

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

June 4 is a significant date for one community nestled along the banks of the Ohio River. It was on that date in 1906 an application for a charter was granted, and the City of Follansbee was born.

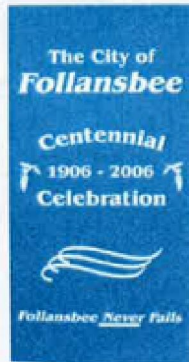
Originally called "Old Mingo Bottom," it was inhabited by the Mingo Indians until 1768 when under the terms of a treaty signed between the Six Great Nations of Indians and the English settlers, they were forced to move across the Ohio River to what is now known as Mingo Junction.

The English settlers who had been forced out during the French and Indian War were now able to return. One settler, Isaac Cox, made "formal entry" on the land, but later transferred all of his rights to John Decker. In 1774, the Indian massacres were numerous and many of the forts along the river fell into their hands. Mr. Decker built a fort constructed of logs and stone which was the site of many Indian conflicts. A plaque denoting the area can be found on Main Street.

In 1903, T.J. and H.B. Mahan were the owners of an orchard located between the areas of Wellsburg and Steubenville (on the Ohio side) and across the river from Mingo Junction. Located in the bottom lands, it attracted the attention of the Follansbee Brothers. They were searching for a site for a tin mill and steel plant, and so they bought three hundred acres of the orchard, known as "Mahan's Station." Skilled workers, many of whom were of Welsh extraction, were drawn to the area and built an entire community.

From that time on, Follansbee established itself as a manufacturing center. With the steady development of business, the area became a "melting pot for labor" as described by the City's mayor, Anthony Paesano.

Mayor Paesano said, too, that just as infrastructure was the big issue 100 years ago, so it is today. Those early days saw many businesses develop, such as the S. Keighly



Metal Ceiling and Manufacturing Company, the Jefferson Glass Company and the Union Lumber Company. Today, the City is in the process developing a 17 acre site with expectations of the first business locating there in the spring. Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel donated approximately 30 acres for the development of a sports complex. A Main Street Committee is actively pursuing plans for a streetscape project for downtown that will make it conducive to encourage businesses to move in.

The City is proud of its heritage and proud of its citizens. They have a history of working together and taking care of each other as evidenced all through the years in their development. In fact, Mayor Paesano says the City's mission statement is, "Enhance the quality of life for our citizens." There are many social activities and places to gather offered to the residents.

The Follansbee Park, which the Mayor refers to as the City's "Crown Jewel," was built with stone taken from State Route 2. The workers were paid 25 cents an hour. Today it is the site of many community activities including an annual summer picnic during Community Days which is absolutely free to the citizens.



Sponsored by the Follansbee Garibaldi Lodge, a fraternal organization established in 1928 by Italian immigrants who worked in the mill, the Garibaldi Festival is a highlight of the summer. The Follansbee Senior Citizens offers a place for its seniors to gather and socialize.

With the upcoming celebration of its 100 year anniversary, many more activities are being planned for this summer including a series of concerts, an ecumenical prayer breakfast and a family picnic. (A complete schedule of activities will be included in the next edition of the *Regional Review*.)

As the City strives to pursue their vision of economic and recreational development, we congratulate them on their many successes in their first one hundred years. Happy Birthday, Follansbee!

