

The Mill Creek Riding Club
Youngstown, Ohio
1927-1935

by

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Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

for the Degree of

Master of Arts

in the

History

Program

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

May, 2011

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2011

Abstract

In the spring of 1927, at the height of the “roaring” twenties, several prominent Youngstown businessmen who regularly rode their horses through Mill Creek Park had a simple idea: let us form a riding club. By August of that year, their one small idea had grown into plans that included formally incorporating the club, buying property near the park, building a stable and clubhouse, hiring a riding master, and staging horse shows. The Mill Creek Riding Club quickly developed into one of the area’s best-known social organizations, attracting members of Youngstown’s elite families, and several area industrialists. Membership grew from the initial handful of riders to over 130 members. The club enlisted one of the members, architect Barton Brooke, to design a barn and clubhouse. In their first year of existence, the members hosted a horse show whose exhibitors included rubber magnate Harvey Firestone. The horse shows never attracted less than a thousand spectators on show days, and one year over 2,500 people arrived to watch champion show horses perform.

After the stock market crash in 1929, the club did not re-trench but went ahead with plans to build a heated indoor arena, and to form a polo team. The growing economic troubles did not seem to worry club members who continued their normal activities. The Depression finally caught up with the club when the Dollar Savings and Trust Company, whose executive vice-president was a riding club member, foreclosed on the property. The Mill Creek Park Directors eventually bought the land and buildings, at first using the land for an archery range. The imposing stable sat empty for years, but fire destroyed the structure in 1940. The land has been a recreation area since the mid 1950s. The Mill Creek Riding Club, though of only short duration, remains an interesting part of Youngstown’s cultural history.

Acknowledgements

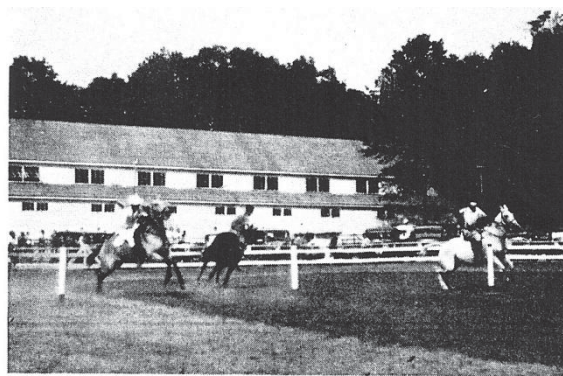
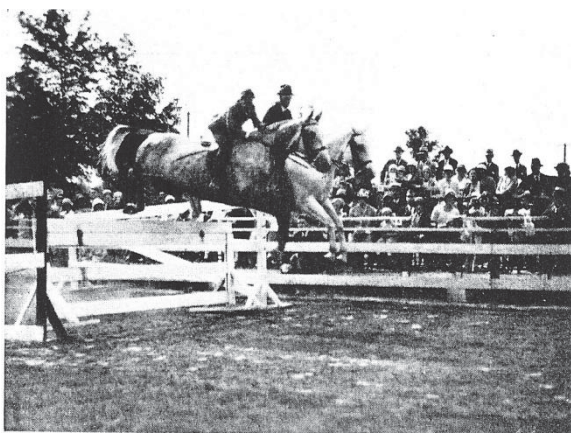
I would like to extend sincere gratitude to the entire history department at Youngstown State University, in particular to the professors who have helped me tread this long road by offering advice, guidance, encouragement, and most of all, patience. I wish to offer particular thanks to the members my committee: Dr. Diane Barnes, Dr. Martin Berger, Dr. Fred Viehe, and Dr. Martha Pallante. Special thanks go to my thesis director, Dr. Donna DeBlasio, for all of her help and suggestions, and enthusiasm for this project.

I want to thank Dr. Peter Kasvinsky and Dr. Barbara Jones from the School of Graduate Studies and Research for their generous understanding and help, and Dr. Anne York, Department of History Graduate Program Director, for her encouragement.

I wish to thank the staff at Maag Library, especially Brian Brennen in archives, the librarians at the Youngstown Public Library, and Pam Speis at the Mahoning Valley Historical Society archives. A special appreciation goes to Dr. Eleanor Congdon for her photography help. I also want to thank my family and friends for their good-natured support, even when they shook their heads, not understanding why I kept forging ahead with this project amid all the setbacks.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to dedicate this work in memory of my parents, Pete and Betty Hyatt. I thank my father for encouraging and indulging me in my love of horses, and my mother for tolerating the both of us in that pursuit. I know they would be proud.

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¹Robert, M. Conway, comp., *Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley: 1933* Youngstown: Youngstown Chamber of Commerce, 1933): 59.

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Introduction

“Show Me Your Horse and I Will Tell You Who You Are”—English Proverb

Youngstown’s interest in horse sports existed long before the Mill Creek Riding Club’s (MCRC) organization in 1927, but was mostly limited to trotting horses and harness racing. In 1875, several important Youngstown men, including Chauncey Andrews, George Tod, and Henry K. Wick, owned and raced trotting horses.² An 1899 *Youngstown Vindicator* article mentioned the Youngstown Driving Club, which hosted race meetings “participated in by horses from all over the country.”³ In 1912, the Youngstown Driving Club began horseracing at Southern Park Trotting Track in Boardman Township.⁴ The MCRC, though, brought attention and organization to another segment of horse sports, pleasure riding. During its existence, the riding club allowed a glimpse into the leisure world of Youngstown’s business and industry leaders. The club’s legacy is that it also instilled an enthusiasm for horseback riding that has continued in the Mahoning Valley for over eighty years.

By the spring of 1927, several prominent Youngstown businessmen regularly rode their horses on the trails through the city’s Mill Creek Park. At that time, the men thought it would be a good idea to form a group of riders with whom they could share their interest in horses. By August, they had created a plan for a riding club that would have its own stable and clubhouse near the park. Club member’s occupations, locations of their homes, and social and fraternal affiliations suggest a group founded on more than a mutual love of horses. Data gathered from the years 1927 through 1935 revealed many interconnections through shared family, business,

² Frank B. Ward, “Lads of Early Days Organized Own Play,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, March 27, 1938.

³ “Gentlemen’s Driving Club Being Organized in This City,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, July 19, 1899.

⁴ “Driving Club Gets Charter,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, May 17, 1912.

and social organizations. The MCRC membership included several well-established, successful Youngstown families, while other members were financially successful due to the decade's prospering business climate.

The Mill Creek Riding Club enjoyed a stellar beginning and several successful years. Club members leased eighteen acres of land on Bear's Den Road at the western edge of Mill Creek Park. Within a year of incorporation, the club built an impressive stable on the property. Barton Brooke, prominent local architect and club member, designed the barn and clubroom. The organization was financially strong enough to employ a full-time barn manager/riding instructor. In December 1929, MCRC members announced plans to build a heated indoor riding arena, an indication that members felt little threat from the October stock market crash. During the club's active years, it hosted several successful horse shows. Exhibitors traveled from Indiana, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia to participate. The horse shows also proved very popular with local spectators, at times drawing crowds of over 3,000 people.⁵

At the time of its inception, the Mill Creek Riding Club was very different from the city's other social clubs. Its existence centered on animals used only for leisure purposes, and whose maintenance required significant monetary expenditures. There are costs for feed, bedding, farrier services, veterinary care, stabling, grooming supplies, saddles, bridles, and many sundry items. Mill Creek Riding Club members were able to afford the expenses involved because their prosperous businesses supplied sufficient discretionary income to spend on leisure and sport.

The Mill Creek Riding Club began during a time when the American public was increasingly interested in all types of sports and recreation. Americans embraced sports, almost to the point of fanaticism. Good wages and shorter workweeks allowed many Americans to participate in leisure and sports activities. Certain elite sports, such as golf and tennis, no longer

⁵ Frank B. Ward, "Holiday Horse Show Draws 3,000 Appreciative Fans," *Youngstown Vindicator*, 5 July 1932.

remained solely in the domain of the wealthy. Cities throughout the country, including Youngstown, built public tennis courts, golf courses, and swimming pools. For a nominal fee, instead of a country club membership, anyone could play tennis or golf, or swim in a pool with clean, clear water. The costs of owning and maintaining pleasure or show horses, though, generally kept equine activities out of reach of even the newly prosperous middle class.

In Youngstown, as in many cities, public riding stables provided affordable access to the sport. Riders renting horses from stables located near Mill Creek Park could ride on the park's many trails. Mill Creek Riding Club members represented those area residents who could afford to take their interest in horses to a higher level. They were able to invest substantial amounts of time and money into training and showing their horses. Reports of the riding club's activities in the *Youngstown Vindicator*, the *Youngstown Telegram*, and *Town Talk* magazine provide a "who's who" of Youngstown's horse world between 1927 and 1935.

During the Depression years, economic conditions caused changes in the membership roster, but many founding members remained faithful to the organization. In 1933, Dollar Bank began foreclosure proceedings against the club's property on Bears Den road. By 1935, membership numbers had drastically dropped. Many members experienced severe monetary losses, forcing them to give up their beloved, though expensive hobby.⁶

The demise of the Mill Creek Riding Club did not mean all local riders abandoned the sport. Many former members remained active in horse related activities, albeit at a lesser level. Within a decade, though, a group of Youngstown horse lovers, some from the old MCRC, formed another riding club that would make an even greater impact in the Mahoning Valley. In 1945, the Mahoning Saddle and Bridle Association filed papers of incorporation. This

⁶ "Buy Property for CCC Camp," *Youngstown Vindicator*, 7 May 1935; "Saddle Horses Kick as CCC Snubs Stables as Barracks," *Youngstown Vindicator*, 10 May 1935.

organization achieved national recognition for its Youngstown Charity Horse Show, held annually at the Canfield Fairgrounds. The club donated horseshow profits to several Mahoning Valley charities. In 1995, the Mahoning Saddle and Bridle Association sponsored its fiftieth, and last, horse show. The club disbanded shortly after.

Though the local news and social media supplied the majority of primary information regarding the MCRC, consideration had to be made for judging the authenticity of the content. Sports writer Frank B. Ward's extensive use of purple prose, and his obvious bias toward any horse related subject, presented definite challenges that made cross checking facts vital. No primary source consulted was mistake free, but sorting through several types of material allowed comparison and correlation of information. Examining placement of riding club information within the pages of the local newspapers revealed a great deal about the club's importance within the community. That the club's activities were continually front-page news, whether on the main page or the sports or society pages, said quite a lot about the social and business status of the members. *Town Talk* magazine provided commentary on Youngstown's social scene, and was really a gossip column in the form of a magazine. Unfortunately, it only published for one year, but it provided information during a year when there was virtually none available in the newspapers.

Working with maps and photographs gave an increased sense of where and how MCRC members lived, and an understanding of the various groupings of the neighborhoods and homes. Photographs were time consuming and hard to obtain, but they provided context that maps alone could not. Speaking with people who lived during the riding club era presented special concerns. Their memory is now eighty years removed from the riding club's existence, so their information must be used with care. In some instances, memory and print material worked together to

provide accurate information. In others, their stories offered inspiration for ideas. One source was reluctant to comment on the social standing of Youngstown's prominent citizens or give information considered personal, so this source remains anonymous. Obituaries, when found, provided substantial amounts of information, especially club memberships. Unfortunately, obituaries that mention the MCRC do not give the year in which the person joined. The Youngstown city directories, published by the Burch Company of Akron, Ohio, included names, home addresses, and occupations of people living within the Youngstown city limits. The directories included several surrounding communities, such as, Boardman, Campbell, Struthers, and Canfield, but most of the addresses listed for these areas did not specify house numbers or even street names. Some addresses of club members living in the outlying areas were listed as rural routes, such as, Rural Route 3. Other listings included street or road names, such as Boardman-Canfield Road, but no house numbers. Census records were extremely helpful but only available through 1930.

The secondary sources consulted supplied the story and setting of the nineteen twenties. They helped put the riding club's activities into the context of an era in which many people become wealthy and used the wealth for leisure, sports, and entertainment. The nineteen twenties was called the Golden Age of Sports, and sources that focused on that subject provided insight on the rise of participatory and spectator sports. The nineteen twenties was an extremely complex era, but a variety of secondary sources about the decade helped explain the changes that occurred.

Chapter One The Nineteen Twenties

America in the 1920s

‘Twas the Roaring Twenties and no one had a care;
Rah rah boys in raccoon coats and girls with short bobbed hair.
Flappers, fun, the Charleston, a rumble seat for two;
Razz-a-ma-tazz, oh you kid, and twenty-three skidoo”⁷

The 1920s is commonly perceived as a time of limitless prosperity and good times. Crazy fads, Henry Ford’s Model T, talking movies, bathtub gin, and Babe Ruth characterize the era. The decade earned a myriad of nicknames: the Jazz Age, Prosperity Decade, Speakeasy Twenties, Naughty Twenties, the Bonanza Twenties, and the most widely recognized, “The Roaring Twenties.”⁸ Historian Geoffrey Perrett said the decade is remembered as “one long party and everyone had a hangover (known as the Depression) in the morning.”⁹ On the other hand, the decade was not a “period of unrelieved hedonism,” as many believe.¹⁰ The twenties was a vibrant, dynamic, and complex era in which America, including Youngstown and the surrounding Mahoning Valley, experienced unprecedented technologic, economic, and cultural changes. Two of the most notable changes that reached all levels of American society were the emergence of a modern mass consumer culture, and a fervent interest in participatory and spectator sports.

⁷ Patricia C. Gaskin, *The Roaring Twenties* (Lexington: Patricia Gaskin Designs for Counted Cross Stitch, 1987).

⁸ Mamie J. Meredith, “The ‘Nifty Fifties,’ the ‘Flying Forties,’ the ‘Threadbare Thirties,’ and the ‘Roaring Twenties’ of Twentieth-Century America,” *American Speech* 26, no. 3 (October, 1951), <http://www.jstor.org/stable/453090> (accessed March 28, 2009).

⁹ Geoffrey Perrett, *America in the Twenties: a History* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1982), 9.

¹⁰ Lynn Dumenil, *The Modern Temper: American Culture and Society in the 1920s* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1995), 10.

The decade known for economic prosperity began, not with a boom, but with a bust. America had to recover from a post-World War I economic depression caused, in part, by sudden military demobilization, the end of industrial war contracts, the loss of war related jobs, and an upheaval in American agriculture. The transition from wartime to peacetime was difficult. During World War I, four million Americans served with the American Expeditionary Forces. When the war ended in November 1918, the military quickly began discharging soldiers, hundreds of thousands at a time. Within one year, all four million had re-entered civilian life. These former servicemen expected to return to their normal pre-war lives and jobs, but instead encountered a weakened labor market and high unemployment. Manufacturing jobs, a major segment of the labor market, were in short supply due to the government's abrupt cancellation of war contracts. Manufacturing of war related products ceased, and instead of hiring workers, industries laid off employees they no longer needed.¹¹ Manufacturing was not the only section of the American economic system affected by the post-war recession. American farmers suffered greatly during the post-war years.

Agriculture accounted for some of the country's most severe economic losses simply because of supply and demand. When the war ended, farmers were still producing crops at pre-war levels, on land bought specifically for war food production. They produced more food than Americans could consume, and there was no export market because cash-strapped European countries were too poor to pay for imported goods. Agriculture prices fell, and other wholesale prices followed, leading to a sudden, countrywide economic deflation. Farmers who bought land and equipment on credit during the war found themselves overextended and unable to repay

¹¹Mitchell Yockelson, "They Answered the Call," *Prologue Magazine* 30, no. 3 (1998), <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1998/fall/military-service-in-world-war-one.html>; Robert Murray, *The Harding Era: Warren G. Harding and His Administration* (Newtown, CT: American Political Biography Press, 2000), 71-75.

their loans. During the post-war depression, 453,000 farmers lost their farms. They received almost no aid or support from post-war Republican administrations in helping them adjust to new post-war agricultural needs. This lack of help contributed to farmers being one group of Americans who did not fully profit from the twenties rush to prosperity.¹²

The wartime to peacetime transition lasted until late summer 1922, when the economy began showing signs of stabilizing after the post-war roller coaster ride. Historian Robert Murray contends that by then, Americans felt all the war difficulties were behind them, and good times lay ahead. The government had drastically reduced both its spending and the national debt. By early 1923, “even the skeptics were convinced that business prosperity was returning and the postwar industrial depression was over.”¹³

During the economic expansion that began in 1922, there were increases in real earnings, consumer spending, manufacturing production, purchasing, employment, and payrolls. The cost of living stabilized and there was minimal inflation. During this period of economic growth, Americans at all levels of society became perceptive and eager consumers, ready to adopt anything new or different. Believing that the post-war economic hardships were truly behind them, Americans began a long-term buying spree in an effort to acquire the same material goods as their friends and neighbors. America’s new consumer culture arose because of advances in production and distribution methods, advertising’s influence on consumer buying habits, and the expanding use of credit buying with installment payment plans. No single factor worked independently of the others, but combined, they created the phenomenal mass consumer society that marked the 1920s.

¹² Murray, 81-83, 387-88; George Soule, *Prosperity Decade, From War to Depression: 1917-1929* (New York: Rinehart & Company, Inc., 1947), 96-100.

¹³ Murray, 382.

New methods in manufacturing and distribution allowed a greater variety of products to reach consumers. New machinery, and existing machinery redesigned for new purposes, allowed increased production of new products. The expanding use of electric lighting and motor driven machinery allowed factories to operate longer hours per day. Businesses that incorporated mass production techniques, such as those found in Henry Ford's automobile plants, made great strides in improving efficiency and productivity. These methods reduced the amount of labor expended during production, thereby, reducing labor costs, while increasing the output of consumer goods. Growing demands from buyers caused manufacturers to expand production, which then led to job growth and better wages.¹⁴ Between 1918 and 1929, the United States saw a production gain of more than 60 percent.¹⁵ By 1929, manufacturing production reached historic highs.¹⁶

The 1920 Federal Census showed that America had reached a milestone. A majority of Americans now lived in urban areas with populations of more than 2500, rather than in the rural countryside.¹⁷ On January 1, 1920, the American population numbered 105,710,620. Of the total population, 48.6 percent were classified as rural, and 54.2 percent classified as urban. Between 1910 and 1920, America's urban population increased by 28.8 percent, while the rural population increased by only 3.2 percent.¹⁸ This does not mean, though, that Americans migrated en masse to metropolitan areas containing hundreds of thousands of people. More than one-half of the U. S. population lived in smaller urban areas containing fewer than 8,000

¹⁴ Stanley K. Schultz, American History Lecture, University of Wisconsin, 1999.
<http://www.us.history.wisc.edu/hist102/lectures/lecture15.html>.

¹⁵ Ronald Allen Goldberg, *America in the Twenties* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2003), 84.

¹⁶ Soule, 121.

¹⁷ Kathleen Morgan Drowne and Patrick Huber, *1920s* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), xv.

¹⁸ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Agriculture General Report and Analytical Tables*, prepared under the supervision of William Lane Austin, Chief Statistician for Agriculture (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1920).

people.¹⁹ Youngstown, Ohio is an example of a community that fit the national urbanization pattern. In 1900, it was a small city of just under 49,000 people. By 1930, the population grew to just over 170,000 people, many of whom relocated to Youngstown to work in the steel mills.²⁰ The urbanization trend would continue throughout the decade as people moved from rural areas to urban-industrial centers “in search of economic opportunities, modern conveniences, and amusement unavailable on the farm.”²¹

Urban living brought people into close contact. They scrutinized each other’s clothes, cars, and homes. Seeing the products their friends, neighbors, and acquaintances bought created desire to purchase equal or better items.²² Possessions became socially significant to middle class Americans. They believed that acquiring the “right” material goods could help elevate one’s social status. Women, especially, observed the fashions of the elite, and sought to copy the styles. Manufacturers responded to “shopper’s demands for cheaper versions of luxury goods” by offering imitation silk, machine-made laces, rhinestones that mimicked real diamonds, and machine-made carpets instead of hand-loomed rugs.²³ During the twenties, the need for manufactured products soared as an increasing number of Americans traded their self-sustaining farm lives for a consumer oriented urban lifestyle.

In the 1920s, thousands of new products became available to consumers. Most significant, though, is that many newly invented goods were made from previously unknown materials, such as, synthetic fibers and plastics. Until the 1920s, manufacturing industries

¹⁹ Goldberg, 19.

²⁰ U.S. Bureau of the Census, “Statistics of Cities Having a Population of Over 30,000: 1908,” p 84; “Youngstown, Ohio,” *Ohio History Central*, <http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=826>.

²¹ Drowne, xv.

²² “New River Media Interview with Nancy Koehn.”

²³ Susan J. Matt, *Keeping Up with the Joneses: envy in American consumer society, 1890-1930* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003), 12-13.

produced “the same old goods with the same material but made them more efficiently.”²⁴ The DuPont Company, for example, revolutionized the packaging industry when the company began manufacturing cellophane, a clear, flexible, waterproof wrap. Cellophane was especially useful for wrapping food. Similarly, the synthetic fiber industry expanded with the introduction of new fibers such as Celanese, an artificial silk. Bakelite, a heat-resistant non-conductive plastic made of synthetic resin, found new uses in the emerging radio and automobile industries.²⁵

Many of the new consumer goods available were labor saving household appliances powered by electricity, which was reaching an increasing amount of urban and rural homes. Mrs. Hazel Arner Richter, a lifelong Canfield Township resident, remembers that in the late 1920s, her father, Ray Arner, paid the power company to run electric lines to their Leffingwell Road dairy farm, which was located approximately four miles from Canfield Village. Until that time, the family used a gasoline generator to power the barn and house. They were the first home on their section of Leffingwell Road, between Palmyra and Croy Roads, to buy electricity from a supplier. Mrs. Richter also remembers a home economist from the power company teaching her and her sisters to use their new electric range.²⁶ By 1930, 68.2 percent of American homes were electrified.²⁷ Other household appliances powered by electricity were washing machines, stoves, vacuum cleaners, clothes irons, and refrigerators radios and phonographs.²⁸

Low unemployment, rising wages, and a steadily expanding economy created optimism among Americans consumers. A large portion of the American population had, for the first time,

²⁴ Jim Potter, *The American Economy between the World Wars* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1974), 37.

²⁵ Amos St. Germain, “The Flowering of Mass Society: an Historical Overview of the 1920s,” in *Dancing Fools and Weary Blues: The Great Escape of the Twenties*, ed. Lawrence R. Broer and John D. Walther (Bowling Green, Oh: Bowling Green State University Press, 1990), 30; American Chemistry Council, “The History of Plastic, http://www.americanchemistry.com/s_plastics/doc.asp?CID=1102&DID=4665.

²⁶ Interview with Mrs. Hazel Arner Richter, June, 2005.

²⁷ Thomas F. Cooley, “The Soaring Twenties,” *Forbes.com*, July 29, 2009. <http://www.forbes.com/2009/07/28/great-depression-roosevelt-hoover-opinions-columnists-thomas-f-cooley.html>

²⁸ Broer and Walther, 30; George E. Mowry, ed., *The Twenties: Fords, Flappers & Fanatics* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc.), 43.

discretionary spending money; they had more income than expenses.²⁹ Swayed by an increase in purchasing power, easy credit, and the volume and variety of goods offered for sale, consumers changed their buying patterns.³⁰ Influenced in part by advertising campaigns, and by their peers' buying habits, Americans spent spare money on luxury items and leisure. John Kentleton, in *Boom to Bust 1920s USA*, contended that Americans believed prosperity would continue indefinitely, as "evidenced by a consumer-spending spree on luxuries." He called the twenties the "age of the consumer, where constant buying alone could sustain the prosperity."³¹

The new "science" of advertising fueled the emerging consumer-driven market.³² Innovative promotions and advertisements continually created new wants and needs for consumers, and urged them to buy every new product on the market. A commentary found in the *Chronicle of America*, author unknown, humorously sums up products available in 1924.

