

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Youngstown in the 1920's and 1930's

Personal Experiences

O. H. 666

EDWARD C. MANNING

Interviewed

by

D. Scott Van Horn

on

May 14, 1986

EDWARD G. MANNING

Edward G. Manning was born March 20, 1913 in Youngstown, Ohio. A lifelong resident of the north side, Mr. Manning attended that area's public schools, graduating from the Rayen School in 1933.

While completing his education, he began working in the circulation department at the Youngstown Telegram, at that time the city's other major news publication. After that newspaper was absorbed by the Vindicator, he remained there until leaving in 1939.

From 1941 to 1947 he was employed with the U.S. Post Office. Shortly thereafter Mr. Manning transferred to G. F. Business Equipment Co., continuing until his retirement in 1975.

Active in projects that concern the north side, Mr. Manning is a member of both the North Side Citizens Coalition and the Citizens Action Council of Community Development Agency. Presently he is involved in the preservation of that sections many stately homes.

Mr. Manning's interests include history, civics and football.

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INTERVIEWEE: EDWARD C. MANNING

INTERVIEWER: D. Scott Van Horn

SUBJECT: North side, education, Idora Park, downtown, prominent families, ethnic community, various businesses, health and sanitation, hospitals, Great Depression, Franklin Roosevelt

DATE: May 14, 1986

V: This is an interview with Edward C. Manning for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program on Youngstown in the 1920's and 1930's, by D. Scott Van Horn.

Mr. Manning, what is your earliest recollection of Youngstown?

M: My earliest recollection of Youngstown is living on Adams Street in Smoky Hollow. One thing I remember distinctly are the bells or chimes from St. John's Episcopal Church ringing. When I hear them today I still recall the times in Smoky Hollow. I moved out of there when I was three years old, but I remember living down there.

V: What was it like living down in Smoky Hollow?

M: Smoky Hollow at one time was Wicks Woods. Then later on they sold it out in lots. It was strictly a working man's neighborhood. It was close to the mill, especially the old Valley Mill. In those days men wanted to live close to the mills because there was no public transportation. That is why the lots cost so much there. In the lower east side you will notice that there are two homes on one lot; this is for the reason that the lots cost so much that a working man could only buy a half of a lot.

According to the local histories the Wick brothers built

a mill in 1867. They called it the old Valley Mill. It operated until 1913. Most of the workers of the old Valley Mill went down to the Sheet & Tube when it was built in 1906. The puddlers went from the old Valley Mill to the new mill. The Sheet & Tube was a modern mill.

V: Where was that located?

M: East Youngstown.

V: All the way down to the mill at East Youngstown?

M: Yes. They had a streetcar going there. The streetcar was the only source of transportation, unless they walked. None of the workers in those days had automobiles.

V: Where was the Valley Mill located?

M: It was at Valley and Willow Street.

V: Were Pollock brothers still in operation?

M: William B. Pollock and his brother Robert formed the W.B. Pollock Company in 1863 to make blast furnaces. Later W.B. Pollock's son, Porter, headed the company until his death. Then William B. Pollock II managed the company until his retirement. Incidentally, W.B. Pollock II donated his mansion at 603 Wick Avenue to Youngstown State University.

V: You said you moved out of Smoky Hollow in 1916. Where did you move to then?

M: I moved to 1440 Kensington.

V: What was it like on the north side at that time?

M: The north side at that time, they called it the North Hill. It was without a doubt one of the finest residential sections in Youngstown.

V: Was it pretty built up where you lived?

M: Yes it was well-built then because the school had been built in 1908.

V: Which school was that?

M: McKinley School.

V: Where was McKinley located?

M: Kensington and Bissell.

V: How long did you live on Kensington?

M: Until 1985, then I moved up to Gypsy Lane.

V: Where did you go to high school?

M: Rayen High School.

V: Was that the old Rayen School?

M: No, I went to the new Rayen on Benita Avenue.

V: When did they build the new Rayen school?

M: It was opened in September of 1922.

V: When did you graduate?

M: In 1933.

V: What was it like to go to the new Rayen school?

M: We were very fortunate; we had all of the teachers that had taught at the old Rayen. Those were some of the best teachers in Northeastern Ohio. The teachers at Rayen would lecture and we had to take notes just as in college. We had one teacher, Miss Wallis, an English teacher; she was a world traveler. She could tell you about England, France and other European countries. She has been to the Louvre in France and any of those big art galleries in Italy. She brought that outside information into the class, just the same as the college professors. Most of the teachers we had there were way above average.

V: Were there any other special teachers that you remember?

M: Yes, John Struthers Stewart was a history teacher. I took journalism and he came into the class a couple of times when the regular teacher wasn't there. Mr. Mayer was a very good history teacher. In fact, later on he taught here at Youngstown State. He was a history teacher at Rayen and taught psychology at the university. He had a Ph.D.

V: Did you participate in any activities?

M: I was on the Record Board. Being that I took journalism I was on the Record Board.

V: Did you ever go to any of the football games?

M: Yes, I attended the football games.

V: Are there any special ones that you remember?

M: Yes. I wrote an article for the Mahoning Valley Historical Society about the Rayen and South game in 1923. The Rayen and South rivalry was just the same as the Army-Navy and Yale and Harvard. There were only two high schools in Youngstown; there were two newspapers here and they used to build the game up. It was really quite an athletic event. It was almost impossible to get tickets. Seventeen thousand people attended the game. Rayen beat South, 19-0. One of the most interesting things about it was that there were three theaters in Youngstown and the following day all three theaters ran full-length motion pictures of the game. There was the Liberty Theater, Dome Theater, and the Hippodrome. There was so much interest in it the north side merchants had their stores decked out in orange and black. The south side merchants had their stores decorated in red and blue, the South High colors. You could just see how they were promoting that game. Now when Rayen plays South hardly anybody knows about it. At that time Mahoning River was the dividing line and you could easily see when people went from the north side to the south side and vice versa they could feel the tension.

V: Who was the coach at Rayen at that time?

M: Harry Gaskegn. The coach of South High was Russell Ashbaugh. He was known as Busty Ashbaugh.

Incidentally, the squads then weren't as large then; they were eighteen or twenty-two men. They didn't have an assistant coach. That gives you an idea of how the game has changed. A lot of the teachers then didn't believe in football and the players had to get their studies. Often players were dropped from the team for academic reasons. Today professional football has taken first place as far as the interest of the people, next the college and then high school football.

Then Rayen had a tennis team. I remember the Rayen tennis team would play the Carnegie Tech freshmen at Wick Park. That gives you an idea of how good the Rayen tennis players were. The best tennis players in the city were on the north side. It seemed as though they played tennis there all the time and developed those good players.

V: Rayen had a better shot at all of those, like playing on the tennis team and that because the north side was largely wealthy people.

Where did the wealthy folks live on the north side? Where

were they all confined to?

M: The campus area at one time was the wealthiest section of the city from 1890-1915. As time went on, after 1915, they started moving to the upper north side. It went from the campus area out as far as Gypsy Lane. Later on Mill Creek Park turned out to be a wealthy area as did Liberty Township. From Park Avenue out to Gypsy Lane was the wealthiest section of the city in the 1920's. Rayen was such a good high school that a lot of students from the Mill Creek Park area used to drive up to Rayen School because they wanted to go to Rayen. Some of them would come in from East Palestine to attend Rayen; they would live with relatives. One fellow also came in from Hubbard.

V: What did you do for entertainment during your high school years?

M: I was working for the newspaper. It was during the Depression.

V: Which newspaper was that?

M: Youngstown Telegram. I would go there a half of a day. For two years I had all my subjects in the morning and then went to work for the newspaper. The Youngstown Telegram was owned by Scripps-Howard.

V: Where was the Telegram located?

M: First it was located at Wood and Phelps. Then later on it was located where the Vindicator is now. They built that building and then merged with the Vindicator in 1936.

V: What kind of paper was the Telegram?

M: It wasn't as good as the Vindicator to be honest with you because the Vindicator had more local news and the editorials were more conservative whereas Scripps-Howard had twenty-six newspapers which ran canned editorials which were written in New York City. A lot of people in Youngstown resented that. The Vindicator editorials were written right here in Youngstown being that it was a locally owned paper. Originally, the Telegram was a Republican paper owned by a man by the name of Samuel McClure. Scripps-Howard had backed Coolidge in 1924 and Hoover in 1928, but in 1932 they backed Franklin Roosevelt and that made a lot of the Telegram subscribers angry; they quit the Telegram and started taking the Vindicator.

The retail stores and the wholesale section were all down in the business district. There was no such

thing as the outskirts at that time, or suburbia. The streetcars would bring everybody downtown. All the theaters were there and Saturday night was just a beehive of activity. The grocery stores and butcher shops were open until 10:00 at night. In the 1920's people had to do their shopping for meat at the last minute because they didn't have refrigeration like they have today.

There was so much pedestrian traffic downtown that Dr. Joseph Wheeler, who was the head of the public library, got the idea to put a branch library down on the Central Square. This made a hit with the people.

All the lodges and clubs were downtown. The Masonic Lodge is still on Wick Avenue. The Moose Lodge was on West Boardman Street; that drew people down there. Elks at Wood and Wick.

The doctors, dentists, and lawyers were all downtown. A good many of the churches were on Wood Street and in the downtown section. The First Baptist Church was right next to the Mahoning Bank Building and before that the opera house was there. The Tod House was across the street and the Hotel Ohio was at Boardman and Hazel. The Westminster Presbyterian Church was at Market and Front Streets. The other churches were on Wood Street. When the railroad crossing was eliminated the First Christian Church moved to Wick and Spring Street. The Lutheran Church was at Wood and Champion. It is at Hudson and Clearmont now. St. Cyril & Methodius is still there. St. Columba's is still there. The First Presbyterian Church wasn't affected. The Tabernacle United Presbyterian was on East Wood Street. Now, it is located at 2432 S. Racoon Rd.

In the meantime there has been a shift in population. These people with the automobiles had changed everything. People could go out farther. Since they built these arterial highways around the city that uprooted a lot of people and sent them out farther. It seems as though all the activity now is in Boardman, Austintown, Canfield, and Poland. There has been a big shift in the population and that changed the downtown section.

