Ingomar Manor

"…a marvelous place in which to grow up…"





Part of the Series

MORE FRANKLIN PARK STORIES

By Debby Rabold

Franklin Park Borough Historian

(October 2013)

PREFACE

As young men returned home from military service at the end of World War II, they married, started families and created a need for affordable housing. Suburban neighborhoods throughout the nation grew as housing was built to meet the unprecedented demand by young families. In Pittsburgh, the recent completion of McKnight Road made the northern suburbs more easily accessible for those looking to build homes outside of the city.

Franklin Township was a quiet rural community moving ahead at its own unhurried pace. Because of the war and the demand for manufactured goods in the years that followed, well paying jobs became available in the mills of nearby Ambridge and Pittsburgh. Subsequently, agriculture became less important to local families and land that had been farmed for generations was now subdivided for housing. Franklin was set to experience the same growing pains as its neighbors.

For the first time in its nearly 150 year history, Franklin found itself in need of ordinances, building codes, public water and sewer lines. More classrooms were needed for ever growing numbers of Baby Boomers and something had to be done about a high school. Volunteer firemen outgrew their one-room station and the first police officer was hired. Times were indeed changing for this community of over 1,000 souls. By 1961, Franklin Township had evolved into the Borough of Franklin Park.

Ingomar Manor was Franklin Township's first large scale post-war subdivision. It consisted of forty-six lots on thirty acres of farmland at the corner of Reis Run and Rochester roads. Within the plan was built U-shaped Crestview Drive. The land was purchased in August 1947 with township and county approval of the subdivision granted soon after. Building began in 1948.

The Manor's owners were township residents Lovern Broerman, Raymond Frey, Robert Van der Voort and Orian B. Weiman. The Freys and Broermans were among the Manor's earliest homeowners. Judge Van der Voort lived in the Ingomar section of the township and O. B. Weiman operated the mink farm along State Gamelands Road. D. N. Murrell became the builder.

A stable family neighborhood for sixty-five years and still home to first families, the Manor is where long-timers, newcomers, young and old are friends as well as neighbors. This booklet tells part of their story. Thank you to all current and former Manor residents who generously and graciously shared stories and photos. It is through you that Ingomar Manor will be known to future generations.

(Cover photos: Dave & Don Ulrich, Jay, Robert & Lee Fischer)



McKnight Road and the Babcock Blvd. cloverleaf facing North. (circa 1950)

Construction of McKnight Road began in 1938. The first three mile section connecting Babcock Boulevard in the South to Babcock Boulevard in the North near the intersection of Peebles Road opened in 1940. Work on the section between East Street and Babcock was suspended in 1943 due to a wartime manpower shortage. By 1947, the entire five mile roadway was completed, allowing high speed travel from Pittsburgh's North Side into the North Hills. The final section of highway opened in 1952, connecting the northern end of McKnight with Perry Highway at Pine Creek in McCandless. In 1953, the courts ruled that the Highway Department could not limit access to the highway, giving landowners the right to make curb cuts and opening the roadway for commercial development.

North Park Lake and Boat House in 1937.



Allegheny County built McKnight Road to make travel to its North Park easier for city residents. Described as a "poor man's country club", the park featured 127 groves, a 72 acre lake and numerous recreational facilities.

BEAUTY PROTECTED

The beauty of McKnight Rd. is going to be protected. Zoning ordinances are expected to prevent the erection of unsightly signs and other structures along the roadway.

NEW ROAD PROMOTES REAL ESTATE

The great majority of new owners moving into the North Hills are business or professional men, builders in that area report.

Since most of them work in the downtown area, or have their offices in the heart of town, completion of the new McKnight Rd. makes it easier for them to commute to and from their homes.

In many cases, it has been the convenience and improved access provided by this new express highway which influenced their choice of a place to live.

McKnight Rd. cost about $3,000,000 to build. Increased values in the North Hills area, largely as a result of new home construction, are expected to make it an excellent investment.

Building Boom Seen In McKnight Area

The clean, open country north of Pittsburgh, largely undeveloped, now will be the scene of a major home building boom, real estate men predicted here today. The new McKnight Road, which is now open, makes the big difference, they point out. This superhighway starts from upper East St. on the North Side and soars out over the North Hills for about five miles to a point close to beautiful North Park, where it connects with other highways….McKnight Rd. is both a safe and speedy artery. Its grades are easy. Its curves are broad. An island separates north and south bound lanes. There are no stop lights or cross streets. The stampede to the North Hills is well begun.

