

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Mahoning Valley Historical Society

Arms Museum

O. H. 255

DOROTHY M. WELSH

Interviewed

by

Hugh G. Earnhart

on

November 4, 1975

## DOROTHY M. WELSH

Mrs. Dorothy Welsh was the first curator of the Arms Museum, located at 648 Wick Avenue and operated by the Mahoning Valley Historical Society. In this interview conducted by the Oral History Director, Professor Hugh G. Earnhart, Mrs. Welsh recalls not only the history of the Arms Museum, but also the history of the Mahoning Valley and many of its early leading citizens.

Mrs. Welsh was born in Youngstown on August 26, 1896, a daughter of Charles H. and Margaret Higgins McGuire. One of seven children, she was reared in the neighborhood where the West Federal Street Housing Project is now located. She attended St. Columba School and later studied with the Ursuline Sisters. She went to Hall's Business College, which was later absorbed into Youngstown University. While at Hall's, Mrs. Welsh studied various subjects including advanced accounting and business law. For a time she was a bookkeeper and stenographer and this training was of great value to her in her work as director of the museum.

When Attorney W. R. Graham joined the Realty Trust Company, which was then located at the corner of Central Square and Wick Avenue, Mrs. Welsh joined him as secretary in the land title department. She was soon promoted to secretary in the front offices of Messrs. Wilford Arms and W. B. Hall, at a salary of seventy-five dollars per month. Later she worked in the security department and was one of the few women in Ohio licensed to sell securities.

When this firm was reorganized in 1940 she continued as secretary to Mrs. Arms, beginning a long period of close association and mutual respect. She also worked with the Union Realty & Management Company, was secretary of the Tod House Company, and secretary to George S. Bishop, Director of the Peoples Bank of Youngstown and court appointed trustee of The Realty Company. He later became Executive Vice-President of the newly organized Union Realty and Management Company.

In 1947 when Mr. Wilford Arms died, Mrs. Welsh became a full time secretary to Mrs. Arms, who specified in her will that Mrs. Welsh be Director of the Arms Museum. Mrs. Welsh credits Mrs. Arms with instilling many ideas in her that made the Arms Museum one of the finest local history museums in the country.

Mrs. Welsh describes the origins of the Museum, daily events such as cataloguing, storage and space requirements and how problems were dealt with. The events that created havoc in our nation's economy in the Depression years are weaved throughout the interview to provide the reader, student, and researcher with a distinct flavor of the times, as oral history so often does.

Mrs. Welsh resigned as Director of the Museum in 1970. She was named Honorary President of the Society in 1973, an office previously held only by Mrs. Wilford Arms and Mrs. Henry Butler. Mrs. Arms had a tremendous influence on Mrs. Welsh and she concludes this interview with a few words about the woman whose bequest made the Arms Museum possible. Mrs. Welsh states: "Her particular interest was that the coming generations be aware of their forebearers and of the many things that had happened before

their lifetimes, of the type of people who had built Youngstown and contributed to it over the period of her lifetime and even before that. It was her intention that the Arms Museum remain there for generations yet to come as a storehouse of this area's history and accomplishments. I feel that the whole community of the Mahoning Valley . . . owe(s) her a real debt of gratitude for her very generous gift to them."

MARY BETH BURKE  
May 24, 1978

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Mahoning Valley Historical Society

INTERVIEWEE: MRS. DOROTHY M. WELSH

INTERVIEWER: HUGH G. EARNHART

SUBJECT: Mahoning Valley Historical Society, Wilford and Olive Arms, Realty Trust Company, The Arms Museum.

DATE: November 4, 1975

EARNHART: This is an interview with Mrs. Dorothy M. Welsh for the Youngstown State University Mahoning Valley Historical Society Project by Hugh G. Earnhart at 2030 Renwick Drive, Poland, Ohio, on November 4, 1975 at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Mrs. Welsh, what do you remember about your parents and your family?

WELSH: I was born here and have been a life-long resident of Youngstown, Ohio. I was the third daughter of Charles Henry McGuire and Margaret Higgins McGuire. I was born in the family home on West Federal Street on the site where the present Metropolitan housing project now stands. My father's family owned three houses right in that area on Federal Street. The one we called "the large house" belonged to my father's parents, and we lived in one of the two smaller houses. It was numbered at that time, 934 West Federal Street, I recall. At that time it was a very nice, residential neighborhood. Some prominent citizens of Youngstown who lived near us at that time were the Huffman family. They owned the Huffman Brothers Lumber Yard to the southwest on the railroad tracks, not very far away.

E: Was that the Erie Railroad?

W: Yes. That's not very far to the south. The lumber mills were down along the railroad tracks, but the Huffman home was adjacent to the McGuire property, and it was a beautiful, big home. Then Dr. R. M. Morrison, who was a very well-known, friendly doctor here in Youngstown, lived next door to the Huffmans. Those three families comprised that particular block along West Federal Street at that time. Across the street there were a number of very nice residents also. I remember particularly the Byers family. They had a lovely home there and Mr. Byers was the neighborhood butcher. He had a butcher shop farther down the street toward what was then and is still now known as Westlake's Crossing.

I lived in the larger home until after my father's death. In fact, we moved from the smaller home into the larger home, which had been the grandparents' home; as that family either married, passed away, or left for other places. So, my mother and father and our family then moved into the larger home. That is where I lived until after my father's death, which occurred when I was just eight years old. I had one sister and one brother older than myself, one older sister that had died in infancy, and four younger brothers. We lived in that home until I was ten or eleven years old, then we moved. The house and all that property along there was sold, and we all moved to the North Side. We lived there for a time on Foster Street, which is still there.

To go back in time a little, when I was of school age, I went to St. Columba's School. This school was where it still is located on Rayen Avenue and Elm Street. We walked back and forth from school. As I recall, at that time Federal Street was not paved. Transportation was by streetcars, horses and buggies, wagons, and a few surreys and carriages owned by some of the wealthier families. The crosswalks were paved, but the roadway was not. Those are my recollections.

My mother's parents also lived in that same area, but down further towards Westlake's Crossing on what was called Gardner Street. They were on the other side of West Federal Street, and their home was a little

closer to the railroad. It was my grandfather's idea that perhaps someday that property might be of some value to the railroad. That was his main idea for buying that land. The McGuire family and the Higgins family were rather close to each other. In fact, that was how my father and mother met, and later were married.

But then, to continue on, when I was about twelve years old we moved from Foster Street to a street which was called Summit Avenue. Summit Avenue is no longer there, as now the Choffin Vocational School has used that street. From Summit Street we went to a project of The Realty Trust Company; this is just a coincidence. They were building, as an experiment, some cement block houses and covering or facing them with concrete. It was a new experiment in building. I remember very well that from Summit Avenue we moved out into one of those new houses. Now the new house was way out at the northern end of Walnut Street, which is just east of Wick Avenue. It's the first street and it's still there.

We lived on Walnut until I graduated from St. Columba School, in 1912. I was fifteen years old. I did not go to high school. I went directly from St. Columba School to Hall's Business College. I took their book-keeping and accounting course, graduated from that, and began the stenographic course.

I had been taking the stenographic course for maybe a month or more when I had an opportunity of getting a job with an attorney who was just retiring from having served as prosecuting attorney for Mahoning County. He was opening his private office again to practice law. I had heard that he was looking for a stenographer; in those days you didn't call them secretaries. While I hadn't gone very far through the stenographic department as yet, I still had the fundamentals. I got up the courage to go and see him about whether or not I could possibly get the job, and I did. I told him that I hadn't graduated from my stenographic course as yet, but I was intending to continue it at night school if I got the job. I needed the job because my mother had quite a task on her hands raising the family with very little income with which to do it, and it was important that we children get

work as quickly as we could. So that day I got this job with Mr. W. R. Graham, the former prosecuting attorney.

It was not very long, possibly two years later in 1915, that Mr. Graham had the opportunity of joining The Realty Trust Company, which was a real estate development company in Youngstown. They also had a land title department and were looking for a trust officer or an attorney to fill the job. They asked Mr. Graham to take this office, and he was very glad to take it. He asked me if I would like to go with him as his secretary in that department and possibly to work part time in the typing pool in their abstract department. Well, I was very glad to do that, of course.

E: Where were the offices located?

W: The offices were located on the northeast corner of Central Square and Wick Avenue, where the Palace Theatre was later located. Later, of course, it was torn down.

E: We now have a parking lot.

W: Yes. Well, I went with Mr. Graham to The Realty Trust Company into the typing department of a subsidiary of The Realty Trust Company. It's correct corporate name was The Realty Guarantee and Trust Company because they guaranteed titles of real estate. I worked in that department for just a very short time. Now what we called the front office was the area where the executives of The Realty Trust Company had their offices. Mr. W. B. Hall was the president of the company and his particular department was the real estate department. They developed a great deal of real estate here in Youngstown. All of the Crandall Park area was developed by The Realty Trust Company. Later, the corporate name was changed to The Realty Company because they dropped the trust department. In the front office also was Mr. Wilford P. Arms, who was the head of the securities department. They were dealers in over-the-counter local stocks and bonds. Also located in that office was the head of the bond department, Mr. Philip H. Schaff, who later became president of the Morris Plan Bank. He organized

the Morris Plan Bank, later the People's Bank of Youngstown.

So, as I say, I was in the abstract department for only a very short time, just a few months. One day Mr. Graham came to me and said, "Dorothy, Mr. Arms and Mr. Hall would like to interview you up in the front office. They would like to talk to you a little bit about making a move up to the front office." To say that I was slightly terrified is putting it mildly. I knew these men just by sight as they used to pass through the back department going to the parking lot in the rear. We spoke, and that was as much as I knew of these men. So, with some trepidation, I followed Mr. Graham to the front office. What they had in mind was that the young woman who was serving as secretary to both Mr. Arms and Mr. Hall was not happy in that job. She didn't feel competent. She had been put there more or less recently because the former secretary had left and gone to California. She was a very nervous type person and she just wasn't settling into the job to her own satisfaction nor to theirs, but they were willing to go along and give her the opportunity. They wanted to know if I would be interested in moving into the front office and trying that.

As a test of what I could do, they were starting a new program. The securities department had formed an affiliation with a brokerage firm in Cleveland named Borton and Borton. This affiliation dealt in securities in the Cleveland area, over-the-counter and on the Cleveland Stock Exchange. As a result of that connection, we had a direct line from our offices to that office in Cleveland, and we held some Cleveland Securities as well as Youngstown stocks. Well, they had decided that it was time that the sales on the Cleveland Stock Exchange should be listed in the Youngstown Vindicator. The very first task that they gave me as a trial was to get on that long distance telephone line to Cleveland and take down the list of the sales on the Cleveland Stock Exchange for that day, for publication in the Youngstown Vindicator.

At that point I did not know the difference between a stock and a bond, a first mortgage bond or a debenture, or what have you. I was frightened, naturally, but both of them, Mr. Arms and Mr. Hall, were just wonderful

men and very kind. I guess they could see the fright on my face. I said, "Oh, I don't know whether I could do that or not. I don't know anything about stocks or bonds." They said, "You don't have to. All you have to do is know names and numbers. Now, you sit down at Mr. Arms' desk. I want to introduce you to the gentlemen in the Borton and Borton office. I'll put you on the line and Mr. Groman will give you the sales." I remembered his name very well, George Groman. They had explained to him that this was my very first experience and to please do it slowly. So I got Mr. Groman by telephone that day and took down the list of the Cleveland Stock Exchange sales and typed them.

I'll never forget that. Mr. Arms took the list and looked it over and he said, "That's excellent, but there's just one name here that I'm not sure you got correctly." He said, "The rest of them are all stocks that I know are listed on the Cleveland exchange, but there's one here that I don't recognize and I'll have to check back with Mr. Groman on that." I had written Rinehart Tire and Rubber Company and whatever number of shares it was. Mr. Arms checked back with Mr. Groman and the proper name of that company was Swinehart Tire and Rubber Company. That was the only mistake I made.

- E: The telephone lines not being as clear as they are today, you can understand that happening.
- W: It's understandable. Well, from that day on, I was installed in the front office as secretary to Mr. Arms, Mr. Hall, and to Mr. Schaff who was the head of the stock and bond sales department, and I must say, he was a very brilliant man. I learned a great deal from Mr. Schaff.
- E: What was a typical day like as the secretary to these men? What time did you get to the office in the morning, what did you do, and when did you go home?
- W: In those days we got to the office at eight o'clock in the morning and we left at five o'clock.
- E: Did you have a coffee break?

- W: No, there was no coffee break. We got an hour for lunch. We lived in Oak Park, and I walked home and back for my lunch in those days because there wasn't enough money for me to go out to lunch like the other people did. When I went to work for Mr. Graham, I started at five dollars a week. By the time I got to The Realty Trust Company, I was getting ten dollars a week. When I went to the Realty Trust Company, they started me at sixty dollars a month. Then, when I went into that front office, I was raised to seventy-five dollars a month. I ran all the way home to tell my mother about that, because that was just fabulous in those days.
- E: I'm sure that it was.
- W: Oh, a typical day would be spent doing correspondence, personal or business for Mr. Arms and I would take his dictation and transcribe it. If Mr. Hall had any dictation, he didn't do too much dictating though, I would take his dictation and transcribe it. Most of my dictation and transcription was for Mr. Schaff, because he handled practically all of the securities sales, and by this time we were dealing in a good many bond issues of different companies. At this time, also, we were licensed to sell bonds to the banks in Pennsylvania as well as in Ohio. His way of doing that was to take participation in an issue of bonds of different corporations. Mr. Schaff would research the corporation's entire history. Then, he would consolidate it into very long letters which he would write to the different banks both here in Youngstown and in Pennsylvania. It was my job to transcribe those letters and sometimes there would be as many as two or three pages for each letter. Well, he was very thorough with the information that he sent out along with the usual circular brochure. I worked very, very hard, but at the same time it was a great education.
- E: And there were no duplicating machines.
- W: No, no duplicating machines. They had to be originals, going to banks. Incidentally, we also worked on Saturday mornings. We had Saturday afternoons off, but we worked Saturday mornings. I was kept busy all the time.
- E: Did you have anyone to help you?

W: No. I was the only secretary for them. No one helped me with that particular thing, nor with the personal correspondence of Mr. Arms or Mr. Hall. Later we got another salesman in the bond department whose name was Howard Ingels, and I took his work also. He didn't do as much of that type of work as Mr. Schaff, though he did some.

Incidentally, at the time of World War I, Mr. Schaff had a position with the war munitions department and I had considerable dictation from him in that capacity as well. Of course, the securities business then was tapering off somewhat, and one thing just sort of led to another. I remained in that office in that old building at the corner of the Square until 1925 when the new Realty Building was erected on the southeast corner of the Square.

Our company built The Realty Building on that corner land which they held on a ninety-nine year lease in the name of The Union Land & Building Company - another company owned by The Realty Trust Company, and which had also held the title to the old Realty Building. The actual owners of the land on which the new building was to be erected--the Lessors in the lease--were the C. D. Hine Estate and the H. H. Treudley Estate. The Treudley Estate owned only the easterly twenty feet of East Federal Street frontage and the Hine Estate owned the larger portion of the land fronting on both East Federal Street and Central Square.

I should mention also that The Realty Trust Company managed The Tod House Company and had a substantial holding of stock in that company. Its property was located to the south of the new site of the Realty Building with frontage on both Central Square and Market Street and consisted of a hotel building with storerooms and a motion picture theatre--The Strand Theatre--on the first floor as well as the hotel lobby. That corner is now vacant, all of the buildings having been demolished.

Other properties managed by The Realty Trust Company at that time were the so-called "American Building," located on West Federal Street and extending north to West Commerce Street. The Federal Street frontage of this property was occupied by storerooms and the rear portion contained The Hippodrome Theatre, a vaudeville and motion picture theatre with its lobby entrance from the arcade which separated the American

Building from the G. M. McKelvey Department Store (now Higbee's).

Another company whose affairs they managed was The Century Realty Company and its property was and still is the storeroom at the corner of North Walnut and East Federal Streets now occupied by the Haber Furniture Store.