"An Ode to Excess"

Have you pondered the wonders that our world has wrought this year?
Inventions with intentions good have set the earth on its ear!
We have dryers that spin clothes dry, deadbolt locks crooks fail to pry,
celluwipes called Kleenex for folks who sneeze and cry.
Machines now roll the cones that scoops of ice cream call home, and ones
that plate on plated things of chrome, and spirals on notebooks so papers
do not roam.
There are marriage courses of which the co-eds tend to rave, and gizmos
that give hair a permanent wave.
We've got Wheaties, and writing in the sky – to advertise more things
That people ought to buy.³³

Advertising, as noted in the "Ode to Excess," convinced the public that acquiring material goods would greatly enhance their lives. It created demand for new products and urged Americans to

²⁹ Gerald Leinwand, *1927: High Tide of the Twenties* (New York: Four Walls Eight Windows, 2001), 36.

³⁰ Research Committee on Social Trends, Inc., *Recent Social Trends in the United States: Report of the President's Research Committee on Social Trends*, Vol. 2 (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1933), 910.

³¹ John Kentleton, "Boom to Bust 1920s USA: American business won the war and ran the peace. But had the war dealt it a deadly blow," *Modern History Review* 15.2 (Nov 2003): 21.

³² Ronald Allen Goldberg, *America in the Twenties* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2003), 84.

³³ Clifton Daniel, ed., *Chronicle of America* (New York: Dorling Kindersley Publishing, Inc., 1995), 624.

“keep up with the Joneses, whether or not they could afford to do so.”³⁴ The wide variety of media, including newspapers, magazines, radio program, and movie newsreels, splashed these ads among their stories. These media also increasingly reported on the lifestyles of the famous and wealthy. When Americans saw how the elite lived and played, they wanted to emulate that style of living. Manufacturers responded by producing less expensive variations of luxury items.³⁵

Retailers as well as manufacturers relied on advertising and the lure of installment credit plans to entice consumers to buy expensive, durable products such as refrigerators, pianos, furniture, and radios; products expected to last many years and that could not be paid for out of a week’s or month’s wages.³⁶ Buying on credit was, of course, not a new concept, use, however, rose dramatically during the 1920s. The 1933 Report of the President’s Research Committee on Social Trends estimated that between 1910 and 1925, sales involving payment over time rose approximately 400 percent, from under one billion dollars to about five billion dollars. The most popular items to buy with installment credit were furniture, electrical household goods, radio sets, and automobiles. The Committee’s report said their resources indicated that by 1929, installment sales reached seven billion dollars, with automobile sales accounting for over half the total volume of that year’s installment credit purchases.³⁷

The types of products bought with credit changed during the decade as consumer tastes changed. Prior to the 1920s, families used installment plans to buy furniture, pianos, and phonographs. During the twenties, sales of radios and refrigerators increased while sales of old favorites, pianos and phonographs, decreased. According to historian Jim Potter, in 1922,

³⁴ 2007. “Word Origins,” *Office pro* 67, no. 3:10. *MasterFILE Premier*, EBSCOhost (accessed July 20, 2010); St. Germain, 29.

³⁵ Research Committee on Social Trends, Inc., 860.

³⁶ Potter, 37.

³⁷ Research Committee on Social Trends, Inc., 862.

60,000 families owned radios. By 1929, ownership increased to 1.25 million sets, which included approximately one-half million families living on rural farms. By 1929, 10 million American families from all levels of society had radios in their homes.³⁸

It did not take long for consumers to view some new products as necessities, not luxuries. The growth of the availability of radio across the U.S., and in northeastern Ohio, is an example of the transformation of a luxury into a cultural necessity. The first commercially licensed radio station was KDKA in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It quickly proved its value to a wider audience than just the few rich who could afford a radio when, in its first broadcast on November 2, 1920, the station aired the American presidential election returns.³⁹ Within two years, 576 more radio stations attained licenses and began broadcasting. The industry continued to grow rapidly throughout the decade, and by 1930, approximately 40 percent of all American families owned radios.⁴⁰ The radio provided Americans with U. S. and world news, sports broadcasts, musical programs, church services, dramatic readings, and weather reports. It became an integral part of popular culture as a form of free entertainment. Radio reached the broadest possible audiences and exposed isolated rural Americans to urban culture and entertainment.

The automobile was, perhaps, the most important luxury-turned-necessity of the decade. It forever changed American society. In *The American Economy between the World Wars*, author Jim Potter called the automobile the “symbol *par excellence* of the 1920s.”⁴¹ The automobile mobilized the nation: it brought the farm to the city, and the city to the suburbs. It gave Americans “a newfound freedom to go places where they had never been and to travel on

³⁸ Potter, 47.

³⁹ A Science Odyssey: People and Discoveries, KDKA begins to broadcast 1920, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aso/databank/entries/dt20ra.html>.

⁴⁰ St. Germain, 36; Goldberg, 89.

⁴¹ Potter, 49.

their own schedule.”⁴² According to historian Ronald Allen Goldberg in *America in the Twenties*, the automobile made suburban development possible. Families moved to the suburbs because owning cars made long distance commuting possible.⁴³ In Boardman Township, a suburb about seven miles south of Youngstown, a fashionable housing development called Forest Glen Estates was the first in the area to build homes with attached garages to house personal automobiles.⁴⁴ Automobiles also gave rise to a recreational activity that would become a family tradition: the leisurely Sunday drive.⁴⁵

Significant improvements in mass production methods during the 1920s lowered the price of cars, making automobiles an affordable luxury for many Americans. Henry Ford is credited with improving mass production methods that sped up the assembly process while, at the same time, lowered manufacturing costs. The key factor in his successful process was the use of interchangeable parts and assembly line labor.⁴⁶ Other automobile manufacturers, such as General Motors (GM), copied and improved Ford’s process. It inaugurated a yearly model change that gave consumers more choice of car styles other than Henry Ford’s basic black Model T.⁴⁷ GM also boosted sales by offering consumer financing through its General Motors Acceptance Corporation.⁴⁸ Efficient production ultimately reduced the purchase price of automobiles and, coupled with options for payment over time, placed many cars within the budget of most wage earning Americans. At the beginning of the decade, owners registered nine

⁴² Robert Gordon, “Automobile Industry, emergence and growth of.” Elizabeth Faue and Gary B. Nash, eds. *Encyclopedia of American History: the Emergence of Modern America, 1900 to 1928*, vol.7. New York: Facts on File, Inc., 2003. American History Online. Facts on File, Inc.
http://www.fofweb.com/activelink2.asp?ItemID=We52*Pin=EAHVII021&SingleREcord=True.

⁴³ Goldberg, 91.

⁴⁴ “Forest Glen Estates Historic District,” Remarkable Ohio, The Ohio Channel,
<http://www.remarkableohio.org/HistoricalMarker.aspx?historicalMarkerId=408&fileId=110008>.

⁴⁵ Schultz.

⁴⁶ ASME, “# 233 Model T (1908-1927),” American Society of Mechanical Engineers,
http://www.asme.org/Communities/History/Landmarks/Model_T_19081927.cfm.

⁴⁷ David A. Hounshell, *From the American System to Mass Production: 1800-1932* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984), http://faculty.babson.edu/krollag/org_site/org_theory/barley_articles/hounshell_mass.html.

⁴⁸ Our History, Ally Financial, Inc., <http://www.ally.com/about/company-structure/history/>

million cars in the United States.⁴⁹ By the end of the decade in 1929, that number increased 188 percent, to over twenty-six million registered cars.⁵⁰

Manufacturing improvements, such as Ford's assembly line, led to a shortening of the workweek: from sixty hours a week to forty-eight. Reduced workweeks gave employees extra time, usually on weekends, which they could use for leisure. At the same time, employees experienced steadily rising wages and consistent job security, which assured that after paying for necessities, many families had money to spare. In 1920, the average family spent fifty percent of its income on necessities, down from sixty percent in 1900.⁵¹ The prosperity of the era gave Americans the prerequisite for play: time and money. By the mid twenties, they had leisure hours to do with as they pleased, and disposable income to spend as they wished.

Americans filled their free time with entertainment and recreation. Putting the war and its hardships behind, Americans enjoyed all the pleasures the materialistic twenties offered. For a growing number of Americans in the 1920s, traditional Puritan values of work, thrift, and self-restraint gave way to personal gratification derived from fun and play.⁵² For entertainment, they indulged in a wide variety of activities at home and out in the community. At home, they listened to live entertainment on their new radios, recordings on old phonographs, played parlor games such as Mah Jong, and gathered for parties. The idea of "going out" for inexpensive entertainments, such as, to the movies, became realistic.⁵³ Sports, both spectator and participatory, quickly became the most popular form of recreation. During the twenties, Americans embraced sports with unprecedented enthusiasm, almost to the point of fanaticism.

⁴⁹ Potter, 47.

⁵⁰ ASME.

⁵¹ Mowry, 43-44; Goldberg, 85.

⁵² Benjamin G. Rader, *American Sports: From the Age of Folk Games to the Age of Televised Sports*, 4th ed. (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1999), 120.

⁵³ Broer, 39.

Participation in all types of sports, by both men and women, increased tremendously. Baseball, golf, and tennis, once bastions of the upper class, became popular pastimes of the growing middle class.⁵⁴

Spectators flocked to sporting events to watch their favorite sports figures compete. Sports fans wanted to witness baseball's Babe Ruth hit home runs; golf's Bobby Jones shoot a hole-in-one; boxing's Jack Dempsey or Gene Tunney land knock-out punches; football's Red Grange run for a touchdown; or racing's Man o' War, "de mostest hoss that ever was," win by six lengths.⁵⁵ Those who could not personally attend events listened to boxing matches and baseball and football games on the radio. Baseball was America's most popular spectator sport and it experienced major growth in attendance during the decade. Attendance at all the World Series games during the 1920s increased forty-one percent over the previous decade.⁵⁶

Sports journalism played a major role in transforming the decade's most talented athletes, such as, Babe Ruth, into social icons.⁵⁷ All types of new media, including print and radio, could barely meet the public's demand for information about sports figures. Historians Charles and Mary Beard argue that sport in the 1920s was "an item which the masses consumed with an insatiable appetite."⁵⁸ The 1920s is aptly nicknamed The Golden Age of Sports.

While millions of Americans attended events as spectators, almost as many were playing sports. They wanted to experience the excitement of the playing field. The Research Committee on Social Trends reported that during the twenties there was "a remarkable growth of public competitive sport...absorbing interest to all classes."⁵⁹ Many people wanted to participate only

⁵⁴ Goldberg, 85.

⁵⁵ "Man o' War," Thoroughbred Heritage, <http://www.tbheritage.com/Portraits/ManOWar.html>.

⁵⁶ Burl Noggle, *Into the Twenties: the United States from Armistice to Normalcy* (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1974), 170.

⁵⁷ St. Germain, 38.

⁵⁸ Dyreson, 269.

⁵⁹ Research Committee on Social Trends, 912.

in inexpensive sports, such as hiking, canoeing, horseshoe pitching, billiards, cycling, and skating.⁶⁰ These sports did not require special facilities or expensive equipment. People from all social or economic classes could participate. A great number of Americans, though, wanted to play the same sports as the athletes they admired. Many of these sports required costly equipment, land, or buildings. Games such as golf, tennis, and baseball traditionally were available only at elite athletic clubs or country clubs. To join these clubs, one needed a good social standing, and personal wealth to pay costly initiation fees and membership dues.⁶¹

The sports movement of the twenties provided public alternatives to private clubs, which resulted in a more egalitarian sports environment. Many communities built public golf courses and tennis courts on which urban workers learned to play sports once limited to the wealthy upper class.⁶²

Youngstown, Ohio, for example, built a public golf course on the north side of town named after local prominent businessman, Henry Stambaugh. Anyone, men or women, who had access to golf equipment, and could afford the greens fee, could play on public courses.⁶³ Golf became so widely popular in the 1920s that municipal courses could not meet the public's demand. Many times, players needed to make reservations weeks in advance. In 1910, there were twenty-four public golf courses in the United States. The majority of the courses were located in the northern and eastern parts of the country. By 1931, there were 543 municipal courses in forty-six states. In addition to golf courses and tennis courts, communities built swimming pools, baseball diamonds, and ball fields for public use.⁶⁴

Another sport that enjoyed a renewed post-war popularity was horseback riding.

Communities nationwide, from New York City to Waterloo, Iowa, reported a recreational riding

⁶⁰ Research Committee on Social Trends, 925.

⁶¹ Mayo, 47, 73.

⁶² Noggle, 108.

⁶³ Mowry, 45.

⁶⁴ Research Committee on Social Trends, 925-928; Mowry, 44.

resurgence. The *New York Times* reported that there were more horses and riders using the Central Park bridle paths in 1921 than in the previous year. A surprising fact, according to the article, was that the very wealthy did not comprise the majority of riders. The equestrians ranged from novices on rented hacks to experienced horsemen riding their own mounts. The reporter stated that among the crowd one would find secretaries, bank clerks, movie actresses, stockbrokers, “the plump peroxidized female person,” children of the rich, and the veteran riders of both sexes.⁶⁵ The Waterloo, Iowa *Evening Courier* reported that in Centerville, Iowa, “Rent-a-Horse” signs replaced “Rent-a-Ford” signs.⁶⁶ Horseback riding was the new fad among that community’s young people. Between 1922 and 1930, the following newspapers published articles confirming the increased interest in horseback riding: *The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, Fort Wayne, Indiana; *Frederick News Post*, Frederick, Maryland; *Charleston Gazette*, Charleston, West Virginia; *Logansport Press*, Logansport, Indiana; *Fitchburg Sentinel*, Fitchburg, Massachusetts; and the *Lima Sunday News*, Lima, Ohio.⁶⁷

The democratization of elite sports did not mean, though, that the wealthy renounced their memberships in private clubs. The upper class, wishing to distance itself from all and sundry, remained within their “islands of pleasure;” the social organizations and sporting venues in which membership restrictions distanced them from the masses.⁶⁸ The wealthy retained their distinction by engaging in sports, such as yachting, fox hunting, and polo, which required a level of funding that the average American wage earner could not afford.

⁶⁵ “If Wishes Were Horses,” *New York Times*, August 14, 1921.

⁶⁶ “Horse is Staging Comeback as Fad for Riding Grows,” *Waterloo Evening Courier*, July 20, 1923.

⁶⁷ “Equitation-a New Feature for Fort Wayne,” *The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, April 30, 1922; *Frederick Post*, November 24, 1924; *Charleston Gazette*, August 7, 1924; *Logansport Press*, May 14, 1926; *Fitchburg Sentinel*, September 14, 1926; *The Lima Sunday News*, March 23, 1930.

⁶⁸ Rader, 121.

During the 1920s, many private clubs were created to meet the growing interest in sports. Their purpose was to bring together those who wished to participate in a particular sport. There were clubs for golf, tennis, hunting, fishing, bowling, bicycling, and horseback riding. Many clubs built facilities specifically designed for their sport.⁶⁹ Across the country, prosperous business and professional men who were “a notch or two below the super wealthy” established and joined country clubs. A country club membership was a “salient badge of distinction,” a requisite for increasing one’s social status within the community.⁷⁰ The number and variety of clubs that formed during the decade was the direct result of sport’s broad appeal to an American public eager for play, and who had the financial ability and leisure time to participate. That Americans had the time and money to play was, in turn, a direct result of the decade’s thriving economy.

The prosperity of the 1920s put spending money in people’s pockets, and provided free time for leisure pursuits. Urban workers especially, sought ways to fill their free time. The changing character of the twenties meant that many Americans no longer strictly adhered to their traditional Puritan values. Instead, they participated in activities in which they found personal enjoyment. They flocked to the movies and sporting events, turning movie actors into matinee idols and athletes into sports stars. Not content watching from the sidelines, Americans became active participants in a myriad of sports. The ballyhoo created by the sports media fueled even more interest, helping to transform sports into mass entertainment. The newly affluent middle class joined country clubs, and learned to play golf and tennis. They attended football and baseball games, filling stadiums to their capacity. During the 1920s, sports became a part of the foundation of modern American life, and remains so today.

⁶⁹ Research Committee on Social Trends, 933.

⁷⁰ Rader, 121.

Youngstown in the 1920s

Youngstown, Ohio is an example of a community that experienced tremendous prosperity and growth during the first two decades of the twentieth century. During the 1920s, the Mahoning Valley's business development mimicked that of other industrial cities, and followed the national pattern of business expansion. Culturally, the area's population embraced the national trends of consumerism and sports participation.

Famous for its steel mills, thousands of people moved to Youngstown to work in the mills and related industries.⁷¹ Between 1900 and 1930, the city grew from a small community to a thriving metropolis. In 1900, Youngstown's population numbered 44,885 people.⁷² In 1920, it had grown to 132,358 people, an increase of 195 percent. By 1927, there were 168,095 people living in the city, an increase of an additional 27 percent. The city's population peaked in 1930 with just over 170,000 people.⁷³

By the 1920s, Youngstown was "second only to Pittsburgh in terms of steel production in the United States."⁷⁴ The Mahoning Valley earned the nickname, "the Ruhr Valley of America," because of the many steel mills and industrial plants located along a twenty-five mile section of the Mahoning River between Warren and Lowellville, Ohio.⁷⁵ The Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company, Republic Steel Corporation, and United States Steel were the area's major steel

⁷¹ John Baechly, "Company Sports Teams and the Early Industrialization of Youngstown, Ohio, Center for Working Class Studies, Youngstown State University, <http://cwcs.ysu.edu/resources/cwcs-projects/culture/company-sports-teams/>; John N. Ingham, *The Iron Barons: a Social Analysis of an American Urban Elite, 19=874-1965* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, Inc., 1978), 205-06.

⁷² U. S. Bureau of the Census, "Statistics of Cities Having a Population of Over 30,000: 1908," p 84.

⁷³ "Youngstown, Ohio," "Youngstown Has 168,095 People," *Youngstown Vindicator*, January 8, 1927; "Youngstown, Ohio," *Ohio History Central*, <http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=826..>

⁷⁴ "Youngstown, Ohio," *Ohio History Central*, <http://www.ohiohistorycentral.com/entry.php?=826>.

⁷⁵ "Business: the End for Steel City?," *Time*, October 3, 1977; Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor, "By the Sweat of Their Brow: Forging the Steel Valley," *Journal of American History* 80, no. 3 (1993): 1019-20; Richard Freeman and Mary Jane Freeman, Map of Youngstown Area Steel Plants, 1975, "Ohio's Producer Economy Was Killed in 'Consumer America,' *EIR Economics*, October 29, 2004.

producers. Many manufacturers and fabricators opened factories, plants, and shops in the area to take advantage of the local steel supply. Hundreds of businesses opened between 1900 and 1930.⁷⁶ One well-known company, Truscon Steel, manufactured steel doors and a variety of steel products.⁷⁷ The Commercial Shearing and Stamping Company began in 1920 and continues operations today as Commercial Metal Forming. The company has manufacturing facilities in Youngstown, Texas, and California.⁷⁸ Another successful business was the General Fireproofing Company, which manufactured high quality steel office furniture.⁷⁹ The Youngstown area had many such companies operating at the height of the decade.

Youngstown's dependence on steel brought wealth to the area, but during the Great Depression that same dependence created economic havoc. During the booming twenties, though, the expanding corporations created an increasing number of middle management, clerical, and professional jobs. The people working in these higher paying white-collar positions became part of Youngstown's growing middle class. Their new affluence allowed them to buy homes and cars, and spend money on entertainment and sports. They, like the rest of America, entered the consumer age.

Youngstown offered many establishments where consumers could purchase the newest products. By 1927, there were approximately thirty automobile dealers selling more than twenty makes of cars. Makes represented in Youngstown were Hudson, Essex, Willys-Overland, Buick, Dodge, Chevrolet, Peerless, Hupmobile, Chandler, Franklin, Nash, Jordan, Oakland, Pontiac, Studebaker, Oldsmobile, Packard, Auburn, and Locomobile. Wick Avenue, on the city's north

⁷⁶ James F. Richardson, "The Physical Development of an Urban Neighborhood Within the Context of a Medium Sized City: Youngstown, Ohio 1900-1930" (lecture, University of Akron, Akron, Ohio, May 28, 1976).

⁷⁷ "Republic Doors: History," <http://www.republicdoor.com/history.htm>.

⁷⁸ Commercial Metal Forming, http://www.cmforming.com/manuf_cap.htm.

⁷⁹ Edward G. Manning, interview by Jeffrey Scott Suchanek, March 20, 1981, Oral History #121, Youngstown Telegram, Oral History Collection, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio, <http://hdl.handle.net/1989/989>; PastPresentFuture Archives, <http://pastpresentfuture.net/archives/gf.html>.

side, was a popular location for automobile sales. At least nine dealers chose to locate along that street, from near Rayen Avenue on the south end, to Illinois on the north.⁸⁰ Such a large number of automobile dealers offered area residents choices ranging from the most basic to the most luxurious cars on the market.

The city's two major department stores, McKelvey's and Strouss-Hirschberg's, offered a wide variety of goods to satisfy almost every consumer need, whether it was clothes, household goods, or musical instruments. For women planning a vacation in 1931, McKelvey's could provide the proper attire whether they were going "to the mountains, seashore, to Europe, for a cruise, to a dude ranch in Wyoming or a week-end at Madison-on-the-Lake."⁸¹ Lustig's Shoe Store offered the newest styles at their West Federal Street store. The Travis-Pemberton sporting goods store, at 31 North Champion Street, carried Spalding's Kro-flite clubs "if golf is your sport," and Top-flite and Mercury rackets for tennis players.⁸² Horseback riders could be "in the ride of fashion" if they bought their riding attire and accessories at Maloney and Williams Haberdashers & Tailors.⁸³

Youngstown area residents interested in sports had quite a few choices during the thriving twenties. One option was Mill Creek Park, which offered the public a variety of outdoor activities. The Youngstown area also boasted two public and several private golf courses, and several city parks with tennis courts, swimming pools, and football and baseball fields. High school football became quite popular and several long-standing rivalries formed during the decade.

⁸⁰ "Who's Who in Youngstown Automobile Merchandising Circles," *Youngstown Vindicator*, January 9, 1927.

⁸¹ "Fashions for Everyone," *Town Talk*, 1, no. 11, June, 1931.

⁸² Lustig's advertisement, *Town Talk*, 1, no. 10, May, 1931, 11; Sporting goods advertisement, *Town Talk*, 1, no. 10, May, 1931, 88.

⁸³ "In the Ride of Fashion," *Town Talk*, 1, no. 9, April, 1931.

As the area's population expanded more high schools were built, such as East, Chaney, and Campbell Memorial. Football grew in popularity, and new rivalries developed when teams from the new schools entered the Youngstown football scene.⁸⁸ College football did not appear in Youngstown until 1938, when Youngstown College introduced a team. Prior to that time, area residents followed the games of Ohio State University and the University of Pittsburgh, among others. According to an October 1930 *Youngstown Vindicator* article, "at least 6,000" people from Youngstown traveled to Pittsburgh to attend a Pittsburgh-Notre Dame football game, and another 3,000 drove to Columbus, Ohio to watch the Ohio-Michigan game.⁸⁹ The popularity of high school and college football continued to grow through subsequent decades, and local games still draw large crowds.

