

1940

Context:

On September 16, 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Selective Service and Training Act, requiring all male citizens between the ages of 26 and 35 to register for the military draft, effective October 16.

The population of Grove City reached 6,296. The population of Pine Township was 1,705. This represented a combined population decrease of 192 over the 1930 census.

The Grove City Fire Department received its Charter.

Note:

Names recorded on the Charter were:

Fire Chief William R. Horsman

Charles D. Christy

Walter R. Horsman

John Cookson

Oran W. Larry

Enoch Cookson

G. Roy Snedden

Lloyd R. Gilliland

Carl W. Stubbs

1941

Context:

The United States entered World War II with the Declaration of War against Japan after Japan attacked the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on the morning of December 7, 1941 and the declaration of war against Germany on December 11.

On February 17, 1941, the two Grove City National Guard Units (Rgm Headquarters Co and 1st Battalion Headquarters Co) were activated as part of the 1st Battalion, 112th Infantry, 28th Division to serve in World War II.

Note:

The 1st Battalion, 112th Infantry, 28th Division was involved in combat at Normandy, Hurtgen Forest, and in the Battle of the Bulge. The unit was nicknamed the "Bloody Bucket" division by German forces because of its red keystone insignia. It was featured in the film 'When Trumpets Fade', a movie about the battle at Hurtgen Forest.

The 28th Infantry Army National Guard Division was the oldest division-sized unit in the armed forces of the United States. The division had been officially established in 1879 and was re-designated the 28th Division in 1917. It is nicknamed the "Keystone Division," because it was formed from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

In March, Grove City College began training sailors in its Naval Training School.

Note:

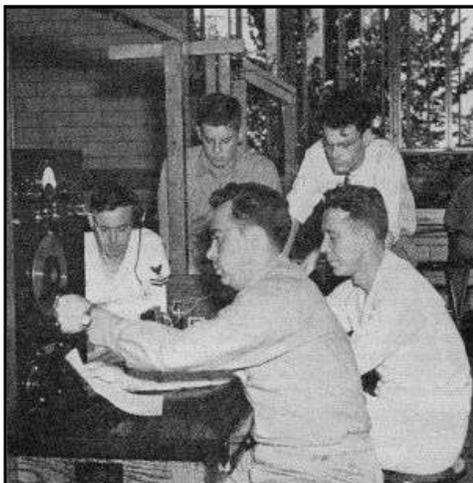
The Naval Training School at Grove City College was the first of the Navy's primary EE and RM training to be organized in the East. There were seven of these schools established in the United States.

The school was authorized in early February 1942. Its commanding officer was Lt. Commander William F. Grogan. With the help of Dr. Weir C. Ketler, College President, and Russell P. Smith, educational director, Grogan the training program was organized and under way in less than one month.

On March 1st the first hundred RT2c reservists started training and on May 1st a Marine training detachment was authorized.

Memorial Dormitory was converted into barracks to house the men. The college gymnasium and athletic field were available to the enlisted men. Local facilities were also used. The local community swimming pool was reserved for the men of the naval school on Sundays. A local USO provided varied entertainment - dances, picnics, lounges, and reading rooms.

Courses in mathematics and communications training for radar, sonar, and radio were taught. Through classroom, laboratory, and shop instruction, the Navy's radio technicians received a thorough grounding in basic electrical principles, including radio, uhf and cathode-ray tubes.



This photograph shows a group taking measurements on an amplifier.

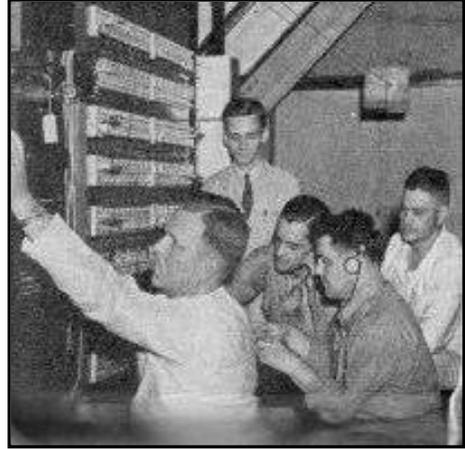
L. to R., back row:
W8LWV; Marine Pvt. Merriam; W8RUJ,
instructor.

