

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

History of Youngstown University Project

Early Affiliation With the YMCA

O H. 29

HUGH MANCHESTER

Interviewed

by

Alvin W. Skardon and David M. Behen

on

April 2, 1975

HUGH MANCHESTER

One of Youngstown's leading attorneys, Hugh Manchester, was born in that city on March 25, 1905. He is the son of Curtis A. Manchester and Leona Elkins Manchester. He is a 1922 graduate of the Rayen School. He then attended Cornell University from 1922 until 1926, when he received his B.A. In 1926, he went to Harvard Law School and earned his L.L.B. from there in 1929.

After Attorney Manchester passed the Bar exam, he became a lawyer with Manchester, Bennet, Powers, and Ulman Company LPA in 1930, where he is still employed. He has also been active in civic affairs, being involved with the YMCA law school as a trustee and a former member of the Board of Governors of the Youngstown College. He is also a member of Beta Theta Pi, the Youngstown Club, and the Youngstown Country Club.

Attorney Manchester currently makes his home at 4257 Oak Knoll Drive in Youngstown. His wife is the former Helen Tinney, whom he wed in 1930. They have five children: Jane Wheeler, Hugh Manchester, Jr., Virginia Watson, Mary Elizabeth Gilpatric, and Gilbert Manchester. Attorney Manchester's special interests include woodworking and weaving.

DONNA DEBLASIO
July 12, 1977

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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INTERVIEWEE: HUGH MANCHESTER

INTERVIEWER: Alvin W. Skardon and David M. Behen

SUBJECT: Early Affiliation With the YMCA

DATE: April 2, 1975

S: This is an interview with Attorney Hugh Manchester for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program. It is being done by Dr. Skardon and Dr. Behen at Mr. Manchester's office on April 2, 1975.

S: Here is a list of the leading dates of the history of the University. The University really started with the first founding of the YMCA here in 1868.

M: I didn't realize that it started that early. It was incorporated in 1884.

S: This 1868 organization remained sort of dormant for a number of years and then the Y was revived in 1883. The members of the old association were taken in as members of the new association. One of the men who was very active in the first association was Robert McCurdy. He later became president of the new association.

M: He was the president of one of the prominent banks in Youngstown.

S: He seems to have been very active.

M: A very fine person. He was before my day. I only knew him by reputation.

S: I recently bought a new home on Outlook Avenue and it was originally part of the Robert McCurdy estate. That was a distinct carryover from the old association.

- M: We have maps around the office that will show you where some of the old families lived here in Youngstown. That might be of interest to you.
- S: I'll be coming into that when we talk about the University in 1931. That was an interesting account of this founding of the 1868 YMCA. Mr. Joseph Butler, one of those who helped found the 1868 association, made a speech at the dedication of the present YMCA building.
- M: I know. He was a friend of President McKinley. He lived on Wick Avenue, next door to the Ford property. He built the Butler Art Gallery. He was interested in art and had quite a collection on the third floor of his home. Once, while he was away, the home burned and that led to his decision to build an art gallery for the city.
- S: Did his home burn completely?
- M: He lost all of his collection on the third floor.
- S: That was terrible.
- M: He was a very fine person. He was interested in the steel industry and some other things. His son, Henry Butler, was with the Butler Wick Company and he lived for many years in the little house south of the Art Gallery where the president's office is now located. Joseph G. Butler, III, the present head of the Art Gallery and the present member of the partnership of Butler, Wick and Company, is the son of Henry Butler. I understand he has not been too well lately.
- S: That's what I have heard. I talked to Mr. Singer the other day. That's going to be a very interesting phase of our history. We're chiefly interested in the early history of the school, from the founding of the Y in 1868 to 1930, when it moved to its present location. My source says that you came on the Y Board in 1930.
- M: That's correct. My uncle, Leroy Manchester, had been president of the YMCA and he died in June of 1930. Leonard Skeggs, then Secretary of the Board, had been very close to my uncle and I think that he was responsible in having me put on the Y Board. I was the youngest YMCA trustee around. Then I was put on the so-called Board of Governors of the Youngstown College. Nate Folsom remained as Secretary of that organization until 1940.
- S: What was his name, sir?
- M: Nathan Folsom. He had been trust officer of the Mahoning National Bank and active in YMCA work.

- S: Did you have any previous contact with the Y before you came on the Board of Trustees? Were you a member?
- M: I think I was a member when I was a boy. I finished law school in 1929 and started my practice in 1930.
- S: I saw nearly every prominent man in Youngstown on the old membership lists at the Y. I have found a record of yearbooks that were in existence before the present "Neon" was started. There were several from the 1920s. The first one was named the "Technician". Then there was a copy of the "Ess-Bee". I can't find copies of these, only descriptions. We have one copy of the "Y Collegian", which came out in 1930, and one copy of "The Hour Glass Beacon". Our beginning date for any kind of publication would be 1930.
- M: Did you note in this brief history that I wrote on page 4 about halfway down, about an "interesting agenda for a YMCA meeting called for September 20, 1927." No minutes of such meeting were found.
- S: I believe there's a copy of that in the minutes that I got from the YMCA and I have a Xerox copy of that now.
- M: It lists, I think, five faculty members and also the names and addresses of the students and their high schools.
- S: That's the first student list I've been able to find.
- M: I never knew of one prior to that. I think the YMCA has been carrying on educational work for years. My understanding is that it maintained a lecture room and that it conducted various types of courses and some business subjects. I'm not sure whether they taught secretarial courses. In 1916 they incorporated a law school and the original minute book of that was found and turned over with the minutes of the original Youngstown University to John Newman, the secretary of the Educational Foundation. The Youngstown Educational Foundation is the legal successor to the old university. That book contains the handwritten articles of incorporation and references to some documents filed in the Secretary of State's Office in Columbus. That was done by an attorney named Theodore Johnson, an older attorney here in town. He was the leader in teaching the law classes back around that time. I would guess that the YMCA was conducting various kinds of courses in education for youth and perhaps for adults when there was a demand for it. In the early days there was a business school in Youngstown and it was conducted by a man by the name of Shorts.