McKnight Road Praised by Kane

John J. Kane, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

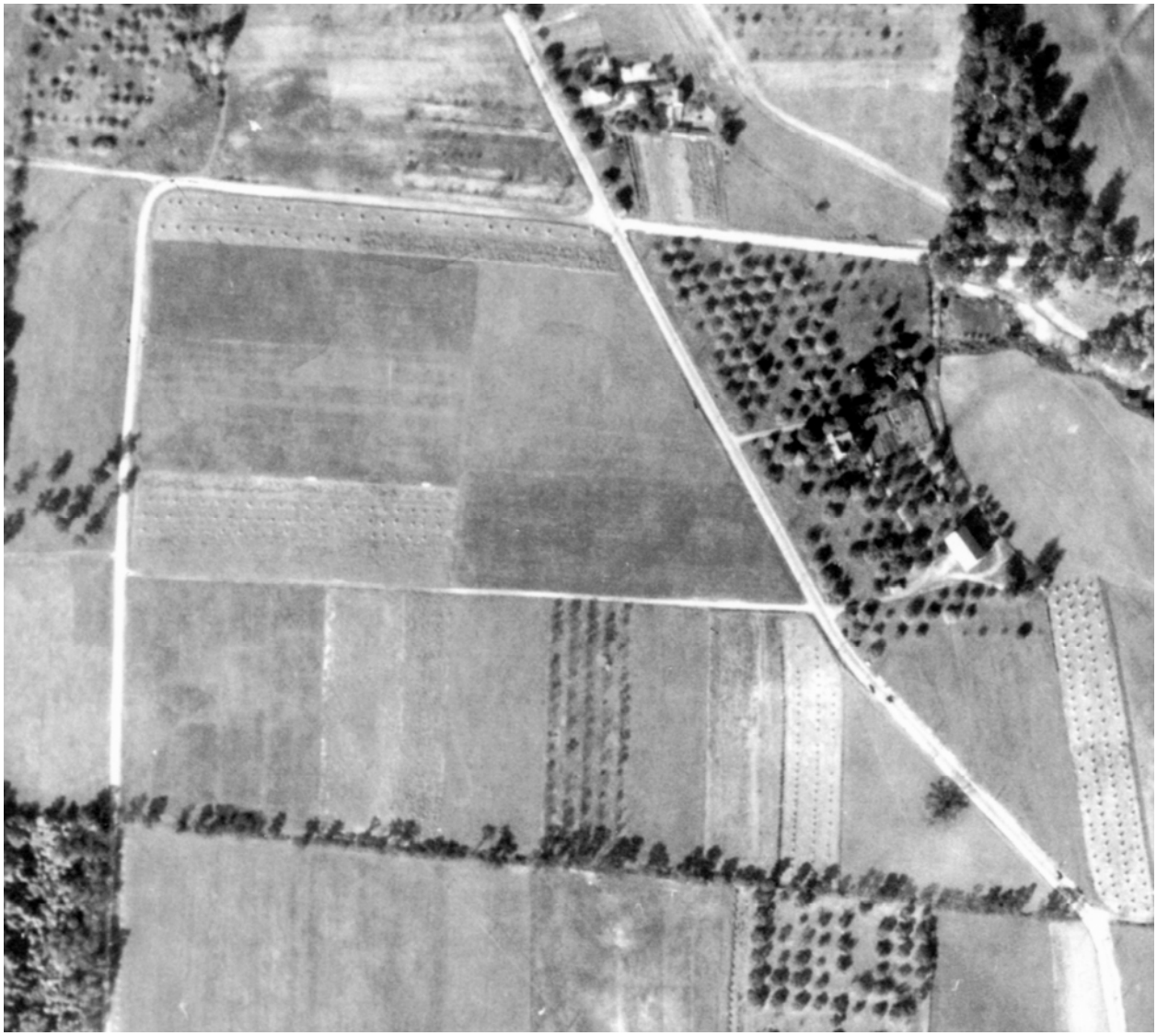
The new McKnight Road, in my opinion, will do as much to open up the North Hills as the Liberty Tubes did to open up the South Hills.

The new highway eliminates traffic bottlenecks by providing two lanes in both directions…It will benefit all the people by providing much easier and quicker access to North Park, with its picnic groves, playgrounds, golf course, swimming pools, game preserve, lake and tennis courts. I expect it to stimulate a great deal of attractive residential development.

EVENTUALLY, I HOPE THIS GREAT NEW ROAD CAN BE EXTENDED BEYOND NORTH Park to the vicinity of Ingomar Road, to connect with Route 19. If that can be done, McKnight Road may become Route 19 all the way into the city, providing a smooth, safe and much more direct route in and out of Pittsburgh from the north.

McKnight Road is one of the most beautiful, enjoyable drives in the state, through beautiful unspoiled country. We want to keep it that way.

The above articles first appeared in the April 20, 1947 edition of the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph Section 2 Page 3.



Future Ingomar Manor as it appeared in 1936. (Facing North)
Shown are Reis Run, Rochester and Ingomar Heights roads.

"The Board of [Franklin Township] *Supervisors approved a plan of lots known as "Ingomar Manor" owned by Lovern Broerman, Raymond W Frey, Robert Van der Voort and Orien B Wyman and authorized the Chairman and Secretary to sign the plan so the owners could have it recorded." Ernest W Pfeiffer Secy & Treas.* (September 12, 1947)

Pittsburgh Building to the North

Accessibility and Charms Attracting Thousands of Home Seekers to North Hills

Pittsburgh is truly building to the North. The thousands of new homes that dot the rolling hills and picturesque valleys are evidence of the high favor in which that section is held by discriminating home seekers.

There are many good reasons for the definite trend toward the North Hills. Home builders look to it as the place where they will probably spend the remainder of their days, where they can worship in the church of their religious faith, have the best of schools, and a place with an environment that inspires peace of mind and happiness. The good neighbor spirit has always prevailed throughout the district.