Front row:
Marine Pvt. Mazzeo; W3JMO-W3JWL.

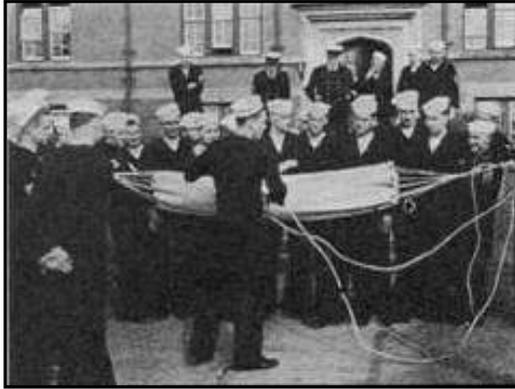
Shown are students measuring the impedance of a telephone line.

Standing is Instructor Smock, chief operator WSAJ, owned and operated by the College;

in the center are two Marine privates;



Training also included other skills that would be needed by the sailors and marines.



This photograph shows a group being instructed to lash a hammock.

Here is Lt.-Commander Grogan's description of the final month in the course as given at Grove City as published in QST magazine in November of 1942:

The course in alternating currents includes a detailed study of the principles of a.c., various series and parallel circuits, resonance, polyphase voltages and currents.

The theory of the construction and operation of a.c. machinery, rectifiers and transmission lines is taken up. A trip is taken through the local light and power plant to study this machinery in actual operation.

... During the first three weeks, four hours per day are devoted to radio and electrical experiments. There are experiments dealing with resonant circuits, tube characteristics, Class A, Band C amplifiers, frequency response of transformers and amplifiers and many others. The well equipped college electrical and radio laboratories are extensively used. In the electrical laboratory there are all types of single and polyphase a.c. and d. c.machinery, transformers and a large central switchboard.

... The college owns a 1 kilowatt ham rig (W8NXW) and a 100-watt broadcast station (WSAJ) on 1348 kc., also a complete Western Electric loading panel and line-test apparatus. The latter setup allows the men to test the frequency response of from 1 to 60 miles of telephone line. Oscilloscopes, vacuum-tube voltmeters, signal generators and beat frequency oscillators all aid in making the experiments vivid and complete.

The last portion of the third month is spent in receiver construction.

...When completed, these sets are tested with the 'scope and analyzers, To more fully explain the construction and theory, demonstrations are given on the RCA dynamic demonstrator in conjunction with the 'scope, signal generator and audio oscillator.

The Navy contract ended in 1945.

The sailors who trained at the college left behind a nickname that remains to this day. The sailors began calling the snack bar the "Geedunk." "Geedunk" is the nickname for the snack bar on a ship. The snack bar at Grove City College is still referred to as the Geedunk.

Vita: Francis "Mac" McKernon

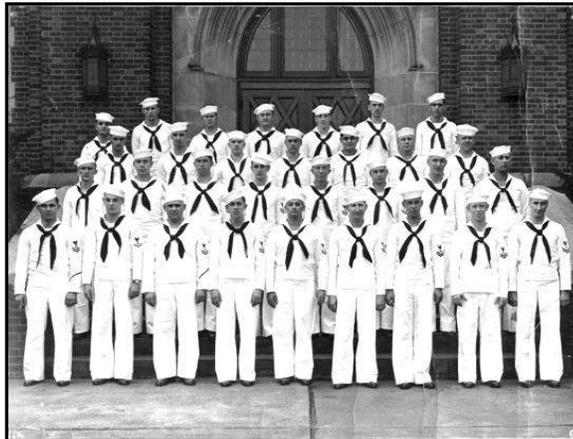


Francis "Mac" McKernon graduated from the program and went on to become the Chief Radio Technician on the aboard the USS Corry (DD-63) at Normandy.

