

Bell Acres History...

Sewickley Township in the 1940s

Title

Recreational facilities, Pittsburgh & Allegheny County. Vol. 3

Recreational facilities, Pittsburgh and Allegheny County

Date

1947

SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

THE AREA AND ITS POPULATION

Sewickley Township is a residential area located in the northwestern part of Allegheny County adjoining Sewickley Heights Township. It covers an area of 3,450 acres and was incorporated in 1854. It consists of Census Tract 237.

The population in 1940 was 575 persons with a density of .2 persons per acre. Eight per cent of the population was foreign born, and the major foreign-born groups came from the British Isles and Poland. There were only three Negroes in the township in 1940. Persons 19 years of age and under constituted 43 per cent of the population, persons 65 years of age and over two per cent. Fifty-five per cent of the population was male.

The median number of school years completed by persons 25 years of age and over was 8.5. Two per cent of the group had completed no school years and 4.5 per cent four or more years of college.

The Juvenile Court of Allegheny County in 1945 disposed of four cases of delinquency from this community, all Negro. The 1940 Census showed only adult Negroes in this township; Negro delinquents in 1945 would indicate that additional Negro population has probably moved into the community since then.

Laborers constituted 25 per cent of all employed persons 14 years of age and over; operatives and kindred workers, 21 per cent; and craftsmen, foremen and kindred workers, 18 per cent.

Three per cent of the population was receiving public assistance in May 1946. Individuals receiving Aid to Dependent Children made up 80 per cent of the group.

One-family structures constituted 92 per cent of all dwelling units in the community; the remainder were two-family structures. Sixty-two per cent of all dwellings were occupied by owners. There was no private bath in 48 per cent of the houses, no private flush toilet in 45 per cent and no running water in 33 per cent. Major repairs were needed in four per cent of the dwellings.

Households of four or five persons constituted 33 per cent of all occupied dwelling units, and those of six or more persons 28 per cent. Homes with more than one person per room constituted 29.5 per cent of all occupied dwelling units in the community.

The median monthly rent was \$24.50.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

The only agencies reporting in Sewickley Township are the public schools and the Allegheny County Housing Authority. Both public schools are one-room schools which have no playgrounds. The public housing authority provides one junior playground, one auditorium, one club room, two pre-school rooms, a library, a game room and two kitchens.

None of the schools sponsor a recreational program, nor are they used by community groups.

Recreational activities in the Valley Homes Project of the Allegheny County Housing Authority are conducted by housing residents through their Community Council. Activities include games, sports, socials and special events. The council also operates a lending library. Supervision and planning of the program is in the hands of one volunteer.

No active Boy Scout or Girl Scout troops were reported for the township.

COMMUNITY DATA

(Based on 1940 U. S. Census)

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|-------|------------|------------------|------|
| NAME | Sewickley Twp. | | CENSUS TRACTS | | | | 237 |
| INCORPORATED | 1854 | RESIDENTIAL | X | RURAL | INDUSTRIAL | MINING | |
| YEAR: | 1880 | 1890 | 1900 | 1910 | 1920 | 1930 | 1940 |
| POPULATION: | | 334 | 359 | 169 | 164 | 314 | 575 |
| DENSITY: | .2 | persons per gross acre | | | | | |
| | | | | | THIS AREA | ALLEGHENY COUNTY | |
| PER CENT FOREIGN BORN..... | | | | | 7.70 | 12.71 | |
| PER CENT NEGRO..... | | | | | .52 | 6.38 | |

MAJOR FOREIGN BORN GROUPS

- | | |
|------------------|-----------|
| 1. British Isles | 2. Poland |
|------------------|-----------|

MAJOR OCCUPATIONS

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Laborers | 2. Operatives and kindred workers |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|

ECONOMIC STATUS

| | THIS AREA | ALLEGHENY COUNTY |
|--|-----------|------------------|
| Median rent..... | 24.50 | 28.57 |
| Homes needing major repairs (per cent)..... | 3.88 | 13.22 |
| Homes with more than one person per room (per cent)..... | 29.46 | 23.75 |
| Percentage of Labor Force employed..... | 78.65 | 80.79 |
| Percentage of Labor Force seeking work..... | 19.79 | 14.84 |
| Persons on WPA (per 1,000 dwelling units)..... | 38.76 | 55.79 |
| General Assistance cases (per 1,000 dwelling units)..... | 15.50 | 103.15 |

POPULATION ACCORDING TO AGE, SEX, RACE, AND NATIVITY

(Based on 1940 U. S. Census)

| | | All Ages | Per Cent of Total Pop. * | Age Groups | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------|------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| | | | | Under 5 | 5-9 | 10-14 | 15-19 | 20-34 | 35-64 | 65 and over |
| All Classes | (Total) | 575 | 100.0 | 61 | 65 | 71 | 48 | 145 | 171 | 14 |
| | (Male) | 314 | 54.6 | 38 | 38 | 39 | 29 | 75 | 89 | 6 |
| | (Female) | 261 | 45.4 | 23 | 27 | 32 | 19 | 70 | 82 | 8 |
| Native White | (Total) | 528 | 91.9 | 61 | 65 | 71 | 47 | 139 | 134 | 11 |
| | (Male) | 289 | 50.3 | 38 | 38 | 39 | 28 | 73 | 69 | 4 |
| | (Female) | 239 | 41.6 | 23 | 27 | 32 | 19 | 66 | 65 | 7 |
| Foreign Born White | (Total) | 44 | 7.7 | | | | 1 | 5 | 35 | 3 |
| | (Male) | 24 | 4.2 | | | | 1 | 2 | 19 | 2 |
| | (Female) | 20 | 3.5 | | | | | 3 | 16 | 1 |
| Negro | (Total) | 3 | .5 | | | | | 1 | 2 | |
| | (Male) | 1 | .2 | | | | | | 1 | |
| | (Female) | 2 | .3 | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Other Races | (Total) | | | | | | | | | |
| | (Male) | | | | | | | | | |
| | (Female) | | | | | | | | | |

* Percent not shown where less than 0.1