



Archives

OCTOBER
2020

WILKINSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 26, ISSUE 9

Abraham Lincoln statue update -



The newly built viewing area for the future Abraham Lincoln statue is complete. This image shows the raised retaining wall at the intersection of Penn Ave. and Ardmore Blvd. (Lincoln Highway). The new Lincoln will have a dark granite pedestal placed precisely in the recessed square area. Hefty decorative bollards have been installed to close Dell Way from vehicles. Through the generosity of Wilkinsburg residents, alumni, businesses, organizations and others, **Wilkinsburg Historical Society** has raised slightly over \$68,000 toward the cost of the statue plus pedestal. Every contribution is important to help get this project completed. **MANY thanks to all who have given funds.** Please consider another gift if you are able to help
Donations may be made to :

Wilkinsburg Historical Society, P.O. Box 17252, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

or [https:// www.gofundme.com/lincoln-statue-for-wilkinsburg](https://www.gofundme.com/lincoln-statue-for-wilkinsburg)

Train Station update from the WCDC (Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation)



The **Wilkinsburg Train Station** is glowing and so are we! Beautiful landscaping by Artistry Greenscapes is in. The grass is growing and the governor's driveway is green. We are also thrilled that the long awaited glass has been installed in the windows and doors.

The Weather
 Increasing cloudiness and warm. Low, 55; High, 52.
 (Weather Detail on Page 42)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
 Sun-Telegraph

Souvenir Edition

VOL. 84 — NO. 75

In Four Sections

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1960

Telephone ATLantic 1-6100

FIVE CENTS
 in Allegheny County SEVEN CENTS elsewhere

We Had 'Em All the Way

BUCS ARE THE CHAMPS

Maz's Homer in 9th Wins, 10-9

Kennedy, Nixon In 3d Debate

Quemoy and Matsu Take Spotlight In Foreign Affairs Talk

By the Associated Press
 The two men fighting it out for the presidency pounded each other hard last night on the suddenly mushroomed issue of defending Quemoy and Matsu.

Sen. John F. Kennedy, the Democratic nominee, and Vice President Richard M. Nixon, the Republican entry in the

Nixon and Kennedy clash on stage—Page 5.

White House race, also stamped away at one another on what it would cost to do things for America.

Nixon, for example, said Kennedy's farm program would raise food costs 25 per cent. "Not true," Kennedy fired back.

They did agree that the United States is bound to stand by commitments to defend



Happy Owner Galbreath, l., and General Manager Brown.



Manager Murlough pinches hero Mazeroski in wild clubhouse celebration.

Pirates Come From Behind To Cop Series

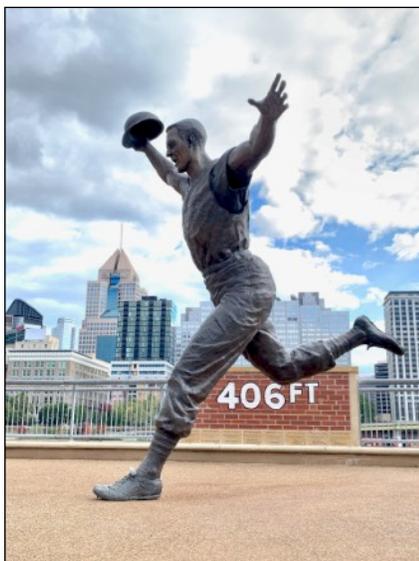
Five-Run Rally in Eighth Inning Breaks Yankee Lead as Smith Brings in 3 Runs With 4-Bagger