Since the advent of civilization west of the Allegheny Mountains, these fertile hills and valleys have been the home place for the highest type of people. The pioneers proudly set up standards of industry, integrity, and civic responsibility which have been carried on by the succeeding generations.

These pioneers were road builders. They were the first to build hard surface roads throughout the section of the country. The initial hard surfacing of the highways was the building of the plank roads. The Perry Highway through the North Hills was one of them.

The latest and most important highway improvement is the McKnight Road, the direct four lane highway between Pittsburgh and the North County Park. It has completely eliminated the traffic bottleneck between the city and the North Hills district. It is responsible to a great extent for the new home building life so much in evidence in that district.

The McKnight Road has not only cut the driving time to and from the city and eliminated much of driving hazards, it has stimulated bus service.

There are many attractive features in the North Hills for the home seekers who move to the country for fresh air and plenty of room to enjoy life.

Well, the fresh air has always been there, never having become contaminated by the fumes and smoke of industry. That is accounted for by the fact that the air currents come from the west and north. Pittsburgh gets a great part of its fresh air from the north.

About the breathing space. There are no small lots in the developments on the market and will not be any because the municipalities have legislated them out. The smallest have a seventy-five foot front and a depth to give the home owner ample room for a spacious lawn and flower and vegetable garden. Most of the lots occupy from half to three-quarters of an acre. There are some acre lots.

Homes and new homes placed in the North Hills are in the midst of the most attractive recreational and play places in this part of the country. The North County Park is a part of the North Hills district. The swimming pool there is the second largest in the world. There are public golf courses, swimming pools, and recreation fields all over that part of the [blank in original article].

For those who wish to spend their vacation or weekend far to the north, they are right on the Perry Highway that leads to Conneaut Lake, Cambridge Springs and Lake Erie.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette July 12, 1950



MOVING DAY AT 1555 CRESTVIEW DRIVE (1950)

D. N. MURREL BUILDING SUPPLY BUSINESS LOCATED ON CURRENT SITE OF ADZEMA'S PHARMACY ON PERRY HIGHWAY



D. N. MURRELL, BIG BUILDER IN NORTH HILLS
Develops, Builds, Sells

For more than a quarter of a century, D. N. Murrell has been one of the main stays in the promotion of the hills north of Pittsburgh as a place to live. He made his first definite move toward proving the faith he had so long declared in that district by turning a neglected farm into a beautiful home place.

That was back in 1937. The attractive, modern and well built homes, along with his manner of dealing with the purchaser gained the reputation that has paved the way to the single success he is now enjoying. Since that beginning he has built more than 2,000 homes. Eight hundred of these have been completed since the last war.

A very great majority of these homes have been built in the North Hills. The exceptions have been in other parts of Allegheny County where his reputation prompted folks who wanted a quality home erected by responsible builders.

Mr. Murrell is well known through the Greater Pittsburgh district as a strictly ethical builder on a large scale. He attributes his success principally to two outstanding features of his business policy. The first is that of building up an organization of thoroughly competent and responsible men to handle each feature of this construction work. The second is that of giving these key men the necessary equipment and material to work with.

Each of these men carries their own responsibilities for the material and workmanship in their part of the job. Mr. Murrell's work is that of coordinating their departments to the conclusion of a good building.

With Mr. Murrell there is no question about the quality of the material that goes into any one of his construction jobs. To make sure of that he has established a builder's supply business that not only takes care of his own work, but is aiding individuals and smaller contractors getting what they need in this line.

The building material feature includes a lumber yard with a mill that

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prepares the lumber for the carpenters before it is taken to the job. That eliminates all the chances of unsatisfactory material and mill work.

Early in his developing and building experience Mr. Murrell became aware of the importance of an adequate excavating service. Depending upon outsiders resulted in many delays in the construction work. To meet this frequent obstacle he set up his own excavating service. He not only handles all of his own work but is doing a general excavating business. His equipment is among the largest and most modern in this section.

While Mr. Murrell has built and is building homes in practically all of the developments in the North Hills he developed and is building three plans of his own creation. They are: HIGH CLIFF on the Gass Road near the Highland Country Club, adjacent to the Borough of West View. The sixty-five lots now have thirty-five new homes on them. INGOMAR MANOR on the Rochester Road near Old Ingomar. All but five of the forty-five [46] lots have homes, some of which are available for home seekers. CLEARVIEW TERRACE [Duncan Drive] on the Rochester Road. This sixteen-lot plan has just been opened, the first homes being under construction.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette July 12, 1950

Ingomar Manor, Rochester Road New 6 room, colonial brick veneer, tile bath, marble sills, log burning fireplace, copper plumbing, integral garage, situated on 2/3 acre facing hard surfaced road. $12,000 D.N.Murrell,

Ingomar Manor 2288 Reis Run Road
3 bedroom colonial brick in finest condition, choice ½ acre lot, patio, prof. planting, decorator points, T. bath, one half block stores, bus. Paved road, low taxes. Owner (1954)



Ulrich's Crestview Drive Home (1956)

