teacher was the pastor, the Reverend Otto Kloeckner.³⁶ In the beginning classes were held in the church and there were fifteen pupils in attendance. The enrollment increased the next few years and a small frame structure was erected near the church. The pastor continued to teach until about 1895 when the school was closed.³⁷

High Schools.—The first efforts to get into the high school field were made in the fall of 1885. The following account is taken from the Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926:

September 23, 1885 the school board moved: "That the course of study presented by S. W. Black be adopted." The board minutes are not specific as to the course of study moved on, but from that time on purchases of high school books were noted in the minutes. March 1 of the following year brought the installation of the first bookkeeping classes and classes on civic government, high school subjects. The next visable [sic] attempt at a high school was Sept. 7, 1886 when A. J. Georgia and A. C. Campbell were appointed a committee to wait on the city council in the matter of a county high school. Whatever the outcome of the conference with the council was never recorded. As far as records show, at that time high school classes were held in one of the rooms of the

³⁵The enrollment was about fifty in 1916. The school closed in 1931.—Information furnished by Mr. Henry Meyer, August 21, 1933. Mr. Meyer attended this school.

³⁶Interview on August 22, 1933 with Mr. George Ahrens. Mr. Ahrens has been a member of the church since the establishment in Pittsburg.

³⁷Interview on August 22, 1933 with Mr. George Ahrens.

school building located at Tenth and Broadway. The room was used as a combination study hall and recitation room. Mr. Black was superintendent and D. E. Pence was principal.

The first year of high school graduation in Pittsburg was recorded in 1888 when six students received diplomas. There is no record for graduation in 1889 but in 1890 one student graduated. There was an ebb and flow in the number of graduates for the seven following years, the total number being less than fifty. A record class of fourteen in 1898 marked the beginning of a steady increase for each successive year.³⁸

When the building between Tenth and Eleventh on Broadway was torn down, a part of the school known as the "North Building" was used for the high school. It continued in use until 1893. The next building to house the high school was a section of the Central School.³⁹ It was in this building that the manual training course was introduced in 1900. Shortly afterwards, the need for a high school building was felt and on May 6, 1901, the school board decided to call an election to vote \$50,000 bonds to purchase a site, erect and equip a school. Nothing was done until June 3. At that time the amount of the bonds was changed to \$35,000. Voting was held June 25 and the bonds carried. The site selected was between Eighth and Ninth Streets on Broadway. The building,

³⁸Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

³⁹Interview on August 15, 1933 with Miss Werme.

called Manual Training High, was completed and accepted by the school board on April 22, 1903.⁴⁰

In 1914 Superintendent Armstrong recommended that a new school building be erected large enough to accommodate the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades and that the Manual Training building be used as a junior high. The recommendation failed.⁴¹

There has been quite an evolution in the subject matter taught and in the course of study used. The following quotation, taken from Columbian History of Education in Kansas, briefly outlines the aims and objectives relative to school work when C. M. Light was superintendent (1891-1893).

We have good reasons to believe the best and the most scientific modern methods of instruction are used in the schools of Pittsburg.

Our course of study begins the elements of all the sciences in the primary schools, and completes them in an elementary way in the high school. Each oral and textbook exercise is carefully graded to suit the age and mental development of the pupils. The following branches constitute the course in the grades: Reading, writing, numbers, geography, spelling, form and drawing, physiology, history and biography, language, literature, music, physical culture, morals and manners, and a course in general reading. The

⁴⁰When the Senior High School was completed, this served as a junior high school under the name of the Roosevelt Junior High School.

Three years later, bonds to the amount of \$275,000 were voted. The third bond issue of \$150,000 carried November 2, 1920. The Senior High School, located at Fourteenth and Broadway, then under construction, was completed in 1921. The cost of the building and site was \$459,356.97. In less than two years following the completion of the Senior High, the enrollment had increased over 100 per cent.—Interview with Miss Werme.

high school courses include a Latin course and an English course.⁴²

A Manual of Regulations and Course of Study for the Public Schools of Pittsburg was published by the Board of Education in 1914. This was brief as compared with the courses of today but did, however, include a short outline for the Kindergarten,⁴³ a few suggestions for the following subjects in grade work: reading, arithmetic, language, geography, spelling, physiology and history; and three recognized courses in the high school. These include the language course, the scientific course and the commercial course. Arrangements were made to take care of vocational subjects.⁴⁴

Further modifications of the outlines were brought about in 1915 when the Board of Education approved and adopted a course of study. Commercial geography, general science, household economics and music were the new subjects added. The history course was reorganized by the adoption of ancient and modern texts. The mathematics course was changed to include geometry for the entire second year and the third-term algebra was extended to the first term of the third year. The commercial course was to be extended throughout the four years of high school. The fourth-year English was

⁴²Columbian History of Education in Kansas, pp. 116-117.

⁴³The kindergarten was not an exclusive department until 1927. Rooms were remodeled and equipment was purchased.

⁴⁴Manual of Regulations and Course of Study for Pittsburg Public Schools, 1914, pp. 58 ff.

changed to journalism. The number of required subjects was decreased and the number of electives was increased.⁴⁵

Business College.—The Pittsburg Business College was established by O. L. Johnson in 1894 on the second floor of the building occupied by the New York Confectionery at Third and Broadway. In 1898 the school was moved to a building on the west side of Broadway between Sixth and Seventh Streets where it remained until 1903.

P. W. Errebo⁴⁶ came from Lincoln, Kansas, in 1901 and was employed as an instructor. He worked in that capacity until 1903, at which time he bought Mr. Johnson's interest and continued with the work as head of the school. Soon after taking charge, Mr. Errebo moved the school into the Headlight building. In the beginning of the school's career, three teachers were employed. The regular subjects of a commercial course were taught. The enrollment increased rapidly and more teachers had to be added, among them U. R.

⁴⁵Annual Report of the Board of Education, 1915-1916, pp. 43-45.

⁴⁶Mr. Errebo was connected with the school until 1929. In 1918 he erected an \$80,000 structure at Kansas and Broadway. The college flourished for several years but in 1929 the corporation had to be dissolved on account of the debts. The furniture and fixtures were sold to N. N. Newland of the Joplin Business College. Mr. Newland conducted the college from September until the following March. Mr. H. L. Anderson purchased the furniture and fixtures in March 1930 and moved them to 622 North Broadway where the school continues as the Pittsburg Business College. The average enrollment per year is ninety. Three instructors are employed.

Courtney in 1908.⁴⁷

Kansas State Teachers College.⁴⁸—An account of the Kansas State Teachers College includes the history of the evolution of an educational idea brought about by R. S. Russ when he was superintendent of the city schools of Pittsburg, 1897-1903. Upon assuming the superintendency he introduced the project of industrial or manual training. In the minds of the people the idea of bringing tools and utensils to school seemed almost revolutionary.⁴⁹ It was but a short time, however, before the work attracted the attention not only of the Pittsburg people but also of the people of the surrounding communities. Many persons, including educators, came to visit the establishment and became very enthusiastically interested in the articles made by the children. An exhibit of the work was prepared and displayed in various places, at women's clubs, meetings and teachers' organizations. The members of the school board decided to introduce the work

⁴⁷Mr. Courtney came into the service in 1908 and was connected with the school the next twenty years with the exception of one year. During that period he served as president about two and one-half years, 1926-1928. Mr. Errebo was field man during those last named years. Mr. Courtney opened the Courtney College of Commerce at 112½ West Fifth in January 1929, with an enrollment of twenty-five students. The enrollment has increased until now the average enrollment is about forty-two. Three regular teachers are employed.—Information furnished by Mr. Courtney on August 23, 1933.

