

1920

Context:

On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution gave American women the right to vote.

“Prohibition” began in the United States On January 16, 1920; the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution went into effect, making the manufacture, sale, and transportation of liquor illegal

In 1920 the American Professional Football Association was formed; two years later, its name was changed to the National Football League (NFL)

The population of Grove City reached 4,944. The population of Pine Township was 1,617. This represented a combined population increase of 598 over the 1910 census.

Grove City entered Prohibition.

Note:

Grove City had a long history of supporting Prohibition.

After the Civil War (1861-1865), the use and abuse of alcoholic beverages became a social, political, and religious issue. Two opposing philosophies developed. Those opposing the consumption alcohol and supporting government intervention banning its use became known as the “dries”. Those supporting the sale of alcoholic beverages and opposing government intervention became known as the “wets”. In 1869, the Prohibition Party was founded and in 1873, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union was established. Both of these organizations advocated prohibition of the sales of alcohol. Protestant denominations including the Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and the Disciples of Christ were actively advocating prohibition laws. Episcopalians, German Lutherans and Roman Catholics did not generally support government intervention into the sale of alcohol.



Pine Grove became an active Prohibitionist community. Both the Prohibition Party and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union organizations were active in Pine Grove. In 1879, Narcissa White-Kennedy formed the Pine Grove Chapter of the WCTU. Edward J. Fithian, cofounder of Carruthers-Fithian Clutch Co., moved to Grove City in c1900. Fithian was a physician before becoming an industrialist, influential citizen, and Mayor of Grove City. He was active in the Prohibition Party and was an ongoing candidate for

office on the Prohibitionist Party ticket. He was the Prohibition candidate for Presidential Elector for Pennsylvania in 1908 and 1928; for Pennsylvania state treasurer in 1916; for Governor of Pennsylvania in 1918; and for U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania in 1932 and 1934.

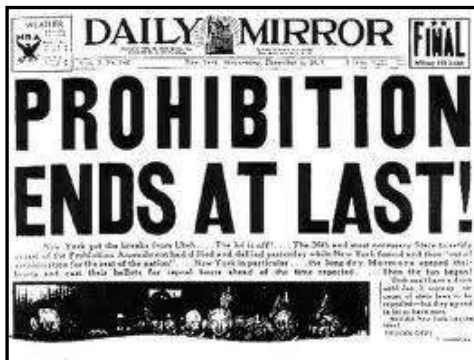
In 1909, The Commercial Club of Grove City advertised a summary of the assets of the community to encourage development. Included in that list was "No Saloons". In 1910, the Good Citizens League, active in community affairs, maintained an Enforcing Committee to investigate illegal liquor sales. The newspaper, the *Herald*, refused to accept liquor advertising.

On December 18, 1917, Congress passed the 18th Amendment making the manufacture, sale, and transport of alcohol illegal in the U.S. By January 16, 1919, the Amendment was ratified by the required 36 states and Prohibition became effective on January 16, 1920.

The 18th Amendment, however, did not include enforcement procedures, nor did it define what it meant by "intoxicating liquors." Brewers and wine producers argued that the alcohol limit should only apply to hard distilled liquors. Congress instead passed the Volstead Act over the veto of President Wilson, which set the legal alcohol limit to $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 % alcohol by volume in all beverages. The law gave federal agents the authority to enforce the law and individual states had the authority to enforce the law within their own boundaries.



Public support of the prohibition of alcohol began to decline almost immediately. Within a short time, illegal alcoholic beverages became available almost everywhere. During the Great Depression and the early thirties, Prohibition became increasingly unpopular. Illegal bars, known as "speakeasies", became commonplace and even fashionable. Women, who had previously not patronized bars, began to frequent the speakeasies. As public sentiment changed, a movement to repeal Prohibition began to gain momentum.



The result of this cultural and political change was the 21st Amendment repealing Prohibition (the 18th Amendment). Congress passed the amendment on February 20, 1933. The amendment had been ratified by 36 states on December 5, 1933. The 21st Amendment authorized states to regulate the manufacture, distribution, and sale of liquor.

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) was established in November 1933 in reaction to the end of federal prohibition. Governor Gifford Pinchot, a staunch prohibitionist, called a special session of the state legislature to regulate liquor in Pennsylvania. The plan included state taxes on liquor sales and a state monopoly on

liquor sales through a system of state liquor stores run by civil service employees. Pinchot's stated goal was to "prohibit forever the open saloon" and to "discourage the purchase of alcoholic beverages by making it as inconvenient and expensive as possible."

Mercer County voted to repeal the prohibition of sales of liquor on November 7, 1933.

Local reaction varied with Grove City becoming "dry" and Pine Township "wet". In 1933, the borough of Grove City voted to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages within the borough limits. Pine Township remained "wet".

Taverns opened in Pine Township. Included were:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Ownership</i>
Rainbow Grill	West Main Street Across from the current diner	Page family
Pitt Erie Inn Mary's Place	West Main Street Where 84 Lumber is	Unknown
Unknown	Harrisville Road (Rt 58) Intersection of 58 and Airport Road	Unknown
Grove City Hotel	Hallville Apartment building near current shoe store	Monteleone family
Lone Pine Inn	Pine Twp Recreation Building	Ernest and Mary Aloe

Oral reports state there were several speakeasies in operation in the Grove City. Reportedly, there was a basement speakeasy and a second floor speakeasy near Broad Street as well as others near town.

On September 9, 1947, the voters of Pine Township voted to prohibit alcohol sales. Two separate questions appeared on the ballot; one addressing the sale of malt and brewed beverages and the other addressing the sale of liquor. Both resulted in the prohibition of the sale of alcoholic beverages. The vote for the sale of malt beverages was defeated 378 against to 333 for. The vote for the sale of liquor was also defeated 379 against and 366 for. At this time, the taverns in the township were required to close.

For many years, alcohol was sold within Grove City and Pine Township although both were dry. Organizations utilized various methods of attempting to circumvent the law. Periodically they were raided by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board agents and arrests and fines were levied. By and large, these establishments were tolerated by the community. There were four organizations operating within the borough - the American Legion, the Elks (The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks), Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Eagles (Fraternal Order of Eagles) as well as The Grove City Country Club in Pine Township. It was often joked that Grove City was the wettest dry town in the county.

The status remained unchanged for 60 years. In the 1990s, the status would change in both Grove City and Pine Township.

Pine Township held two referendums In the 1990s to change the law to permit the sale of alcohol. The first failed. On May 18, 1993 the voters approved the sale of alcoholic beverages at a Privately-owned Private Golf Course by one vote. The official vote was 427 for and 426 opposed. Only the Grove City Country Club could meet the criteria included in the referendum. In 1993, the Grove City Country Club was granted a liquor license.

Then in 1995, Grove City voters approved a referendum permitting liquor sales in two private veterans clubs. This began the first legal sales within the borough since Prohibition. (See 1995)

On May 22, 2007, Grove City voters passed a referendum that permitted the sale of liquor in the Borough of Grove City. The vote was 802 in favor and 727 opposed.