The USS Corry (with the destroyers USS Fitch (DD-462) and USS Hobson (DD-464) close by) led the Allied assault force for the invasion at Normandy. The USS Corry was sunk in the battle on June 6, 1944. McKernon was rescued by a PT boat and taken to the USS Fitch (DD-462).

These pictures were taken by McKernon in 1942, (from McKernon website)

This photograph is labeled "Navy College at Grove City, Pennsylvania".



This photograph shows McKernon's Navy Communications Class, April to July 1942.

Sailors and Marines between classes July 1942. (Below)



General Electric produced nine GE 45-Ton switcher "Off-Center Cab" locomotives with the Cooper Bessemer EN6 engine.

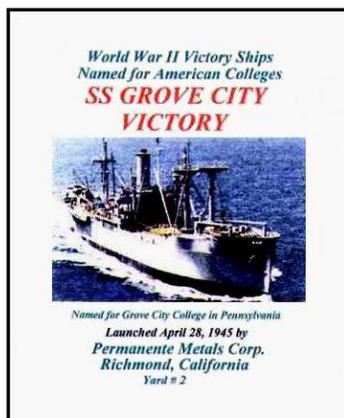
Note:

At this time, General Electric was not manufacturing diesel engines. It was primarily using General Motors and Alco diesel engines in its locomotives.

Cooper-Bessemer engines were to become a primary interest of General Electric as it became interested in entering the locomotive business.

In recognition of its services to the United States, a Victory Ship, the SS Grove City Victory, was named for Grove City College.

Note:

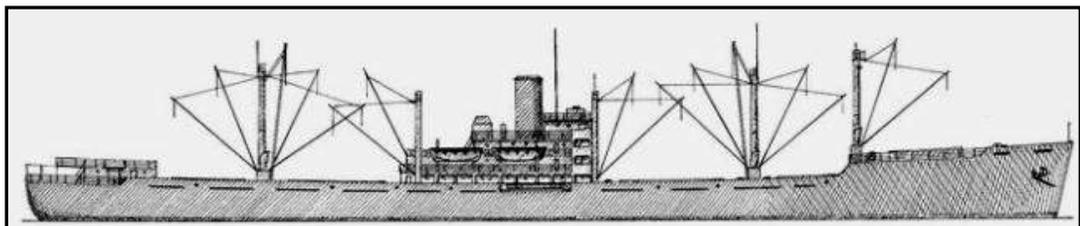


On March 17, 1945 construction was begun on Victory Ship Hull # 750 at the Permanente/ Kaiser Shipyard, Yard #2 in Richmond, California, It was a 6,000 hp (4.5 MW) general cargo vessel.

Victory ships were produced in large numbers to meet the cargo shipping needs of World War II.

On April 28, 1945 this ship was launched as the SS Grove City Victory. Hull Number 750; VC2-S-AP2/USAT.

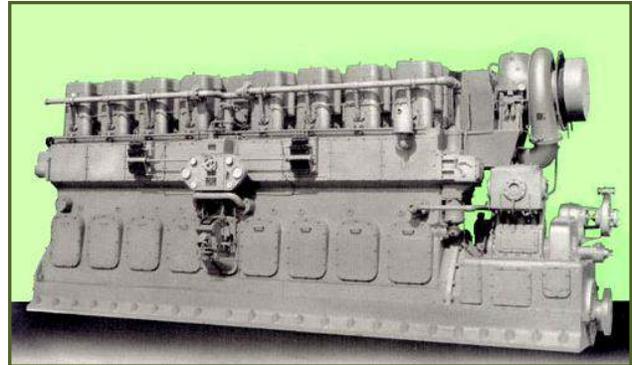
The drawing below illustrates a side view of a victory ship.