One of the most enduring sports in Youngstown was horseracing. According to Frank B. Ward in his *Vindicator* article about Youngstown's early sports, many of the city's leading men owned trotting horses in the late 1800s. They conducted races on city streets, in particular, the then unpaved Rayen Avenue. Between approximately 1916 and 1919, trotters raced at David Tod's Southern Park racetrack in Boardman Township. The track was located in the area of Washington Boulevard and McClurg Road, on the east side of Market Street. Popularity of horse racing in the area ebbed and waned in conjunction with changes in Ohio's betting laws.⁹⁰ After David Tod died in 1919, racing ceased at Southern Park, but harness racing continued at the Canfield Fair. Youngstown businessman and Mill Creek Riding Club member Lucius B. McKelvey was a longtime promoter and owner of trotting horses. As a Canfield Fair board member, he was in charge of the harness races.⁹¹

⁸⁸ Frank B. Ward, "Lads of Early Days Organized Own Play," *Youngstown Vindicator*, March 29, 1938.

⁸⁹ *Youngstown Vindicator*, October 26, 1930.

⁹⁰ Ward, March 29, 1938.

⁹¹ Obituary of Lucius B. McKelvey, *Youngstown Vindicator*, July 24, 1944.

Many well known athletes have Youngstown origins, but during the twenties, the most famous was Louise Fordyce, the Ohio amateur golf champion. The daughter of Youngstown department store owner George Fordyce, she won the Women's Ohio Amateur championship four times, in 1922, 1923, 1924, and 1926. Fordyce was twenty-four when she won her first state championship. She competed in golf tournaments throughout the United States and even traveled to Europe to play. A natural athlete, Fordyce was also an accomplished tennis player and equestrian.⁹²

Another notable area golfer was Christopher (Christy) W. Deibel, who began playing the game in the mid 1900s. He too, played in tournaments throughout the country. He was a lifelong golfer and one of the subjects in an *American Golfer* article titled, "Sometimes Aged, Never Old." The piece was about senior golfers and named Deibel as the winner of the 1935 Senior Championship of the United States, held at the Apawamis Club in Rye, New York.⁹³

It must be noted that neither of these athletes were products of Youngstown's public courses, instead, they played at the Youngstown Country Club. Both came from well-to-do families. Christy Deibel was a successful businessman who was one of the first to bring moving pictures to Youngstown. He owned four theaters that he each named the Dome, and in 1918 built the Liberty Theater on West Federal Street. His father was a successful contractor and the first president of the Home Savings and Loan Company. In addition to belonging to the country club, Deibel was a member of the Youngstown Club and the Elks Club.⁹⁴ Louise Fordyce came from a wealthy family who could afford to support her sporting endeavors. Her father owned the George L. Fordyce department store and was a noted civic leader. Deibel and Fordyce belonged

⁹² Scoreboard, "Women's Ohio Amateur Winners," July 26, 2008, www.toledoblade.com.

⁹³ "Sometimes Aged, Never Old," *American Golfer*, November, 1935, 24.

⁹⁴ Butler, Vol. 2, 146.

to a group of Youngstown families whose wealth originated in the merchandizing of goods and not in manufacturing industries.

The men who ran these businesses supplied goods and services to the city's population, and some catered only to its middle and upper classes. The most successful of these men achieved affluence, but many became extremely wealthy. Some of them came from longtime Youngstown families, and some were children of recent immigrants. These men owned retail establishments, such as, department stores, haberdasheries, jewelry stores, and automobile dealerships. They were real estate developers, bankers, doctors, and attorneys. By virtue of their success and social connections, they gained admittance to Youngstown's exclusive clubs and organizations. At first glance, they appear to be firmly entrenched in Youngstown's upper class.

John Ingham, in his social study, *The Iron Barons*, somewhat disagreed. He explained that Youngstown's social lines were less rigid than other industrial cities, such as Cleveland and Pittsburgh. Youngstown was a small city whose club membership restrictions were more like those of a small town in which upper and middle class lines were "much more blurred...than in larger cities."⁹⁵ Ingham believed that was why Youngstown clubs were a mix of middle, upper-middle, and upper classes. Culturally, though, Youngstown showed more delineation. Ingham used the term "elite" only to describe the original steel families of Youngstown who lived on Wick Avenue. In this context, "elite" did not have a social connotation, but referred to the core steel families who controlled the local industry. These families were part of Youngstown's upper class. He said that the city's elite steel families, whose ancestors came from old New England families, and further back to England, set themselves apart from those they considered culturally inferior. The families living on Wick Avenue, sometimes referred to as "the Euclid

⁹⁵ John N. Ingham, *The Iron Barons: a Social Analysis of an American Urban Elite, 1874-1965* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1978), 203-04.

Avenue of Youngstown,” considered themselves to have “significantly more preferred social and cultural origins” than even those who lived on adjoining streets.⁹⁶ The elite steel families commonly intermarried and Ingham says, “so extensively so...that they appeared to be almost one large extended family unit.”⁹⁷ Conclusions reached from Ingham’s work are that, in Youngstown, successful businessmen whose ancestors did not come from old New England families, could join upper class clubs and socially interact with Youngstown’s true “elite,” the steel families, but they could rarely advance further and marry into those families.

As members of Youngstown’s merchant families, the majority of the Mill Creek Riding Club founders fell into social categories below Ingham’s “elite.” They belonged to the city’s best clubs, and participated in upper class sports such as golf, tennis, and horseback riding. Youngstown’s newly affluent consumers, as well as its established upper class, shopped in their establishments and used their professional services. Their clients bought engagement rings and silver services at Brenner’s Jewelry store. The widow of a former riding club member said, “Every engagement ring in town came from Brenner’s.”⁹⁸ They shopped for clothes and household goods at McKelvey’s Department Store. Those in the market for cars bought Fords and Lincolns from Beecher Higby, and Chevrolets from James Henderson. Many purchased homes from Robert Eppley, Louis Kreider, and Raymond Book. This group of businessmen established themselves within the Youngstown business and social community while reaping the wealth of Youngstown’s 1920s prosperity. Whether or not the various members of the riding club were designated middle class, upper-middle class, or upper class, the fact remains that when the club organized in 1927, all founding members were financially able to indulge in the upper class sport of horseback riding.

⁹⁶ “Monumental Memories,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 27, 1931: Ingham, 199.

⁹⁷ Ingham, 205-06.

⁹⁸ Interview with widow of former MCRC member, October 14, 2010.

CHAPTER 2

Founding Members

The twenty founding members of the Mill Creek Riding Club were successful Youngstown businessmen. They were automobile dealers, bankers, realtors, retail merchants, lawyers, and doctors. With few exceptions, many came from humble beginnings, and not born into Mahoning Valley's wealthy families. By the early to mid 1920s, all had achieved professional, financial, and social success.

The MCRC founding members belonged to Youngstown's leading social and service organizations, and lived in the city's most desirable neighborhoods. They mingled with the Mahoning Valley's established elite steel families and industrialists at the Youngstown Country Club and the Youngstown Club. They belonged to Kiwanis, Elks, and Rotary clubs, and many were members of Masonic lodges. Several had achieved the rank of 32nd degree Mason. The founders did not need the riding club to act as a public display of success and social achievement. They had already announced their arrival by their club memberships, and by the most obvious expression of success, the neighborhoods in which they lived; neighborhoods traditionally populated by the city's affluent families. Their common interest in horseback riding brought the men together on the bridle trails at Mill Creek Park, but formation of the riding club brought the men together in a setting in which they could pursue their interests in an organized manner. The fact that the riding club's activities escalated from simple pleasure riding to activities that brought a great deal of public attention indicates that, even if unintentional, the very existence of a riding club does make a public statement. It says that the members have the time and money to spend on leisure and sport, and the social standing to belong to a club patronized by Youngstown's wealthiest residents.

The biographical information available about the MCRC founders was inconsistent, and extremely limited in several cases. The existing evidence suggests that the Mill Creek Riding Club founders were members of Youngstown's upper and upper middle classes. There may have been other area riders who took part in the discussions leading to the founding of the club. If so, their names were not included in the articles describing incorporation and elections of club officers, thus their identity and status in the community cannot be determined. After its initial organization, the club's popularity grew and the founders welcomed new members. These new members were as equal, or better, in social and economic status, as were the founders. Several new members came from the ranks of Youngstown's ultra-rich industrialists, a fact that supports John Ingham's belief in a social fluidity among the upper levels of Youngstown society at that period the time.⁹⁹

Men and women from the upper levels of society display their status and wealth in several ways. The most visible was through their choice of where they lived. Between 1927 and 1935, the majority of MCRC members lived in three residential districts fashionable among Youngstown's most affluent residents. [See Map, Appendix A, figure 1].¹⁰⁰ In these areas, many of the houses were designed by well-known architects from locally, regionally, or nationally famous firms. A number of the MCRC members could afford to buy and maintain these distinctive homes, even during the Depression years.

The first neighborhood favored by affluent Youngstown residents, not including the core elite steel families who remained living on Wick Avenue, was on the northern edge of Youngstown. The rough boundaries were Gypsy Lane to the north, Lincoln Avenue to the south,

⁹⁹ John N. Ingham, *The Iron Barons: a Social Analysis of an American Urban Elite, 1974-1965*, Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1978, 203-05.

¹⁰⁰ 2006 Mahoning County Ohio Map, Mahoning County GIS Department, Youngstown, Ohio.

Logan Avenue to the east, and Belmont Avenue to the west. [See Map, Appendix A, figure 2].¹⁰¹ By the late 1800s, the area surrounding Wick Avenue was transitioning to commercial activity. Improved transportation, private cars and public transportation, allowed families to move away from the city center. Many elite families living in the area moved to a development surrounding Wick Park, directly north of their former neighborhood. Wick Park, named for the family who donated the land to the city, was an open space with horse trails, and designed as a green area away from the stench and grime of the steel mills. The largest and most elaborate homes in this new residential area surrounded the park and faced Fifth Avenue, which traveled north from Wick Park to Gypsy Lane. The “trappings of wealth faded with distance from Wick Park and Fifth Avenue,” but the homes on this area’s side streets still reflected the upper class tastes of Youngstown’s successful families.¹⁰²

Five of the original club members lived in this area, on Lincoln, North Heights, Indiana, and Illinois Avenues, and on Bryson Street. [See Appendix B, Table 1]. Later members of the club lived on Fifth Avenue, Redondo Road, North Heights, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Catalina, Francesca, West Evergreen, and Park avenues.¹⁰³ Today, this north side residential area is part of the Wick Park and Crandall Park-Fifth Avenue Historic Districts.¹⁰⁴

The second desirable residential area was the area surrounding Mill Creek Park. [See Map, Appendix A, figure 3]¹⁰⁵ The district on the eastern side of Lake Cohasset has many hills, which give occasional spectacular views into the park. This was an area untouched by industrial development and offered a quiet, pollution free, country-like setting for those who had access to

¹⁰¹ 2006 Mahoning County Ohio Map, Mahoning County GIS Department, Youngstown, Ohio.

¹⁰² Ingham, 201; Northside Planning District, “Youngstown 2010 Plan,” City of Youngstown, Ohio, 57.

¹⁰³ *Youngtown Official City Directory* (Akron: the Burch Directory Company, 1927-1935).

¹⁰⁴ National Register of Historic Places, Ohio-Mahoning County, <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/OH/Mahoning/state.html>.

¹⁰⁵ 2006 Mahoning County Ohio Map, Mahoning County GIS Department, Youngstown, Ohio.

private transportation into the city. Seven riding club members lived in the area between Lake Cohasset and Glenwood Avenue, on Volney Road, Old Furnace Road, Cohasset Drive and Ottawa Drive. [See Appendix B, Table 1]. Three of the families were next-door neighbors on Ottawa Drive. Five of the twenty founding members (or one quarter) elected as officers or to the board of directors in 1927 lived near the park on Volney Road, Old Furnace Road, and Cohasset Road. These members' homes are presently included in the Mill Creek Park Historic District.¹⁰⁶

The third neighborhood where riding club members chose to live was the new residential development Forest Glen Estates, located to the south of Youngstown in Boardman Township. [See Map, Appendix A, figure 4]¹⁰⁷ This area's boundaries were Market Street to the east, Glenwood Avenue to the west, Alburn Drive to the north and Homestead Drive to the south. Developed by founding club member, Louis Kreider, Forest Glen was Youngstown's first suburban commuter development in which homes were built with attached garages. The development was possible because of prosperity resulting from the area's rapid expansion of steel production, and changes in urban transportation patterns. The residents of Forest Glen owned automobiles and drove them to work and shopping, instead walking or taking public transportation. "The Glen," located adjacent to Mill Creek Park, had gentle curvilinear streets with natural landscaping and period revival houses designed by leading Northeastern Ohio architects.¹⁰⁸ The lots in Forest Glen Estates were larger than most lots in city neighborhoods, allowing room for larger lawns. Six club members lived in Forest Glen, four on Newport Drive, and two on Jeanette Drive. [See Appendix B, Table 1]. Louis Kreider was the only riding club

¹⁰⁶National Register of Historic Places, Ohio-Mahoning County,
<http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/OH/Mahoning/state.html>.

¹⁰⁷ 2006 Mahoning County Ohio Map, Mahoning County GIS Department, Youngstown, Ohio

¹⁰⁸ "Forest Glen Estates Historic District," Remarkable Ohio, The Ohio Channel,
http://www.ohiochannel.org/your_state/remarkable_ohio/marker_details.cfm?marker_id=408&fo;e_od=5700;
"Forest Glen Part 1: Boardman Complex Rooted in 1020s," WKBN,
<http://www.wkbn.com/content/news/local/story/Forest-Glen-Part-1-Boardman-Complex-Rooted-in/6c4RCWf79EqRn7dNnSJtmw.csp>.

member to live in that area in 1927. The other members moved there between 1929 and 1931. These homes are now located within the Forest Glen Estates and the Newport Allotment Historic Districts.¹⁰⁹

While a large proportion of the founding members, and most affluent later members, lived within these urban neighborhoods, city and suburban living did not appeal to all. Several members lived on the outskirts of Youngstown, on estates with extensive acreage. They lived to the south of Youngstown in Boardman, Poland, Canfield, and to the north in Trumbull County. One founding member, and several later members, lived in Trumbull County, some living as far north as Warren. Gypsy Lane at the northern edge of the Youngstown city limits is the dividing line between Mahoning and Trumbull counties. Lack of documentation prevents knowing exactly why these people chose to live in these areas. It is most probable that financial wealth, availability of land, location of friends, commuting ability, and personal preferences, influenced their choices.

Lucius B. McKelvey, president of Youngstown's G. M. McKelvey department store, was one of the founding members who chose to live in Trumbull County, but not too far from Youngstown. Born in Hubbard, Ohio, he resided near there on property the family called Torfoot. It was located on Hubbard Road, north of the Youngstown and Trumbull county dividing line. Two riding club members who chose to live on the northern fringes of Youngstown were William H. Foster, president of the General Fireproofing Company, and attorney John T. Harrington. Foster lived on Warner Road at property he named Orchard Hill Farm. Harrington lived on Logan Road at his estate, Trail's End.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁹National Register of Historic Places, Ohio-Mahoning County, <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/OH/Mahoning/state.html>.

¹¹⁰ 1927-28 *Youngstown Official City Directory*, 955, 633; Obituary of W.H. Foster, *Youngstown Vindicator*, October 18, 1951.

Members who chose to live south of Youngstown included industrialist and businessman Chauncey A. Cochran, who owned both a home in the city and a farm in Boardman Township. His home was located at 66 Indiana Avenue, and his 144-acre farm, called Marybelle, was at the northeast corner of South Avenue and Walker Mill Road.¹¹¹ Cochran kept his horses at the South Avenue farm, which was within riding distance of Dr. Armin Elsaesser's eighty-five acres estate, Shadow Run Farm. The Elsaesser property was located in Beaver Township, and its boundaries were Western Reserve Road on the North, Market Street on the East, and Sharrott Road on the West.¹¹²

Members of several prominent Youngstown families who joined the riding club – for example, the Maags and the Wicks – lived in the southern suburbs of Boardman and Poland. The George D. Wick, Jr. family lived on an estate on Boardman-Poland Road (State Route 224), between Southern Boulevard and South Avenue. Arthur D. Maag lived in a mansion near the Wicks.

Records show that a majority of the MCRC founders belonged to two exclusive Youngstown organizations, which still exist today: the Youngstown Club and the Youngstown Country Club. Youngstown's elite business leaders established the Youngstown Club 1902. It was a selective, private club for business and professional men. The wife of a former MCRC member remembers it as a wonderful place to go for lunch. Businessmen and their wives went there for lunch, but the men and women dined separately.¹¹³ The club is presently located in the Commerce Building on East Commerce Street in downtown Youngstown.¹¹⁴ The Youngstown

¹¹¹ Obituary of Chauncey A. Cochran, *Youngstown Vindicator*, January 13, 1948; 1938 Atlas of Mahoning County, Volume 2 (Lombard, IL: Sidwell Studio, 1938), 363.

¹¹² Obituary of Ar. Armin Elsaesser, *Youngstown Vindicator*, October 29, 1952; *1938 Atlas of Mahoning County*, Vol. 2, (Lombard, Illinois: Sidwell Studio, 1938), 647.

¹¹³ Interview with wife of former Mill Creek Riding Club member, October 14, 2010.

¹¹⁴ The Youngstown Club, <http://www.theyoungstownclub.com/aboutus.html>.

Country Club was the premier local country club. Located on Country Club Drive off Logan Road in Liberty Township, just north of the city, the club was home to Youngstown's society and business leaders. The club formally organized in 1898 as The Mahoning Golf Club, and its first location, including a nine-hole golf course, was in the city near Wick Park. The club purchased 121 acres at its present location in 1909, and built a new golf course in 1911.¹¹⁵ It remains an important Youngstown society institution.

The founding members of the MCRC also belonged to the city's many fraternal service organizations. Available records show that at least seven of the founding twenty members were Masons. Three of these, Raymond Brenner, Dr. Harold J. Beard, and Leo Collier, are known to have attained the distinction and rank of being 32nd degree Masons. Several members were involved in the Elks, Rotary, and Kiwanis clubs. The men of the MCRC were extroverts and leaders. These characteristics were reasons why these men, in particular, ran successful businesses and actively participated in social and service organizations. It is no wonder, then, that they made the Mill Creek Riding Club into an overnight success and a symbol of Youngstown's upper class.

Members of privileged society participate in leisure activities because they have the wealth to do so, but as important, they have control over the time they can spend on leisure. Only those who are at the topmost level of elite society do not "work" at occupations, but they still "work" at managing their investments. In Youngstown, though, even men considered members of the city's most elite class worked in business. Their wealth was founded in business, and they continued working in those businesses to sustain that wealth.

¹¹⁵ The Youngstown Country Club,
<http://youngstowncountryclub.memberstatements.com/tour/tours.cfm?tourid=46612>.

As part of Youngstown's successful business set, members of the Mill Creek Riding Club engaged in activities indicative of privileged society. The group participated in a leisure activity that required a substantial monetary investment – an investment that promised no financial return. Members accepted the financial burden associated with equine sports, even increasing that burden by building a stable, clubhouse, and indoor riding ring. In a September 1928 article, *Vindicator* sports writer Frank Ward commented on the club member's abilities to support their hobby. Writing about the club's recent horse show, Ward stated that most club members were recreational riders. He suggested that their horses were better suited for the park's bridle paths than for the show ring. He inferred that MCRC members did not expect, nor were they prepared, for the high quality show horses that entered the club's first horse show. Ward pointed out that show horses were expensive to purchase, and to maintain. They must have regular training and special care, all of which take a great deal of time and money. Commenting on MCRC member's ability to invest in such show stock, Ward stated that, "not a few of the local club members could buy and sell not only those Braeburn horses, but the owner of them also."¹¹⁶ Ward's statement was, indeed, correct. In the year between the first and second annual horse shows, several members acquired better quality show stock. In the September 1929 horse show, several riding club members won or placed in their classes, successfully competing against the out-of-town stables.¹¹⁷ Thus, these members demonstrated their level of commitment to their hobby. Their ability to own horses and maintain a riding facility, even during the tough financial conditions after the stock market crash in 1929, demonstrated their financial solvency and advertised their social value.

¹¹⁶ Frank B. Ward, "Recent Horse Show Brought Out Some Valuable Facts, *Youngstown Vindicator*, October 1, 1928; "Braeburn horses" refers to Braeburn farm, Uhrichsville, Ohio.

¹¹⁷ Frank B. Ward, "Mill Creek Riding Club Show This Week Accorded Place Among Nation's Best," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 8, 1929; Horse show results, *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 15, 1929.

Horseback riding enthusiasts from Youngstown's business and social leaders rode together on the bridle trails throughout Mill Creek Park. There is no way to know when they started riding together, or for how many years they rode, before a defined group developed, but a May 1928 *Youngstown Vindicator* article described how the club came into being. In August 1926, six men who regularly rode their horses on the park's trails conceived an idea for a riding club, a club that would have its own property and facilities. The men credited with the plan were Beecher P. Higby, William A. Carroll, Robert Eppley, Dr. Harold J. Beard, Raymond Brenner, and B. Frank Williams.¹¹⁸ The exact reasons for founding the club are elusive, but it is possible the resurgence of the sport of horseback riding and riding clubs influenced their decision. As the sports movement, and prosperity, swept the country, elite sports such as horseback riding became accessible to even the middle class.¹¹⁹ Public stables offered affordable horseback riding options for those wishing to try the sport. Youngstown native, Judge Henry C. Robinson, said he remembered three public stables located on the north side of Shields Road, near Mill Creek Park, where the public could rent horses for the cost of \$1.50 an hour.¹²⁰ There is a strong possibility that the founders of the riding club wanted their own private stable at which to ride and socialize, instead of boarding their horses at public stables scattered around Youngstown.

The founding members formally filed to incorporate the Mill Creek Riding Club in May 1927.¹²¹ The move to incorporate offered several advantages for the new club: it allowed the club to have assets and debts independent of the individual members' assets and debts; it allowed the club to have a legal, and legally protected, name; it gave the club an identity in terms of

¹¹⁸ "Mill Creek Rider's Dreams Come True in New Quarters,"

¹¹⁹ Horse is Staging Comeback as Fad for Riding Grows," *Waterloo Evening Courier*, Waterloo, IA, July 20, 1923; "Old Dobbins' for Riding Purposes is Coming Back," *Logansport Press*, Logansport, IN, May 14, 1926; "N.Y. Responds to Lure of Horses: Clusters of Stables Attest to Popularity of Riding as Antidote for Late Suppers," *Fitchburg Sentinel*, Fitchburg, MA, September 14, 1926.

¹²⁰ Interview with the Honorable Henry C. Robinson, June 13, 2010.

¹²¹ "Mill Creek Riding Club Granted Incorporation," *Youngstown Vindicator*, May 6, 1927.

taxes, instead of requiring that individual members bear the burden. As perceptive businessmen, the founders would have taken steps to protect themselves legally and financially from liability. An article in the *Youngstown Vindicator* announcing the incorporation stated that the purpose of the club was “for the encouragement of horseback riding, the establishment of public bridge {sic} paths in Mahoning County, construction of a clubhouse, stables, and exhibition fields, to promote exhibitions of horsemanship, and provide instructions for members.”¹²² The article lists the men filing the articles of incorporation as Beecher P. Higby, William A. Carroll, Raymond Brenner, Raymond F. Book, Robert J. Eppley, B. Frank Williams, and Dr. Harold J. Beard. With the exception of Dr. Beard, these men were merchants and salesmen. Higby owned an automobile dealership; Carroll, Book, and Eppley owned real estate companies; Brenner owned a jewelry store; and Williams owned a men’s haberdashery.