The Realty Trust Company handled the leasing and rentals, general management and bookkeeping of all of these properties.

Upon completion of the new Realty Building, we then moved from the old offices. In fact, we were the first tenants to go into the new Realty Building, and we took the entire third floor. That became the offices then of what, by this time, was The Realty Company and The Realty Guarantee and Trust Company. With both of those companies we moved on toward the Depression years, when the securities business tapered off. By this time Mr. Schaff had left the company and had organized the Morris Plan Bank, which is now the Peoples Bank, and I handled all the correspondence in connection with the establishment of that bank as well. Of course when it was established, Mr. Schaff became its first president. It was first located in The Tod House Building, and later in the Erie Terminal Building.

We then went back to handling mostly local unlisted securities with Mr. Arms still the head of that department. In the meantime we had taken in the son of a local family whose name was Henry Jones. He was the nephew of Federal Judge Paul Jones of Cleveland, and his grandfather was Paul Jones' father. He was apparently quite well to do and he bought young Henry Jones a partnership in The Realty Company. Henry Jones became a vice president in the securities department, more or less taking the place of Mr. Schaff, who was gone by that time.

E: Then you had some more correspondence.

W: I also took his dictation all the time that he was there. He continued, and by the time we went over to the new building, he and Mr. Arms were the two

officials of the securities department. Mr. Hall was still the head of the real estate department. I should have mentioned along with this that Mr. W. A. Carroll was the corporate secretary of the company from the time I joined it in 1915. He was more or less associated with Mr. Hall in the real estate department rather than the securities department. Mr. Arms was really the one who controlled the securities department.

E: How did you come to move from that position to that of being secretary to Mrs. Arms?

W: When I went into the front office, there was a young woman, Miss Holden, in the bookkeeping department and she did Mr. and Mrs. Arms' books, and also Mr. Hall's books. They each had a set of books just like a business or a corporation has. Each of them had to set up these books when the internal revenue law became effective on March first, 1913, because they all had securities holdings and it was necessary that they keep more accurate records of their holdings. So, Mr. Hall, Mr. Arms and Mrs. Arms had complete sets of books, each with their separate holdings. Mrs. Arms was independently wealthy in her own right, with money that she had inherited from her father. Most of the money that Mr. Arms had, he had earned. Mr. Hall was the same way. But, this young woman who was taking care of the books got married and left. So, in addition to my other duties as secretary and stenographer, I took on the bookkeeping of all three; Mr. and Mrs. Arms, and Mr. Hall. Those books came into my custody then and I kept Mr. and Mrs. Arms' books up until their deaths, but not Mr. Hall's.

The Depression came along and things were pretty bad as far as the Realty Company and some of its affiliates were concerned. By this time, 1925, The Realty Company had organized The Palace Realty Company and we had underwritten the securities of the Palace Company in Youngstown. They had a preferred issue and a common issue. The preferred was issued with a dividend rate of eight percent, which was something in those days. They built this very beautiful and expensive building on that site where the old Realty Building had been. We marketed that entire issue of stocks of The Palace Realty Company. Most of them were sold locally. Mrs.

Arms became the largest stock holder in that company.

But things began to taper off and the first thing that began to show a decline was The Palace Realty Company, because of the theatre. The theatre was a very beautiful building. It occupied most of the first floor. There were some very nice store rooms there also. But, the theatre provided the main income of The Palace Realty Company. With the advent of motion pictures followed by television, the theatre of The Palace Realty Company was no longer a success. That was the first of the companies that began to show a very decided decline. The other companies also by this time were in trouble. There were no new business developments and they were rather coasting along.

Gradually The Realty Company had become more or less what you now might call a conglomerate, managing The Tod House Company, The Palace Realty Company, The Century Realty Company, The Union Land & Building Company, the so-called American Building and The Realty Guarantee & Trust Company.

Finally in 1939 The Realty Company had to resort to reorganization proceedings and they were the first company to go through reorganization under Chapter Ten of the Chandler Act, which had been enacted somewhere in the 1930's. I don't remember exactly, but I think it became law early in 1939.

This Chandler Act was an amendment to the Federal Bankruptcy Law which permitted the reorganization rather than liquidation of a company that was in financial distress for lack of ready cash but which still had substantial assets. Such reorganization was to be conducted under the supervision and absolute authority of a Trustee appointed by the court, and this was the exact situation in which The Realty Company and its associate companies found themselves at this time.

Mr. George S. Bishop, of Poland, Ohio, a well known real estate developer, as well as a Director of The Peoples Bank of Youngstown, was appointed by the court as Trustee and he immediately came into the office and assumed complete charge of the affairs of the companies.

These proceedings were conducted under the supervision

of Federal Judge Paul Jones in Cleveland. They were long and costly, requiring the services of three or four attorneys, but were finally concluded at the end of the year 1940.

In these proceedings, Mr. Arms and Mr. Hall both suffered financial losses because of their large personal holdings of stock in The Realty Company. Mrs. Arms too sustained considerable losses because of her very substantial holdings of the stocks of The Palace Realty Company. But as for the rest of her holdings, she went through the Depression fairly well. Mr. Arms was always very careful about her portfolio.

At the close of the reorganization proceedings, The Palace Realty Company, with Mr. Hall still as President and Mr. J. C. Horton (who had succeeded Mr. Carroll) as Secretary, separated from what was left of The Realty Company and The Realty Guarantee & Trust Company and took their offices over to the Stambaugh Building. But the other companies, The Realty Company and The Realty Guarantee & Trust Company (with Mr. Arms then named President of those two companies) and The Tod House Company remained in smaller quarters in the Realty Building. Also in the process of that reorganization the name of The Union Land and Building Company which held the lease to the Realty Building was changed to The Union Realty & Management Company. In the first place it is a leasehold - we never owned the land. The building was built on a 99-year leasehold expiring in the year 2010. The land is owned by the C. D. Hine Estate and the H. H. Treudley Estate, as I have said before. The ground rentals from the Hine land were payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Hine Cates, who lived there on Wick Avenue near Mrs. Arms. The lease provides that the rentals go to Mrs. Cates as long as she lives and, upon her death, to St. Elizabeth's Hospital. The property becomes the property of St. Elizabeth's Hospital upon expiration of the lease. That was all under a will drawn by Mrs. Cates' father, Mr. Cecil D. Hine, a very good and influential Youngstown attorney.

When the reorganization was finally completed and the new company, The Union Realty & Management Company, incorporated to take charge of affairs, Mr. Bishop became the Executive Vice-President of that company in charge of operations. Having served during the reorganization proceedings he had become acquainted with the

business and from then on it was really he who was in charge of the office. At the same time I was named corporate secretary of the companies that remained.

Mr. Arms continued to maintain his office there even though later The Realty Guarantee & Trust Company and its Securities Department were dissolved and we no longer handled securities.

This all was a part of the reorganization. Mr. Arms continued to come to the office every day and I continued to handle his books. At that time, Mr. Hall's books were taken over by Mr. Horton. That was the last that I had to do with Mr. Hall's affairs. Eventually Mr. Hall died. He had put Mr. Horton in charge of that office of The Palace Realty Company and I believe A. E. Adams, Jr., was elected president of that company for a time. Mr. Carl Ullman was elected president of The Union Realty and Management Company at first, but then later Mr. William Hitchcock was named president of that company and Mr. Bishop continued to be the executive vice-president. Mr. Arms continued to have his office there, and I continued to do Mr. Arms' and Mrs. Arms' books until Mr. Arms became ill and was no longer able to come to the office.

I still stayed there in the office. I was, by this time, Mr. Bishop's secretary, as well as corporate of the companies that remained. There were two other girls, a bookkeeper and a receptionist, in the office and the receptionist did some of Mr. Bishop's typing. Because he also had his Real Estate Office in Poland, he had to have his own secretary there. But gradually, I began to do more of his personal work, too. As I recall, it was in 1945 that Mr. Arms discontinued coming to the office.

I remained there and I continued to keep his and Mrs. Arms' accounts, doing this more or less on my own time, since I also had my full time job with Mr. Bishop and the Union Realty and Management Company. The books were my personal obligation. I got them done when I could or stayed overtime to do them. This went on until the Realty Building was finally sold. At that time, Mr. Bishop also had an interest in the People's Bank; he was a vice president there.

The office in the Realty Building was given up and I went with Mr. Bishop to the People's Bank. In the meantime, Mr. Arms was at home and I went to his house frequently to talk things over with him when we got the statements of their accounts. I'd go up to the house and go over them with him. He supervised the investments as long as he was able. But then finally he became very ill and they called me. Mrs. Arms called one Sunday and asked if I would come up to the house because they wanted to talk with me. I remember that by this time Mr. Arms was quite ill. They were disturbed as to Mrs. Arms' affairs, because I'm sure that Mr. Arms felt by this time that his illness was terminal and he asked me about my future plans. I told him that I had a job with Mr. Bishop as long as I wanted it as far as that was concerned.

I was not particularly happy at the People's Bank, so Mr. Arms asked me if he would be placing too much of a burden on me if he asked me, when he was no longer able to do so, to succeed him looking after Mrs. Arms' holdings. Anyway, one day Mr. Arms asked me if I would continue to look after Mrs. Arms' affairs; if she could depend upon me to take care of things for her. I assured him that I would, no matter where I went or what other arrangements I might make, and that he need have no worry on that point. By this time, I was so fond of them and they had been so very, very kind to me, that I thought it a privilege to be associated with them.

E: Could you in a few words describe Mr. Arms himself?

W: Come here and look at him, in this picture, and I'll tell you. Mr. Arms was a gentleman in the highest sense of the word. He was very intelligent, very kind, very considerate, and had a terrific sense of high humor, which was very surprising, but you had to know him a little before you learned that about him. He was a very dignified man; in fact, I think I had worked for him for possibly fifteen years and maybe longer before he ever called me by my first name. He was that type of person, a person that you could talk to and ask advice of. I never heard him say unkind or cynical words about anyone, really, in all the years that I knew him. There were people that he liked better than others, but if he didn't like

a person, he just didn't talk about him at all. He was absolutely and completely devoted to Mrs. Arms and perhaps I should have told you at the very beginning that Mrs. Arms suffered from arthritis from the first day I ever knew her.

E: What age was that? How old was she when you first met her?

W: She must have been in her forties. It began particularly in her hands, but the first time I ever saw Mrs. Arms she was walking with a cane because by then it had also affected her knees. The first time I ever saw her was at the theatre. In the old days, when the very good New York Shows used to come to the Park Theatre, I was fortunate enough to have been taken to one of them. I was pretty young at that time, but Mr. and Mrs. Arms were there for this evening. He had told me that they were going and I saw them walk down the aisle. She was wearing a red velvet evening wrap with a white ermine collar, and her hair was not white but a little gray. She was one of the most beautiful women I ever saw. I'll never forget the picture of her walking down the aisle and Mr. Arms helping her, since she had to use the cane because of the arthritis. That picture stays in my mind; it has for all these years. That was my first glimpse of her.

I promised Mr. Arms that I would look after Mrs. Arms' affairs no matter what else might happen or where I might go. I know that that set his mind at rest. In the meantime, I told Mr. Bishop of my promise. Mr. Arms died in 1947. Then, of course, I had to go up to the house much more frequently, which I did. I sometimes would go up from the office downtown or on Saturday afternoons, and sometimes on Sundays. I took care of her accounts and her investments, her household help, paid all of her bills, and did everything for her. I was very careful to always give her a monthly statement of her receipts and disbursements. She didn't ask for these, saying, "Whatever you give me, I'm satisfied with." I said, "Well Mrs. Arms, something might happen to me sometime and I want you to know how you're situated and what is going on."

If ever a question came up about an investment that I

wasn't sure about, I took this up with Mr. A. E. Adams, Jr., who was the president of the Union Bank and whom I admired greatly, and still do. I recall that in the organization of our companies he sat in on the directors' meeting, of which I took the minutes. It was at the time that they were considering selling off the holdings of The Realty Company. We had as directors of the company such men as Mr. R. C. Steese, Mr. Carl Ullman, Judge John W. Ford, Mrs. Hall, and Mr. Arms. They went over the portfolio of the holdings of the company and as they accounted for each item and it was discussed, all of these men turned to Mr. Adams who was by far the youngest man there, for his opinion. He sat there and gave them the information in detail, the business situation, of every company in that portfolio, right off the bat. I was utterly amazed. Well, no wonder he was president of the Union National Bank. I always had the greatest respect for him, so when I needed advice in connection with Mrs. Arms' affairs I always went to Mr. Adams. She was pleased about that too, because Mrs. Arms and his mother were friends. She didn't have too many close friends left because of her prolonged disabilities from arthritis. She did not socialize.

E: She didn't get around as much.

W: She didn't get around at all. One by one, her activities were curtailed and she didn't keep in touch with her former associates whom she had in her younger years. Mrs. Adams was one of the persons that she did at least keep in telephone communication with. Mrs. Adams was a member of the Shook family, early Youngstown residents. So, Mrs. Arms was very pleased that I felt the way I did about Mr. Adams because she had confidence in him, too. After Mr. Arms' death and the administration of his estate was finished, Mrs. Arms began to think about her own future and what disposition she would make of her home and other things. She gave it all very serious thought, and there were a number of different things that she considered.

She saw very few people. One of the persons that she did see was Mrs. Grace Butler, mother of James G. Butler III of the Butler Art Gallery. She kept in touch with Mrs. Arms. Mrs. Cates would come down and visit Mrs. Arms even though she walked on crutches, because she was very lame. By this time, Mrs. Arms was spending

most of her time upstairs because if she wanted to come down the stairs she'd have to come down carried in a chair. She couldn't possibly walk down the stairs, so she converted one of the upstairs bedrooms into a sitting room where she spent most of her days. There she saw Mrs. Butler occasionally, Mrs. Cates, and Judge Ford and his wife, who also came around occasionally.

E: Old neighbors.

W: Yes, that's right. Judge Ford called her "Cousin Olive". They weren't really related. They just kind of had that habit.

E: That was typical in those days.

W: Right. Mrs. Paul Wick, the wife of the man who had a tragedy the week before last, is one of Mrs. Arms' closest blood relatives. Her name was Almyra Arms, and she and Mr. Wick occasionally would visit Mrs. Arms. But aside from that, she saw no other people without an appointment unless it was about a business matter or something which she was considering. In that case, I would have to make an appointment to have her see them, but otherwise she didn't see people socially.

E: During this period did she keep in very good spirits?

W: Wonderful; she kept alert. She read constantly. Her hands were so badly crippled with arthritis that you would wonder how she could hold a pen or a pencil, but up to the last two years before she died there were a few Christmas cards she sent which she addressed herself. She wrote notes to close friends. She made all of her own lingerie, the finest needlework you could imagine. She made a pair of brocade draperies that now hang in the museum. She did the machine stitching on an old treadle sewing machine, which is up on the third floor, unless they have disposed of it. The rest of it she did by hand.

E: This was when she was in her seventies or eighties?

W: She was in her eighties then. She could even thread a needle without glasses.

E: I can't even do that.

W: It was beautiful. Whatever she did was perfect.

E: Did Mrs. Arms have any medication or any doctor's care at all?

W: Over the years, yes. They tried everything. The place where she got the most help was down at John Hopkins Hospital, in Baltimore. She saw a doctor there. I don't recall his name, but he got one prescription for her and up to the time of her death, I regularly sent to that drug company. I still remember the name; it was Hinson, Westcott and Dunning in Baltimore. She continuously had that prescription filled because it was the only thing that gave her any relief at all. At times she suffered terribly from the pain; at other times she was fairly comfortable. But she never complained, never.

E: Did she ever have a summer home in Massachussettes?

