Pittsburgh in Progress

Presented by Kaufmann's
PREAMBLE

“Pittsburgh in Progress” is an exploration of Pittsburgh’s possible future. It envisions what the city and its region can become.

The exhibit serves to indicate that the long passage of time is not as important in shaping the future city as the daily decisions we must make.

It calls for a partnership between us and our descendants for the continuous improvement of living.

It strives to broaden our imaginations so that we may not hesitate to plan the rebuilding of the city in bold terms.

Lastly, this exhibit has been prepared on the premise that there will be an expansion in the civilized use of intellect, heart, science and technology and that the atomic age will be an era of construction.
PREHISTORIC BACKGROUND

To understand the future upon which Pittsburgh is entering, to realize how short a period is a decade, a generation, a lifetime, turn to those boundless eras when the stage was set for the building of Pittsburgh.

**Half a billion years ago** the Allegheny region lay beneath the waters of a great inland sea. The sea slowly filled with marine deposits and with the debris of mountains to the east and north, building a 3-mile deep foundation beneath the future Pittsburgh.

**250 million years ago** seed ferns and other strange plants of the land areas flourished and died in steaming swamps. Their remains accumulated in many layers in the shallows of the ancient sea and were transformed into the coal of today.

**A million years ago** a gigantic river meandered about as it flowed north, carving many channels for itself. Within these ancient valley channels the business districts of Swissvale, Wilkinsburg, East Liberty, and Oakland now stand.

**Half a million years ago** the great glaciers advanced southward and blocked the northward flowing rivers. Many streams reversed their flow or cut new channels. From such action came the rivers as we know them...the Monongahela, the Allegheny, and the Ohio. Warmer ages followed and the glaciers receded to their polar home. New life was born, flourished.

**And five hundred years ago** the footsteps of the red men bent the long wild grass, and copper faces peered through dense old trees at the green valley where the three rivers met. Indians on Grant's Hill...and a tangled forest in the Triangle.
ORIGIN AND GROWTH

Pittsburgh was founded in 1754 as a fort built to guard the gateway to the West protecting potential trade routes vital to our new-found nation over both land and water. As Pittsburgh became increasingly safe the routes began to grow... expanded by industry. Coal, glass, steel... smoking black stacks reaching skyward... mammoth cauldrons of molten metal pouring forth endless tons of iron with which this nation might build. This was the cradle of industry.

Expansion exceeded control through the years. Steam power, electrical energy, internal combustion engine, each in turn skyrocketed Pittsburgh's expansion. From 1800 to 1900, in just one hundred years, its population increased almost three hundred times, gave birth to uncontrolled urban concentration of families and dwellings. Suddenly Pittsburgh was no longer a town; it had reached the stature of a city.

A blight was inevitable, for see how the city grew... leaping the rivers... sprawling to north and south... traveling east... building west. But since the pattern of explosive growth remained unplanned, since the city grew "like a weed," there came to be a blight upon many of the city's communities. Such blight, a cancerous growth, caused further decay of the older and ever more desperately neglected areas within the city, and tended to infect the younger communities.
PROBLEMS

The evil of Pittsburgh smoke . . tangled traffic with bottlenecks of narrow intersections . . close-walled streets . . ever-increasing multitude of autos, street cars, busses . . lack of parking facilities for them in the heart of the city . . growing numbers of children seeking places for their games on streets . . families living cramped and crowded in inadequate, unsanitary dwellings—these are serious city problems.

These city problems breed areas of blight. In the major cities of our nation 33 out of every 100 persons live in such areas. Over half of our juvenile delinquents come from such areas. Exactly one half of all arrests are made here. Forty-five out of every 100 major crimes are committed here. The dreaded germ of tuberculosis finds a ready home in these sections, too, striking 60 people here for every 40 it attacks in unblighted parts of the city. In fact 50% of all disease is right at these bad spots. Such are the problems threatening the safety, the character, the health of our men and women of tomorrow . . . problems to face and solve.

The spread of blight can be halted. Right now, today . . numerous agencies, far-seeing men and women are hard at work planning and building for a finer Pittsburgh. In the city and in the county there are official planning commissions at work reaching toward a master-plan for Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.
Light industrial communities freed from smoke and set in natural landscape areas.

The Allegheny River developed for major recreation and sports.

Integrated communities separated by green belts and recreational areas.

Heavy industrial communities moved from city core and expanded in more open terrain.

METROPOLITAN LAND USE PLAN
LAND USE PLAN

Pittsburgh in Progress . . a land use plan comprising more than a thousand carefully used square miles of valuable land designed for enjoyable living in the future metropolitan city.