- B: I don't think I've encountered his name, have you?
- S: Yes, I have.
- M: I remember he lived on Fairgreen Avenue a block north of where I grew up. He had children that were about my age. He may have been interested in the Hall Business School.
- S: They just sort of incorporated it into the school and it became the Secretarial School.
- B: I see.
- S: I have a Xerox copy of the original incorporation in 1916 but the minutes of the Y always say that the report of the education committee was received, discussed, and filed. That undoubtedly contained the detailed information about the classes.
- M: Try and find it.
- S: Well, I know what became of them. They were all destroyed.
- M: Somebody probably cleaned house later on.
- S: Yes, that's what happened. They only saved the minute books which you and I have both been through, but those education reports are gone. I think I saw, in the original body of records, the names of every old family here in Youngstown. I wonder if someone has a copy of those reports.
- M: I have no idea, but I doubt it very much.
- S: They put out some kind of catalog in about 1900. There is mention of that in various places, but no copy of the catalog has been found. The catalog file of the university dates back to 1931. I have two difficulties. There are few records, so you really have to dig to find information. That takes a lot of time. There's a tremendous amount of material dated after 1931 and you just have to wade through it all. That's why it takes so long.
- Apparently the education committee's report was in long-hand. It was the only copies of those that I presume were destroyed.
- M: Did you find the transcribed report in 1931 when Leonard Skeggs had written a letter? Franklin Powers, of our office, had previously been authorized to take steps to incorporate the educational branch. There was difficulty in finding a suitable name. Did you find that?

- S: Well, I have a copy of a reply that Mr. Skeggs wrote to Mr. Wick. There was undoubtedly some controversy about the name. Mr. Skeggs felt that they were trying to set up a separate college away from the Y, and being strongly loyal to the Y, he wanted it to be just a department of the YMCA.
- M: He said in either that meeting or in the letter, that he didn't want "the tail to wag the dog."
- S: I've also heard someone say, "I've known the Y of Youngstown College ever since it was a pup." There is also evidence of serious difficulties in New England over Northeastern University, which was the Y school of Boston. They apparently had built up a little education empire of their own, and Skeggs knew that it created considerable bad feeling in New England. He wanted to avoid that here. I can get the gist of Mr. Wick's letter from the reply that Skeggs wrote. It's got 14 mimeographed pages.
- M: You know, I think I have a copy of it. At the bottom of page 9, it refers to Tab 4 which contains a list of the YMCA secretaries and their terms of office, a list of the YMCA presidents, and the articles of incorporation of the Youngstown Association School. That was the law school in 1916. There was an agenda for a YMCA trustee's meeting on September 20, 1927, but no minutes. There were also suggested policies for government and control of educational work of the YMCA. All together, there were 17 mimeographed pages compiled by Leonard Skeggs, General Secretary. Do you have a copy of that?
- S: Yes, I have a copy of that.
- M: There is a stenographic record of the November 10, 1931 meeting of the Executive Committee of the Youngstown Institute of Technology of the YMCA. There are twenty-one pages of possible changes in the set up.
- S: I have them all except Mr. Wick's letter and having known Mr. Wick quite well personally, I would like to see a copy of it. Whatever else you said, he was never dull or boring.
- M: He certainly was never dull or boring. He was my Sunday School teacher for many, many years. In fact, my wife and I got interested in each other at a barn dance out at his barn. I had known him well all through the years.
- S: That ought to be an interesting letter to copy, I'm sure. I was interested in your comment about the development campaign of 1929. It was a campaign to remodel the Y building and to erect a new building for the college.

They had seven proposed projects and they wanted to raise a million dollars. Did you hire some outsider to come and raise funds?

M: Yes, they hired an outsider, but I've forgotten who it was.

S: By the time they got here, the funds had all been raised, so the kick-off dinner was also the victory dinner.

B: That's remarkable.

M: I've got the list in here of the major contributors. I believe it contains extracts from that accountant's report which gave all the detail on it.

S: That's just part of a very remarkable story in there. I remember the stock market crash very vividly because I was a freshman in college. They seemed finally to have collected all the pledges. This was in the 1930s. I know of a number of organizations that had a lot of money pledged to them.