We all know the banks were downtown. They didn't have any branch banks. Parking wasn't a problem then because there were all pedestrians then; there were few motorists. One thing about the wealthy people then, most of them all had chauffers for one reason, the women couldn't drive. That was a status symbol to have a chauffeur too. The women couldn't drive because at that time you had to crank the cars. Driving a car then was a man's job. Once

Kettering invented the self-starter then women were able to drive and chauffers became a thing of the past.

V: It's 1926 and you are standing on West Federal Street looking west towards Spring Common. Can you tell me what you see?

M: The first thing you would see would be the Home Savings & Loan Clock. Then you had the two big department stores. In 1926 Strouss opened their new store. They had a smaller store and they opened a big department store in November of 1926.

V: Where were they located before?

M: They were located where Lerner's is now, between the Paramount Theater and First Federal. Down there you had all kinds of small restaurants and confectioneries. There was also a dance hall at Commerce and Wick, Statler's Dance Hall. For transportation the people went down there in the streetcars. Then they started buying automobiles and there was no place to park.

V: Was Statler's on the first floor?

M: No, it was on the second floor. There was a confectionery on the first floor. Incidentally, the man who ran the confectionery was Nick Catsoules; his son is now superintendent of Youngstown Public Schools. That store was open 365 days a year. He made his own chocolates.

V: Which side of Wick were they located on?

M: They were on the northeast corner of Commerce Street. That was a big building. Later on it was a bowling alley. There was also a billiard parlor there and Youngstown News Agency at the east end. There was no liqueur at this time because it was prohibition so the confectionery would serve sodas and sundaes and anything of that nature. Then there was another chocolate manufacturer there; it was Friedman's. It was a smaller store, but he made his own chocolate. The name was Friedman's Extraordinary. He had one of those swank ice cream parlors. Burt's had another one of North Phelps Street. He originated Burt's Good Humor Sucker. It was ice cream on a stick that cost ten cents. Ten cents was a lot of money then. You figured the workers were making forty-four cents an hour in the mills and there were no fringe benefits, so ten cents, you would have to work almost fifteen minutes to get this. Later on he sold it to a man down east and the Good Humor Sucker was known all over the United States. It originated right here in Youngstown on North Phelps Street.

V: Where on North Phelps was he located?

M: It was just a few feet from Federal Street going north.

V: Which side of Phelps?

M: I'm not sure.

V: Didn't they move?

M: Burt's moved up to West federal on the 300 block. I noticed the other day his name is still on top of the building. The people didn't follow him up there, although he had the best ice cream and sundaes. Those were three very long blocks up there, and the people just didn't follow him.

V: Did you often go to Burt's?

M: No, the prices were too high.

V: Did you ever go into any confectionery stores?

M: Yes, I've been in a lot of them.

Another thing was that the Liberty Theater made their own taffy. The kids would walk downtown and save a dime so they could buy taffy for a dime. They would get a pretty good size bag for ten cents.

V: Where was the Liberty Theater located?

M: Right where the Paramount is now.

V: Do you know when they built that?

M: I think it was 1916.

V: Were you ever in the Liberty Theater?

M: I was in there many times. Before talking pictures most of the theaters, the big ones, had orchestras. Other theaters had organs. The cheaper ones had someone playing the piano. For a long time the Liberty Theater had Ted Hall Orchestra. When Warners came in with talking pictures in 1927 that is what changed everything. A lot of these musicians started to raise thunder. They would say don't listen to canned music and to demand live music. People today don't have the entertainment they had in those days. Those stage shows and live acting, you couldn't beat it. The Hippodrome had stage shows as did the State Theater and the Park Theater. When the Hippodrome closed the Keith-Albee circuit went to the Palace Theater.

They had two changes every week. I think they made a tour around the country every two years. Ted Lewis used to come here with his band. He had more followers here in this section than he had in any part of the country. He would be on the stage and then they would have a picture show, a newsreel, and then the comedies. People really had better entertainment than now.

V: How much did it cost to go to the show?

M: At that time for an adult it cost seventy-five cents to go to the theater. As I said before the workers were making forty-four cents an hour. Seventy-five cents was really high then. Being we were kids we would get in for a quarter. We were selling newspapers and magazines and we always had money. Every Sunday I went to the Palace Theater.

V: What was it like inside the Palace?

M: First I want to tell you that it was a crime when they tore that building down. There was all marble in there and it was built in 1925. Developers came along and tore it down. The university could have used that for an auditorium. They had a stage and dressing rooms. That same group almost had the Warner Theater torn down, but what happened was Edward Powers stepped in and bought it. He gave it to the symphony society.

V: What did some of the other theaters look like? You said you went to the Liberty. What was it like inside the Liberty?

M: The Liberty had motion pictures; there was no stage. The State Theater, that is still standing, that was built in 1927. When it opened up they had stage shows and motion pictures. Later on they just ran second run pictures.

Originally, the Warner Brothers lived in Youngstown at 309 Walnut Street. They were motion picture producers with talking pictures and that made them big time producers. In 1927 the Warners built four huge theaters in New York, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, and Youngstown. The reason they built the one here in Youngstown was to honor their hometown.

There was a theater on East Federal Street called the Capital Theater. It was at Federal and Champion. The competition fixed it so he couldn't get any pictures, so he didn't last very long.

V: When did they build the Capital?

M: It was built around 1917 or 1918; I just barely remember that. It didn't last long. It was where the old YMCA used to be. There was a theater on Market Street, the Rilato. Most of the people went downtown to the theater.

V: Do you remember any of the early pictures that you saw?

M: Yes, I remember "The Virginian". I saw that in silent picture. That was a very good one. Then Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald used to make pictures; they were singing. The talking pictures, that is when the singers came in. They would play before packed houses all the time. Al Jolson was "The Jazz Singer". That came to the Dome Theater.

V: Where was the Dome located?

M: The Dome right now is where King's Jewelry Store is on West Federal Street. It wasn't a very big theater. Before the theaters they had what they called nickelodeon. You would pay a nickel and be in there for only fifteen or twenty minutes. Then they had the full-length pictures and they could charge more for those.

McKelvey's was the biggest department store in Youngstown. They had a meat department, grocery department. Later on they eliminated those departments. There were any number of meat markets and grocery stores on Federal Street. There were clothing stores from Basin Street to Chestnut.

V: The two largest department stores were Strouss and McKelvey's. You said McKelvey's handled clothing and groceries. What did Strouss handle?

M: Just dry goods. McKelvey's used to have a fleet of trucks. They would make two deliveries a day. They would even deliver bread. They would deliver all over the city. What changed things is when the A&P stores came in with lower prices. People started going there and paying cash. At McKelvey's you could charge. A&P's came in in 1923. They were underselling because it was cash and carry. Naturally they were underselling these corner grocery stores which were giving credit.

V: Were there any other stores of the type that McKelvey's had in Youngstown where they handled both dry goods and groceries?

M: Yes, there was a Central Store on East Federal Street, Federal and Champion.

V: How long were they in operation?

- M: They went out of business around 1960. What hurt the stores on East Federal Street was the parking. As I said before the people were moving out to the suburbs too.
- V: How did people deal with parking throughout the 1920's?
- M: They didn't have any cars. There was a problem of the workers parking down there and taking up the spaces, but it wasn't as bad as it is now. Most of the people went shopping on the bus or streetcar. People have left for the suburbs. You can tell by the number of schools that have been closed in the central business district. There would be Front and Phelps Street School; they closed that and turned it into business.
- V: If you were standing on East Federal Street and looking toward the Himrod-Cedar Street Bridge what would you see there?
- M: Today I wouldn't recognize anything. You would think you were in another city. They have the post office down there now. There used to be a number of restaurants of different nationalities. Christ Mission was on 330 East Boardman Street. That was established many years ago. Now it is on Belmont and Gypsy Lane in Trumbull County. In 1905 Christ Mission was located at 360½ East Federal Street. Also, the Baldwin Free Kindergarten was at Front and Champion Street.

These social service agencies taught English to European immigrants and their children. They would teach the foreigners English. If a woman was widowed she would bring her kids there; that was probably the first daycare center in Youngstown. If a person that left Youngstown forty years ago came down there he wouldn't know where he was at.

- V: It was a lot more closed in down there too wasn't it?
- M: Very much so. Also there were the wholesale houses. Stambaugh Thompson had a wholesale warehouse on E. Commerce Street. They sold hardware to the mills.

Incidentally, there was a hotel on North Phelps Street, Salow's Hotel. It was a small hotel but it was known from coast to coast by traveling slaesmen. They said the food was excellent. The men would get off of the Erie train and walk from Commerce Street a few feet to Salow's Hotel. Now that there are no railroads everything has gone out to the turnpikes. The Ramada is out near the airport. It shows you how things have changed. The old Tod House had great guests like Edwin Booth, the actor, stay there.

Susan B. Anthony spoke at the opera house at one time. The stage show "Uncle Tom's Cabin" played there. I remember going to Ole's Market too when I was a kid. George Oles owned that. He did his own advertising.

Most of the undertakers were in the business district too. The dead were waked in their homes at that time. Now people die in the hospital and are waked in the funeral homes. Most of the undertakers were all in the central business district too. Fred King & Sons was on Rayen Avenue and Vaschak was on East Boardman Street. Of course the doctors have all moved out of the downtown section.

V: What did people do for recreation in the 1920's in Youngstown?

M: They would go to the baseball games. We had the semi-pros here and there was a great deal of interest in that. Evans Field was always filled to capacity and the same way with the football. They also had baseball games at Idora Park. There was Victory Field and Shady Run Field. Soccer was a popular sport then too. They played that at a place called Kimmel Brook; that was on Albert Street. The various nationalities had soccer teams and teams came in from Cleveland. Every Sunday afternoon they would play there. There were a lot of good players from Europe. Later on they named a housing project after the playground. Idora Park was an amusement park. People would go out there on the streetcar or bus. For each nationality a day was set aside. There would be Masonic picnics, Italian day and Irish day, and people would come in from all over this section of the U.S. Various counsels would come in from Cleveland and talk in the various languages. During the week there was what they called Kiddie's Day; all the rides were three cents. The lines would be very long. Ordinarily the rides were fifteen cents. There was the grocers and butchers picnic out there. They would give out hot dogs, coffee, milk. The people seemed to be more neighborly and friendly; that was because there were no automobiles. Now we live in what we call a mobile society.