⁴⁸The original name, State Manual Training Normal, was changed to Kansas State Teachers College in 1923.

⁴⁹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

into the schools and the problem that immediately confronted them was the securing of teachers for this new course. It was at this stage in the process that Mr. Russ and a group of interested Pittsburg citizens conceived the idea of asking the State Legislature to make an appropriation for the training of teachers for this type of work.⁵⁰

An exhibit of the woodwork and tools made by the students of the Pittsburg public school was taken to Topeka and kept there on display in the lobby of the state house. This evidently failed to fulfill its desired purpose because the legislators did not appear interested.⁵¹

The bill was fought bitterly throughout the session by many interests. One argument was that other cities also wanted state schools, and existing educational institutions were opposed on the plea that an added institution might lessen their appropriations and attendance. Another objection by some of the legislators was that this was only the beginning of demands which eventually would mean larger institutions, greater appropriations and increased taxes. The contest continued throughout the session. At length, Senator Porter secured a conference committee report and the measure was placed in an "omnibus" group. In this case, if any one representative objected, the bill would be taken out for a separate consideration. In this instance, the plan did not

⁵⁰Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁵¹Ibid.

work and the bill was passed by a close margin.⁵²

The bill was signed by Governor W. J. Bailey on March 9, 1903,⁵³ providing a \$9000 a year maintenance and salaries for two years. Thus began the State Manual Training Normal School, the first institution of its kind west of the Mississippi.⁵⁴

Under the terms of the bid, the management of the new institution was subject to the board of regents that controlled the Emporia Normal School. The board soon came to Pittsburg and accepted the loan of Central School at Fifth and Walnut. A small frame blacksmith shop was erected near the school and a brick church on the north side was rented for a library building. During this visit, the board of regents selected Mr. Russ for the first principal of the new institution.⁵⁵

The permanence of the school was often threatened and watchful interest of many of the prominent citizens of Pittsburg who gave their efforts, time and money was the bulwark of protection. The state had no money invested in grounds or buildings and the idea of the opponents was to retard progress in order that graduates would go to an institution

⁵²Interview on August 21, 1933 with F. B. Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler was a member of the State Legislature when the bill passed.

⁵³Session Laws of the State of Kansas, 1903, Chap. 34, Sec. 1.

⁵⁴Wm. E. Connelley, Kansas and Kansans, II, 1076.

⁵⁵Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

of higher learning to complete their educational course and to secure life certificates.

At the session of the legislature in 1905, efforts were made to secure an appropriation for maintenance. The measure was opposed. However, after contention throughout the session, the bill, providing an allowance of \$35,000 for maintenance and \$10,000 for a site went to the conference committee in March.

The board of regents came to Pittsburg to select a site. Two offers were proposed; one was Lincoln Park and the other ten acres of the present site, bounded by Cleveland, Elm, Lindburg and Broadway. The board chose the latter by one vote. The cost of the ground was \$8000 and the remainder of the appropriation (\$2000) was returned to the state.⁵⁶

After the appropriation was received and a site was selected, the next measure was to provide for the construction and maintenance of a building. The legislature of 1907 accordingly allowed \$150,000 for the erection of the first building, Russ Hall.⁵⁷ The allowance was to be in two installments, the first half in 1908 and the remainder the following year. This was the first indication that the institution was permanently established.

The administration building was completed in December 1908 and was ready for occupancy by the first of the year.

⁵⁶Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁵⁷Anniversary Booklet, April 13, 1928. B. Wheeler.

The new building naturally required an increased appropriation for maintenance and the possibility of Pittsburg's receiving it was questioned. The struggle was similar to that of 1907 and the bill was again referred to a conference committee. This committee agreed to an appropriation greater than that provided by the house.⁵⁸ The senate passed the bill giving one amount for maintenance; the house provided a lesser amount. The bill of necessity went to the conference committee. This committee drafted a bill, providing a greater amount than that provided in the recent house bill. This second bill was passed by both houses. Governor Stubbs did not sign the second bill but signed the house bill which provided a lesser amount and had not been passed by the Senate. The question arose: "Did Pittsburg have an appropriation?" Governor Stubbs insisted that Secretary of State, C. E. Denton, publish the bill which he signed. Mr. Denton published both amounts as can be seen by the Session Laws of 1909. State Auditor, J. W. Nation, decided in favor of the bill passed by both house and senate, and State Treasurer, Mark Tully, cashed the warrants as audited. Much credit is due to the friends of the Pittsburg school who took such a strong stand in this difficulty.

The appropriation made in 1911 provided \$50,000 for the building in 1912 and \$63,500 for other purposes. There was no appropriation for buildings in 1913, but the allowance

⁵⁸Interview on August 21, 1933 with F. B. Wheeler.

for other purposes was \$73,500.⁵⁹

The legislature of 1911 appropriated \$50,000 for the erection of an industrial arts building. This building was completed in 1913. The equipment from the old shops was installed, in addition to \$15,000 worth of new material. This gave every facility for conducting mechanical and applied arts.

The addition of another building meant the necessity of further provision for heating facilities, and the legislature of 1913 appropriated \$32,500 for a heating and power plant. This plant was so constructed as to permit the installation of additional units to meet the growing demands.⁶⁰

On June 29, 1914, Russ Hall was destroyed by fire caused by lightning. The greater part of the interior and the equipment were destroyed. The north wing was not damaged and with the exception of a part of the fourth floor, the walls were left serviceable.

Before the building had ceased burning, Governor Hodges and the members of the Board of Administration were on the grounds and arranged with the citizens of Pittsburg to advance the money for the reconstruction of the building. The authorities agreed to recommend to the next legislature that the money be refunded.

The Pittsburg citizens, with the consent of the State

⁵⁹Interview on August 24, 1933 with Miss Belle Provorse, Financial Secretary and Secretary to the President.

⁶⁰Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

Board of Administration began the erection of temporary frame buildings in order to maintain the various departments of the school. A large frame auditorium was erected and movable partitions were arranged to divide it into class rooms when needed; at other times it served as an auditorium. This did not prove adequate space for the summer's enrollment and a number of tents were used.⁶¹

At the 1915 session, Pittsburg, in addition to increased maintenance, wanted \$150,000 to repay the citizens who had advanced money and security to rebuild Russ Hall. The appropriations were not always so easily secured and at this particular time, since Governor Capper had been elected on a platform for decreased expenditures and taxes, the struggle was more prolonged. The recommendation of \$50,000 for an addition to the industrial arts building and \$75,000 instead of the requested \$150,000 passed both houses, but the latter measure was vetoed by Governor Capper. The appropriations came the following year for the completion of the industrial arts building and also for the rebuilding of Russ Hall.⁶²

The struggle to secure maintenance and buildings was not the only obstacle to be overcome in the growth and development of the institution. The school as organized continued

⁶¹Anniversary Booklet, April 13, 1928.