Ingomar Manor New Ranch Type Home
3 bedrooms. Description of its beauty, quality, and assets would fill this page. Must be seen. $22,500 Owner (1951)

Ingomar Manor Brick Homes
5 and 6 rooms
Winter air conditioning, tile bath, Formica sink tops, copper plumbing, integral garage, copper roof flashing
D. N. Murrell, Builder (1950)

North Hills Will Soon Have a New Million Dollar High School

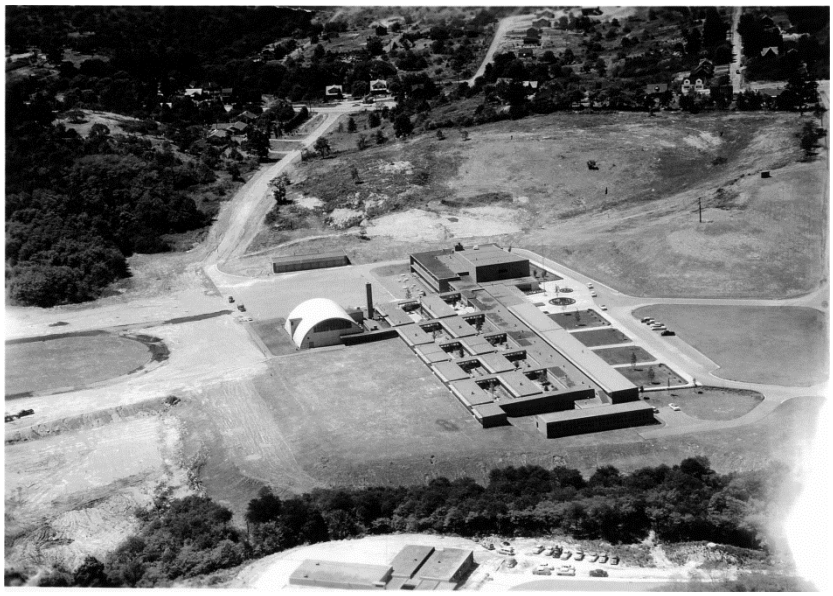
This North Allegheny Joint High School will serve the townships of McCandless and Franklin and Marshall as well as Bradford Woods Borough.

The new school, a modern marvel, will occupy a part of the old Cole Farm on the east side of Perry Highway in the Hamilton section of McCandless Township.

Actual construction is expected to begin in the near future. Final plans are being worked out on the architects' drawing boards right now by architects and planning committees.

This new school was made necessary by the North Hills building boom. Local school authorities are planning for the future. The school is designed to take care of the 100 per cent population increase expected in the North Hills during the next five years.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette July 12, 1950



North Allegheny Jr.-Sr. High School opened in 1954 on Cumberland Road in McCandless Township. Prior to this, students attended high school in neighboring districts. Photo faces west toward Perry Highway. Hillvue Lane is shown on upper left side. The open field on top is the site of Northland Public Library.

Built to replace five one-room schools, the Franklin Township Consolidated School opened with six classrooms in the 1936-37 school year. Due to increasing enrollment, the first addition was built in 1949.

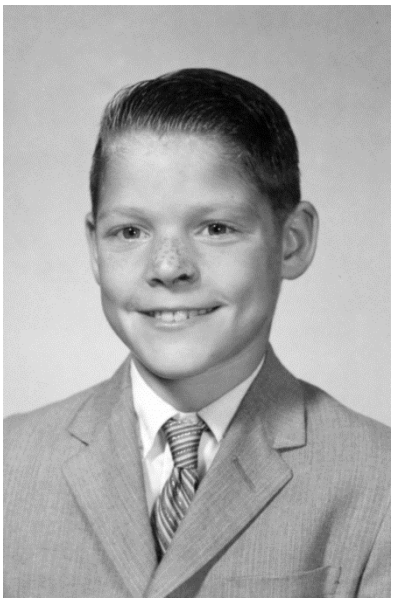




December 10, 1953 marked the Grand Opening of the McKnight Shopping Center on McKnight Road on the McCandless-Ross township line. The sixteen store strip shopping center was the first built in the rapidly growing North Hills. The center was anchored by the first suburban Woolworths [Five and Dime], unique in that it was the company's first "self-serve" store. Within weeks, McCandless police asked Allegheny County to install a traffic signal at the Center's McKnight Road entrance.



Twenty-thousand new residents poured into the North Hills following the opening of McKnight Road. Formerly rural communities struggled with building codes, zoning, water, sewage, police and fire protection and classroom space. Stores were also in demand. Pines Plaza Shopping Center opened in June 1955 on Perry Highway. North Hills Village anchored by Gimbel's Department Store opened on McKnight Road in 1956 and was followed the next year by the McKnight-Siebert Shopping Center. By 1962, the former McKnight Shopping Center (shown on this page) had been transformed into Northway Mall, the first enclosed shopping mall in Pennsylvania. It was billed as a "semi-tropical traffic free island" featuring indoor gardens and an aviary.



"…a marvelous place in which to grow up…"

By Dave Ulrich

We moved onto Crestview Drive in May of 1956 when I was six years old. From a kid's perspective, it was a marvelous place in which to grow up because there were so many other kids, between twenty and thirty at any given time, with whom to play. And play we did.