The YMCA used to be the center of activity for recreation. That was quite a thing to go down there and swim on Saturday. A lot of times I would go down there after school. You were allowed in for a half hour and then you had to get out and make room for somebody else. The YMCA had a large membership then.

The schools in those days placed more emphasis on education. It was the parents who were pushing for good grades in the schools. Athletics wasn't promoted like it is today.

V: Did they have any other outlets for students at that time, any other extracurricular activities? I know we mentioned football and basketball, what about the students who didn't want to do any of that?

M: They all had to take gym in high school, all of the Rayen students. That was a requirement and you could only get out of it if you had a physical disability or handicap. Gym was compulsory, but it was never popular.

V: What about those that weren't athletic minded in school?

M: They just devoted more time to the books. The only time a boy or girl were allowed out was on a Friday or Saturday night. We had a curfew here in Youngstown at 9:00. At the water department the curfew would blow at 9:00 p.m. All children under sixteen had to be home. This was in the 1920's. Later on they had a city ordinance and changed it to 11:00.

V: Did they have dances or plays at school?

M: Yes, Rayen School had different clubs which would promote dances. As far as the dances were concerned in the 1920's, there was the Septimo Club and the Sigma Club that used to sponsor dances at Stambaugh Auditorium. They would bring name bands here; Jan Garber, Guy Lombardo. This was a very good town for dance bands. In the summer time they were out at Idora Park. Enoch Light graduated from South High and he had a band; he was nationally known and they brought him to Idora Park. Guy Lombardo played there. This was a good town as far as dancing was concerned. Tommy Dorsey came here and Glenn Miller.

V: Where could one go if they wanted to dance?

M: Idora Park was the best place. There was Statler's Dance Hall downtown. Bott's Dancing Hall was on Elm Street; that is where our campus is now. Later on it was called the Nu Elms Ballroom. The big problem there was parking, just like it is now. Idora Park was the most popular dance hall. The Stambaugh Auditorium was another popular place for dancing.

During the 1920's they had a man at Idora Park who was there all the time. Ace Brigode and His Virginians. They had dances there every night. A lot of the times they would have free dances in the afternoon. When some club wanted to rent the dance hall that is when they had the big name bands come in. Idora Park sponsored dances between Decoration Day and Labor Day. Idora Park was one of the finest amusement parks in this section of the country. Another thing that helped out was right

- below it you had Mill Creek Park. You could go from one extreme to the other; you had a natural park and then an amusement park above it.
- V: What was it like inside the Idora ballroom?
- M: It was a very nice place. They used to have good crowds there. They had a rule that you couldn't go in there unless you had a coat and tie on. They didn't go for any of that rowdiness. Manager Rex Billings made that rule. Later on he went to one of the parks at Coney Island, so he was a very famous park director.
- V: What could one do at Idora Park? If you were standing inside of Idora Park and looking around what could you see?
- M: If you entered it they had a swimming pool out there. They also had the funhouse and a straw hat theater. They had Lillian Desmond. They had plays all summer long. Her husband was the manger and she was the leading actress. They always had good crowds. There was also a cafeteria there. They had a shooting gallery then and the two roller coasters named the Firefly and the Wildcat. They had picnic tables. Idora Park was the center of attraction. They had a pony track too.
- V: They also served alcohol didn't they?
- M: Yes, after 1933. They had the Heidelberg Gardens. During prohibition they didn't serve any, from 1920 to 1933. As you know this country was dry. They also had hot dog stands. You could get a big schooner of Hire's Rootbeer; I remember that very distinctly. There were thousands of people at Idora. On Sundays and a fine day there would be about 20,000 people on the midway. They would have baseball games there too. Homestead Grays used to play there. Philadelphia Athletics played there; they played exhibition games. There just seemed to be something for everybody.
- V: So that was the big drawing place for Youngstown?
- M: Yes, in the summer time. They had streetcars going out there. What changed it is that people can now go to Waterford Race Track and Sea World or Cedar Point.
- V: Did you ever play the penny arcades where you put your money in and get your picture out of famous actors and actresses and baseball players?
- M: Yes. I would also go out there and get my name printed on a little round disc.

- V: You mentioned everybody taking the streetcar. How did one catch the streetcar? Was there a central place to go to get it?
- M: The streetcar started in the Central Square and all the streetcars went right downtown. There was the Elm Street car, the East Youngstown or Campbell car, and all those other streetcars. You could transfer then to the Idora Park car.
- V: What did they look like? Did they look like those streetcars that you see in San Francisco?
- M: No, they were really long ones. There were so many people who rode the streetcar you would have to stand if you didn't get it first.
- V: Which side of the square did you get on to the streetcar, pay for your ticket?
- M: They would come in and stop, change the line, and then the people would get on.
- V: Was there a little place for them to get their tickets?
- M: Yes, they had ticket booths. The library was on the north side of the Central Square.
- V: Were the booths on either side of Federal Street?
- M: There were two of them. They were on opposite ends. The Elm Streetcar would come down Wick and then the trolley would be changed and it would go out the other way.
- V: How much did it cost to ride the streetcar?
- M: The fare varied. At one time it was eight cents, and a penny for a transfer. Then they raised the fare to a dime. Then you could buy a weekly pass at one time for a dollar and a half and ride anywhere you wanted. During the 1920's the fare was eight cents though.
- V: You didn't always have to use money did you?
- M: You could use the pass. In those days the men went down to Sheet & Tube and they always took the East Youngstown streetcar. There was also the Albert streetcar. Around 1923 or 1924 they couldn't lay anymore tracks so they ran buses to places where there were no tracks. Eventually they took up the streetcars later on. During the 1920's the streetcar

was the main source of transportation. Incidentally, the public schools were built where there were streetcar lines so the teachers could get to school. McKinley School is only a block away from the Elm streetcar line. The Elm Street School and Market Street School were right on the line. Dr. Chaney was a very popular superintendent of the schools.

V: What was N. H. Chaney like?

M: They say he was one of the most respected superintendents we ever had. That is why they named Chaney High School after him.

V: When did they build Chaney?

M: In 1926.

V: They melted a lot of scrap for the war, didn't they?

M: Yes. There were a lot of these abandoned streetcar lines out throughout the country and they took them up too. I noticed out on Logan Avenue you could see the streetcar track where the old Elm line ran.

V: Was the old fountain still in existence in the 1920's on Central Square?

M: Yes, I remember that.

Another thing we had in the 1920's were the watering troughs on Wick Avenue for the horses. When everybody got automobiles then they didn't need the watering troughs. The watering troughs were on the devilstrips.

V: If you were walking northward from Commerce Street up Wick Avenue, up to Madison Avenue and looking on both sides, what would you see in the time of the 1920's? What building would be there?

M: You would walk up Wick Avenue hill before the grade cross elimination and you would find there were stores on one side of the street, on the west side. There was a streetcar line and there would be stores there and the Elks Club at Wick and Wood. Across the street is where the old Mahoning County Courthouse used to be. The new one was built in 1910. I don't remember that. As you went up Wick Avenue there were homes in the 200 block and they were torn down for restaurants and business places. As you went up to where the public library is right now in the 300 block of Wick and Rayen, that was the old W. Scott Bonnell estate. In 1908 the library bought that home and tore it down and built the

library. Next to it was another Bonnell home. Incidentally, that is where Youngstown College moved when they moved from West Federal Street to Wick Avenue. There were huge homes. Right where Jones Hall is now John C. Wick lived. Next to him was one of the biggest mansions on Wick Avenue. Where the Maag Library is now, that was where Henry Kirkland Wick lived. Before the Butler Art Gallery Caleb Wick lived there. Across the street lived Joseph Butler Jr. Where the First Christian Church is now Warner Arms resided. Before they tore that down it was used as an annex for paintings of the Butler Art Gallery. The Booth home is still standing; it is alumni center now. The Thomas home was torn down. The Arms home is now the Arms Museum and the other home is now the Romanian Church. The George Wick home is still standing, but it has been converted into apartments. One of the famous homes on Wick Avenue is where the Ursuline High School is now. That was Chauncy Andrews' old mansion. He was a coal operator and Youngstown's first millionaire. The Ursuline nuns bought his home, a big, stone mansion. They tore that down to build Ursuline High School. North of him lived Perry Owen; he married Emily Bonnell. The wealthy people didn't live beyond Madison Avenue. They owned the banks, mines, mills, foundries, factories, and most of the land. That has all changed now.

V: What happened to the old Mahoning courthouse after they moved into the new one?

M: For a while it was used as a school. While they were building the new Wood Street School the kids were going there.

V: When did they tear that down?

M: I don't know when they tore it down. It would have to be after 1910.

V: I can't place where the Wood Street School was.

M: It was right where the Choffin School is now at Walnut and Wood Street. In those days there was a solid mass of humanity living down there. Everybody wanted to live close to the downtown section.

The tracks cut into the hills. There was a grade there, a hill from Commerce Street to Wood Street. When the trains came through the watchman would lower the gates and that would hold up traffic. It would hold up the streetcars and hold up the police patrol and everything else. That is why the people voted . . . it was no

federal money; it was strictly taxpayer's money--I think two million dollars--to eliminate the grade crossing. The railroad had to cut in there and they bought a lot of the churches. Later on they built that bridge over the tracks.

V: Now they are going to tear that all out and refill it.

M: There it is.

V: It is the same way with Federal Plaza, so I guess things come around in a circle.

M: What do they say--the more things change the more they stay the same.

V: Was there much of an ethnic community on the north side in the 1920's?

M: In the 1920's, no. It was mostly the old line Americans, but there was a very large Jewish population up there. They had the Rodef Sholom Temple at Elm and Woodbine; it was built in 1914. Previously they were located at Lincoln and Holmes Street, or Fifth Avenue now.

V: Was the Jewish community on the north side dispersed or was it in one area?

