

1930

Context:

In 1930, a worldwide depression began. Unemployment was high; money was scarce; people entertained themselves at home.

Motion pictures and big band music were popular.

The population of Grove City reached 6,156. The population of Pine Township was 2,037. This represented a combined population increase of 1,632 over the 1920 census.

The Chestnut Street Bridge (Mercer County Bridge No. 3116) spanning Wolf Creek between Harvard and McConnell Streets was built in 1930.

Note:

At the time of completion, the Chestnut Street Bridge was the longest bridge in Mercer County. The bridge was a six-span reinforced concrete bridge. It was constructed of three open spandrel arch spans on the east and three T-beam spans on the west. The bridge total span was 312 feet.



The Grove City Borough entered into an agreement with the county authorizing construction of the bridge on June 17, 1929. The Roberts Supply Company of Lima, Ohio was the builder.

The Chestnut Street Bridge was one of four bridges across Wolf Creek in Grove City.

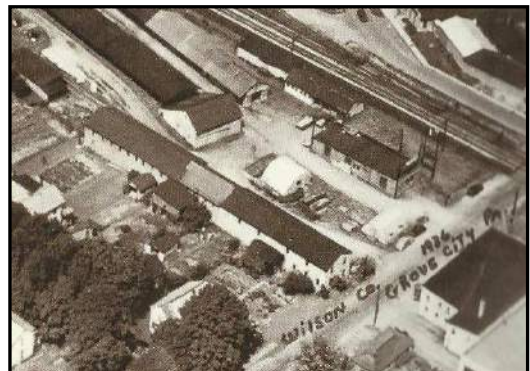
The Wilson Company was established.

Note:

In c1930, the King Planing Mill business was purchased by Charles H. Wilson (Charles H. Wilson and his son, Carroll B. Wilson, (and stockholders).

The business was renamed the Wilson Company.

This photograph shows the Wilson Company and the surrounding area in 1936.



A second Masonic Lodge, Lodge No. 1579, was established in Grove City on May 6, 1930.

1931

Context:

On March 3, "The Star-Spangled Banner" became the national anthem of the United States of America.

On May 1, 1931, the Empire State Building, the world's tallest building, opened.

Rockwell Hall of Science and Harbison Chapel were erected on Grove City College's upper campus.

Note:

These building were included in a major construction program that included Rockwell, Harbison, Ketler, and Rainbow Bridge.

Ketler was completed in 1932. (See 1932)

Rockwell Hall of Science was named in honor of Willard F. Rockwell Jr. a former member of the Grove City College Board of Trustees, president of Rockwell-Standard Corporation of Pittsburgh, and a writer.



This photograph was taken by, Mr. Diamond, a construction worker who worked on the college construction project in 1931.



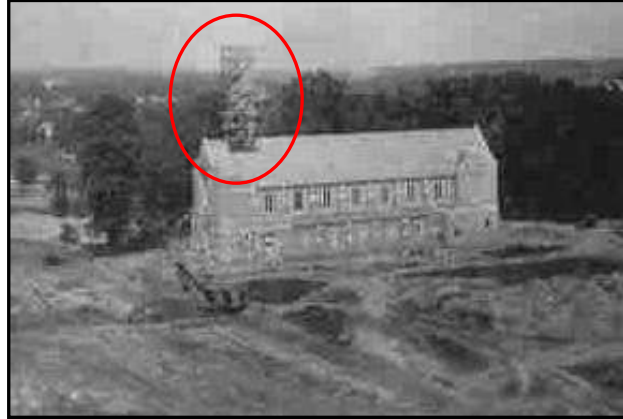
Rockwell has been refurbished three times since 1930, including a four-phase project in 1998 that included an elevator.

In 2011, the college announced a major building project that would include the replacement of Rockwell Hall. (See 2011)

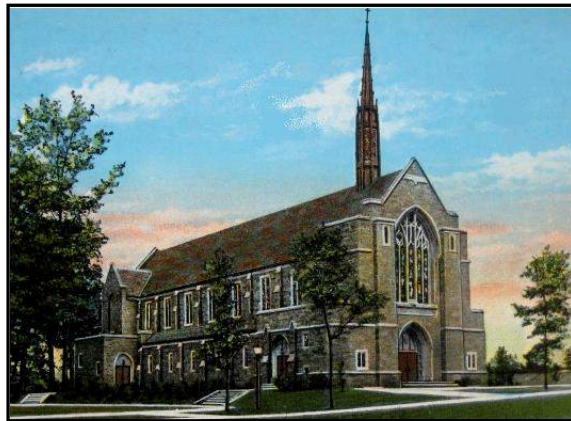
The Samuel P. Harbison Memorial Chapel was built in the Gothic style in cruciform in plan, with narrow side aisles and featured hand carved woodwork, and stained glass windows

Later, the transepts were extended outward to accommodate more seating for the student body.

This photograph shows the Harbison Chapel construction site in 1931. Note the scaffolding around the steeple and spire.



This photograph was also taken by, Mr. Diamond, a construction worker who worked on the college construction project in 1931.



The Samuel P. Harbison Memorial Chapel was built by the sons of early financial supporter and longtime Trustee Samuel P. Harbison as a memorial to their father. Grove City College had been a lifetime interest of Mr. Harbison.

The organ, a four manual Kimball, was a memorial to Frances St. Leger Babcock, wife of F. R. Babcock, a former President of the Board of Trustees.

The east transept of the chapel was a gift from Miss Ethel Pew, a trustee of the College: the west transept was a gift Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Above right is a 1941 photograph of Harbison Chapel.

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



In July, Richard DeLong was killed in airplane crash on the James Hartley farm between Grove City and Harrisville.

Note:

DeLong was the 21-year-old son of Dr. Francis DeLong, and a graduate of Grove City High school. He had been working at his father's farm and was flying home when the plane nose-dived to the ground. The cause of the crash was undetermined.

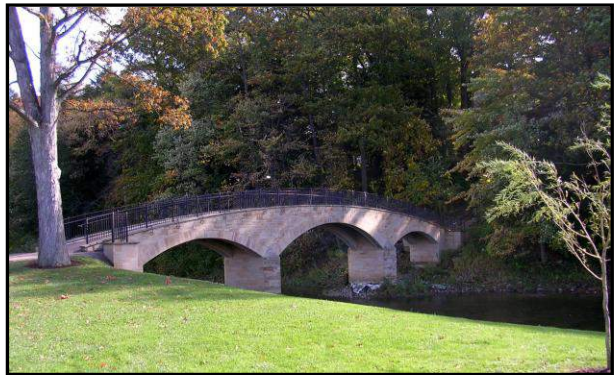
His father had given him the plane two weeks before.

Rainbow Bridge was constructed across Wolf Creek.

Note;

Rainbow provided the link between the lower and upper campuses.