Cooper-Bessemer began a wartime production schedule producing diesel engines and locomotive engines.

Note:

Cooper-Bessemer had sold engines to several branches of the military before the war. During the war, Cooper-Bessemer supplied engines for military use, particularly for the Navy who used the C-B engines in their ships including battleships. It also increased its production of locomotive engines.



At the right is a photograph of a turbocharged version of the Cooper Bessemer Type LS marine engine.

Cooper Bessemer was one of the earliest US users of turbo charging, which typically increased engine output from 30% to 50%.

In 1941, Cooper-Bessemer sales surpassed their pre-Depression level, jumped to an all-time high, and just two years later, they had more than tripled. At the peak of its wartime production, Cooper-Bessemer had 4,337 employees working in round-the-clock shifts. (See 1929).

Gordon Lefebvre was elected company president in 1943. Lefebvre, who had come to the company from General Motors's Pontiac division, had a background in engineering. He had served as Cooper-Bessemer's vice-president and general manager. The company was listed for the first time on the New York Stock Exchange in 1944.

After the war, Cooper-Bessemer focused on its core business in the oil and natural gas industries. Cooper-Bessemer became increasingly interested in selling its products worldwide. It formed an international sales office and announced its first sales-service branch outside the United States, in Caracas, Venezuela, in 1945.

Cooper-Bessemer received its first postwar orders from the Soviet Union. (See 1953)

Grove City College built Lincoln Hall was in 1941.

Note:

Lincoln hall was named for President Lincoln.

The building was a gift from the J. Howard pew family. J. Howard graduated from Grove City College in 1900 and was a long time benefactor of the college.

1942

The McKay Carriage Company closed.

1943

The following Grove City businesses were cited as operational by Joseph Riesenman's in his history of northwestern Pennsylvania published in 1943.

<i>Company</i>	<i>Business</i>
Thomas Flexible Coupling	Producing Precision-Built Engines
G. A. Freyermuth & Son	Feed and Flour Mill
The William Bashlin Company	Manufacturing Linemen's Equipment
Montgomery Broom Company	Manufacturing Brooms
G. C. Broom Company	Manufacturing Brooms
George J. Howe Company.	Producing Coffee
Beauty-Clear Mirror Company.	Manufacturing Mirrors

1945

Context:

On Monday, August 6, 1945, the U.S. dropped the nuclear bomb "Little Boy" on the city of Hiroshima, Japan

On August 9, the nuclear bomb, "Fat Man" was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan.

Brenton B. Holter began transporting students in school busses.

Note:

Holter began by transporting coal by night and public school students during the day. At the same time the school business grew, he was developing a charter and tour bus business, Grove City Bus Lines.

On February 18, 1957, Brenton B. Holter and Wilbur D. Farren registered the name Grove City Bus Lines. Farren later sold his interest to Dallas L. Shull. On November 21, 1961, Grove City Bus Lines, Inc. was incorporated with Brenton B. Holter as President.

In 1984, Holter separated the school bus business (incorporated as Brenton B. Holter, Inc. on October 15, 1984, with Karen H. Schell as President) from the coach business (Grove City Bus Lines). He sold Grove City Bus Lines and continued to operate the school bus lines. On March 20, 1986, Grove City Bus Lines Company was incorporated with Robert V. Goebel as President. (former name listed as Grove City Bus Lines, Inc.)

Upon his death in 1992, his daughter, Karen H. Schell, assumed the business.

In 1999, Student Transportation of America, Inc. (STA) acquired Holter School Enterprises, Inc. Student Transportation of America, Inc. was the second-largest private provider of school transportation and management services in the United States at that time. STA registered the name Holter School Enterprises on July 9, 1999.

The Grove City Youth Center opened.

The P. Wall Manufacturing Company was operating in Grove City.