⁶²The following buildings have been erected since 1916: Science Hall, 1918-1919; Mechanics Hall, 1919 (two additional stories, 1927-1928); Gymnasium and Geology Buildings, 1921; Cafeteria with annex, 1922; Willard Hall, 1923; Stadium, 1924; Porter Library, 1927; Music Hall, 1929.

to be a branch of the State Normal of Emporia. The president of the Emporia Normal was also president of the Pittsburg school. There was a strong sentiment that Pittsburg should be considered a separate unit. This proposition was presented to the legislature of 1911. This was one of the most bitterly contested measures in the history of the Kansas Legislature. The bill for separation passed the senate but was defeated in the house by two votes. Opposition came from Governor Stubbs, the board of regents and the people of Pittsburg, Emporia.⁶³

Mr. Russ joined the people of Pittsburg in making their demand and perhaps for this reason he was dismissed from the principalship. His dismissal was resented through strong protests of the citizens of Pittsburg, the faculty, the alumni and student body.⁶⁴ Shortly afterwards, the board of regents selected Professor George E. Meyers of the McKinley Manual Training School, Washington, D. C. to succeed Mr. Russ, but unfortunately he was under obligation to pursue the policy outlined for the school by the authorities of the Emporia Normal, at that time termed the "parent school."

Two years later under the administration of Governor George H. Hodges, a bill was passed creating the State Board of Administration and giving said board control of all state

⁶³Interview on August 23, 1933 with F. B. Wheeler.

⁶⁴Anniversary Booklet, April 13, 1928.

educational institutions.⁶⁵ This law gave the new board authority to separate the management of the two schools.⁶⁶ This was one of the first official acts of the new board. The office of principal was abolished and Professor W. A. Brandenburg was selected as first president of the institution. He came here in 1913 from Oklahoma City where he was superintendent of the city schools.⁶⁷

The school now being established on a new basis became free and independent and could therefore outline its policy, extend its curriculum and organize its teaching force. Among the many obstacles that the school had to overcome in its development as a consequence of outside management, none was more vital than that of the curriculum. Those who opposed the measure wished to limit the courses offered to manual training and home economics. They endeavored to retard any movement to train teachers in lines outside these fields. Thus the first few years the certificating power of the institution was limited to the issuance of a certificate valid for one year. Four years later the power was extended to a three-year certificate.⁶⁸

⁶⁵D. M. Bowen, professor of education at K. S. T. C. since 1909 and principal of the Training School 1909-1913, was secretary of the State Board of Administration 1913-1915.

⁶⁶Session Laws of the State of Kansas, Revised 1923, Chap. 76, Sec. 621.

⁶⁷Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁶⁸Ibid.

Courses of high school rank made up the curriculum during the first seven years. In 1910 a clear differentiation was made between the secondary and the college courses, and a fourth year was added.⁶⁹ The last two years were called normal-college courses, upon the completion of which a life certificate was granted. This certificate rendered the holder eligible to teach in the elementary schools of the state. Commerce was added to the curriculum in 1908 and music two years later. At this time courses leading to a degree were established and in 1913, thirteen students who had completed courses of 120 semester hours had the A. B. degree conferred upon them.⁷⁰ In 1914 pressure from other state schools caused the power to grant A. B. degrees to be taken from the Pittsburg institution and the B. S. degree was substituted.⁷¹

A faculty of five and a student body of forty-three made up the personnel for the first semester. The enrollment had increased before the close of the term. The number of the faculty as well as the number of the student body increased yearly.⁷² Noteworthy inducements were the varied and desirable

⁶⁹Kansas State Teachers College Bulletin, XXIX, 25.

⁷⁰Ibid.

⁷¹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁷²According to the Kansas State Teachers College Bulletin, XXIX, 93, the faculty numbered 49 for the school year 1915-1916; the enrollment was 2,514; the number of credentials issued was 494, including 75 one-year certificates, 127 three-year certificates, 204 life certificates and 52 degrees. The faculty for the school year 1932-1933 numbered 116; the enrollment was 3,874; the number of three-year certificates issued, 45; life certificates, 178; B.S. degrees, 263; M.S. degrees, 71. The first M.S. degrees were conferred in 1930.

courses offered, convenient accommodations, and the erection of the cafeteria.⁷³

Newspapers

The history of the press in Pittsburg reveals very clearly that there was a severe struggle to maintain a newspaper in early days. In many cases the endeavor of an enterprising editor was only short-lived and his career was parallel to that of the struggling pioneers in other fields.

The first newspaper to circulate in Pittsburg made its appearance in 1878. It was called the Independent and was published by J. M. Walker, a so-called miscellaneous publisher who started newspapers in several towns. The Independent was published in Carthage, Missouri, and brought to Pittsburg for distribution. This publication, a weekly edition, was discontinued after three months, leaving the new town without a newspaper for four years.⁷⁴

The first paper to have its own plant, the People's Exponent, was established by L. C. Hitchcock in June 1882. After one year's publication, the plant was sold to Thomas P. Monfort who subsequently started the Pittsburg Democrat,

⁷³At the suggestion of President Brandenburg, a small cafeteria was established in one section of the Industrial Arts building in 1913. This project, supervised by the domestic science department, was an immediate success. In 1922 a new building was erected. The cafeteria has more than maintained itself and in addition has furnished funds whereby the installation of the pipe organ in Science Hall has been made possible.

⁷⁴Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 133.

which flourished for a few years and then merged into the Headlight.⁷⁵

In 1880, D. C. and Fay G. Flint began the publication of the Pittsburg Smelter. This publication had a very promising future at first but changed ownership several times and was finally forced to suspend. It finally revived as the Pittsburg Sunday Mail but was short-lived, having ceased publication after two months.⁷⁶

The Headlight, a daily and weekly, was founded in September 1885 by M. F. Sears. In less than a year's time, C. W. Moore, a practical printer and newspaper man, became Mr. Sears' partner. There was a change in the management the following year when Mr. Sears sold his interest to William Moore, father of C. W. Moore. The new firm was known as William Moore and Son. This partnership continued until the death of the elder Mr. Moore in 1897; the firm then became Moore Brothers.⁷⁷

The Pittsburg Kansan was started in 1889 by J. C. Buchanan. It began its career as a Democratic organ, joined the Populist ranks temporarily and later resumed the Democratic

⁷⁵Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 133.

⁷⁶Ibid.

⁷⁷Since the establishment of the Headlight, the name of the publication has changed at various times. It was known as the Pittsburg Daily Headlight 1885, the Pittsburg Headlight 1886-1887. It then resumed its original name. Since 1927 it has been known as the Pittsburg Headlight.—Interview on August 26, 1933 with I. H. Cole, Moore Brothers office.

cause.⁷⁸

During the boom of 1890, the Pittsburg World was organized by W. C. L. Beard. He soon turned the plant over to A. Steinberger and W. H. Doud who edited the Daily World. The paper had views against the strike in 1893 and became so unpopular that the plant was moved to Girard.⁷⁹

The Miner's Echo was started by Thomas B. McGregor during the strike of the coal-miners in 1893. Its mission appeared to be the exclusive defense of the strike because after championing that cause, it was suspended. T. B. Fulton purchased the plant and edited the Pittsburg Messenger for about one year.⁸⁰

Another daily, the Pittsburg Penny Post, with W. H. Henney as editor, was launched in 1893 but lived only a short time.⁸¹

In the early nineties, a German publication, the Volk Freund, was issued by Behrens and Burkhart and was in circulation about a year.

The Pittsburg Tribune began publication in 1898 with J. R. McKin as editor. After a year, he sold his interest

⁷⁸J. F. Callen was editor of this paper until his death in 1920. Shortly afterwards the paper was sold to F. A. Jewell. It ceased to exist soon after going into the hands of the new owner.—Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

⁷⁹Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 134.