The Mill Creek Riding Club’s first documented act was the election of officers in December 1927. The three men elected to hold office were all among those lending their support to the incorporation the previous May. They were Beecher P. Higby, president; Robert J. Eppley, vice-president; and Raymond Brenner, secretary-treasurer. The trustees elected included the rest of those named in the incorporation. They were Dr. Harold J. Beard, Raymond Brenner, Joseph G. Brownlie, Raymond F. Book, Barton Brooke, William A. Carroll, Chauncey A. Cochran, Louis Kreider, James B. Kennedy, Arthur D. Maag, Lucius B. McKelvey, Arthur H. Moore, Alfred E. Reinmann, Frank B. Smith, Charles C. Scott, William Sause, and B. Frank Williams.¹²³ These twenty men made up the original governing group, but that does not necessarily mean that they were the sum total of the original members. The popularity of riding

¹²² “Mill Creek Riding Club Granted Incorporation,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, May 6, 1927.

¹²³ “Sponsors of Horseback Riding to Have Own Plant,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, December 20, 1927.

around Mill Creek Park suggests that there could have been others of lesser means, or status, who did not gain acceptance into the governing council.

The first officers, besides taking part in the incorporation, had in common that they were founders of successful businesses. Club president Beecher Higby owned two automobile dealerships that sold Ford cars. The B.P. Higby Company, located at East Boardman and Walnut streets, sold a variety of utility Ford cars. The second business, the Logan-Wick dealership at 1217 Wick Avenue, sold Ford's luxury brand, Lincoln. It was located north of downtown where Wick Avenue intersects with Logan Avenue. This business was a stone's throw away from the Wick Park-Crandall Park-Fifth Avenue residential areas. Higby and his family lived at 1010 Bryson Street, close to his north side business. He was a member of the Youngstown Club, but no documentation exists showing any other organizational memberships.¹²⁴

Club vice president, Robert J. Eppley, owned the Robert J. Eppley Realty Company where he served as president and general manager. From the company's offices in the Stambaugh Building, he specialized in contracting and building. The Eppley family lived at 105 Illinois Avenue.¹²⁵ No documents report Eppley's activities in social groups such as the Youngstown Club or the Youngstown County Club. Raymond Brenner, the club's secretary-treasurer, owned the Raymond Brenner Jewelry Company. He was a Youngstown native who graduated in 1911 from the Rayen School. Upon graduation, he went to work at the John Brenner Jewelry store where his father, Carl Brenner, was secretary-treasurer. In 1924, he opened his own jewelry store at 34 North Phelps Street. Mr. Brenner was active in a number of very important local social clubs such as the Youngstown Club, Youngstown Country Club,

¹²⁴ "Who's Who in Youngstown Automobile Merchandising Circles," *Youngstown Vindicator*, January 9, 1927, sec. C; *1927-28 Youngstown Official City Directory* (Akron: the Burch Directory Company, 1927), 775; "Miss Florence Higby to Wed June 2 in Youngstown Club," *Youngstown Telegram*, May 12, 1928.

¹²⁵ *1927-28 Youngstown Official City Directory*, 636.

Rotary Club, and was a 32nd degree Mason. In 1927, Brenner and his family lived at 611 Parkwood Avenue.¹²⁶

The influx of people to the Youngstown area during the 1920s caused housing shortages, and created lucrative opportunities for real estate developers. Four MCRC founding members were engaged in real estate businesses. Raymond Book was a real estate broker and developer associated with the Book-Ludt Organization. Book's business included developing home sites, home building, financing, and insurance. In 1925, the Book-Ludt offices were located in the Realty Building in downtown Youngstown. In 1927, the agency won a Harvard School of Business Advertising Award for the best local advertising campaign.¹²⁷ The Book Family lived at 4419 Market Street, in the Newport area, close to Louis Kreider's development, Forest Glen Estates.¹²⁸

Louis S. Kreider was president of the Kreider-Rotzel Realty Company, which developed Forest Glen Estates, a residential area designed to attract Youngstown's upper middle class to the suburbs. It was one of the first commuter neighborhoods in the area, and one of the first where homes had attached garages. The area was well away from the pollution caused by Youngstown's steel mills. The homes were individually unique, many designed by famed architect, Monroe Copper. A majority of Forest Glen homes subsequently were included in the National Register of Historic Places.¹²⁹ The company's offices were located in the First National Bank building in Youngstown. Kreider lived in a Tudor revival home in Forest Glen.¹³⁰

¹²⁶ Solly Adams, "Putting Ray Brenner On the Spot," *Youngstown Vindicator*, October 30, 1931, sec. B-1.

¹²⁷ "Business: Ad Awards," *Time*, Monday, February 21, 1927, <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,751618,00.html>.

¹²⁸ *1927-28 Youngstown Official City Directory*, 459.

¹²⁹ "Forest Glen Part 1: Boardman Complex Rooted in 1920s," WKBN News, n.d., <http://tinyurl.com/2f9gzlc>.

¹³⁰ *1927-28 Youngstown Official City Directory*, 883.

William L. Sause, president of Sause-Hartzell Realty Company had previously been Youngstown's safety director from 1920 through 1923. He was the first street car commissioner, and credited with introducing busses to Youngstown in 1922. In 1926, he joined Ike Hartzell in a real estate partnership. Sause was a graduate of the Rayen School, and studied engineering at the Youngstown branch of the Young Men's Christian Association. He was involved in Democratic politics, a charter member of St. Edward's Church, and a member of the Elks Club. In 1927, the Sause family lived at 441 Francesca Avenue. Between 1929 and 1935, they lived in Poland, Ohio. In 1935, the *Youngstown City Directory* listed their address as 1809 Ohio Avenue. At the time of his death, Sause lived at 1119 Bryson Street, and was still active in area real estate.¹³¹

William A. Carroll was secretary-treasurer of the Realty Guarantee & Trust Company. He came to Youngstown from California about 1916. Carroll was a member of the Youngstown Club and the Youngstown Country Club. In 1927, the Carroll family lived at 260 North Heights Avenue.¹³²

Alfred E. Reinmann, the fifth original club member who worked in the real estate business. He also had a background in banking. Reinmann was born in Berne, Switzerland in 1882, and attended schools in Zurich and Paris before coming to Youngstown in 1901. He attended night classes at the Rayen School before continuing a college education at the University of Wisconsin. Reinmann began his banking career as a messenger for the Dollar Savings & Trust Company, advancing and moving through various banks until he organized the Central Savings and Loan in 1912, and the Central Bank & Trust Company in 1916. Both

¹³¹ Obituary of William L. Sause, *Youngstown Vindicator*, December 31, 1952; *1927-28 Youngstown Official City Directory*, 1194.

¹³² Obituary of William A. Carroll, *Youngstown Vindicator*, July 26, 1976; *1927-28 Youngstown Official City Directory*, 512.

concerns dissolved in 1930, victims of the Great Depression. In 1919, he was one of eight incorporators of the Cohasset Realty Company. He also built the Central Tower building located on the square in downtown Youngstown. Reinmann belonged to the Youngstown Club, the Elks Club, and was a 32nd degree Mason. In 1926, he lived in an extremely large home on Cohasset Drive, but in 1927, he moved to a considerably smaller home on Old Furnace Road. MCRC member Charles C. Scott bought the Cohasset Drive house from Reinmann, and lived there at least until 1936. In 1930, Reinmann and his family rented a home at 211 Park Avenue, which faced Wick Park. By the 1930 United States Census, he dropped the second “n” in his last name, now spelling it “Reinman.” In 1933, he lived at 810 Glenwood Avenue, which was near the Mill Creek Park office.¹³³ Of the club members involved in real estate, Reinmann was the only one who moved several times between 1926 and 1933. The others remained in the same homes, and seemed to ride out the Depression without major losses.

Dr. Harold J. Beard was the only physician among the founders. He was a prominent eye, ear, and throat specialist, with offices in the Dollar Bank building. He was a Kentucky native and came to Youngstown about 1920. Dr. Beard was a 32nd degree Mason, belonged to the Youngstown Club, Youngstown Country Club, American Legion, and was a member of the Mahoning County Medical Society. Dr. Beard was not married and lived at the Lincoln Hotel located at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and North Phelps.¹³⁴

Joseph G. Brownlie owned the Brownlie Sales Company, also known as the Ad Letter Shop. The company was a direct mail advertising business as well as provider of office

¹³³ Obituary of Alfred E. Reinman, *Youngstown Vindicator*, May 21, 1951; *1927-28, 1931, 1933-34 Youngstown Official City Directory*, 1146, 795, 710; U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1930*, <http://www.ancestry.com>; State of Ohio, “Secretary of State: New Corporations,” Department Reports of the State of Ohio, Volume X (Columbus: The Nemar Publishing Company, 1919), 535;

¹³⁴ Obituary of Dr. H. J. Beard, *Youngstown Vindicator*, January 30, 1935; *1927-28 Youngstown Official City Directory*, 429.

specialties, mimeographs and envelope sealing. The shop was located at 122 South Phelps Street. A native of Meadville, Pennsylvania, Brownlie moved to Youngstown at an early age, and attended Youngstown public schools. At age 14, he began work in a local foundry. He later worked in an automobile factory in Elyria, Ohio. In 1914, he returned to Youngstown and opened the Ad Letter Shop. Brownlie was a Mason and a member of the Kiwanis Club, Youngstown Advertising Club, Exchange Club, Chamber of Commerce, and the Youngstown Automobile Club. In 1927 Brownlie and his wife, Gladys, lived at 4319 Market Street.¹³⁵

Barton Brooke was a prominent Youngstown architect who designed the stables and clubhouse for the MCRC. Brooke came to Youngstown from Washington D.C. in 1917. He first worked for the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company building small homes. In 1921, he and architect Harold R. Dyer formed a partnership, named Brooke-Dyer Architects, where they designed both homes and commercial buildings. In 1926, the firm moved its offices from the Park Theater to the Dollar Bank Building. Brooke was a member of the Youngstown Club and Youngstown Country Club. He was intimately involved with other club members through his professional activities. Brooke and Dyer designs included:

First Unitarian Church, 1105 Elm Street, Youngstown
Youngstown Country Club, 1402 Youngstown Country Club Drive, Liberty
Youngstown Garage, corner of Boardman and Phelps Streets, Youngstown
Fifth Street School, Struthers
Dollar Savings and Trust Company, 20 Federal Plaza West, Youngstown
Mill Creek Park Administration Building, 816 Glenwood Avenue, Youngstown
Mill Creek Park Golf Club and Field House, West Golf Drive, Boardman
Edward F. Clark Estate. Gardner's house and stables, Warner Road
Residence of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. McKelvey, Volney Road

¹³⁵ Charles B. Galbreath, *History of Ohio* (Chicago: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1925), 4:182; 1927-28 *Youngstown Official City Directory*, 481.

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Sampson, Logan Road

Residence of Dr. and Mrs. Armin Elsaesser, Market Street, Beaver Township

Several Brooke designed buildings subsequently were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Brooke died in 1935 after a lengthy illness.¹³⁶ He lived at 1615 Volney Road until about 1934. At the time of his death in 1935, Brooke lived at 428 Crandall Avenue.¹³⁷

One of the founders who was definitely a member of Youngstown's upper class was Chauncey A. Cochran. His family was one of Youngstown's most prominent and privileged. The family's interests included Youngstown Car Manufacturing Company; Youngstown Bridge Company; Youngstown Iron and Steel Roofing Company; Youngstown Pressed Steel; the Mahoning Motor Car Company; Mahoning Valley Water Company; and the G. M. McKelvey Company, among others. He was a Mason, a member of the Youngstown Country Club, and Youngstown Club, among others. In 1927, Cochran's offices were in the Stambaugh Building. He lived with his family at 66 Indiana Avenue, and owned a farm on South Avenue Extension. At the time of his death in an automobile accident in 1948, Cochran was chairman of the board of the G. M. McKelvey Company.¹³⁸

Leo J. Collier was president, treasurer, and manager of the Mahoning Buick Company. The company had two locations: 1021 Wick Avenue and 2023 Market Street. Collier was a native of Uniontown, Pennsylvania. He lived in New Castle, Pennsylvania, where he was a Buick automobile agent. He came to Youngstown in 1912 and opened a Buick agency with his father-in-law, Milton E. Coombs. In 1914, Collier bought out his father-in-law's interest in the

¹³⁶ "New Offices for Architectural Firm are Beautiful," *Youngstown Vindicator*, June 27, 1926; Obituary of Barton E. Brooke, *Youngstown Vindicator*, June 30, 1935; *A Brochure of Work by Barton E. Brooke and Harold R. Dyer*, n.d.

¹³⁷ 1926 *Youngstown Official City Directory*, 455; 1935-36 *Youngstown Official City Directory*, 315.

¹³⁸ Obituary of Chauncey A. Cochran, *Youngstown Vindicator*, January 13, 1948; *Youngstown Official City Directory*, 537.

agency and then formed the Mahoning Buick Company. In Joseph G. Butler's *History of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley*, Collier was listed as a member of the Youngstown Club, Poland Country Club, and the Youngstown Automobile Dealers Association. He was also said to be a Knight Templar, a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason, and a member of Al Koran Temple of the Mystic Shrine in Cleveland.¹³⁹ By 1927, he was a member of the Youngstown Automobile Club, and he and his wife, Angeline, lived on Logan Road.¹⁴⁰

James A. Henderson was another successful Mahoning Valley automobile dealer. He was president, treasurer, and general manager of the Henderson-Overland Company. The dealership was located at East Boardman and Walnut Streets. It claimed to be the "largest distribution of Willys-Overland motor cars in the U.S." Henderson's parents immigrated to Youngstown from Scotland. His father was a puddler at the Brown-Bonnell mills. Henderson attended Youngstown city schools, graduating from Rayen School in 1901. He worked at a variety of jobs, beginning at age eight selling newspapers. He moved to Chicago to work, but later returned to Youngstown. In 1916, he became a distributor of Willys-Overland cars. Henderson was a member of the Rotary Club, Youngstown Club, Youngstown Country Club, the Masons, Odd Fellows, and Elks Club. The Henderson's lived at 963 Ottawa Drive.¹⁴¹

Judge James B. Kennedy was a leading area attorney and avid horseman. Born in Youngstown in 1863, he was one of the club's oldest members. In 1885, Kennedy was admitted to the Ohio bar, and in 1896, he was elected judge of the Court of Common Pleas, serving for three years. Judge Kennedy resumed practicing law in the Hine & Kennedy law office, which

¹³⁹ Joseph G. Butler, *History of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley Ohio* (Chicago: American Historical Society, 1921), 2: 68-69.

¹⁴⁰ "Who's Who in Youngstown Automobile Merchandising Circles," *Youngstown Vindicator*, January 9, 1927, sec. C; *1927-28 Youngstown Official City Directory*, 542.

¹⁴¹ "James Henderson No Stranger to Success," *Youngstown Vindicator*, June 5, 1955; *1927-28 Youngstown Official City Directory*, 767.

later became one of the city's leading law firms, Manchester, Bennett, Powers & Ullman. At one time, he served as general counsel and chairman of the board for the Brier Hill Steel Company. He was a member of the Youngstown Club, Youngstown Country Club, the Duquesne Club of Pittsburgh, and the Union Club of Cleveland. Judge Kennedy died in 1950 at age eighty-seven. At the time of his death, he was the oldest member of the Mahoning County Bar Association, and the oldest ex-judge in Ohio.¹⁴²

Another member of one of Youngstown's leading, established families was Arthur D. Maag. He was treasurer of the family owned Vindicator Printing Company and belonged to the Youngstown Club and Youngstown Country Club. He lived on Boardman-Poland Road until his death in 1936, at age forty-five.¹⁴³

Lucius B. McKelvey was president and treasurer of the G. M. McKelvey Company, which was one of the city's two leading department stores. It was located on West Federal Street. McKelvey was born in Hubbard, Ohio, but he grew up in Youngstown. He was a noted civic leader and belonged to numerous organizations, including, the Youngstown Auto Club (president from 1920-1931), Rotary Club, Elks Club, and the Youngstown Club. McKelvey's obituary stated that, "he was a member of half the organizations in the city." He was a longtime trotting horse enthusiast. His horse, Marmaduke, broke the one and one-eighth mile world's record in 1925 at North Randall racetrack in Cleveland. The McKelvey residence was "Torfoot" on Hubbard Road, just north of Youngstown in Trumbull County.¹⁴⁴

Arthur H. Moore was head of the Wick Avenue Motor Company and manager of the Ohio Garage Company. The automobile company, located at Wick and Woodbine avenues, sold

¹⁴² "Judge Kennedy, Noted as Lawyer and Antique Collector, Back With Old Firm," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 14, 1934; Obituary of Judge James B. Kennedy, *Youngstown Vindicator*, December 12, 1950.

¹⁴³ 1927-28 *Youngstown Official City Directory*, 964; Obituary of Arthur D. Maag, *Youngstown Vindicator*, October 1, 1936.

¹⁴⁴ Obituary of Lucius B. McKelvey, *Youngstown Vindicator*, July 24, 1944.

Hudson and Essex cars. He was president of the Youngstown Automobile Merchants Association and a member of the Youngstown Automobile Club. The Moores lived at 2299 Volney Road.¹⁴⁵

Frank B. Smith owned the F. B. Smith Company, a distributor of Chevrolet cars and trucks. The company had two locations: on the north side at 1107 Wick Avenue (Wick and Illinois avenues), and on the south side at 34-36 Pyatt Street. Smith was born and raised in Youngstown, and attended Rayen School. He began working in the auto business in 1906, at age twenty. He grew up around horses, and in his youth liked to spend time at local livery stables. In 1927, the Smith family lived at 961 Ottawa Drive.¹⁴⁶

Charles C. Scott was president and treasurer of The Scott Company, a men's haberdashery located on North Phelps Street. His obituary stated that Scott "handled high quality merchandise and his customers included the leading men of the city." He was a Mason and a member of the Youngstown Club, Elks Club, and Youngstown Area Chamber of Commerce, among others. Prior to 1927, Scott lived at 656 Bryson Street. The 1927 City Directory listed his home as 739 Cohasset Road. At the time of his death in 1962, Scott lived in Forest Glen at 97 Overhill Road.¹⁴⁷ During his life, Scott lived in all three elite residential neighborhoods.

B. Frank Williams was a partner in Maloney and Williams, a men's exclusive clothing store. He was born in Kentucky, coming to Youngstown at age twelve. His father was a watchmaker. William's first job was in a local rolling mill. At twenty-one, he partnered with M. J. Maloney and opened Maloney and Williams Haberdashers & Tailors. A 1952 *Vindicator*

¹⁴⁵ "Who's Who in Youngstown Automobile Merchandising Circles"; *1927-28 Youngstown Official City Directory*, 1022.

¹⁴⁶ Obituary of Frank B. Smith, *Youngstown Vindicator*, August 30, 1972.

¹⁴⁷ Obituary of Charles C. Scott, *Youngstown Vindicator*, December 10, 1962; *1927-28 Youngstown Official City Directory*, 1209.

article about Williams said the business was instantly successful. The store catered to Youngstown's wealthy citizens by carrying "the kind of merchandise that locals making 'the big money' could buy only in smart shops in New York." The business dissolved in the 1930s, another victim of the Depression. The Williams family lived at 2205 Volney Road until moving to Los Angeles, California in 1942.¹⁴⁸

The MCRC club quickly established itself as a leading social organization. It became a desirable an organization for the valley's elite to join. Its membership expanded quickly in 1928, 1929, and 1930. *Vindicator* articles reporting the club's activities reveal that many new members were from among Youngstown's social and financial elite, but also show the network of connections among these people. For example, Dr. Armin Elsaesser and his daughter, Suzanne, were regular participants in club horse shows. Dr. Elsaesser was born in Switzerland, and was a nationally renowned surgeon. He became a member of one of the most prominent local families when he married Helen Ford, daughter of John Stambaugh Ford and Harriet Wick Ford.¹⁴⁹ In some cases, more than just one family within a clan became actively involved. The Wicks were a good example. Mr. and Mrs. George D. Wick, Jr. and their daughter, Antoinette (Tony), Mr. and Mrs. Myron C. Wick, Jr., and Mr. Lemuel Wick, all quickly became active participants in the club's horse shows. Another member of the Wick family, Florence, daughter of Henry Wick, was the wife of another very important club member: William J. Sampson. He was a member of the MCRC horse show committee, and a nationally respected horse show judge. He also was

¹⁴⁸ "Williams 'Finds His Fortune' in West," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September, 28, 1952; *1927-28 Youngstown Official City Directory*, 1378.

¹⁴⁹ Obituary of Dr. Armin Elsaesser, *Youngstown Vindicator*, October 29, 1952; obituary of Helen Ford Elsaesser, *Youngstown Vindicator*, June 13, 1960.

president of one of the Mahoning valley's leading coal companies, the Witch Hazel Coal Company. Sampson was a club member until his premature death at age fifty-three, in 1929.¹⁵⁰

Another interconnection with the Wick family was William H. Foster. He and his daughter, Irene Foster Bray, appeared in club news by the spring of 1928. Foster was president of General Fireproofing Company and a well-know figure in the steel industry. One of his daughters married Lemuel Wick and a granddaughter married into the Wick family.¹⁵¹

Members joining the MCRC after its initial organization in 1927 included some of the most prominent men in the Mahoning Valley. One of the area's most ardent horsemen was attorney John T. Harrington, a partner in Harrington, DeFord, Huxley and Smith. Recognized as one of the wealthiest men in Youngstown, Harrington was a director of the First National and Dollar Bank, president of Trumbull Steel, and associated with General Fireproofing Company and Republic Steel. Harrington kept a large stable of show horses at his estate, Trail's End, on Logan Road. Harrington participated in horse shows until his unexpected death in Australia, in 1932. He was on a world tour with his daughter, Florence, when he died. She continued her club membership after her father's death.¹⁵²

Another person who quickly became interested in joining the MCRC was the leading industrialist, William H. Kilcawley. He was part owner of the Standard Slag Company, along with L. A. Beeghly and W. E. Bliss. Kilcawley, whose father was a cattle buyer, came from humble beginnings in Painesville, Ohio. He attended a business college in Cleveland, and worked many jobs before forming a friendship and partnership with Beeghly and Bliss. Settling in Youngstown, he became an extremely successful businessman. When he joined the riding

¹⁵⁰ "Horse Show Week's Event-Parade and Scenery Exhilarate," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 30, 1928; Obituary of William J. Sampson, *Youngstown Vindicator*, December 26, 1929.

¹⁵¹ "Riding Club Event Filmed," *Youngstown Vindicator*, May 12, 1928; Obituary of W. H. Foster, *Youngstown Vindicator*, October 18, 1951.

