



# RIVERS OF STEEL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

*Chronicle*

Spring 2008

Mike and Dee Boytim - Rivers of Steel's 2007 Volunteers of the Year  
Rivers of Steel met Mike and Dee Boytim when Mike responded to an announcement placed in a local newspaper asking former steelworkers to record oral histories about their work experiences. Rivers of Steel discovered that Mike had been one of the last foreman to operate the historic Pump House and asked if he



would become an interpreter at the Pump House, sharing a lifetime of stories with visitors to that historic site. Mike agreed, and, luckily for Rivers of Steel, where Mike goes so goes Dee, his wife of 50 years. Together they have become a valuable addition to the dozens of volunteers who make our student and adult programming possible.

Rivers of Steel honored the couple and their commitment to preserving southwestern Pennsylvania's industrial and cultural heritage at the annual volunteer appreciation event. Their names will be added to Rivers of Steel's Volunteer of the Year plaque.

## Director of Museum Collections and Archives Named to State Board of Historic Markers Review Panel



The State Board of Historical Markers has named Ron Baraff, Rivers of Steel's Director of Museum Collections and Archives, to the Review Panel. The current six-member panel reviews, discusses and votes on nominations for historical markers. The panel members serve two-year terms and are chosen from historians associated with colleges, universities,

museums or historical organizations. Members are chosen from different regions throughout the State.

## Leadership Pittsburgh to Begin Carrie Furnace Economic Impact Report

A Leadership Pittsburgh Development Initiative team will be working with Rivers of Steel to study the economic development opportunities related to the Carrie Furnaces National Historic Site as a visitor's attraction for Rankin, Swissvale, Braddock, the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

The six-member committee will focus its efforts on the communities that surround the proposed 38-acre National Historic Site. The committee plans to interview local leaders, businesses, and community development organizations to solicit ideas on how their communities might respond to the opportunities the National Historic Site presents and how the demand for visitor amenities could be leveraged into increased activity in business districts.

In addition, the committee will research comparable sites to determine how communities such as Nordspark in Germany and Cooperstown in New York transformed themselves into visitor friendly destinations. The results of the interviews and research are to be presented in a formal report in June, 2008.



The Leadership Pittsburgh Development Initiative team members are Leanne Lisien, Senior Engineer, Westinghouse Electric Company; Beth Baran, Associate, Pepper Hamilton, LLP; Scott Colcombe, Vice President, PNC Bank; Taki Darakos, Vehicle Maintenance Specialist, FedEx Ground; Jeff Kent, Manager, Maher Duessel, CPAs; and Royce Woods, Associate, PNC Wealth Management.

## 2007 PHAP Grant Awards

Congratulations to Rivers of Steel's heritage partners who have been awarded Pennsylvania Heritage Area Program grants.

- Friends of the Riverfront: \$6,800 for the Three Rivers Heritage Trail Interpretive Signage project to remanufacture and install new interpretive signage panels.
- Brownsville Area Revitalization Corporation: \$12,000 to develop educational museum displays.
- Braddock's Field Historical Society: \$52,450 to restore the appearance of the entryway to the Braddock Carnegie Library by replacing deteriorated 118 year old sandstone slabs with granite.
- Greensboro Borough: \$7,500 to develop construction drawings and specifications for a series of three canoe/kayak river landings in Greensboro Borough as part of the unified greenway along the Monongahela River Water Trail.

## Rivers of Steel Receives RAD Grant

Rivers of Steel received a \$24,740 Renaissance Grant from the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD) for *Seeing Pittsburgh*, an oral history and photojournalism project that will bring together diverse student photojournalists and adults to explore the uniqueness of greater Pittsburgh neighborhoods. The project will culminate in an exhibition, catalogue, video podcasts, cell phone tours and classroom tools.

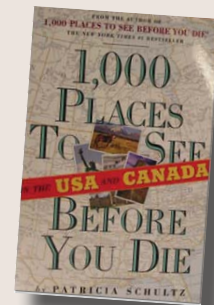
The Renaissance Grants are designed to showcase the work of organizations on specific projects of value to them and the community. The organizations were asked to collaborate with students of any age and create projects in honor of the region's 250th birthday with the theme "Imagine What You Can Do Here."

"Rivers of Steel is honored to be a recipient in the first year of the Renaissance Grant program," said Augie Carlino, President and CEO, Rivers of Steel. "*Seeing Pittsburgh* is a project that honors the uniqueness of Pittsburgh's neighborhoods and contributes to the conservation of the region's remarkable industrial and cultural heritage."



## Rivers of Steel Tours Listed in "1,000 Places to See and Do Before You Die"

When the New York Times #1 bestseller, "1,000 Places to See and Do Before You Die in the USA and Canada," hit the bookshelves at the end of 2007 there were only three listings for the City of Pittsburgh - the Andy Warhol Museum, Primanti Brothers (for its famous sandwiches) and **Pittsburgh's Steel Heritage with a recommendation to get aboard a Rivers of Steel tour to "explore what is left of Pittsburgh's steel era."**



Recognition of Rivers of Steel's tours in this bestseller reflects the steady increase in our tour program's popularity. Rivers of Steel's two core tours, Babushkas and Hard Hats and Carrie Furnaces, operate from May until September and sell out weeks in advance.

The tour fills an interpretive vacuum in southwestern Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh and steel have been linked in the national and international imagination for generations but the story has never been packaged for visitors. Rivers of Steel was the first to offer a tour experience that presented the region's rich industrial and cultural heritage as the steelmaking capital of the world. Using former steel workers and lifelong residents as tour guides, the tours deliver an authentic experience right down to lunch at a local ethnic club and a taste of the region's delicious "cookie table."

## Donations

The Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area Museum and Archives collection is always growing, thanks to donations of individuals, businesses, cultural institutions and corporations. These donations help us fulfill our mission to preserve, interpret and promote the industrial heritage of southwestern Pennsylvania. Accepted donations must relate to Rivers of Steel's mission to preserve records and artifacts of industrial, social, and cultural significance to communities within the Heritage Area (which includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties). Examples of items in our collection include:

- Photographs, films, video and other multimedia
- Clothing (industrial and cultural)
- Tools and equipment
- Personal items such as Union and ID badges or cards
- Books and manuscripts

Brochures, pamphlets, magazines and other ephemera. If you have artifacts or documents that you are interested in donating, please call 412-464-4020 or contact [rbaraff@riversofsteel.com](mailto:rbaraff@riversofsteel.com) or [temig@riversofsteel.com](mailto:temig@riversofsteel.com).