THE SERIES INSIDE Page

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Violent K Farewell

2 Rob Office, Home, Sweet (It Is)

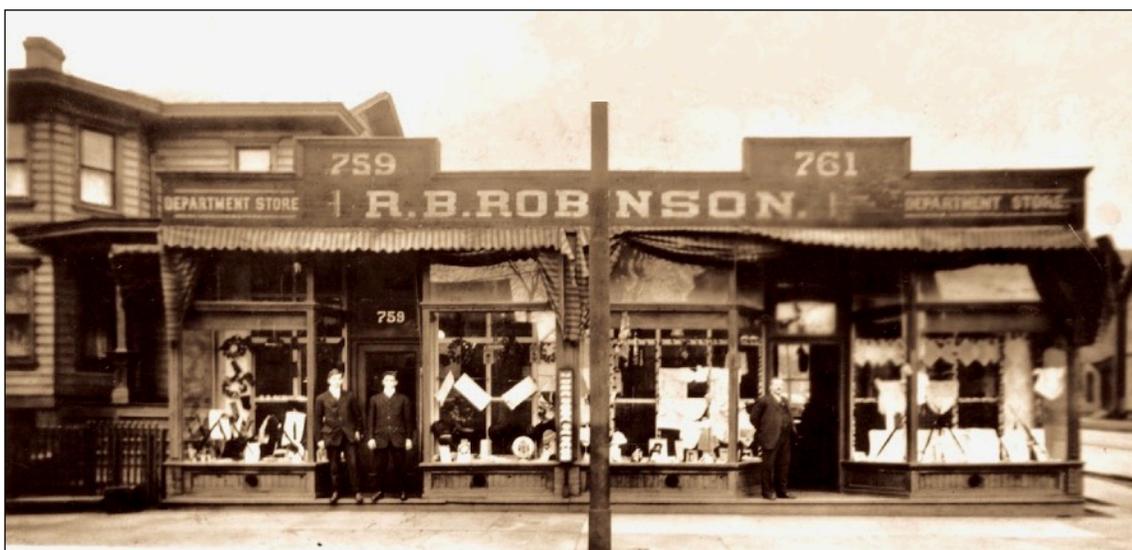


60th Anniversary of Pirates World Series win
 October 13, 1960, 3:36 pm is remembered as the greatest moment in Pittsburgh sports history. In the seventh game of the 1960 World Series at Forbes Field, the New York Yankees and the Pittsburgh Pirates were tied. In the ninth inning Bill Mazeroski was up to bat and hit a walk-off home run over the left field wall, (at the 406 foot mark) clinching the 1960 World Series Championship for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Post-Gazette photographer James G. Klingensmith had climbed atop the press box roof at Forbes Field and captured "Maz" rounding second base. That moment of joy is immortalized at PNC park with a large bronze statue honoring Bill Mazeroski. The statue was sculpted by Pittsburgh artist Susan Wagner.

Scholastic celebrates 100 years since its humble beginnings in Wilkinsburg.

In 1915 the R. B. Robinson family lived at 715 Wallace Avenue in Wilkinsburg, a few doors down the street from the newly built (1911) Wilkinsburg High School. The Robinsons ran a department store on Penn Avenue at Center Street, (where the Penn-Lincoln Hotel would be built in 1927.)

The Robinsons had two children, Rachel and Maurice. Maurice R. Robinson was an exceptionally bright and motivated student at Wilkinsburg High School. As a class officer every year, and as class president for three years, he shouldered many responsibilities, including being Assistant manager of the football team. He was a member of the Athenian Literary Society, a critic for the class play, a member of the Inter-Society Contest, the Peabody Inter-Scholastic contest and editor-in-chief for the "Review." in 1915. Maurice Robinson, class of 1915, was one of WHS' most accomplished students. After graduation from WHS he enrolled at Dartmouth. He left Dartmouth for a time to join the Army during World War I.



This image shows the Robinson department store, corner of Penn Avenue and Center Street. The property sold in 1926 and the Penn-Lincoln Hotel was built.