I had two sets of friends. There was a group of boys some years older than I with whom I played football, baseball and rode sleds. Our field was on the opposite side of Rochester Road, across from the Kennedy's near the [Heritage] Presbyterian Church, which wasn't built at the time. It was a field with tufts of straw.

One time, the older boys decided to burn the field off instead of cutting it. They were in junior high and did it one day after school. The fire raged out of control into the woods behind. When the grade school bus pulled up to Crestview Drive to drop off the younger kids, myself included, firemen were just finishing hosing down the field and woods.

Our ball field was the place where the neighborhood's Christmas trees were burned after the holidays. The older boys went around the neighborhood collecting trees, which they dragged to the ball field. The trees were arranged in a huge pile and set on fire. Almost always, there was snow on the ground, which kept the fire from spreading. The bonfire usually drew a crowd of adults who stood around the fire talking.

Behind the ball field, deep in the woods, was one of our sled riding paths. It ran along a large stand of pine trees. We had to be careful though, because the path had a steep drop into a creek.

With kids my age and younger, I rode my bike around the neighborhood, played cops and robbers and hide and seek late into summer evenings. There was a large wooded area on the far side of Reis Run Road. There we built forts, played in the creek and rode saplings to the ground. Way back in these woods were three rotted cabins. One had a roof strong enough to hold three or four of us. They had been constructed with square nails and had old bottles and lanterns lying around.

When we first moved here, King Ridge was a large cornfield and pasture, complete with cows. We used to run through the cornfield, hiding from each other, or we burned corn silk with matches snuck from our homes. Not long after, the land started being developed and the cornfield and cows disappeared. Of course, as they were building homes in King Ridge, we played in them, often seeing who could climb the highest on the studs, joists and rafters.

One or two years, Ingomar Manor, as our neighborhood was called, even held a large picnic in North Park of which I have fond memories of tossing water balloons and stuffing myself with picnic food.



Fischer Family photo.

Soap Box derby cars were popular with neighborhood boys. Older boys built the cars, often with front axles constructed from discarded pieces of rebar found on neighborhood construction sites. Younger boys drove, steering the cars as they raced down Crestview and landing either in Kennedy's yard or across Rochester Road. Dave Ulrich remembers driving for Kenny Evans. Older boys sometimes raced on nearby Ingomar Heights Road where Lee Fischer recalls the only way of braking was to drag one's feet and his brother ruining his shoes.

My family moved to Ingomar Manor in January of 1949, in the middle of first grade. Our house was the second on the street. The Freys had the first house. We moved there because our dad lived in Ingomar as a kid and loved the country. It was really country when we moved there. Mr. Wade King had a farm behind our house that is now King Ridge.

My father was Doug Webb. He was a banker at Avalon Bank. Prior to that, he was an examiner for the FDIC. He was also a volunteer fireman. The only specific fire I remember him fighting was at the dump. **[In July 1958, a fire burned for thirty hours in what is now Blueberry Hill Park.]** ***We spent a lot of time watching the fire from my parents' bedroom window. My mom was worried to death about my dad fighting a fire in that environment. It seemed to go on forever. When he came home, he ran directly to the shower, needless to say, and said*** **[the fire]** ***was horrible. He talked of rats running everywhere and how difficult the fire was to fight.***

I remember Sam's barbershop well. There was also a small corner store in the same building. Mother would sometimes send us to the store for a loaf of bread. Later, that corner **[Reis Run and Rochester roads]** ***became a city bus stop that I would walk to for the bus into Pittsburgh.***

I attended North Allegheny Jr.-Sr. High School from 7th to 12th grade. I was in the first class to go the whole way through. It was a great experience. Our school superintendent at the time, Dr. Carson, did not believe in night sports, said they promoted juvenile delinquency. We had home football games on Saturday afternoons and basketball games and wrestling matches after school. The District ran buses so we could all get home after basketball games since most families had only one car. Proms were held in the school gym.

Patricia Webb Richardson

We were one of the first families on Crestview Drive* [1950]*. It was the absolute best place to grow up since Crestview was "U" shaped connecting at both ends to Rochester Road. There was no traffic as the only cars to come by belonged either to those living there or those visiting someone who lived there. Our playground was the road and surrounding woods. Gone from early morning until lunch then out again until dinner. Back out again until bedtime. I have such fond memories of growing up in Ingomar Manor.

Judi Crozier Reber

Following the end of World War II, Mrs. Esther Adler accepted a third grade teaching position in rural Franklin Township. She and her family moved into a small red brick house adjacent to the school. Having lived above her father's Perrysville grocery store, young Eileen Adler was used to traffic sounds from busy Perry Highway and had a hard time adjusting to the quietness of Rochester Road.

In time, the Adlers purchased a home on Crestview Drive, where they continued to live until Mrs. Adler's death in 1985. What Eileen most remembers of the move to Ingomar Manor was how extremely friendly and welcoming the new neighbors were to her family.