⁸⁰Ibid.

⁸¹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

to D. C. Flint and Sons who conducted it until 1902 and then sold it to a syndicate of young printers who changed its name to the Pittsburg Journal. Its career extended over a period of six weeks.⁸²

The Afro-American for the benefit of Pittsburg's colored population was founded in 1903 by A. J. Lee, but after a few months' publication, it was suspended. However, it was revived in January 1904 by Mr. Lee, and being again doomed to the inevitable, the material went into the hands of a German syndicate who used it to publish the German Free Press, now extinct.⁸³

In 1911, the Workers Chronicle was established by W. F. Sears who published it for two years. George D. Brewer then became editor. After a few years, the plant and good will of the paper were disposed of to Roy D. Crane, a printer who had been employed in the newspaper offices of the city.⁸⁴

Paul Jones launched out on a new venture in 1915 when on July 11, he put out the first copy of the Pittsburg Sun. The new publication was in the form of a five-column, ten-inch folio. W. J. Saunders of the Saunders-Cook Printing Company had charge of the typographical operation and Mr. Jones was its editor. From the date of its first appearance until October 1 that same year, the Sun was circulated free of

⁸²Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, pp. 134-135.

⁸³Ibid.

⁸⁴Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

charge to every home as well as to the business houses in Pittsburgh. In the course of time it worked its way into the rural homes also. On September 26, announcement was made that after October 1, the price of the paper would be twenty-five cents a month by carrier and two dollars a year by mail.⁸⁵ On January 1, 1916,⁸⁶ William A. Beasley purchased an interest in the Saunders-Cook Printing Company and the Sun Printing Company.⁸⁷

Salvation Army

The original corps of the Salvation Army in this district was established at Litchfield. In 1892 the headquarters of the group were changed to Pittsburgh.⁸⁸ The present citadel, located at 213 East Fourth Street, was erected in 1913 under the direction of Captain Harry Miller, who later became staff captain and territory auditor for the central states. There are two divisions of the organization, the Senior and the Junior. The activities of the groups are the Home League for the Seniors and the Corps Cadets and Young People's

⁸⁵Pittsburg Sun, February 28, 1926.

⁸⁶Ibid.

⁸⁷Mr. Beasley sold the Sun to Moore Brothers in 1927. A year later both the Headlight and the Sun were taken over by new management, the Stauffer Publishing Company. Since that time, the plant occupies the new building on Seventh and Locust.

⁸⁸Interview on August 25, 1933 with Captain G. A. Furman.

Legion for the younger people. The different departments conduct regular church services and also group sessions.

The local unit is affiliated with the larger corps in Kansas City and all records are sent to headquarters for filing.⁸⁹ The work of the Salvation Army has at all times been commendable, and their contribution to the relief of the needy has been no small item. Their efforts have found a fruitful field among the poor of the city.⁹⁰

Clubs

The different organizations and societies of Pittsburg include those which are civic and social and many which embody moral and ethical instruction. Their combined purposes have aided in the refinement, enlightenment and social progress of the city.

The functions of these clubs embrace the following: the doing of constructive work along the lines of social endeavor, the bringing in of speakers, educators, and plays, and the carrying out of really worth while projects in addition to purely social activities.

The one organization to which others are more or less subservient is the Federation of Women's Clubs, which embodies nine different clubs. This was organized on March

⁸⁹No data is available for 1916. The present membership numbers 55.

⁹⁰Interview on August 25, 1933 with Captain G. A. Furman.

17, 1900. It usually takes the initiative and thereby sets the seal of approval or disapproval by which the unit clubs decide their course of procedure.⁹¹

The oldest study club is the Women's Study Club, organized in 1898. In the same year the Monday Club was organized; the Kansas Club in 1901; the Treble Clef Club in 1905; Chautauqua, 1906; Entre Nous, 1907; Nautilus, 1909;⁹² W.C.T.U., 1911; Homemakers, 1913; Extension, 1914.⁹³

Among the outstanding movements accomplished by the Federation are: the enlivening of an interest in recreation which culminated in the purchase of Lincoln Park in 1907; the agitation which brought about the establishment and furnishings of a rest room in 1911,⁹⁴ the provision for seats and the improvement of gravel walks in the cemetery; the organization of the Pittsburg Charity and Humane Society; the promotion of "Clean-up Campaigns;"⁹⁵ the employment of a

⁹¹Material on Women's Clubs furnished by Mrs. L. E. Curfman, historian of the city Federation, through the courtesy of Mrs. E. B. Riordan, an active member.

⁹²The Chautauqua, Entre Nous and Nautilus no longer exist.

⁹³The History Study Club, another of the Federation, was organized in 1919.

⁹⁴According to Mrs. L. E. Curfman, donations were obtained through solicitation from the business men when the initial movement was made. Later the state legislature enacted a law providing for a levy to maintain the rest room. This has always remained under the direct control of the Federation.

⁹⁵These clean-ups resulted in improved and sanitary conditions in dairies, grocery stores, bakeries and meat shops.

visiting nurse.⁹⁶

Activities among men's clubs include those which from early times were performed among fraternal and benevolent associations. These antedated commercial and civic clubs, whose aims and projects deal directly with the commercial development of the city.

Recognizing the commercial basis of modern life as a necessity incident in human evolution, the Rotary Club was organized to express proper relation between private interests and public enterprises. The Pittsburg Rotary Club was organized in August 1915,⁹⁷ with a membership of twenty-five. N. H. Skourup was the first president. Among the accomplishments of the Rotarians is the promotion of the Boy Scout movement. The assistance given to other organizations and the securing of employment for students who could not attend school without outside work are also noteworthy enterprises.⁹⁸

⁹⁶Other accomplishments for which the Federation is responsible since 1916 are: the maintenance of the Student Loan Fund by which many college students have been benefited, the sale of the first Liberty Loan bonds, the introduction of the Junior Story Hour and the collection of books and magazines for the use of rural schools in the county.

⁹⁷Pittsburg Sun, February 28, 1926.

⁹⁸The Kiwanis Club was organized in 1921 with a membership of fifty. The club has always coöperated with other existing organizations and various campaigns for the betterment of the city.

The Lions Club was organized in June 1922 with twenty-six members. These clubs give hearty coöperation to the Chamber of Commerce, although the major activity is charity work.

¹⁰¹The membership has increased from 400 in 1916 to 1,000.
—Interview with the Rev. C. F. Akins.

Churches

Baptist Church.—The Baptists hold the record for being the first chartered religious body in Pittsburg. August 3, 1875 is given as the date on the original charter; however, meetings had been held in the various homes as early as 1872 when what is now Pittsburg was a rural district. A Reverend Mr. Reynolds was the first pastor. He gathered his flock together during the first years in an old schoolhouse, since torn down. The Reverend Mr. Reynolds was a traveling missionary. Records do not show how long he remained with the congregation.⁹⁹

In the pioneer years, services were also held in a small brick structure which was sold to the German Methodists in 1892. Afterwards the congregation met for several years in Y. M. C. A. rooms.¹⁰⁰

In those early days there was no regularly appointed minister. Petition for a leader was made to the Baptist Association and Miss Edith Hill, state evangelist for the W. C. T. U. was induced to take up the work. Miss Hill was ordained in the local Christian Church, April 13, 1894. The first real church structure, which was completed March 20, 1896, was located at Seventh and Walnut. This church was remodeled and enlarged in 1907.¹⁰¹

⁹⁹Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

¹⁰⁰Interview on August 27, 1933 with the Rev. C. J. Askins, the present pastor.