¹⁵² Obituary of John T. Harrington, *Youngstown Vindicator*, February 29, 1932.

club, probably in 1929, Kilcawley and his family lived at 473 Redondo Road, off Fifth Avenue, northwest of Wick Park. Within the next few years (by 1931, at the latest) he moved his family out into the “country” to a farm on Raccoon Road, near Shields Road, in Canfield. They later moved to Red Gate Farm at the northwest corner of Leffingwell and Palmyra roads in Canfield Township. He lived there until his death in 1958.¹⁵³

Finally, some of the people who joined the club had been working with horses long before the creation of the MCRC. Two Leetonia businessmen, Clinton G. Wilderson and R. C. Harrold, were training and showing saddle horses a few years before the MCRC organized. Wilderson employed a full-time horse trainer. Both men participated in MCRC horse shows from the very start. Wilderson was president, and Harrold treasurer, of the Crescent Machine Company, which manufactured woodworking equipment. It was the first company to market an electric, direct-motor drive band saw. Their ardor for the sport, and for showing, no doubt assured their welcome as the club grew quickly towards its first show.¹⁵⁴

The founding members of the Mill Creek Riding Club enjoyed the sport of horseback riding and spent many hours riding on the Mill Creek Park trails. These men were able to participate in this hobby because they owned successful businesses that afforded them the time and means for leisure activities. Their businesses prospered during the twenties because of a societal shift toward mass consumerism and the American public’s ability to purchase costly goods. Youngstown’s industrial base brought money and good paying jobs to the area. Wages from these jobs gave Youngstown’s growing middle class the means to purchase the latest consumer products. They bought these products and goods in establishments owned by the

¹⁵³ Esther Hamilton, “W. H. Kilcawley’s Business Acumen, Love for Soil Pay off at the Fair,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, August 25, 1957; Obituary of William H. Kilcawley, *Youngstown Vindicator*, November 17, 1958.

¹⁵⁴ Frank B. Ward, “Saddlers Worth Thousands Trained in Leetonia,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, April 12, 1925; Harold B. Barth, *History of Columbiana County, Ohio* (Topeka-Indianapolis: Historical Publishing Company, 1926) <http://www.onlinebiographies.info/oh/colum/harrold-re.htm>.

MCRC members. Their thriving businesses allowed the riding club members to live in the “best” neighborhoods and belong to the “best” clubs. The intentions of the riding club founders may have been only to gather a group of like-minded sportsmen who enjoyed each other’s company, and not to intentionally flaunt their wealth and status. Historically, though, riding clubs were associated with the wealthy upper class, and membership in such organizations automatically conveyed status on their members. Belonging to a riding club clearly stated that one had the means and connections to rub shoulders with the community’s “best” people. During its existence, the Mill Creek Riding Club engaged in activities that announced its status as one of Youngstown’s “best” clubs.

Chapter Three Mill Creek Riding Club, 1927-1930

The Mill Creek Riding Club publicly announced its formation and incorporation in the sports section of the *Youngstown Vindicator* on May 6, 1927. The announcement was short and straightforward, a simple statement of the club's intentions and a listing of the incorporator's names. This notice was the last inconspicuous account of the riding club's activities in any of Youngstown's news media. Thanks, in part, to *Vindicator* sports writer Frank B. Ward, the club's activities received a great deal of public notice in both the sports and society sections of the paper. Another local newspaper, the *Youngstown Telegram*, published accounts but not to the extent of the *Vindicator*. Ward's exuberance in describing Youngstown's first horse show, although not acknowledged as a MCRC event, set a precedent for future riding club news. From the start, the *Vindicator* and the *Telegram* published detailed accounts of each horse show. The articles created public awareness and built anticipation for the coming events. They told readers about the notable people who attended, such as Harvey S. Firestone, and named many of the local exhibitors. Articles listed names of those who bought higher priced box seats, from where they could better see the show, or, perhaps, from where they could clearly be seen by the general admission public. Both newspapers included photographs of horse show participants and spectators. The *Vindicator* always included horse show images in its Sunday Gravure section. Photographs of riding club members participating in non-horse show activities also appeared many times each year in the Sunday Gravure. The Mill Creek Riding Club, in its time, received a fair share of media ballyhoo that, fortunately, allows a look at a forgotten part of 1920s Youngstown sports and society.

In September 1927, *Vindicator* sports writer Frank Ward stated in an article that “the first honest-to-goodness horse show ever attempted in this man’s community will be staged”¹⁵⁵ The show was scheduled for Saturday September 24 at Newport Field, located at West Avenue and Shields Road in Boardman Township. The site was south of Forest Glen and near Mill Creek Park. Ward said that George Rickell of Newport Stables, a public riding stable, and a “committee,” organized the show. He did not identify the committee members and no evidence confirms that the committee included MCRC founders. It is probable, though, that the riding club organized the show. There were no subsequent *Vindicator* or *Telegram* reports concerning the horse show, so it is not known who participated. Ward stated that the show was the “result of bubbling enthusiasm manifested in this section recently over the great national sport of horseback riding.”¹⁵⁶ Ward’s opinion was that Youngstown was following other cities in a renewed interest in horseback riding.

At the time the MCRC organized, there were several established riding clubs in Ohio. Those close to Youngstown included the Portage Riding Club in Akron, the Brookside Riding Club near Canton, and the Elyria Riding Club in Elyria, near Cleveland.¹⁵⁷ In western Pennsylvania, the Allegheny Country Club, near Sewickely, housed equestrian facilities, and hosted local and national horse shows.¹⁵⁸ There is no known surviving documentary evidence of contact between clubs. Without this evidence, such as, correspondence or published horse show results, it cannot be determined if these other clubs directly influenced the establishment of the MCRC.

¹⁵⁵ Frank B. Ward, *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 16, 1927.

¹⁵⁶ Ward, September 16, 1927.

¹⁵⁷ Portage Riding Club, *1926-27 Akron Official City Directory* (Akron: The Burch Directory Company, 1926), 22; “New Brookside Riding Club Plans Extensive Programme,” *The Evening Independent*, Massillon, OH, February 6, 1926; “Amateur Riding and Horse Show Planned For Early This Winter,” *The Chronicle-Telegram*, Elyria, OH, October 30, 1931.

¹⁵⁸ Allegheny Country Club, <http://www.alleghenycountryclub.com/index.cfm?ID=72>.

In December 1927, the riding club held its first official election of officers. Both the *Vindicator* and the *Youngstown Telegram* reported the election results and on the organizations plans for the near future. In the months prior to the meeting, the club had leased twenty acres of land adjacent to Mill Creek Park. They intended to build the club's facilities on this site. The property was located on the east side of Bear's Den Road, south of Canfield Road, and abutted the western edge of Mill Creek Park. Industrialist Rollin Steese, and his wife Lora, owned the property. Steese's connection to the club was through his strong, long-standing business and social contacts with many MCRC members. Steese was associated with the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company and enjoyed a long and successful career in Youngstown, becoming one of the Mahoning Valley's leading businessmen. Steese belonged to the Youngstown Club and the Youngstown Country Club. Mr. and Mrs. Steese lived at 1344 Fifth Avenue.¹⁵⁹

At the meeting, the group selected Barton E. Brooke, prominent local architect and club member, to design a barn and clubhouse. The barn was to contain forty box stalls that could convert to eighty single stalls by installing partitions. The group requested that Brooke create a design that allowed for future expansion. This requirement implied an optimistic outlook for the club's future success. Club members hoped to complete construction by April or May 1929. The article also stated that club membership was limited to one hundred people, but did not state the number of current members. It reported, too, that most of the people interested in joining the club already owned their own horses.¹⁶⁰

No official records exist indicating where owners stabled their horses in 1927, but Mrs. Pat Cavanaugh's childhood memory is one clue to this question. Mrs. Cavanaugh was a Canfield native and former member of the Mahoning Saddle and Bridle Association. She

¹⁵⁹ Obituary of Rollin C. Steese, *Youngstown Vindicator*, April 7, 1962.

¹⁶⁰ "Sponsors of Horseback Riding to Have Own Plant," *Youngstown Vindicator*, December 20, 1927; "Riding Club Maps Out Plans For Big Year," *Youngstown Telegram*, December 20, 1927.

remembered visiting “a red barn at the corner of Shields Road and West Boulevard where the Mill Creek Riding Club men kept their horses.”¹⁶¹ This was the location of the first horse show discussed in Ward’s September 1927 article.

Mill Creek Riding Club members living in the city boarded their horses at stables easily accessible to Mill Creek Park. Esther Hamilton, in a 1954 *Youngstown Vindicator* article stated that club members at first used the stables of Lee Pennel and Charles Flowers. Both were located on Mahoning Avenue.

One block and you were in the Mill Creek Park. It was customary to rise at 5 a. m. and go riding. The crew rode to the amphitheater below Idora Park and later were usually joined by...others for a rodeo in “the flats.” It was not fancy riding but every man could and did stick on his horse and the women who rode were enthusiasts. Park benches were jumping barriers. Finally, Lake Newport became the terminal for these rides and then back to the Mahoning Ave. barns.¹⁶²

“The Flats” mentioned were actually called Hiawatha Flats, and the area was located on Valley Drive in the park.¹⁶³ MCRC members continued to board at public stables until their new barn was completed. At that time, they removed their horses to the new facility, which was quite grand. The barn was an impressive, white, L-shaped structure with a dormered gambrel roof and four cupolas. The clubhouse portion of the building contained a clubroom, lockers, men and women’s showers, and a kitchen area.¹⁶⁴

The riding club held a grand opening of the new facilities on Friday afternoon, May 11, 1928. The *Telegram* and *Vindicator* considered the event important enough for each to give it a place on the front pages of their Saturday editions. Pathe Weekly, a newsreel producer, filmed

¹⁶¹ Mrs. Pat Cavanaugh, telephone interview by Kathleen Richter, March 10, 2005.

¹⁶² Esther Hamilton, “Around Town,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, September, 15, 1954.

¹⁶³ John C. Melnick, M.D., *The Green Cathedral* (Youngstown, OH: Youngstown Lithographing, 1976), 206-07.

¹⁶⁴ Conway, Robert M., comp, *Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley: 1933* (Youngstown: Youngstown Chamber of Commerce, 1933), 59.

the opening. Pathe Weekly, a newsreel producer, filmed the opening. Local newspapers reported that Ohio movie theaters were going to show the MCRC film.¹⁶⁵

In its report of the grand opening, the *Vindicator* revealed further information about the club's membership. The club had already accepted ninety members, the majority of which owned their own horses. In addition, the club purchased ten horses for the use of member's guests.¹⁶⁶ Of particular note in the article was a statement about the high quality of the member's horses. The writer said that the horses would "compete with all entries" because owners paid as much as \$2,000 for their horses. The cost in 2011 is approximately \$25,685, an extremely high price to pay for horses intended only for riding along the Mill Creek Park trails.¹⁶⁷

A few weeks before the official opening, the group hired riding master Berkeley Nelson to manage the new stables, and to teach riding. Nelson was born on the Isle of Man 1883. He immigrated to Canada, date unknown. According to a *Youngstown Vindicator* article, Nelson taught riding to Canadian army officers during World War I, and was chief instructor with Troop A, National Guard, in Cleveland Ohio. Prior to working for the MCRC, Nelson was farm superintendent for Adrian D. Joyce, Cleveland.¹⁶⁸ Joyce was an owner and president of the Glidden Company. No information exists that explains Nelson's reason for leaving Joyce's employ and moving to Youngstown. Nelson was not married and he lived at the club.¹⁶⁹

¹⁶⁵ "Celebrate Opening of Mill Creek Riding Club," *Youngstown Vindicator*, and May 12, 1929; "Primary Source Materials: Moving Images and Sound Recordings," University of California, Berkeley, <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/MRC/primarysources.html> (accessed March 9, 2010); "Riding Club Event Filmed," *Youngstown Telegram*, May 12, 1929.

¹⁶⁶ "Celebrate Opening of Mill Creek Riding Club," *Youngstown Vindicator*, May 12, 1929.

¹⁶⁷ United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI Inflation Calculator, http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm (accessed March 27, 1010).

¹⁶⁸ "Riding Master for Local Club," *Youngstown Vindicator*, April 20, 1928.

¹⁶⁹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the Population, 1930*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration. Census Place: Youngstown, Mahoning, Ohio; Roll 1846; Page: 28A; Enumeration District: 67; Image: 774.0. Accessed through Ancestry.com.

No further newsworthy events occurred until September 1928, when the club planned a two day horse show for the end of the month. *Vindicator* sports editor Frank Ward began a publicity campaign ten days prior to the show. His first article, on September 19, described the club grounds as “one of the most alluring spots in Mahoning County.” The new riding ring was located in front of the barn, on the barn’s west side. This site pleased Ward. He said that this placement created an “atmosphere with not a single whit of the usual unpleasantness encountered in such arrangements.”¹⁷⁰ Meaning, the wind would blow the aroma of horse manure east, away from the spectators. He was certain the show would be a quite a success.

Ward wrote two other articles before the show’s opening. In the first, he described the flurry of activity at the club grounds. In an example of his typical exuberant purple prose, Ward spoke of the preparations:

You would not have to be a Sherlock Holmes or an average horseman to know there was something in the wind, if you visited the club’s quarters. Before you get into the handsome new barn, you hear more horsey talk than has been liberated in one spot since livery stables ceased to function as ‘big business.’ The horsey chatter is not the only conversation that is buzzing in that sylvan setting. Out in the yard where the horseshow will hold forth, there is plenty of activity. Lawn mowers are sanding forth their summer click as they mooch along the greensward. Carpenters and club members are discussing seating accommodations with the nonchalance of a Tex Rickard...

On the exercise ring the horses are strutting their stuff with the dignity and charm that only autumn’s tang can bring from a healthy horse. Keen eyed, preppy equines are putting new zest into knee action. It’s a stimulating picture; the workers moving here and there, and horses in exercise sessions stepping lightly, tails and manes waving methodically but gracefully in the breeze.¹⁷¹

In Ward’s September 27 article, he stated that the club had received 210 entries for the show, and sold practically all the box seats and ringside parking spaces. He said the horse show would be

¹⁷⁰ Frank B. Ward, “Riding Club Property Now Shaping Up for Annual Show,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 19, 1928.

¹⁷¹ Frank B. Ward, “Riding Club Applies Last Licks Before Annual Show,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 25, 1928.

one of Youngstown's outstanding social and sporting events of the year.¹⁷² As it turned out, by opening day, the club had turned away over 100 entries due to the inability to accommodate that many horses and exhibitors. Club members moved their horses out of the barn to make room for the large number of horses arriving for the weekend. The club erected a tent as a temporary stable for member's horses.¹⁷³ The large response to the club's first horse show venture was indicative of the widespread interest in horseback riding and horse shows at that time.

The horse show opened Friday afternoon, September 27, and continued all day Saturday. On Friday, 1500 spectators attended the event. On Saturday, 2500 people were present. The *Vindicator* published show results on the front pages of the Saturday and Sunday editions. Local entries performed well and won many ribbons, including local riders Dr. Armin Elsaesser and his daughter, Suzanne. Mrs. Myron Wick, apparently more adventurous than her husband, rode in the jumper classes in which she and her horse had to complete a course of jumps. Mr. Wick entered the three-gaited classes in which the horses only walk, trot, and canter on flat ground. Tony Wick, Dorothy Beadling, Sally Heedy, and Bud Heedy showed in the children's classes. Other local riders included Elsie Banner, Miss Hilda Eck, C. G. Wilderson, R. C. Harrold, Mrs. Frank B. Smith, Alfred Reinmann, John Stambaugh, and Leo Collier. Out-of-town entries included the Harvey Firestone Stable, Akron; the Braeburn Stable, Uhrichsville, Ohio; and the Quinn Stable, Pittsburgh. William J. Sampson assisted Charles N. Hancher, of Wheeling, West Virginia, and Ross Long of Delaware, Ohio, in judging the entries.¹⁷⁴

¹⁷² Frank B. Ward, "Mill Creek Riding Club Opens Big Show Tomorrow," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 27, 1928.

¹⁷³ Frank B. Ward, "Affiliation Will Insure Patronage for Local Show," *Youngstown Vindicator*, December 18, 1928.

¹⁷⁴ Frank B. Ward, "Blue Blood Saddle Horses Thrill Crowd at Big Show," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 29, 1928; Frank B. Ward, "Annual Horse Show Closes as 2,500 Fans Cheer Winner," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 30, 1928.

Frank Ward was very impressed with Braeburn Farm's rider, Lloyd Teater. Teater was a professional rider employed by Uhrichsville, Ohio sewer pipe manufacturer Alexander Robinson.¹⁷⁵ Ward said that Teater was the "greatest saddle horse rider ever to show in this city." Since this horse show was the first in the area of its kind, Ward exaggerated, but he was correct about Teater's riding ability. Lloyd and his brother, Ed Teater, both became nationally known award winning saddlebred riders and trainers, and elected to the United Professional Horsemen's Association Hall of Fame.¹⁷⁶ Publicity about the horse show was not limited to Ward's accounts in the sports pages. The *Vindicator's* society section carried two notices about the horse show. The first was published on Thursday, the 27th, telling of a post show dance in the barn's haymow. The front page of Sunday's society section announced horse show related social activities. On Friday evening, the William J. Sampsons invited the judges and out-of-town men for dinner at their Logan Road home. During the show the judges stayed with the Sampsons. Saturday evening, the Sampsons hosted dinner for ladies and gentlemen in town for the show. The MCRC's first horse show set a precedent for all future shows. Riding club members ensured that each horse show was as much a social event as it was a sporting event.

The *Youngstown Vindicator* published seven articles about the Mill Creek Riding Club's first horse show.¹⁷⁷ Frank Ward's accounts praised the riders, horses, and show organizers. His articles contained no negative comments. Ward's post show column, though, was a departure from his normal enthusiasm, and a contradiction of all previously writing. Ward criticized the

¹⁷⁵ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the Population, 1930*, Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, Census Place: Uhrichsville, Tuscarawas, Ohio; Roll 1886; Page: 11B; Enumeration District: 37. Accessed through Ancestry.com.

¹⁷⁶ United Professional Horsemen's Association, Hall of Fame, <http://www.uphaonline.com/peavines.php>.

¹⁷⁷ "Horse Show Dance Saturday Will Be Climax to Big Show," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 27, 1928; "Horse Show Week's Event—Parade and Scenery Exhilarate," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 30, 1928.

* In his December 18, 1928 article, Frank Ward incorrectly identified the American Association of Horse Shows as the National Horse Show Association.

club member's horses. He said they were above average for casual riding horses, but not the quality needed for the show ring, and certainly not the quality of Firestone or Braeburn horses. He said the show proved "that there is a very plain line of demarcation between the fancy show horses and the general purpose saddler, and that the fancy saddler is intended primarily to be looked upon and not submitted to the arduous task of daily riding." Ward's intention was clear, if club members expected to be competitive, they must invest in show quality stock. He knew riding club members could well afford to buy horses equal to those of the Firestone or Braeburn stables, and challenged them to do so.

Nineteen Twenty-eight ended with news that the MCRC was considering joining the Association of American Horse Shows, Inc. (AAHS). The AAHS began in 1917 when representatives from fifty horse shows met in New York City. The delegates discussed setting standards to "maintain clean competition and fair play in the horse show ring." Under the direction of Reginald C. Vanderbilt, the association held its first annual meeting in January 1918. At that time, twenty-six horse shows belonged to the AAHS. By 1924, the membership increased to sixty-seven. By 1936, there were a total of 183 member organizations and licensed shows. The membership increase indicates that there was, indeed, a widespread interest in horseback riding, and that it did not diminish during the Great Depression.¹⁷⁸ Associations that belonged to the AAHS agreed to conduct their shows under its rules and standards. Chauncey Cochran represented the MCRC at an AAHS meeting in early December 1928. He reported that the local club met the national organization's requirements of having proper facilities and grounds, and the appropriate amount of members. Cochran said the MCRC would meet after the

¹⁷⁸ United States Equestrian Federation, "History," http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/AboutUs/History/Default.aspx. (last accessed April 20, 2010).

New Year to decide the issue.¹⁷⁹ Joining the AAHS indicated that the MCRC was striving for national recognition, and that it intended to make the annual horse show a permanent part of the club's activities.

During 1929, the club went about their activities with little fanfare prior to the annual fall horse show. The only publicity found was in the April 21 *Vindicator* Gravure section, where a picture appeared of horses and grooms standing beside the club's riding ring. In August, Frank Ward began a media blitz for the show scheduled on September 13 and 14. This year, the *Vindicator* published eleven lengthy articles regarding the show. Ward, as usual, was very enthusiastic in his writing.

Ward's first article appeared on August 10. He explained that the club had joined the American Association of Horse Shows and the show would operate under that organization's rules. Membership in the association gave the MCRC added standing and should draw new exhibitors to the horse shows. The prize list containing the show rules and a list of classes was printed and ready for distribution. This year, the group planned twenty-eight classes, and offered \$1500 in prize money. Ward wrote that organizers were "besieged" with prize list requests, some from as far away as Galveston, Texas.¹⁸⁰ In his opinion, that was only natural because the first MCRC show established a good reputation among horse show enthusiasts, and the new AAHS affiliation added to the show's credibility.

The second article, published on September 8, revealed interesting news about the club's facilities. In the year between shows, the club erected a new barn. It was large enough to stable an additional fifty-six horses. This new barn eliminated the need to erect tents for extra stabling. Other construction included additional ringside seating, and building a smaller show ring to meet

¹⁷⁹ Frank B. Ward, "Affiliation Will Insure Patronage for Local Show," *Youngstown Vindicator*, December 18, 1928.

¹⁸⁰ Frank B. Ward, "Mill Creek Riding Club Prepares for Annual Show," *Youngstown Vindicator*, August 10, 1929.

AAHS requirements, as the main ring was too large for saddle horse classes. At the time of this article's publication, the club expected about 150 horses to enter the show.¹⁸¹ A September 12 pre-show article said the club was receiving steady requests for seating reservations. Show officials expected a large number of spectators at this year's horse show.¹⁸²

On the show's opening day the committee had to cancel the day's classes because of three separate drenching rainstorms. Approximately 1,800 people had arrived to watch the show.¹⁸³ Instead of leaving the grounds, many spectators visited the barns, looking at the horses and the decorated tack rooms, and talking to grooms and owners.¹⁸⁴ The horse show resumed Saturday afternoon with approximately 3,000 people attending. Frank Ward reported that about an hour before the show started cars clogged the roads leading to the show grounds. Sunday's attendance estimate was higher, at 4,000 people.¹⁸⁵ The lure of the horse show must have been particularly strong for Youngstown residents because indifferent spectators would stay away and not endure the inclement weather.

To combat the muddy conditions, the show ring was groomed with sawdust to soak up rainwater and to provide a safe riding surface. All classes filled well, though, some with as many as nineteen horses entered. For added entertainment, Skyline Tommy, the world's champion high jumping horse, owned by C. A. Cole of Painesville, Ohio, performed on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday's exhibition began with the horse jumping a five and one half foot high jump, and ended when he cleanly jumped over a seven-foot high rail. On Sunday, the horse again

¹⁸¹ Frank B. Ward, "Mill Creek Riding Club Show This Week Accorded Place Among Nation's Best," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 8, 1929.

¹⁸² "Saddle Horse Show Opens at Mill Creek Plant Friday," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 12, 1929.

¹⁸³ Frank B. Ward, "Horse Show Gets Under Way Today if Weather Permits," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 14, 1929.

¹⁸⁴ "Visitors to Horse Show Had Chance to Study the Entries," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 14, 1929.

¹⁸⁵ Frank B. Ward, "Great Crowd Sees Saddlers and Poloists in Exhibition," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 15, 1929; Frank B. Ward, "Second Annual Horse Show Closes with Great Program," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 16, 1929.

cleared a seven-foot upright jump, but also completed a broad jump over a large touring car. The *Vindicator* printed a picture of this feat.¹⁸⁶

The highlight of Saturday's program was a polo class. This was the first time most Youngstown area residents had seen live polo. The exhibition was popular with the crowd. The team consisted of Russell and Leonard Firestone from Akron, John Sherwin, Jr. from Cleveland, and a Captain Radcliffe. The Firestones were rubber magnate Harvey Firestone's sons. John Sherwin, Jr. was president of Cleveland's Midland Bank. Sherwin owned South Farm, located in the Cleveland suburb of Willoughby. He was a guest in W. J. Sampson's home during the show. Captain Radcliffe's background is unknown. Regarding the talent needed to ride polo ponies, Ward wrote, "those who think they are riding horses when they sit up-right on a peaceful easy going steed, should consider polo riding as a post-graduate course."¹⁸⁷ The *Vindicator* printed a photograph of the polo team on the front page of the sports section in the Sunday paper.