While serving in the Korean War, Franklin Township native Chuck Sarver left his shiny black 1949 Ford convertible with his girlfriend Eileen, the same car in which she was often seen driving girlfriends through the neighborhood. Chuck and Eileen married when he returned home from the war and continue to live in Franklin Park.



Mrs. Adler taught for twenty years before retiring in May 1964.

I had Mrs. Adler in first and third grades at Franklin Elementary School. I missed the last month of first grade with the measles and chicken pox back to back. Mrs. Adler brought my report card home for me.

Patricia Webb Richardson

Eileen Adler and her mother used the Lenzner bus for shopping trips into downtown Pittsburgh. During one such trip, snow began falling and not liking how it looked, Mrs. Adler decided they would depart Pittsburgh earlier than planned. By the time the Adlers returned home, snow was already deep on the ground and getting deeper. Mr. Adler soon arrived, just managing to pull his car off the roadway. The Thanksgiving Blizzard of 1950 was underway!

[Lenzners from Mt. Nebo offered bus service between Old Ingomar and downtown Pittsburgh. A one-way fare was thirty-five cents and round-trips cost sixty-five cents.]

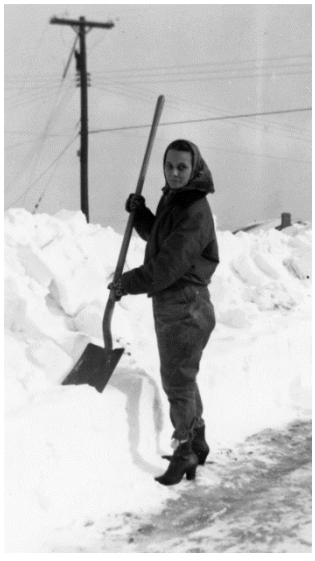


View of Crestview Drive from the Fischer home during the 1950 blizzard.

The Blizzard of 1950 covered much of the eastern United States. Pittsburgh's official temperature was 9 degrees Fahrenheit with strong winds. Snow began falling on November 25, the day after Thanksgiving. The official accumulation was thirty inches, but drifts were much deeper. Pittsburgh did not open to traffic until December 1.



The Beideman family's yard after the 2010 blizzard during which the city of Pittsburgh closed.



Iris Fischer (1950)

While growing up in the city, Irene Kennedy enjoyed ice skating at Pittsburgh's Riverview Park where every winter the tennis courts were flooded to create ice rinks. After she and husband Ray moved into their new home in Ingomar Manor, they often skated on North Park's Marshall Lake.

One year, Irene and next door neighbor Sally Kelly decided to build their own backyard rink. Using rakes and shovels, the women carefully graded and smoothed a large pile of top soil sitting in the Kelly's yard, encircling it with 2x4s before filling it with ice. With music playing from a speaker perched in a nearby tree and outdoor lighting, the families enjoyed a favored pastime. The following year, the women built an even larger rink in the Kennedy's yard!



Bruce & Roger Kennedy
(January 1959)



Sally Kelly, Irene & Ray Kennedy
(January 1959)

As a child, Irene visited an older cousin who lived on Nicholson Road near the Baptist church. ***My trip from the city was made in a Model A Ford with me in the rumble seat. Life in the country was a series of challenges for a city kid. Water was obtained not by turning on the spigot, but by working the handle of a pump in the backyard. The bathroom was also in the backyard. We went to bed by the light of an oil lamp. When the lamp was off, everything was pitch black, but I could not sleep due to the boom boom boom of the many nearby oil wells. As a result, my vacation ended early. After three days of country living, I had to be taken home to the city.***

Ohio native Ray Kennedy was attending classes at the University of Pittsburgh when he and a friend enlisted in the Marine Corps. Already a licensed amateur radio operator, he was selected for radar training and entered the Corps as a Staff Sergeant. During his three years of wartime service, Ray spent six months manning a radar installation on a small island in the central Solomons with Japanese planes routinely bombing his position. Upon being discharged in August 1945, Ray returned to Pittsburgh and Irene whom he married the following month.



The couple moved to Ingomar Manor in the spring of 1950. Early memories are of the milkman, breadman and mailman all being named Ray. During the 1950 Blizzard, the milkman was unable to make deliveries on Crestview, instead leaving milk for fifteen families with the Kennedys.

The Kennedys continue to live in their Rochester Road home. Before retiring, Ray was a planning engineer for Bell Telephone and served on Franklin Park's first borough council. Irene was not only president of Franklin Elementary's PTA, but for the past forty-eight years, has volunteered her time and talents to Suburban General Hospital, now the AGH Suburban Campus.



For the past sixty-one years, Charles and Dorothy Hasek have been the Kennedy's next door neighbors. Like Ray, Charles was a Bell engineer. In fact both Haseks worked for Bell, as did Charles' mother who operated Perrysville's first switchboard, which sat in Mrs. Mason's parlor.