M: Here is a list of figures shown on Exhibit "A" of an S. C. Rogers and Company, Audit of the YMCA Development Fund, dated December 1, 1931. It was attached to the YMCA Building Committee minutes, following page 144. It shows that as of November 24, 1931, the YMCA had invested in fixed assets from such Fund:

Central Building (Remodelling and Equipment)		\$155,984.04
West Federal Street Branch		193,386.49
Educational Building and Equipment	\$232,805.47	250,278.03
	<u>17,472.56</u>	
Camp Fitch Buildings		28,317.94
Newsboys Club		<u>549.03</u>
		\$628,515.53

B: What did a building like that cost at that time, Mr. Manchester?

M: It's in here somewhere.

B: I didn't mean to send you on a hunt. I just wondered.

M: Here it is. Mr. Skeggs original estimate of the Educational Building was \$150,000. This was estimated at \$224,800. The actual cost was \$232,805 of which \$170,000 was paid

on November 5, 1931. The unpaid balance was \$62,000. They went ahead with this building, as rapidly as they could. When we were in the pit of the depression years material costs and building costs were low. They collected as many of the pledges as they could and the YMCA was going out and borrowing money on the strength of the pledges yet to be paid, in order to take advantage of the low building costs. This was a wise decision. Leonard Skeggs, its general Secretary, was not well. Leroy Manchester, its President, had died.

S: There was a man named Homer Nearpass that I've heard of quite frequently.

M: He preceded Howard Jones. He was very unhappy and resigned when Howard Jones was brought in to head it up.

S: I hardly knew his name until I started this research.

M: I don't recall him.

S: I'll be looking through this sometime. Nearpass, I think, was quite interesting because he was really the man who founded the college. He got the college started in its present location.

M: I don't know whether he got credit for it or whether others on the Y Board got the credit.

S: Mr. Wick seems to have played a very prominent part in that area, too, didn't he?

M: He did. Wick was made Chairman of the first Board of Governors and the decision was made about 1930 to bring in prominent Jewish and Catholic men who at that time were not eligible for membership on the Board of Trustees of the YMCA. Such men as Clarence Strouss, Sr., and Harry Levinson, a prominent jeweler, and Reverend Hammaker, a prominent clergyman, were brought in. They had not, up to that point, been connected with the YMCA, and were put on the "Board of Governors" to broaden the interest in the educational work.

S: I have a list of that original Board, too. Would you be able to identify who were the Roman Catholics and who were the Jews on the Board?

M: I think so.

S: That would be quite interesting.

M: I think I could if you find that list.

S: I'm sorry, I didn't bring it with me but I can mail a copy to you and you can identify them.

- B: Was it this Wick who was on the Board of Governors, Mr. Jim Wick?
- M: Yes. He established and built up the Falcon Bronze Company.
- S: He was an instructor in mechanical drawing at the night school.
- B: When Mr. Jim Wick died, I had quite a long conversation with his son, Warner Wick.
- M: Warner Wick teaches at the University of Chicago and his daughter was prominent in the faculty of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is now dean of Mount Holyoke, I believe. I know she's an old Mount Holyoke graduate because my oldest daughter was a graduate of Mount Holyoke.
- B: We were talking principally about the early days of college. Mr. Wick, Warner, the daughter and I, chatted up there for quite a while about it, and I remember the daughter saying, that as a child she heard a good deal about the college, at the dinner table every night.
- M: You should not lose sight of the history of the Rayen School. It ties in, in some respects, to the beginning of the University. There are not too many of us left that went to the Rayen School.
- S: I was surprised to see that so many of the teachers in the night school were teachers from Rayen. They taught at Rayen in the daytime and came down in the evening to teach at the night school.
- M: I don't know whether you know the history of the Rayen School.
- B: I'm fortunate in that respect. This is one way we professors get out of work. I had a graduate student that did a term paper on the history of the Rayen School.
- M: Well, I can give you a good history on that, too. We had to go through a court procedure when the Youngstown College first leased the Rayen School in 1945. William Rayen had been a Common Pleas Judge in Mahoning County and he died about 1854 and left a very interesting will. He was never married, but was related to the Parmalee family. In his will, he left the bulk of his estate for the purpose of providing education for the poor children of Youngstown township, between the ages of 4 and 21. In his will, he requested that his executors ask the legislature of Ohio to pass legislation to provide for the management of the school. After legislation was

passed, this land between Wood Street and Rayen Avenue, fronting on Wick, was acquired and the first building was built. The first graduating class graduated in 1866. They had a history of very fine teachers. Public schools were established after that and it wasn't too long before the town grew. The tax duplicates grew also and there wasn't a building big enough to educate all of the youth of Youngstown Township. Also, they didn't have the necessary funds. Finally, it became a school at the high school level, and that same tendency continued and finally they were only paying part of the principal's salary.

With politics changing over the years, one superintendent of schools would think along one line and the next one would think along another line. Also the town population changed and a new Rayen School building was built up on the North Side. Back in 1866, the city of Youngstown was very limited in area. I was graduated from the Rayen School in the class of 1922, the last class to graduate from the old building. The new building was built up on the North Side in 1922. Under the legislation, the trustees of the Rayen School are appointed by the Common Pleas Judges of Mahoning County and there is a case in the dockets at the Clerks office where all of these appointments are recorded. After 1922 they used the old building for storage purposes for awhile. Prior to that time, when the city wanted to enlarge that school building, the Board of Education acquired title to the ground under the wing that fronts on Wood Street, and the Board of Education paid for that wing.