¹⁰¹The membership has increased from 400 in 1916 to 1,050.
--Interview with the Rev. C. J. Askins.

Zion Lutheran Church.—In 1866, three German Lutheran families from Lafayette County, Missouri, settled on Cow Creek, one mile east and three miles south of the present city of Pittsburg. They were joined the next year by four families from the same place. Church services were conducted in the homes until the small frame church was erected by traveling missionaries of that faith. These missionaries visited several times a year.

The church was organized by the Rev. Henry Luecker in 1876. The little frame church was left on the old site to be used as a school building and another structure was erected at Quincy and Rouse in 1889. The Rev. H. Houston was the second resident pastor. He was succeeded by the Rev. Otto Matuseka, who has been with the congregation since 1910.¹⁰²

First Presbyterian Church.—One of the original churches established in Pittsburg is the First Presbyterian, which was organized March 12, 1879 under the leadership of the Rev. C. W. Price, the first minister. The charter was obtained in March 1883, and the church was reorganized by the Rev. Francis Symmes.

A frame building, erected at Fifth and Pine, was ready for dedication in 1885. The new church was built in 1907. The congregation met in the early days in Waskey's Hall,

¹⁰²Interview on August 21, 1933 with Mr. H. Meyers, son of J. H. Meyers, a charter member.

over what is now the Evans Book store. These meetings, however, were not the first held by the Presbyterians. The pioneers of that denomination in this vicinity held services in the room over the Iowa City post office at the crossroads near the old Catholic cemetery. This was in 1869 and the Rev. Warren May, pastor of the Girard church, held periodical services.¹⁰³

Methodist Episcopal Church.—The Methodist Episcopal church had its beginning in Pittsburg in the spring of 1879 when it was organized from a Methodist Sunday School class by the Rev. E. C. Boaz, assisted by L. H. Kidder.

The first building was located at Fifth and Pine and was called the Tabernacle Methodist Church. It was dedicated in the fall of 1880. The Rev. C. S. Jenness was pastor at that time. The second building was erected at Eighth and Locust during the pastorate of the Rev. R. H. Sparks and continued in use until 1914. On September 13 of that year, the new building at 415 North Pine was dedicated and is still used by the Methodists as a place of worship.¹⁰⁴

First Christian Church.—The First Christian Church was organized in 1881. Meetings were held in a small frame schoolhouse that stood on the present site of the Central School building,

¹⁰³Interview on August 21, 1933 with H. B. Kumm, a member of the First Presbyterian Church.

¹⁰⁴Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

Fifth Street and Walnut Street. In 1884 a frame building was erected at Seventh and Pine, and the congregation worshipped there until 1890. The site at Fifth and Pine was donated by R. E. Carlton, a charter member, and a new structure was built.¹⁰⁵

St. Peter's Episcopal Church.—The first steps towards establishing an Anglican or Episcopalian Church were taken by Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Flint in November 1881. In April of the following year, a fund was started and on June 5, work was begun on the original building. This church was located on the corner of Elm Street and Seventh Street and was completed that fall. The first regular service was held September 10, 1882 and was conducted by the Rev. P. Cummings, of Girard, a missionary.¹⁰⁶

St. Mary's Catholic Church.—Jesuits from Osage Mission ministered to the Catholics in Crawford County before the founding of Pittsburg. Services were held in the home of Patrick O'Connor. The next place of worship was in the Odd Fellows Hall, between Third and Fourth Streets on the east side of Broadway.

In 1882, the Rev. Eugene Bononcini of Scammon purchased

¹⁰⁵The Rev. Harold Bell Wright was pastor of this church from 1897 to 1902. It was during his pastorate here that he wrote his first book, The Printer of the Udells. The first manuscripts were prepared by Mr. Ray B. Allen.—Interview on August 16, 1933 with the Rev. L. H. Pettit and Mr. Allen.

¹⁰⁶Interview on August 19, 1933 with the Rev. Oliver Crawford, Rector of St. Peter's Church.

a lot from the town company.¹⁰⁷ The Rev. Robert Loehrer, who came to Pittsburg in August 1885, was the first resident priest. Beginning with his pastorate, records of baptisms, marriages, deaths, purchase of property, building projects and transfer of pastors are available.

The rectory at Ninth and Elm was built when the seventh resident pastor, the Rev. F. X. Halwelka, was in charge. The Rev. J. A. Pompeney became the pastor of St. Mary's Church in 1893.¹⁰⁸ The Rev. James Donohue secured a lot at Ninth and Elm and built the present St. Mary's Church in 1903.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.—St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church dates back to 1885 when a small frame structure was built on Joplin, between Sixth Street and Seventh Street. John Ahrens and John Jacobs were among the early members. The services of the Rev. O. Kloeckner were secured in 1886. A small frame building was erected near the church to serve as a school building.

Construction work on the present building at 306 West Euclid was begun May 1, 1890 under the direction of the Rev.

¹⁰⁷The location of this lot is shrouded in doubt, but it is thought to be on Sixth and Locust where the Eagle Hall stands.—Interview on August 18, 1931 with the Rev. J. A. Pompeney, D. D.

¹⁰⁸The Rev. J. A. Pompeney, D. D. took an active interest in the development of Pittsburg. He devoted forty years of his ministry to work in Crawford County, twenty-eight of which were spent in Pittsburg. During his pastorate, St. Mary's School was built. The Rev. P. J. McCullough became pastor of the local church in February 1929. Father McCullough has worked zealously since coming to Pittsburg. St. Mary's Church was enlarged and remodeled in 1931.

Hudson Sawyer who is still pastor. It was completed in 1894 at a cost of \$11,000.¹⁰⁹

Mt. Hebron Church.—The Mt. Hebron Church (Baptist) for colored people was organized in 1886 by the Rev. N. Robertson, moderator of the east district in Kansas. The first services were held in a frame building on North Olive. A modern brick building costing \$18,000 was built by the Reverend Elias who has been pastor since 1910.¹¹⁰

Bethel Church.—The Bethel A. M. E. Church for colored people was organized in 1888. There were eight members when the church was started and services were held in a paint shop between Kansas and Park on South Broadway. In 1891 the congregation moved to a frame structure where the First National Bank Building now stands. The next year a residence on the corner of Seventh and Olive served as a place of worship and the following year a move was made to 407 North Eighth where the present church is located.¹¹¹

United Presbyterian Church.—The first meetings of the United Presbyterian Church were held in the fall of 1890 in the J. W. Alexander home. The church was organized the second Sunday of April in 1891. The Rev. J. H. Gibson was the first

¹⁰⁹Interview on August 22, 1933 with Mr. George Ahrens.

¹¹⁰Information furnished by Mr. G. W. Pierce, through the courtesy of Mr. Leon Nichols.