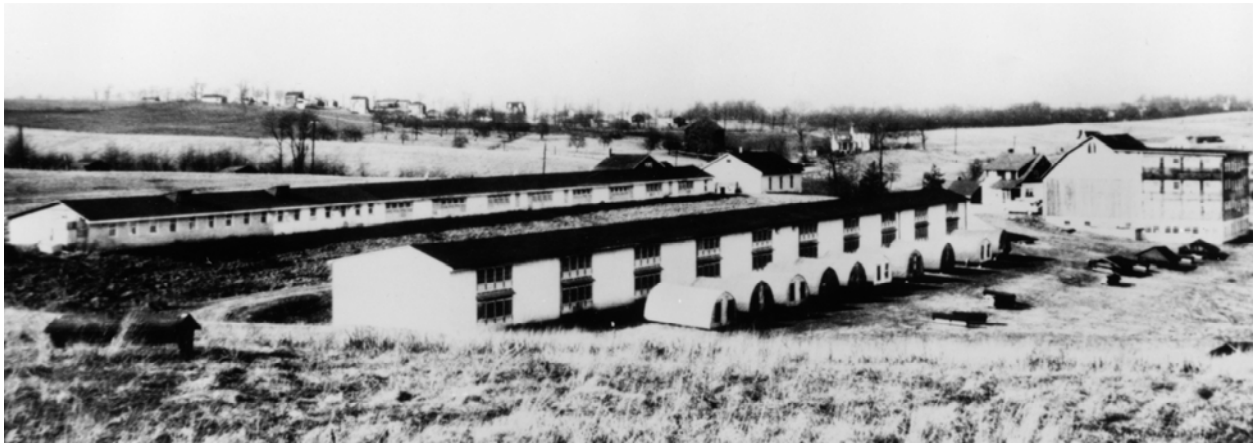
Charles served in the Army Air Corps during WWII and was stationed first in England then France as a radar mechanic. On the home front, Dorothy worked at the Bureau of Mines, having earlier studied drafting at Carnegie Tech (Carnegie-Mellon University).

The Haseks were living in West View when they decided to build a home in the country. While out driving, they spotted a For Sale sign on Lot #2 in Ingomar Manor and moved into their new home during Christmas 1952. At the time, a tree line divided the Manor from open fields where King Ridge was later built. Adjacent to the Haseks was Mr. Wright's barn and farmhouse. Charles remembers the many ring neck pheasants that once roamed the fields and also reports that the old farm house, which once stood across Rochester Road, was burned for fire training.

Daughter Pam remembers an eventful day from her childhood. It started when her younger brother wanted to take part in a bike clinic being held at the nearby Ingomar Jr. High School. Pam had no interest in attending the program, but relented and accompanied her little brother. By the end of the day, Pam had her picture in the News Record as having won not only a transistor radio, but also the grand prize of a new bicycle.



While boys often earned spending money by delivering newspapers, nine-year-old Pam Hasek delivered eggs for Lee's poultry farm. Each week, Pam filled cartons with freshly laid eggs before delivering them to customers in and near Ingomar Manor. The last stop on her route was the Sheets family who lived in the former Simpson school house at the corner of Reis Run and Clover Hill.



Lee's Rochester Road poultry farm (1955) is now part of Sandhurst Drive in the Field Club Estates. Ingomar Manor is shown in the distance.

The Fischers were living in Beaver County when Howard was hired to teach in the Pittsburgh city schools. Needing to be closer to his job, the family moved to Ingomar Manor in 1950. The oldest of three brothers, Lee remembers the Manor originally being a potato field. Top soil scraped from the site was piled in a mound for new home owners to purchase. At the time, Crestview was cindered and residents had to hire someone to plow snow until Franklin agreed to accept it as a township road. Mailboxes originally stood on Rochester Road and were later moved onto Crestview, but with the understanding they would all have to be on the same side of the street.

Brothers Jay, Robert and Lee with their father Howard (pictured) were avid hunters and fishermen. They hunted rabbits in the fields that are now King Ridge and would shoot at the North Boroughs Sportsman's Club on nearby Arndt Road. The family also enjoyed summer camping trips to Canada.



Lee recalls that as young teens, neighborhood boys would ride their bikes to the Rochester Road fire hall to hang out and wait for fire calls. At the time, brush fires were fairly common and the boys were thrilled when allowed to ride on the backs of fire trucks and strap on a five gallon "Indian Fighter" water tank with a spray nozzle to help fight fires.



Ingomar Manor home of Charles and Nancy Philips.
Sam's Barbershop is seen on left.

It was November 1963 and snowing when Charles and Nancy Philips moved into their new home. Expecting their second child, the couple had been renting a home on Pittsburgh's North Side, but knew a larger house was needed for their growing family. They chose Ingomar Manor for the quietness of the area and the large yards.

Nancy was originally from the city's Bloomfield neighborhood where her parents owned and operated a bakery near West Penn Hospital. It was while attending Shadyside Hospital's nursing school that she and a girlfriend decided to spend an evening at West View Park's Danceland where she met Charles.

Like most families at the time, the Philips had one car, which meant women often stayed at home during the day while their husbands were at work. Shopping was sometimes limited to a weekly trip when the entire family might head to the local grocery store. The Philips shopped at the A&P in the McKnight Shopping Center. Home deliveries by the milkman and bakery truck supplied customers throughout the week. During the summer season, the Philips bought fresh corn from Mr. Wright who lived in the farmhouse at the corner of Rochester and Old Orchard. Sam Calla, the Philips' next door neighbor, had a large backyard garden with fruit trees from which he shared plums and especially Swiss Chard.