M: It was all over the north side. Most of the Jewish people lived in the Arlington area. They were the professional people. The Hirshberg family lived at 204 Lincoln Avenue. Most of the Jewish people were concentrated between Elm Street and Fifth Avenue, that is the professional ones. The poorer ones lived on East Front Street and East Boardman Street. As they got money they moved up to the north side. The Jewish people always wanted to get into the best neighborhoods. Later on the Jewish people built another temple, the Anshe Emeth, at Elm street and Park Avenue. The way you can find out where various nationalities lived in those days is just to find out where their churches were. St. John's Greek Orthodox Church was on Woodland Avenue. Most of the Greek people lived on the lower south side. In those days the synagogues and churches had to be within walking distances. A lot of the Jewish people lived on the lower east side too. They had a synagogue there. The Children of Israel was on Summit Avenue. A good many Jewish people lived on Summit Avenue and East Wood Street. As they became more affluent they moved to the upper north side. Another reason why they wanted to move to the north side was because of Rayen School; they wanted

- their children to go to Rayen School.
- V: Where was the rest of the ethnic community located?
- M: The Italians were on the east side and in Brier Hill. The Slovak people were in Lansingville, and a lot of them resided in Smoky Hollow. St. Cyril & Methodius Church is at Wood and Watt Street. They were concentrated there. At the turn of the century a lot of them were living on East Boardman Street and East Front Street. That was within walking distance of St. Cyril & Methodius Church. The Croations built a church on Covington Street and a lot of them were living over in that area.
- V: Were there still a lot of residences on East Federal Street and off of there?
- M: The only resident I remember that was living on East Federal Street was Lucy Buechner. The Buechner home was at Federal and Champion. She was the one who left money for Buechner Hall which is used by many of the young women on our campus. It was an old home. It was torn down around 1923. At that time I would say that house was at least eighty years old. It was an old house and I remember the gaslights in there. There were stores all around her and there was a wooden fence around the house. Back in history, Federal Street was a residential street. In fact, one of the Wicks lived where the Paramount Theater is now. Front Street was a residential street as was West Boardman; that is where the affluent people lived. On East Front Street and East Boardman lived the working people. Front Street School was at Front and Phelps Street. I don't know when they tore that down. As Youngstown grew those people moved to the upper north side and they started tearing the schools down. There was a family of coal operators and when Front Street was the most affluent street in the city they lived there. The family's name is J. Craig Smith. When the campus area opened up, Bryson Street, they went and moved to a home in 1890 where Kilcawley Hall is now. In 1914 the family moved to Norwood Avenue when that street opened. Later on one of the daughters moved to Gypsy Lane when that was the leading street. Another daughter moved on Fifth Avenue when that was the grand boulevard. They made their money in coal and they owned stock in Mahoning Bank.
- V: Who were some of the people who lived along Broadway?
- M: There was Fred Tod. They were descendents of Governor David Tod and George Tod, one of the early settlers here. George Tod graduated from Yale College and settle here in 1800. He was a city clerk here and he was Justice of

the Supreme Court of Ohio. Later on he was a prosecuting attorney in Trumbull County before Mahoning County was formed. His son, David Tod, became interested in politics. President Polk appointed him as a minister to Brazil for four years. Then he came back and ran for governor. He was defeated and finally in 1861 ran for governor on the Union ticket. He served one term. Tod Hall on the Youngstown State University campus was named after John Tod, grandson of governor David Tod. Before David Tod was governor, he was an industrialist; he operated coal mines here and he was instrumental in getting the Pennsylvania-Ohio canal here. This area was landlocked. Youngstown had the best coal in the United States, but they couldn't sell it because we were landlocked. The money that the people made in coal they invested in iron mills, foundries and factories; that is why Youngstown became an iron and steel center.

Next to the Tods lived the Crandall family. Another family was the Henry Heedy family; they owned ironworks. The Owsley family were architects; the father and son designed the new courthouse. That is on the national historic register. They designed Harding School and the new Rayen School. John F. Squire lived at Broadway and Fifth. George Renner lived on Park Avenue. He owned the biggest brewery in Youngstown; his home is in the historic register today. All the people along there were wealthy families; that is the reason they built those big homes. They made their money from mining and the mills. Asael Adams had a home where Park V is now; he had a big, stone mansion. He was president of the Dollar Bank and also vice-president of the First National Bank. Rollin Steese had a home on the site of the north side library. He was secretary and treasurer of the Brier Hill Iron and Coal Company in 1889. Wicks deeded forty acres to the city to be used as a park and for park purposes only.

V: When you started your paper route I'm sure you put money in the bank, didn't you?

M: No.

V: Which bank did you start banking at?

M: Dollar Bank.

V: What was it like inside the Dollar Bank at that time?

M: Dollar Bank was renovated about fifteen years ago. They had the regular cages there and it was marble. That was

typical of all banks then. It had very high ceilings. The floor was marble.

The working man then only went to the bank to pay mortgages or something like that. The working people never had checking accounts. Now we all have checking accounts; that is something new, for working people to have checking accounts.

Dollar Bank had a branch down on East Federal Street. In those days they built them just like mausoleums. They had marble and stone and pillars in front of them. They had banks like that all over the country. When the banks closed they couldn't rent them for anything else because it looked like you were walking into a mausoleum.

V: Where did most working people go to do their banking?

M: The biggest working man's bank in Youngstown was the City Trust & Savings Bank; that is in the Wick building at Federal and Phelps. During the Depression they closed, but then later they merged with the Dollar Bank. Hugh Grant was the president of City Trust & Savings for years.

V: What other banks were there?

M: There was the Commercial National Bank. During the Depression they merged with the First National and called it the Union Bank. Where the Metropolitan Bank is now there was the Central Savings & Loan Company; that had financial trouble and they had to close. The Mahoning National Bank was organized in 1868 and it was the only bank in Youngstown that did not close during the Depression. They had conservative management. Now they advertise they are one of the only locally owned banks. The others are hooked up with conglomerates. Various nationalities started banks, but they didn't pan out very well.

V: What about the Morris Plan Bank?

M: That was on the Central Square. I knew the son of the president of it. It is the Society Savings Bank now. It handled mostly small loans, like automobiles at that time. It developed into a big bank. Mr. William Jenkins was the president of that.

In the 1920's it seemed like we had longer winters and the kids could go sleigh riding because there weren't too many automobiles. The city used to block off streets for sled riding and the motorists would stay off those streets. The most popular streets on the north

side for sled riding were Bissell Avenue, Benita Avenue, Elm Street to Logan with only one cross street, which was Kensington. Those kids had a long way to go. They would also sled ride on Gypsy Lane; that was a long walk. It seems the winters were longer and the snow stayed on the ground longer. Every boy had a sled. Very seldom did girls sleigh ride, unless it was in their own backyard. They never went on the streets with the boys.

V: Was there anything else people did during the winter time?

M: Kids used to make toboggan sleds, bobsleds they called them. Everything was homemade. Another thing was that kids used to make their own kites and fly them. Later on they started buying them. There seemed to be more ingenuity then. One thing kids don't do now is fly kites like they used to.

V: Was there any special place you could go ice skating?

M: Yes, they used to go ice skating at Crandall Park. Girls and boys went up there. Years ago Lake Glacier was a great place.

V: In the summer could you also go swimming in Lake Glacier?

M: No, that was banned because of a health problem. The sewers were getting into that water.

V: ~~Where~~ could you go swimming if you wanted to?

M: You could go to the South Side Swimming Pool, Idora Swimming Pool, and then they had the Lincoln Swimming Pool. Later on the WPA built the north side swimming pool at Tod Lane and Belmont. I think it was in 1938.

V: Could you still go swimming down at Lanterman Falls?

M: I doubt it very much because of the rocks. It was unsafe. I know I went swimming in Lake Glacier in 1923, but swimming was stopped. They said sewage was seeping in there.

V: Didn't they run a sewer line under Lake Glacier there?

M: I don't know, but they stopped them from swimming there. Boating was okay. Couples could rent canoes.

V: Was the icehouse still in operation at that time?

M: Oh no. They would cut ice out there and the kids would

raise Cain because they wouldn't be able to ice skate. The ice was contaminated. They would use the ice to make lemonade. Some people felt the germs would freeze and be killed after it was frozen, but that wasn't the case. That was a problem long before my time; people were getting typhoid from the water. The ice company's name was Crystal Ice Company. That was a big thing, having your ice made by pure water so you wouldn't get typhoid fever or any other disease on account of it. At Crab Creek years ago they cut ice and put it in the icehouse. They would store it with sawdust. In the summer time they would sell it.

V: How did most people get their drinking water at that time?

M: Before Meander Reservoir you couldn't drink the water you got out of the tap. It was unfit for drinking or cooking. All the public schools had pumps or you had to go the neighbors who had pumps. Up until 1928 everybody had a pail for water. I remember going over to the schoolhouse many times and pumping the water.

V: Did some places have their own wells?

M: Yes. The people that were more affluent, the ones who could afford it, they used to buy their water from the Wheeler Mineral Springs and also from the Gibson Springs. Wheeler is still in business on South Worthington. They would get five gallon jugs; a man would pick up an empty one and leave a full one. That was for the people that had money. A lot of times people would give you a nickel or dime to go and get them a pail of water. It was all right to use the city water for taking a bath or for laundry, but for cooking or drinking, no.

V: Did they have a filtration system down at the waterworks?

M: Yes, but that wasn't good enough. They were not drinking city water until we got the Meander Reservoir. They were getting the water out of the Mahoning River, and they had filtration, but you couldn't drink it.

V: That and it was going through the mills to, the water?

M: Yes. You used to go to a neighbor's house and get water. Now if you do that it is trespassing. People didn't think anything of letting you go and pump their water.

V: You said people could get typhoid from drinking some of

the water and ice that had germs in it. Were there a lot more diseases back at that time than there are today?

M: Oh yes! That was when they had the more contagious diseases. I'll never forget, we had a teacher at Rayen School who said, "Now what you have in the future will be nervous diseases." He came out just about right. They solved the other problem with sanitation. Now you have the other kind coming on.

Another thing was they used to pick up the garbage and they had an open truck and would throw the garbage in. You could tell when the garbage man was three blocks away because you could smell the garbage. Now they wrap it up in paper, but they used to throw it out and leave it in cans. There would be an awful odor and it would breed the flies and you would breathe it in the air. They had newspapers and I don't know why they didn't wrap it up in the paper. Finally they started wrapping it up and now the rubbish man can go down the street and you don't smell a thing.

V: Where did they deposit the garbage?

M: They burned it down at the city incinerator at Cedar Street. They had open wagons and they would throw the garbage in there. The odor was terrible. Finally the city council passed a law ordering covers on the trucks.

V: What if there was a death in the family?