W: That wasn't Mrs. Arms' house, that was Judge Henderson's wife's mother. Mr. and Mrs. Arms were thinking about a summer home at one time. About 1927, Mr. and Mrs. Arms decided that Wick Avenue was becoming too busy a street and that they might like to move further out into the country. It was their habit on Sundays to go out for long drives, and there was one piece of property out in Liberty township that attracted Mrs. Arms. For a year or two they debated and thought about that property and finally they made up their minds that they would buy that and would build a home out there. They were looking ahead to the day when there would be nothing but business on Wick Avenue. This was before Mr. Arms became ill. Mrs. Arms bought 120 acres of land in Liberty Township and it was that area which is now Logan Arms. That's how it got its name. That whole 120 acres was owned by Mrs. Arms.

Back then, she started immediately to make plans for the type of home that they would like to have. They began by building the garage building first. It is still there and has been converted into apartments. It is of English Tudor architecture. Mrs. Arms designed it, and the architectural drawings were made from her designs. Mrs. Arms kept herself occupied for years going out every day and supervising things. She

had at least three men working for her out there at that time, preparing the land and planting it. She fenced it in with an iron fence which is still there. I can remember how shocked I was when I got the bill for the fence and it was ten thousand dollars. I thought to myself, "Good gracious! How many people would feel they were terribly well off if they had a ten thousand dollar home?" But that is what she paid for the iron fence which enclosed that entire 120 acres at that time. Then she built the garage. That was in 1927, and it was completed in 1928.

She was out there a great deal, and she was farsighted enough to include in the property she bought one piece of property across the road. There was a creek running through it and she wanted a lake on her property; and that creek went under the road and over into the land. She laid out with a little stone wall the location where they were going to build what they referred to as the Sodom Cottage and Mrs. Arms drew the plans for it. They had the site all ready for that. They had the lake in, too. They had planted climbing pink roses all along the iron fence, enclosing the 120 acres clear up to the next building and quite a distance over the crossroad. That rose fence became celebrated in the area. People from all over came in early July, just to see the rose fence that enclosed the Arms' property. It was a perfectly gorgeous sight to see.

Later on, after Mr. Arms' death, Mrs. Arms said, "I suppose the first thing I should do is dispose of the Sodom property. There is no point in my paying the taxes." I had also talked with her about that before, as it was really a burden to keep the building repaired and insured and taken care of. So we finally put that up for sale and sold it for a price that was just dreadful. She took quite a loss on that property, but she was really glad to be relieved of the burden of having to care for it, maintain it and pay the taxes on it. There was nothing else for her to do. I consulted with Mr. Adams about that before we did it, and he agreed. So, that was the first thing she did, and then she began talking about the Wick Avenue property and that perhaps it could become a small hospital for poor children who couldn't get the proper care otherwise. It turned out that we were discouraged from that line by Mrs. Arms' doctor.

E: Who was her local doctor?

W: Dr. M. W. Neidus. Then one day, she said to me, "I am thinking. I have been talking to Grace Butler, as she called her, and she said, "I have been thinking somewhat about The Mahoning Valley Historical Society." This was the first time I ever heard of The Mahoning Valley Historical Society. She said, "Haven't you heard about it?" And I said, "No, Mrs. Arms, I haven't." I didn't know about The Mahoning Valley Historical Society. "Well," she said, "I'm not surprised because it has not been very prominent in the news over the years and there would be no reason why you particularly would come in contact with it. I have always known about it principally because my father was one of the charter members of the society and from time to time he spoke about it, especially in the first few years of the organization. Mrs. Butler mentions it to me every once in a while." This was because Joseph G. Butler Jr., Mrs. Butler's father-in-law, had been more or less active in trying to keep the Society alive over the years when people became too involved in making a living and going into industry and they just didn't have the time nor the means to devote too much attention to anything else.

The Society was being considered by Mrs. Arms because she remembered her father talking about it in its early years, but more recently it had been brought to her attention through her conversations with Mrs. Grace Butler. Mrs. Butler told her of the struggle that they had had and that she was not very hopeful for the Society's future. The little funds that the Society had been able to accumulate over the years had just been from membership dues, and its collection was moved from one place to another wherever anyone would take it, and it got to the point that the Butlers took care of it until they were going to build the art gallery.

There was a house in there where the Gallery now is. Of course I know that from hearsay, not from fact. When the art gallery was to be built, then they persuaded the public library to permit them to put the Society's collection on the third floor in the unused part of what was called the attic of the library.

They wanted a little space in the public part of the library to display a few of the artifacts that had come to the Society over the years. This is where such things that the Society had were stored, and a few of them were on display in one of the second floor rooms of the library.

Mrs. Arms wasn't sure that there would be enough people who would be interested in reviving the Society, since it had been around so long and no one paid any attention to it. Mrs. Butler hadn't quite convinced her that she had made the right decision. Mrs. Arms felt that it was practically dead on its feet and that there was no one who could generate enough interest to do anything to get it really going as a going concern. But Mrs. Arms kept thinking about it and thinking about it, and one day she called me and said, "Dorothy, I can talk with you as my secretary, as my friend, and as one really interested in helping me with my affairs, and in making my decision whether enough interest can be generated to revive the Society and make it a going concern." She said, "One of the first things I want you to do is to become a member of The Mahoning Valley Historical Society. All you have to do is to write a check for a membership. I'll see to it that it gets to the Society." So I said, "I'll speak very frankly with you. If this is what you're going to do, I'll join because whatever you're going to do I'm going to be interested in. I know that." To what extent that was to be I had no idea then.

E: What finally helped make up her mind? Do you know?

W: Mrs. Butler was the motivating influence more than anything else, but Mrs. Arms' own desire that the coming generations in Youngstown not lose sight of the earlier settlers of the community was an important factor. She wanted to provide a place for the history of what the settlers did, and how they lived, and how the different industries came about. Particularly, she was interested in the middle class and the lower class people who looked upon Wick Avenue as a place where all the very rich people lived, and in the old days this was more than half of the people. She thought that she had such an appreciation of unusual things, that people who did not have the means to have all these things themselves, could at least be given an opportunity to see them and appreciate them, and to know about them. This was her thinking. The more she thought about it, the more she convinced herself that this was what she wanted to do.

- E: Do you know of any time that she gave consideration to research on arthritis, or anything of that sort?
- W: Personally, she didn't. I know that she had doctors at John Hopkins who were helpful, and there was also a doctor up in Rochester, New York, who did a great deal of research, but as I say, the only thing that ever really helped her was the prescription.
- E: But she wasn't interested in it herself? The property and foundation money that she had left to the Historical Society; she never gave thought of giving that towards arthritis research?
- W: No, not to my knowledge, but on the subject of research, if she ever thought of it, she never mentioned it. She finally made up her mind to leave this property to the Society, if it could be worked out, if the Society could handle it, and if enough interest could be revived to make it a going project. She said, "You know that with Mr. Arms' death I have had to revise my will anyway, so I had a will drawn up and I specified that the Mahoning Valley Historical Society be the recipient of this property." She went ahead and did that, and she had provided that the Mahoning Valley Historical Society open a public museum to be named The Arms Museum, in honor of her father and mother, Hannah Wick Arms and Charles Dayton Arms. She left the property in that first will that she had drawn an endowment of three hundred thousand dollars for the care, upkeep and maintenance of the buildings and such contents as she would leave in the house. She directed that the funds be used for those purposes. The main complaint of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society was that it didn't have a home where they could establish themselves. She felt that if she provided a home that they could call their own, then maybe other interests could be revived, and other people could be encouraged to contribute to the Society towards its research work.
- E: Mrs. Welsh, just to clear up some of the items that you mentioned earlier; you attended St. Columba School as a child. Could you tell us something about what the school was like or, to put it a different way, what was a typical day like at that school?
- W: The Ursuline sisters were the teachers at St. Columba School. I started to school rather late; I was almost eight years old when I started school. There were at

at that time what would now be equivalent to about nine grades. In other words, the school took in what they called the eighth grade, but it took in such subjects as the first year of Latin, and algebra, a little of geometry and English history, as well as the usual subjects which I believe they now teach in the junior high schools. Starting at the age of eight, I went into the first grade and I learned the fundamentals; the abc's, how to add and subtract, how to read and spell and the usual subjects of that kind. I was able, in the course of going to school, to skip two grades because I made pretty rapid progress. Fortunately, I learned rather quickly and for that reason, I was able to skip a grade. I think I skipped the third grade and also the sixth.

What I learned in each different grade now is not very clear in my mind. We continued to advance in such subjects as history, geography and more advanced language, or "grammer", as we called it in those days. All the way through school I was taught by the Ursuline nuns, except for one grade in which they had a lay teacher, Miss Catherine Malloy. She herself had graduated from St. Columba School, had attended what they called in those days, normal school and had become a school teacher. She taught a class which was, I think, the seventh grade. Other than that, I had Ursuline nuns for teachers all the way through. Those were the principle subjects that I got there.

E: Do you remember anything about the building?

W: I think the building is still there. It was located on Elm as it is now, on the corner of Elm Street and West Rayen Avenue. It was enclosed by an iron fence, and next to it was the Ursuline convent. There the nuns lived and also conducted what, at that time, was called the Ursuline Academy, a private school for girls. I was unable to attend the academy because it was expensive. My mother was unable to send me there, so I got my schooling in the regular St. Columba School. I graduated from there in 1912.

E: By the way, they have torn down the school.

W: Is that so?

E: Oh yes, they took it down. . .

W: As I recall, we went through an iron fence, then there were about four concrete steps and a small stoop, which took you into a long hallway. On the first floor, there were four large classrooms and there was a staircase going up with four larger rooms on that floor, too. There was a rear entrance or exit, with the same type of entrance and iron railings, which went into the playground.

On a typical day, we got to school at eight o'clock a.m. and we had a fifteen minute recess at ten o'clock. Then lunch hour was from twelve o'clock p.m. to one o'clock p.m., and the afternoon session was from one o'clock p.m. to four o'clock p.m. The older students attended Mass at St. Columba's Church two mornings of each week, on Mondays and Thursdays, with classes after Mass at about eight-thirty a.m.

E: Was there an afternoon recess?

W: There was an afternoon recess at about two-thirty. When I went to the school, boys and girls were segregated, except in the first grade. Boys and girls were together in the first grade, but from there on, the girls were in one room with their teacher and the boys were in a different room with their teacher. That held true all through my school days at St. Columba, with the exception of the last grade, the eighth grade. In that last year of school, the boys in the same class as the girls moved to the girls' room for the studies in Latin and algebra. That was the only time that the girls and boys were in the same room and had the same teacher. In that last grade, particularly in the Latin classes, one of the priests from St. Columba's parish came in for a short time and conducted the classes in Latin. That's the story of my attendance at St. Columba School. Now at the recess periods, the girls had the front yard and there was a fence dividing the boys' end of the yard from the girls'. They went out that back entrance to the playground at the back of the school, and the girls' playground was in the front part of the yard. The front was not as large as the backyard, which went through to the convent and into the girls' academy, which was situated next to St. Columba School.

E: What do you recall about the office that you spent so many years in with the Realty Company?

W; The Realty Company office was located on the northeast corner of Wick Avenue and the Square. The entrance had about five or six stone steps from the street to the front double doors. From there, you went into a hallway. The bookkeeping department was behind a partition which was solid at the bottom. At the top was an iron grating, so the girls working in that department and the girl who was the secretary to the corporate secretary had her desk there, in that department also. You could see right through one of the railings. One of the offices was Mr. Arms' office, which was on the Wick Avenue side, and my office as secretary to both him and the Securities department was near Mr. Arms'. There was a little triangular corner off of Mr. Arms' office, so that the door to my office and from my office went into Mr. Arms' office. It was right inside the main door as you came into this hallway. This little office, which I had was just a little triangular corner, which had room only for my desk and chair. There wasn't enough room in there for my files. They were in Mr. Arms' office, right inside the door.

This office, where I worked, had a large window right on Wick Avenue so that I could see everything that was going on outside. Mr. Arms' office had windows also along the Wick Avenue side, facing across the street towards the Dollar Bank Building and the First National Bank, which is now the Union Bank Building. That entrance into my office was to the left. Then you could step from there into Mr. Arms' office. To the right, the first office was that of the securities salesmen, Mr. Schaff and Mr. Ingels, and others who came after them. The next office belonged to the corporate secretary, Mr. Carroll, whom I don't think I mentioned previously. Beyond his office at the other corner of the front part of the building, was Mr. W. B. Hall's office, which faced Central Square. Right off this section, which was more less partitioned and fenced off, was the bookkeeping and accounting department. Also there was a rather large safe or vault in which the securities or cash we had on hand at any given time were kept. Then, to the left of that hall was another hallway which led to what we called the back offices. The back office consisted of the real estate and title department. It was a very large room, and ordinarily there were at least six or seven typists each with desks and typewriters. That is also

where Mr. Graham had his trust officers' area. On one wall was his desk, and the typists' desks were all along the other wall. There was a small lavatory at the end of that room. From the title department, just as you entered it, to your right was another short hallway. That hallway went straight through and there was an entrance and exit to the street. There were three or four steps from that hallway by which you could go down onto the Central Square. To the left, as you went through that hallway, was the office of the Real Estate Department manager. His office also faced the Central Square, beyond this little hallway and the entrance from the Square. There was a second floor to the building which led to the back hallway. The brokerage firm of Otis and Company from Cleveland had a local office up there, not for any great length of time, but they were located there at the time that I went to work for the company. They had the privilege of storing their securities and cash in our safe. It was customary for their office manager, at the close of each day, to bring all of their valuables down. They had several safe deposit boxes which they kept in the vault in our office.

E: But most of the time that upstairs section was empty?

W: Well, part of it was rented.

E: For storage?

W: No, it was rented for the most part. There was also a basement in the building. There were steps going down from Central Square and in that department, there was a barber shop, a pawn shop, and a bondsman's office. They called some of them pawn shops in those days. That shop was run by a very well-known pioneer in Youngstown, John Strachan. Incidentally, he is one of those whose name is listed on the Life Membership fund of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society. Mr. Wick asked the Executors of his estate to make that contribution as Mr. Strachan had started it before his death. That is the old building.

E: Was most of the furniture wooden?

W: Yes.

E: And uncomfortable, by today's standards?

- W: I can't quite say that. It may have been at first, but a little later on the offices of Mr. Arms, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Carroll were all refurnished, and the furniture was quite beautiful. Their desks were circassian walnut and their chairs were leather upholstery fitted in brown to match the desks. They had several side chairs that were quite rich-looking also.
- E: Were these men apt to hang on the wall their diplomas and citations, or were they more inclined to put maybe not works of art but copies of art?
- W: The pictures that were on the walls there are the pictures that are now at the Arms Museum. They depict the early scenes of Youngstown. Those pictures belonged to the Realty Trust Company. Originally, the Realty Trust Company had them first. They were not in the condition that they are in now at the museum. There was an occasion when the Vindicator and the Arc Engraving Company, which was in some way connected or affiliated with the Vindicator, wanted to make copies of all of those pictures for their own purposes and files. Mr. Hall and Mr. Arms loaned them all of those pictures, which were framed, but not very attractively at that time. In gratitude for the company having loaned the Vindicator the pictures, they had the Arc Engraving Company reframe them all as they are now at the museum. They are all early scenes of Youngstown. You can see them there now. That was the type of material they had on the walls. I don't remember if any of the men put up any of their own personal diplomas or things of that type on the walls. Neither did they display family portraits like some men have in their offices. They had the usual pen and ink sets, not the ballpoints like we have today; they used ink wells which were very nice looking. These ink wells had to be refilled, and in the case of Mr. Arms and Mr. Hall, this was something that I had to be sure was always taken care of. Other than that, the only things that I can remember their having on their desks were business magazines and newspapers; for instance, the Wall Street Journal, financial papers, and publications of one kind or another. Other than that, I can't remember anything else. The salesmen, in their room, had nothing but what they needed; ink wells, sales, and purchase forms, etcetera.