Social activities associated with the horse show appeared on the front page of the *Vindicator's* society section. On Saturday morning, Attorney John Harrington and his daughter, Florence, hosted a horse show breakfast for about sixty people at their home, Trail's End, on Warner Road in Trumbull County. Several unnamed out-of-town visitors enjoyed a Saturday evening pre-dance dinner at the Youngstown Country Club. Also on Saturday evening, the club hosted a post-show barn dance for several hundred people in the haymow. The show committee decorated the mow to resemble an Italian street scene, complete with bright flags, scarlet festoons, and rainbow balloons. Guests enjoyed a midnight buffet and danced to music played by Cave's orchestra.¹⁸⁸

¹⁸⁶ Ward, "Great Crowd Sees Saddlers and Poloists in Exhibition," *Vindicator*, September 15, 1929; Ward, "Second Annual Horse Show Closes with Great Program," *Vindicator*, September 16, 1929

¹⁸⁷ Ward, "Great Crowd Sees Saddlers and Poloists in Exhibition," *Vindicator*, September 15, 1929.

¹⁸⁸ "Barn Dance in Haymow Gala Horse Show Fete," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 15, 1929.

These types of social activities were common at multi-day horse shows. Exhibitors who did not employ grooms, though, could only attend certain activities. Exhibitor's who personally cared for their horses and readied them for showing would not have time to attend a pre-show breakfast. Hiring grooms relieved exhibitors of the manual labor involved for proper turn out. Employing grooms was also a material expression of an exhibitor's prominent financial and social standing.

The *Vindicator* filmed the horse show as part of the film program at the Keith-Albee Theater in Youngstown. The theater planned to show the films the entire week of September 23, 1929. The show received additional publicity on Sunday, September 22, when the *Vindicator* dedicated space in the paper for eleven photographs of the horse show. Pictured were Dr. Armin Elsaesser and his daughter, Suzanne, Leo Collier, John Elsaesser, Miss Mary Louise Bachman, Mrs. Roy Beacom, Mrs. Frank B. Smith, and Skyline Tommy clearing a seven-foot jump.¹⁸⁹ This was the first time the *Youngstown Vindicator* devoted space in the Gravure section for multiple pictures of a riding club activity. No further reports appeared in the news media until December 1929.

In November, though, the club took action that, surprisingly, Frank Ward did not report. On November 9, 1929, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Steese signed a deed transferring ownership of the Bear's Den Road property to the Mill Creek Riding Club. The riding club bought the eighteen acres of land for one dollar. Court records show the deed recorded on January 16, 1930.¹⁹⁰ It is unknown if the original property lease contained provisions for purchasing the property. Considering the founding member's business and legal backgrounds, it would be unlikely that they would invest in permanent structures on leased land without assurance of future ownership.

¹⁸⁹ Gravure Section, *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 22, 1929.

¹⁹⁰ Property deed, No. 402, Mahoning County, Ohio, November 9, 1929.

The last riding club news of the year was an announcement of plans to build an indoor riding arena. Members engaged Brooke & Dyer as the project architects. The inside dimensions of the frame constructed building was 88 feet wide and 205 feet long. The inside clear height was twenty-four feet, high enough for safe clearance while jumping. Plans included a balcony with seating for approximately 200 people, an enclosed breezeway between the main barn and the indoor ring, and tanbark for the arena floor covering. An architect's drawing accompanied the newspaper article. Site work had begun prior to the article's publication. The expected completion date was February 1, 1930. The construction cost was \$25,000.¹⁹¹ Adjusted for inflation, the cost in 2011 would be approximately \$334,000.¹⁹² This news came only two months after the October stock market crash. Planning such a large expenditure at that time suggests that club members were not overly concerned about recent economic news. They may have thought, as many others did, that the economic downturn would be short lived. Perhaps they believed that the local steel industry would continue to thrive and protect the Youngstown area from economic hardships. No matter the reasoning, the MCRC continued to plan for the future.

The indoor riding ring became a reality and on Friday, April 4, 1930, the club dedicated it by holding a horse show. The show committee planned twelve classes and exhibitors were required to wear formal riding attire. As reported by the *Vindicator* on April 5, the event was a definite success. The attending crowd was so large that the arena's gallery could not accommodate all the spectators. The overflow crowd had to stand around the edge of the arena.

¹⁹¹ "Mill Creek Riding Club's New Indoor Ring," *Youngstown Vindicator*, December 22, 1929; "Horse Show To Be Staged Here," *Youngstown Telegram*, March 25, 1930.

¹⁹² CPI Inflation Calculator, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm.

Judge James B. Kennedy gave an address in which he praised the club's members for the work they had done to popularize horseback riding in the Youngstown area.¹⁹³

A special treat for the crowd was Mrs. Florence Mardo's sidesaddle jumping exhibition. Mrs. Mardo and her husband, Pete, were former circus performers. Pete Mardo was a famous clown with Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Mardo was born Peter Guckeyson, in Dubuque, Iowa, but grew up in Akron, Ohio. Mrs. Mardo was born in England and was an equestrienne with Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey. In the 1920s, the retired couple moved to Poland, Ohio and ran the Tally Ho Inn. They later moved to Stow, Ohio and opened the Tally Ho Restaurant.¹⁹⁴ Mrs. Mardo was very popular for her sidesaddle jumping exhibitions and gave many performances at the MCRC horse shows.

A big event in the area's horse circles occurred in the spring of 1930, when polo came to Youngstown. *Vindicator* sports writer Lawrence M. Stolle reported that riding club manager Berkeley Nelson received an enthusiastic response for team tryouts. He was able to select enough qualified riders to form two teams. The team members he chose owned their own polo ponies. Polo ponies were, and are still, specially trained for their sport, just as jumpers and gaited saddle horses are for theirs. The ponies must be fast and able to quickly stop and turn. Under Nelson's tutelage, the teams trained throughout the summer in preparation for winter competitions. The riders participated in twice-weekly games plus two practice sessions a week. The Mill Creek teams planned to ride against polo teams from the Cleveland area. They hoped to arrange a competition against Harvey Firestone's sons, who were accomplished players.

¹⁹³ "Horse Show to be Staged Here," *Youngstown Telegram*, March 25, 1930; "Local Horsemen Give Fine Display in Initial Event," *Youngstown Vindicator*, April, 5, 1930.

¹⁹⁴ "Horse Show to be Staged Here," *Youngstown Telegram*, March 25, 1930; Lawrence M. Stolle, "Local Horsemen Give Fine Display in Initial Event," *Youngstown Vindicator*, April 5, 1930; Obituary of Pete Mardo, *Youngstown Vindicator*, February 22, 1956.

MCRC polo players included B. Frank Williams, Lemuel Wick, Charles F. Owsley, George Wick, Frank Smith, and Kenneth Rode.

In the same article, Stolle discussed the area's growing interest in horseback riding. He credited the MCRC for creating this interest by bringing the sport to the public's attention. Stolle mentioned that the riding club's membership had reached 110 individuals, which exceeded its original limit of 100 members. He said that fifty horses were stabled at the club, including ten polo ponies and "six high-grade show horses of national repute." He pointed out that not every member owned a horse, and that some members kept horses at their own stables. Stolle said that Mill Creek Park was the perfect place for recreational riding, especially around the newly opened Lake Newport. Because of the new interest in riding, the park opened additional riding trails, and planned to open more in 1931. Stolle stated that prior to the riding club's existence, only about thirty or forty saddle horses were available for public riding. In the two years since the club began, he estimated that the number of horses available between the club and the independent stables was now "up in the hundreds."¹⁹⁵

Stolle maintained that the area was "well stocked with independent stables," yet no riding stables or riding academies were listed in the 1926 or the 1927-28 Youngstown Official City Directories. The 1929 directory listed two. L. L. Pennell's Mill Creek Riding Academy at 1534 Mahoning Avenue, and Charles Flowers' Youngstown Riding Club at 844 ½ Mahoning Avenue. The city directories listed both businesses until the 1935-36 publication. No listings appeared for riding academies, riding clubs, or livery stables in that year or in subsequent years.¹⁹⁶ The Youngstown Riding Club was located on the north side of Mahoning Avenue between Johnson

¹⁹⁵ Lawrence M. Stolle, "Polo is Newest Fad of Local Riding Club," *Youngstown Vindicator*, June 22, 1930; "Polo Stars Play Here," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 8, 1930.

¹⁹⁶ Stolle, *Youngstown Vindicator*, June 22, 1930; *1926 Youngstown Official City Directory*; *1927-28 Youngstown Official City Directory*; *1929 Youngstown Official City Directory*, 723, 962; *1931 Youngstown Official City Directory*; *1933-34, 1935-36 Youngstown Official Directory*.

Street and N. West Avenue, across from the present day site of the Star Supply Company. The Mill Creek Riding Academy was located on Mahoning Avenue west of N. Whitney Avenue, and across from Halls Heights Avenue. Halls Heights Avenue leads south into the park near Lake Glacier. Both Frank Ward and Lawrence Stolle mentioned the area's public riding and boarding stables, but no documentation exists showing any other stables beside Pennell and Flowers.

The riding club again received notice prior to its fall horse show, but this time without Frank Ward's usual fanfare. The *Vindicator* printed no articles in the days prior to the show. The paper published two articles; one on Saturday, September 4, 1930, reporting Friday's show results, and another on Sunday September 5, reporting Saturday's results. In an unusual move, the *Youngstown Telegram* published four articles, dedicating more space for the 1930 horse show than any previous club related activity. In the *Telegram*, the public learned that the annual horse show dance would to be held this year at the Poland Country Club, that spectator seating was nearly sold out, and that the club expected the arrival of 150 out of town horses and thousands of spectators.¹⁹⁷

In a departure from previous years, the *Vindicator* did not publish photographs of the horse show. No pictures accompanied the horse show articles, nor did any appear in the following week's Gravure section. The *Telegram* published one picture of show chairman Chauncey Cochran dressed in casual riding attire. This action by both newspapers was perhaps in deference to the economy and an attempt to reduce publishing costs by eliminating photographs.

Even though the *Telegram* published more articles about the MCRC horse show than did the *Vindicator*, Frank Ward's articles were far superior in content and style. The *Telegram*

¹⁹⁷ "Horse Show To Conclude With Dancing Party," *Youngstown Telegram*, September 3, 1930; "Horse Show Opens Friday," *Youngstown Telegram*, September 4, 1930; "Annual Mill Creek Horse Show Begins," *Youngstown Telegram*, September 5, 1930.

reported basic information, such as, winners, owners, and horse's names. Ward, though, gave full descriptions of classes, and analyzed riders and horses performances. He noted which exhibitors came from out of town and where they lived. He described the crowd and its reactions to performances and judging. Ward's writing style was the epitome of purple prose. Today, his flowery phrases seem absurd, but his words allowed readers to experience the subject through his eyes. In mid September, though, Ward faced stiff competition for his horse show reporting. On September 15, 1930, Robert M. Conway and Mason Gane published the first edition of the Youngstown society magazine, *Town Talk*.

Conway and Gane stated that their intention was to “create an atmosphere of sophisticated familiarity—and to chronicle in a fastidious way all the activities significant to the smart life of Youngstown.” Society editor, Patricia Powers, said in the first issue that the magazine's society section would be “devoted to all announcements, activities, and events, happening in and near Youngstown.”¹⁹⁸ *Town Talk* devoted full-length articles about MCRC, especially its horse shows. The magazine's society section wrote about the club's social events, such as the horse show dances. *Town Talk's* news focused on prominent Youngstown residents, including their travels, social and service activities, and leisure pursuits. MCRC member's names appeared quite often in these articles.

Town Talk was a short-lived publication. Initially issued fortnightly, the publishers switched to a monthly format by December 1930. The magazine existed at least through November 1931, but exact date of the last publication is unclear. Even though *Town Talk* magazine published for a short time, the issues contained a great deal of information about the MCRC and its members.

¹⁹⁸ Robert M. Conway and Mason Gane, eds., *Town Talk* 1, No. 1 (1930): 7, 13.

After the annual show ended, *Town Talk* continued to publish reports about the riding club. A September 29 article discussed the club's polo team. Polo matches would begin in October and continue throughout the winter. Players mentioned in the article were George Wick, Lemuel Wick, Frank B. Smith, B. Frank Williams, Ray Klinke, Carlton Kane, Blaine Brewer, and Berkeley Nelson. Nelson no longer coached the team; instead, the club hired George Greenfield from Cleveland. Nelson planned to conduct riding lessons for ladies three afternoons and three evenings a week. Polo classes for both ladies and men were scheduled on the off nights.¹⁹⁹ Polo was again a subject in the December, 1930 issue. The magazine reported that the MCRC team was playing well, and beat an experienced Chagrin Valley Hunt Club team.* The Mill Creek team played matches every Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon.²⁰⁰

Information gleaned from all three publications reveal a number of new riding club members and exhibitors at this year's show. New MCRC members included Kenneth Rode, George O. Bruce, Dr. William K. Allsop, Dr. James L. Fisher, Floyd E. Miller, and Miss Louise Fordyce. Kenneth Rode was involved in furniture manufacturing, eventually becoming president of the Kenmar Company of East Palestine, Ohio. In 1929, he and his wife lived at 3113 Hillman Avenue, Youngstown, but by 1930 lived at 40 Jennette Drive in Forest Glen Estates.²⁰¹ George Bruce, whose daughter, Jean, rode in the club's horse shows, was president of the Bruce Insurance Company. The family lived at 2242 Fifth Avenue, Youngstown. William K. Allsop was a physician and surgeon who lived at 137 Newport Drive in Forest Glen Estates.²⁰² James L. Fisher was a general practitioner who, in 1930 lived at 643 Warren Avenue, Youngstown. He became a well-known physician who practiced into his eighties. His longtime residence was at

¹⁹⁹ "Sports," *Town Talk* 1, No. 2 (1930): 20.

* The author misstated the name as the Chagrin Falls Hunt Club.

²⁰⁰ "Polo," *Town Talk* 1, No. 5 (1930): 33.

²⁰¹ *1929 Youngstown Official City Directory*, 816; *1931 Youngstown Official City Directory*.

²⁰² *1931 Youngstown Official City Directory*, 325.

166 Mill Creek Drive in Forest Glen Estates.²⁰³ Floyd E. Miller was associated with William Kilcawley's Standard Slag Company, and in 1930 rented an apartment at 291 Park Avenue, Youngstown.²⁰⁴ Louise Fordyce was Youngstown's golf wonder girl, winning multiple Ohio state championships. In 1930, she lived at 40 Lincoln Avenue with her parents, George and Grace Fordyce. George Fordyce owned a Youngstown department store of the same name. The home site is now part of the Youngstown State University campus.²⁰⁵

As the club moved toward the end of another successful year, members met to elect the following year's officials. In October, at its annual meeting, the riding club elected Frank B. Smith president; George D. Wick, vice-president; and Charles C. Scott, secretary-treasurer. Trustees elected for one-year terms were Frank B. Smith, Chauncey A. Cochran, and Joseph E. Brownlie. Trustees elected for two-year terms were George D. Wick, William H. Foster, and Howard Welsh. Trustees elected for three-year terms were Charles C. Scott, William H. Kilcawley, and James B. Kennedy.²⁰⁶

During the initial years of the Mill Creek Riding Club, it developed many of the characteristics that symbolized the era's sports environment. Its members were participants in a sport they loved, but they also raised the sport to a competitive level. The organization built a reputation as a well-liked sporting and social club whose horse shows attracted thousands of spectators. The club also had a media following, not at the level football or baseball, but local sports writers reported on its major activities in a way that generated a lot of local interest.

²⁰³ "Old Doc Fisher Finds 'GP' Life Very Rewarding," *Youngstown Vindicator*, October 16, 1977.

²⁰⁴ U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration. Accessed through Ancestry.com.

²⁰⁵ U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration. Accessed through Ancestry.com.

²⁰⁶ "Smith is Elected Riding Club Head," *Youngstown Vindicator*, October 12, 1930.

The founding members had grand plans from the outset, intending to stage annual horse shows, build a stable and clubhouse, and employ a full-time riding master, all of which they accomplished. According to available sources, the organization was prosperous and well funded. Its founding members were successful businessmen who were financially capable of supporting their hobby, and new members were equally, or more, affluent. Many of the club's members deepened their commitment to the sport by purchasing show quality horses or polo ponies. From all indications, the Mill Creek Riding Club members intended to continue their activities in the coming year, even in light of the area's worsening economic conditions.

Chapter 4 Mill Creek Riding Club, 1931-1935

As Americans ushered in 1931, they faced worsening economic conditions. Youngstown was especially hard hit because of its one-industry economy. Almost all area jobs were directly steel related or dependent on the local steel industry.²⁰⁷ When mill production fell, thousands of blue-collar and white-collar workers lost their jobs. Lost income virtually eliminated any discretionary spending because many workers had a hard enough time paying for food, clothing, and shelter. Youngstown's retail businesses suffered, and many closed, but professional workers, such as doctors, teachers, nurses, and attorneys also eventually felt the economic impact. Even amid the local financial uncertainty, the MCRC planned its usual activities, such as the annual horse show. The club was not alone, though, in planning a horse show amid such economic chaos.

The Association of American Horse Shows (AAHS), Inc. confirmed eighty-three horse shows in its 1931 show schedule, with another thirty-one shows pending date assignments. If all opened as scheduled, 114 horse shows would take place between January 31 and December 5, 1931. That is over two shows per week throughout the year, not including an untold number of horse shows not sanctioned by the AAHS. The AAHS scheduled seven horse shows in Ohio: the Mill Creek Riding Club Horse Show; the Toledo Horse Show; the Ohio State Fair Horse Show; the Cleveland Horse Show; the Hamilton County Horse Show, Cincinnati; and the Columbus Riding Club Horse Show, Columbus. The Association scheduled seven shows in Pennsylvania, including the nearby Allegheny Country Club Horse Show in Sewickley, and the Erie Saddle Club Horse Show in Erie. In 1931, the AAHS sanctioned horse shows ran the width and breadth of the United States, from Seattle, Washington to New York City and from Chicago to Atlanta,

²⁰⁷Frederick Blue, et al., *Mahoning Memories* (Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company, 1995), 147.

Georgia.²⁰⁸ The AAHS full show schedule indicates that even though hundreds of thousands of Americans were in dire financial difficulties, thousands of people across the country were still solvent enough to spend money on expensive leisure activities. Such was the case in Youngstown. At the beginning of 1931, the Mill Creek Riding Club boasted a membership of 131 people from Youngstown, Warren, Sharon, New Castle, and even Pittsburgh; people who were financially able to continue their costly sport during devastating economic times.²⁰⁹

The MCRC received little publicity from *Youngstown Vindicator* during 1931, save for the fall horse show, but *Town Talk* magazine filled in and kept readers abreast of the club's activities. The February through April issues focused on the polo teams. In February, *Town Talk* published an article about the club, describing its beginning and subsequent growth. The article's author said that George Wick "always kept a stable of hunters," but became involved with the riding club because of polo. He bought two polo ponies, which he kept at the club and not at his own stables. The article indicated that polo also brought Lemuel Wick, Blaine Brewer, and Lucius Cochran (Chauncey Cochran's son) to the club. The origin of Blaine Brewer's connection to the club is unclear, but it was possibly through his real estate business. According to United States Census information, he was born in Hubbard, Ohio, in 1884, where his father was a mail carrier. The 1920 census records show Brewer's occupation was "traveling sales," but he does not appear in the 1930 census. The 1931, and 1933-34, Youngstown City Directories show Brewer residing in the Ohio Hotel in Youngstown, and his occupation is "real estate." Brewer's World War II draft registration lists his occupation as "horse trainer, Canfield

²⁰⁸ "Horse Show Dates for 1931 Announced," *The Cavalry Journal*, XXXX, no. 163 (February, 1931): 54.

²⁰⁹ Vincent T. Gordon, "The Mill Creek Riding Club," *Town Talk*. " 1, no. 7 (1931): 12.

Fairgrounds.”²¹⁰ Brewer may have been a person who gained membership to the club more for his riding ability than due to his social and business connections.

The same article included an interesting statement about the club’s financial stability. The author stated, “C. C. Scott, secretary and treasurer, guards the club’s purse strings religiously, so much so that even in times like the depressing ones from which we are now rallying, dividend payments are in the bank before they are due.”²¹¹ The club continued to invest in major improvements, though, indicating it had not yet experienced any financial difficulty, nor expected to in the near future. On the other hand, it may be possible that the club borrowed funds and incurred debt to complete the improvements. The January, 1931 issue of *Town Talk* reported that the club installed a heating system in the indoor arena so members could ride comfortably in cold weather.²¹² This project would have been a major expense for the club, and the members would not have approved the expenditure if they were not comfortable with the club’s financial status or ability to repay loans.

As 1931 moved into spring, and warmer weather, the club planned a small horse show for Friday evening, April 25. In its April issue, *Town Talk* published a full-page article describing the upcoming event, but no announcements appeared in either the *Vindicator* or the *Telegram*. The show offered only twelve classes, and entries were limited to residents of Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana counties in Ohio, and Lawrence and Mercer Counties in Pennsylvania. The May issue of *Town Talk* included a review of the show, and mentioned a new name, Theodore Sproull, among the participants. Sproull, and his wife Florence, lived in Warren, Ohio, and became active members of the organization. The *Vindicator* even printed a

²¹⁰ U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942 record for Wilber Blaine Brewer, accessed through www.ancestry.com.

²¹¹ Gordon, 13.

²¹² “Polo,” *Town Talk*, 1, no. 6 (January, 1931): 33.

picture of the couple riding their horses in Mill Creek Park in the August 30, 1931 Gravure. Sproull was associated with Trumbull Steel, at one time being general manager of sales.²¹³ The 1930 United States Census listed his occupation as president of a steel company.²¹⁴ The Sproulls belonged to the club through least until July 1934.²¹⁵

In August 1931, the Depression finally seemed to catch up with the riding club. A notice appeared on the front page of the August 5 *Youngstown Vindicator*, stating that the annual horse show scheduled for September 4 and 5, was “canceled because of the financial depression.”²¹⁶ The *Vindicator* placed the news in the middle of the paper’s front page, in plain sight, where readers could not miss seeing it. *Town Talk*’s September issue stated that the show’s cancellation was due to “conditions that need little or no explanation.”²¹⁷ The show’s cancellation coincided with the shocking news that the Home Savings and Loan Company suspended payments during the first week of August, and implemented a requirement of sixty-day notice prior to withdrawal of funds. The Federal Savings & Loan Company and the Metropolitan Savings & Loan Company soon followed suit. Youngstown attorney Benjamin Roth wrote in his diary that business was “at an absolute standstill,” and even deep discount sales were not luring customers into the stores. He believed that the situation in Youngstown was so bad that it could not get any worse.²¹⁸ Mill Creek Riding Club members must not have felt as dire as Roth, because they reversed a decision to host a September horse show.

The riding club revamped plans and hosted a one-day show on Saturday, September 26. Reporters from the *Youngstown Vindicator*, the *Youngstown Telegram*, and *Town Talk* magazine

²¹³ Joseph G. Butler, *History of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley* (Chicago: American Historical Society, 1921), 3: 409.

²¹⁴ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the Population, 1930*, Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, accessed through Ancestry.com.