M: They were waked from their own homes. A lot of times people stayed up all night with the body and neighbors would send food and help with the cooking. Then the undertakers started to have funeral homes. They wanted the people to come into the funeral home because it was better for everyone. Talk was going around that the undertaker would stand at the door and he would make friends with people, thanking them for coming in. I heard any number of fellows say the undertakers like when you are waked at their funeral home because they get to meet more people. I know a woman whose husband died in 1932. He was waked at a funeral home, but she said the people wouldn't go to a funeral home; they were so used to going to the residence. Now it has changed. If a person dies now he or she is never waked from their home.

Hospitals didn't start until 1880 in Youngstown. Youngstown Hospital Association started with the South Side Hospital. When a person went to the hospital years ago people thought they better go up and see them because they were ready to

die. That was when we had curative medicine. Now we have preventive medicine. A person goes to a hospital now for a checkup. The thinking of the people has changed. A person can be in the hospital and friends don't get excited about it. There was no hospitalization then. They started that in the late 1930's. If a person was sick they stayed at home and neighbors would come in and visit. That has all changed now.

V: What if somebody really had a contagious disease?

M: It used to be if you had measles a man from the Board of Health would visit the home. They would put a sign on your house--scarlet fever or whatever disease it was. It was a red sign with black letters that told people to stay out.

V: Was the whole house quarantined?

M: Yes! Nobody was allowed out. The kids had to stay in the house, but the father would be allowed to go to work. The purpose of the quarantine was that nobody would visit. I barely remember the diptheria signs; they were yellow paper with black letters.

V: How did people get food and so forth inside?

M: It was delivered.

V: Did neighbors help out?

M: The stores all had delivery trucks. They would leave it on the back porch and the mother would pick it up.

V: Was there only one hospital in Youngstown at that time?

M: St. Elizabeth Hospital was built in 1910.

V: When did they build the North Side Hospital?

M: In 1928. Most of the Catholics went to St. Elizabeth and the Protestants went to South Side or North Side Hospitals. Now it has all changed. I live across the street from the North Side Hospital and that hospital looks just as modern today as the day they built it.

V: What was South Side Hospital like at that time?

M: They had cottages. Hospitals then were all one floor plan. They were like cottages. They didn't have floors because they didn't have elevators like they have now.

- V: Were most people born at home or in the hospital?
- M: Most of the people in those days were born at home.
- V: When did that trend stop?
- M: There is no cutoff date; I think that was when they started hospitalization. A lot of people had midwives instead of doctors.
- V: So it was pretty much uncommon throughout the 1920's for people to deal with hospitals unless it was something major?
- M: Yes, some emergency or something serious. Up until the 1920's if a person was sick they were in their own homes.
- V: Let's go back to the downtown now. We've talked about the two major department stores, Strouss and McKelvey's. Did most everybody go there to buy suits of clothing and stuff?
- M: No, there were other stores. There were clothing stores on East Federal Street and all kinds of clothing stores on West Federal Street.
- V: What were some of the most popular clothing stores at that time?
- M: There was Hartzell's. Guttridge and Rand was a tailoring outfit. There was the dry goods store of Colleran-Kane. Years ago you had Goldsteins on East Federal Street, the Bun Clothing Company, the Reliable Clothing Company, and Rose & Sons, and Jeckell Brothers on West Federal Street. There were also the Stoll Brothers. Mike Maloney had a tailoring shop. The men spent a bigger percentage of their income on clothes then than today. Another thing was that there were tailoring shops all over Youngstown that would make a suit for a man. Now that is a thing of the past. There were curtain shops and stores selling paint and wallpaper. There were stores that just sold men's hats and they made a living on that. I was trying to buy a hat the other day and you can't even find one; they don't carry them because nobody wears hats anymore. There has been a great change in men's apparel because they are not spending the money on clothes like they used to. Chain stores came in like Richman Brothers. The Bond Clothing Company was a chain; that was down on the Central Square. Powers & Flaughter were on Central Square; that was a very big clothing store. The Cosel Brothers had a clothing store.

It was the same way with the furniture stores; there were a large number of furniture stores on West Federal and East Federal Streets.

V: What about restaurants?

M: There were restaurants downtown, but one thing about the restaurants, they didn't do the business then that they are doing today. There was no such thing as people eating out; in those days people ate at home.

V: What were some of the restaurants and eating places?

M: The most popular one on West Federal Street was Clark's Restaurant; that was a chain from Cleveland. The life span of a restaurant isn't too long. Clark's was one of the most popular restaurants on West Federal Street. McKelvey's had a grille. Strouss had a grille.

V: Was the Star Oyster House in operation at that time?

M: That came later on. It was on West Boardman Street. Harry Magullas owned it. That was another popular restaurant in Youngstown. Salow's Hotel was another popular restaurant in Youngstown that was very popular. The Star Oyster House, when they were in business, that is when a lot of people started eating out. People eat their breakfast in restaurants now and lunch and dinner. Pretty soon they won't be putting kitchens in the home because so many people eat out anymore.

V: Was there a restaurant in the Tod House?

M: Yes, that was a regular hotel restaurant. The restaurants years ago in the first part of the century all had butchers. Now a lot of these restaurants, the fast food places, get their food already cut up for them. They are frozen and they just throw it in the grill. The restaurant business has made a 180° change.

V: Were any one of those places a popular meeting place for businessmen that worked down in Central Square?

M: Most people ate in their homes. The wives would get up and get them their breakfast. The home was where people did most of their eating. Eating out--that phrase wasn't even in the vocabulary. The boarders would eat in the boarding houses. Now the people living in rooms have to eat in restaurants; there is no place else for them to eat.

V: Were there any boarding houses close to the center of the town?

M: In fact there was one in our neighborhood. Most of the men who worked at Truscon roomed in the neighborhood. They would go to Mrs. Nickman's for breakfast in the morning and then they would be back there at five o'clock in the afternoon. She was cooking all the time. She charged 50¢ for dinner. These were all young, college graduates in the 1920's from Georgia Tech, Carnegie Tech, Pitt, and other colleges. They didn't have autos and they would walk from Kensington Avenue all the way out to Truscon. There were six, seven, or eight of them marching like soldiers. On Sundays they had their breakfast in the morning and then about 1:00 she served the Sunday dinner.

There was a hotel, Nunnally, at 1361 Albert Street. I was in there several times. That was a hotel for workers and they used to serve meals. They had long tables there. They had home cooking. Of course, all nationalities had their own rooming houses and boarding houses. The homes aren't like they used to be; the homes in those days were the center of all activity. You would never see a kid going into a restaurant like now. Today, you can ask a five year old kid to name three restaurants and he will name them. Years ago if you asked a kid to name a restaurant, he didn't know what you were talking about.

V: What was it like in 1929, the year that the Great Depression hit?

M: I was working in a drugstore at the time and a lot of those customers were buying stocks. In those days you could buy stock for ten cents on the dollar. Since then the Federal Reserve has changed that. You have to put sixty, seventy, or eighty percent down now. There were people buying stocks that shouldn't have been buying stocks and they went into debt. The two newspapers at the time, the Vindicator and the Telegram, had the home edition and a stock edition. What I call ten cent millionaires would want the stock edition. A lot of those people couldn't even afford to pay for the paper, and still they were interested in stocks. The stock edition was delivered about 5:30 or 6:00. The newsboys had to make two deliveries just to please those people. There was one stock that was selling at \$60 a share and a fellow said to hold on to it. He said he came from New York and heard it was going to \$100. The next day the stock dropped down to \$4 a share. It really hurt the north side people because a lot of people up there had invested in stocks. They lost money.

I'll never forget one time when the Depression was on after about a year, one of the comedians at the Palace

Theater said it was harder to make people laugh now than it was when they had money in their pockets. It really hurt the middle class and the upper-middle class more so than it did the working people because the working people always were used to having their nose to the grindstone. Women had to scrub the floor and do their housework, whereas a lot of these women that had maids doing that work, then they had to lay off the maids and start doing that work themselves. That was new to them. The wives of the working men, they were so used to scrubbing, working, canning, and doing their own laundry. They just took it in stride.

V: What drugstore were you working at at that time?

M: Goodman's Drugstore.

V: Where were they located?

M: At 1361 Elm. That was a corner drugstore. That is another thing that went out. They were actually meeting places for a lot of people. The rich and the poor would go there. Incidentally, it was open every day in the year. Now the drugstores close at 6:00 and open for a few hours on Sunday. There has been a great change in that too.

V: What was it like in Youngstown in 1929?

M: Up until the stock market crash it was booming. The Vindicator came out one time saying there were 85 millionaires in Youngstown; that was before the crash. How many were here after the crash I don't know. Things were booming; people were building new homes, and taking mortgages. While I was working at the drugstore everybody seemed to be playing the stock market. The stocks crashed in October of 1929 and the Depression was on its way. A good many people were trying to convince themselves that it was just a temporary affair. They didn't think it was going to last as long as it did. Then the mills started cutting back. Sheet & Tube was paying its workers fifty cents an hour and all the work in the mills were an eight hour day. They cut their wages to forty cents an hour and had them work ten hours a day. They were still making \$4, but then in the long run they lost out on that because their time was cut. As the mills started going down the prices of food dropped. We didn't have administered prices. Radio commentators were trying to say that business was getting better and it was just a temporary affair. In 1930 Congress figured that too many foreign goods were coming in, so what they passed the Hawley-Smoot Tariff Act of 1930. They thought that would help it. Scripps-Howard, who

owned the Telegram, were opposed to that act. They ran a front page editorial urging Hoover to veto that bill. College economic professors asked the the President to veto it. What happened was that made the Depression worse. America lost a lot of its foreign trade. Later on American companies started building plants overseas to recoup their lost foreign sales. That meant less work for the American workers.

Another thing was that people started taking money out of the banks. The banks started closing in 1931. There were "runs on the bank". Finally several of the banks closed. Another thing that happened, if you had a passbook with \$3,000, some people were going around buying them. They would give you so much on the dollar. They were even running ads in the newspaper. People would naturally sell their passbooks to these so-called "brokers". That practice was all over Ohio. There was even talk of the legislature going to pass a law to regulate that business, but as far as I know there was never a law passed about that. The banks closed and they were opened again with money from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. When Roosevelt became President in March of 1933 he declared a bank holiday and closed them all for a week. Then he opened those banks with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The people seemed to have more confidence in the banks after that. It seemed as though there was a renewed confidence in everything.