The population of the community limited the number of licenses that could be obtained to two. (See 2007)

J. Shawgo opened a construction company.

Note:

In 1936, J. Shawgo's sons, Charles and Edgar Shawgo, began to operate a construction business and in 1946, they were joined by their other three brothers, Willard, John, and Gerald. At that time, they established a lumberyard. In February 1946, the name Shawgo Brothers Construction Company was registered with G. Gerald and Edgar L. Shawgo as owners.

In 1951, the Shawgo Construction Company, located on Rainey Avenue, was destroyed by fire.

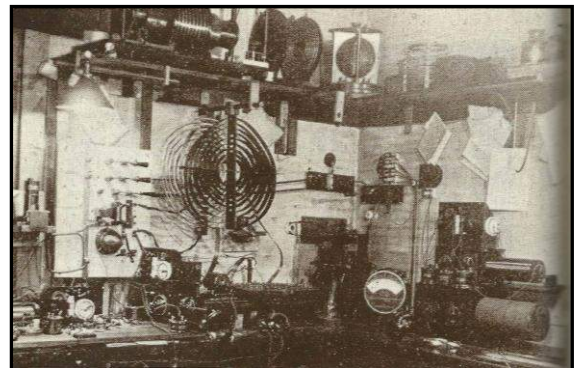
Later the lumber business was moved to Oak Street. The Shawgo Construction Corporation was incorporated on March 2, 1959. The business closed in 1981.

The first radio broadcast was made from Grove City College in April 1920.

Note:

On April 26, 1920, Grove City College President Weir C. Ketler sent a message via the Grove City College AM radio station, 8YV, to the New Castle Rotary Club about 20 miles away. This broadcast is often considered a "first" in broadcasting.

"Firsts" in radio broadcasting have been debated over the years. Detroit radio station WWJ is generally considered the first commercial radio station in the United States. It began broadcasting on August 20, 1920. Pittsburgh station KDKA broadcast the 1920 presidential election results on November 2, 1920. That broadcast is generally considered the beginning of professional broadcasting.



The original college station

The WSAJ call sign was issued to Grove City College in April 1920 (according to Grove City College website) and the station began operating on a frequency of 1310 kHz using AM (amplitude modulation) to broadcast.

WSAJ-AM broadcast with 100 watts using a longwire antenna strung between two towers on the college's Rockwell Science Hall. It broadcast every Wednesday evening and Sunday. WSAJ continued to broadcast with its longwire antenna long after most stations had switched to vertical antennas.

In early 2006, the operating license for WSAJ-AM was allowed to expire. The original AM antenna array remains at Rockwell Science Hall. (See 1914; 1968)

Vita: Herbert W. Harmon



Herbert W. Harmon, Professor of Physics at Grove City College, was the driving force behind the radio broadcasting.

Dr. Harmon's pioneering work led to one of the first radio broadcasts in the world, and placed him among the "greats" in radio's hall of fame.

Dr. Harmon's research and experimentation began in the spring of 1913, with a radio receiving station in the Physics Building. In the fall of 1914, an experimental transmitting station was licensed with call letters 8CO. The station transmitted in code; voice transmission had not yet been developed. After a brief hiatus on amateur radio during World War I, in January 1920 the station returned to broadcasting

for experimental and training purposes as 8YV.

This is a QSL Card sent to verify contact with a listener. QSL cards were common in the early days of radio. A listener would send a signal strength report to the transmitting station and the station would reply with a QSL card verifying the contact.

This QSL card is dated February 29, 1924 and indicates that Harmon was operating a radio broadcasting station, licensed as 8ABM, from 418 Poplar Street. He was operating a "Hartley coupled transmitter" with a power of 100 watts. The card indicates the transmission was "C W" (continuous wave) the abbreviation for code (as opposed to voice).

D.X. <u>6 Buro ca 7 Haon</u>		418 Poplar Street	
Radio <u>110 meters</u>		Grove City, Pa.	
Your <u>Chd. 2nd</u> signals <u>here</u> <u>1/27/24</u> at <u> </u> M. E. S. T.			
Audibility	QRM	QRN	QSS
RECEIVER:	<u>Hartley Coupled</u>		
3 Circuit	TRANSMITTER		
1 Stage	<u>100</u> Watt C W		
Audio	1200 Volts Storage Batt		
Antenna <u>45 ft. cage L. 75 and 55 ft. high</u>		Ant. Current <u>1.2 amp</u>	
Counterpoise, 20 wires, 80 ft.		<u>110 Meters</u>	
Very respectfully,		Opr. ARRL	
<u>Wm. Harmon</u>			

GROVE CITY COLLEGE	WSAJ	GROVE CITY, PENNSYLVANIA
Grove City College is a non-sectarian, co-educational school with an enrollment of 850 and is located 60 miles north of Pittsburgh.		
We thank you very much for your <u>QSL</u> report of our transmission of <u>2/29/24</u>		
Output 100 watts, 1310 K.C. 229.8 Meters		
Transmission schedule, if regular. We shall broadcast the following days <u>each</u> <u>from 7:15 to 8:15</u> <u>and</u> <u>from 4:30 to 5:30</u>		
WS 8YV.C.W. - Phone	Yours very truly,	
Experimental	<u>Wm. Harmon</u>	

This card is dated November 1, 1933 It records a transmission from Grove City College. The card states that transmissions were made every Tuesday and Thursday 7:15 -8:15 and Sunday (?) from 4:30 – 5:30. The station was transmitting with 100 watts.

Both cards are signed by H. W. Harmon.

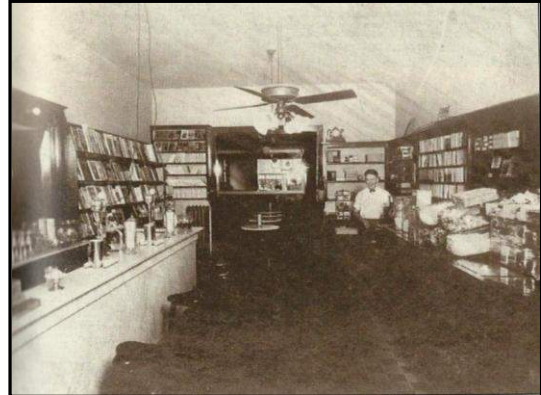
Herbert Harmon's son, Herbert F., was the trustee of the Grove City High School radio station, 8HM. This station was licensed to operate at 1000 watts.

Edward L. Burdick Sr. and his son, Edward L. Burdick, Jr., moved from Ambridge to Grove City to start a wholesale newspaper business.

Note:

E. L. Burdick and E. L. Burdick Jr. registered the name Grove City News Company on November 21, 1921. The company evolved over the years changing its merchandise lines. At one time, the store included a soda fountain, sporting goods, magazines, records and sheet music, and appliances.

A complete furniture line was added to the merchandise and the name was changed to Burdick and Hoffman. On January 20, 1938, the name Burdick & Hoffman was registered.