The land use plan, illustrated on the preceding page, is based on the application of gradual decongestion from the crowded hub and planned growth at the outer areas. This will stabilize the more valuable city hub and also provide ample accommodation for the expansion of new and diversified industry.

Notice that in the very center of this plan lies the original Golden Triangle, a beehive of activity, now permeated by the pastoral beauty and freshness of green lawns and trees. Neighborhood communities, integrated and separated by park and recreational areas, ring the hub in widening circles, provide living quarters in decreasing densities for people who work in the hub. Broad parkways for express traffic take circular routes at predetermined intervals around the hub, permit speedy access to any part of the city. An express monorail traffic system links all the areas of the future Pittsburgh.

Four commercial landing fields and numerous smaller fields offer safe, convenient facilities for the tremendous increase in air freight and passenger service.

The rivers are now devoted to the many pleasures offered only by lake and seaside cities. The Allegheny becomes a major riverway for swimming, yachting, boating, and water sports . . a broad flowing stream free of pollution.

The heaviest industry continues where it was planted years ago along the Monongahela . . in the southeast portion of the city. Other industries can move into this area since it increases in size as it moves away from the central city. Lighter industry is placed in the northwest along the Ohio River as another direction for expansion.
THE THREE RIVERS

This is the first of a series of studies showing the possible future redevelopments in Pittsburgh's metropolitan area. The three rivers become a part of the entire plan. The convergence of the rivers is no longer the divider of the city... the apex of a triangle extending into downtown Pittsburgh... but is the center of a circle embracing north, south, east, and west sides... and all eyes can now enjoy the natural beauty of the rivers' meeting.

The Point is a spacious triangle of green, not today's dingy freight yard squeezed between rivers. Towering office buildings are set in the midst of the expanding green of nature. The North Side with its metropolitan and commercial center is relieved of its congestion. Mt. Washington is transformed into colorful hanging gardens... terraced apartments where all occupants have a clear, unobstructed view of the heart of the central city.
THE POINT PARK

The above study represents another amazing change that can come about on the face of the City for Tomorrow... a spacious Point Park emerges from the river fountains at the tip of the Point and reaches into the heart of the Triangle. And notice how the main traffic channels, from south to north, disappear beneath this central park and reappear at the banks of the Allegheny to continue on their way... efficient and attractive highways.

As for the Park itself, it has combined within it a city plaza... natural setting for pageants and ceremonies. In the Park is a geological and historical museum. Broad walks and places to rest are incorporated in the picture, too. And just a few steps away... a pleasant walk through this spacious airiness... are inviting living quarters nextdoor to your office! What a difference, all this, compared to the very same view as it actually exists today.
LOWER HILL

...Another wonder of redevelopment that may be achieved by sustained, determined civic aspiration. A matter of years...few or many as you yourself choose to make it.

Grant Street, with the Federal building, figures prominently in this neighborhood, connecting with the wide through-traffic boulevard that enters the city from the North and South sides. Familiar landmarks remain in the County Court House and its neighboring City-County office building, Hotel William Penn, the little German Lutheran Church, and the tall twins—the Koppers building and Gulf building. But the motley mixture of houses, store-rooms and factories of the present have disappeared.

The natural green that starts at the Point sweeps up through downtown. The business section occupies a compact area. And a civic and cultural center has been built.

The trio of buildings at the left center of the broad, green Mall includes a large, circular exhibition hall where sporting events, conventions, and industrial exhibits are conducted; a symphony hall; and an open-air amphitheater where future seasons of civic light opera will be presented. This amphitheater is built with a roof of flexible segments that open fan-like to protect spectators from changes in the weather. Around these three main buildings other civic-interest buildings will complete Pittsburgh's cultural center.

Now, too, Pittsburgh has near-town apartments...terraced garden apartments overlooking old Fifth Avenue and Forbes Street. The area between these streets is a sweeping parkway of natural green along which speeds the monorail, connecting the business, civic, and residential districts.
IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

In the possible future, the Restaurant in the Air are today's fiction than were the radars and the plans below, yet the solution, will be solved.

RESTAURANT IN THE AIR

This restaurant, suspended in the air, will offer a breathtaking view of the city from atop Mt. Washington. A flexible roof, opened or closed, will in turn invite exposure to nature's beauty or provide protection against unfavorable weather.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLAN

This is a preliminary study of the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority's plan of complete sewage treatment. A single plant for the entire area is being projected, but if necessary a number of other plans incorporating several plants will be proposed.
IN THE POSSIBLE FUTURE

Cosmatorium and the Restman no greater a figment of messages to the moon ... yesterday seemingly without in the immediate future.