Mr. Schaff's desk was usually piled high with financial magazines and newspapers of one kind or another. He

was really a good student and kept abreast of financial affairs all the time. His desk was never completely cleared, he always had something left there that he had to read yet. That's how I remember the old office. One thing that was interesting was when I first went in there in 1915. In the typing department, and throughout the entire offices, including the little secretarial office which I occupied, the typewriters were all Oliver typewriters. I had never seen one before, because Mr. Graham's office had a more modern typewriter. The first time I saw the Oliver typewriter, I didn't know whether I could use it or not, because I had never seen one. At the same time when the executive offices were re-furnished the better adding machines and equipment of that kind was added to the offices. The salesmen's offices and my secretarial office then had General Fireproofing Company furniture with steel desks and the chairs that went with them. That is the way the office was when we left there and went over to the new building in 1925, and that some furniture was moved to the new office. Mr. Hall's office, in addition to the very beautiful desk also contained what they called the directors' table. This was beautiful, long circassian walnut, and was also moved into his office on the third floor of the new Realty Building.

- E: You commented that you first went to work for Mr. Graham to help support the family. Do you have any recollection of the amount of money your mother was trying to raise a family on per month?
- W: My mother, after my father's death, began first to provide for us by teaching school for a little while at St. Columba. She taught the first grade. She did not have the formal education necessary for that position, but at that time the requirements, particularly in the Catholic schools, were not as stringent as they are now. It was through Father Mears and his interest in the family that my mother came to teach the first grade there. She later sold some histories which were published by the Catholic Church. This was a door-to-door cash affair. She also did this through Father Mears' motivation. After that she did day work for other people for quite a little while. She later worked in the different office buildings and did cleaning work. Her salary at first was twenty-five dollars per month. On occasion she would take one of us with her. At that time, a woman who did that work in the offices downtown

went to work twice a day. They also went in the evening, after the office was closed and did the cleaning, sweeping, and mopping. They also had to go early in the morning and be there at six o'clock a.m. to do the dusting and cleaning before the office people came in at eight o'clock a.m. She started at six o'clock a.m. and finished at eight o'clock a.m. In the evening, they started at about five-thirty p.m. and would finish at about ten o'clock p.m. During the time my mother did that, she also worked at the Mahoning Bank Building. Going with her once in a while, I learned about Mr. Graham and the opening at his office. He opened it in the Mahoning Bank Building. While I was still attending Hall's Business College, I would go along and help her. Later, my oldest brother had become a dispatcher on the New York Central Railroad. The dispatcher's office was not too far from where we lived. Of course, my brother became friends with all of the train crews. It was his job to arrange the going and coming of crews, mostly between Youngstown, Ashtabula, Erie, and Buffalo. The engineers and the firemen on these runs had difficulty getting meals when they would come in from Buffalo or Erie. My mother began to serve meals in our home to these commuting railroad engineers. That was what she was doing during the time which I first went to work.

E: Do you know how much she charged for those meals?

W: I'd say about fifty cents, and she couldn't take care of all of them. My brother would call and want to send the men up at all hours for a meal. She couldn't take care of them all, it was just too much work. Even though my older sister would be home and she'd help, my mother just had more than she could take care of. She continued to sell meals until the rest of us had gotten to the point where we were earning enough money that she could discontinue. Then she just stayed home and took care of the family.

E: It was your turn to look after her, now.

W: That's right.

E: You were with the Arms family keeping books for Mr. Arms, Mr. Hall, and various other people; was there any talk among them of the Depression? As you look back

now, the Depression which hit so hard in the 30's, and these people were dealing primarily in financial matters. As the 20's ebbed away and the 30's came on the horizon, what direction did their financial attitudes go?

W: The Realty Guarantee and Trust Company had for years published yearly a small calendar booklet which was a memorandum booklet. It also contained the history of different local companies. Most of those companies were marketed by The Realty & Trust Company. They had done that for quite a number of years. I can remember that it was the boast of all of the brokers in Youngstown, not just our office, that no Youngstown Company had ever failed. We had never sold a security which had failed; they had all been successful. As I recall, things began to slow down and the securities business fell off. This was in 1928, and we were not selling securities in the same volume. There was not as much brokerage business and the first company in town that failed was The Republic Rubber Company. It was taken over later by one of the other rubber companies in Akron, the Goodrich Company. Another company whose securities we had sold, was called at the time we sold it, the Standard Oil Cloth Company. It was located way out on West Federal Street, almost to Girard. Mr. Arms was a director of the company. It made a wall covering which was not oilcloth, but a product somewhat like oilcloth, called Sanitas. They made several different classes of it. Some of it was rather plain, for more ordinary use, and others were quite elaborate types which had more or less of a tapistry look and pattern to them. That was the second company that had difficulties. It reorganized and became The Standard Textile Products Company and went on for a while, but eventually it failed.

Another company like that was The Ohio Leather Company. We dealt in their securities and eventually that company also failed. The men in the office were very conscious of the fact that business was very bad. The real estate office was not selling; people were not buying lots and building ten thousand dollar homes, which in those days were considered quite luxerious. Everything had slowed down, and there was much talk about business being poor. Cutbacks had to be made. In fact, some of the staff had to be released at that time. They were not unaware of the gradual slowdown,

but I must say that in 1929, the actual market crash was a shock. They were not quite prepared for anything as drastic as that. Even later, when the Depression was coming on and things were very slow, no one in our office was prepared for the day when the banks closed so suddenly. That came as a shock to everyone in our office, from the President on down. It was still a shock even though they were very well associated with the presidents of the banks.

E: They kept that closely guarded?

W: That was the case. There was a rumor the day before it happened, and I heard it when I went out to lunch. I can even remember who told me. It was a girl who had heard about it. She had heard from someone else that all the banks in Youngstown were going to be closed. Also, if anybody had any money in the banks, they ought to get it out right away, because this was the move that was coming. I didn't believe her. I didn't mention it to anyone. My husband and I had a joint account in the First National Bank. I didn't go into the bank and withdraw a penny. I didn't believe the rumor. The next day, no one could withdraw a penny because the banks were closed. I know that it was as much of a shock to Mr. Arms and Mr. Hall, who were the top men, as to any of us in the office. The bank accounts of the companies as well as those of individuals were tied up. So, yes, that was a rather long answer to your question.

E: Was there much work done that day when the banks closed, or was everyone kind of standing around in disbelief?

W: Everyone stood around in utter disbelief. Many different friends of Mr. Arms and Mr. Hall went in and out of the office discussing it with them. So far as the staff were concerned, by this time we had very little to do because the men were not dictating. Whatever work we had on our desks from the day before had been finished that day. None of us had any new work assigned to us that day because the men were discussing the situation and all of us were at a complete loss to know how to proceed. We were waiting for developments to know how they would be able to proceed from there on.

In connection with that and the closing of the banks later on, there was an interesting development which I

think perhaps might be of interest for the record. After a time, the commissioner of securities of the State of Ohio authorized brokers to trade in the passbooks of the different closed financial institutions. The market was gradually developed by some far-sighted individuals who could foresee days when the banks would be open, and their deposits would again become available to people. There were a great many people who were caught without funds of any kind who had their money in the banks. Brokers were authorized to trade in the passbooks. In other words, if you had a savings account in one of the local banks, more particularly the Building and Loan and Savings and Loan Associations, you could take that book to the brokerage office and leave it with them for sale. I was in charge of that with one young girl to assist me. The procedure was that the holder of the passbook would come into the office with his savings book and want to sell a hundred dollars worth or more of his account. It would naturally have to be sold at something less than face value because while you would have a buyer someplace, the buyers were in the market to make a profit. People who had mortgages at the savings and loan associations were far-sighted enough to see that if they could buy up enough passbooks at a discount, they could come in and pay off their mortgages when those deposits again became available at face value. That was about the year 1934 or 1935. My assistant and myself were really the only two in the office who were doing much work along with the bookkeeper, of course. We were kept busy.

E: What did these passbooks rate? What was the going rate?

W: The rate changed every day. There were four principal brokers in Youngstown: our office, The Realty Guarantee and Trust Company; Butler, Wick and Company; Wadsworth and Company; and Soucy, Swartswelter and Company. These brokers were all trading in passbooks, and they had to keep in very close touch with one another. People would come in and list their passbooks or part of them.

For instance, someone would come in with a Home Savings and Loan account of which they would want to sell a hundred dollars, face value. Then people who were interested in buying came in and would place an order to buy a hundred dollars worth of Home Savings and Loan Company. So, we began buying and selling. We also had

to keep in constant contact with all of the other brokerage houses to be sure that the seller got the highest price available anywhere. There was a great deal of telephoning going on among these four brokerage houses all of the time. We all had our listings of buyers and sellers. We traded amongst each other. If we had the buyer and they had the seller, the matter was handled by whomever had the seller. The seller then signed the withdrawal slip and left the passbook with the broker. Then someone from that office had to take it to the bank with the passbook of the buyer, if he had one. If he didn't, he would just open a new account for the buyer and have that amount transferred to the new account for that buyer. Then we would come in and collect his new passbook. That was the way it worked.

E: What percentage did the company get for its efforts?

W: The commission?

E: Yes, the commission.

W: It was one percent of the face value. If the value was one hundred dollars, the commission was one dollar. If it was one thousand dollars, the commission was ten dollars. For a time, one of the building and loans would not accept any of those new accounts as payment on the mortgages of the person who bought it. They were not too pleased with the arrangement because they saw what was happening, but gradually they began to accept it. Some of the institutions put a percentage on what they would allow toward the mortgage. In other words, if a person came in with one hundred dollars face amount that he had bought, they would give him an eighty dollar credit on his mortgage, rather than the hundred dollars. The one that was the poorest of all, in the worst financial condition, was the Central Savings and Loan Company which was located in the Central Tower. In their case, their deposits were sold at the lowest figure of all. They allowed only thirty-three and one third percent per hundred so that their passbooks, their deposits, sold very poorly at very low figures on that account.

Now the prices on the Home Savings and Loan and on the First Federal Savings and Loan fluctuated as buyers

were willing to pay more or less. They got pretty low sometimes and other times they got rather high, up into the seventies. Then there came along a company which developed Forest Lawn Cemetery. Their salesmen sold cemetery lots and accepted passbook deposits in payment for the cemetery lots at a certain percentage to their company. It was a partnership, McBride and Peters, who developed that cemetery. That particular entity brought our company a tremendous amount of passbook business because they had a large sales force and they sold a good many of those cemetery lots on passbook accounts. Hardly a day passed that there weren't at least two or three salesmen employed by the cemetery company who came into our office with passbooks to sell.

E: Is this how you got into selling the securities?

W: Well, I was doing a little of it before that.

E: Is this correct; you were the first woman or you were one of the first women authorized to sell securities in Ohio?

W: Oh, no. At the time that I was licensed, there were only eleven women authorized to sell securities in the State of Ohio, and I was one of them. At first, if customers came into the office wanting to talk to Mr. Arms about investment and he wouldn't be there, they would talk to me for a little while and I would try to keep them occupied until he came, but eventually they might tell me what they wanted. Then Mr. Arms got the idea that I could sell securities to women. He thought for that reason that I should have a license. He would like me occasionally to go and call on a few elderly women who mostly were not able to come to the office but whom he knew personally. He thought that I could sell them securities. I couldn't do it without being licensed and this is how it came about that I had the license in the first place. But I didn't use it very often because very frankly, I didn't enjoy that. I was rather cautious and took too much of a responsibility in attempting to persuade women to invest their money in case some difficulties developed and they lost money on the investment. I was just not the type to push enough to sell. I was not on a commission basis, so that didn't mean anything, but I just didn't quite feel

that I wanted to do that, I definitely needed the license when I became a trader in these passbooks. Before that, I had also done some trading in the fore-runners of what are now the mutual funds. We handled some of the principle ones. The very first issue was called North America Trust Shares. Eventually I became acquainted with a few people who came in and to whom I sold some of those securities. That's how I came to have the license.

E: In regards to the Arms family itself, who generally made up the household staff for any period of time?

W: As a rule, there was the cook, and her duties included the kitchen and the meals. There was another maid whose duties were mostly on the first floor of the home, and a third maid for the second floor of the house. Later, in addition to that, the main part of the family laundry was done by a woman who did not come to the house. The laundry was taken to her by the chauffeur. Occasionally at house-cleaning time she would also come in and help with the house cleaning. Later on, and after Mr. Arms' death, of course there was always the chauffeur, and he was available to drive Mrs. Arms anywhere she wanted and also to take care of the yard. Then as Mrs. Arms became more and more inactive, one maid was let go. They employed just the cook, one maid, and the chauffeur.

E: Did they live at the home itself, or did they come on a daily basis?

W: When I first came with Mr. Arms the chauffeur and his wife, who was the cook, lived in an apartment at the back of the garage building. There is an apartment there which has two rooms on the first floor and two on the second. The chauffeur and the cook lived in that apartment. The other two lived in the house on the second floor at the rear, in the room which is now the Wick Room. At that time this room was divided into two bedrooms and the next little room, which is now a display room, was the sitting room for the maids. Those rooms were all to the rear of the building. That was her staff. Mrs. Arms' staff at the time of her death still consisted of the cook, one maid, and the chauffeur.

E: What was the chauffeur's name?

- W: George Riddle. George first came to work for them in 1927. At that time Mrs. Arms bought the property out in Liberty township. The married couple I told you about had gone and they had had one or two other chauffeurs in between. I don't recall their names now. In 1927 they needed another chauffeur and the salesman who handled the purchase of the Liberty township land for the Arms found George Riddle. For a while, George was not there as he went into the service and they had a different chauffeur. Mr. and Mrs. Arms didn't want to interview anybody, so they asked the salesman to look around and find one or two men whom he felt he could recommend. This salesman was the man who found George Riddle. George also worked at Republic Rubber Company for a while and was not there at the time of Mr. Arms' death in 1947. We had a different driver at that time. Right after Mr. Arms' death, George came back and worked for Mrs. Arms from then on. That was in 1947. He came back then and he was with her until her death in August of 1960. He was then with the museum up until the time of his death in 1971.
- E: Was this part of the will; that he be retained in loyalty to him for his years of service?
- W: Right. He is not mentioned in the will but that does not mean that he was not remembered. That is a little different story which I need not detail here.
- E: Is there any basis to the fact that he only polished one side of the Buick?
- W: No.
- E: I've heard people say, time and time again, that he only polished one side because Mrs Arms only got in on one side and there was no sense in doing the other side.
- W: It isn't true, but I would credit George with telling that. He had a very vivid imagination and he told many stories which had no foundation in truth at all. They weren't malicious, don't misunderstand me, but imaginative little stories, some of which it was all right for him to tell, and others, if I had heard them first, I would have stopped them. I didn't think some of them were quite appropriate.

E: In regards to the first will that Mrs. Arms put together, did that provide the foundation for the museum?

W: No, the first will was not that way. That's the point. That first will was drawn in the latter part of 1947. The second will was when her request for the museum became a reality, when it was down in black and white. At that time she was leaving the property and a trust fund of three hundred thousand dollars to the Society. Then Mrs. Arms told me that the will was made, and she said, "Dorothy, you know this, the attorney who drew it knows it, and one or two of my friends, but there must be no other disclosure of my intention." She was a woman who disliked publicity of any kind and she did not want her intentions known to anybody, while she lived. It was her hope that her plans would be kept entirely unknown until after her death. Well, she continued to think about it and knowing the plans that the Society had, she wondered if they ever would be able to carry them out, as it would require a great deal of money. She worried as to whether they would have enough money. So, she then drew a second will in 1948, changing some of its bequests. That will stood all that time. The only persons with whom she had spoken about this were Mrs. Henry Butler and her former minister and his wife, Reverend and Mrs. Samuel Purvis, who now live in Warren. He was the minister of the Memorial Presbyterian Church which Mrs. Arms had attended. They were both friends and they called on Mrs. Arms rather frequently. Mrs. Arms was very fond of Mrs. Purvis and she discussed her plans concerning the Museum with her, cautioning her also that it was not to become known.

Mrs. Arms continued to worry about the Society. It was on her mind constantly. She just thought about it and thought about it and all the time wondered about the financial situation. So in 1950, she said to me, "Dorothy, I'm going to draw another will. I want you to get me a different attorney. I want this will drawn the way I want it, and I don't want anybody to try to persuade me or to change my mind about what I want to do with my estate. Some attorneys are inclined to do that."

E: Did she feel that the attorney that she already had was doing it?

