

BRADY POSES BIG TEST FOR STEELERS DEFENSE

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FORGOTTEN IN TIME

PG INVESTIGATION: Census data shows Pittsburgh housing stock is nation's third oldest; communities like Larimer pay the price

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

With two luxury apartment complexes, fast-casual eateries and an LA Fitness, Bakery Square has emerged as a flashpoint of private development in Pittsburgh's East End. The projects have been touted online and on social media, from the neon bakery sign that adorns the Google office building to the slogan of the shopping district's developer, Walnut Capital: "The best in city

living."

But just blocks away are the signs of a neighborhood that has been in distress for decades; empty, boarded-up buildings, shuttered brick churches, fire-ravaged homes and weedy, barren lots on street after street.

"Look around here. Do you see any businesses?" said Demond Braddy, 49, who has spent nearly all of his life in that neighborhood: Larimer. "The neighborhood ate itself."

Houses with crumbling roofs, collapsed porches and peeling exteriors line many of the streets, where the vast majority of housing was built decades ago. These decrepit, blighted properties — many devoid of residents — are relics of another time and, some say, another place.

The homes in Larimer are emblematic of an aging housing stock that dominates the entire city, according

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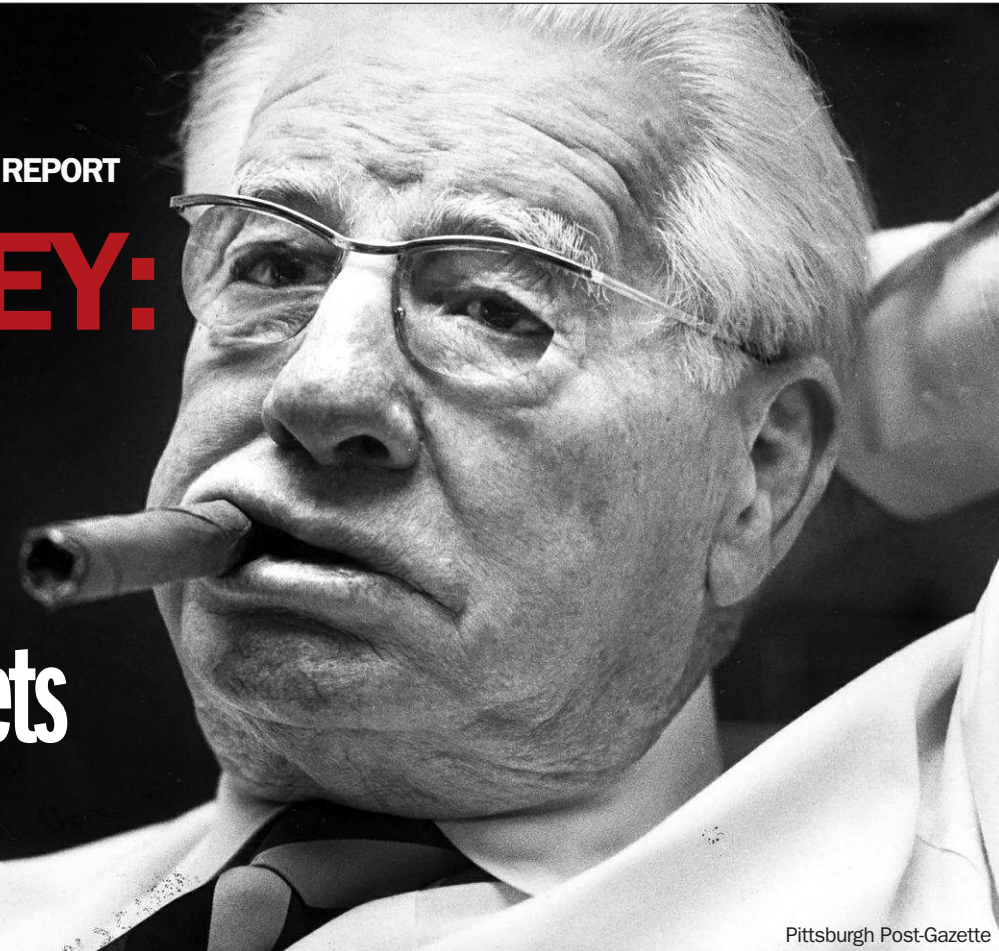


Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Demond Braddy, 49, who has lived in Larimer nearly all of his life, says flight and crime have left his neighborhood filled with empty fields and vacant and aging homes.

POST-GAZETTE SPECIAL REPORT

ROONEY: A legend's secret life in the rackets



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

FBI reports, interviews shed new light on Art Rooney Sr.'s early days before building Steelers into a powerhouse

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

For nearly a century, the story that Art Rooney and the Steelers have told about how he built his fortune before the football team became profitable has been a rags-to-riches tale about the son of a hardscrabble immigrant Irish family who made it big through pluck and hard work. He was a professional athlete, played the horses, invested wisely in the stock market and promoted major boxing bouts.

For generations, his enduring legacy, the six-time Super Bowl-winning Steel-

More inside

Rooney's career in the rackets started on the North Side with a numbers operation, **Page A-7**

ers, have served as a worldwide, cultural touchstone for the city.

But a closer look at his life, bolstered by recently released FBI documents, archival records from the University of Pittsburgh, and a trove of federal and state court files, reveals that much of the money that built his early wealth came

from his role as a major player in the city's rackets — numbers, slot machines, horse betting, card gambling rooms and illegal alcohol during Prohibition.

The documents show he was involved in illegal operations from the mid-1920s through at least the late 1940s, although he was only publicly named in connection with any of them twice.

During those years, due to a loyal-to-the-bone cadre of powerful political friends, and smart, well-placed alliances with law enforcement, Rooney managed

SEE **ROONEY**, PAGE A-6

ELECTION 2022

Hundreds of county election workers have left since 2020

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The first resignations came in early 2020. It began as a trickle: Several elections directors decided to leave or retire due to foreseeable challenges of implementing no-excuse mail-in voting and new voting machines using paper ballots. Then came what was much harder to predict: the COVID-19 pandemic during what would be the highest turnout for an election in Pennsylvania history.

Since then, public servants with more than 1,000 years of cumulative experience are gone from county elections offices due to burnout, retirements, stress and even threats in this new, hyper-partisan world that puts them under the critical eye of election deniers and skeptics.

More than half of Pennsylvania's counties have lost one of their top elections officials since 2020. Several counties have gone through multiple elections directors in that time, including Westmoreland and Butler counties, both of which have ongoing lawsuits with their former directors.

The upheaval of county elections offices is worse down the chain of command: There are at least eight counties whose entire staffs have fewer than three years of experience administering elections, according to a Post-Gazette analysis.

"It should be a source of alarm for everyone when you see 600 accumulated years of [top] election administration experience evaporate in the state in the span of just two

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