THE COSMATORIUM

This is a structure to house a 1,000-inch telescope, a planetarium and other instruments for the observation of the heavens both by scientists and the general public. They will be able to view the universe in greater detail than is presently possible.

PITTSBURGH PARKING STUDY

The map at left indicates the possible location of parking units (shaded areas) increasing the existing parking facilities from 12,500 to 25,819 in the central business district. The cost of such units would be self-paid-for in a short span of thirty years.
In the possible future, the Cosmatorium and the Restaurant in the Air are today no greater a figment of fiction than were the radar messages to the moon . . . and the plans below, yesterday seemingly without solution, will be solved in the immediate future.
NORTH SIDE

This redevelopment can be a forecast not a fairy tale . . . transforming Pittsburgh from a dark city to a wondrously beautiful park city . . . if we truly wish to make it so.

Familiar old Allegheny has had a change of face, too, as the Point Park of the downtown triangle faces a North Side stage for river-made fun. Tiers of grandstand seats line the water front, offering a breeze swept view of water sports, boat races, diving exhibitions, and aquacades. Farther north, the wide sand of a bathing beach gleams in our smoke-freed sunshine.

Directly in back of the grandstands lies the central landing field. Two pedestrian traffic bridges lead from this field to Point Park. Surrounding the landing field is the Monument Hill area. Here stand the government buildings and other structures fulfilling our dreams for a metropolitan civic center.

Where the Ohio begins is the site of the Eastern Riverboat terminal and hotel. To this point, travelers from New England and northeastern United States will come to make pleasant river trips on palatial inland ships. Down the Ohio and north to Duluth . . . to the Lakes in summer . . . and in the winter, south to the Mississippi, to New Orleans and the Gulf. Pittsburgh, eastern terminal of the greatest waterway in the United States, tomorrow can become the grand Central Station of Riverboat travel.

Accessible from downtown over the Sixth, Seventh, and Ninth Street bridges is the commercial area of the North Side with its stores and towering apartment buildings. In the center of the commercial area, is the site of the underground monorail station of the transportation system connecting all points in the Pittsburgh of tomorrow.

To the north spreads a magnificent arborarium. Still farther north, behind the arborarium and across the monorail line spreads an ultra modern farmer's market . . . bringing the vegetable gardens and orchards of nearby farm lands into the kitchens of North Side's apartment houses.
SOUTH SIDE

A further study . . based on the land use plan . . depicting in detail how inviting and livable communities may be when fully redeveloped out of the Pittsburgh we know.

Gone are the barren hills, the traffic tangles. In the City of Tomorrow the South Side emerges, taking full advantage of its locale and natural splendor, into a section of beauty and convenience.

The familiar ramp-like roadway angling up the breast of Mt. Washington is the same Mt. Washington roadway we travel today for an impressive panorama of Pittsburgh. But now, instead of leading merely to the hill's crest . . byways lead away from the main road, providing access to the dozens of beautiful hanging garden apartments . . apartments which transform the cliff side of Mt. Washington into a fine residential district . . buildings where every family has a front terrace, a lawn beneath the sky, and all the Triangle and Northside park and civic area for a front yard.

Every acre of land covering the hillside is planted in flowers, shrubs, and trees . . set off by the architecture that is already in vogue in many of the cities of our modernized world.

A new bridge replaces the Liberty Bridge, with the tubes at its southernmost end to carry automobile traffic underground to the South Hills. Two similar bridges have sprung up to span the river between this familiar landmark and the Point. Two more sets of tunnels burrow under the hills as part of the express traffic roads that even today are turning into a reality. Each of these roads provide a quick access to or through the downtown community area, bringing all portions of the city closer together in time and in miles.

On the South Side, again, the monorail lines replace street cars and inclines. Between the two newest bridges the monorail car will glide down the hill, over the water, and into the Triangle with no irritating waits for tangled traffic; no winding, grinding hauls up and down hills.
At present this community is a hodgepodge of closely built structures of all shapes and sizes, housing an extremely dense population, and sprawling over nearly all the buildable land. Redeveloped, this valuable building space holds more than a dozen tower apartments, comfortably houses the population, releases the land for the beauty and recreation so essential to a progressive civilization by infusing the atmosphere of suburban life into such crowded areas.