The hopes of the people had risen and they figured-- things are going to get better. The people were hungry and there was no government federal welfare at the time. The Community Chest gave \$5 a week for a basket of groceries. The Red Cross distributed flour and they were also distributing clothes, corduroy pants to children of poor families. A lot of times people had their gas shut off, their electric. They would get ahold of a kerosine stove and buy kerosine for ten cents a gallon. I was working for the newspaper and when they [the people] opened the door you could tell they were burning kerosine. Often times the city would shut off the water, but then there was a law in the books where if there was sickness in the home, regardless of whether the bill was paid or not the city was not allowed to shut off the water. Some of the poorer neighborhoods where the water was shut off, they used to go and get the water out of the water hydrant. That is how bad conditions were at that time. You have two or three generations now that wouldn't believe that.

At that time during the Depression there was no organized welfare until Roosevelt came in with the WPA, which was

the Works Progress Administration. Those workers started working repairing roads and sidewalks. They all had picks and shovels. The \$15 a week then bought a great deal of merchandise. A principal in one of the schools said, "Now that children are coming to school with breakfasts it has helped them with their schoolwork." Then the mills started working and men were called back. There was a lot of government work all over the country and new bridges were built and housing developments were started. Business seemed to be getting better. WPA workers were painting schools, doing work that had been neglected for years. Women would be sewing in the schools and doing work like that.

Of all of Roosevelt's New Deal agencies I would say the most useful one at that time was the Civilian Conservation Corps. These young fellows whose families were on welfare, they sent them out to these camps in Idaho and out west. They stayed out there and would get \$30 a month, and \$25 would be sent home to the parents. They would keep \$5 for spending money. They were doing forestry work in the western part of the United States. It was operated just like the Army; it was a very efficient operation. They fed them good, gave them proper medical attention, and it was really a builder of men. That is the positive side. A lot of the boys didn't want to go because they figured Roosevelt was trying to get them in the Army. When they first went out there they had uniforms. What happened was there were so many complaints about it that they changed the uniforms from khaki to forest green. They got rid of the khaki uniforms; they wanted to get away from the militaristic idea. Newspapers like the New York Times and even the bitterest critics of the administration said the Civilian Conservation Corps . . . those young men were doing work that is paying dividends right now, helped build dams and planted a lot of trees, and did reforestation work, which was much needed.

The mills were working then and a lot of the men would quit their WPA jobs and go back to work. As I said, they had a renewed confidence in Roosevelt. People had money to go to stores and didn't have to wait for the relief orders. They had the actual cash to go in there and buy the groceries they wanted and the clothes they wanted.

By 1937 they had what was called the Public Works Administration (PWA). The government would pay two-thirds of the expenses if the people would pay one-third. That is how we got the new Rayen auditorium and the South High field house. We had bridges here

in Youngstown; the Spring Common Bridge and the Cedar Street Bridge were built as a result. The PWA was different from the WPA. The WPA the government financed one hundred percent, but the PWA was sixty-six and two-thirds percent. They wanted to find out whether the people wanted things or not; that is why they had to put up the money. They improved the schools, built bridges, and widened a lot of streets. I know Market Street was one of them, and Mahoning Avenue.

V: What was it like in Youngstown during the election of Roosevelt in 1932?

M: In 1932 Hoover came in here to campaign. The train pulled in to the Erie Station at Phelps and Commerce Streets. There were thousands of people down there to see him. Hoover carried Mahoning County in 1932. There were two newspapers in town and the Vindicator supported Roosevelt as did the Telegram. Hoover carried the county and all the Republicans in the courthouse were reelected. In other words, there were no Democrats elected at all. In 1936, four years later, Roosevelt swept the nation. He carried Mahoning County and all the Democrats on the ticket were elected with him. In those days you used to vote a straight ticket. You put an X under the rooster, which was for the Democratic ticket, and if you wanted to vote the straight Republican ticket you put an X under the eagle. Another thing that helped Roosevelt was when Congress passed the Federal Deposit Insurance Law under his leadership. That insured the people's deposits and they had more confidence in the banks.

A lot of people lost thousands of dollars in the stock market and they passed what was called the Securities and Exchange Commission Act, and companies had to put a prospectus. It was more or less truth in selling these securities. Long after the Depression people didn't play the stock market because they didn't have any money. They were interested in paying off their mortgages and back property taxes.

The AAA Farm Program didn't affect this county at all because this not a farming county. This was an industrial area.

The Berlin Reservoir was strictly a federal project.

V: Did Roosevelt ever come to Youngstown?

M: Yes. In 1940 he came here. He was running against Wendall Wilkie. Roosevelt's train pulled in at West

Avenue. They claimed there were 300,000 people all along the route from West Avenue to Mahoning Avenue, Federal Street from Spring Common all the way down to Poland Avenue, and all the way down to the Sheet & Tube. That was twice the population of Youngstown. I was down on Central Square at the time and they say there were 40,000 people on Central Square alone. He went speeding along at about sixty miles per hour.

V: Did they have any election rallies for him at the time?

M: No, he never came here for an election rally. He came down to the Sheet & Tube to inspect the defense work. They were working getting ready for the war. They were giving lend lease aid to England. The mills were working at full capacity then because of the war. They were defense orders. Some of the Republicans made fun of it; they said it was his self-defense.

V: Did he have any pockets of support here in 1932?

M: He had the old-line Democrats. Most of the nationalities from Eastern and Southern Europe at that time were voting Republican, and the colored all voted Republican. They started changing in 1934. The reason it was such a strong Republican town was because there were no unions in the mill. Most of your Republican precinct committeemen were either bosses in the mill or bankers. If you were a good Republican worker and they couldn't get you a job in the courthouse they would get you a job in the mill or in the factory. They had a powerful political machine. In addition to that all the teachers were Republicans. If you wanted a job then in the schools or anything, if you were a Republican you were all right; you were set and would get a job. I was working for the newspaper at the time and a newsboy who was twelve years old who was going to Elm Street School told me, "All those teachers are Republicans." The Board of Education was strictly Republican. Now, in 1986, it is all together different.

V: What was it like your first day on the job at the Teleram?

M: I was working and was in high school at the time. I went around trying to get new subscriptions, promotion man. When you had two newspapers in town they were highly competitive, trying to get the newsboys to give good service and one trying to outdo the competitor. It was just the same as your television stations are now. Now with only one newspaper in the town, in this town and most other towns, the newspapers have it pretty much their own way.

V: How did you go about promoting the newspaper?

M: We would deliver sample papers to the people. If they liked the paper then they would subscribe. You would go around talking to them and soliciting them, just like a salesman. You have to realize that in the 1930's people were great readers. The magazines were the Saturday Evening Post, The Literary Digest, Collier's Magazine, The Liberty. The mailmen used to deliver a good many of them through the mail, and every drugstore or confectionery store had them piled high. In addition to the local papers you had people reading the Cleveland and Pittsburgh papers, and the New York Times. The New York Times was delivered here on a Sunday. It wasn't anything, up until the Depression, for a person to buy three Sunday papers. There was the Hearst paper, the New York American; they had a lot of funnies. Naturally, people bought it for the funnies. It was fifteen cents and fifteen cents was a lot of money then. Hearst had the best comics of any publisher in the country. Then he had the American Weekly, and there was a lot of light reading but the people still liked it. Nationwide the circulation for that was five million. The Literary Digest was one of the leading news weeklies, and then you had Time. There were a number of monthly and women magazines. There was the Ladies Home Journal, The Woman's Home Companion, Good Housekeeping, and Cosmopolitan. Then you had what they called the pulp magazines; they didn't sell them through the mail, but you could buy them at the newsstands. Reading was one of the pastimes. I used to sell the Saturday Evening Post on the north side; I used to deliver about 250 to the people. It cost a nickel.

Political meetings were held in the various high schools and people knew more about what was going on then. Now people are depending too much on television and the newspapers. They don't have political rallies like they used to. There used to be one man who would speak on the Central Square; his name was Joe Gottlieb. He would talk about political issues. From the 1930's to the 1940's if he didn't like something he would be down there complaining about the city administration. He used to go to court and get injunctions. He was a public defender. He could talk for three hours at a time, from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and not look at a note. He was a student of Shakespeare, Emerson, Milton, and Tennyson. He was a self-educated person. He wasn't forced to do that; he did that on his own. He was a thorn in the side of the politicians because if they made a mistake he was always on them.

V: So Youngstown was more politically active at that time?

M: I would say yes. My opinion is that television has

changed the people; I think it has made them lazier. They just don't want to leave the house. They are glued to the television set. On Sunday afternoons they used to have football games at Evans Field and people used to walk over there to see them. It was semipro. And in the summer time they had baseball games--semipro games. Now they stay home and watch television. They watch the Cleveland Indians or the Pittsburgh Pirates on television. One of the saddest things that is missed is the neighborhood grocery stores and drugstores. We had those up until a few years ago. Now we have these big supermarkets.

V: What was the political machine in Youngstown at that time?

M: In 1931 Mark Moore ran for mayor and the Democrats backed him and he was elected. He was in for four years. You could only serve four years at that time. Lionel Evans succeeded him. He was Republican. Later on he was succeeded by William B. Spagnola. Ralph O'Neill succeeded him.

V: Who was the chairman of the party during that time?

M: The Democratic party? In the 1930's it was John Farrell. Later on Al Craver took it over. After Craver, John Vitullo took it over and then Mr. Shutrump. The Republican party at that time in the 1920's and early 1930's was Judge William Barnum, and then a man from Poland, Mr. Bishop, was elected chairman.

V: Who was John Farrell? What was he like?

M: He was originally from Philadelphia and he came in here and started a sheet metal work company near Girard. It was in Youngstown, but it was on the county line. He was the one that really engineered this county from a Republican county to a Democratic county. Of course what helped was the Depression and Franklin Roosevelt. That turned the tide here in Mahoning County.

V: Was there anything different about the downtown at that time, during the 1930's? Did people act any different because of the Depression, at least downtown?