Over the years, the bridge became a Grove City College icon. Not only did it provide a walkway between the campuses, it also became a romantic walkway and the subject of college memories for young lovers.



The bridge has remained in continual use since its construction. (See 2009)

1932

Wendell August moved his aluminum forge to Grove City. .

Note:

Wendell August was an owner of a coal company that included a blacksmith shop.

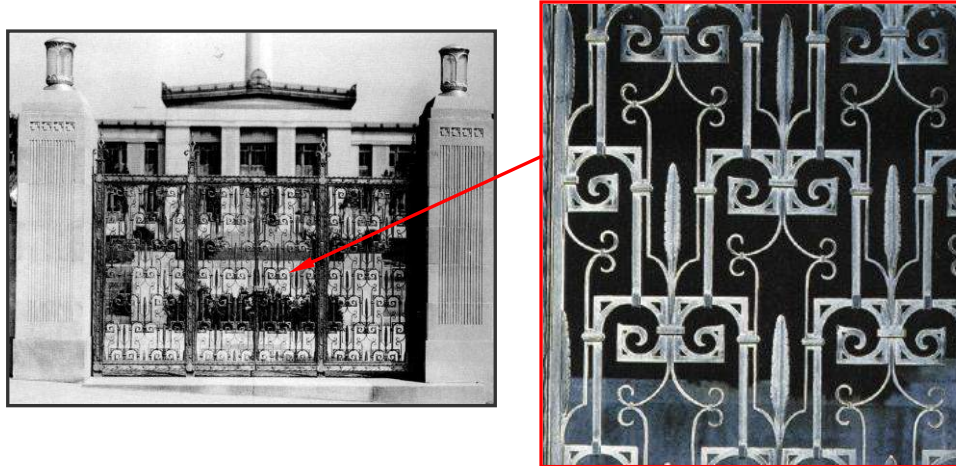
In 1923, August was building a new home and needed door latches for his home. August had Ottone "Tony" Pisoni, a blacksmith in his shop, forge them for him.

After seeing the completed latches, August conceived the idea to start a decorative ironware business. The business produced one-of-a-kind items, including fireplace andirons, candlesticks, lighting standards, doorknockers, latches, railings, etc.

In the 1920s, August became interested in aluminum, the new "wonder metal". Aluminum was usually formed by casting the molten metal. However, Wendell August conceived the idea of forming aluminum by hand as iron was formed. He had Pisoni and his blacksmiths experiment with forming aluminum by hand-working "cold" aluminum bars.

In 1928 James McCausland, an architect, joined Wendell August and became Designer and Operations Manager.

In 1929, Wendell August Forge submitted a design and bid to create the aluminum gates for the new research facility being built by Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) in New Kensington.



Alcoa awarded the forge the contract to make the gates. The design and contract led to the design and manufacture of as the elevator doors inside the facility as well.

The project architect asked the forge to make trays with the design for mementos. Alcoa showed the tray designs to Edgar Kaufmann who subsequently commissioned a tray featuring his estate at Fox Chapel.

Kaufmann, owner of Pittsburgh's largest department store, realized the retail potential of the trays and contracted with the forge to design a line of luxury aluminum gift and art items to be sold in his store, Kaufmann's.

In 1931, a commission for architectural remodeling at the Grove City National Bank led to the bank's president, Edwin J. Fithian, to investing in the company and convincing Wendell August to relocate in Grove City.

In 1932 a manufacturing facility was constructed at Madison Avenue.

Articles of Incorporation for Wendell August Forge were signed on August 5, 1932. Edwin J. Fithian was named President and Wendell August the Vice President. On July 27, eight craftsmen started working in the Grove City facility.

The Wendell August Original Craftsmen

James DePonceau
Benjamin Formani
Les McLaughlin
Warren McLaughlin
William Miller
"Tony" Pisoni
"Doc" Rossi
Natale Rossi

James McCausland was the Designer and Operations Manager and Plant Supervisor.

Howard Chapin was Sales Manager.

Arthur J. Palmer, an experienced giftware sales representative, was the Sales Representative

Louis Donato was hired as a die cutter a short time later.

The first known catalog featuring luxury items made by Wendell August Forge was published that year (effective as of October 1).

In 1933, Edwin Fithian sold his shares in the company (reportedly as the result of an election campaign that drew attention to the forge's production of beer mugs).

Throughout the thirties architectural projects were the biggest part of the forge's business. However, gift and art items remained a major product. By 1933, Wendell August Forge products were shown at major gift shows in Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, and New York, and sales were exceeding expectations.

The forge also decorated numerous churches. The forge made 75 light fixtures for St. Bernard Church in Mt. Lebanon. Its most sublime commission is considered to be the baptismal font cover, topped with the figure of St. John the Baptist, that craftsman Natale Rossi made for Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral in Toledo, Ohio.

During World War II, August closed operation of the forge because aluminum production was allocated to military use. August negotiated a contract with the Navy to house Navy personnel learning to service engines at the Bessemer plant. (Bessemer was manufacturing engines for Navy ships.)

By April of 1946, the Wendell August Forge had resumed operation with Natale Rossi assuming the die engraving responsibilities. Significant post-war architectural commissions included jewelry stores and bank interiors.

Business began to decline in the 1950s and by 1960 the Forge employed only eight craftsmen working. Natale Rossi volunteered to go on the road as a sales representative. He concentrated on selling client gifts to businesses. Rossi's efforts enabled the Forge to remain in business.

In 1958 Chief Designer and Plant Superintendent James McCausland died. Without his creative initiative, product design began to suffer.

After Wendell August died in 1963, his son, Robert, attempted to continue the business. He opened a gift shop in the plant facilities. He also opened the production area to enable customers to see the craftsmen at work. He began the practice of having the craftsmen "sign" each piece they made with a hand imprinted icon.

F.W. "Bill" Knecht, III acquired the company in February of 1978 from Wendell's son, Robert August (See 1978)

The Wendell August' forge was listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Wendell August Forge as America's oldest and largest forge, producing hand-wrought ornamental metal ware and giftware in aluminum and other metals. (See 2010)

Vita: Wendell McMinn August



Wendell McMinn August was born in Rew, southeast of Bradford in McKean County, in 1885 and raised in Brockwayville, now Brockway.

August graduated from Bucknell University in 1907 with a Bachelor of Science degree and began teaching mathematics.

He then traveled the west, working various engineering related jobs as he traveled.

August returned to Brockwayville to pursue business interests and purchased interests in two companies. He purchased a half interest in the Black Diamond Mine of the Toby Coal Mining Company as well as a half interest in the L. M. Groves Mercantile Company. August operated both companies. After operating Toby Coal for about a year he reorganized the company and increased its efficiency. He also managed the Groves Mercantile Company, the leading general store in the borough of Brockwayville. August's business ability and management skills were recognized in the community.