¹¹¹Information furnished by Mr. G. W. Pierce, through the courtesy of Mr. Leon Nichols.

pastor and served sixteen years. After leaving the Alexander home, meetings were held in the second story of a building on Third and Broadway. The brick church on Fifth and Broadway, formerly occupied by the Methodists, was purchased and served as a place of worship until the congregation in May 1916 moved to the present location at Fourth and Walnut. The Rev. I. W. Thompson was pastor at that time.¹¹²

United Brethren Church.—The first services of the United Brethren Church were held in the east side of town at a location not recorded by the local body. The charter for the first United Brethren Church was obtained in 1890.¹¹³

First Spiritualist Church.—The First Spiritualist Church was organized early in 1890 at the home of B. L. Abel, 511 North Pine. Services were first held in the old A. O. U. W. hall, then in the I. O. O. F. hall on West Fifth, and later in the I. O. O. F. hall on West Third. There were fifteen charter members. The local body is affiliated with state and national Spiritualistic bodies.¹¹⁴

Mt. Hope Baptist Church.—The Mt. Hope Baptist Church for colored people was organized in 1898 with seven members, among whom were Mr. and Mrs. Goodman and children, and

¹¹²Information furnished by Mr. J. T. Stewart who served as superintendent of the first Sabbath school.

¹¹³Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

¹¹⁴Ibid.

Laura Marshall. The Rev. J. D. Morris was the first pastor. The first services were held in a room in the Lincoln school; later a store building located on North Broadway near Fourteenth Street served as a place of worship. From there the congregation moved to the present location at 215 West Eleventh.¹¹⁵

First Church of Christ, Scientist.—A charter was obtained on May 6, 1898 for the organization of the First Church of Christ, Scientist. In the beginning of the organization,¹¹⁶ a small group met first at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Gaskell on Euclid Avenue. Other meeting places were in the old A. O. U. W. hall and in the building which stood on the location now occupied by the National Bank of Pittsburg. From there the members moved to the old German Lutheran Church for their services. The corner lot at Euclid and Walnut was purchased on September 5, 1907, and the work of building a home was begun. A temporary edifice was used for some time. The present edifice was ready for occupancy October 25, 1914. A small amount of money was secured by the local church under the will of Mary Baker Eddy.¹¹⁷

Latter Day Saints.—The Latter Day Saints or the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ was established with Leo Franklin D.

¹¹⁵Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

¹¹⁶The organization consists of a president and seven directors.

¹¹⁷Interview on August 18, 1933 with F. B. Wheeler.

Christy as first pastor, May 8, 1903. The first meetings were held at 617 East Eighth. The building at Third and Pine was next used as a place of worship. The congregation has no church.¹¹⁸

Spiritual Science.—Charter of the Spiritual Science Church was granted on October 3, 1906. The first place of meeting was the A. O. U. W. hall. Later services were held in the K. of P. hall. The I. O. O. F. hall has since been used as a place of worship. The Rev. V. J. Rowe, the first pastor, still serves.¹¹⁹

Union Mission.—The Union Mission, an interdenominational organization, was organized by the Rev. N. A. Huey, a missionary, in the old brick M. E. Church on Eighth and Locust in 1915.¹²⁰

¹¹⁸Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

¹¹⁹Ibid.

¹²⁰Ibid.

Since the closing date of this survey, the following denominations have erected churches or established places for meeting: Nazarenes, Assembly of God (1), Church of Christ, Assembly of God (2), Church of God (colored), Church of God in Christ, Pentecostal, Four Square Light House, Seven Day Adventists.—Information furnished by George B. Weeks, Secretary and Manager, Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce.

CONCLUSION

Reviewing the forty years covered in this survey, we can but realize the heroic efforts on the part of the early pioneers and their successors to bring about and maintain a definite goal—the city of Pittsburg. This was a great achievement, accomplished in a comparatively short time. The efforts to extend railroads into this particular area of the state, to introduce new projects and to develop industries, to extend municipal interests and to further educational facilities are but a few of the many examples of Pittsburg's progress.

The location of the city near the dividing line between the counties formerly composing the Neutral Lands eventually caused Pittsburg to become the commercial center of the two counties. Pittsburg grew as a coal camp; then it became a railroad center with the location of the Kansas City Southern railroad shops here, and finally an educational center with the location of the Manual Training School which grew and expanded with time into the present Kansas State Teachers College of today.

A retrospection reminds us of the courage that guided the mine owners who not only mined but also created a market for Kansas coal; we see a love of city and pride of accomplishment in the efforts of a little group that brought

into actual existence the development of many industries and enterprises.

The great clay banks were discovered and the outcome has been the establishment of brick and pottery plants which afforded employment to many.

The city for many years prided itself on its electric lines touching all the coal camps in the district. Financiers had faith in the city's future.

Pittsburg is still largely dominated by men who built the city from a mining camp to its metropolitan stage. These men have the courage and faith that brought the city to its progressive status.

There is a hope of prosperity for Pittsburg in the future. It has recently passed a transitory stage, due not only to a depression in the coal industry but also to the general conditions of the country.

Its cheap fuel, its rail transportation, college and school facilities, and its natural resourcefulness place Pittsburg in a position to command Southeastern Kansas.

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Pittsburg Headlight, November 7, 1885; February 6, 1886; November 18, 1886; November 7, 1888; November 17, 1888; February 27, 1926; May 19, 1926.

Pittsburg Kansan, March 26, 1890; April 5, 1897; February 7, 1901.

Pittsburg Sun, February 28, 1926.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Letters

From Mrs. Josephine Scanlan, 5318 Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, to writer, October 26, 1933 and January 7, 1934.

From Mrs. C. A. Miller, 401 West Jefferson Avenue, Pittsburg, to writer, October 28, 1933 and November 9, 1933.

Interviews

George Aherns, pioneer member of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Ray B. Allen, member of the Christian Church.

Mrs. M. V. Arnold, operator, Postal Telegraph.

Rev. C. J. Askins, pastor of the First Baptist Church.

Miss Theo Babcock, public health nurse.

E. H. Chapman, first manager of the Home Telephone Company.

I. H. Cole, employee of Moore Brothers Supply Company.

Dr. U. A. Collelmo, founder of the Pittsburg Emergency Hospital.

E. E. Coulter, pioneer realtor.

U. R. Courtney, president of the College of Commerce.

Rev. Oliver Crawford, rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

T. J. Crowell, pioneer merchant.

Mrs. L. R. Curfman, historian of the Federation of Women's Clubs.

Earl Dickey, manager of the Atlas Powder Plant.

Mrs. Elizabeth Drake, secretary of the Pittsburg Charity and Humane Society.

F. H. Fitch, assistant postmaster.

J. J. Fogarty, local agent, American Railway Express.

Mrs. E. T. Frazier, daughter of E. T. Klock.

Dick Fretwell, Kansas City Southern dispatcher.

Capt. G. A. Furman, of the Salvation Army

Mr. Heinke, former teacher of the Zion Lutheran Parochial School.

E. D. Henneberry, manager of the Hull and Dillon Plant

Thomas Howe, fire chief.

- C. B. Hunter Jr., automobile dealer.
- P. V. Jordan, district manager of the Southwestern Telephone Company.
- Mrs. M. Kroise, member of St. Mary's Catholic Church.
- H. B. Kumm, member of the First Presbyterian Church.
- E. V. Lanyon, president of the National Bank of Pittsburg.
- J. W. Lapworth, superintendent of the Pittsburg Water Works.
- A. Massman, resident of Pittsburg and son of Fred Massman, pioneer builder and contractor.
- Miss Jennie McClay, clerk in the office of the Pittsburg Gas Company.
- J. T. McNally, president of the Pittsburg Boiler and Machine Company.
- H. Meyers, member of the Zion Lutheran Church.
- Dr. Arthur Moberg, physician.
- R. J. Nesch, owner of the Pittsburg Vittrified Brick Company.
- Leon Nichols, service man at Mt. Carmel Hospital.
- Jay N. Patmor, president of the Pittsburg State Bank.
- Rev. L. H. Pettit, pastor of the First Christian Church.
- W. V. Pierce, proprietor of Coffee House.
- Rev. J. A. Pompeney, D. D., former pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church.
- Miss Belle Provorse, financial secretary of the Kansas State Teachers College.
- Mrs. Theresa G. Randolph, city librarian.
- L. M. Resler, judge.
- Mrs. E. B. Riordan, president of the History Club.
- S. A. Rose, owner of the General Machinery Company.
- Mrs. M. Sanford, daughter of W. W. Bell, pioneer promoter of theatre movement.