In the mid 40s, the store divided with Hoffman taking the furniture business and Burdick specializing in men's clothing.

On May 1, 1985 Burdick, Inc. was incorporated as a retail apparel business with Thomas E. Burdick as President.

George J. Howe opened a grocery store.

Note:

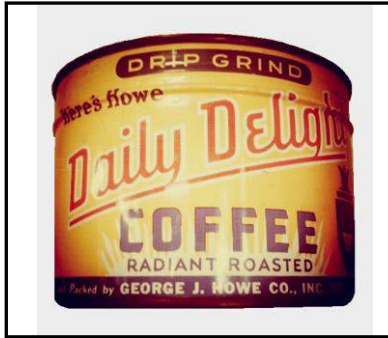
As a promotion, Howe ground and roasted coffee in the store window. He offered a free pound of freshly roasted coffee to each customer who spent \$10 on merchandise in his store.



This photograph shows the Inside Howe's store in 1924

As the popularity of the coffee grew, Howe began merchandising his coffee through other grocers. He delivered coffee in his Model T Ford.

The company sold coffee under the brand name "Daily Delight". It is said that the logo "Here's Howe" was originated in these days when grocers said, "Here's Howe" when they saw him approaching.



Howe sold the grocery store and began a full time business roasting and selling coffee. On February 2, 1927, The George J. Howe Company was incorporated.

In 1931, The George J. Howe Company moved into a newly constructed building on Grove City's West Main Street.

In 1948, Howe entered the candy business bagging and distributing candy.

Upon George Howe's death in 1950, his son-in-law George "Pete" Beech became President. In 1971, Robert Neely became President, and in 1975 Ernie May became President. When Ernie May retired Vice President Richard Beech, grandson of George Beech, became President.

Margaret Williams, a locally known artist, was hired as an art instructor at Grove City College.

Note:

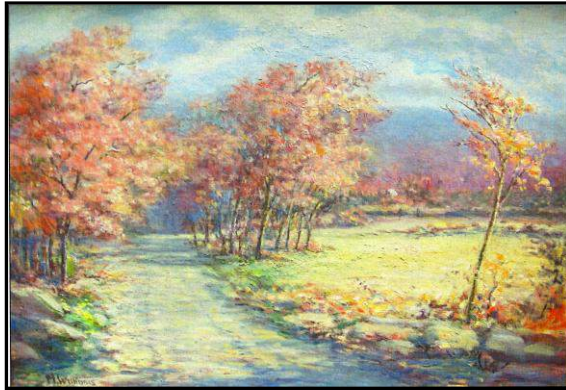
Margaret Williams was born in Clintonville in 1887, the same year her family moved to Grove City.

She graduated from Grove City High School, and attended Grove City College before transferring to the Philadelphia College of Design for women. She also studied at the Fontainebleau in France, as well as privately in Venice, Italy.

During her time teaching at Grove City in the 1920s and '30s, she continued to return to the Parisian art colony each summer. She taught at the Philadelphia Academy of Arts for Women before coming to Grove City College. She retired in 1954 and died in 1957.



Williams worked in watercolor, pastel, and oil on canvas. Her favorite technique was overlaying pen and ink with watercolor.



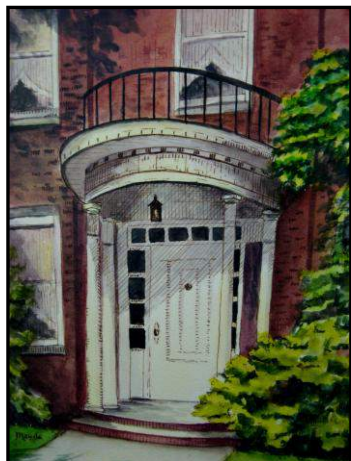
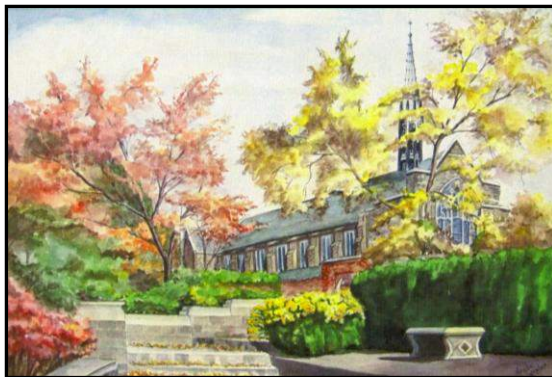
Maude Winder was a local artist who was a contemporary of Williams.

Note:

Maude Winder was a contemporary of Williams.

Winder taught art at Grove City College, Grove City High School, and Plain Grove High School,

She was an accomplished artist whose subject matter was often local buildings and settings.



Frederich Kocher, Sr. purchased the Ellenberger Greenhouses and established the Grove City Floral Company.

Note:

The Ellenberger Greenhouses were owned by the Clelland family.

Federick Kocher had been the head horticulturalist for the Pittsburgh Cut Flower Company.

The Grove City Floral company was incorporated on May 7, 1936.

Upon Frederick's death, his son, Frederick, Jr., became the sole proprietor of the business until his death in 1961. His daughter Nannie Jean then began running the business with her husband Ronald Hay.

When Nannie Jean and Ron retired, their son David became a full partner and assumed control of the business.

The First National Bank began construction of a building on the corner of Pine and Broad Streets.

Note:

The building was designed by the Charles H. Owsley of Youngstown and constructed of Georgia marble.

At the right is a c1924 view of the First National Bank (from examples of Bank Work in Georgia Marble, pp. 17).



Memorial Park was established.

Note:

The area included in Memorial Park was originally owned and mined (open pit mine) by the Tasa Coal Company.

When the mine was depleted, The Grove City Commercial Club and the Grove City Accredited Herd Show and Sales Association bought the property and developed it as a park.

In 1924, a War Memorial designed by William Ahearn, was installed.

During the late 1930s, a cascading waterfall was added to the memorial as a federal Works Progress Administration project.

Memorial Park expanded to include 250 acres of wooded land including picnic pavilions, athletic fields, an outdoor swimming pool, hiking paths and other recreational facilities. (See 1995)



Robert E. Hume established the Hume Insurance Agency.

Note:

Robert E. Hume had been employed by the National Association of Manufactures as a specialist in foundry core making. At the request of Dr. E. J. Fithian he was sent to Grove City to help with a manufacturing problem.

After World War I Dr. Fithian encouraged Hume to remain in Grove City and open an insurance agency. On April 26, 1920, Hume opened his insurance business. On July 7, 1950, his son, George, entered into the business.

On December 31, 1994, the Hume Agency merged with the Bruce McQuiston Insurance Agency.