On April 8, 1912, August married Jessie McVean Palmer.

In c 1923, he began a decorative ironware business. In the late 1920s, he became interested in manufacturing decorative hardware from aluminum.

He asked his blacksmith at the Toby Mining Company, Ottone "Tony" Pisoni, to experiment with bar aluminum. Pisoni quickly learned how to form the much softer metal into complicated ornate shapes.

In 1928, August hired James McCausland, as his Designer and Operations Manager.

In 1932 August moved his forge to Grove City.

Wendell August Forge continued to develop designs and products, and became recognized as an important designer and manufacturer in the Arts and Crafts Movement in the United States. The introduction of aluminum decorative works as a design feature in the Arts and Crafts Design has been attributed primarily to the Wendell August Forge. Several designers who started at Wendell August, including Natale Rossi, James V. DePonceau, and Arthur Amour continued to develop their own businesses and become recognized for their work.

August continued to operate the Forge until his death.

James A. McCausland

James McCausland had trained as an engineer at the University of Kansas.

He was hired by Wendell August Forge in 1928 as Operations Manager and Chief Designer, a position he held until his death in 1958. He was the primary designer for

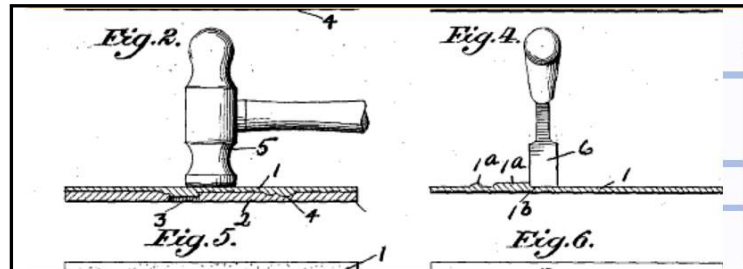
Wendell August during both the wrought iron and wrought aluminum manufacturing periods of the company. McCausland became a significant figure in the development of the hand forged aluminum industry.

McCausland and Howard J. Chapin were assignors to Wendell August Forge for the patent for the "Method of Forming Ornamental Relief Figures", No 624,640 7, on July 25 1932.

This drawing of the process accompanied the patent.

This process is known as repoussé. Repoussé is French for "pressed back."

When a sheet of metal is hammered on a die, the metal is forced into the cuts in the die leaving the reverse design raised in low relief the aluminum sheet



The process of repoussé had been used for thousands of years. It was frequently used with gold and silver for fine detailed work as well as with copper, tin, and bronze for larger sculptures. Famous classical pieces using this technique include are the bronze Greek armor dating from the 3rd century B.C., Byzantine religious works, and the gold and bronze work of Benvenuto Cellini.

The experimental work at Wendell August discovered that the process worked well with the new wonder metal, aluminum. When a sheet of aluminum, a soft metal, was hammered on the die, the metal was forced into the cuts in the die leaving the reverse design raised in low relief the aluminum sheet. The repoussé process became the production process utilized by Wendell August.

The repoussé process led directly to the use of aluminum decoration in the Arts and Crafts Movement.



In 1929, McCausland was the designer of the gate plan submitted by Wendell August Forge for the new research facility being built by the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) in New Kensington. The complexity of the design is exceptional.

On October 9, 1936, 72 wealthy and/or influential passengers were invited on a promotional flight of the transatlantic zeppelin, the Hindenburg. The flight, nicknamed the "Millionaires Flight" was a 10-1/2 hour flight over the fall foliage of New England.

The souvenir ashtrays for the flight were designed by James McCausland and made by Wendell August. They were made of aluminum and featured a moveable glass replica of the Hindenburg filled with Essodiesel fuel. The ashtrays were "A/S Hindenburg Guest Flight, October 9, 1936.

McCausland continued to be the design leader and plant manager for Wendell August until his death in 1958.



Vita: Natale Rossi

Natale Rossi was born December 25, 1889 in Robecco Sul Naviglio, Italy. He came to America with his parents at the age of seven.



At the age of 18, Mr. Rossi began working for Wendell August.

Natale Rossi experimented in working with aluminum and developed the use of the repoussé process while working at Wendell August Forge. Rossi was recognized for his work developing the use of this process with aluminum.

Natale Rossi was responsible for many of Wendell August's most successful designs. Rossi was the Forge's Master Die Engraver for over 30 years.

Rossi's "masterpiece" is his figure of St. John the Baptist in Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral in Toledo, Ohio.

He designed and constructed the baptismal font cover, topped with the figure of St John, the Baptist. The piece is embossed with symbols relating to the sacrament of baptism. It has been estimated that Rossi spent 2000 hours creating the statue with 11-gage aluminum sheet metal.



The Catholic Diocese of Toledo describes the piece:

Moving directly back, under the marble-pillared, ornamental-oak baldacchine canopy, stands the great baptismal font. In close relationship to the altar of sacrifice before it, the Holy Oils behind it, the font joins them in a kind of unity of the great sacraments of initiations Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Composed of daintily tinted Florido marble, and carved into an octagonal and pillared form reminiscent of a Spanish well, it is magnificently topped with a hand-forged aluminum hood, bearing an image of the Baptist. A series of weights and pulleys enables this one hundred-thirty pound cover to be lifted with one hand. Natale Rossi created this piece embossed with symbols, related to the great sacrament celebrated in the flowing water beneath it.

In 1979, the font's cover was displayed in the Smithsonian Institution for six months while the cathedral underwent renovations to update it to Vatican II specifications that included moving, and cutting down, the marble altar.

In December 1979, Natale Rossi retired from the Wendell August Forge.

In 1980, Natale Rossi was selected as a recipient of the prestigious Hazlett Memorial Award for Excellence in the Arts in Pennsylvania for his work in the area of Crafts. The Artist of the Year (The Hazlett Memorial Award) is given to recognize an individual artist "for their creations and contributions to the excellence of the arts in the Commonwealth.

After Rossi retired from the Forge and he started a business, By Natale, manufacturing aluminum items. He continued to produce and sell his designs.

In 1992, Rossi was awarded an Award for Achievement in the area of Art by Slippery Rock University. Rossi was retired at the time.

Rossi died on September 2, 1993.

Grove City College constructed Ketler Dormitory.

Note:
Ketler Dormitory was named to honor Isaac Ketler the founder of the college.

This photograph of the dormitory under construction were also taken by, Mr. Diamond, a construction worker who worked on the college construction project in 1931-32.



The first floor of Ketler Dormitory included a dining hall and lounge area. The windows included stained glass inserts featuring various representations of colleges and sports. Pictured are three examples.



This mid fifties photograph shows Ketler Dormitory.



William Alansing Young began delivering milk produced by his parents on their farm at 455 Liberty Street.

