

Northside Entrepreneurs: Then and Now

Sweet Success

In the mid-1880s, on the current site of Priory Fine Pastries, a teenage **David Lytle Clark** launched the **D. L. Clark Candy Company** with \$1,000 in capital.

The Clark family had migrated to America in 1872 from Derry, Ireland, when David was eight. After moving to Pittsburgh, his father began operating a **grocery store** at this East Ohio Street location around 1875.

Initially young David worked on the Northside as a traveling salesman for a Greek candy manufacturer. Within 3 years he had purchased his employer's wagon, horses and merchandise and opened his own business in the mid-1880s. This launched his **future candy empire** in a small space at **530 East Ohio Street**, employing only a cook who made candy as Clark rode from store to store selling it.

Destined to be an innovator in the candy industry, in the late 1880s Clark ventured into a new product, **chewing gum**, also launching that part of the business here. By 1890, his manufacturing had outgrown this Northside location and he relocated to **McKeesport** where his family had a dairy.

Although Clark's family moved to McKeesport with the business, in 1897 his mother and a sister returned to live and work together at this East Ohio Street location as dress and gown makers until 1908. During that period, David commissioned a **new building**, the current one, to be built on this site in 1903 at a cost of \$12,000.

In 1911, Clark moved his manufacturing operations back to the **Northside** to what is now called the Northshore. His company grew in that location for the next 75 years, although only one of the three manufacturing and headquarters buildings still stands there.

During its peak the company manufactured daily nearly 2 million Clark Bars, 6 million sticks of gum and more than 150 products. According to historical researcher Jesse Belfast "Clark's most important innovation was the **five cent candy bar**." The star was the **Clark Bar**, developed in 1917 to meet the demand of U.S. soldiers for candy in World War I.

At his death in 1939, David L. Clark left \$1.2 million dollars to eleven area hospitals, including **Allegheny General**.

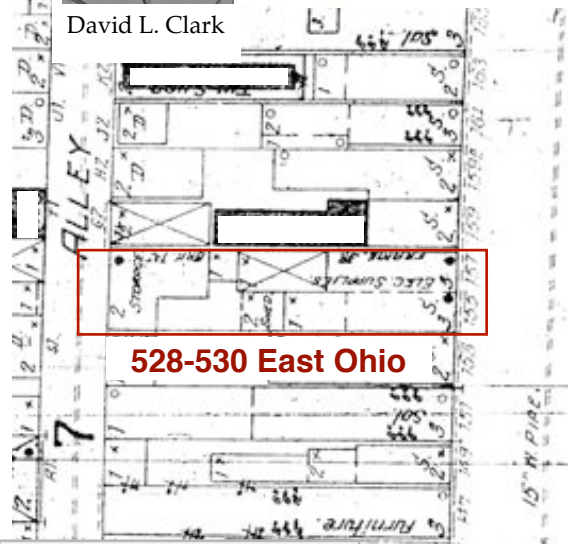
Not since Clark left this East Ohio location in 1890 had this property been used for manufacturing. In 2004, local residents and entrepreneurs **Mary Ann and Ed Graf** brought that back, along with the sweet touch, with the opening of **Priory Fine Pastries**. In the 1990s they also restored and revitalized two nearby historic structures into the **Priory Hotel** and **Pittsburgh's Grand Hall**.

1875-2004

a brief history of
528-530 East Ohio



David L. Clark



528-530 East Ohio

Partial history of occupants

1875-1890	Clark family
1903	Current building constructed
1904	Lewis Ginsburg, clothing merchant
1911	Jacob Olbum, furniture store
1916-1950s	Keystone Theater and later theaters
1950s-1970s	Atlas Home Furnishings

1893 map



This history, written by Randy Strothman, is based on historic research by Carol Peterson and Jesse Belfast.