²¹⁵ “Local Riders Topple Salem,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, July 19, 1934.

²¹⁶ “Horse Show Cancelled,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, August 5, 1931.

²¹⁷ “Sports,” *Town Talk*, 2, no. 1, (September, 1931): 45.

²¹⁸ Benjamin Roth, *The Great Depression: a Diary* (New York: PublicAffairs: 2009): 11-12.

covered the event, but none offered a reason why the club decided to go ahead with a show. The club's established members participated, as usual, and Harvey Firestone brought horses from his Akron stable. His children, Elizabeth and Raymond, won several blue ribbons. The *Vindicator* reported that about two thousand spectators attended the horse show, but *Town Talk* reporter Patricia Powers criticized those who watched the show from their cars in an effort to avoid paying for a spectator ticket. She wrote, "and that, my deahs, will never buy oats for the horses."²¹⁹ The riding club continued the social aspect of the horse show by hosting an after show party and dance at the Poland Country Club.²²⁰ The *Telegram* reported that the show's success prompted the club to make plans for other one-day programs.²²¹ These plans did not materialize because by November even Youngstown's affluent residents felt the pinch of the Depression and had to acknowledge that it was continuing longer than anticipated.

Patricia Power's tongue-in-cheek article in the November 1931 *Town Talk* lamented the death of Youngstown's social scene and the concessions society members had to make to the Depression. She complained that there were not even any society weddings to attend, and observed that it was now

fashionable to be poor, on the rocks, ready for the poor house—anything just so your friends, and even those who aren't, know that you are in the swirl of this depression. This panic has arrived to the point where noble gestures are quite the vogue. Noble gestures, as you probably know, require elegant matrons to sell their pearls and reluctantly turn to washing one's own dinner dishes in one's own two by four apartment while sporty husbands dispose of costly polo ponies.²²²

²¹⁹ Patricia Powers, "And So We Staged a Horse Show," *Town Talk*, 2, no. 2 (October, 1931): 8; Frank B. Ward, "2,000 Thrilled at Horse Show," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 27, 1931; Patricia Powers, "Promenade," *Town Talk*, 2, no. 2 (October, 1931): 11.

²²⁰ "Mill Creek Riding Club," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 27, 1931.

²²¹ "Mill Creek Club Plans More Show Programs," *Youngstown Telegram*, September 28, 1931.

²²² Patricia Powers, "Promenade," *Town Talk*, 2, no. 3 (November, 1931):16.

The writer of the sports section in the same issue said that “they are undecided about polo at the Mill Creek Riding Club—Too much depression.”²²³ Powers had heard rumors that many local country clubs would close for the winter season, and that did happen. Attorney Roth recorded in his diary that practically every country club closed during the winter, including the Youngstown Country Club.²²⁴ By the end of 1931, three city banks, Dollar Savings & Trust, the City Trust, and the First National Bank, had closed, and an increasing number of businesses had vacated their West Federal Street locations. Teachers, and city and county employees, went unpaid. Several of Youngstown’s wealthiest families who had invested in local banks and steel mills were “wiped out.”²²⁵ As terrible as the situation seemed at year’s end, 1932 proved even worse for a majority of Mahoning Valley residents. The Mill Creek Riding Club, though, appeared unusually immune to the economic turmoil.

In 1932, Youngstown saw rising unemployment and an increased number of people asking for meals at soup kitchens. Department stores slashed prices and employee’s hours amid worsening business conditions.²²⁶ In August, Campbell mayor Joseph E. Julius (real name Guiseppi Guiliano) stated that he was “flat broke” and could not pay the judgment against him for his and his family’s room and board. He said that the city of Campbell owed him a back salary of \$2,500, which he had already signed over to family and friends. There was a \$1,100 mortgage against his car, he owned no real estate, and had no bank account. A further insult was that his sister-in-law brought the lawsuit against him.²²⁷

The MCRC provided a contradiction, though, amid Youngstown’s bleak economy. Instead of curtailing activities as would be expected, there was a marked increase in events at the

²²³ “Sports,” *Town Talk*, 2, no. 3 (November, 1931): 30.

²²⁴ Powers, *Town Talk*, November, 1931, 16; Roth, 40.

²²⁵ Roth, 30-45.

²²⁶ Roth, 48-57.

²²⁷ *Youngstown Vindicator*, August 13, 1932.

club, including several small horse shows, dances, holiday parties, and weekly group rides followed by suppers. A *Vindicator* article commented that the “Mill Creek Riding Club members are undaunted by the well known economic difficulty and the clubhouse on Bears Den Road continues to be the gayest, liveliest social center in town.”²²⁸ On the other hand, the club’s focus reverted to pleasure riding and group social activities, and no longer on staging a big, expensive, multi-day horse show.

There was also a noticeable change in membership as the founder’s names disappeared from newspaper publicity and new names took their place. No documentation exists that indicates the founding members actually left the club, but *Vindicator* articles show that new members took over leadership roles. Notable new members included Mr. and Mrs. Howard Welch, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ullman, and Mr. and Mrs. Verne J. Wilson. Welch was associated with the Union National Bank, beginning as a cashier before working his way to a vice-presidency and, ultimately, to chairman of the board in 1951.²²⁹ Ullman was an attorney who, in May 1932, became executive vice president of Dollar Savings and Trust Company. Ullman and founding member Alfred E. Reinmann were brothers-in-law.²³⁰ In 1931, Wilson became president of Youngstown’s new Union National Bank. Previously, he was a bank examiner in Cleveland, Ohio.²³¹ All of these men held prominent positions that put them in contact with other MCRC members. A noted absence was the Wick family, whose names no longer appeared in club related news. Another change that occurred was Berkeley Nelson’s departure as club

²²⁸ “Summer Sports Lend Gaiety to Joyous Season,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, July 24, 1932.

²²⁹ Obituary of Howard A. Welch, *Youngstown Vindicator*, February 20, 1957.

²³⁰ Roth, 55; *Youngstown Vindicator*, April 21, 1934.

²³¹ *New Castle, PA News*, December 31, 1931.

manager, which happened without any passing notice. Alexander Swann, an Irishman who previously lived in Westmoreland, Pennsylvania, replaced Nelson.²³²

The riding club did not give up entirely on horse shows, and staged a one-day public show on July 4, 1932. It drew over 80 horses and between 2,500 and 3,000 spectators. Industrialists Harvey Firestone and J. U. Kuhns again brought their finest horses. Kuhns reportedly paid \$17,000 for one of the horses he brought to the show, which, in 2011, would cost approximately \$277,000. Continuing an established tradition, club members hosted an after show barbeque dinner and dance for exhibitors.²³³

Throughout the summer of 1932, MCRC members enjoyed group rides, picnics, swim parties, and weekly Thursday evening suppers, all organized by the women members. In September, the club hosted a Round-Up dance as a resumption of social activities for the fall season, and as a reunion following summer vacations. Plans for the fall and winter included resuming Sunday morning breakfasts, and holding informal horse shows on alternate Thursdays throughout the winter. The first show was scheduled for eight o'clock Thanksgiving evening and was free and open to the public. Polo was also on the club's agenda for the winter months.²³⁴ The horse shows became very popular, attracting several hundred people to each one. The club ended the year with a show on Friday, December 30, staged and directed exclusively by the women members and riders of the club. As usual, dinner and dancing followed the show.

The activities of the Mill Creek Riding Club during 1932 did not reflect the distressed economic situation in the Mahoning Valley. The club continued its activities unabated, holding elegant dinner parties, causal picnics, and riding parties. For all appearances, the club was

²³² U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the Population, 1930*, Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, www.ancestry.com.

²³³ Frank B. Ward, "Holiday Horse Show Draws 3,000 Appreciative Fans," *Youngstown Vindicator*, July 5, 1932; "Horse Show and Dance at Riding Club," *Youngstown Vindicator*, July 3, 1932.

²³⁴ *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 11, 1932-November 23, 1932.

financially secure and able to continue its present course. Nineteen thirty-two ended, and 1933 began without any outward sign of the trouble to come.

As the club entered the New Year, its activities remained unchanged. The fortnightly horse shows continued through spring, even making some of them themed events. In January, MCRC members welcomed horses and riders from Sharon, Pennsylvania at a “Sharon Night” show. In February, the club staged a comedic burlesque show at which no serious competition was allowed.²³⁵ On April 22, club members welcomed several out of town exhibitors at the last show of the season. Absent this time, though, were the Harvey Firestone, J. U. Kuhns, and Alex Robinson show stables. Even though small by previous year’s standards, it was still an elaborate affair. The club offered a buffet dinner for exhibitors and their guests following the afternoon session of classes, and an informal dance after the evening classes ended.²³⁶ The summer riding season began June 2 with an outdoor steak fry at the weekly Thursday night supper. Notices in the *Vindicator* about the club’s weekly dinners and Sunday breakfasts continued through the first week of August.

During the spring and summer, while reporting the club’s carefree activities to the *Vindicator’s* society editor, the organization’s finances were crumbling, and apparently were for quite some time. A Mahoning County Sheriff’s Deed revealed that in May 1933, the Dollar Savings and Trust Company recovered a \$31,938.52 judgment decree against the Mill Creek Riding Club. On July 26, the sheriff offered the property for sale at public auction. The Dollar

²³⁵“Announce ‘Sharon Night’ at Mill Creek Riding Club,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, January 13, 1933; “Plan Burlesque Horse Show at Mill Creek Riding Club,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, February 3, 1933.

²³⁶“Out-of-Town Exhibitors at Horse Show—Musical Clowns to Play for Dance,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, April 21, 1933; “Horse Show Plays to a Good Crowd,” *Youngstown Vindicator*, April 25, 1933.

Savings and Trust Company, whose executive vice president Carl Ullman was a riding club member, bought back the property for \$23,000.²³⁷

On October 9, 1933, a notice appeared in the *Youngstown Vindicator* announcing Ray Book's election as president of the Bear's Den Riding Club. This was the first published reference to a new club name. Other officers elected were Kenneth Rode, vice president; Joseph Bond, secretary; Dr. J. L. Fisher, treasurer. New trustees elected for 1934-35 were Ray Book, J. Curtis Allison, Kenneth Rode, William Ballentyne, Joseph Bond, Theodore Sproull, and Dr. J. L. Fisher. All the men named in the notice were former MCRC members. According to the article, Book was in the process of appointing new committees to take charge of the club's affairs.²³⁸ The name change appeared to be only a formality, though. The club remained ensconced at the stables on Bear's Den Road, and William Ballentyne, a club member, managed the property for the Dollar Savings and Trust Company.²³⁹

During 1934, the riding club members hosted a horse show that attracted a crowd of about 1,000 spectators. It also maintained a competitive polo team that played night matches at Idora Park. An article in the *Vindicator* on July 19, referred to the team as Bear's Den Riding Club, but a July 30 polo notice called them the Mill Creek Riding Club. This was the last notice to appear in the newspaper about the club, so it cannot be determined if at that time the members took back the name Mill Creek Riding Club. In reality, the name change was insignificant because within a year the club would cease to exist.

In May 1935, though, there seemed to be hope for the club's continuance. A *Vindicator* article stated that, "after several years of few horses and many empty stalls, business is 'looking

²³⁷ Sheriff's Deed, Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas, Youngstown, Ohio, August 15, 1933.

²³⁸ "Ray Book is President of Riding Club," *Youngstown Vindicator*, October 9, 1933.

²³⁹ "Buy Property for CCC Camp," *Youngstown Vindicator*, May 7, 1935.

up' at the club."²⁴⁰ There were nineteen horses stabled at the barn with more were expected to arrive by April 1, although that number was still less than half of the facility's capacity. A May 10 article revealed the riding club to have at least twenty-five members, a substantial decline from the club's heyday. Hope was short lived, however, because by May 7, 1935, the Mill Creek Park directors had agreed to purchase the riding club property from the Dollar Savings and Trust Company for \$15,000. The park directors intended to use the facility for a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, but that idea never materialized.²⁴¹ The park set a June 1 deadline for vacating the grounds, which caused members to look for alternative stabling.²⁴² Raymond Book moved his horses to a barn at the old Southern Park Race Track in Boardman, Ohio. He continued to show horses with his business partner, Paul Ludd.²⁴³ No documents show where other riding club members stabled their horses immediately after leaving the Bear's Den property. As a formal organization, the Mill Creek Riding Club ceased to exist.

After acquiring the Mill Creek Riding Club property, Mill Creek Park directors used the grounds for an archery range. In May 1940, a fire destroyed the stables, which had already partially collapsed from a recent windstorm. The high flames drew hundreds of motorists to Bear's Den Road to view the fire. The old wood building burned too quickly for firefighters to save it.²⁴⁴ In the mid 1950s, Mill Creek Park constructed the Kirkmere Recreation Area on the riding club site. In 1988, it was renamed the Walter H. Scholl recreation area.²⁴⁵ It was a sad end for such a grand structure, but it was not the end of horseback riding interest in the Mahoning Valley.

²⁴⁰ "'Prosperity' Arrives with Spring at Riding Club Stables," *Youngstown Vindicator*, March 27, 1935.

²⁴¹ "Buy Property for CCC Camp," *Youngstown Vindicator*, May 7, 1935; "300 Men Work in Mill Creek Park," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 11, 1935.

²⁴² "Saddle Horses Kick as CCC Snubs Stables as Barracks," *Youngstown Vindicator*, May 10, 1935.

²⁴³ "Local Saddle Horses Win at Erie Show," *Youngstown Vindicator*, August 11, 1935.

²⁴⁴ "Fire Destroys Park Building," *Youngstown Vindicator*, May 15, 1940; "\$5,000 Fire Razes Stables of Club," *The Evening Independent*, Massillon, Ohio, May 16, 1940.

²⁴⁵ Carol Potter and Rick Shale, *Historic Mill Creek Park*, Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2005), 97.

A 1943 photograph in the *Youngstown Vindicator* showed a group of Youngstown and Warren business and industrial leaders who rode together every Sunday morning. They met at former Mill Creek Riding Club member William H. Foster's home on Warner Road in Liberty Township to ride the area's trails. Also pictured were MCRC founder Chauncey A. Cochran.²⁴⁶ In February 1945, the Mahoning Saddle and Bridle Association (MSBA) filed for incorporation, and one of the initial trustees was former MCRC member William H. Kilcawley.²⁴⁷ The 1945 MSBA horse show committee included many former Mill Creek members such as Dr. Armin Elsaesser, Bert Millikin, E. T. Sproull, and William E. Ballentyne.²⁴⁸

The Mill Creek Riding Club entered the Depression years seemingly financially solvent. Members continued costly activities, such as cookouts, dinner parties, and horse shows, but the truth was vastly different. Membership dropped, which caused a loss of income for the club, but maintenance expenses remained. Eventually, the club reached a point where it could not repay its loan on the property. The club's final years raise more questions than the available information can answer. One has to wonder, though, if the Depression had not occurred, how long would the club have continued to exist?

²⁴⁶ "Riding Club," *Youngstown Vindicator*, October 17, 1943.

²⁴⁷ Articles of Incorporation, The Mahoning Saddle and Bridle Association, Office of the Secretary of State, State of Ohio, February 13, 1945.

²⁴⁸ 1945 Mahoning Saddle and Bridle Association horse show program. August, 1945.

Chapter 5 Epilogue

Youngstown has transitioned through many changes since the days of the Mill Creek Riding Club. It survived the Depression and regained its status as an important industrial city after World War II, only to suffer again when the steel mills closed in the 1970s. Youngstown has gone from Steeltown U.S.A. to rust belt bust, and is still struggling to regain its economic prosperity. The city's population has declined from its peak of 170,000 people in 1930, to just under 67,000 residents in 2010.²⁴⁹ Urban flight to the suburbs, especially in the post World War II era, drained the city of many affluent middle and upper class residents. As these high-wage earning and tax-paying citizens moved out of established neighborhoods, decline, decay, and crime moved in.

Today, the north side residential area favored by the MCRC members is in a serious, ongoing decline, and no longer the highly sought-after neighborhood it was then. The homes along Fifth Avenue, though, on the northern edge of the district near Gypsy Lane, are still well maintained, but not as desirable to own as comparable homes outside the city limits. Unfortunately, many of the lovely old homes just to the south, in the area surrounding Wick Park, are in disrepair, abandoned, converted to apartments, or have been demolished.

The homes in the Mill Creek Park area have suffered a similar fate. General decline in the area, increased crime, and the high cost of maintaining these large homes have contributed to their devaluation. An eight bedroom, 5,672 square foot home on Volney Road, near former homes of riding club members, is currently for sale for only \$48,500. The owners of the five-bedroom, 3118 square foot home at 734 Cohasset Drive, across the street from the

²⁴⁹ *United State Census 2010*, Table-The Most Populous Counties and Incorporated Places in 2010 in Ohio: 2000 and 2010, http://2010.census.gov/news/xls/cb11cn72_oh_2010redistr.xls.

Reinmann/Scott home, are asking \$59,500, which is approximately half its current market value.²⁵⁰

Forest Glen Estates has maintained its value throughout the decades, partly because of its location outside the Youngstown city limits. The area did not succumb to the urban blight that steadily crept south toward Boardman Township, but residents are now concerned about increased criminal activity in the neighborhood.²⁵¹

Several riding club member's homes no longer exist. Chauncey Cochran's Marybelle Farm, on South Avenue at Walker Mill Road, gave way to commercial interests and Interstate 680. Dr. Armin Elsaesser's Shadow Run Farm is the current site of Shepherd of the Valley independent and assisted living facilities, and several retail businesses. Arthur Maag's former home, a mansion located on Boardman-Canfield Road across from Boardman Township Park, had been empty for many years before it was destroyed in 1998 by an arson fire.²⁵² The Maag home was the last vestige of wealth along that strip of road. The other homes in that immediate area had long since fallen to commercial expansion.

Two member's homes became part of the Youngstown State University campus. Dr. Harold Beard lived in the Lincoln Hotel located at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and North Phelps Street. Youngstown State University erected a building on the site to house the Williamson School of Business. This building has been renamed the Lincoln Building. The college razed the home of Louise Fordyce, at 40 Lincoln Avenue, to build Ward Beecher Hall. Another riding club connection to Youngstown State University was through the Kilcawley

²⁵⁰ Zillow, www.zillow.com; Mahoning County Auditor, <http://www.mahoningcountyoh.gov/DepartmentsAgencies/Departments/Auditor/SearchPropertyAuditor/tabid/1087/Default.aspx>.

²⁵¹ "Crime fails to shake Glen Residents' resolve," *Youngstown Vindicator*, November 19, 2010.

²⁵² Boardman Township Ohio Mission Statement and History, http://www.boardmantwp.com/fire/fire_admin_mission.asp.

family. During his life, William Kilcawley gave generously to many area charities. His daughter, Anne Kilcawley Christman, carried on his generosity. She established a charitable foundation that has donated millions of dollars to local organizations, including Youngstown State University and the YMCA.

After the riding club's demise, many of the founding members remained living and working in the Youngstown area. Among those known to have stayed in the area were Chauncey Cochran, Dr. Armin Elsaesser, William Foster, William Kilcawley, James Henderson, and Frank B. Smith. Chauncey Cochran remained involved with his family's many business interests, and his farming activities. At the time of his death in an automobile accident in 1948, Cochran was chairman of the board of the G. M. McKelvey department store.²⁵³ Dr. Armin Elsaesser retained his private practice in Youngstown, and his estate near North Lima. He was a life-long horseman, whose last activity before his death was to go horseback riding. He died in 1952, at the age of seventy-seven.²⁵⁴ William Foster continued his involvement in several Youngstown businesses, and was chairman of the board of the General Fireproofing Company. He lived at his Orchard Hill Farm on Warner Road at the time of his death, in 1951.²⁵⁵ William Kilcawley remained part owner in the Standard Slag Company, and was a long-time Canfield Fair Board member. The fair board named an entrance gate at the fairgrounds in his honor. Kilcawley took an active role in the operation of his Canfield Township farm, where he raised champion sheep and beef cattle. He died in 1958.²⁵⁶

²⁵³ "Joint Funeral Planned Wednesday for Cochrans," *Youngstown Vindicator*, January 13, 1948.

²⁵⁴ Obituary of Dr. Armin Elsaesser, *Youngstown Vindicator*, October 29, 1952.

²⁵⁵ Obituary of William H. Foster, *Youngstown Vindicator*, October 18, 1951.

²⁵⁶ Obituary of William H. Kilcawley, *Youngstown Vindicator*, November 17, 1958.

James Henderson owned a Chevrolet dealership in downtown Youngstown until 1955. At that time, he chose to give up selling new cars, and to only operate a service and repair shop. The new car show rooms at Walnut and Boardman streets were demolished to make room for a parking lot. Henderson remained active in community organizations until his death in 1965, at age eighty-one.²⁵⁷ Frank B. Smith closed his automobile dealership in 1939, and opened a used car lot. Until his retirement in 1971, he worked at several jobs. They included work at the Ravenna Arsenal, Copperweld Steel, and as executive secretary of the Independent Garage Owners Association. At the time of his death in 1972, at age eighty-five, Smith lived on Mineral Springs Avenue in Youngstown, not far from his former home on Cohasset Drive.

B. Frank Williams was one founding member who moved from the area after the Depression and successfully re-established a business. Williams' partnership in a Youngstown haberdashery dissolved due of the Depression. According to a *Youngstown Vindicator* article, he moved to Los Angeles in the 1942, and opened a men's clothing shop in the Farmers' Market. This business became quite a success, as well as a family venture. Williams' two sons, and his daughter, also worked in the business. After a long, profitable second career, Williams died in Los Angeles in 1962, at age seventy-four.²⁵⁸

Limited documentation revealed that several former MCRC members retained interest in horses and horseback riding. A new riding club, the Mahoning Saddle and Bridle Association (MSBA), formed in the early 1940s. In 1944, Frank Ward wrote an article about the club's first horse show. He said that B. Frank Williams acted as an assistant for the horse show judge.²⁵⁹ A 1945 program for the second MSBA horse show included a few familiar MCRC names. William

²⁵⁷ "James Henderson, No Stranger to Success, is Excited About Latest Venture in Service," *Youngstown Vindicator*, June 5, 1955; Obituary of James A. Henderson, *Youngstown Vindicator*, February 8, 1965.

²⁵⁸ Williams 'Finds His Fortune' in the West," *Youngstown Vindicator*, September 28, 1952; Obituary of B. Frank Williams, *Youngstown Vindicator*, November 24, 1962.

²⁵⁹ "Horse Show Recaptures Much Interest with Fine Exhibit," *Youngstown Vindicator*, 1944.

Kilcawley was the club's president. Dr. Armin Elsaesser was a trustee. Theodore Sproull was a committee member and the ringmaster. *Vindicator* sports writer, Frank Ward, was also a committee member. Mrs. William Ballentyne was a ring clerk.²⁶⁰ In his article about the 1945 horse show, Ward stated that Judge James B. Kennedy; William H. Foster, "dean of valley horsemen;" and Chauncey Cochran attended the show as spectators.²⁶¹ There were, perhaps, other former MCRC members involved in the new club, and its horse shows. If so, they remained unmentioned in the few documents available.

The Mahoning Saddle and Bridle Association became a large, active, and long-lived organization in the Mahoning Valley. It did not encounter the difficulties of an economic depression that caused a curtailment of its predecessor's activities. In fact, the opposite was true. The post World War II prosperity enjoyed by the nation lasted decades longer than the boom of the 1920s. A broader section of the middle class was able to afford the cost of owning horses, for pleasure and for showing. These people comprised the majority of the MSBA membership, but its roots definitely began with former members of the Mill Creek Riding Club whose interest in horses did not end with that club's demise.