Note:

Young was a graduate of Grove City College who was working as an engineer in Pittsburgh when he was laid off due to the Depression. He returned home to Grove City.

Young's parents sold dairy products from their farmhouse. Young began selling dairy products door-to-door expanding the business into Young's Dairy.

Tom Campbell's Pioneer Dairy was a competitor of Young's Dairy. In 1951 when a fire in Young's dairy stopped production Tom Campbell offered to let Young's process and bottle milk in his dairy when he was finished for the day. Young accepted and processed milk there until the damage to his building was repaired and a store was added.

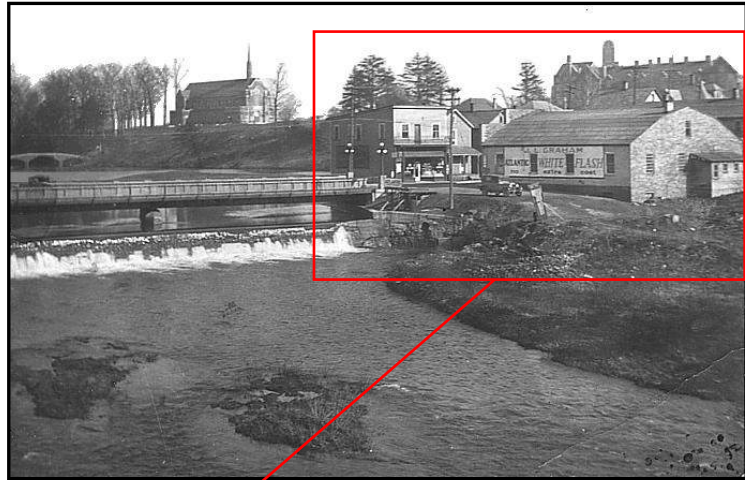


This photograph shows the bridge over Wolf Creek on Main Street (PA Rt 58) in the 1930s

Note:

The large building on the right of the picture has the name J. L. Graham painted on the side facing the creek. Under the name is painted "Atlantic White Flash" and "No extra cost."

Atlantic White Flash PLUS was a brand name gasoline that advertised it was a superior product at no extra cost.



There are globe lights at the end of the bridge. Harbison Chapel, Rockwell Science Hall and other buildings at Grove City College are visible in the background. Also visible is Rainbow Bridge over Wolf Creek.

1933

Context:

On December 5, 1933, Pennsylvania ratified the Twenty-first Amendment repealing the 18th Amendment, "Prohibition".

Grove City celebrated its Golden Jubilee.

Mercer County voted to repeal Prohibition on November 7, 1933.

The Grove City Borough Council Ordinance passed by prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Note:

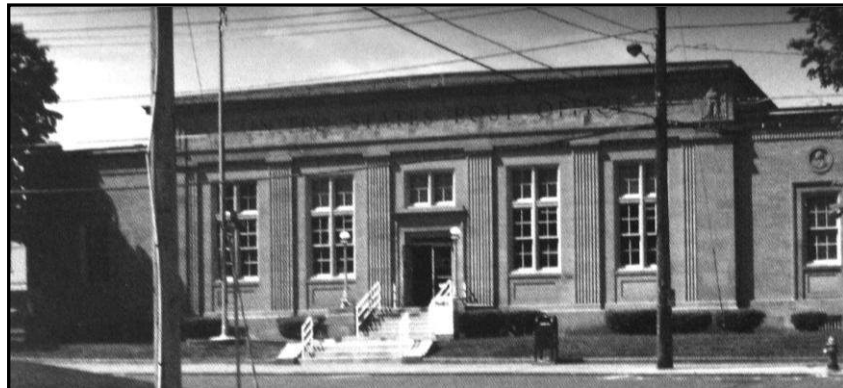
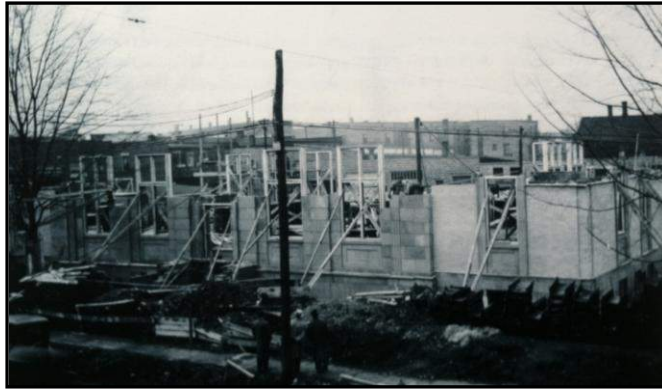
Although the county voted to repeal "Prohibition" Grove City voted not to permit the sales of liquor until 1995 when sales were approved in private veterans clubs.

The Post Office was built on Pine Street.

Note:

The McConkey house was moved across the street to make room for the new structure.

The first photograph shows the building under construction. The frames for the doors and windows are in place and the stone is in the process of being laid. Three men can be seen next to the utility pole looking at the construction site. The Corner stone is dated 1932.



Arthur Armour began an aluminum forging and manufacturing business.

Note:

Armour's business produced hand wrought aluminum wares and art for the gift and jewelry trade from 1933 until 1976. Products included trays, bowls and household items as well as jewelry.

Armour's shop was located in a building originally occupied by the Grove City Pop Works. This photograph from Armour's website shows the facility as it appeared in 1974.



Armour's shop is being preserved by his son Dr. Thomas Armour and the Grove City Area Historical Society.

Armour saw aluminum as a medium for his drawings and designs, which he cut in steel dies using the repoussé method of making hand hammered aluminum items. His work was influenced by the Art Nouveau and Art Deco styles of art. At the time, his product was referred to as the "Aristocrat of the Metal Lines".

Arthur Armour and his pieces became influential in the Arts and Crafts Movement.



This photograph shows craftsmen who worked in the Armour shop. Ted Uber is in the first row, second from the right; Jimmie DePonceau is the fifth person in the second row.

Ted Uber and James DePonceau, among others who worked for Armour, also went on to be recognized for their work in aluminum.

This photograph (right) shows George Hunter working on a piece using the repoussé technique.



The photo below shows Arthur Armour, LeRoy Barnes and George Hunter in the shop.



Vita: Arthur Armour



Arthur Armour was born in 1908.

Arthur Armour was trained as an architect.

He had worked at the Wendell August Forge as the Sales Representative where he became familiar with the Repoussé method of making hammered aluminum items utilizing steel dies. He recognized the need for a low-cost alternative to silverware.

Around 1936 he developed a dogwood pattern that was adapted by many others

In 1939, Armour produced a world map design with animals, a compass, and other features in relief. This design was used in many of his works.