Robinson home circa 1915



Birthplace of Scholastic in Wilkinsburg, 2015

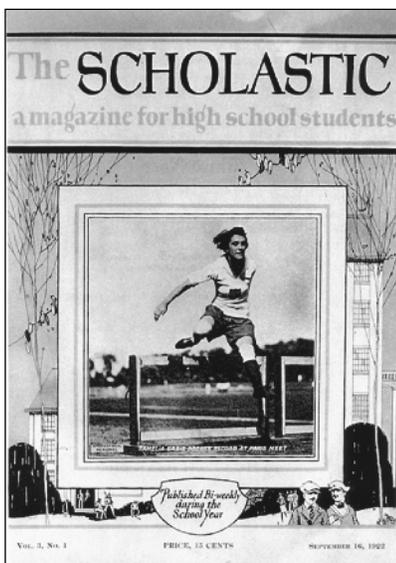
Maurice Robinson graduated from Dartmouth in 1920 and returned to the family home at 715 Wallace Avenue. He loved sports and was exceptional in journalism. In October, 1920 he created the *Western Pennsylvania Scholastic*, a publication he printed from his mother's second floor sewing room. This was the humble start of *Scholastic*.



The image at left is the 1915 senior picture of Maurice Richard Robinson at Wilkinsburg High School. In the annual yearbook, known at that time as the "Review", the caption states that his nickname at WHS was "Mose". His extracurricular involvement included: Class Treasurer (1), Class President (2) (3) (4), Assistant Manager of Football (3), Athenian Literary Society (2) (3) (4), Vice President (3), Critic (4), Class Play (4), Inter-Society Contest (3), Peabody Inter-Scholastic Contest (4) and Editor-in-Chief "Review" (4).



This image to the right is the very first edition of "The Western Pennsylvania Scholastic," a weekly publication of school athletic events in the area. The first issue (October 22, 1920) was four pages long, but note that all others were eight pages long. Within two years the name was changed simply to "The Scholastic" to include a wider readership.



The left image shows the September 16, 1922 issue, after the name was changed to *The Scholastic*. During the past century Scholastic has always been a leader in bringing quality, affordable reading material to all parts of the world. The company has been innovative by offering Scholastic Book Clubs, Book Fairs, classroom teaching materials, literacy programs, educational products for parents and educators. During the current pandemic Scholastic has created materials for e-learning. Today Scholastic Publishers, headquartered in New York, is the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books. Scholastic's mission is "to positively impact the children we serve. We are committed to empowering families, educators and communities to build a better future for the next generation."

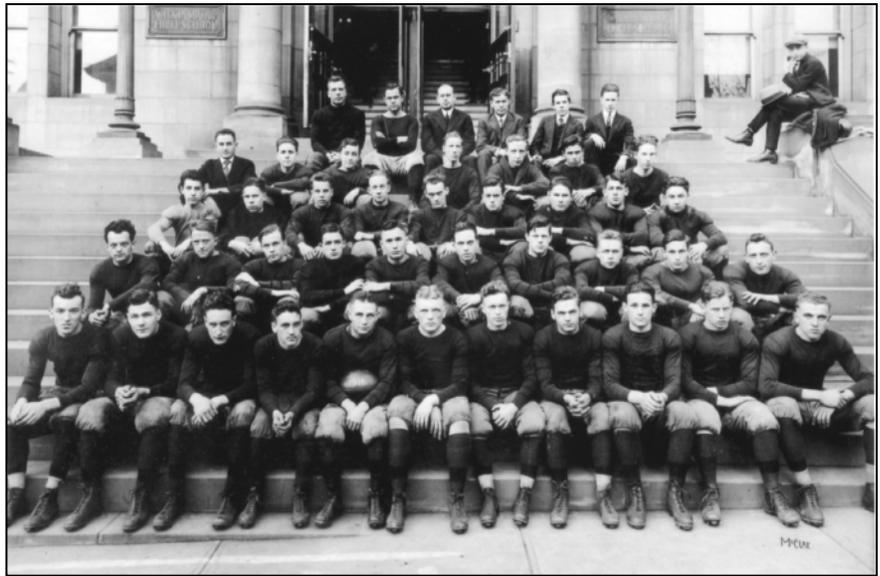
Grand Opening of the New
Wilkinsburg Athletic Field
 Corner Penn Avenue and Weisman Street, Wilkinsburg

Saturday, October 7, 1916
 AT 3:00 O'CLOCK, P. M.