W: Apparently. She didn't say it in so many words, but this was the way she put it to me. She said, "Now you are downtown, and have been downtown for many years and you know the attorneys, who they are, and their reputations. I want you to think it over and suggest someone. You don't have to reply today, but it is a problem and we'll talk about it later." So I did give it a great deal of thought. I knew a great many attorneys in Youngstown and I finally decided on Donald J. Lynn. I knew Mr. Lynn just to have a speaking acquaintance with him, but I knew him by reputation very well. He was a member of one of the two largest law firms in Youngstown, and he was a man who I had admired over the years, just from reading about some of his activities. I had no idea that he had any connection of any kind with The Mahoning Valley Historical Society.

I went up to Mrs. Arms and told her, "I have thought it over, Mrs. Arms, and I believe that perhaps Mr. Lynn might draw your will the way you want it." I said, "He has a very good reputation and I don't believe that he will try to influence you, but I know that he will guide you correctly from the legal standpoint, and this is what you want." If, at that time, Mrs. Arms knew that he had a connection with The Historical Society, she didn't tell me. I don't think she knew it. But I know now that he had at one time been president of the Society. He had been connected with it for a number of years, completely unknown to me simply because I knew nothing about the Society. But if Mrs. Arms knew that, she didn't mention it at all. She said, "This is the man you would recommend?" I said, "Yes he is." She said, "All right, will you go and talk with him and make an appointment for me?" So of course the next day I went to see Mr. Lynn and he was very happy to do it. He was the one to draw what I have to say was the next to the last will which contained almost all of the conditions of the final will.

In this will, Mrs. Arms made a few more changes than she had in the previous one in 1948, and in that will she made a lot of bequests to at least a dozen other institutions in Youngstown. This time, when she came to the Historical Society, the trust fund which she provided was raised to three hundred and fifty thousand

dollars. She also added an additional fund of forty thousand dollars which she set up as a separate trust, the income from that trust to be used to employ a person, possibly part time, to assist me, whom she considered as being the one who would be in charge of looking after the Arms' possessions, including the fine linens, glassware, china, and the clothing, particularly the gowns and things like that. In respect to that fund, she had Mrs. Helen Purvis in mind. She still said, "No one but Mrs. Butler and you and I know," and I said, "No one else." So it went on that way until one day in 1955. That year Mr. Wick had become very discouraged with The Mahoning Valley Historical Society. He was the only one who was really taking much interest in it at all.

E: This is James Wick, right?

W: Yes, Mr. James L. Wick Jr. He was very distantly related to Mrs. Arms through her mother. I think their great grandfathers were brothers. His ancestor was the Reverend William Wick and Mrs. Arms' first Wick ancestors were Henry and Hannah Baldwin Wick. Mrs. Arms and Mr. Wick were fourth or fifth cousins. Well anyway, Mr. Wick had become interested in the Society in 1909. This I found out later was due to Mr. Joseph G. Butler, Jr. He had brought Mr. Wick into the Society about the time the Society was incorporated in 1909. He tried to help carry it on from there. He had served as president for a time; Donald Lynn also had served. Then came a time when another person was serving as president, and he forgot to call the annual meeting. This was in 1955. Well, Mr. Wick was so discouraged about it that he called a meeting to be held at the Youngstown Library where part of the Society's artifacts were displayed. Fortunately Mrs. Butler went to that meeting. Mr. Wick had called the meeting for the fixed purpose of suggesting that The Mahoning Valley Historical Society be dissolved, since there was no local interest in it. He was too discouraged to try any further and he made a suggestion that a motion be made that the small collection that the Society had be turned over to The Western Reserve Historical Society of Cleveland and The Mahoning Valley Historical Society be dissolved. Mrs. Butler was very surprised and upset. She said to Mr. Wick, "Mr. Wick, before this meeting takes action

on this suggestion, I would suggest that we adjourn this meeting because I would like to talk to you." He was rather puzzled but he adjourned the meeting because Mrs. Butler did not feel she wanted to make her remarks public. After the meeting, she said, "All I can do is suggest to you that before you take any action, you go up and see Mrs. Olive F. A. Arms. Tell her that I suggested that you come to see her." She said, "You will have to call for an appointment because she does not see many people."

I'm sure Mrs. Arms had not seen Mr. Wick for many years. Well, Mr. Wick lost no time. He went to the phone immediately and called Mrs. Arms and he went to see her that very afternoon. He told her that Mrs. Butler told him to come. Mrs. Butler made a phone call, too, and confessed that she had forced Mr. Wick to take the action which he did. So Mrs. Arms spent a couple of hours with him. Well, he was elated and then began a long series of meetings between Mr. Wick and Mrs. Arms. Whenever she was able to see him, he would go up and talk things over with her, and plan with her about what should be done in the future.

I should have mentioned that before this happened, Mrs. Arms had already begun to prepare the downstairs for her plans of the downstairs rooms. The first thing she did was to remove the books from the library shelves and to have George install the lighting and arrange those shelves where the china is now displayed, and arrange the lighting in there. She, herself, arranged those dishes, plates and other articles in those shelves. In arranging those shelves, Mrs. Arms had the assistance of Mrs. Purvis, who, as I have said, knew about Mrs. Arms' plans. She already purchased the iron fencing looking to the future time when tours would be held and they would need the fence to keep people from touching the displays.

She had done all of this before Mr. Wick heard about it. But, when he did hear about it, they had many, many discussions about it. In fact, during all of these discussions she told Mr. Wick that she was leaving her things to the Society and that they were going to be given with the stipulation that they be always kept and displayed on the first floor of the house.

The Society could then use the rest of the house as the housing which they had always needed. They felt the lack of this housing had been such a great drawback to them, so they now could have a Society that would survive because they would have their own place. But she laid express emphasis upon the fact that they would need a great deal of money to maintain it.

Having lived in the house since it was built in 1905, she was well aware of the cost of the care and maintenance of the physical property itself, and of the necessary staff. She intended that the fund she would leave would provide for these expenses. In other words, the Society would always have a home, would have the funds with which to keep it in first class condition, and would be able to employ enough of a staff to look after it. However, the Society would have to raise enough money to carry on the historical pursuit of its own programs. She felt that they then would have to raise funds probably equal to the amount that she was leaving. I'm sure that it approached that amount. She asked him whether he thought they would be able to do that. He said that he felt sure they could raise the funds. Of course, Mr. Wick was very curious to know how much money Mrs. Arms was intending to leave. She wouldn't tell him. She told me she could not disclose the amount of that fund to him because with his well-known impulsiveness, he would feel that it was sufficient for everything. She did not feel that way about it at all. She felt it would be absolutely necessary that the Society through other prominent early families or the family members who were left rejuvenate the historical end of the Society. Then they would contribute enough funds to give the Society a sufficient museum operating fund from the historical standpoint, and enough funds to pay for the programs, materials, and projects along the historical line.

E: This information was public now; the people knew it?

W: No, and Mr. Wick was not to disclose this to anyone, either. But after the talk was over a while, naturally he said to her, "It's going to be a little difficult for me to do that without disclosing why I am so optimistic." So Mrs. Arms said, "Well, I don't want you to talk yet, but you could assure the people that you approach." He had enumerated a number of people

that he had in mind and could assure them to the extent that he was positive the Society would have a museum to call its own. It would also have a fund with which to establish its museum and its properties, care, and maintenance were assured. There were not more than eight or ten that he had in mind, and it was not to be given any publicity. In no way was it connected with her. She still did not want the public to know.

Well, Mr. Wick was very, very enthusiastic when they talked about the different ways to contact a few people, but he was not too successful. He finally decided to plan the Life Membership Endowment Fund. This was his plan to find a broader group of people and establish one thousand dollar life memberships. The fund was to be a trust fund and the income only to be for the use of the museum's historical purposes. Mrs. Arms liked that idea so she said, "Fine, I think that's a good idea and in order to get you started, I will give you the first one thousand dollar membership." She telephoned me that day, I was still in the office downtown, and asked me to bring her a check for one thousand dollars, made out to The Mahoning Valley Historical Society. Mr. Wick promptly met that and became the second member of the life membership fund with his personal check for one thousand dollars. He proceeded to see a few people about it. Things went on that way with Mr. Wick seeing Mrs. Arms very, very frequently, and on one or two occasions he even came into the banks where I was at that time and asked me for different information about the costs of operating the home as it was, the utilities, the upkeep, and that kind of thing. I gave him all the information I felt I could along those lines. It went on that way until 1958.

One afternoon Mrs. Arms called me and asked me to come up to her house and she said, "Dorothy, I am very discouraged with the slow progress that Mr. Wick is making in raising funds for the Society." She continued, "I want this to come about. I want the Society to have this property. It has become a very dear project to me and I just don't want anything to happen to it. Therefore, I want to do a little more than I have done, so you and I are going to change that will a little bit further."

E: And this is the last will?

W: This is the last one. Mrs. Arms and I went over the will; she made a few further changes in some of the other bequests. She did not change the large or the forty thousand dollar funds for the Historical Society, but there was a residuary clause in there which provided that the residue of the estate went to another institution in Youngstown that Mrs. Arms and other members of her family had had an interest in over the years as well. But she decided that other members of her family had contributed to that, so she changed a few of her personal bequests and made that residue also payable to The Mahoning Valley Historical Society, in addition to the other two funds. We felt that this would give a little more assurance to the Society because of market fluctuations at the time. She felt as I did, that it would be helpful in getting other funds. I typed that will. It was the final one and was dated November 21, 1958. Mrs. Arms died in 1960, so this will was made not too long before her death.

But somewhere before she died, Mr. Wick kept pressing her to tell him the amounts. She finally told him that he could figure it would probably be about three hundred thousand dollars, and that she felt that he should try to raise another three hundred thousand dollars. This is as much as was known to Mr. Wick until the time of Mrs. Arms' death in 1960. That Life Membership Fund amounted to about eight thousand dollars when it was just started. There were a number of other people whom Mr. Wick had contacted, who had said that if and when the proper time came and it became a reality with Mrs. Arms' will, then they might contribute in a sizeable amount. I think he felt that was the case, that this is what contributions would depend upon, at least with some of them. He was also very encouraged by knowing that amount, and the effect it had on him was exactly what Mrs. Arms had supposed it would be. He felt that it would really give them a very good start, anyway. So this was the state of affairs when Mrs. Arms died, August 25, 1960. It happened that Mr. Wick had an appointment with her that very afternoon, as he called on her as frequently as she was able to see him, and they had many discussions about the future of their plans for the museum. She made her wishes very, very clear to him, and he was practically as aware of them as I was by this time.

Up until this time Mrs. Arms had been quite well, but she had a nurse at home because her arthritis was very much

worse. She had had a day nurse at home for about two years. The nurse took the morning shift from seven three. From then on Mrs. Arms and the housekeeper managed together the rest of the day and at night.

As I say, Mr. Wick had an appointment with her that afternoon but the doctor called me in the morning as soon as he was at the house to tell me that the nurse had come in and there had been a very drastic change and Mrs. Arms was more or less semi-conscious. The night before this, she had telephoned me at my home and had asked me if I could come up the next afternoon and bring a blank check. She wanted to know first if she could afford to buy a new television set. She asked me if I thought she could afford it, to come up the next afternoon and bring a check. She had already had a salesman up to see her and he had suggested a set that she thought she wanted. The one she had was very old and she watched television every day. It was the only way she kept in touch with current affairs

She was very alert as to world affairs, particularly national affairs and national figures. She voted absentee ballots every year for which I had to get her doctor's certificate, get the absentee ballot, have the doctor sign it, notarize it, and give it back to the Board of Elections in time for the elections.

Of course many times over those years, when she wanted to buy something she would say to me, "Can I afford it?" It was never anything for herself, but this was about the third television set and she hesitated. She had two of them, a big one and a small one in her bedroom. When she was going to buy anything of that kind, she would always ask if she could afford it and I'd say, "But Mrs. Arms, this is your money, and this is your life to live right here and now. You can have whatever you want and you should have it because it is yours. You're not being selfish at all. You are entitled to it, and you should have it and there's no question of whether you can afford it or whether you can't. Your funds are sufficient and you know it. There is no reason why you have to do without something in order that you leave something for someone else, or think of other people." I had to speak to her many, many times this way because she was such an unselfish person. I also knew that

attitude was ingrained in her from her father, who was the type of man who always said you never bought anything unless you had the money to pay for it and she hadn't forgotten it.

So, during the night she had become ill and by the time I got there, she was in a coma and did not revive. About four o'clock in the afternoon, she died. That was August 25, 1960. I hadn't known that Mr. Wick had an appointment that afternoon and of course I had to notify him. Dr. Neidus was there. She died on Thursday afternoon and her funeral services were on Saturday. She had requested that there be no calling hours, except the night before the services, and that she not be taken to the funeral home. She wanted the services to be in her own home and in the way she wished them carried out. She had even provided for her clothing. She had made every arrangement that could possibly be made and told her requests to the funeral director near her home. So, until then, Mr. Adams did not know about the will, nor did he know that he was one of the executors, so of course I knew that I had to telephone him and tell him and also to call the funeral director. Also, there was a list of persons whom she wished to be notified. They were mostly in Cleveland, in St. Paul, and Minneapolis and also a few in California. After the services were over, the will was published immediately and the Vindicator carried the whole story about it. Since the will provided for the Union Bank to have the trust funds, all of the estate matters were handled there, in the trust department of the Union National Bank with Mr. Adams and myself as executors. Mr. Donald J. Lynn served as attorney for the estate.

Almost immediately after the Will was published Mr. Wick had apparently called everybody in the Historical Society Board, and they passed a resolution to accept the property. The will provides that they were given a period of six months in which to make a decision as to whether or not they could accept the property and carry out the terms and plans of the will as Mrs. Arms had discussed them with me and Mr. Wick. Mr. Wick then came to see me and told me that he had had a meeting of the Society's trustees and they had voted unanimously to accept the property. I assumed that they had or were assured that they had the necessary funds to do this. So the administration of the estate began, and the housekeeper and George were retained to remain in the house. George was deputized to

stay in the house or to always be around the house for the general protection of the entire property to avoid any intruders. They were retained immediately so their posts would be safe. The administration of the estate was finalized in March of 1961. At that time, Mr. Wick called a meeting of the twelve trustees of the Society, Mr. Adams, myself, Mrs. Butler, and Mr. Lynn who was the attorney for the estate and also a trustee for the Society. This meeting met at the Arms Museum for the purpose of transferring the property and handing over to the trustees of the Historical Society the certificate of transfer of the real estate. That meeting was held March 30, 1961. I began my work there at the museum and that became my headquarters the next day.

- E: Mrs. Welsh, you had a comment in regards to our last interview when we were talking about your schooling, and you wanted to read that onto the tape before we forgot it.
- W: In answer to your question as to the courses of study that we had at the old St. Columba School, I failed to mention that in addition to the subjects that I named, all of the grades included a study of the Catholic religion. In the first two or three grades, it consisted of a study of the catechism as we called it, a book of questions and answers as to the early Catholic religion. In the later grades, having finished the catechism we went on to studies of what we would call Bible History. This consisted of studies of the old testament of the Bible. In the last two grades the studies were called Christian Doctrine. They continued throughout all the grades of the school and every day of the school year, every session of the classes began and ended with a short prayer which the teacher recited as well as the students.
- E: As we concluded the last interview, you were just about to assume the responsibility for ownership on behalf of The Mahoning Valley Historical Society. With this action you were to assume another one of your numerous vocations in life looking after the Museum as far as the financial status was concerned, which was part of Mrs. Arms' wishes. Is there anything else you would like to add to this point before we start discussing that new job?
- W: Yes, there is one point that I think I omitted. In the interim between 1955 and the date when the property was turned over, Mr. Wick, who in 1955 was not

the president of the Society, had again, and I believe at Mrs. Arms' suggestion, been elected as president to head the Society. She felt that, now that he knew of her intentions. They had discussed the plans for the Museum at great length and she felt that he should be in charge of the Museum and the Society as long as he felt that he could and was able to do so. I should also mention that at the Society's annual meeting following the time when Mrs. Arms made her contribution of \$1,000 to establish the Life Membership Fund, Mr. Wick had suggested that she be named Honorary President of the Society, and this was done.