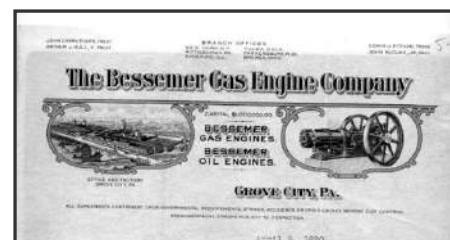
In 1920, the *Pennsylvania Dept. of Labor and Industry Industrial Directory* listed the following businesses in Grove City:

<i>Business Listing</i>	<i>Address Listed</i>
A. R. Anderson , Garage	Broad / S. Poplar Streets
Bessemer Foundry	Monroe Street
Bessemer Gas Engine & Carruthers Fithian Clutch	
Bessemer Motor Truck Company	
Breckenridge Builder	
J. H. Curry, Bakery	Broad Street
Excelsior Steam Laundry	
Fay Coal Company	
W. M. Faulk, Car Shop	Monroe Street
Grove City Brass and Bronze Company	
Grove City Broom Company	224 Poplar Street
Grove City Publishing Co.	
Kings Planing Mill, Lumber	Railroad Street
C. F. Laderer and Company	
Lawrence Foundry Co.	
McKay Carriage Company	Erie Street
Montgomery Broom Company	Railroad Street
Moon Brothers Auto Garage	122 Center Street
W. A. Wright Electrical Supplies	Broad Street

Bessemer Gas Engine Company stationery dated April 8, 1920.

Note:

The stationery lists John Carruthers as President and E.J. Fithian as Treasurer. It advertises the manufacture of oil engines as well as gas engines.



1921

Montgomery Builders was established in 1921.

Note:

Montgomery Builders began as a small hardware and lumber store. Over the years, the company continued to grow entering the commercial construction business and adding a milling operation.

In 1939, Montgomery Builders built their first building at Slippery Rock College.

George Sverre was a partner in the business at that time. Sverre left the partnership and formed a construction business with Paul Pain. The company was named Sverre – Pain. Because of its name, the company was mentioned in Ripley's "Believe It or Not". ["Believe It or Not" was a widely read national newspaper feature that highlighted unusual and sometimes humorous true items.] Later, both returned to work at Montgomery Builders.

As the company grew and developed new products, there have various names and incorporations associated with Montgomery Builders. On October 6, 1947, a new company, named the Montgomery Construction Company, was registered by Charles B. Montgomery. On April 11, 1949, Charles B. Montgomery established Montgomery Builders Supply Company.

By 1977, Montgomery had developed a wooden truss and panel manufacturing operation as part of the business. On December 27, 1977 Montgomery Truss and Panel, Inc, was incorporated to develop this business.

In 1989 the hardware and builders supply was sold to Lezzer Lumber of Curwensville, Pa. Lezzer moved the business to 104 Industrial Drive. Lezzer and operated the building supply business under the Lezzer name until it was closed in 2009.

Montgomery continued to operate and expand the truss and panel manufacturing business in the facilities at 803 West Main Street. In 1989, a new manufacturing plant was erected for this operation on PA Route 208 east of Grove City.

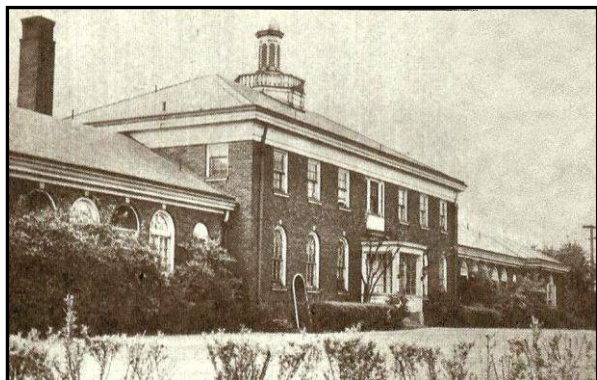
Grove City Hospital dedicated and opened a new hospital on Hillcrest Circle at north end of Edgewood Avenue.

Note:

The facility was designed by W. G Eckles.

An addition was added to this facility in 1952 and another was added in 1972.

By 1976, talks to merge the Bashline Hospital and Grove City Hospital had begun. The name Grove City Hospital was registered on March 15, 1978.



The Bessemer Gas Engine Company was continuing to grow on a national scale.

Note:

In addition to its Grove City main offices and factory, manufacturing gas and oil engines, Bessemer Gas Engine listed branch offices at:

50 Church St., New York, N. Y.
1101 Bessemer Bldg, Pittsburgh. Pa.
815 Citizens Bldg., Cleveland. Ohio
210 Waggoner Bldg., Fort Worth. Texas
Newark Trust Bldg., Newark, Ohio
615 Market St., Shreveport. La. (sic)
Bartlesville., Okla.
Ranger ,Texas
Parkersburg ,W. Va.
Bremen,Ohio
Dogan ,Ohio
403 Owyne Bldg., Cincinnati. Ohio
Winchester, Ky
120 E. Jackson Blvd., Chicago

1922

On June 16, 1922, Carruthers Park was dedicated.

Note:

Carruthers Park was established on Pine Street by John Carruthers then President of the Bessemer Gas Engine Company. The community park included picnic facilities as well as a swimming pool and a baby pool and bathhouses. The park was located in what is now a parking lot behind the old Penn Grove Hotel.

The Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad ran excursions from Pittsburgh to the Park for picnics and rural outings.

Carruthers closed the park and sold a portion of the land to the Grove Hotel Company.

The Rotary Club was chartered by Rotary International on May 10, 1922.

Note:

Twenty-one members of the Commercial Club established the Rotary Club.

Edwin B. Harshaw was the first President of the Rotary. John McCune, Jr. was the Vice President, Milford I. McBride was Secretary, and Edwin J. Fithian was the Treasure.

Over the years, the Rotary was involved in supporting communities and various community projects. Rotary Club projects included planting trees throughout the community, and providing scholarships to graduating high school students.

A major project was the establishment of the bridge gazebo, and gardens in Memorial Park.



The Kiwanis Club organized on April 29, 1922.

Note:

The Kiwanis Club was chartered on June 8, 1922. A. R. Hodge was the first president.

A major project of the Kiwanis Club in the 1940s was the purchase of the Hosack Building and the conversion of the building into Grove City's first Youth Center. On June 4, 1962, that mortgage was paid in full.

The Kiwanis Club continued to operate until the late 1990s.

On August 12, 1922, the Broad Street Garage opened as a Studebaker dealer and storage garage.

Note:

The Broad Street Garage was opened by Herman A. Walters, and his two brothers-in-law, Andrew Williams, and Harry J. Williams,

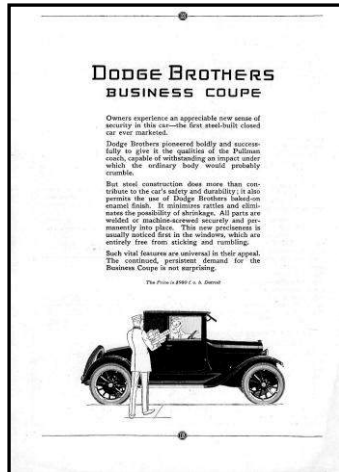
In the early years, the Broad Street Garage's focus was the storage business.

During the twenties automobile ownership became more common in Grove City and the automobile business continued to grow.

The advertisement for Studebaker automobiles shown at the right appeared in the June 192 issue of *Country Life*.