Note:

When P. Wall located in Grove City is uncertain. The McKay business had closed in 1942. The P. Wall Mfg. Co. was not listed in Riesenman's 1943 history of northwestern Pennsylvania. In 1949, P. Wall Mfg. Co. advertised its location as 214 Erie Street, Grove City, Pa. in *Railway Age*: Volume 127.

The P. Wall company was established in 1864 by Patrick Wall in Pittsburgh. Early products included oil cans, blow torches, and plumber's furnaces. With the advent of electricity the company developed and began marketing electric soldering tools.

P. Wall Manufacturing was the oldest manufacturer of blowtorches and fire pots in the United States. The company marketed products under the trade names Wall, Superior, and Dreadnaught.

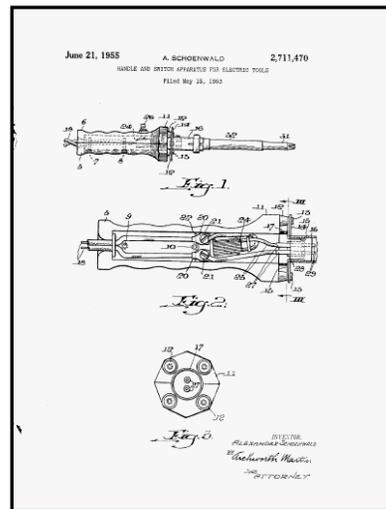
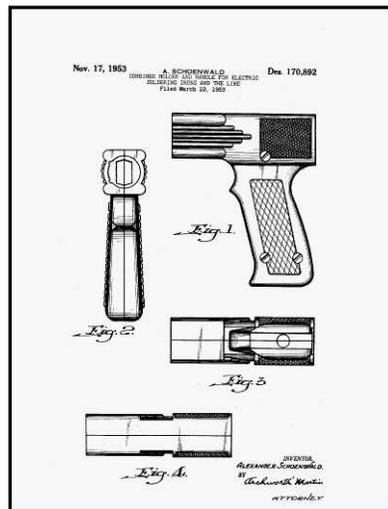


In the 1940s, the P. Wall Manufacturing Company began acquiring other companies. Among those was the Harmic Manufacturing Company acquired c1949. Harmic became the Harmic Division of the company. Its operations were moved to Grove City. On April 6, 1950 The Harmic Corp, located on Erie Street, was incorporated in Pennsylvania.

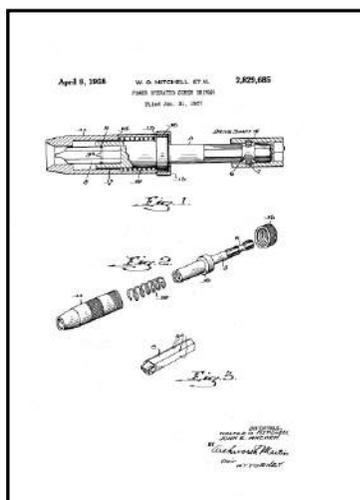


They developed a complete line of soldering products that were manufactured in the Grove City plant at the old McKay building at 214 Erie Street.

During the 1950s Alexander Schoenwald, Director of Research for the company, was granted a number of patents relating to soldering equipment and blowtorches. Shown are the patent drawings for a soldering iron and an “electric tool” that appears to be a screw driver. Both list Schoenwald as the inventor.



Harry H. Sherman and Myer A. Silverman, Grove City, Pa., were also assignors to the P. Wall Mfg. Company who were granted patents during this time.



In 1955, P. Wall acquired the Hommel Corp., manufacturers of screwdrivers and bits, and moved their equipment and operations to Grove City.

On April 8, 1958 the Hommel Corp, Grove City patented a power operated screw driver. Shown is the drawing for the screw driver submitted with the patent application.

In 1959, Hommel Corp. was sold to the Vermont Tap & Die Co. who moved the operation to Vermont.

In 1960 E. G. Openheimer was the President of the Wall Company; Alexander Schoenwald, Director of

Research; H. H. Sherman the Vice President. The company was conducting electrothermic research. It employed a chemist, a physicist, an electrical engineer, a metallurgist and four technicians.

