

*There's a provincialism about Greenfield. People seem to maintain a closeness to the neighborhood no matter where they move to. And people don't move in and out of Greenfield the way they do out of Moon Township or Mount Lebanon or any of these other places around Allegheny County. People tend to move into Greenfield and then sink down roots and stay there.*

So how do we leave Greenfield at the end of the 20th century?

**A**t night, the skies are dark instead of pink because the steel mills are gone. What happened to the mills? Your answer will depend on whom you ask. The steel companies insist that they were eager to keep the mills running and simply lacked the capital to meet environmental regulations and union wages. Community activists reply that the steel companies had no intention of keeping the millhunks at work and diverted their capital to real estate, chemicals, oil—any business or industry that required less investment for higher profit. This second theory does seem to be supported by the fact that U.S. Steel changed its name to USX at the same time it put more than 100,000 steelworkers in the tri-state area out of work.

*Now that the economic situation is changed, I see some homogenization in the neighborhood, where you have professional people filtering in. Blue-collar jobs are not out there, not to the extent that they once were.*

The largest Pittsburgh employers are now the University of Pittsburgh, with all its hospitals and other facilities, and the local, state and federal government. Two of the top ten employers in the city are service industries: Giant Eagle grocery stores and Kaufmann's department stores. If you live in Greenfield, you are as likely now to live next door to a musician or a banker as you are a retired steelworker.

*My dad's a mechanic. My mom's an underwriter.*