In 1930, the Broad Street Garage added the Dodge Brothers automobile line to its dealership and became





the first Dodge Brothers dealership in Mercer County.

The advertisement at the left was published in 1922 by the Dodge Brothers Company. At that time the logo design included the letters DB with two interlocking triangles.



The Broad Street garage continued as a Studebaker dealer until 1942.

In 1953, Loyal Walters, Herman's son, became the sole owner of the business. Loyal was a 1935 graduate of Grove City High School and a 1939 graduate of Grove City College. He had begun working in the family business in 1943.

In 1953, the name Broad Street Garage was registered by Herman Loyal Walters. Walters owned the garage until 1980 when he retired.

The business was acquired by Ed Esposito and then Ed Esposito, Jr. In 1980, the Broad Street Garage, Inc. was incorporated with Edward A. Esposito as President. The business grew and developed into the Grove City Chrysler Plymouth Dodge Jeep and Eagle automobile dealership.

1923

Five Filer brothers opened Five Filer Brothers, a canvas awning business.

Note:

Joseph Filer had come to Grove City in the late 1880s and operated the Filer House a hotel.

One of his sons, Charles operated a livery behind the hotel. A second son, William, was involved in a number of business ventures. William had five sons; Clarence, to his first wife (Mary Graham) and four, Sherman, Arthur, Grant and Clifford, to his second (Julia M. Thompson). These five brothers established the Five Filer Brothers business.

The company grew to operate a plant in Youngstown as well as Grove City. During World War II, it manufactured canvas war supplies. After the war, they returned to manufacturing domestic canvas products.

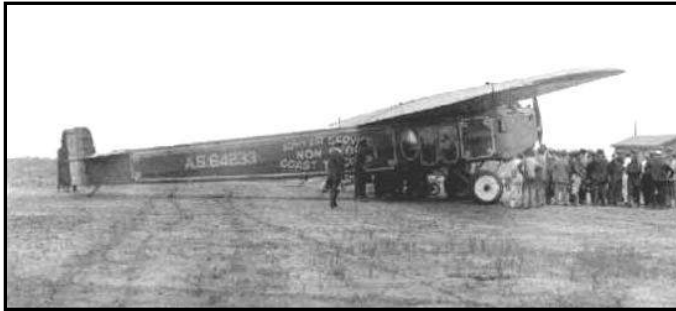
Later Clarence's son, David, joined the firm and his son Stephen joined the business in 1972.

In 1994, Bob McBryan acquired the business and continued to manufacture custom canvas products: bags, totes, sleeves, covers. The company was relocated to 23 Tower Rd,

Oakley G. Kelly, a pilot from Grove City, and John A. Macready made the first nonstop flight across the United States.

Note:

Kelly and Macready flew a single-engine Fokker T-2 monoplane from New York to San Diego.



The flight left Long Island, New York on May 2, 1923 and flew to San Diego, California. It was their third attempt to fly nonstop across the country. The flight took just under 27 hours for the 2,470-mile trip.

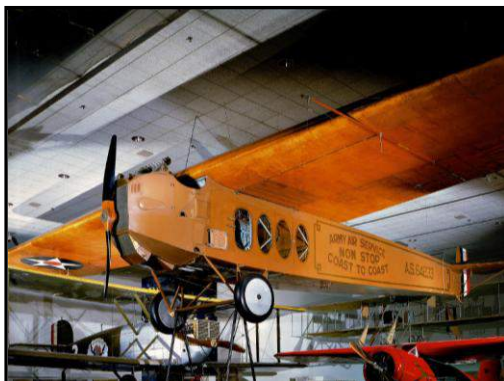
Kelly handled the takeoff and Macready landed the plane.

During the flight, they exchanged positions at the controls five times each flying six-hour shifts. For over half the flight they flew over unknown territory - at night through rainstorms.

According to the *National Petroleum News*, June 6, 1923, "Lieut. Oakley Kelley and Lieut. John A. Macready used Pennzoil special airplane oil, manufactured by the Penn American Refining Co. and distributed by the Pennzoil Co. of Oil City.



Photo Credits: National Air and Space Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution



Their plane is on display at the National Air and Space Museum.

The single-engine Fokker T-2 monoplane had a Wingspan 81.4 feet, a fuselage length of 49.1 feet and a maximum air speed of 96 mph.

Photo Credits: National Air and Space Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Vita: Oakley G. Kelly



Oakley G. Kelly's father operated a feed store in Grove City. Kelly attended Grove City College for three years before enlisting in the Army Air Corps, where he became a flying cadet. He became a test pilot at McCook Air Force Base.

In May 1922, Kelly and Macready received the Mackay trophy for establishment of a world flight endurance record of 35 hours, 18 minutes.

According to John A. Macready, the transcontinental flight was Kelly's idea, and most of the preparation was done by Kelly.

Kelly was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight. In the presentation the President, Warren G. Harding, said:

The President of the United States of America...takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Flying Cross to First Lieutenant (Air Service) Oakley G. Kelly, U.S. Army Air Service, for extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight. Lieutenant Kelly, with First Lieutenant John A. MacCready, departed from Michel Field, Long Island, New York at 12:36 p.m. on 2 May 1923 in the Army transport Airplane T-2, on a nonstop transcontinental flight. They encountered practically every hazard of flying and displayed remarkable ingenuity, skill, and perseverance in overcoming the many handicaps imposed upon them by the elements and the mechanical equipment used by them. They arrived at Rockwell Field, Coronado, California. At 12:26 p.m. on 3 May 1923, thus successfully completing the first transcontinental nonstop flight in the history of aviation.



Grove City closed its original electric plant and opened a new one.

The Grove City Real Estate Company was established on April 26 by J. B. Welsh and O. E. Irwin.

Note:

The name Grove City Real Estate Company was registered on April 29, 1923 by J. B. Welsh and O. E. Irwin.

1924

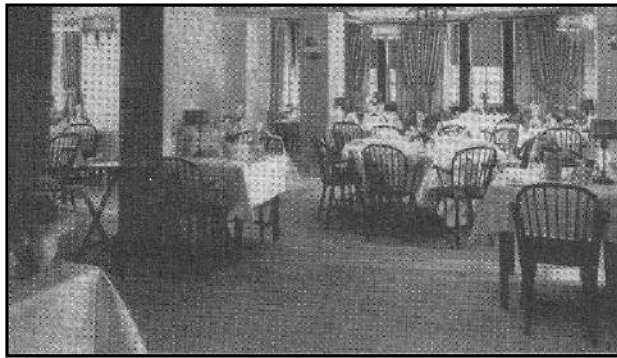
The Penn Grove Hotel opened on April 4, 1924.

Note:

A Grove City Hotel Company was incorporated on January 1, 1922 (no location is listed for this incorporation).

The Grove City Hotel was built on Pine Street next to the swimming pool in a portion of the land that had been the Carruthers Park.

The Penn Grove Hotel opened with a large ceremony. Local citizens were invited to tour the new hotel and its facilities. A. F. Meyers was the first manager.