In the circle of the horseshoe pattern formed by the towers, you will observe the Herron Hill reservoir. The park-like green belt, coming up from the Mall at the foot of the Lower Hill, brings with it the convenient landing fields, the playgrounds, shaded walks and resting places for those who choose to live in this newly attractive neighborhood... all within monorail and express highways to the attractions of downtown Pittsburgh.
Here is a generous plan that tumbles the enhanced beauty of Schenley Park into the whole of the Oakland district. Surrounded by high-speed roads and express monorail facilities, the residential area has no traffic hazards... not a road where a child might end his play in an accident. For a home... take your choice of towering, multi-family apartments or small compact dwellings... many overlooking an enlarged Schenley Park Lake.

A new ball park has appeared... with spacious parking places that assure parking your car adjacent to the same section of the stands where you will watch the game. There will be no "rain checks"... the dome of this park is a transparent umbrella sliding open at the touch of a button to protect the playing field beneath it. Across the lake from the ball park is a conservatory much larger and more impressive than the one we now visit for the flower shows.
NEGLEY RUN

The last of three neighborhood projects is the section in the East End district known today as Negley Run. Here again, numerous tower apartments have been designed to absorb the many families living in the area. Planted, open parklands take the place of angled intersections and dead-end streets with patched paving and crumbling curbstones. There is beauty all about, room to stretch, to breathe deeply, to enjoy city living.

And the traffic problem that has come to East Liberty with the increasing population and expansion of more easterly sections along the Allegheny River will be relieved by the Negley Run Parkway. The monorail transportation system will further aid the necessary movement of a community about its business. And all this redeveloped space with its freedom and healthful atmosphere lies within the inner circle of the city.
THE PARK CITY

The future city will grow and change by plan and foresight and not by chance and hazard. It may have tall buildings so more space will be available for playgrounds, parks, schools, sports, and homes. Communities within the city will be built around their business, civic, and educational centers. The city will be made up of many of these partner-communities connected to major business and industrial areas, parkways and rapid transportation.

**Decongestion** the old city wilderness will be cleared way. New pioneers will have cleansed and opened the land for living areas of noble proportions. The citizens of the Park City will know it as they know their homes and yards and they will be as proud of their city as they are of their house and garden.

**Invasion by greenery** the clear sky, clean air, pure water, green leaf and open vista of life in nature will displace the dusty, dry, and crowded city. Nature will be as much a part of the city as it is of the country. And Pittsburgh, with its naturally dramatic setting, will then offer panoramas of unmatched beauty.

**Depollution of air and water** until present sources of energy are displaced by atomic or other more advanced ones, effort will be made to remove smoke and gases by techno-chemical means. Relocation of heavy and smoke-bearing industry in the east and south sections of the city, away from the direction of prevailing winds, will clear the city of smoke. The planned sewage disposal plant will free the rivers of pollution.
HAPPIER LIVING THROUGH PLANNING

Tomorrow's communities will be completely planned and integrated to provide pleasant living, work and play within walking distance for everyone; all communities will be closely linked by adequate means of transportation and communication.

Traffic hazards will be eliminated. All vehicle traffic will be separated from walkways. A start in this direction is already underway in the Penn Lincoln Parkway. The western extension of the East West Parkway will follow. Such parkways are freeways. They will be amply wide and will provide for through express traffic as well as inter-connection with local arteries of traffic.

Parking problems will disappear with the magic of Park City. Already contemplated are plans for providing adequate parking in the Golden Triangle. It will be possible for workers, shoppers, and theater-goers to store their cars readily and free the streets for easier flow of traffic. Mass transportation will be efficient and attractive.

The heart of each community will be the social, religious, administrative and shopping center. The schools of tomorrow will allow students to enjoy the benefit of fresh air while they study. Ideal working conditions will be provided in well-planned shops and plants set in the spacious and verdant landscape.

A major new development for Pittsburgh will be a tremendous expansion in the use of the rivers for educational and recreational purposes. There will be Ohio River Tours . . . connecting with the Great Lakes northward . . . with New Orleans through Natchez and Mobile southward . . . a new inland waterway at the very front door of our future communities.
A CHALLENGE

Pittsburgh is in progress. Already we have taken the legal steps to clear the dirt from the air and filth from the water. An Authority has been created to begin the rebuilding of the city. A massive highway program is under construction. Study is opening the way for new and different industries. Citizens are organized to learn more about the needs of their city-region and to work in unity to bring about its betterment.

In studying what the future of Pittsburgh might be we commit ourselves to greater effort within wider horizons.

"Pittsburgh in Progress" is a challenge to us. Only live citizens can make decisions. Neither dead nor unborn citizens can change the shape of their city.

The degree of civic foresight that we apply in our daily acts determines whether Pittsburgh will be truly great in one generation or in many.
Pittsburgh in Progress was presented by Kaufmann's as another feature of its year-long Diamond Jubilee celebrating 75 years of service to the Tri-State area.