From 1922 until 1945, the old school was unused except for storage purposes. The College wanted to use it in 1945. A lease was drafted and a petition was filed to secure Court approval of that lease. Judge Bennett of our office was largely instrumental in preparing those documents, and I think we have copies of them around. That lease expired in 1965, twenty years later, I had the responsibility of getting the arrangement renewed, which required another petition seeking court approval. This time I made it a fifty-year lease because twenty years was too short a time I wouldn't want to go through all that effort too often.

- S: I've heard that in Judge Rayen's will there is some stipulation that the old original building cannot be torn down. Is that correct?
- M: I don't think so.
- S: That's just one of the bits of gossip.

M: I'm sure that I could dig up copies of the will. I hope that nobody's thrown them out. We have to weed out old files here periodically, because we run out of space. At any rate copies of the will would be available at the Court House if you care to search them out.

In the 1930's a fellow by the name of Van Wye filed a law suit to try to get title to all of the assets owned by the Rayen Trustees. His theory was that the purpose of the will could no longer be carried out and that it should pass to Judge Rayen's heirs at law, whoever they might be. No one could be certain who the heirs were.

B: Did this man claim to be an heir?

M: Yes, he claimed to be an heir. Dick Wills of our office did a lot of leg work on that and after five or six years, Judge Bennett was finally instrumental in getting that law suit dismissed.

John W. Ford, who lived across Wick Avenue with his sister Josephine Agler, gave Ford Hall to the college. It has recently been torn down. When the city was widening out the curve at the corner of Wick and Rayen Avenues, they took down the iron fence. John W. Ford, who was a trustee of Rayen School said, "Hugh, for heaven's sake, don't let them destroy that fence. Make sure that they put it back." There is a lot of sentiment concerning the Rayen School around the town. A lot of the older generation attended that school. They had very fine teachers such as Sara Peterson, Lida Baldwin and others.

S: Did you run into a man by the name of Froodley or Trudley? Dr. Frederick Trudley, I think his name was.

M: I think he was connected with the YMCA in the early days before my connection with it.

S: I see. That was before your time.

M: There was a Howard B. Treudley that had a business equipment store on Commerce Street in back of the Y.

S: Were you able to collect all of the pledges on that development campaign or did a significant number default? That has happened often in other institutions. It seems astounding that they not only seemed to have collected all of the pledges in the 1930's, but also Mr. Skeggs proposed that they go out and ask for payment in advance on those pledges for the college building.

- M: That would happen. I recognize many of the names on this list. A. E. Adams was president of the Dollar Bank and the Old First National Bank. Avery Adams, his oldest son, was later president of some steel companies in Pittsburgh. Aetna Standard Engineering was a local business. J. W. Anderson was an attorney. Mr. & Mrs. Myron Arms, II, were from a prominent family. Renick Bell was a trustee of the Y and was secretary of General Fireproofing. J. C. Barrett was a YMCA trustee, a strong Presbyterian, and superintendent of blast furnaces at U. S. Steel. Bixler was of the bread baking company, Hugh Bonnell and J. Fernley Bonnell were brothers.
- S: There's an official reference to the Bonnell property, a house here on Wick Avenue.
- M: This is the building that's now the Dana School of Music.
- S: Oh, is that the Bonnell property?
- M: Yes.
- S: I see. Wasn't there also a house north of the Public Library where they had classes up to about 1930? That might have been Bonnell property also.
- M: I don't know.
- S: Dana School of Music is there now.
- M: I think that's right. George C. Brainard, who just died, was Chairman of the Board at General Fireproofing and later was head of the Addressograph-Multigraph Company.
- T. J. Bray was the head of the old Republic Steel Corporation here. Dr. Bunn was a YMCA trustee, and a leading heart doctor. His son is a doctor now.
- S: Yes, I know him quite well.
- M: Henry Butler, was a son of J. G. Butler, Jr, and was a partner in Butler, Wick Company. James A. Campbell was head of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube. The Central Store Company was down where the new City Parking Garage is located. Charles and Arabelle Crandall were interested in the YMCA. Carnegie Steel Company you know, is now part of U. S. Steel.
- S: Is that connected to the Crandall Park up on the North Side?

M: Yes. Charles and Arabelle Crandall were brother and sister, and neither of them married. They lived on Broadway Avenue facing Wick Park, the third house from Fifth Avenue. Charles Crandall was wealthy and was glad to make gifts to the Y. Judge DeFord was a prominent attorney. Myron Dennison was the President of the Dollar Bank. Here are Cyrus Eaton and Nate Folsom, John Ford and his sister, Josephine Agler. George Fordyce had a house right in back of Jones Hall. W.H. Foster was President and later Chairman of General Fireproofing. Philip W. Frieder, a Jewish man, was a great golfer, and a friend of my uncle, Leroy Manchester. My uncle, Leroy Manchester, was an attorney. He was with this office until 1917, and after that he went out to Sheet and Tube as Secretary and General Counsel. He was President of the YMCA from 1922 until his death in 1930.

H.W. Grant was President of the City Bank. He was Catholic. John Harrington was the senior partner in the Harrington, Huxley and Smith law firm. R.P. Hartshorn was the Vice-President of the bank downstairs. He lived across the street from us on North Heights Avenue.