Horses were a favorite design for Armour



Beginning in 1956, Armour also worked with an anodized-gold finish on his pieces. Anodizing is an electrolytic process that increase the thickness of the natural oxide on the surface of metal. The process increases corrosion resistance, increases surface hardness, and to allows the metal to be colored. Aluminum is ideally suited to anodizing,

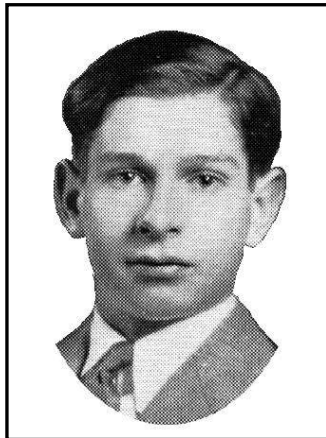


Shown are two examples of Armour's anodized aluminum work.



Arthur Armour died in 1998.

Vita: Theodore Roosevelt Uber



Theodore Uber was born in Fort Morgan, Colorado on January 17, 1908,

Ted's family moved to Grove City where he was raised. As a pre-teen, he worked on Sam Hunter's farm on Saturdays and after school. As a teen, Ted, worked as a busboy at the Penn-Grove Hotel. He also worked for his father as carpenter, building houses, and for T. F. Armour, the father of Arthur Armour, harvesting ice from Barmore Lake.

He attended Grove City schools and graduate from Grove City College with a Bachelor of Science degree in commerce in 1931. It was the middle of the Great

Depression and Ted began working as a machinist at Cooper-Bessemer.

In 1933/1934, he became one of Armour's early employees. His work at Armour's began his lifelong passion for working with metal.

In 1942, he earned a Master's Degree in industrial arts. His work led to a commission with McGraw Hill to author a book on the creation of art metal objects.

Because of health reasons, he left Armour and moved to Burbank, California where he began teaching industrial arts classes and continued working with aluminum.

When his products began to be well received, he left teaching and started "California Hand Forged." His products were handled by the Associated Merchandising Company, a major buyer and distributor of home and gift wares, and were sold at major department stores including Bullocks in Los Angeles, Gump's in San Francisco, Neiman Marcus in Texas, Marshall Fields in Chicago, and Hudson's in Detroit.



During the 1940s, Uber produced works with Seville ceramic inserts that were distributed exclusively in Europe.

When the Korean War began made the business unprofitable due to the rising costs and difficulty in securing aluminum, Uber returned work as a machinist for Lockheed. During this time, his family continued to produce his designs with the limited supply of aluminum available.

After the Korean War, he purchased Van Ness Water Gardens. He expanded this business to become one of the most prominent suppliers and hybridizers of water lilies in the world.

However, throughout his life, he continued to create metal art which was sold throughout America, Europe, and are in many museums.

In 1995, at the age of 87, Ted Uber's work as a metal artist was recognized by the National Hammered Aluminum Association. He was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award

"For serving as a paradigm of the Arts and Crafts Movement throughout more than 60 years of continued productivity in the creation of handmade aluminum gift and art objects."

A book recognizing his work is in the Smithsonian Institute.

Ted Uber died on March 21, 2007, at 99 years of age.

Vita: James V. DePonceau



James DePonceau was born in Brockway, PA on May 26, 1912. He started to work for Wendell August in 1929. He came to Grove City with Wendell August.

After Arthur Armour established his business, James DePonceau left the Wendell August Forge and began working with Armour. (1934).

James DePonceau (originally Deponcean) remained with Armour until WW II.

In 1944, DePonceau started to produce his own designs and continued to produce his own work in Grove City until 1952.

In 1950 DePonceau married Florence Neely from Mercer.

In 1952, he moved to the Chautauqua Institute in New York. In 1955, he returned to college becoming a teacher.



During the summers summer he continued to manufacture of hammered aluminum pieces. These pieces are marked "DEPONCEAU ALUMINUM CRAFT."

In 1994, James DePonceau was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Hammered aluminum show in Zionsville, Pa.

James DePonceau passed away on Wednesday, April 21, 1999.

His son, Joseph Deponcean continued working with metal operating Joseph Deponcean Metalworking in Rochester, NY

On December 5, 1933, the Grove City Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 189 was established.

1935

Context:

The Social Security System was enacted by Congress.

The Works Progress Administration was established (April 8).

The Cunningham Funeral Home was established by H. Glenn Cunningham.

Note:

H. Glenn Cunningham received his license in 1934 and established the Cunningham Funeral Home in Grove City in 1935. Cunningham's grandfather, Washington, had established a funeral home in New Castle in 1848

The business was first located on Broad Street but was later moved to the John Carruthers home on the corner of Bessemer and Harvard Avenues (306 Bessemer Street).

He was later joined in the business by his sons, H. Lee, Gary V., and Larry J. (Joe). On March 7, 1974, Cunningham Funeral, Inc. was incorporated with H. Lee Cunningham as President.

Lee's son, Michael L. Cunningham joined the business in 1989.

Gary's son, John Cunningham, also joined the business.

General Electric began using Cooper-Bessemer engines in railroad locomotives.

Note:

In 1935, General Electric had produced one railroad engine (a GE 57-Ton switcher "Off-Center Cab") with a Cooper Bessemer ENL6 engine. Then in 1937, GE produced one railroad locomotive (a 61-Ton switcher "Off-Center Cab") with a Cooper Bessemer E engine and in 1939, GE produced two 68-Ton switcher "Off-Center Cab" locomotives with Cooper Bessemer G engines.

These products marked the beginning of the association of General Electric and Cooper-Bessemer.

Palmer Smith was started by Arthur Jesse Palmer, Jr. to produce aluminum decorative art and gifts.

Note:

The trade name Palmer-Smith was created by combining Palmer's last name and his mother's maiden name.

Financed by his brother, Evert Palmer, Palmer opened his own business and began producing aluminum ware.

Palmer Smith was located in one of the buildings that had been a Benjamin Dye's Durant automobile dealership. On January 13, 1939, the name Palmer Smith was registered.

Palmer Smith stopped manufacturing metal ware in 1941 when due to war demand for aluminum; the aluminum giftware industry had to close.

After producing aluminum products, Palmer Smith began producing and selling hand embroidered linen products. Custom designs were embroidered on linen products to meet the customers' needs. Often the designs were related to reproducing the designs on other items the owners had. The linens were carried by high-end stores. The store also stocked gift items and crystal. On May 19, 1969, Palmer-Smith, Inc. was incorporated with Frank Lucas as President and Edwin Pound as Vice President.

Palmer Smith closed its operations in Grove City and relocated.

On March 8, 1990, the name the Palmer Smith Collection was registered by Palmer Lucas Inc. to sell porcelain, linens, etc. On the same day, the name Palmer Smith Linens was registered by Palmer-Smith Inc.