²⁶⁰ Mahoning Saddle and Bridle Association horse show program, 1945.

²⁶¹ Frank B. Ward, "7,500 View Horse Show at Canfield," *Youngstown Vindicator*, August 5, 1945.

Conclusion

Many people perceive the 1920s as an era of abundance and carefree good times. That concept is not too far from the truth. The twenties prosperity did not reach all levels of American society but, in general, business was good and many workers made better wages than ever before. The country was moving toward a more urbanized population, and the 1920 census revealed that, for the first time, more people lived cities and towns than lived in rural areas. A general trend in reducing workweeks from sixty hours to less than forty-eight gave workers, usually white-collar employees, the luxury of free time to spend as they wished. The general prosperity gave rise to a new, affluent, urban middle class that spent their extra income on non-essential luxury items, and their extra time seeking pleasurable activities.

Post World War I technological advances in materials and manufacturing processes resulted in a wave of newly invented consumer goods, such as, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, washing machines, and electric ranges. As the use of electricity spread to more homes across the country, an increasing number of Americans bought these new time saving, luxury, household products. Businesses increased their use of advertising to persuade customers to buy these expensive items. During the 1920s, advertising became a profession in its own right. Widespread advertising influenced American's spending habits by convincing consumers that they really needed all the new gadgets and gizmos flooding the market. They applied peer pressure tactics to persuade buyers that they needed to "keep up with the Joneses." In conjunction with advertising, businesses increasingly offered consumers the option of buying with installment credit. Instead of waiting until they had saved the entire purchase price, Americans could have their purchase immediately with only a little money down, and easy monthly payments. A combination of urbanization, increased wages, leisure time, new consumer

goods, influential advertising tactics, and easy credit led to the rise of a new American consumer culture.

Out of all the new luxury products available to consumers, two of them, the radio and the automobile, caused profound changes in American culture. Americans quickly deemed them necessities and not luxuries. The radio became the most popular source of free entertainment and news for the vast majority of Americans. It was also one of the first forms of mass media as Americans across the country listened to nationally broadcasted programs. Through the national broadcasts, people in rural areas heard identical programs of music, sports, and news as their metropolitan counterparts. With the introduction of Henry Ford's affordable, utilitarian, Model T, the automobile became a major method of transportation. It forever changed American culture, and was the ultimate consumer icon of the decade. By the end of the 1920s, one out of every five Americans owned a car. The automobile brought the farm to the city, and the city to the suburbs. The car gave people freedom to travel when and where they wished, and not have to be dependent on public transportation. It also made suburban living possible because workers could commute to city jobs from their outlying neighborhoods. Just as the radio provided hours of entertainment, the automobile was a tool used for leisure and recreation.

The 1920s has been nicknamed the Golden Age of Sports. Some authors credit the hardships of World War I and a more lenient attitude toward play as the reasons Americans showed renewed interest in sports. They argue that, after the war, many Americans replaced established Puritan ethics with a greater need for personal enjoyment and happiness. The American public did, for each their own reason, enjoy the pleasures the twenties offered, and sports was one of their favorite pastimes. Spurred on by the ballyhoo created by mass media, Americans took an almost fanatical interest in sports and created idols of their favorite athletes,

such as, Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, Red Grange, and the racehorse, Man O' War. As interest grew, and people wanted outlets for personal participation, communities responded by building public golf courses, playgrounds, tennis courts, and swimming pools. Soon, elite sports, such as golf, were no longer in the sole domain of the wealthy. Americans spent time bowling, playing baseball, billiards, tennis, golf, and horseback riding at public facilities. The upper class, though, still played sports at their private clubs. Such was the case in Youngstown, Ohio.

Youngstown built many parks, playgrounds, and ball fields during the 1920s, including the Henry Stambaugh public golf course on Gypsy Lane, but the Mahoning Valley's affluent middle class and wealthy upper class did not play at these facilities. They belonged to the area's private country clubs, and selective social and service organizations, the Youngstown Country Club being the most exclusive. The country clubs, though, did not provide horseback riding facilities, so several prominent businessmen provided their own.

The Mill Creek Riding Club formally organized in 1927, and quickly became a leading social and sporting club for Youngstown's affluent and wealthy horse lovers. The founding members were part of the business climate that made Youngstown a thriving community during the twenties. They donated their time to civic causes and charities, and membership in the riding club was only a small part of their lives. The club was an example of the ways Youngstown's affluent businessmen spent their wealth on leisure during the prosperous twenties.

The story of the Mill Creek Riding Club shows that in certain ways the lines between Youngstown's social classes were less rigid than other industrial cities, such as, Cleveland and Pittsburgh. In Youngstown, upper middle and upper class businessmen joined traditional middle class organizations as well as the exclusive private clubs. They belonged to the Elks, Kiwanis,

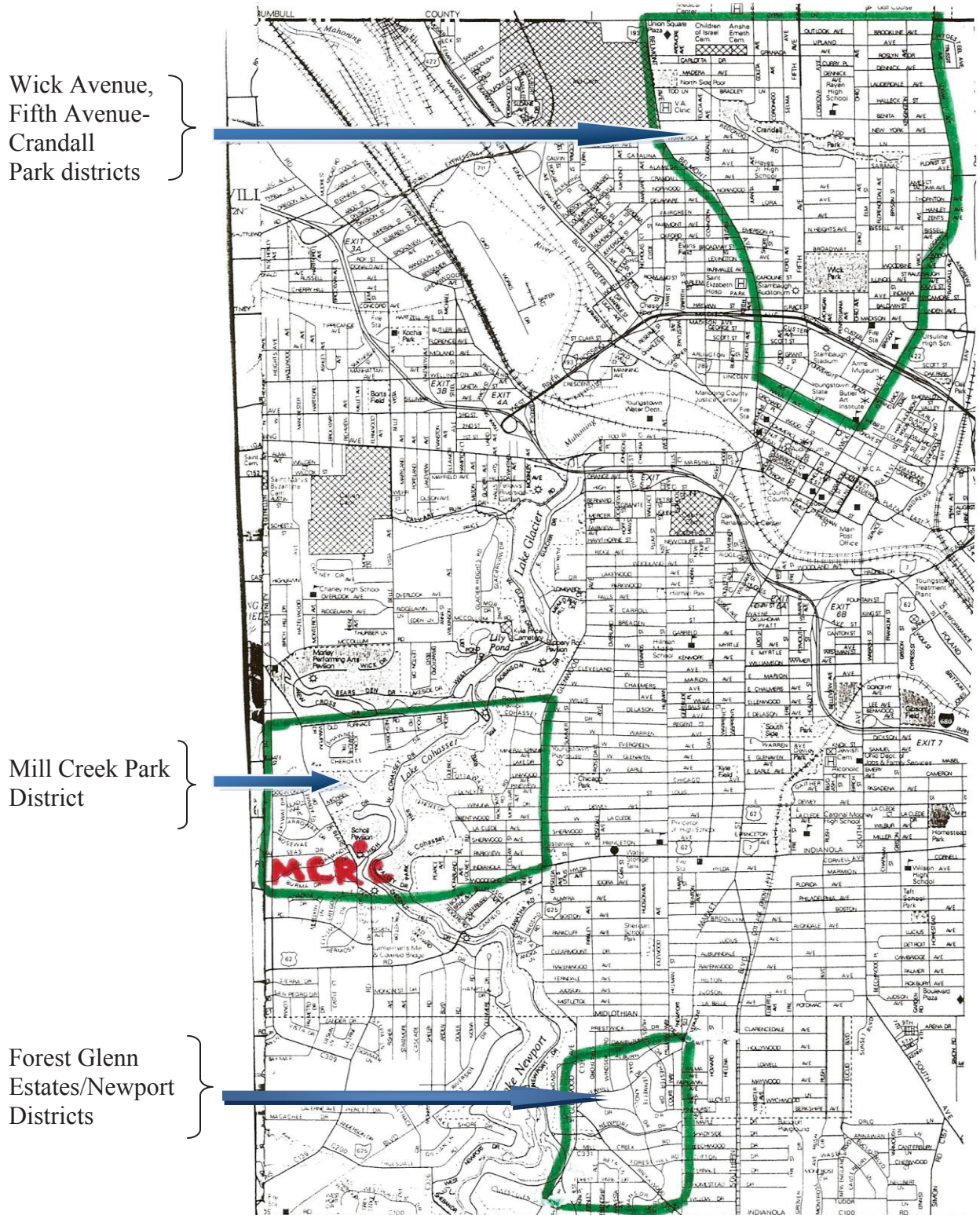
and Rotary clubs as well as the more select Youngstown Club and Youngstown Country Club. MCRC members had all these organizations in common.

For several years, the club flourished, but the Depression created financial problems, as it did throughout Youngstown and the entire country. The riding club continued their normal activities, even reporting them in the *Youngstown Vindicator's* society section, right through foreclosure proceedings. Ironically, one of the club members was an executive vice president of the foreclosing bank, the Dollar Savings and Trust Company. Eventually, the members vacated the property when it was sold to Mill Creek Park. At that time, the Mill Creek Riding Club ceased to exist. Many members continued their interest in horses and within ten years helped form another riding club, the Mahoning Saddle and Bridle Association.

During its existence, the Mill Creek Riding Club received a substantial amount of exposure in the local media, and played a noticeable part in Youngstown culture. Once gone, though, it was forgotten and its story has not passed to subsequent generations. The riding club's history is but one view of Youngstown's past, but it is a window into what Youngstown once was.

Appendix A, figure 1:

Three Major Mill Creek Riding Club Neighborhoods



Wick Avenue,
Fifth Avenue-
Crandall
Park districts

Mill Creek Park
District

Forest Glenn
Estates/Newport
Districts

Figure 1

Appendix A, figure 2: Wick Park and Crandall Park-Fifth Avenue Neighborhoods

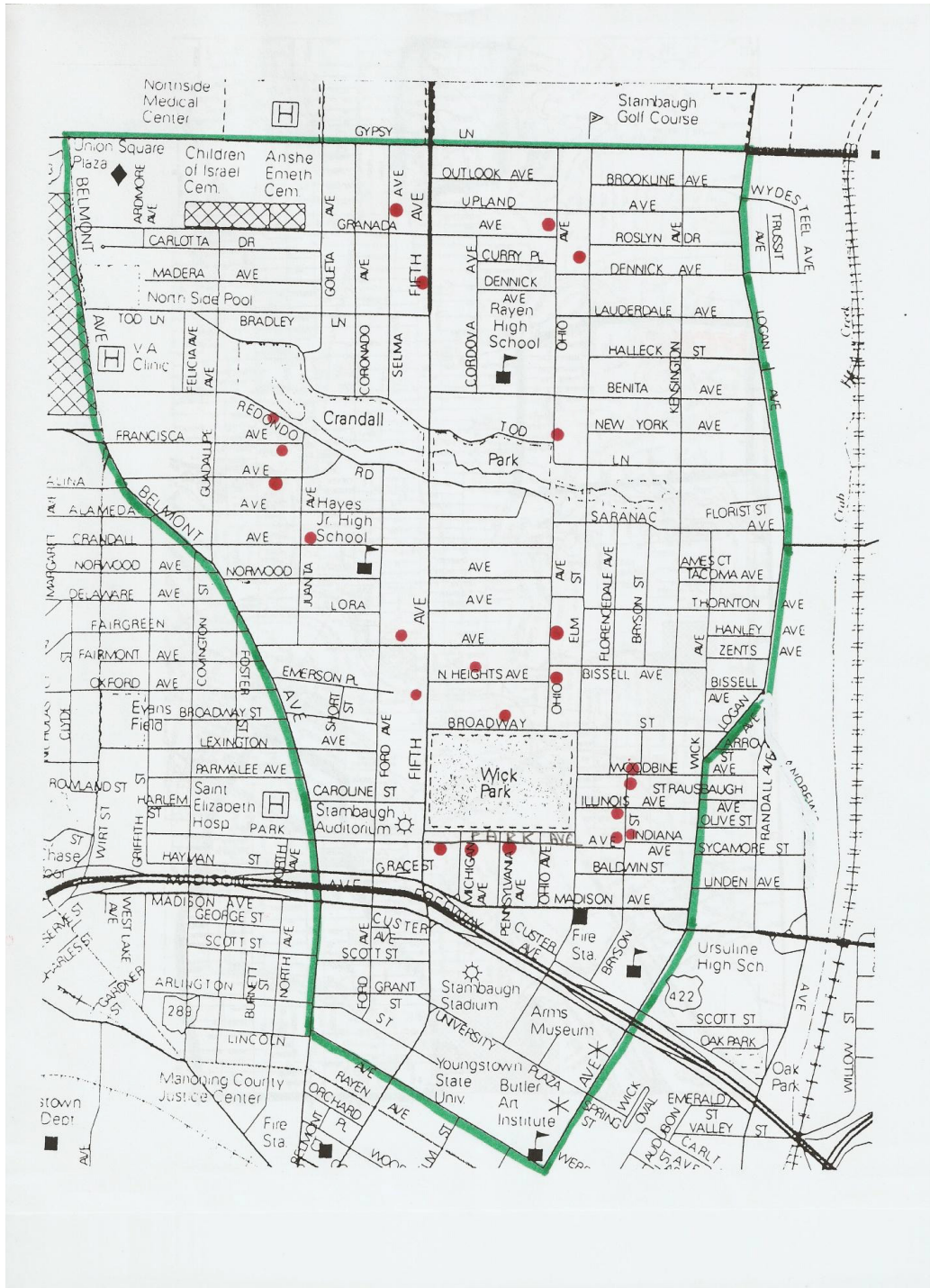


Figure 2

Appendix A, figure 3: Mill Creek Park Neighborhood

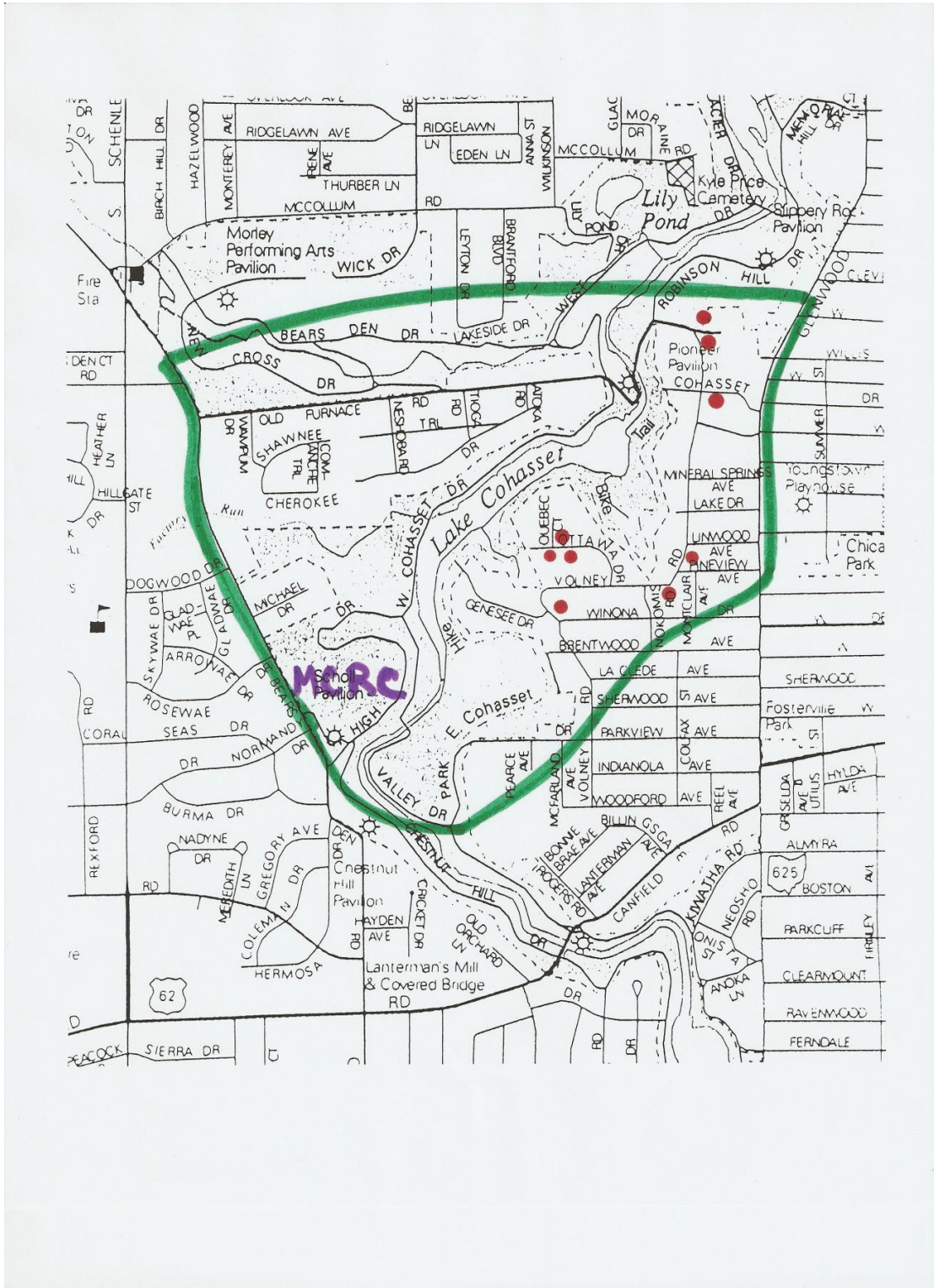


Figure 3

Appendix A, figure 4: Forest Glen Estates and Newport Neighborhoods



Figure 4

Appendix B: Founding Member's Addresses and Occupations in 1927

Table 1. Mill Creek Riding Club founding members

Name	Residence in 1927	Occupation
Beard, Harold J.	32 The Lincoln, Youngstown	Physician
Book, Raymond F.	4419 Market Street, Boardman	Real Estate
Brenner, Raymond	611 Parkwood Ave., Youngstown	Retail/Jewelry
Brooke, Barton E.	1615 Volney Road, Youngstown	Architect
Brownlie, Joseph G.	4319 Market Street, Boardman	Advertising
Carroll, William A.	260 North Heights Ave., Youngstown	Investment banking
Cochran, Chauncey A.	66 Indiana Avenue, Youngstown	Manufacturing
Collier, Leo J.	Logan Road	Automobile sales
Eppley, Robert J.	105 Illinois Avenue, Youngstown	Real Estate
Henderson, James A.	963 Ottawa Drive, Youngstown	Automobile sales
Higby, Beecher P.	1010 Bryson Street, Youngstown	Automobile sales
Kennedy, James B.	Main Street, Poland	Attorney
Krieder, Louis S.	Newport Drive, Boardman	Real Estate
Maag, Arthur D.	Boardman-Poland Road, Boardman	Newspaper
McKelvey, Lucius D.	Hubbard Road, Hubbard	Department store
Moore, Arthur H.	2299 Volney Road	Automobile Sales
Reinmann, Alfred E.	746 Old Furnace Drive, Youngstown	Banking
Sause, William L.	441 Francesca Ave., Youngstown	Real Estate
Scott, Charles C.	739 Cohasset Road, Youngstown	Retail/Menswear
Smith, Frank B.	961 Ottawa Drive, Youngstown	Automobile sales
Williams, B. Frank	2205 Volney Road, Youngstown	Retail/Menswear

Appendix B: Early Riding Club Members

Table 2. Early members

Name	Residence	Occupation (If known)
Bray, Irene Foster	2321 Selma Ave., Youngstown	
Elsaesser, Dr. Armin	Market Street, Woodworth, Ohio	Physician
Elsaesser, Suzanne	Market Street, Woodworth, Ohio	Student
Foster, William H.	110 Woodbine, Youngstown	General Fireproofing President
Harrington, John T.	Trail's End, Logan Road	Attorney
Harrold, Robert C.	Leetonia, Ohio	Crescent Machine Co. Treasurer
Kilcawley, William H.	473 Redondo Road, Youngstown	Standard Slag Co. Owner
Sampson, William	Logan Avenue, ext.	Witch Hazel Coal Co. President/Owner
Wick, George D. Jr.	Boardman-Poland Rd., Boardman	Stockbroker
Wick, Mrs. Geo. D. Jr. (Ruth)	Boardman-Poland Rd., Boardman	
Wick, Lemuel	344 Fairgreen Ave., Youngstown	General Fireproofing Credit department
Wilderson, Clinton G.	Leetonia, Ohio	Crescent Machine Co. President

Appendix C: Representative Sampling of Mill Creek Riding Club Founder's Homes

Figure 1: Raymond F. Book
4419 Market Street, Boardman Township



Figure 1

Figure 2.a: Barton E. Brooke
1615 Volney Road, Youngstown, until c. 1934



Figure 2.a

Figure 2.b: Barton E. Brooke
428 Crandall Avenue, Youngstown, 1934-1935



Figure 2.b

Figure 3.a: Joseph G. Brownlie
4319 Market Street, Boardman Township, c. 1926-1928



Figure 3.a

Figure 3.b: Joseph G. Brownlie
4347 Chester Drive, Boardman Township, c. 1926-1928



Figure 3.b

Figure 3.c: Joseph G. Brownlie
53 Jennette Drive, Boardman Township, c. 1931-1934



Figure 3.c

Figure 4: William A. Carroll
260 North Heights Avenue, Youngstown, c. 1926-1934



Figure 4.1

Figure 5.a: Chauncey A. Cochran
66 Indiana Ave., Youngstown, c. 1926-1936



Figure 5.a

Figure 5.b: Chauncey A. Cochran
66 Indiana Ave., Youngstown (rear)



Figure 5.b

Figure 6: Robert J. Eppley
105 Illinois, Youngstown, c. 1926-1932



Figure 6

Figure 7: James A. Henderson
963 Ottawa Drive, Youngstown, c. 1927-1936



Figure 7

Figure 8: Beecher P. Higby
1010 Bryson Street, Youngstown, c. 1926-1932



Figure 8

Figure 9.a: Louis Kreider
44 Newport Drive, Boardman Township, c. 1926-1929



Figure 9.a

Figure 9.b: Louis Kreider
46 Newport Drive, Boardman Township, c. 1931-1936



Figure 9.b

Figure 10.a: Alfred E. Reinmann
739 Cohasset Drive, Youngstown, c. 1926-1927



Figure 10.a

Figure 10.b: Alfred E. Reinmann
746 Old Furnace Road, Youngstown, c. 1927-1929



Figure 10.b

Figure 10.c: Alfred E. Reinmann
211 Park Avenue, Youngstown, c. 1930-1932 (building in picture replaces original structure at this address)



Figure 10.c

Figure 10.c: Alfred E. Reinmann
810 Glenwood Avenue, Youngstown, c. 1933-1936



Figure 10.c

Figure 11.a: William L. Sause
441 Francisca Ave., Youngstown, c. 1926-1928 (lived in Poland, Ohio, c. 1929-1934)



Figure 11.a

Figure 11.b: William L. Sause
1809 Ohio Avenue, Youngstown, c. 1935-1936



Figure 11.b

Figure 12: Charles C. Scott
739 Cohasset, Youngstown, c. 1927-1936 (previous resident: Alfred E. Reinmann)



Figure 12 1

Figure 13: Frank B. Smith
961 Ottawa Drive, Youngstown, c. 1926-1936



Figure 13

Figure 14: B. Frank Williams
2205 Volney Road, Youngstown, c. 1926-1936



Figure 14

Figure 15: Dr. Armin Elsaesser
Market Street, North Lima (Beaver Township), Ohio



Figure 15

Photo courtesy of Mr. Kai Lassen

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