Roy Hartzell and Dr. Sol Hartzell were from a prominent Jewish family. Mrs. Hayward was a Bonnell; Bill Hayward is still living. Hearn was interested in the Y. Jim Henderson was a Chevrolet dealer here in town. He was an uncle of Charles P. Henderson, the Probate Judge. H.R. Hooper was a Buick dealer. James McKay was the father of Russell McKay and the grandfather of the present Donald McKay.

S: Are these the McKay's of the Home Savings and Loan?

M: Yes. Russell was James McKay's son. You know William F. Maag, he was the President of the Vindicator Printing Company. Here also on this list are my father, C.A. Manchester, and L.A. Manchester, his brother. Medbury was an insurance man. W.J. Morris was with the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company. William M. Neckerman was with a steel company. E. F. Clarke was a cousin of John Ford. Emily Owen was a very wealthy individual. She was a Bonnell, Emily Bonnell. Perry B. Owen was her husband and he lived to be 99. He took care of the safety deposit boxes at the Dollar Bank until he was about 94, just to keep busy.

Howard Parker was a banker and one time president of the old First National Bank. Porter Pollock was the father of William Pollock of the Pollock Company. William is the present one. Frank M. Powers was the father of Franklin and Edward Powers and the grandfather of John Weed Powers, who is a partner in our office. Bert Printz

was a prominent Jew and head of The Printz Co. Clothiers, downtown. You know Mr. and Mrs. Frank Purnell. W. C. Reilly was with the Sheet and Tube. Ritter and Meyer had a men's clothing store. Meyer was the father of Jerald S. Meyer, and a brother-in-law of Clarence Strouss, Sr. Their clothing store was at the corner of Phelps and Federal streets, where I used to get my clothes when I was small.

Roberts, I'm not sure of. W. J. Roberts was the head of the Mahoning National Bank and the father of Myron E. Roberts who recently died. Charles S. Robinson was a Sheet and Tube Vice President and a grandfather of Judge Henderson's wife. John Rowland was head of the Mahoning Bank and a bachelor. Harry L. Round was Treasurer of the Republic Steel Company. Philip Schaff was President of the Morris Plan Bank, later the Peoples Bank. Philip Schaff's wife was Jane Booth. They lived at 631 Wick Avenue in 1941. Their son, Charles Schaff, married Mary Alice Beeghly, a daughter of L. A. Beeghly.

- S: I have an interesting story about that name. I wrote a book about a man who lived in New York in the 1840's and 1850's. He had a very close friend who was a famous historian by the name of Dr. Philip Schaff. I could not locate anything about that Dr. Philip Schaff and I didn't know where his descendants were. When I came to Youngstown in 1957, one of the first things I saw was the newspaper account of a Philip Schaff's funeral. It seems that they are the descendants of the Dr. Philip Schaff. He is regarded as the founder of the field of church history.
- M: He was quite a churchman.
- S: He was a very famous scholar.
- M: Oh, Schaff gave us the most difficulty in separating the college from the YMCA, and after it was done, he thought it was a fine thing. Charles Scott was the head of a local haberdashery. Dr. J. A. Sherbondy was a surgeon. Powers Smith just had investments. Charles Smith was a lawyer. Clarence Strouss was President of Strouss Hirschberg Company. Walter Schaff was the brother of Philip Schaff. Charles Thomas, and W. A. Thomas, were brothers and both prominent in the steel business. Mrs. Charles Thomas died last year, I think. She lived to be quite old. M. S. Tod was a surveyor, who was on the Y Board. Philip Thompson was President of the Stambaugh Thompson Company; Julius Kahn was President of Truscon Steel. Walter E. Watson, was a Vice President of Youngstown Sheet and Tube. Elizabeth Wick, I can't quite place. Myron C. Wick, Jr. was a direct descendant of the original William Wick who was the first pastor of

the Presbyterian Church, organized in 1799. It was the first church in the Connecticut Western Reserve. George D. Wick lived out in Boardman Township.

S: Was he in real estate?

M: No. He just held investments.

S: The first house I owned here was built by one branch of the Wick family.

M: Well, there are so many branches of that family, that it's confusing. Jim used to say he was from the poor branch. Laura Wick was a sister of Paul Wick. Paul and Philip were brothers.

S: Let me interrupt you and ask you a question. Is that George Wick, we're talking about there or is it George, Jr?

M: There was a George Wick that went down on the Titanic.

S: Yes. That's why I asked.

M: That was probably a George, Jr.

B: I was pretty sure that the Wick who went down on the Titanic was George D. His wife and daughter were rescued.

M: Porter Pollock almost went down on that same trip. He was there and he had reservations to come back with the George Wick family on the maiden voyage of the Titanic. I know this because my father-in-law worked for Porter Pollock and the Pollock Company. He was their chief engineer for many, many years. They wanted Mr. Pollock to go and see some German company at the last minute and he was very upset because he was going to miss this maiden voyage. They were close friends of the George Wick family. Mrs. Pollock was a Wick. I think she was a sister of George Wick.

B: Yes, Mrs. Pollock was a Wick.

M: Mr. Ford, who built the Ford home up here, was the son of E. L. Ford.

B: His wife, Mrs. Agler's mother was from what family?

S: She was a Butler, wasn't she?