E: What did the title of Secretary-Treasurer of the Society mean? Was that the title which you had?

W: No, I learned that day that I had already been elected as secretary of The Mahoning Valley Historical Society at a meeting which they had held prior to that day.

E: When you weren't there!

W: Yes! Before I knew anything about The Historical Society.

E: You better attend meetings so you don't get elected to offices!

W: Yes, right. Then when this meeting was held and the property was turned over, I was named Director of the Museum, so that I was then secretary of The Mahoning Valley Historical Society and the Director of the Arms Museum. Those were my titles when I first went in. I should mention here that at the close of that meeting, Mr. Wick handed me a single sheet of paper saying something to the effect that this was the financial report of The Mahoning Valley Historical Society as of the present time and that I would have to set up a bookkeeping system.

E: There were no books at that time?

W: There were none except those which Mr. Wick himself kept, which consisted merely of a record of the membership dues that came to the Society. He took care of them, banked, and made a few disbursements from time to time for items such as the printing of the annual meeting notices and such things. The disbursements were very few. Mr. Wick never accepted compensation of any kind for any of his services to the Society,

except such secretarial service as he needed which was done by his personal secretary whom I assume he compensated from his own pocket. In looking at this statement that he handed me I was surprised to see that the total assets of the Society consisted of a checking account at a branch bank, I believe it was the Dollar Savings and Trust Company, on Mahoning Avenue, which carried a balance of approximately two or three hundred dollars and a savings account of about \$2300 in the Home Savings and Loan Co. This amount of money comprised the total operating funds of the Society and represented the accumulation of membership dues and any other small gifts which might have been given to the Society, of which I have no knowledge.

The only sizeable item was the so-called "Amy Fund" a deposit of approximately \$12,000 in the Home Savings and Loan Co. This represented a bequest which had come to the Society in 1957, solely through the influence, interest, and service of Mrs. Martha Goodman, who was head of the reference department of the Youngstown Public Library, and who for a number of years had looked after such items of the Society's Collection as were stored in the Public Library. She also arranged the items that were on display in the one room that the library had given over to the Society for the display of some of its collection. Mrs. Goodman served without compensation in this capacity, because of her interest in the Society. She had done this for quite a number of years, both while she was still employed as the head of the reference department of the library and also after her retirement which occurred somewhere in the same period of time.

The other item was an evaluation given to the Society's collection at that time of approximately fifty-six thousand dollars, and the life membership fund which at that time consisted of approximately eight thousand dollars. Those were the total assets.

E: Life membership was eight thousand dollars?

W: It was eight thousand dollars, which meant that there had been eight or ten Life Memberships set up. I would like to repeat here that this Amy bequest to the Society was solely the result of Mrs. Martha Goodman's efforts. She had become acquainted with Mr. Amy who was a farmer from Trumbull County out in Hartford Township. He was a man who was very much interested in the early history of the

community and who periodically visited the library and asked to see the Society's collection such as was on display, and Mrs. Goodman was always very kind to him and took the time to show him the things in which he was interested. She helped him from the reference end of the library with any subjects of interest to him. It was solely out of her kindness to him as a person that he left his estate to the Society. He made no stipulations as to how the funds, which eventually came as the result of the sale of his property, should be used. They were a gift to the Society.

So, the property was sold and the estate reduced to cash, with the exception of a few items of furniture which were in the old farmhouse. Mrs. Goodman and a young man from the library went up to the farmhouse and examined and set aside those items to be retained for the future collection of the Society. They were moved from the Amy home and, because there was no other place for their storage, they were stored in Mr. Wick's barn at his home on South Belle Vista Avenue. These items consisted of some china, a few pieces of furniture, and a few items of clothing which are now, some of them, a part of the Historical Society's collection.

I will now return to the day that I first went to the Arms home to assume my duties, to learn what they were going to be. The house at that time was just as it was at the time of Mrs. Arms' death. She had, prior to her death, moved some pieces of furniture from the second floor to the first floor because they were family items, which she wished to will as part of the Arms Collection. The rooms on the second floor were furnished as bedrooms, with the exception of the large middle bedroom which Mrs. Arms had converted to a sitting room when she was no longer able to go up and down stairs every day. It was in that room that she spent all of her daytime hours. There was nothing in the house in the way of office furniture or equipment of any kind.

One of the first things that Mr. Wick did was to take the room on the second floor in the rear wing of the house which was then the sitting room of the housekeeper and the maid, and convert it to an office for himself. In that he built a worktable which is still there and is now used for display purposes. It covered two sides of the room. This was where he planned to do such work as

he intended to do involving the museum. For the first few weeks, this was also where I worked because there was no other place I could work except the kitchen table, on which I worked for a time. Mr. Wick was working in the upstairs room, but adjoining the kitchen in what was the pantry section of the house was a room where their refrigerator was kept, and along one wall were cupboards from floor to ceiling, such as are still on the other side of what was formerly the pantry area. Most of those cupboards on the other side are now used for stationery storage and things of that kind. I selected that room for my future office. Mrs. Arms had suggested that I use the front reception room as my office, but in talking it over, Mr. Wick and I both decided that would not be too practical in as much as I was going to be keeping the files and the books and things of that sort. It would be too public to have an office there. This was the reason for my selecting that room.

Immediately the cupboards were torn out. Mr. Wick had the walls covered with pegboard with an idea of future displays being hung on those walls. Later my office was repanelled with solid paneling in walnut finish. When that room was finished, which was a matter of possibly a month or so, we purchased a typewriter, a desk and a chair, a filing cabinet, and a check writer. This was my office in her home. At the beginning, I had already purchased books necessary to start a set of books for the Society. I began with the items that Mr. Wick had given me, plus the report from the Union Bank, as trustee, of the amount of the Arms endowment funds. The property itself and the household furniture as given to the Society by her will; those items I set up at the values as appraised in her estate.

This was the beginning of the books of The Mahoning Valley Historical Society when it first came into possession of the property as the Arms Museum. From that time on, I took care of all income and expenses as they occurred. The statement that Mr. Wick had handed me showed a bank account, as I have said, of approximately \$25,000. This was a startling revelation to me because I thought immediately, "How are we going to pay the running expenses such as the utilities and the compensation to the staff, which at the time consisted of the housekeeper, Mrs. Jeannette Curran, the caretaker, George J. Riddle, and myself?" So, the very first move that we had to make was to ask the Union National Bank, as trustee of the

funds, to advance us the money with which to begin operations and to pay for the few items which we had to buy. Our first advance from what income had accumulated in the trust funds and remained in the custody of the bank was a check for \$6,000 to pay the running expenses, which up until that time had been taken care of by the executors from the funds in their custody at the bank.

E: Was it an ordinary practice of the bank to advance money to an estate, or did they do it primarily because you were one of the executors, plus you were the director of the Society? Did this make it a lot easier?

W: That was the reason.

E: That's what I thought. It's not a common practice?

W: It's not a practice. Yes, an estate immediately goes into the hands of the executor. The executor as such does that, but in this case it was handled in this way because Mr. Adams and I were both executors of the estate in this interim period. In reality, he and I were still in custody of the funds and everything until the proper agencies as stipulated in the will were set up and the manner of the distribution of the income from the funds to the Society was established. Mrs. Arms had stipulated that the entire second floor and all other parts of the building were to be used by the Society for its purposes entirely, so we then had to consider disposing of the items which were on the second floor. These consisted of the customary bedroom furniture. Incidentally, none of the furniture was period furniture of the type that need be retained for historical purposes. It was more or less modern furniture and nothing of particular historical interest, and nothing that the Society felt should be retained for that purpose. However, also there on the second floor were many items of personal clothing of Mrs. Arms which she had stipulated in her will that I personally should dispose of. There were also items of ordinary household linens and those were given to the Society to do with whatever they chose. Only her very fine linens, which are now a part of the Arms collection, were to be transferred to the first floor to become part of the Arms collection. The ordinary linens, of which there were many, we decided should be sold along with the furniture that was not to be retained. It was decided too, at this point, that the collection

which the Society had stored at the library as well as that stored in Mr. Wick's barn should be moved into the building at 648 Wick Avenue. I should mention that at this time a large basement room, which is now as I recall the pioneer room, was filled practically from floor to ceiling with firewood, cut from the Liberty Township property which Mr. Arms had owned for a number of years, but which was sold after Mr. Arms' death. This firewood was still in the basement because Mrs. Arms still used the fireplace in the sitting room on the first floor as long as she was able to do so.

The first thing we had to do before beginning to move the collection from the library and Mr. Wick's barn was to clear that sitting room, as it was the only space large enough to contain the items that had to come in. We did that by giving the wood to a boyscout troop from Liberty Township and their scoutmaster, on the condition that they would arrange to have it removed from the property as quickly as possible so that large room could be prepared to receive the other collection. This was one of the very first things that was done along with the preparation of my office on the first floor and the room on the second floor, which Mr. Wick was to use for his office at times when he came into the Society. He did not come in every day, but when he did come in, he wanted a place where he could work. This was accomplished and the firewood was removed. We first started to move the collection from the library and in this connection, Mrs. Martha Goodman was of very great assistance to the Society as a volunteer worker. She had retired from the library but she continued to look after the collection for the Society there. When occasionally assisting Mr. Wick, I believe she even wrote minutes on some of the meetings that were held at the Library. She was the only person who knew what belonged to The Mahoning Valley Historical Society from storage in the public library.

E: There was no inventory list?

W: No, none except such memoranda as she personally may have made for this purpose. So it was she who really supervised the removal of that collection. I went to the library with her and George Riddle a good many days, too, to help prepare these things for removal to the Wick Avenue location. The larger items such as furniture, one or two display cases and many, many large framed portraits

of early Youngstown residents were all part of the collection that was stored there. The very heavy items were moved by Mr. Harry Bord, Jr. and it is my recollection that he gave that contribution to the Society without charge, using his moving vans to transport all the larger, heavier items. Many of the smaller items Mrs. Goodman and George Riddle and myself moved in a small half-ton truck which was then a part of Mrs. Arms' equipment. She had originally bought this truck for use on the Liberty Township property. She had kept it through the years and George used it on occasion for hauling and different tasks. We three made many, many trips between the Arms Museum and the library in that small truck, carrying these items. Most of them were carried to the basement and put in this large room because there was no other space to receive them. Then secondly, the collection that was stored in Mr. Wick's barn and which consisted mostly of the Amy Estate items were likewise moved in and placed in the basement. Most of the furniture was in such a condition of disrepair that it was thought best that it be sold and not be retained as part of the permanent collection of the society. There was very little in such condition that it could be used later for display purposes.

Then we were concerned with the sale of the items that were to be disposed of. On the second floor we took from the linen closets, where they had been stored, the household linens not being retained. They were the ordinary household linens that had been used by the family and not the finer items that were still a part of the collection. There was a great deal of this type of linens, and it took quite a long time to get them out and then to get them arranged on tables which we were able to set up in the room that had been Mrs. Arms' sitting room and which allowed considerable space for such purposes. Mrs. Goodman and I did this, got all the different categories of linens set up on different tables. We then went to the basement where items which had been brought from the library and the Wick barn had been taken. These items were coated with years and years of dust and not in any condition for display.

E: You didn't even like the looks of them?

W: No, so Mrs. Curran, the housekeeper, George Riddle, Mrs. Goodman and I proceeded to clean up these items. We spent

weeks in the basement actually scrubbing with soap and water any of the items that lent themselves to such treatment. All other things that couldn't be treated that way were dusted and cleaned as well as we could. The rather large collection of framed portraits of early citizens we temporarily cleaned as well as we could and wrapped in heavy wrapping paper, labeling them for future cataloging purposes. This reflected Mrs. Goodman's ability as a librarian and a cataloger, which was very, very helpful to me, as I was a complete neophyte in that particular department of operations. She was absolutely invaluable and devoted many, many hours along with Mrs. Curran, George, and me. We didn't come to work in our good clothes; we came in the oldest clothes that we owned and wore what were called long butcher aprons. When we finished a day's work, we were in no condition to be seen in public. It was necessary to do a real job of cleaning ourselves before we left for the day. We finally succeeded in getting that accomplished and getting a couple of the display cases set up in the large room in the basement.

When we had accomplished all of that, we felt that we were ready for the sale of the items that were to be disposed of. Mr. Wick called on Mr. Ed Jenkins, a well-known auctioneer in this community, to come in and look over these items and to give us some idea of the values that could be realized from the sale. As he did this, Mrs. Goodman and I accompanied him and labeled the things with these estimates as to what he thought they might bring. Finally, the sale was held. A notice was sent to the members of the Society only because it was felt that the members of the Society were entitled to purchase any of these items that they might wish to have. The notice of the sale was sent to them, only. However through those members, it became known to a few other people. The day of the sale was finally set for Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1964. So you see, it had taken a long time to get this accomplished. In the meantime other rooms in the basement had to some extent, been cleared of the things that were there. For instance, there was the fruit and vegetable storage room and the wine cellar which still contained the racks for piling the wine bottles on the side.

E: But the wine was gone?

W: In those days, the wine was gone. There was the furnace room, which contained the furnace and the hot water tank and a few other odds and ends of old furniture and discards. There was also the laundry, which was at the western-most end of the basement. It still contained the double wash-tubs. There was an automatic washing machine and it was

in these wash tubs that we did all that scrubbing and cleaning on these items to prepare them for the sale. The sale was held on that date, February 22, 1964. Thankfully, almost everything was disposed of.

E: This was a private sale?

W: This was a private sale in that it was limited to the members of the Historical Society. A few members brought friends or other members of their families, but for the most part it was confined to the members.

E: Was each item auctioned?

W: Each item was auctioned. Because all of the linens and salable items of furniture of the Arms family were still on the second floor and other items had come from the library and Mr. Wick's property were in the basement, it was necessary for us to have quite a number of people to cover the entire area.

E: Everything was inside?

W: Yes, everything was inside. So in this we had the volunteer assistance of members of the Junior League, of which Mr. Wick's daughter was President at that time. Mr. Wick's daughter, Harriet, is now the director of the Museum. Through her, a number of the members of the Junior League volunteered to assist with this sale, and through my membership in the Youngstown Quota Club, I was able to enlist the assistance of a number of members. So between those two clubs, or organizations, and ourselves, we managed to cover the area and to keep a record of the items. Well, Mr. Jenkins brought with him an assistant auctioneer and secretary who really made the list of the items as they were auctioned, the prices, and whether they were from the Arms' Collection. He provided us with that information so that I was able to record the amount of money we received on each different collection. It took considerable time to get all of those things removed from the building.

Perhaps I should go back a little here to events immediately following the transfer of the Arms property to the Historical Society. As I have said, my first task was to set up an accounting system. At the same time Mr. Wick busied himself with making a general survey of the premises and of what might be necessary to convert the property to museum purposes. His first decision was that the driveway would have to be widened to provide as much additional parking space as possible, and he proceeded to have that done almost immediately. He consulted with the City Building Inspector, who advised him that if the building

were to be open to the general public, certain alterations would be required, such as modernization of the plumbing, provision of separate lavatories for men and women, much more adequate lighting, and, if the third floor were to be used for public purposes it would be necessary that a fire escape be provided from that floor. He also consulted a firm of local architects to determine the soundness of the structures and to make recommendations as to any necessary repairs or alterations that might be advisable. He consulted with the Ohio Edison Company with regard to the lighting and in that connection the Ohio Edison Company assigned one of their engineers to make a complete survey and supply plans and their recommendations as to what should be done. The Ohio Edison Company did all of this without charge as a contribution to the Society.