The hotel was operated as a high-end facility with 64 rooms, a dining room, a banquet hall, a kitchen, and a laundry. They facility employed a chef, African American porters, as well as a complete staff.

The photograph on the left shows the Dining Room in 1926.

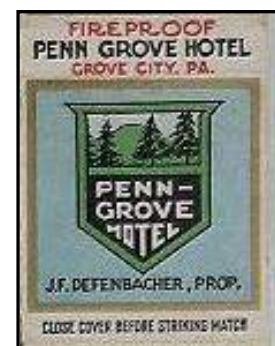
The photograph (right) shows the Banquette Room in the same year.



The hotel became the social center of Grove City.



This matchbook cover dates from the 1930s.



The cover advertises the building as fireproof. J. F. Defenbacher is listed as the Proprietor.

The name Penn-Grove Hotel Company (on East Pine Street) was registered to Howard E. Fassett and Betty R. Fassett on November 12, 1968.

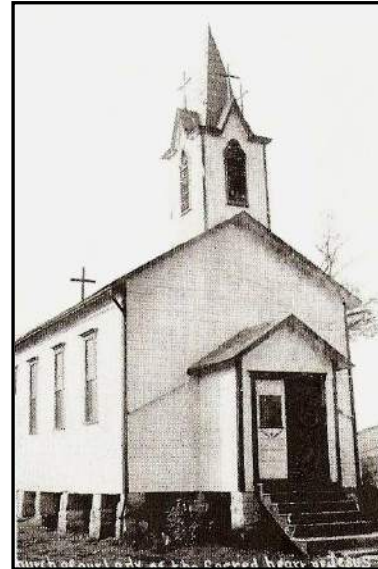
In 1975, Earl and Anne Shannon purchased the hotel. The Hotel began operating as a retirement center under the Shannons.

The Church of the Beloved Disciple, Roman Catholic Church, was organized.

Note:

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Hallville was the original Roman Catholic Church serving the area. It had been established in the early 1900s. The building was located near the dam in Hallsville. The small church building was soon not large enough for the nearly 80 parishioners, so plans were made for a new building within the borough.

The church cemetery on Gill Road contained gravestones dating from 1903 to 1970. Records in the Mercer County Historical Society list the following surnames of those in the cemetery.



Old Catholic Cemetery Surnames

Agostino, Alessio, Allesio, Ammendolea, Armini, Armenia, Barone, Bartolo, Bartolomneo, Bell, Boca, Bogsi, Bombaca, Bombago, Bonanni, Bonanno, Brown, Bucci, Bumbaco, Callari, Callere, Cangemi, Caponi, Cassi, Catanzariti, Celli, Cirillo, Copnacchio, Coppolella, Cornacchia, Constantine, Costanzo, Cianchetti, Ciannl-----, Cisbro, Copnacchio, Cornacchia, Costa, Costanzo, Crisari, D?, D'Amore, D'Angelo, D'Antonio, D'Argangelo, Dalesandro, Damore, Dantonio, Danyello, Darcangelo, Dattolo, DeAugustino, DeGregorio, Della, DeLuca, DeSalvo, DiCarlo, Dicasimo, DiDomenico, DiGregorio, De Gregory, Di Emilio, DiMichele, Dimichele, DiTomasso, Dostillo, Ecidio, Falcon, Francavilla, Gaggamo, Gasbarra, Gasbarrrd, Gavallaro, Gianni, Gialloreti, Gill, Giuseppe, Gregori, Gsippe, Guarnieri, Horbito, Iervasi, Isacc, Isacco, Isago, illegible, John, Keller, Kenmuir, Lagana, Landro, Leo, Lerz, Liberatore, Lucas, Luici, Lussri, Mac_aue, Margadonna, Marguglio, Manozzi, Marre, Massacci, Messina, Mihaly, Miller, Minnitti, Mosca, Mottillo, Natarelli, Natili, Nocera, Nigri, Notarelli, Nyugszil, Oliver, Omano, Ostillo, Palivca, Palumbo, Pasquale, Patrick, Pellegrino, Perry, Piscioniere, Pietro, Polmiri, Pompa, Prega, Prestandres, Prestanorea, Petuch, Prinzi, Punteri, Raffel, Richitt, Rico, Rivelli, Rocace, Roncace, Rossi, Russo, Salpini, Sarnataro, Scruci, Sericola, Shipione, Siciliano, Spanberger, Stanley, Talotta, Tenaglia, Thapasse, Thomas, Tonelli, Toto, Tuntune, Turek, Uranno, Valentine, Valentini, Valentino, Vescio, Violidif, Walsh, Wash, West, Zambino, Zappeletto, Zappetti, Ziccardi.

John McCune Jr. formed a building committee. His family donated a lot on Broad Street as the site for the new building. By 1925, money had been raised to purchase and remodel a house on North Center Street for a Rectory and begin construction of a new church building.

On February 27, 1925, Rev. Cornelius Cooney was assigned to Grove City. He began saying mass in the Odd Fellows Hall on South Broad Street.



On April 18, 1926, groundbreaking was held for a building. The cornerstone for the Church of the Beloved Disciple was laid on July 18.

The building was designed by Fuller and Steckler, Erie-based architects in the English cottage style. The Church of the Beloved Disciple was formally dedicated on Oct. 2, 1927



Shortly after the new church was built, The Our Lady of the Sacred Heart building was razed. Remnants of that church are two statues, one of Our Lady and one of St. Anthony and the bell from the bell tower.

It is believed the property was purchased by the Darcangelo family, who presented the bell to the parish as a gift. Because the new facility had not been designed to include a bell a separate structure was designed and constructed at the north side of the church.

The church facility was not completed until 1950 when the niche on the front of the church, which had remained empty for 23 years, was filled with a Bianca Dura marble statue of St. John, the Beloved Disciple.

In 1960, a new Rectory building was constructed; in 1970, a major remodeling of the church was undertaken converting from the traditional style to a contemporary style. In 1971, an education building was completed.

In 2005, a new Church of the Beloved Disciple was built at 31310 South Center Street. The old facility was sold. (See 2005)

The Bowie Coal Company was established as a major mining company.

Note:

John Bowie was born October 11, 1854, in Edinburghshire, Scotland, came to the United States with his parents in 1863. They moved to the Hickory Township area where John was educated. The Bowies were miners in Scotland and brought their skills to this

country. They worked in the mines and eventually became one of the largest employers in the county.

John white, in his *20th Century History of Mercer County*, published in 1909, describes John Bowie as a prominent coalmine operator, a farmer, merchant and public official. He writes:

After leaving the school room he was for six years engaged in , mining coal, and at the close of that period, in 1880, was appointed mine foreman by the Westerman-Filer Company. He was with that corporation for three and a half years, and during the following five years was with the Sharon Coal Company; during seven years with the Wick Coal Company; with the Filer Coal Company for two and a half years, and then in 1894 engaged in a mercantile business in Bowie. His interests are large and varied, including merchandising, coal mining, and farming. In politics he has been a lifelong Republican, and is now serving his second term as school director of Jackson township, while during the past four years he has also been the postmaster of Bowie.