B: I'm not sure. I just wondered.

- S: I know Mrs. Agler quite well. I think she once told me that her mother was a Butler. Old Mrs. Joseph Butler who died just in the last few years, was her aunt.
- B: Where did the Bonnell family get its money? Were they in steel?
- M: I think it was inherited wealth, mostly.
- B: Was it made around here?
- M: Yes, it was probably made through steel and railroads, and land. Hugh Bonnell had a farm out here, near Forest Lawn Cemetery, off of Market Street in Boardman Township. Do you know where that is?
- B: No, I don't think I do.
- M: It's just beyond Shields Road a little way. Just beyond that is Forest Lawn Cemetery. That was the farm owned by Hugh Bonnell. He was a nice old bachelor with lots of money and he had the most wonderful cattle of anybody around here. Half of the milk was cream. He had prize cattle, always. When the farm became too crowded out there in Boardman, he moved out to Warner Road and he moved his house down Market Street and out Wick Avenue and put it out on Warner Road.
- B: That was quite a feat, wasn't it?
- M: It was a nice, old, comfortable, small, wooden frame house and he liked it and took it with him. I believe they owned downtown real estate. Back in those days, downtown real estate was worth real money.
- S: We've already talked about this conversation between Mr. Skeggs and Mr. Wick. Do you think Mr. Wick really had the idea of establishing an independent college? That seems to be implied in that letter.
- M: It had been proposed that it be incorporated. I think that Skeggs didn't want the YMCA to lose control of the college. I lived through many years of that. We didn't get the college incorporated until 1937. In those original incorporation papers in the original setup, the majority of the Board of College Trustees had to be members of the YMCA Board or General Secretary of the YMCA. In the early 1940s the North Central Association said that it would not grant approval of the school as long as the YMCA was holding the strings. During that period, the Treasurer of the YMCA was the Treasurer of the College. He collected all the tuition and paid the teachers.

S: Somewhere in my sources, there was a statement made that I find hard to believe, I have heard that tuition money paid by the students at the college was also helping to finance the downtown YMCA.

M: There was a period, I think, when that may have been true. I think that happened in the pit of the depression but did not last for very long. It did happen. Of course, the YMCA served it a lot. There was a lot to be said on that subject, both ways. In 1944, it fell to me to work out the legal mechanics of divorcing the two institutions. That required a change in the constitution of the YMCA, the approvals of the YMCA membership, and other court proceedings to okay the conveyance of title. I've forgotten the details, but it was the site of the old John C. Wick residence, now Jones Hall. I believe that the telephone building went at the same time or shortly thereafter. Charles Crandall had given \$25,000 to pay for that building, I think. He gave it to the Y and the Y took title from the telephone company. At first the YMCA was going to use it for young people's gatherings. When that didn't work out they were going to use it for classrooms. It wasn't a very good setup for classrooms. At any rate, that went along shortly after. We had to have a court proceeding to okay that deed and we put a restriction in that deed which made some trouble for us later on. We put in a condition which provided that if Youngstown College ceased to exist, title would automatically revert to the YMCA. We did some tall sweating later on, when we wanted to convey title to the State of Ohio.

B: Yes, wisdom sometimes backfires. We've all had that happen.

M: Yes, it does.

S: This goes way back before your time, but I wonder if you ever heard of an educational secretary of the Y by the name of W.H. Rowland? Like Nearpass, this is one of these names that I've never heard of before. Rowland built up the organization from just night classes to a night school. Right at the height of his career, he got into very bitter arguments with the other secretaries of the Y. They all had to appear before the Board of the Y and then they were asked to leave and the Board asked for Mr. Rowland's resignation. That's the only evidence I have of any real discord in the Y organization.

M: I hadn't known about Mr. Rowland.

- S: Someone remarked to me once that the Y really had some of the most prestigious people in Youngstown. Next to the Youngstown Club, the YMCA was the organization with the greatest prestige in Youngstown. That seemed to be more or less documented by your description of the people that you went through there.
- M: Oh, there were some prominent people on the Board of the YMCA. I wouldn't say that they were prestigious, but they were civic-minded people who felt that the YMCA was something that should be supported.
- S: It's a rather impressive list, though. I've been impressed by the other lists that I've come across.
- M: Well, they were very fine people on the Board.
- S: Do you remember Judge Gessner?
- M: Oh, very well. Judge George Gessner headed the law school for awhile. He grew up in Milton Township where my mother grew up, and I was his attorney for a while when he was on the bench. He took over the guardianship for a fellow who was a little bit dim-witted. George had lived and roomed with that person's family as a young man. There was some money left in trust for this dim-witted fellow and I remember George sweating over how to take care of him. I remember he solved the problem by letting this fellow take care of lawns. He could do this if you showed him exactly what to do, but he had no imagination at all. He had a bicycle, but he wanted a car and there was plenty of money to pay for it. Judge Gessner told him, "You have to get a driver's license to drive a car. If you get a driver's license, I'll get you a car." Of course, it wasn't very hard for George to make sure the fellow didn't get a driver's license.
- S: I have not done too much work on the law school yet; that's going to be a separate chapter in the book. I do get the impression that most of its graduates more or less stayed here in Youngstown and entered the local legal profession.
- M: I'd say the law school had sort of a checkered career. It put out some very good men and it put out some that I think the Bar is not too proud of, which is natural. They found that they couldn't get accreditation for the law school unless it had a full-time faculty. They couldn't justify the expenditures that were involved. By that time, J. C. Argetsinger was quite influential in the college affairs. He had succeeded my uncle as General Secretary of Sheet and Tube. Carl W. Ullman and others on the finance committee, canvassed the

requirements of the more prominent law schools in the country and set up standards that would meet those top requirements. It took a fellow six or seven years to get through and get a degree, but they still couldn't get the accreditation. They gave up and said that after a certain date, they would take no more students.