In 2010, Drulane - Palmer Smith was operating as a private wholesale linen company in Atlanta, Georgia.

Vita: Arthur Jesse Palmer

Arthur Palmer described himself as an industrial designer.

In 1932, Arthur Palmer was hired by the Wendell August Forge.

Most of Palmer's products were made by the intaglio method of cutting, carving or engraving into a flat surface of the aluminum. Intaglio is the opposite of repoussé where the metal is hammered from the back surface rather than the front.

His products were high quality items ranging from bracelets to large centerpiece sets.

Many of Arthur Palmer's designs were inspired by the art deco movement.





His motifs were often simple, but his designs ranged from the simple to ornate.



It is believed that he developed over 50 motifs. Palmer also used cast attachments such as handles and knobs to embellish his work. Sporting themes were common in his work.

His trademark pictures two blacksmiths at an anvil under a shade tree.

Bob Wardle started a bike rental and repair business.

Paul W. Book and James E. Davis purchased the H. Ash business and established the Book-Davis Company.

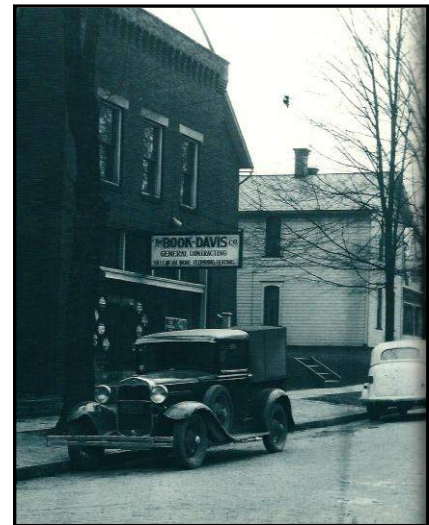
Note:

Book, who was in the contracting business, and James E. Davis, who had been employed by the Ash Company, organized the Book-Davis Company. The name, the Book-Davis Company, was registered on May 20, 1936. Book-Davis Company was incorporated in December of 1952.

The Book-Davis Company built many homes in the Grove City area. Their homes can be seen on Pine Street and Tidball Avenue as well as other places around Grove City.

The sign in the photograph reads:

The Book-Davis Co.
General Contracting
Sheet Metal Work – Plumbing - Heating



1936

The Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church, originally the Westminster Church, was established.

Note:

The congregation began with public worship held on Sunday afternoons in Grove City's First Baptist Church throughout the summer.

On October 20, 1936 the church was officially organized.

The Rev. Robert L. Atwell was the first pastor. The second pastor of the church was Francis Schaeffer. Schaeffer became an influential evangelical Christian theologian.

As the church began to grow, the congregation began planning for a building. The session located a small white church in Nebraska, PA. (c1937) The area was going to be flooded to create the Tionesta Dam and reservoir. The session bought the small white church, dismantled it, transported it to Grove City, and rebuilt the church at 140 E. Poplar Street.



The Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church website states:

Rev. Schaeffer and the session helped to rebuild the church—until time came for the steeple-raising, when most of the crew suddenly scuttled away. One elder and Schaeffer were the only two with “heads that would take heights,” Mrs. Schaeffer notes, so minister and elder painted their new steeple a gleaming white.



Pictured is one of the original stained glass windows from the church.

A ceiling rose was painted by Edith Shaeffer, the pastor's wife, to compliment these stained glass windows in the church.



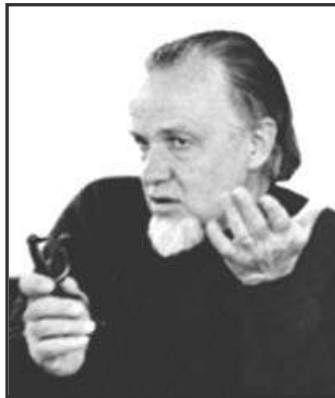
Shown below are a communion set and collection plates designed and crafted by Arthur Armour for the congregation.



The church continued as the Westminster Church until the "Split of '47," when a group broke from Covenant to form Wayside Orthodox Presbyterian Church. For 18 years, the churches remained divided, and Covenant changed denominations twice. On May 16, 1966, the two churches agreed to reunite, using the name "Covenant," and aligning with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church as Wayside already had.

In 1998, the church was razed to make way for a new church on the same site.

Vita: Francis August Schaeffer



Francis August Schaeffer (1912-1984) was an influential American Evangelical Christian theologian, philosopher, and Presbyterian pastor.

Schaeffer graduated from Faith Theological Seminary in 1938. This seminary was newly formed (1937) as a result of a split in the Presbyterian Church of America (now the Orthodox Presbyterian Church) and the Bible Presbyterian Church, a Presbyterian denomination more identified with Fundamentalist Christianity and premillennialism.

Schaeffer was the first student to graduate and the first to be ordained in the Bible Presbyterian Church.

Schaeffer was opposed to theological modernism, and promoted a more traditional Protestant faith (known as a presuppositional approach).

Francis Schaeffer is credited with helping spark the Christian Right, a return to political activism among Protestant evangelicals and fundamentalists in the late 1970s and early 1980s, (especially in relation to the issue of abortion).

The Grove City Memorial Swimming Pool was approved and constructed.

1937

The Mary Anderson Pew, dorm at Grove City College was built in 1937.

Note:

The building was named after the wife of Grove City's first President of the Board of Trustees.

The original Mary Anderson Pew dorm, MAP, was later known as South dorm.



MAP Residence Hall

was expanded to include four connected buildings with a center quad. These buildings are South Hall (original 1937), MAP Annex (1947), West Hall(1950) and North Hall (1961),

The name Grove City Machine and Supply Company (at 104 Monroe Street) was registered on April 16 by S. M. Stevenson.

Note:

S. Mont and Maude Hake Stevenson had a son, Leo. M., on April 14, 1911.

Leo M. Stevenson graduated from Grove City College in 1934.

He operated the machine shop known as the L .M. Stevenson Machine Shop. The name L M Stevenson Company was registered on January 4, 1937. On June 23,1964, L. M. Stevenson Company, Inc. was incorporated with Leo M. Stevenson as President and his sister, Helena Stevenson, as Vice President.

Stevenson was active in community organizations for many years. He was active with Shenango Presbytery Board, the Economy League, the American Red Cross, the Grove City Chamber of Commerce.

In 1996, he received the Florence MacKenzie Award from Grove City College and in1999 he was the recipient of the first Grove City College Distinguished Alumni Award.

On February 2, 2001 L. M. Stevenson died.

Mr. Stevenson left a major donation from his estate to Grove City College for the establishment of student scholarship programs.

In c 1937, Edie Adams attended elementary and junior high school in Grove City.

Note:

Edie Adams was born Edith Elizabeth Enke on April 16, 1927, in Kingston, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of Sheldon and Ada (Adams) Enke.