Bowie was located southeast of Jackson Center near the intersection of North Hazard Road and Kilgore Road

By 1924, The Bowie Coal Company was a major mining company. In 1938, the Dreschs sold their mine to the Bowie Company. In the thirties Bowie operated coalmines on the Nicklin farm and over 40 acres near the North Liberty – Plaingrove Road.

In 1941, Bowie sold land in Liberty Township on the London - Grove City Road to the Buckeye Coal Company, owned by Youngstown Sheet and Tube.

The name Bowie Coal Company, Grove City, was registered on July 8, 1945 by R. R. Bowie. On January 3, 1949 Bowie Coal Sales Company was incorporated at 121 W. Pine, Street Grove City.

The Bowie Coal grew to become the largest employer and the second largest producer of coal by tonnage in the area. In 1949, they were mining in the Harrisville area. At one time they operated 12 mines: Bessemer 1 & 2, Boyers, G. C. Fuel, Highland, Mccoytown, North Liberty, Pennsy, Pine, Pone Hill, Weigle, and Willowbrook

Grove City Volunteer Fire Department purchased a new 1925 REO Speedwagon fire truck.

Note:

This picture of the REO Speedwagon was taken c1960.



Benjamin Dye and sons opened a Durant automobile dealership and service station.

Note:

The Durant automobile was manufactured by the Durant Motors Corporation of New York, New York. The company manufactured several models including coupes, sedans, touring cars, and a sport roadster.

This advertisement for the Durant was published in the October 18, 1924 issue of the *Literary Digest*.



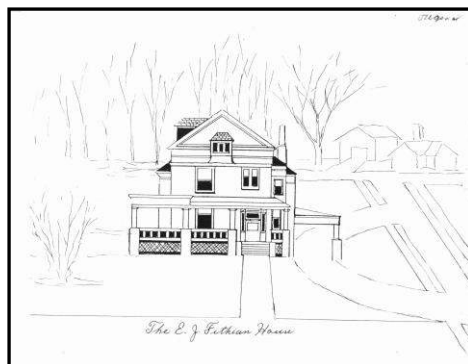
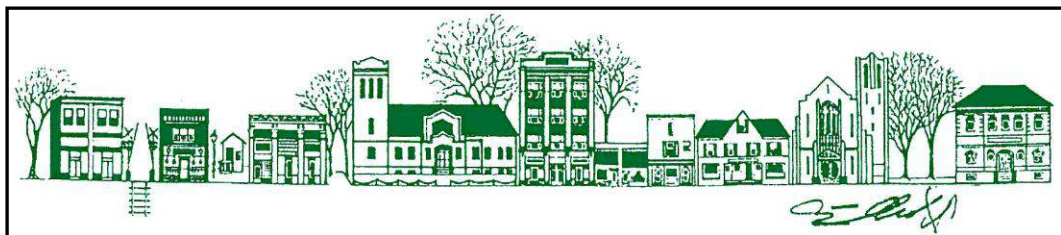
B. Charles Elliott, a local artist, was born.

Note:

B. Charles Elliott, Jr. was born in Grove City on April 9, 1924.

Elliott studied art under Margaret Williams at Grove City College as a private student. He graduated from Allegheny College and earned a MA from Syracuse University. He became the Director of the Reading Museum and Art Gallery. He was the Eben Nemcrest Research Scholar and published author of numerous scholarly articles and museum exhibition catalogs.

After retirement he was active in the Grove City area until his death on May 11, 1997. His work includes numerous drawings of the area.



1926

In 1926, the Tower Church was built at 248 South Broad Street.

Note:

The cornerstone of the building is dated 1925.



This Picture is dated 1944

Stained glass windows honoring the Simcox family, missionaries, who were martyred during the Boxer rebellion in China were installed in the church. They killed in Paoting-Fu, Chi-Li province, China, on June 30, 1900.

Mr. Simcox graduated from Grove City College in 1889 and the Western Theological Seminary in 1893. Mrs. Mary Simcox was born in London, Pa.

The facility was renovated during, 1966-71. The E. J. Fithian Chapel was added at this time.

Another addition was undertaken in 2011. (See 2011)

The Guthrie Theater opened as a Vaudeville theatre.

Note:

The Guthrie Theater was built in 1926 by John Guthrie as a Vaudeville theatre (a live stage performance venue) and included an orchestra pit and a pipe organ. When it was built in 1926, it seated 326 people.

Reportedly, the interior décor was unique combining a number of design styles. The ceiling of the auditorium was “tented” with curtains; the walls featured a coat of arms and were hung with tapestries. The lobby featured a stone fireplace with an American eagle decoration, heavy furniture and curtains in the jazz age style.

Later a large square white plaster screen was placed on the back of the stage to run silent films between the live shows. From there it grew into a movie theater.

The photograph below is from 1939. The marquee is advertising the showing of the movie “Another Thin Man” starring William Powell and Myrna Loy. A movie poster advertising the film is shown at the right.



From 1950-1955 the Guthrie was owned by Co-Operative Theater Service. In September 1956, Guthrie-Lee Theaters was incorporated by H. M. Carruthers and John Carruthers II, et al. From 1975 to 1980, Cinemette Corporation of America owned the business.

William DeMarsh owned the theater for a number of years. it was acquired by James Ahonen. In 2001, it was being operated William DeMarsh's daughter, Lavonne Gilliland. Ahonen sold the business to Eric Thomas in 2002.

Thomas began the process of restoring and updating the facility. The theater also began featuring live entertainment as well as current motion pictures.

W. M. Bashline established a company to design and manufacture linemen's climbing equipment.

Note:

W. M. Bashlin was born W. M. Bashline. Over the years, the "e" was dropped and the name became Bashlin.

Bashline had seen linemen at work on power lines and recognized that they did not have appropriate specialized equipment for their work. In his garage, he began to develop new safety equipment that was comfortable as well as safe. He began manufacturing and selling the equipment he designed.

In 1933, the business was moved to West Pine Street. His son-in-law, A. J. Schell, Jr. joined the business. The name W. M. Bashlin Company was registered on January 13, 1944. The business produced products that excelled in their design and the business became world wide in scope.

On May 1, 1964, Schellco, Inc. was incorporated to deal in safety equipment and tools with Alvin J. Schell as President, Robert Schell as V President and June A. Schell as Secretary. The incorporation states that Schellco was previously known as the W. M. Bashlin Company.

In 1986, the sons and daughter of A. J. Schell purchased the business. Bashline Industries was incorporated on May 1, 1986 with Robert E. Schell as President and June

Schell as Secretary. Bashlin manufactures an extensive variety of products made of leather, nylon and cotton duck as well as climbing and fall protection equipment for linemen, arborists, and industrial workers.

In 1926, the *Grove City Herald* and the *Grove City Reporter* merged becoming the *Grove City Reporter-Herald*, a semi-weekly newspaper.