S: The law school was temporarily suspended in 1931, and then it was revived in 1934 or 1935.

M: For many years I kept the minutes of that College and you have access to those minutes.

S: Yes, I do.

M: I turned the minutes over to John Newman. They may be up at the College. I learned the hard way to keep an index of the minutes. I do it as I go along because it saves interminable hours of reading. Look at this. Here is sort of a chronological summary of the subjects I've been working on since 1967. It's a big help to me. There's my copy of the minutes.

S: I was particularly interested in the law school at this stage. Next week I'm having a conference with a professor of the Yale Law School in New Haven who is writing a history of legal education in the United States. He's going to try to pick my brain about the law school in Youngstown and I'm going to pick his about the place of the YMCA law schools in the country. The University gives 1908 as the official founding date because by 1908, the College was already a well developed school in the YMCA.

M: I think somebody traced it back that far and couldn't find anything earlier. That's the only explanation that I've ever had of it. I really don't know.

B: A few years ago Dr. Skardon asked me what was the official founding date of the College and I said, "I'm at a loss. I'm sure you remember." In 1958, we had the fifty year anniversary at a convocation downtown in one of the theatres. I knew that the College was fifty years old, but we had trouble figuring out the exact date it opened.

M: I never tried to go into it and I never tried to run it down. I don't know. When I was preparing this, I just arbitrarily covered a period of years that would include whoever was living that had made contributions to the project, and that was all I was trying to aim at at that time.

- S: I found that 1888 was the year the first classes were held at the Y, but there is a statement in the minutes of the meeting in 1889 saying that the educational committee was asked to report on whether we should have classes and they recommended against it. They decided to postpone the classes until a later date.
- M: I don't know. Prior to 1874 or 1875, the First Presbyterian Church had a colonial type building and a lecture hall on East Federal Street in the same block that the YMCA is located. I have seen pictures of the church and the lecture hall, and I've seen them located on some maps. I know Robert McCurdy and others were members of that church and also instrumental and interested in the YMCA. There may have been some relationship between that church and the Y, but I don't know for sure.
- S: The history of the YMCA shows that the Y always responded to some need in the community. For example, if you were going to have a social center for young men, you had to have a reading room, so you developed a library. One of the older men said, "They needed men that were skilled in mechanical drawing and so we had mechanical drawing classes."
- M: That was true all through the early days of the College. It used to be said that if there was a need for education in some particular field, the College would see that it was provided. That's why they started classes in merchandising there. Henry Caskey was the first full-time secretary of the YMCA (1887-1902) and he must have been a very able person because he and Dr. William H. Hudnut, the minister of the First Church here, were the closest of friends and worked together on many things. I was very closely associated with the Hudnut family also.
- S: I think Caskey later became a prominent official on the national office of the Presbyterian Church.
- M: Yes. Pond is mentioned here. In 1902, he was replaced by Ed McDonald, whom I knew very well. His widow is still living out in California. I didn't know Gibson; he wasn't there very long. Lester Hayward was a very fine leader. Leonard Skeggs was here for seven years. Leonard was known nationally as a trainer of YMCA personnel and he was a very able man. Paul Davies, was brought here under Leonard Skeggs.
- S: Do you know if he ever comes back to Youngstown?
- M: Not any more. I visited him a few years ago while I was down in Florida.

- S: Well, that's fine. I'll have to go down to Florida to interview him.
- B: Be sure to wait until the dead of winter.
- M: His brother lives there too, next door to him, I'm told. His brother was the Superintendent of Mill Creek Park for years.
- S: Davies' name comes up so often that I would like to interview him. Most of these men will come back to Youngstown.
- M: Well, the last time he came back, so many friends shook his hands that it wore him out. He's up in years; he isn't too strong. When we went down there, we called him from Orlando, Florida. Of course, they invited us right out to the house, which was almost over to the coast. It's way back in the woods on the shore of a lovely lake. He has a very nice house.
- S: If I ever get down to Florida, I hope I'll get a chance to interview him.
- M: Looking up history is an interesting thing.
- S: I have found that from 1908 to 1921, the school was known as the Youngstown Associational School.
- M: There was a lot of confusion over names back in those days.
- S: That's what I have found. The name was then changed.
- M: Yes. It was called Youngstown Institute of Technology. I think the first time people began to call it Youngstown College, was in the late 1920s.
- S: I noticed that even after the name was officially changed to Youngstown College, there were still references to the Youngstown Institute of Technology. Mrs. Harriet Schaff tells me that it was changed to Youngstown Institute of Technology because her father was a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and liked the name. There were quite a number of YMCA schools at that time that used that term, Detroit Institute of Technology, Baltimore Institute of Technology.
- M: I think maybe it was the forerunner of Community College thinking, too.