After assembling all of this information Mr. Wick then called a meeting of the Trustees, and this was a luncheon meeting held in the dining room of the Arms house. At that time there were only twelve Trustees and ten of them were present at that meeting, including Mr. Wick. It was at this meeting that Mr. Wick advised the Trustees for the first time of the approximate total amount of the Arms gifts to the Society and, as I recall it, that was something in excess of \$600,000. Also at that meeting Mr. Wick advised the Trustees of the surveys that he had obtained of the alterations that would have to be made before considering opening the Museum to the public and that the cost estimates that he had been able to get amounted to somewhere in the neighborhood of \$35,000 to \$40,000. To this figure he added his own estimate of the probable cost of moving the Society's collections to the museum from the library and his residence and the cataloging of that part of the Society's collection. He estimated that would cost approximately \$7,500 a year and that it would probably require two years, which would mean an additional \$15,000. He pointed out that the estimated income of the Society, including the Arms funds, was about \$1,300 a month and asked for direction and guidance of the Trustees as to how he should proceed from there on.

Mr. Wick made a suggestion that perhaps the Membership Dues could be raised from \$1 to \$5 a year and also that perhaps the Society could qualify for some assistance from The Youngstown Foundation. The Trustees decided that a committee should be appointed to make further investigation of the necessary alterations and costs and that an application be made to The Youngstown Foundation for assisting funds. The Trustees also suggested that an announcement be made to the general public from whom many inquiries were being received that the Museum could not be opened to the public until all of these necessary requirements had been met.

Shortly after that meeting of Trustees the regular annual meeting of the members of the Society was held at the Museum on the usual date in September and the notice of that meeting advised the members that they would be given their first opportunity to view the property that had come to the Society through the Arms bequest. Mr. Wick was particularly pleased to see that more than sixty members attended that meeting since former meetings had attracted not more than ten or twelve people at most. At that meeting Mr. Wick gave the members all of the information that he had given to the Trustees at their earlier meeting and I was able by that time to submit a detailed financial report of the Society's operations from the close of its previous fiscal year in 1960 to the close of its current fiscal year as of August, 1961. If my memory is accurate that financial report showed receipts of between \$11,000 and \$12,000 of which I think \$11,000 had come from the Arms funds and disbursements of something over \$12,000, thus showing a balance in operating funds of somewhere around \$2,500 or \$2,600. The members were also advised at this meeting of the terms of the Agency Agreements between the Society and the Union National Bank regarding the uses and purposes of the Arms funds.

The Trustees of the Society were re-elected for the ensuing year and officers were named to include Mrs. Henry A. Butler as Honorary President, the office that Mrs. Arms had held until her death, Mr. Wick was named President and Treasurer, Mr. Lynn as First Vice-President, Mrs. Martha Goodman was named as Librarian and Historian, and I was named as Secretary, Assistant Treasurer and Curator. Perhaps I should explain here that the reason Mr. Lynn was named First Vice-President was that it had been the custom of the Society over the years to name a vice president to represent each township within the territory of the Mahoning Valley served by the Society and for this purpose they had chosen the Postmasters of the various Townships. These vice-presidents were also re-elected at that annual meeting. Also at that annual meeting the committees that Mr. Wick had appointed to look further into the required alterations to the building and their probable cost gave brief reports. The building committee suggested that after consulting with the city building inspector, an architect and an electrical contractor, it was their recommendation that the Society seek the advice of an experienced director from a well established historical museum, such as The Ohio Historical Society or the Western Reserve Historical Society as to what might be requirements of the Society for an extended period into the future. They also recommended that perhaps for the time

being, the Society should plan to use only the first and second floors of the building for display purposes and that the third floor and basement be used for storage of items when not on display. They suggested that when this had been done then the Society might approach The Youngstown Foundation for assisting funds.

Then Mr. Wick began making plans for the arrangement of the second floor so that we could use all the displays of the Historical Society, as well as the basement. At this point we had visited quite a large number of museums in other areas. Mr. Wick had a home in Rockport, Massachusetts and he made frequent trips to this summer home in the Cape Cod area. In the course of those trips back and forth, he visited a number of museums, particularly the museums of New York State Historical Society at Cooperstown, New York and he became rather well acquainted with a Mr. Jones, who was at that time the president of that society and the director of that museum. He formulated a good many of his ideas for the Arms Museum from the things that he learned there.

Mrs. Goodman and I had already spent a day at The Western Reserve Historical Society where the assistant director had given us a complete tour of the museum as well as a tour and explanation of all of the behind-the-scenes operations of their museum. I had also taken occasion on weekends and other trips to visit a number of museums in Ohio, including the Ohio Historical Society, and on one of my vacation trips had visited the Wisconsin State Historical Society's museum which is on the campus of the University of Wisconsin, at Madison, Wisconsin. I spent three days there and was treated very cordially by the entire staff, receiving much very valuable information both as to displays and all other operations of their museum.

Following the meetings of Trustees and members at which Mr. Wick had announced the Society's needs financially and otherwise in order to adapt the property for museum purposes, Mr. L.A. Beeghly agreed to make a contribution of \$5,000, and a contribution of \$5,000 was also received from The Youngstown Foundation, but no other sizeable contributions seemed to be forthcoming at that time. So Mr. Wick began to re-examine the situation to determine if a less elaborate plan might be followed that might possibly be accomplished at a lower cost. To do this he secured the services of an independent carpenter-contractor, a young independent elec-

trical contractor, both of whom had done work for him previously, and a plumber and steam engineer who had worked for him in the past, and all of these men agreed to do the required work on a time-and-material basis, which would mean quite a substantial saving in overhead costs. Mr. Wick felt that, with the \$10,000 that was assured, any additional amount that might be needed could be borrowed temporarily from the Bert Amy Fund with the understanding that it would be restored as soon as possible. So he determined to proceed on this basis.

Mr. Wick began by covering the walls of all second floor rooms with pegboard, except the housekeeper's quarters. Just prior to that the second floor had had three large bathrooms and the fixtures had all been removed, thus making all of that space available for display purposes, too. There was still another bathroom in the housekeeper's area and that one was allowed to remain for future use as a second floor powder room.

It also became apparent that it would be necessary to run in a much heavier power service line to provide for the additional lighting that would be needed for the museum's displays. This proved quite a task because it was discovered that the stone walls of that house are 18 inches thick. They had to drill through those thick stone walls and install additional metering equipment in the basement in the room that had been the fruit cellar. Also in the basement we installed two lavatories, one with sufficient space for a small lounge or restroom. These were some of the things that were done. The wiring of the entire house was examined and restored or replaced where necessary and additional outlets were installed where needed.

On the second floor three of the rooms contained fireplaces. These also were covered with pegboard, thus providing more display space. All of this work took up the entire spring and summer of 1964 following the auction sale, and the whole house was a very noisy, dusty and confusing place in which to try to work.

Then we had reached a point where Mr. Wick could begin to display such historical material as he had ready. While the construction work was being done on the second floor he was working at his home gathering the historical material, which I was typing and which George Riddle was framing. George was very adept at this.

He was able to do many things and was quite ingenious at things like this. We had bought him a saw and some of the other tools that he had seen at the Butler Art Institute.

E: A miter box?

W: Yes, a miter box.

E: You're talking about George Riddle?

W: Yes, he had been sent down to the Butler Art Gallery to observe how such work was done down there. When Mr. Wick felt that George could do it he then bought the necessary equipment and installed it in the furnace room. It is quite a large room and there was plenty of space for it. So this is where George did the picture framing and framing of such other historical material as Mr. Wick had prepared and wished framed.

By this time we had also purchased a couple of additional desks and typewriters. One of the typewriters has very large type and that one was used for preparing all the material to be framed and hung on display. In addition to preparing the walls of the second floor rooms for hanging displays we also erected quite a number of display panels in the center of those rooms. I had seen these panel posts at an annual meeting of the American Association of Museums, to which Mr. Wick insisted I go shortly after I started my work at the Museum. I told Mr. Wick about them and he immediately ordered one of them. George took it apart to see how it was made and we then ordered the materials and George built quite a number of them and did an excellent job as well as saving quite a considerable amount of money. So George Riddle really had a great deal to do with the setting up of the historical part of the museum.

E: Did George like this work? He had had a relatively quiet life...

W: He was enormously interested in it. He really was. He took great pride in this, as a matter of fact, and was quite a perfectionist.

E: Did he still live there on the place?

W: Yes, he still did at that time.

E: Where did he live, the garage apartment?

W: Yes, after the property was turned over, he went back to the garage apartment. Also, I should have said right at the beginning, we began the installation of the burglar and security system as well. This was quite a long, drawn out task. The first contract was for \$2000, as I recall, and covered just certain areas of the museum and in this connection, Mr. Wick went to Mr. L.A. Beeghly again and obtained a donation of \$2000 to pay the beginning of the installation of the security system.

In connection with the security protection system I should have mentioned that at the first meetings of the Trustees and Members of the Society held in 1961 after the Arms property was turned over to the Society when I submitted the first financial reports, I had included a memorandum of the insurance coverage carried on the property and contents as of that time. It was the general opinion that this coverage should be increased since the property was now to be a public institution, and this matter was referred to Mr. Fred Tod, Jr., one of the Trustees, whose business is insurance. This became another one of my first tasks for while Mrs. Arms had carried all of the household furnishings and possessions of every description under one simple heading of "Household Goods," the insurance company now asked for an itemized list with separate evaluations for each item.

This presented quite a time consuming and difficult task for while I had some records on items that had been acquired during the time that I had her books in custody and Mrs. Arms had from time to time mentioned some of the things on which I had made memoranda, this information did not represent the actual values as of that 1961 date.

Here again, I was very fortunate in having the assistance of a very good friend who was well qualified to help me. I had hardly begun this task when this friend, Mr. Edward Kyle, a former Youngstown resident who had made his home in New York City for many years, called on me at the museum. Mr. Kyle is a nephew of the Mr. and Mrs. Fellows who left the Fellows Riverside Gardens to Mill Creek Park and I had met him at their home many times. I had known them for many years and in fact was co-executor of the Fellows Estate. During the years of his residence in New York, Mr. Kyle has been employed by such firms as Tiffany & Company, The Gorham Company,

Edward C. Fina Company, and others, all dealers in fine household furnishings, jewelry, china, glassware and silverware and has a complete knowledge and appreciation of such things and of their value. Mr. Kyle was visiting local relatives for several weeks and he very generously spent most of that time at the Arms Museum assisting me with the inventory and evaluation of much of the Arms collection. The Society and I personally are very deeply indebted to Mr. Kyle for this invaluable assistance.

This information was also very helpful to us later when Helen Hall and I prepared the information to be used by the guides in conducting tours through the museum, as well as later on when the Arms collection was to be catalogued.

We finally got enough on display that we felt the Museum could be opened to the public. There was also another underlying reason for trying to get it open to the public as quickly as possible. Mr. Wick over the years since the enactment of a bill by the Ohio legislature permitting it, had periodically made application to the County Commissioners for funds for the Society. He had always been refused for the reason that the particular statute provides that funds may, and I stress the word "may", be given to county historical societies for operating expenses of county museums. The statute further provides that funds may not be given for building purposes. They may be used for operating expenses only. It was for this reason that up until this time the Society had never been granted any funds. Once the museum was open to the public and a going concern, then the Society had some real argument for making a strong application for funds. Then it was in September of 1964 that the museum was opened to the public for the first time and as I recall, it was at the end of that year that the County Commissioners made their first contribution. The statute also provides that contributions shall be made based upon the population served by the museum. There are certain gradations of amounts that may be granted, but yet they are not compelled to grant anything. They may make such contributions from the general fund of the county from funds not otherwise appropriated.

- E: Would you have to state the number of people going through the museum, or the total surrounding population?
- W: We would have to state the number of people living within the area to be served. The museum must be operating and

open to receive the public, if they wish to come; this is not the exact wording. So, the Society then began and has since yearly received that \$10,000 contribution from Mahoning County Commissioners for operating costs.

E: Was there a big crowd, a big anticipation of the opening of the Museum in the community?

W: Well, I don't think the crowd was as large as we had anticipated. The minutes of the next annual meeting could probably give an accurate figure on that, but as I recall I would say that there was not a large crowd; the number was something between 150 and 200 people.

We provided for guided tours on every day of the week except Monday. Monday the Museum was closed as that is more or less the tradition with all the museums around the country. I had found that out at the annual meeting of Museums. One day is set aside for cleaning and necessary tasks such as changing exhibits. We set up the tours in the afternoons beginning at one o'clock and ending at four o'clock on weekdays, and we were open Saturday afternoons and Sunday afternoons from one o'clock until five o'clock. So at this point, it became necessary to train some guides to conduct these tours.

Now in 1964, just prior to our opening we had hired Miss Helen Hall, who was the person designated to be covered by that second fund set up by Mrs. Arms. Her primary duties were to look after the Arms collection, but she was also to be a guide. Now it had been Mrs. Arms' intention and hope that that position would be filled by Mrs. Helen Purvis, whom I mentioned previously.

E: The minister's wife?

E: The minister's wife. It was offered to Mrs. Purvis first, but by this time she had moved to Warren, Ohio. After she had given it consideration, Mrs. Purvis decided that it would in fact be better for her not to do that. Helen Hall had been named as Mrs. Arms' second choice, or later on, to be there in any capacity as we needed her for help. So I first contacted Mrs. Purvis, and after she declined then Helen Hall came in. She was the first guide as well as having custody and supervision of the Arms' collection, particularly of linens and the fine silver, china, and crystal.

E: Did she arrange displays and look after them?

W: She always arranged the table settings and she took care of the linens, but never without first consulting me or asking my opinion or telling me what she had in mind. She was a very wonderful person to work with and she was devoted, completely devoted to this project and very, very happy to have a part in it. She had known Mrs. Arms and her mother had also known Mrs. Arms because of course, Mr. Arms and Mr. Hall had been associated in business. Helen had visited at the Arms house many times with her mother and so she knew a great deal about the Arms family. She had not, however, been acquainted with Mrs. Arms' finances. At the time, Helen was the first guide and by this time Mrs. Goodman had come in on a paid basis as a part-time person only. She did not want to work full time. But she still maintained her very intense interest in the Society and the things that were happening to it. It was very, very helpful of her in every way. So, for the first few weeks, the guides consisted of Helen Hall, Martha Goodman, and myself. We all took turns at it. Then when Mrs. Luella B. Cowden joined the force in 1965 as a typist and assistant to me, we also trained her as a guide to be available when needed. Then the next outside guide we employed was Mr. Fred G. Beede, who is now a trustee of the Society. Mr. Beede had come into the Museum one day bringing with him some of his father's early papers and an old telescope, as I remember. His father had quite a reputation in town as one who studies the stars.

E: Astronomy?

W: An astronomer, yes. He was well known in Youngstown and had a considerable collection of such equipment. Mr. Beede came in bringing one or two items that belonged to his father and I took him on a tour of the museum. He was very, very interested but I didn't say anything further to him that day. After he had gone as I gave it thought, I decided that he would be a natural person to add to the staff of the Museum, and having a man as a guide, I thought, would perhaps be a good thing. He had retired as principal of the Princeton School, formerly he had taught at South High School and I believe had been assistant principal there. He was the first man and the first guide other than Helen Hall that we employed. As a result of Mr. Beede's coming in and his acquaintance with a good many other retired teachers, gradually we got in touch with several other teachers who were among the first of those who joined us as guides.

By this time I had become too busy to help do any of that. Mrs. Cowden was also occupied with other work as was Mrs. Goodman because we had begun by this time to set up the cataloging system and Mrs. Goodman and I were more concerned with that and wanted to be free for that particular branch of the operation. So Miss Marion Maiden, sister of Judge Erskine Maiden, who had also been a teacher at South High School; Miss Molly Russell who had taught at Chaney High School; and Miss Helen Minturn, who is still there as a guide, became guides. Mrs. Ruth Pemberton, now Mrs. Paul Grauss, who was the widow of Tom Pemberton, who had been park superintendent here in Youngstown for quite a number of years, and who before her marriage had been a teacher in Ashtabula County, and Mrs. Robert Nevin, the widow of the former Judge, Robert Nevin, and Miss Alice Riordan joined the group of guides as well as Mrs. Rose Andrews, who joined later.