M: Yes, the men used to go down there and meet their friends. Oles Market used to give bread away. You could buy three loaves of bread for a quarter. He stopped when he saw a woman get out of a big car and go in and wait in line for free bread. The central business district was a magnet; people went downtown for everything. The doctors were all located there. The library was going full blast then; they were opened on Sunday. The library was at Rayen and

Wick. The library's circulation went way up on account of the Depression. Also, the schools were at full capacity. Students stayed in school because they couldn't get jobs. When I graduated from Rayen in 1933 the president of the Board of Education said the mills were working at ten percent but the schools were working at one hundred percent capacity. None of the students of teachers would quit; everybody wanted to hold on to what they had.

V: Was there any special place the workers could go to join up with the WPA?

M: They were taken off of the relief rolls, that is how they hired them.

V: How did they go about the process of hiring men?

M: There were people who weren't on welfare that got on there too. Anybody who wanted to get on the WPA could get on it. Usually they hired from the relief rolls. The city engineering department hired WPA workers there. I knew one who was a graduate of Carnegie Tech. They wanted to put as many people to work as they possibly could.

The W.P.W. Writers Project indexed the Vindicator from 1933-1938 in the Public Library at Wick and Rayen.

V: Was there a lot of construction in the area?

M: Yes, it was pick and shovel work. They didn't want them to use any machinery because at that time the machinery was known to be putting men out of work. They wanted to do everything by pick and shovel to spread the work around.

V: How long did you work at the Telegram?

M: From about 1930 to 1936, until it was taken over by the Vindicator.

V: What was your position when you finished up there?

M: It was just circulation work, that is all it was. It wasn't any big job.

V: What did you do after that?

M: I worked for the Vindicator; they merged on July 3, 1936.

V: What was it like working at the Vindicator?

M: It was a good paper to work for.

V: What did you do there?

M: I was branch manager.

V: How was that handled, the idea of circulation?

M: I just had the newsboys. About twenty newsboys came into the station. At the Vindicator you had to work seven days a week; you had nothing to look forward to. The Telegram was just a daily paper and you could have Sunday off all of the time. It is better now, with the unions and everything you only work five days a week though.

V: Was the Vindicator at that time located at the place it is now?

M: No, it was located where WFMJ is now. It was in an old building built around 1890. They tore that building down. The Telegram built that original Vindicator building. Of course, they added onto it; they needed more space for the new presses and equipment because of the increase in circulation.

END OF INTERVIEW

The following article appeared in the Boardman News in its 6th Edition, dated December 26, 1985 - January 1, 1986:

"The Heritage Of The Reserve"

by Edward G. Manning

Our section of Ohio was once known as the Connecticut Western Reserve. This area is rich in history. The story of the Western Reserve begins on April 23, 1662 when King Charles II of England granted to the colony of Connecticut a charter consisting of all land between the 41°1' and 42° parallels from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans. However, geographical knowledge in those days was limited and King Charles granted what he thought was his land. Later, during the administration of President George Washington, then Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson urged all coastal states to cede their western lands 'back' to the United States. The Washington Administration felt it was too far west for the coastal states to properly administer the western sections of their states. Connecticut agreed to cede all their western lands; however, the state wanted to reserve 120 miles from the Pennsylvania line. That's how the name, "Western Reserve" was originated.

Ohio was the first state to be settled by people from "the United States."

In the beginning farming was the principal industry. Later, coal mining, iron mining and all related businesses such as banking, transportation and merchandising developed. The hardy people who settled the "Reserve" brought with them their "Yankee Ingenuity" from Connecticut.

Earlier, in 1787 the Continental Congress created the Northwest Territory and passed the Ordinance of 1787; that was drafted by Thomas Jefferson. At the time a Territorial Governor, a Secretary and three Judges were appointed by Congress, who would retain control until the population of the territory reached 5,000. Then an elected legislature would get a non-voting delegate in Congress.

Eligibility called for a property owner to own 50 acres in order to vote; the requirement to hold public office was two hundred acres.

In 1803 Ohio was admitted to the Union and the land qualifications for voting were abolished. By 1848 Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin were admitted to the Union, thus ending the Old Northwest Territory. Previously, when

the surveyors came from Connecticut they met with all the rigors and agonies of frontier life.

The surveying crew of 1796 consisted of General Moses Cleaveland, superintendent; Augustus Porter, chief surveyor. Also, they were accompanied by 37 men as boatmen, chainmen, blacksmiths, cooks, axemen, and laborers. These workers had to contend with wild animals, rattlesnakes and insects. The men did an excellent job with equipment and the conditions that they encountered.

When they reported back to the Connecticut the surveyors said there were 3 million acres in the Reserve.

Finally, the state of Connecticut sold the land to the Connecticut Land Company for forty cents an acre with 6 per cent interest. Each acre was considered a share. The proceeds of the land went to a trust fund for the public schools of Connecticut.

Earlier, the Congregational Church wanted the money to support their ministry, as well as the public schools. But this was met with stiff opposition from the Baptist Church. Finally, it was decided to use the money only for the public schools. The trust fund is still in effect today.

During the Revolutionary War the British burned the coastal towns in Southern Connecticut. The damages totaled over a half-million dollars. Then the people whose homes were burned petitioned the General Assembly for compensation. On May 10, 1792 the Legislature quit -- claimed to the "Sufferers" their representatives of heirs five hundred thousand acres in the western part of the Reserve, which is now Ohio's Huron and Erie counties. In Ohio this section is called the "Firelands." Connecticut gave the land in the westerly part of the Reserve so as to get the "Sufferers" to make trails and pathways for later emigrants.

The heavy migration to the Reserve began in 1816, for the following reasons: Due to a killing frost lasting from June until August, farm land was cheaper and more fertile; no required tithing to the church and western democracy.

In Connecticut the Federalist Party and the congregational church had a stranglehold on the people. It was called an oligarchy. Congregationalism was the state religion and the nonmembers were taxed (tithed) to support the church.

In 1784, the General Assembly of Connecticut passed the Toleration Act. This law freed a dissenter from paying a tithe to the congregational church, providing he signed a certificate of dissent and saying that he belonged to another church.

The public schools were essentially parochial schools.

In 1818 a State Constitutional Convention abolished congregationalism as the state religion.

Earlier here in the Reserve in 1755, Indians discovered two salt springs in what is now Weathersfield Township. At that time salt was a necessity, because it was needed for food preservation. The salt springs were nine miles northwest of Youngstown and one mile west of Niles. The springs were covered with the construction of the B&O Railroad tracks in 1907.

Meanwhile, the surveyors had mapped out the 'Reserve' in ranges five miles square. They were laid out systematically. Most of the townships were named after landowners, cities and towns in Connecticut. (Boardman for example, is named for Elijah Boardman, originally of New Milford, Conn.)

The largest landowners in our area included John Young, from Petersburg, New Hampshire; and the rest from Connecticut including Elijah Boardman, New Milford; Judson Canfield, Sharon; Calvin Austin, Suffield; Daniel Coit, Norwich; Nehemiah Hubbard, Middletown; Moses Warren, Samuel Lord, Henry Champion and Joseph Howland, New London County. Poland was named after the native land of Thadeus Koscuisko and Casmir Pulaski for their gallant services in the Revolutionary War.

Other names in this area from Connecticut are Andover, Bloomfield, Bristol, Brookfield, Farmington, Hartford, Madison, Orange, Southington, Vernon, Weathersfield and Windham.

Fittingly, the new settlers in the "Firelands" took the names of the towns that were burned by the British. Those townships include Danbury, Fairfield, Greenwich, Groton, New Haven, New London, Norwalk and Ridgefield. Other townships were named for presidents, foreign cities, Biblical names and foreign countries.

One can see as the Puritans settled in Connecticut in the 17th century they named the new towns after English cities: Andover, Avon, Bristol, Coventry, Greenwich, Groton, Norwalk, Norwich, Oxford and Plymouth. Then their desendants did likewise when they emigrated to the Western Reserve.

Certainly, one of the most illustrious landowners in our section of the Reserve was Elijah Boardman, a Yale graduate. He served in the Revolutionary War at 16-years-old. Elijah was a United States Senator from Connecticut, elected in 1821 as a Jeffersonian Democrat. He left the comforts and ease of a home in New Milford to take care of his land in the west. He owned Township 1 in Range 2, which is Boardman. He founded Medina, Ohio and owned land in Palmyra Township.

The congregation was organized in 1807 and the church was built in 1829 modeled after the New England churches. In 1972 the church was moved to Boardman Park. It is listed in the National Register of Historical Sites.

Incidentally, Senator Elijah Boardman's great-granddaughter, Mabel Boardman, made her mark in social service work. She was born and reared in Cleveland, educated in private schools in Cleveland, New York and Europe. In 1900 she went to Washington, D.C. and began working for the Red Cross in a one-room office with one employee. Then in 1905 Congress passed an act placing the Red Cross under government supervision to serve the armed forces in time of war and to carry on a system of relief in peacetime. Miss Boardman began organizing local chapters and branches. In 1910 she came to Youngstown and got the public-spirited citizens interested in forming a local chapter. Under her leadership 3,000 local chapters and 6,000 branches were organized. Volunteers were trained to provide service in floods, fires and tornadoes. Also, she developed the Red Cross into an international organization. Miss Boardman was an administrative genius. Definitely, as Thomas Edison can be called the greatest son of the Western Reserve, Mabel Boardman can be rated as its most outstanding daughter.

Judson Canfield graduated from Yale College in the class of 1782; he was admitted to the bar in 1784, setting up a law practice in Sharon, Conn., elected to the State House of Representatives in 1802 serving until 1815. Also, during that time he served as Common Pleas Judge of Litchfield County. Then he resigned to take care of his land holdings in the west.

Earlier, in 1800 a Yale graduate came to Youngstown and liked it so well that he returned to Connecticut to bring his family here; his name was George Tod. He graduated from Yale in 1795 and studied law at Judge Reeve's Law School in Litchfield. (Reeves was the first Law School in the United States.)

Tod was only in Youngstown a short time when Gov. Arthur St. Clair of the Northwest Territory appointed Atty. Tod Secretary of the Territory. Then in the first township election he was elected Township Clerk and in 1804 elected to the State Senate. Later he was elected Judge of the State Supreme Court. Then in 1812 he organized the first bank in this section. Simon Perkins was elected president; it was named the Western Reserve Bank. Warren was selected as the site because it was the county seat. Also, Judge George Tod served with the Ohio Militia in the War of 1812 attaining the rank of Colonel. In 1834 the citizens elected Tod Prosecuting Attorney of Trumbull County.