The P. Wall Company eventually merged with the Lenk company (who also made small blowtorches

In 1966, all administrative and manufacturing operations were moved from Pennsylvania to Kinston, NC. The company became known as the Wall Lenk Company.

Charles H. Montgomery was murdered near St. Augustine, Florida.

Note:

Charles Montgomery was with the Montgomery Lumber Company. He maintained a winter home in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. On April 21, while on his way to his winter home, Montgomery went missing after checking out of a hotel in Atlanta.

His body was discovered under a small wooden bridge on April 28.

Charles Allen, 20 years old, was arrested and confessed to the murder. According to Allen's confession, he was hitchhiking 20 miles south of Atlanta and Montgomery had given him a ride. The murder took place on a deserted road near Starke, Florida. Allen confessed to shooting Montgomery in the head and hiding the body under the bridge.

1946

Broad Street as it appeared in 1946.



Henry Limberg Sr. and his son, Henry Jr., started the Henry T. Limberg Company specializing in refrigeration and installation of equipment.

Note:

Henry Limberg Sr., a mechanical engineer, came to Grove City from Pittsburgh to design and build the Wendell August Plant. He was E. J. Fithian's brother-in-law. After the forge was completed, he remained in Grove City working on projects for Fithian.

In 1946, he established the Henry T. Limberg Company. On March 1, 1968, the Henry T. Limberg Company was incorporated with William Limberg as President and Robert Limberg as Vice President. They became the third generation of the family to operate the business.

In 1980, The Henry T. Limberg Company bought the firm Commercial Appliance Contracts of Monroeville, Pa. enlarging their business to include all types of kitchen equipment.

George A. Stewart purchased James H. Black's furniture business.

Note:

The James A. Black firm had been established in 1851 as an undertaking and furniture business. (See 1851)

Stewart successfully operated the business until he retired in the 1970s.

Clarence "Jock" Filer and his nephews, Gene and Joseph and Robert L., established Filer Auto Body.

Note:

When Jock retired, Robert left the business. In 1986, Gene also left the business. Leaving Joseph to continue the business. His son, Mark joined him in the business.

As the business increased, Filer Auto Body moved into a new building at 113 Breckenridge Street.

On May 12, 1997, Filer Auto Body, Inc. was incorporated with Mark A. Filer as President and Theresa J. Stutz as Treasurer.

Cliff Sonntag opened a Sunoco Gas Station.

Note:

This station remained in business for 29 years until 1975 when he retired from the service station to dairy farm full time.

1947

In 1947, F. H. Hall began F. H. Hall Linemen's Supplies, a mail-order business selling lineman's supplies, in the basement of his Chestnut Street home.

Note:

Hall began publishing a 12-page catalog listing boots, gloves, hand tools, and other supplies.

The business grew, moving to Erie Street and then into a new building on Gasper & Sandy Lake roads in 1953.



In 1972, his son, Jack "Skinny" Hall, formed a similar company. He began mailing catalogues to every company related to the utility industry within several states.

After the death of his father, Skinny operated both businesses with his mother (Evelyn) and his sons (Rick and Jim) until Evelyn retired in 1976. In 1982, Skinny merged the two companies into Hall's Safety Equipment, Inc.

In 1986, Rick assumed the presidency.

In 1993, a new warehouse and office complex was completed and in 2004 another 5,000 square feet were added. In 1994, a specialized computer system was designed and was incorporated for inventory and sales management. In 2005, Jim joined the family business as Advertising Manager.

Cooper-Bessemer introduced the GMW family of integral two-stroke cycle IC engines for use in the natural gas pipeline industry.