Band Concert
 Student Cheers and Songs
 Football Game
 Homestead vs. Wilkinsburg
 High Schools

STREET PARADE
 Starting from the High School Building
 at 2:00 o'clock



A seven acre parcel, part of the Johnston Farm, was bought by the Wilkinsburg School District to provide an athletic field for Wilkinsburg students. It was opened on October 7, 1916 as the Wilkinsburg Athletic Field. Later it was renamed Graham Field to honor William C. Graham who served as principal from 1903 to 1928 and Superintendent from 1929 to 1941. Pictured is the 1916 WHS football team who won the WPIAL championship for the third consecutive year.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WILKINSBURG! OCTOBER 5TH YOU ARE 133 YEARS OLD!

October is the official birthday month for Wilkinsburg as it was Incorporated as a Borough on October 5, 1887. The village was founded by Dunning McNair (1762-1825) who, by 1789 acquired over 266 acres in the area. McNair's lands over the next 25 years included 856 acres. His property eventually became part of Wilkinsburg, Edgewood, Homewood, Swissvale, Pitt Township and other parcels. He named the new village Wilkinsburgh after his Revolutionary War friend John Wilkins, Jr. (1761-1816)

In 1812 the first land transfers had the name Wilkinsburgh on the deeds. By 1840 the local post office was Wilkinsburg(h). The small number of businesses and residents were satisfied with rural living in Wilkinsburg(h) because it was a much healthier environment than residing in the smoky city of Pittsburgh. Over the years the inhabitants began to want paved streets, electricity, street lights, a sewage system, garbage collection and other modern services.

The village was still not an incorporated borough, and did not have any of these municipal services that a local government could provide. In the 1880s Attorneys Rowland Balph and Alfred Duff presented a petition for incorporation signed by 229 residents. It was rejected by the grand jury, and a second petition was also rejected. Finally, the third petition was successful and on October 5, 1887 Wilkinsburg became a borough, 75 years in the making! Municipal improvements soon followed: paved streets, fire and police departments, natural gas service, electrical service, water and sewer systems, and telephone service.

At incorporation in 1887 the borough had 800 residents. By 1892 the population had grown to 3000.



Don't miss out on **The Wilkinsburg Sun**, a free monthly community newsletter published by the volunteer Wilkinsburg Community Newsletter Board, with the support of the Wilkinsburg Borough, the Wilkinsburg School District, the Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce and the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation.

The Sun accepts submitted articles provided they are related to Wilkinsburg and are civic-minded.

<https://wilkinsburgsun.wordpress.com>

Sign up to receive The Sun by email at eepurl.com/v0iBP and friend The Sun on Facebook.

Wilkinsburg Historical Society has a website, to share more information about the history of Wilkinsburg. wilkinsburghistory.wordpress.com

Mailing address: **Wilkinsburg Historical Society, P.O. Box 17252, Pittsburgh, PA 15235**

We usually meet on the third Monday of months March, June, August and November at the South Avenue United Methodist Church in Wilkinsburg. **HOWEVER, THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS CHANGED EVERYTHING AND WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO MEET IN PERSON DURING 2020. SAFETY IS OUR UTMOST CONCERN AND NEW PROTOCOLS HAVE NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED.** The "Archives" Historical Society newsletter is still published monthly, March through November.

Wilkinsburg Historical Society yearly dues for the Wilkinsburg Historical Society are:
\$20.00 INDIVIDUAL Member, \$35.00 FAMILY Membership
\$10.00 STUDENT or ASSOCIATE Members (for out of towners who usually can't attend meetings) Please keep your membership dues up to date.

Wilkinsburg Historical Society - Membership application
Help promote the valuable history of Wilkinsburg.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 E-mail address _____

() \$20 Individual membership
 () \$35 Family membership
 () \$10 Student or associate membership
 () \$_____ Additional donation

Please make check payable to: **Wilkinsburg Historical Society**
PO Box 17252, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Anytime is a good time to pay your dues for the Wilkinsburg Historical Society. We have many preservation projects going on, plus the cost of sending out the Archives and providing displays for Wilkinsburg events. Many thanks to those of you who have already sent in your membership dues. Please use the address on the form, our PO box.