Sister M. Benigna, superintendent of nurses at Mt. Carmel Hospital.

Sister M. Gregory, principal of St. Mary's School in 1915.

Sister M. Leo, superintendent of Mt. Carmel Hospital.

Sister M. Pius, recorder at Mt. Carmel Hospital.

Mrs. Charles Smith, daughter of Dr. George Williams.

J. T. Stewart, member of the United Presbyterian Church.

J. G. Stinnett, manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company.

Mrs. Minnie True, postmaster.

E. E. Walker, manager of the Dickey Clay Manufacturing Company.

E. C. Webber, cashier of the National Bank of Pittsburg.

George B. Weeks, secretary and manager of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce.

F. C. Werner, pioneer realtor.

F. B. Wheeler, member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist.

J. T. Young, manager of the Hercules Powder Company.

APPENDIX B. MUNICIPAL

First City Officials

F. M. Snow..... Mayor

F. W. Jaryer..... Police Judge

Councilmen

Fred Halvick

B. R. McBride

APPENDIX A. POPULATION OF PITTSBURG

D. B. Miller

John H. Lindburg

ACCORDING TO CENSUS

John A. See

1890.....6,697

City Clerks

1900..... 10,112

J. W. Jennings..... July 7, 1899

1910..... 14,755

O. J. Smith..... April 12, 1893

1920..... 18,052

W. A. Barnett..... April 23, 1895

1930..... 18,145

O. J. Smith..... April 16, 1896

O. J. Smith..... April 16, 1897

O. J. Smith..... April 16, 1897

W. D. Ford..... July 1, 1899

(resigned Jan. 1, 1899)

J. A. Hankin..... Jan. 1, 1899

E. L. Miller..... April 5, 1893

T. W. Gaffey..... April 14, 1891

Eugene Harrieth..... April 19, 1895

E. Anderson..... April 6, 1897

A. A. Bunker..... April 12, 1891

J. R. Tracey..... May 6, 1893

W. H. Yacobs..... May 3, 1905

E. E. Wood..... April 1, 1905

O. J. Jones..... April 5, 1907

Leonard T. Boyd..... Sept. 1913

(still serving)

APPENDIX B. MUNICIPAL

First City Officials

E. M. Snow..... Mayor

P. W. Sawyer..... Police Judge

San Barratt..... 1883 — 1884

Councilmen

Fred Kalwitz

E. R. McBride

D. S. Miller

John R. Lindburg

John A. Coe

H. T. Snow..... 1887 resigned

Andrew Brown..... 1887 pro tem

City Clerks

J. W. Jennings..... July 7, 1880

O. T. Boaz..... April 10, 1883

Wm. A. Garnett..... April 22, 1885

O. S. Casad..... April 16, 1886

C. W. Long..... April 18, 1887

W. D. Ford..... July 1, 1887

John T. Brewer..... (resigned Jan. 1, 1889)

J. A. Rankin..... Jan. 1, 1889

N. L. Miller..... April 5, 1889

T. W. Caffey..... April 14, 1891

Eugene Merrithew..... April 19, 1895

E. Anderson..... April 6, 1897

A. A. Bumgarner..... April 12, 1901

J. R. Tracey..... May 6, 1903

W. H. Yarcho..... May 3, 1905

N. E. Wood..... April 1, 1905

O. T. Jones..... April 5, 1907

Leonard T. Boyd..... Sept. 1913
(still serving)

APPENDIX B.—Continued

Mayors

M. M. Snow.....	1880 — 1881
H. C. Willard.....	1882
Sam Barratt.....	1883 — 1884
L. J. Beagle.....	1885 resigned
P. H. Sawyer.....	1885 pro tem
R. E. Carlton.....	1886
R. T. Blow.....	1887 resigned
Andrew Brown.....	1887 pro tem
William Lanyon.....	1887 — 1888
Sam Barratt.....	1889 — 1890
Dr. George C. Gilbert.....	1891 — 1892
W. H. Holmes.....	1893 — 1894
Dr. C. A. Fisher.....	1895 — 1896
Edwin V. Lanyon.....	1897 — 1898
John W. Brewer.....	1899 — 1900
Dr. Charles Hunter.....	1901 — 1902
Clarence N. Price.....	1903 — 1904
H. C. Lemon.....	1905
A. B. Kirkwood.....	1906
Dr. C. A. Fisher.....	1907 — 1908
J. C. Thiesing.....	1909 pro tem
Morris Cliggitt.....	1909 died
E. B. Hoyt.....	1910 (special election)

APPENDIX B.—Continued

Mayors

Dr. A. C. Graves.....	1911 — 1912
N. A. Skourup.....	1913 — 1914
Wm. Lanyon, Jr.....	1915 — 1916
O. W. Bell.....	1917 — 1918 (resigned)
O. T. Jones.....	1918 (appointed to fill vacancy)
O. T. Jones.....	1919 — 1923
Dr. C. Mart Montee.....	1923 — 1926
L. M. Atkinson.....	1926 — 1932
Dr. A. L. Cowden.....	1932

Penney, H. C. and Graham, C. E..... F and C Bakery
 Penney Brothers..... Dry Goods
 Seymour, W. W..... Dry Goods (Kansas and Texas)
 White, A. E..... Marble Works

1900

Sturns, Roger..... Wall Paper
 Cohen, T. B. and Sons..... Cutting Equipment and Supplies
 Deane..... Clothing
 Deruy..... Hardware
 Madison..... Shoes
 Friggeri..... Jewelry
 Holden, Sam and Ward, Oscar (Sam and Oscar) Clothing
 Lindburg, Roll..... Drugs
 Messenger, Ash..... Plumbing, Bill and Contracting

APPENDIX C. MERCANTILE ENTERPRISES

1887 — 1900

Banta, C. F..... Jewelry
 Bell, Murdock and Bell..... Painting and Decorating
 Botefuhr, F. S..... Music
 Chapman, J. H..... Jewelry
 Craig, Archie..... Hardware
 Crowell, T. J..... Drugs
 Evans..... Music and Books
 Globe..... Clothing
 Hood, A. H..... Implements
 Pittsburg Drug Company..... Drugs
 Pomeroy, H. D. and Graham, C. E..... P and G Bakery
 Ramsay Brothers..... Dry Goods
 Seymour, W. E..... Dry Goods (Kansas and Texas)
 White, M. H..... Marble Works

Mrs. Minnie True..... 1902

1900

Bumann, Roger..... Wall Paper
 Coles, W. B. and Sons..Outing Equipment and Supplies
 Degens..... Clothing
 Deruy..... Hardware
 Fashion..... Shoes
 Friggeri..... Jewelry
 Holden, Sam and Ward, Oscar.(Sam and Oscar) Clothing
 Lindburg, Roll..... Drugs
 Messenger, Asa..... Planing Mill and Contracting