In c1937, her family moved to Grove City, PA, when she was in the fourth grade. She attended Grove City Elementary and Junior High Schools.

Adams father worked as an expeditor at Cooper-Bessemer.

Her mother, a music teacher, taught her to sing and play the piano. M. Selkirk Burgess a music teacher who taught in grade school, junior and senior high schools and Grove City College continued her musical training. Adams and her mother sang in the Grove City Presbyterian church choir.

In 1967, Adams was quoted in the Pittsburgh Press as saying: "Thinking back to my childhood, it seems that music is the one thing that brought everything together. Life was austere. But I had fun making my own clothes and singing. And my happiest recollections are of times spent singing. I sang in just about every school and church choir there was."

After living in Grove City the family moved to New York City and then Tenafly, NJ, where she completed high school.

After graduating from high school, Adams studied singing and piano at the Juilliard School in New York. (1945 – 1950) She graduated from Columbia School of Drama, studied at the Actors Studio in New York, and the Traphagen School of Fashion Design.

Adams became an acknowledged all-around entertainer. She was extremely versatile and performed light comedy, slapstick, and drama on the Broadway stage, in movies, and on television. In addition, she performed on the nightclub circuit including Las Vegas.

Ms. Adams made her Broadway debut in 1953, in the Leonard Bernstein musical "Wonderful Town," directed by George Abbott. She was a two-time Donaldson winner for her performance. She won Broadway's 1957 Tony Award as Best Supporting for Featured Actress (Musical) for her performance as Daisy Mae in Li'l Abner.



In 1962, she appeared on ABC with Duke Ellington.

This photograph shows Edie Adams Singing with Duke Ellington

In 1963, she starred in her own variety show, "Here's Edie". The show received five Emmy nominations.

Adams remained active in show business her entire life continuing to appear on television, in motion pictures and performing in Las Vegas.

She died on October 16, 2008 in Los Angeles. She was 81.

Gary Peters was born in Grove City.

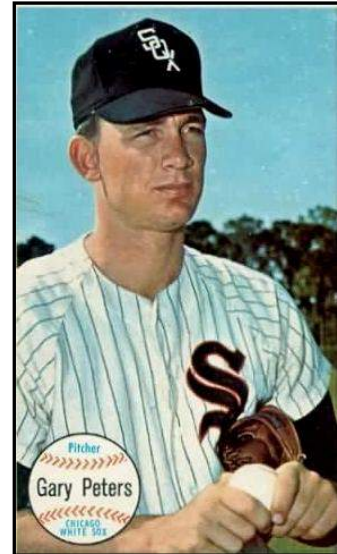
Note:

April 21, 1937, Gary Peters was born in Grove City.

Peters was raised in Mercer where he was an All-State basketball player his senior year. He then attended Grove City College on a baseball scholarship.

Peters was drafted as an amateur free agent in 1959 with the Chicago White Sox professional baseball team. In 1963, he was hired as a pitcher and began his rookie year. He was a left-handed pitcher and batter. Peters won the Rookie of the Year Award.

Peters played 11 seasons with the White Sox. He was an outstanding hitting pitcher achieving a career batting average of .222 and hitting 19 home runs. On May 5, 1968, Peters hit a grand slam home run.



1938

Context:

Fair Labor Standards Act was passed, setting the first minimum wage in the U.S. at 25 cents per hour (June 25).

Crawford Hall, the Grove City College Administration Building and Auditorium, was completed late in 1938.

Note:

Crawford Hall was named for Harry J. Crawford, a longtime member of the Board of Trustees, whose gift made the building possible.



Peters and Sloan Electric Appliance Store opened.

Note:

It was the first store to sell electric refrigerators in Grove City.

On May 18, 1938, the name Grove City Credit Bureau was registered.

Cooper-Bessemer produced its type GMV Integral-Angler Gas Engine-Compressor.

Note:

The Cooper-Bessemer GMV compressor had a worldwide impact. More than 4,500 were produced around the world. The GMV compressor features included compactness, efficiency, safety, reliability, and cost of operation. The compressor enjoyed a remarkable production run of 55 years.

The engine pictured is located at the Knox County Historical Museum in Ohio.



Ralph L. Boyer, the chief architect of the GMV, worked for Cooper-Bessemer from 1926 through 1965.

The Grove City Alliance Church was begun.

Note:

Under the under the leadership of Edward Truran a group began meeting in the Sutherland School house (opposite the current Episcopal Church of the Epiphany on Route 173 south of Grove City). This group became affiliated with the Christian and Missionary Alliance denomination and organized as the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church of Grove City.

The group purchased a residential lot at 606 Liberty Street for building a church and opened the Liberty Street Mission. On April 1, 1996, the Grove City Alliance Church of The Christian And Missionary Alliance was registered as a non-profit corporation.

The Kayton Theater was operating in Grove City.

Note:

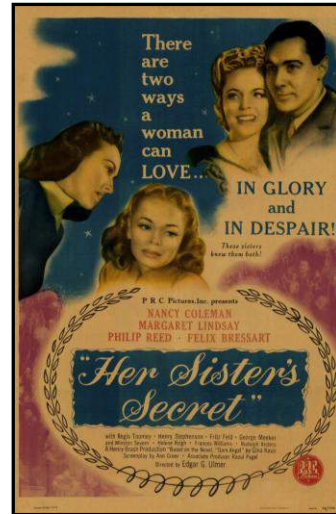
In March 1931, the name Kayton Theaters was registered by Leonard T. Houghton of Franklin and Paul V. McKay of Montgomery, West Virginia. They operated a number of theaters including the Kayton in Grove City and the Orpheum in Franklin.

The Kayton was located at 130 South Broad Street and seated 400.

There a number of reports that the Kayton was in operation in Grove City in 1938.

The Kayton was sold in early 1946 and renamed the Lee Theatre by its new owners. For some time it was owned by Cooperative Theater Service.

This photograph was likely taken in 1946. The marquee features the film “Her Sister’s Secret” a motion picture of 1946.



The movie poster to the right is a poster advertising the movie, “Her Sister’s Secret” , the movie showing at the time of the photograph.

1939

The original Grove City Airport was built by Cooper-Bessemer.

Note:

The original Grove City Airport was located southeast of the town southeast of the intersection of Route 173 & Airport Road (41.14 North / 80.07 West).

It is believed the airport was in operation in 1939.

The airport had distinct lives over the years, with different purposes.

The earliest known photograph of the airport is an aerial photograph taken on October 20, 1943. The open field in the photograph is labeled “Landing Area”.



On December 12, 1941, five days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8974, transforming the national Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP) into a wartime program as the War Training Service (WTS). Grove City became the 8th Detachment.