Note:

This newspaper was a forerunner of the *Allied News*. (See 1965)

1927

Context:

In May, Charles Lindbergh flew his plane "The Spirit of St. Louis" cross the Atlantic non-stop.

The first long distance television transmission was demonstrated.

The Shelly furniture business, operated by Leonard Shelly, completed the erection of a new modern furniture building during the summer.

In 1927, Martin L. King bought Gilmore and Smith, a shoe store at 157 South Broad Street.

Note:

Martin was inexperienced in the shoe store and struggled early on before establishing a solid business.

In 1948, his son, Don, assumed control of the business and further developed the business. He expanded the business and in 1971 opened King's Shoe Store on South Broad Street.

Later his son, Kevin, operated the store until it was sold to Maryann Collins in 1989. She operated the store until she retired in 1996 and closed the store.

1928

Context:

The first color motion picture was demonstrated by George Eastman.

The last cattle show was held in Grove City's Memorial Park. (See 1919)

1929

Context:

On May 28, the first "talking" movie filmed in color, "On With the Show" was released.

On October 29, 1929, the stock market crashed beginning the Great Depression.

On January 15, Col. N. J. Maxwell, Commander of Famous Roundhead Regiment, died.

Cooper-Bessemer Corporation was formed on March 22.

Note:

The merger of the CG Cooper Company of Mount Vernon, Ohio, and the Bessemer Gas Engine Company made the new company the largest builder of gas engines and compressors in the United States.

C.G. Cooper had become the country's leading producer of pipeline compression engines. Although Cooper also produced smaller two-cylinder engines used in natural-gas fields to extract gas as it came from the well, the Bessemer Gas Engine Company of Grove City, Pennsylvania, dominated that field. Bessemer had produced oil-pumping engines for most of its existence.

During the 1920s, Bessemer invested heavily in the development of the diesel engine. E. J. Fithian had acquired the Carruthers' interest in the company and led the company in developing a diesel engine. He had purchased an Atlas engine and obtained a license to produce a Bessemer version of the engine.

While Cooper and Bessemer had some product overlap, their major strengths were in different areas. By 1929, Cooper needed additional production facilities to meet the mounting orders for large natural-gas engine compressor units. Bessemer, after its lengthy period of diesel development, badly needed new capital. Both companies had posted nearly identical average earnings for the previous three years

The merger made the company the largest builder of gas engines and compressors in the United States. Soon afterward, it was listed on the American Stock Exchange.

The merged company continued the development of the Bessemer line of diesel marine engines. Because most ships were built or converted on the East Coast, Cooper-Bessemer opened a sales office in New York.

The New York office was opened on October 23, 1929, six days before the crash of the stock market and the beginning of the Great Depression. Cooper-Bessemer's business boom was brief. Two years later, annual sales had dropped more than 90 percent, reflecting the almost total halt of construction on long-distance pipelines and in American shipyards. Half of all sales that year were for repair parts. Cooper-Bessemer did not to recover until World War II. (See 1941)

In 1929, Grove City College purchased the farm across Wolf Creek west of its downtown campus.

Note:

This land was purchased to expand the campus and permit the ongoing expansion of the college and its facilities.

This purchase marked the beginning of the "Upper" and "lower" campuses. As the college moved from downtown to the new property "on the hill," the local expression "up on the hill" began to be used to refer to the college.

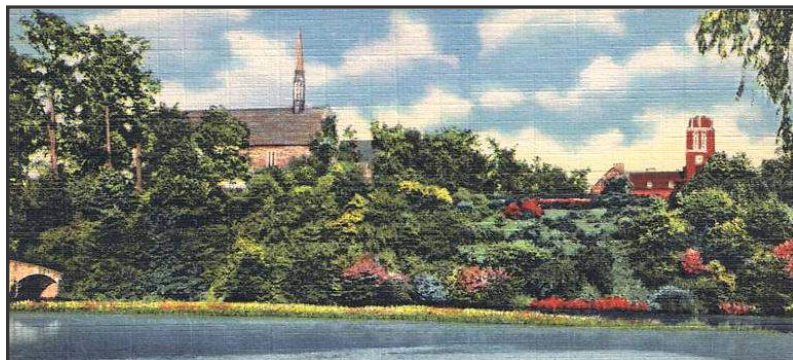
Grove City College began a campus-landscaping project with the Olmsted Brothers.

Note:

The Olmsted Brothers company was considered one of the most prestigious and influential landscaping firms in the country.

Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) is known as the father of landscape architecture in America. He designed many well-known urban parks, including the Washington D.C. Mall, Central Park, and Prospect Park in New York City. He also landscaped campuses at Boston University, Yale, and Stanford. Olmsted's last landscape was the George Vanderbilt estate, Biltmore, at Asheville, North Carolina.

When Olmsted retired in 1898, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., and his half-brother, John Charles Olmsted, formed Olmsted Brothers. This business continued to perpetuate Olmsted's design ideals, philosophy, and influence. They were also influential in the creation of the National Park Service.



Olmsted Records in the Library of Congress indicate the firm worked with Grove City College from 1929 - 1949. There are eight folders relating to this project.

At the annual meeting

of the Board of Trustees on June 11, 1935, it was reported that a campus road had been constructed and that a program of "beautification of the west bank of the lagoon by a planting process carried on under the direction of the Olmsted Brothers, college landscape architects" was underway.

This photograph of Rainbow Bridge from the upper campus to the lower campus was taken c1935.



Raising purebred dairy cattle had grown to include two hundred-fifty farms in the Grove City area.

Note:

On June 5 1929 Edward Harshaw, Vice President and Cashier of GC National Bank, addressed the Titusville Rotary. His address focused on the need for the cooperating between farmers and businessmen for a community to grow. In that address he stated:

"Without the success of agriculture the manufacturing interests are not secure."

"The success of the agriculture interests is a stabilizing influence to the business of any community."

He went on to describe how the dairying interests of the farms within a radius of fifteen miles of Grove City had been built up over the past decade. He stated that there were 250 farms in the Grove City area maintaining at least one purebred cow.

He concluded:

"The co-operation of the business men and merchants of Grove City has created a feeling between the farmers and the town people which has worked to the advantage of both. By creating a desire to improve their herds, the farmers; have increased their incomes. Most of that money remains in the community. These farmers feel that Grove City is their town and they come there from as far as fifteen miles to spend their money."

"In Grove City we have an annual get-together dinner meeting, with some outstanding speaker and other program features. Farm problems are discussed and both farmer and business man become better informed and better acquainted with one another."

These are photographs of notes issued by the First National Bank of Grove City in 1929.

Note:

This is one of five known "Type 2" notes known to exist from the Grove City National Bank. Bank Officers are F.W. Daugherty and A.M. Allen. In 1863, Congress passed the National Banking Act.



Under this act, a bank could become National Bank. National Banks were able to issue notes as long as each bill was backed by bonds deposited with the Treasury Department therefore, if a particular bank failed, its bills were still worth face value. They were printed by the federal government in small size format in two types. The type is determined by the format of the serial number and bank charter number.