APPENDIX E. BANKS

National Bank of Pittsburg (The Lanyon Bank), organized in 1882

S. H. Lanyon, President James P. Patmor, Vice-President

E. E. Lanyon, Cashier

APPENDIX D. POSTMASTERS

George Hobson..... 1876 — 1877

A. J. Georgia..... 1877 — 1884

A. E. Nau..... 1884 — 1888

O. S. Casad..... 1888 — 1892

Charles Patmor..... 1892 — 1896

W. H. Yarcho..... 1896 — 1900

W. J. Watson..... 1900 — 1915

Lou Johnson..... 1915 — 1922

Mrs. Minnie True..... 1922

Pittsburg State Bank, organized in 1914

G. I. Miller, President W. H. Miller, Cashier

APPENDIX E. BANKS

National Bank of Pittsburg (The Lanyon Bank), organized in 1880

S. H. Lanyon, President James P. Patmor, Vice-President

F. W. Lanyon, Cashier

First National Bank of Pittsburg, organized in 1886

T. T. Hale, President John R. Lindburg, Vice-President

C. P. Hale, Cashier Wm. Babcock, Assistant Cashier

J. M. Barber

First State Bank of Pittsburg, organized in 1903

James Patmor, President E. B. Hayes, Vice-President

Jay N. Patmor, Cashier

National Bank of Commerce, organized in 1905

Fred H. Fitch, President Bert Maxwell, Vice-President

Pittsburg State Bank, organized in 1914

C. I. Miller, President W. H. Miller, Cashier

APPENDIX F. MEDICINE AND HEALTH

First Board of Medical Examiners

(Appointed by Mayor E. V. Lanyon, Authorized June 22, 1889)

W. W. Williams

E. O. Sloan

J. M. Barber

A. Wolf

E. M. Johnson

Board of Health

William Williams

F. A. Porter

H. H. Bogle

J. M. Barber

APPENDIX E. LIBRARY

Charter Members of the Academic Library Fund

Founders of the Pittsburg Library

Rev. J. A. Tinspenny, D. D.

A. L. Chaplin

Mr. John Randolph

C. J. Starnes

Mr. John Randolph

C. J. Starnes

APPENDIX G. PITTSBURG CHARITY AND HUMANE SOCIETY

(Organized and Chartered December 1909)

First Officers

(Appointed by Mayor E. V. Lanyon, April 15, 1909)

Otto Greef..... President

O. W. Schide.....Vice-President

J. A. Wells.....Secretary

Reverend Gardner	}	Advisory Board
Mrs. W. J. True		

J. H. Wheeler

J. T. Hester

C. J. Boaz

Building Committee (1909)

J. J. Watson, President

T. J. McIluskey

E. V. Lanyon

C. J. Henderliden

E. J. Galtier

APPENDIX H. LIBRARY

Charter Members of the Academic Literary Club

Founders of the Pittsburg Library

Rev. J. A. Pompeney, D. D.	A. L. Chaplin
Mr. John Randolph	C. S. Jennes
Mrs. John Randolph	O. T. Boaz

Library Board

(Appointed by Mayor E. V. Lanyon, April 15, 1898)

Morris Cliggitt	E. F. Porter
John Randolph	J. R. McKim
J. C. Buchanan	R. E. Carlton
H. C. Willard	James Patmor
J. B. Wheeler	J. T. Moore
O. T. Boaz	

Building Committee (1909)

W. J. Watson, President	
T. J. McCluskey	E. V. Lanyon
C. J. Henderlider	R. E. Carlton

APPENDIX I. SCHOOLS

Public Schools

School Report for Year Ending June 30, 1916

Taxable Valuation.....	\$ 13,240,260.00
Current Expense.....	83,666.64
Average Monthly Salary, High School (Males)...	91.42
Average Monthly Salary, High School (Females)...	90.00
Average Monthly Salary, Grades (Males).....	70.00
Average Monthly Salary, Grades (Females).....	62.89
Levy.....	006
Bond Levy.....	001
Playground Levy.....	00 $\frac{1}{4}$
Number of Buildings.....	8
Number Employed, including High School Teachers.....	106
Number of Pupils, including High School.....	3,823

Members of School Board, District No. 50

John Hendrix.....	Director
A. S. Warren.....	Clerk
J. W. Lane.....	Treasurer

APPENDIX I.—Continued

Superintendents

A. J. Georgia.....	1877	
Thomas Van Andra.....	1878	
D. Hollinger.....	1879	
C. E. Cory.....	1881	— 1883
S. W. Black.....	1884	— 1887
D. E. Pence.....	1888	— 1891
C. M. Light.....	1891	— 1893
D. A. Cooper.....	1893	— 1894
S. W. Black.....	1895	— 1897
R. S. Russ.....	1897	— 1903
A. H. Buckley.....	1903	— 1913
E. T. Armstrong.....	1913	— 1915
J. F. Bender.....	1915	— 1924
M. M. Rose.....	1924	

Kansas State Teachers College

Pioneer Faculty Members

Miss Odella Nation.....	1903
Dean G. W. Trout.....	1907
Miss Eulalia Roseberry.....	1907
Prof. J. A. Yates.....	1907
Prof. D. M. Bowen.....	1909
Dr. O. P. Dellinger.....	1909
Prof. J. A. G. Shirk.....	1912

APPENDIX J. CHURCHES

Date of Organization and Charter Members

Baptist Church, organized August 3, 1875

Mr. Rodreich

Caleb Brooks

A. S. Warren

Zion Lutheran Church, organized April 9, 1876

H. Koopman, Sr.

W. Meinke

H. Koopman, Jr.

J. H. Meyers

W. Luecker

J. Carr

J. H. Rhodenberg

First Presbyterian Church, organized March 12, 1879

Mrs. W. H. Yarcho

Louis Kimm

Mattie Halley

James Officer

John Howatt

Methodist Episcopal Church, organized in 1879

Rev. E. E. Boaz

L. H. Kidder

First Christian Church, organized in 1881

R. E. Carlton

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, organized in November 1881

D. C. Flint

Mrs. D. C. Flint

APPENDIX J.--Continued

Churches

St. Mary's Catholic Church, organized in 1882

Mr. Krois

Mrs. Krois

Ed. O'Connor

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, organized in 1885

John Ahrens

John Jacobs

Mt. Hebron Church, organized in 1886 (No names available)

Bethel Church, organized in 1888 (No names available)

United Presbyterian Church, organized April 1, 1891

J. W. Alexander

Mrs. J. W. Alexander

Mrs. R. G. Nesch

J. W. Teasdale

Flora Dickey

Mrs. A. O. Blair

W. J. True

Mrs. Jane Dickey

Jennie Dickey

United Brethren Church, organized in October 1890

Charles Kohler

First Spiritualist Church, organized October 3, 1896

(No names available)

APPENDIX J.—Continued

Churches

Mt. Hope Baptist Church, organized in 1898

Mr. Goodman

Mrs. Goodman

Laura Marshall

First Church of Christ, Scientist, organized May 6, 1898

Mrs. R. L. Berger

Latter Day Saints, organized May 8, 1903

Leo Franklin

D. Christy

Spiritual Science, organized October 3, 1906 (No names available)

Union Mission, organized in 1915

Rev. N. A. Huey