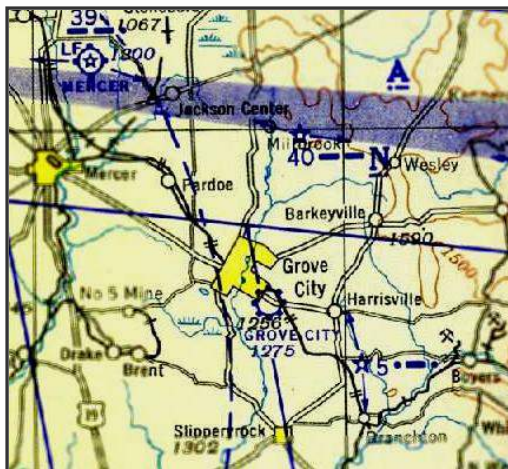
In 1943, Grove City College became involved in the War Training Service (WTS). Academic coursework was provided at Grove City College and the Grove City Airport was used for the flight instruction leading to the pilot's first solo flight. One of the instructors at Grove City Airport was Gardner Birch (born in Sharon in 1910).

Grove City College's Air Force contract ended in 1944. In Grove City, 486 students of the 8th Detachment received total of almost 5,000 hours of instruction.

This photograph shows the Grove City Airport in the 1940s



This photograph shows 19 year old Wilbur A. "Bill" Drake at the Grove City College training field at the airport. Bill Drake when on to become Major Wilbur A. Drake a U.S. Air Force veteran of three wars, WWII, Korea, and Viet Nam. He flew over 4.5 million miles during his career.



The earliest depiction of the Grove City Airport was on the April 1943 Detroit Sectional Chart. (The airport was not depicted on the February 1942 Detroit Sectional Chart) Grove City Airport was listed as a commercial/municipal airport.

Grove City Airport was listed in the 1945 AAF Airfield Directory as a privately owned and operated airfield. It was described as having two sod runways (one 1,930' north/south and one 1,560' northeast/southwest) with two concrete block & steel hangars.

After the war, Gardner Birch became the manager/instructor of the airport. He developed a flying school for civilians at the facility. He created five "Solo Boards" (wooden boards listing names and dates) recording the 127 students and their solo flying dates between the summers of 1944-48.

Grove City Airport was still depicted as a public-use airport on the January 1949 Cleveland Sectional Chart with a 2,200' unpaved runway.

The airport slowly fell into disrepair. It was no longer depicted on the January 1955 or January 1958 Detroit Sectional Charts.

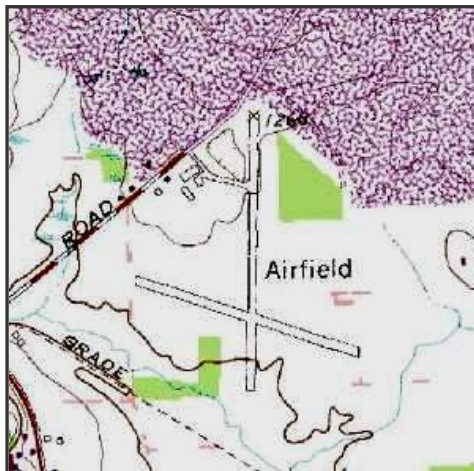


However, in July of 1958 it was depicted as a private airfield on the Detroit Sectional Chart. It was shown as an expanded airport having two paved runways, with the longest being 2,400'.

At the left is a June 5, 1958 aerial photographic view. It shows the field with two paved runways, with a taxiway leading to a ramp, as well as a hangar and several other buildings on the northwest side.

An October 1968 aerial photo showed the airport as essentially unchanged from the 1958 photo.

The last aeronautical chart depiction of the original Grove City Airport was on the May 1971 Detroit Sectional Chart.



The original Grove City airport was still shown on the 1881 USGS topological map. Two runways, a taxiway, and several buildings are still indicated.

The outlines of the ends of the runways were visible on Google satellite images in 2010.

On May 31, 1975, a new Grove City Municipal Airport was opened on Route 208 west of the borough. Only this new Grove City Airport was depicted on the December 1976 Detroit Sectional Chart. (See 1975)



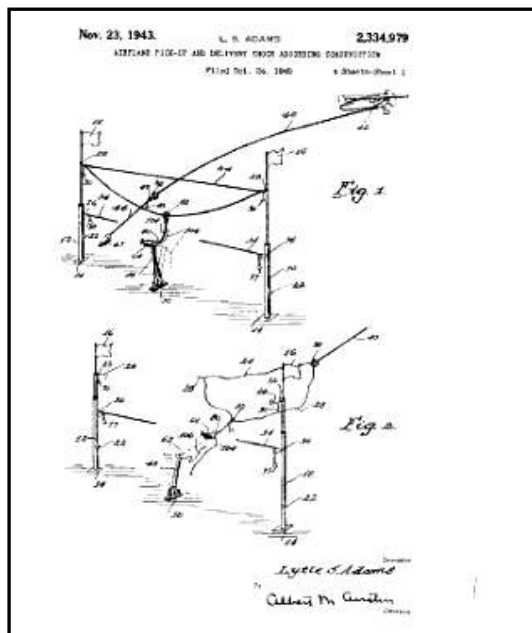
On May 12, 1939, All-American Aviation, Inc. began a twice-daily airmail pick-up and drop service including Grove City on Route 1001.

Note:

Dr. Lytle Schooler Adams, a dentist/ inventor from Morgantown, West Virginia. Adams had designed an aerial retrieval system but lacked the financial resources to develop and market the system.

He founded All American Aviation Inc in 1937. All American Aviation was originally a Patent Holding Company. Its sister company was Tri-State Aviation. Adams was the President of both companies. The du Pont family brothers Richard C. and Alexis Jr. bought stock in the company in 1938, acquired a stock majority, and assumed control.

On 12 May 1939, All American began operating U. S. Postal Service on a "demonstration basis". They established two mail routes from East Coast cities through the Appalachian Mountains to a hub in Pittsburgh.



The system was patented by Adams in 1943. This drawing is one of the drawings that accompanied the patent.

As seen in this picture, the mail pouch was suspended on a wire between two posts. As the plane approached, it would swoop down, to drop a pouch of mail, then continue over snag the suspended mail pouch. (Photo not of Grove City.)

On May 14, 1939, airmail service on Route 1001 began. The flight initiated in Camden, N. J, through DuBois, Corry, Warren, and Grove City on the way to Pittsburgh. An estimated 7,000 people were at the site in Grove City to witness the event.

Shown are two letters from the flight. Both are dated May, 14, 1939.



The system was used through the forties until improved roadways and the use of postal trucks made it no longer financially profitable. Postal regulations prohibited transporting mail on passenger service flights.

In 1949, the service was discontinued, a passenger service was added, and the company became All American Airways. All American became Allegheny Airlines in 1953.