Presently, while men were organizing businesses and banks in the Reserve, the Eaton Brothers were making iron in Struthers. The iron was used to make pots, pans, nails, horseshoes, and large kettles. Now recent discoveries by Dr. John White, archeologist at Youngstown State University, have shown that the early iron makers had a far greater expertise than previously thought.

Recently a waterwheel and bellows have been uncovered. This combination provided an air blast through the furnace borden to speed up the smelting of iron. Although this operation lasted only six years, it was the forerunner of the iron and steel industry in the Mahoning Valley.

Meanwhile, Ohio's United States Sen. Jerimiah Morrow, chairman of the Land Committee, proposed the sale of land in small plots. The Act of 1820 established a minimum price of \$1.25 an acre for plots of 80 acres. Then the Western Reserve landowners ran ads in Connecticut newspapers telling of the low prices.

Definitely, the Western Reserve drew with magnetic force the people from Connecticut. The working people had more rights in Ohio than they did in the Federalist controlled state of Connecticut. The Democracy of the "West" was widely acclaimed.

Surprisingly, upon arrival, the settlers found the whole area covered with a vast growth of trees, the result of ages of unchecked growth. The soil was rich and fertile. The newcomers found wild cranberries, gooseberries, cherries, plums and crab apples. The list reads like a gourmet catalog. The nut bearing trees were the following: black walnuts, hickory, butternuts, and chestnuts. (Ed. note: Picture that compared with now?) The early settler learned to live with wolves, panthers, bears, foxes, beavers and deer. Also,

there was an abundance of wild turkey, geese, duck, grouse and pheasant.

The rivers and streams were full of all kinds of fish. This area was a hunter's and fisherman's paradise.

Now, when the settlers arrived in ox-drawn covered wagons, they would select a site alongside of a river or stream. They came in the early Spring so they could plant a crop. Naturally, first on the agenda was to build a log cabin and cabin building was a community project. Neighbors would come from miles around to cut trees and roll logs to the site. That's where the term log-rolling originated, a concerted effort to help.

Mothers would bring their children to play with other youngsters. For them the day was full of fun and merriment. The women brought plenty of food for a big feast. The men brought saws, axes and crowbars. They would cut down the trees, then saw them to cabin size. Nails were scarce, so they would notch and split the logs so they would fit properly. Cabin-raising was the lifting of logs in place; however, this was the hardest work of cabin building.

Surely, the worst job of all was removing the stumps. Some settlers would burn them; but this was long and slow. Others used a mechanical gadget, pulled by a team of oxen to remove the stump. Generally the size of the cabins were 12 ft. by 4 ft., built of logs a foot in diameter. The spaces between the logs were filled with a stiff clay. Next was the fireplace, which took up the greater part of one end of the cabin. The chimney was made of stone and mortar. The fireplace was equipped with a trammel. (A trammel is a device with links at different heights for hanging a pothook on the fireplace.)

Then over the mantle was a set of deer antler. Also, a rifle and powder horn adorned the chimney. The fireplace served a double purpose: heating the cabin and smoking the meat. Slabs of bacon, ham, and venison were smoked in the chimney. From the joists of the cabin hung bunches of dried fruit, herbs, pumpkin and sacks of nuts.

In addition to smoking, curing, and canning their provisions the settlers made their own clothes, candles and soap. The clothes were homespun made from wool and the candles from tallow. The making of soap was more complicated.

The wood ashes were leached; the lye obtained was boiled with refuse fat in a large iron kettle until the soap reached its proper consistency. This work was done by the women and it was a hard and dangerous job.

Certainly, the most humanitarian act of the settlers were the "wood-cutting" and "quilting bees" for the old and infirm. Neighbors would gather at the cabin of an elderly couple; the women would make quilts and the men would chop a winter's supply of logs to keep the couple warm for the winter.

Today aid is given to the elderly and infirm in homestead tax exemptions, food stamps, meals-on-wheels, Home Energy Assistance Program and Medicaid.

Meanwhile, the rich soil of the Reserve was producing bountiful harvests. These surpluses created low prices. As a result flour was seven dollars a barrel (196 pounds), pork two cents a pound, chickens a nickel each, and Lake Erie fish, ten dollars a barrel (200 pounds). The Lake Erie fishermen had plenty of competition because the local rivers and streams were full of fish. Wiskey cost fifty cents a gallon. It was made from corn and rye.

While people were providing food and housing for their families, the clergymen were concerned about the spiritual needs of the settlers. The clergy decided to build a college to train young men for the ministry. Then a group of Yale graduates founded a school at Hudson, to be known as Western Reserve College. It was called the "Yale of the West."

The land was donated by David Hudson, and early landowner of the Reserve. Now, the first church in the Western Reserve is the First Presbyterian Church on Wick and Wood in Youngstown. It was founded in 1799 by Rev. William Wick who served as a pastor and circuit parson to his people over a vast area. Later in 1838 Fr. Thomas Martin founded St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Cleveland. Afterward in 1842 the Anshe Chesed Society organized the first synagogue in Cleveland with Rabbi Asher Lehman in charge. Surely, the people of the various faiths made tremendous and great sacrifices to establish their houses of worship.

Concurrently, while people were farming the land, for the first time in 1826 a coal mine was opened on Mary Caldwell's farm in the Crab Creek district. This was the harbinger for Youngstown as a great coal producing area. A canal was needed to open up the market.

Finally, the state legislature appropriated \$6,000 for an engineering survey. Then the Ohio Canal Commission let several contractors for a canal to run from Cleveland to Portsmouth on the Ohio River. The Commission drew on the experience of the builders of the Erie Canal in New York State. They hired the contractors, engineers, and laborers. Common laborers were paid 30-cents a day plus board and a

cot in a shanty, with a glass of whiskey as a fringe benefit. The canal was opened July 4, 1833 with fireworks, parades and brass bands. Gov. DeWitt Clinton of New York delivered the dedication address in Cleveland.

In the meantime, more coal mines were being opened in Youngstown. The state geologist said "the coal of the Mahoning Valley is superior to that from any field in Ohio . . . The coal is generally free from sulfur and other impurities, it has a small amount of ash and a large amount of carbon."

Still, this section of Ohio was landlocked and a canal was needed to move the coal. Then David Tod, son of Judge George Tod, led the fight for a crosscut canal to run from Akron through Warren to Youngstown then to Beaver, Pa., where it would join the Ohio River. The canal was needed because it provided a shorter route to the Ohio River than the Ohio-Erie Canal.

Finally, the Ohio Canal Commission granted a private charter to build a canal from Akron to Beaver, Pa., costing \$900,000. Bankers from Philadelphia purchased half of the stock. The State of Ohio bought \$450,000 worth of stock under the Ohio Loan Law.

On April 3, 1840, the first boat sailed from Beaver, Pa., to Akron a distance of 93 miles. The canal acted as a catalyst for the speeding up the development of coal mining, iron making, wool raising, and dairy farming. New markets were opened up in the East and South. The dairy and wool farmers were the best in the state. Production figures from the archives of the Ohio Canal Commission show that the wool farmers of the Reserve led the state in production while the dairy farmers produced 90 per cent of the cheese. The trade name was "Brier Hill." The coal was in such great demand that it sold at premium prices. David Tod promoted the use of coal by going to Cleveland and asking the captains of the lake steamers to try coal in the boilers. Much to their satisfaction, they found that coal was better and more efficient. On an equal right basis coal gives more heat than wood.

In 1853 the fare from Cleveland to Pittsburgh on the Pennsylvania-Ohio Canal cost \$3.50 (including meals and bed.) The trip took 26 hours.

Furthermore, in the homes coal replaced wood for cooking by accident that coal was better for making iron than coke. This cut the cost of making iron. Now, the principal

developers of the coal industry were the Tod, Wick, Andrews, Hitchcock, Stambaugh, Warner, Manning, Powers and Foster Families.

Later on these families founded or were large stockholders of mills, foundries, factories and banks. The names of the firms are as follows: Wick Brothers; Brown-Bonnell; Andrews and Hitchcock; Cartwright and McCurdy; Hamilton Foundry; William Tod Foundry and the William B. Pollock Co.

David Tod, Joseph G. Butler Jr., and Henry H. Stambaugh were large stockholders and operators of the Brier Hill Iron and Coal Company. In addition to Tod's business interest he was involved in politics as an active Democrat in local, state, and national affairs.

Then President James Polk appointed David Tod minister to Brazil in 1847. In 1860 Tod was elected vice-chairman of the Democratic Convention at Charleston, South Carolina. Then when the convention reconvened at Baltimore, Md., he was elevated to chairman of the Democratic National Convention. In that year the new Union party, composed of War Democrats and Republicans, nominated Mr. Tod for Governor. Tod won the governorship by a huge majority. He was known as "Ohio's War Governor."

When Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, resigned, President Lincoln offered the position to Tod, but he declined on account of ill health.

Undoubtedly, Governor David Tod can be ranked as one of Youngstown's most illustrious citizens of the nineteenth century. He excelled in finance, law, civic affairs, industrial and transportation development. As he saw it, the railroads would overtake the canals so he organized the Cleveland and Mahoning Railroads and served as its president. Also, he served as Governor during the most tumultuous period of the Civil War.

Now, we see the railroads meet the same demise as the canal with competition from the trucks and airplanes.

In summation the names we see around today are a testimony to the expertise, ingenuity and foresight of the early settlers. Most of the early landowners were Yale graduates and officers in the Revolutionary War.

Definitely, the emigrants who came here were a hardy and adventurous people, and the same can be said for every ethnic group that followed them into the Reserve. The only jobs that were available were manual labor and pick and shovel jobs.

Now, in our section of the Reserve we have two towns-- Poland and Canfield that retain the state lines, splendor and elegance of the quaint New England villages.

Sadly, the old homes are succumbing to the land developers and the Highway Department. The old residents who are well-rooted in the Reserve are trying hard to preserve the old landmarks.

Fittingly, when plans are submitted for a new building in the center of these towns the village councils and officials ask the architects and builders to adhere to the old New England architecture.

Now, schools, churches, banks, a transit authority, a university and a historical society are named Western Reserve, so it looks as though the name of the Western Reserve will be perpetuated as well as the spirit of the early settlers.

Edward G. Manning wrote the "History of the Western Reserve" for a class he took in the Over-60 Program developed by Youngstown State University.