B: In informal papers and maybe even in newspaper publications, it was commonly referred to as the Institute of Technology even after it became the College. I was here when Youngstown College became Youngstown University. For three or four years after that, I'm sure many people referred to it as Youngstown College instead of Youngstown University.

M: Even in wills.

S: I used to enjoy correcting people. I'd say, "It's Youngstown University, not Youngstown College."

M: I wonder if I ever showed you this. Can you read it?

S: Yes, I certainly can. It sounds very familiar.

B: I follow this all right. What is this school house there?

M: This is the Constitution of Strock's School House, which was written in 1824. This is the handwriting of my great, great grandfather. This school house was called Dublin Center afterwards and it is located where Leffingwell Road crosses Route 62. My grandfather taught school there for many, many years, and this constitution was written by his grandfather. "Three members of the school house shall be chosen annually as a committee to furnish a man capable to teach their schools, and to search into the qualifications of the teachers and likewise to supervise the school in order that the master shall keep good rules and order. The scholars shall never attempt to put the master out of the school house on penalty of paying a fine of \$5.00 for every such offense and likewise for everyone who joins or assists in the like. The fine shall be applied to the youse [use] of the school. If any scholar or scholars does either, by design or by accident, break or damage anything belonging to the aforesaid house, he, she, or they, or their parents or master or guardian shall make it as good as it was before immediately or in the term of time not exceeding two days. Any scholar that cuts the house, either inside or out, shall be compelled to pay 6¼¢ for every inch so cut.

Further it is agreed that a majority of the committee shall meet on the last Friday of every month to examine the order and progress of the school. Further, it is agreed that each subscriber to the school house shall be at liberty to dispose of his or her description at any time they so prefer. Suppose they be of the white creation, their successor has the same privilege." That last sentence puzzles me. In 1824, I don't know whether it was blacks or Indians that they were talking about. It could have been Indians.

"And further it is agreed this constitution shall be and remain subject to alteration and amendment. Further it is agreed that the annual meeting shall meet at two o'clock and proceed to business [business] at four o'clock and close at sunset." It was signed by Isaac Warner, the President; Christian Dustman, the Secretary; Benjamin Manchester, Clerk; Jacob Duir, John Hyle (by mark), Jacob Strock, Jacob Frank, John Hyle, and Christian Dustman, the trustees.

B: That is interesting. The school house was where the Dublin Center is now on Leffingwell Road?

M: Yes. It's on the corner of Leffingwell and Route 62. There's no school house there now. I had an uncle who used to give me little tidbits of historical data. I'd stick them away and pay no attention to them. Finally, a few years ago, I got busy and began doing some research on it. The first legislation was passed in Ohio allowing them to raise tax money for schools in about 1829. A Benjamin Manchester was making out the tax lists for the tax assessments, so that I've got some of those records which are mighty interesting.

B: Do you know anything about a family around here named Strock? I wondered where this name came from.

M: Not today. There was a Strock living on the north side of Leffingwell Road, just east of Ellsworth Township. Pointing to a map--here is Route 62 and here is Western Reserve Road, which was the south boundary line of the Western Reserve District. Strock's farm was right up in here. I think it was the last farm before you got into Ellsworth.

Benjamin Manchester was interested in school there. His grandson, Hugh, taught school in Dublin for many, many years, and he was County School Examiner, and a great friend of Reuben McMillan, who lived in Canfield. After Reuben died, he bought their house and moved into it when he retired from the farm. He was also cashier of a bank over there in Canfield and later its president. He was interested in education. He was one of the first trustees of the Northeastern Ohio Normal College. Have you run into that one yet?

S: Yes, we have.

M: That's where my mother and father got their degrees.

S: That's very interesting. A graduate student wrote a very fine paper on the history of the Normal School at Canfield. It went out of existence in 1908, the year that allegedly Youngstown College was founded. I was just wondering if there was any connection between the schools at that time.

- M: I didn't know of any connection. My grandfather, Hugh A. Manchester, attended the Poland Seminary for a while and I think William McKinley attended that same seminary in Poland. I don't know too much about its history.
- B: It's interesting that the high school still carries that name.
- M: My grandfather was one of the first trustees of the Normal School in Canfield and, of course, a few of his children went to school there. Why it folded up, I don't know. Edwin F. Miller, a teacher at that school, was later a principal of the Rayen School in Youngstown. He was there when I was a student in high school. My dad and mother had known him, I think they attended some classes together under Miller. He must have been a young man when they were going through the Normal School.
- S: Do you recall who was the architect of Jones Hall? His name was Boucherle.
- M: Paul Boucherle, yes, he was a well-known architect in Youngstown.
- S: The first YMCA building on the corner there of Champion and Federal, was striking in design. It was, if you recall, Church Gothic, and quite a number of buildings in Youngstown were designed in a similar way. The YMCA building, St. John's, the old Presbyterian Church, and the Richard Brown Methodist Church were all of the same design.
- M: I don't know what work he did.
- S: I just wondered if he was the architect of the first Y.
- M: I wouldn't know. I think he would have been too young to have done the work on the first Y.
- S: His daughter is on the staff of the Butler Art Institute, Mrs. Bambi Goldcamp.

END OF INTERVIEW