The school bus stop was next door to the Philips in the barbershop's driveway where first graders Laura Philips, Mark Bucklew and Chris Wessel are pictured. The Port Authority later had a bus stop at the same location.

The most well known spot in Ingomar Manor was Sam's barbershop at the corner of Reis Run and Rochester roads. This was a small shop where Sam seemed to know one style, the crew cut. Bob Mandera and his brothers were customers and he remembers his mother writing notes to Sam who sometimes had a habit of cutting off sideburns.

Sam Calla arrived in the U.S. from his native Sicily in 1906. He operated a barber business on Pittsburgh's North Side before opening the Ingomar Manor shop circa 1950. The family lived on the second floor, above the shop. The first floor of the building consisted of two rooms, one being the barbershop while the other housed a small neighborhood convenience store said to have been operated by one of the Calla sons. Calla daughter Minnie McMahon lived with her family on Crestview.

Following his retirement in 1964, Sam rented the building to other small businesses, including the Fashion Flair Beauty Shop, which opened in November 1969. Reportedly, he hoped to sell the corner property for a convenience store, but could not overcome neighborhood opposition. Despite neighbors' concerns over traffic and parking, the Youngworld day care center opened on the site in 1981.

For over sixty years, Ingomar Manor has been a mix of long time and new families, sometimes with unforeseen connections. Barb Beideman had grown up in the North Hills and moved into Ingomar Manor several years ago with her husband and children, not realizing at the time they would be living in her second grade teacher's former home. The family created a new neighborhood tradition of hosting an annual Christmas open house.

Wayne and Martha Atwell were the Adlers' next door neighbors. Like Mrs. Adler, Mrs. Atwell was a teacher in the North Allegheny School District. A graduate of Carnegie Tech, she taught second grade at Bradford Woods Elementary while Wayne Atwell served as president of Franklin Park's borough council.

Mrs. Atwell tells the story of a special gift she received one year from a student during the annual class Christmas party. The young boy entered her class several weeks into the new school year. His mother was a single parent who worked as a waitress and there was no money for extras such as a gift for the teacher.

On the day of the party, as students proudly presented their gifts, the boy told Mrs. Atwell he would give his at the end of the day. Later, as the class prepared to leave for home, the boy walked up to her saying he had her gift, whereupon he reached up and kissed her cheek. While the candy, ornaments and handkerchiefs from many years of parties have long been forgotten, this one special gift remains in her memory.

The Costa family found a perfect single level home when they moved into the Manor. Having lived in Bellevue, they at first found it difficult to sleep in their new home because of the quietness of the neighborhood.

Alex and Diane Pearson were newly engaged and in the market for a house, having gone so far as to put hand money on a property in McCandless. It was while attending a Valentine's Day party that a friend mentioned his uncle Earl Springer was putting his Crestview Drive house on the market the next day. Out of curiosity, Alex went to see the house and quickly called Diane who was having lunch with her parents. He asked that they come immediately to see the house.

Alex and Diane's fathers are both carpenters and were thrilled to find such a well built older home. Diane had doubts about the situation, but trusted her soon to be husband. That evening, the Springers accepted Alex and Diane's bid.



The Pearsons planned on this being their "starter home" and completed some initial remodeling projects. Two years later, a second bathroom was planned after their first son was born. While pregnant with her second child, Diane actually went into labor in the Lowes Home Improvement store while carrying bathroom accessories for the addition. A few hours later, the couple's second son was born.

What was to be a starter home has become home to the Pearson family. Both boys graduated from North Allegheny High School and are now attending college. *"Our starter home has certainly come a long way."*

My name is Pete Mendoza and my wife's name is Del. Our children and grandchildren are the reason we are here. We came to share the lives of our children and be part of the growing years of our grandchildren.

We looked everywhere, but could not find the right house. We were almost ready to give up when I saw this house listed on the Internet. It was love at first sight for all of us! The well kept house, location, fenced backyard and flat terrain, among other factors, made this house a perfect fit for grandparents like us. We made an offer the same day.

Del and I are from New York where we have many relatives and friends. We divide our time between these two places, but when possible, we always try to be here for special events in the life of our children and grandchildren.

It's a blessing to live on Crestview Drive. Truly our neighbors are always **[looking out for us].** ***My wife and I have been recipients of many acts of kindness from our neighbors countless times: tomatoes from backyard gardens, transportation, snow removal, grass cutting and emergency phone calls. We are forever grateful for the generous love and care shown us and our home.***

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This booklet is the latest in a series of community histories titled MORE FRANKLIN PARK STORIES that continue the story of Franklin Township / Franklin Park Borough begun in FRANKLIN PARK STORIES (2006). Articles from the series appear in the Franklin Park section of Northland Public Library's local history webpage found at www.northlandlibrary.org

Now in its third printing, FRANKLIN PARK STORIES (2006) is a 236 page hardbound book featuring community history, stories, photos and maps. Copies are available at the Franklin Park Municipal Building 2344 West Ingomar Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Cost is $20.



Ingomar Jr. High School with Fairlawn Drive in foreground. (1959)