Note:

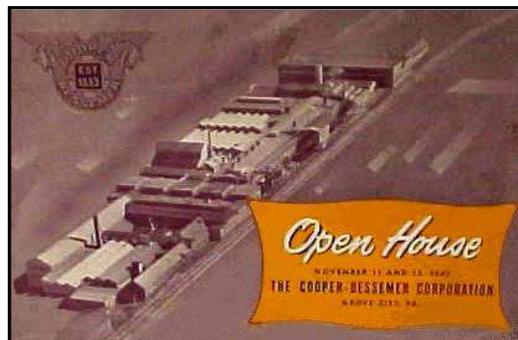
These models utilized innovative "turbo flow" high-compression technology developed by Cooper-Bessemer in c1945. Five models of these engines were manufactured over a period of nearly 20 years to 1965.

The engines were capable of producing 2,500 horsepower. They could be shipped in one assembled unit.



In 1947 Cooper-Bessemer held an Open House.

Note:



On November 11 and 12 (?) Cooper-Bessemer held an Open House. This illustration shows the cover of the booklet that was distributed. It features a view of the plant as it appeared in 1947 viewed from the railroad side of the facilities.

The Grove City Christian Science Society was organized.

The Grove City Optimist Club was established.

Note:

The club centered on local youth projects.

The Optimist Club was responsible for initiating Grove City's Midget Football and Biddy Basketball programs.

George Junior Republic built a new educational facility, the Barnes School.

The Larkfield Drive In Theater was established.

Note:

On May 15, 1947 the name Larkfield Drive In Theater was registered by Chester and Lavonne Demarsh.

The theater was located on the Grove City – Harrisville Road (PA Rt 58) and had a car capacity of 300.

This Google image shows a satellite image of the location in 2011.



From 1975 to 1980 the business was owned by the Cinemette Corporation of America. The business closed in 1980.



1948

Context:

The peacetime military draft began with passage of the Selective Service Act. The new law required all men, ages 18 to 26, to register

The Grove City Lions Club was chartered in May 1948.

Note:

Cecil C. Harper was elected the first King Lion. The Lions Club became an active ongoing service in Grove City supporting numerous projects over the years.

Grove City celebrated its sesqui-centennial.

Note:

Activities included a beard growing contest, a raffle of a Lincoln automobile, a parade with floats, and the Crowning of a Queen, Bonnie Schreffler.

The cover of the sesqui-centennial, Souvenir program, dated August 22-28, 1948, is shown at the right.



The Grove City Creamery closed ending an era in for local dairy farming.

The Grove City Highland Band was organized.

Note:

The Highland Band had its beginnings at Dad's Restaurant with a group discussion over coffee. While discussing bagpipes several of the participants agreed to attempt to organize a drum and bagpipe band. They agreed to meet at the National Guard Armory on December 7, 1948 to pursue the idea.

That meeting led to a second meeting on December 15 during which the band was formed. Dr. Harold Barnes raised money for the band.

The band's first public appearance was on Memorial Day in 1949. The band marched in full kilt attire.

This photograph was taken on Memorial Day Parade in 1958.

The Highland appeared in parades and at events throughout the area for decades.



The Grove City Business and Professional Women's Club was organized.

1949

The Grove City Fire Department purchased a 1949 American LaFrance Fire Truck.

Note:

The truck was housed at Station No. 1 seen in the background of this photograph.



The fire truck is owned by Bob Zercher; photographed by: Adam Alberti

The first commercial ductile iron castings were made at Cooper-Bessemer on February 4, 1949.

Note:

This project had been instituted by Executive Vice President Lawrence Williams and supervised by Tom Eagan. The development group had been established to develop and improve foundry-casting technologies.

The castings included Keel blocks, diesel engine parts, a pressure cylinder, an 8-in, cube, and two cylinder liners.

In 1973, this achievement was recognized at the 25th anniversary meeting at the 1973 AFS Casting Congress.

On January 27, 1949, the Grove City Kiwanis Club was established as a non-profit corporation.

Note:

Another source states the club was established in 1943.

The Kiwanis was active in the community sponsoring events and raising money for various community activities.

In 2009, the Kiwanis was dissolved.