Rose Andrews was retired from having been the first teacher to handle the special classes for retarded children in Youngstown. She had been in charge of the formation of a real program for retarded children. She handled it up until the time that the new school was built for them, and it was well established. I had known her for a number of years.

Since Rose had retired and was not doing anything, she came one day to visit the Museum, and noticing her great interest in it, I approached her on the subject of becoming a guide. She was delighted to come. She worked as a guide for a couple of years before she retired again. In addition to that there was also Miss Helen McCormick, with whom I had been acquainted through Quota Club. She had retired as secretary to the President of the Valley Mould and Iron Company of Sharon, and was still very active in the community. She came in and worked as a guide for two or three years. Those were the first people who began conducting the guided tours through the Arms Museum.

It was through Mr. Beede and the fact that I had made it known to the schools that the museum was available for tours for school children, that we had had some school tours. But, Mr. Beede really got more of the schools interested in the program and succeeded making a great many more of them conscious of the Museum's presence in the community and its availability for tours for the

school children, which has continued to grow and grow. I credit Mr. Beede with really having given that program the stimulus that it needed to become what it is today.

E: He knew a lot of those people.

W: He did. He knew all of these people who came in as guides.

E: But he knew which personnel in the schools to contact.

W: Yes, he knew the personnel. He has maintained an interest in the Society, and has become a Trustee. On his many vacation trips, he and Mrs. Beede never failed to visit as many museums as they could in the area where they were vacationing. He brought back many suggestions and hints of programs that might be conducted at the Arms Museum. There were other guides that followed later, but I think you wanted beginning personnel, principally, if I'm not mistaken.

Also, during the time that Mrs. Goodman, Mrs. Cowden and I were helping with the tours it had been our arrangement that one of us three was always there on the Saturday and Sunday afternoons to handle the admissions desk, to answer the telephone, to assign the guides to visitors as they arrived and to be responsible for the proper handling of the security alarm system in opening and closing the museum. At this point I assigned two of my brothers to alternate in taking care of these duties on the weekends only as none of the guides wished to take on this responsibility. This was also helpful to me in keeping in close touch with any emergencies that might arise on those days and relieved us three for the weekends.

Mr. Wick continued constantly to prepare more and more historical material as time went on, which was placed on display. People began to bring in items as the Museum's presence became more widely known.

E: Thanks to the efforts of Esther Hamilton.

W: Yes, a great deal of the museum's popularity was because she mentioned it very frequently. We also found that a good many of the people who visited the Museum came because school children had gone on tours with their classes and went home and told their parents about it. So the children were instrumental in bringing their whole families

to the Museum. We also gradually began to get such groups as Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, followed by women's clubs of different kinds and different other organizations. We began to get some pretty large scale groups. In fact, there was one Saturday that I recall I had received a letter from a woman in Meadville who seemed to be a leader in the Girl Scouts movement there. She wrote and asked if all of the Girl Scouts of Meadville could be brought to the museum on a Saturday. They planned to spend the whole day in Youngstown, particularly to visit the Arms Museum first, which meant that their visit would be in the morning. They also wanted to visit the Butler Institute of American Art.

Well, this was a pretty large order, but it was their plan that they visit the Arms Museum first, which meant that their visit would be in the morning. So I felt that it was well worthwhile to do this, and I arranged this tour so that it could be done. Then I enlisted the help of everybody that we had available as well as members of some of our families. Mr. Beede had Mrs. Beede there. I got a couple of my nieces to be there and one or two of the guides brought their acquaintances or friends. The purpose in having those people there was that we naturally had to divide this many girls into a number of groups. I think there were four busloads of Girl Scouts. We said afterwards that we felt that every Girl Scout and her mother from Meadville visited the Museum that day. We divided them into groups sufficient enough in size to have two guides with each group, and one person, not necessarily a guide, to sort of remain at the end of each group and keep them moving along in some kind of order and sequence. Up until very recently, that was probably the biggest single day that we ever had. It certainly was up until the time that I left. I'm sure that there were well over 200 there that morning. Then we still had the regular afternoon tours to come. So, that day we arranged for everybody that was there to have luncheon there in the kitchen in appreciation for the guides, as well as the others who helped and who were very happy and interested to make this a success, and a very interesting experience as well.

You have mentioned the fine assistance and support that Esther Hamilton has always given the Museum, and for that the Museum is very grateful. I should say here, too, that we always had and still have very fine publicity and support from the Vindicator as well as

from all of the radio and television stations, WKBN, WFMJ, and WBBW; all of them, Channels 21, 27, and 33, have had different members of the staff and society appear on special programs on a number of occasions and all of this publicity has been invaluable to the progress of the Museum.

E: What events or things of major significance stand out in your mind now as you look back during the period you were the director?

W: Well that Saturday was one of the biggest events. Another one was when a group of women, perhaps an auxiliary of the Western Reserve Historical Society, visited us. In advance of their visit, two of the women came down to Youngstown to the Museum and asked if it would be possible for them to bring their whole group. This group would be a busload of people to visit the Museum. She asked if they could do it at a time when they would be more or less the only people there, so that they could be free to see it at their leisure. They did not want to be hurried through in any way. I agreed to it. I said yes, I felt that this would be nice and I knew at the time that there would be some men who would wish to come along. I thought it was quite important that these people come down and see the Museum, that we might get some comments and ideas from them which would be helpful. So we arranged it, this tour.

That tour must have been on a Monday because it was arranged on a day when there were no other persons touring the Museum. It was probably a Monday that we did this. Instead of there being one busload, there were two busloads, but they visited the Butler Art Institute as well. We cooperated quite well with Butler on all the tours concerning just about any group such as school tours from the surrounding areas or out-of-town. If a school tour came from a long distance, they might want to go over to the Butler Art Museum, so I kept in touch with Butler on all the time in scheduling of these groups. They would go from Museum to the other, particularly the out-of-town groups.

When this group of women's auxiliary came, they took up practically the whole day. It was a very nice summer day and I suggested to Mr. Wick that since they had had that long bus ride they were going to be tired;- they had arranged for their luncheon somewhere; I don't know where;- I said, "I think it would be very nice if out on that porch off the sitting room, we would serve

them cold punch and cookies at the end of their visit."

E: That is where the idea came from for the reception we had right before the annual meeting.

W: Did they have a reception this year?

E: Yes.

W: We did that and it was a very, very pleasant and profitable day for us. They seemed to enjoy it tremendously. It was a little out of the ordinary. We had requests from many organizations that wanted to come in and have luncheons at the Museum, and afterwards take a tour, but these we had to discourage because we simply didn't have the facilities for taking care of them. We had to suggest that they have their luncheons somewhere else. We always recommended the Women's City Club or any other place that they might wish to go, but that club we particularly recommended because it was within close proximity to the Museum. We didn't allow any of the groups that came through the Museum to have luncheon there. This was just impossible.

However, once in a while Mr. Wick had luncheon meetings for the trustees at the Museum. The first time he did it, I just thought we'd never be able to handle it. We gave the luncheon, which Mr. Wick paid for entirely at his own expense, because he wanted to do it. He wanted the trustees to become a little more familiar with what we were doing.

E: What was Mrs. Arms' favorite room in the whole house?

W: I would say in the years when she was physically able to get about the whole house, it was the sitting room where the large stone fireplace is located, with the inscription over it: "Around these hearth stones speak no evil word of anyone." That was the family sitting room. That's where she and Mr. Arms spent their evenings and where he brought her the news of all the things that were going on downtown. It was her way of keeping in very close touch with events as they occurred.

They, in the years that I was there, had practically no social life. They did no big entertaining. They had entertained in their earlier years when Mrs. Arms was more able, but from the years that I became more closely connected with them and knew them they didn't entertain at all. Mrs. Arms would have one or two women in for

tea, including Helen Hall and her mother on several occasions. Her nieces from Cleveland would occasionally visit and sometimes stay over night and then they would do a little more. Mr. and Mrs. Arms always used the big dining room, as long as she was able, but I would say that that sitting room was a favorite of both of them because that was where they spent their evenings together.

E: Have you walked around that room in the house after your long association with them and of course now that Mrs. Arms is gone and the house has been rearranged and so forth, did you ever just kind of walk through there and stopped to think?

W: Yes I did on many occasions. Of course those rooms are pretty nostalgic, and took me back to the times of my early association with the Armses. Of course I tried to picture how their life was in those early years of their marriage after they first built the home and moved into it in 1905. Yes, and I have to say that always, up to the day I left there, I always felt Mrs. Arms' presence in that house. I was never without that, she was always there with me and when I would undertake to do certain things the thought would occur to me, "What would she think about that?" What would be her reaction to something that I might suggest that we do?" Very often these thoughts occurred to me.

E: Mrs. Welsh, we've commented about the Amy fund which of course was a part of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society collection to the Arms Museum. There's the Wirt collection that makes up probably the second largest collection there outside of what Mrs. Arms left?

W: Yes, that is correct. That is the collection of Mr. B.F. Wirt, who was a member of the Society and who was an attorney here in Youngstown for a great many years. He also served a term and possibly several terms in the Ohio Legislature during the course of his career. He was quite a familiar figure in downtown Youngstown. I remember him in the early years when I first worked downtown. He had his office in one of the buildings close to the square; I don't know just which one, but I saw him many times walking around Central Square. I remember him well from then. But Mr. Wirt, at his death, left a quite unusual will. A copy of that will is among the records of the Historical Society.

I am unable to personally cite all the conditions of the will but it was rather unusual in a number of

respects. To begin with, in addition to his law career, Mr. Wirt was also more or less a world traveler. He traveled quite extensively and it seems from the type of collection that he left, a good many of those travels took him to the Orient. Much of the material that now constitutes the Wirt Collection that is on display reflects those travels. Mr. Wirt's home was on the corner of West Rayen and North Phelps Street, and I remember his home as being there before the present Y.W.C.A. was built.

Getting back to his will, he had quite a collection of artifacts which he had accumulated in his travels. Most of them reflect the Orient more than this country, for instance, and most of them are on display. The estate included a small coin collection, which is on display, and he also had quite an extensive library.

Going back to the will for a moment, his will stipulated that there should be five trustees appointed for his estate. Each of these trustees should be of a different religious faith, and at his death, his property was turned over to these trustees. The provision was that when the cash which was included in his estate reached the point where it was sufficient for the purpose, these trustees should build a museum. The items which he had gathered over the years could be displayed and also the museum could contain his library and such items of his household furnishings as were not otherwise disposed of in his will. The items that the trustees felt would be suitable for museum purposes.

The estate never accumulated enough cash to accomplish the purpose of building the museum which he had stipulated. If my memory is correct, about 1965, the exact date is obtainable from the records of the Historical Society, we were approached by the trustees of the estate with the request that we rent them space in the Arms Museum for display of the Wirt collection, which at the time was in storage because they had never found an appropriate place nor sufficient funds to establish a permanent home for it. At the time they first approached us, the Historical Society was not far enough along with the establishment of its own museum and plans for its future to feel that there might be enough space for such a collection. In the second place, if the Society rented space to them or to anyone, that would remove it from the category of a tax free organization and they did not want to do this at all. On that basis the trustees said that they didn't feel they could

handle it or comply with that request. So for a time the matter was dropped.

A little later on, more or less at intervals from that time on in about 1965, it probably was the latter part of 1965, after their having talked to us several times about it, they again made a specific request. Our trustees decided at that time that there was a possibility that the collection could be brought into the museum not on a rental basis, as they had suggested, but to become a part of the collection of the museum. The income from the funds of the Wirt estate would be made payable and become a part of the income of the Historical Society. So eventually, agency and trust agreements were drawn and are now on file at the museum. That is the basis of the Wirt Collection's being there. The Wirt trustees still control the estate. One of the stipulations of the agency and trust agreement is that the trustees of the Wirt estate also be made trustees of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society so that in that way, they could keep in touch at all times with the Wirt Collection as well. So, the agreement was drawn up that way and the Society agreed to allot the Wirt Collection the two small rooms which had formerly been quite large bathrooms. This is where the Wirt Collection is now shown. Also some storage space on the third floor, additional display space in the rear hallway, and space on the rear staircase leading down to the back part of the house, were allotted to the Wirt Collection.

When that agreement was signed, the Wirt Collection was transferred almost immediately from storage to the garage building of the Museum. In order for the Society to obtain the funds that would arise from that particular agreement and that collection, the cataloging work that was in progress then with the Arms Collection, what we termed the "old collection", and any new items coming in which the catalogers and Mrs. Goodman were all engaged in working on at that time, all other work was stopped and priority was given to the immediate cataloging of the Wirt estate and its installation in its quarters allotted under the agreement in the Arms Museum building itself. This cataloging was quite a long process. I'd like to mention here that in the unpacking of this collection we found a good many oil paintings and pictures along with the other items which I have mentioned. They were all crated in very heavy wooden crates. They had been packed very carefully and stored so that as little deterioration as possible would occur in that period. In the process of unpacking them

and transferring them to the museum building properly. Dr. George H. G. Jones of the Youngstown University Library, who by this time had become a trustee of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society, was extremely helpful. He was able to identify a good many of the artifacts and was very helpful in uncrating these large pictures and the other things. He took an active part in getting the Wirt Collection into the Arms Museum. For that, the Society owes him a real debt of gratitude. At this point, Mrs. Goodman immediately began the cataloging and supervising of the other girls, who at that time were Mrs. Cowden, Miss Mildred Ziegler, who had joined the staff for a short time. That collection was brought in about 1965. I would say that the cataloging and display or exposition of that collection was probably completed toward the spring of 1966, if my memory serves me.

I should mention here that there were about 4000 volumes in Mr. Wirt's library covering a great variety of subjects and representing many different authors. Also a partial card file and a typewritten list of the books were found among the items brought into the Arms Museum. Mrs. Goodman and Miss Zeigler spent a great deal of time in examining all of the books, with some assistance from Dr. George H.G. Jones, Youngstown State University Librarian, in determining which of them were suitable for museum display purposes. As a result of this examination it was determined that between 1800 and 1900 volumes should be retained in the collection in the Arms Museum with the consent of the trustees of the Wirt estate. The remainder of the books were donated to the library of Youngstown State University.

One of the most notable and historically valuable books found in the Wirt Library is the original Town Clerk's record book of the Village of Youngstown, organized in 1802, a year before the state of Ohio was admitted to the Union. This book shows George Tod as Village Clerk at that time.

Before the cataloging of the Wirt Library was quite complete, Mrs. Goodman resigned because she and her husband were planning to return to their original home in Michigan. It was about this time that Mrs. Harriet Wick Schaff, daughter of Mr. James L. Wick, Jr., president of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society, came into the Museum to work on a rather optional

part-time basis. In other words, she spent such time as she was able, apart from her family obligations. She completed the cataloging of the Wirt books and from then on, she stayed on a part-time basis. We were doing more or less the same things, such as taking care of accessioning new items as they came in and preparing them for the cataloging. She did some of the cataloging work.

E: Let me ask just a couple of questions here. You mentioned the Attorney Wirt as being quite a character.

W: Well, I don't know if I said that in referring to him in the same term as we mean it today.

E: Yes, I understand.

W: Mr. Wirt, as I recall, was a gentleman in the finest sense of the word, and an expert attorney. Physically, as I saw him the first time in his walk around Central Square, I remember him as being impeccably dressed. As a rule, he wore a frock coat rather than an ordinary business suit. Always in my memory that coat was brown, a light brown. He was quite a handsome man, I would say. What I meant by referring to him as being quite a character was the way he made his will and some of the stipulations, particularly the requirement that each trustee be of a different religious denomination.

E: Where were his belongings kept in storage until they came to the Historical Society?

W: His belongings came to the Society from the Fisher, Gilder, and Bord Company.

E: Oh, they were in professional storage?

W: Oh yes. This was in professional storage. The trustees were paying for that from the funds which were on deposit with the Union National Bank. I believe, that's where they had the account. The trustees were entirely in charge of it and of any investments which might be made with the funds as they accumulated in amounts sufficient for this, and the trustees had the authority there. It was not the bank. The trustees of the Wirt estate are responsible for the investment of the Wirt trust fund

and they still carry that responsibility rather than the trust department of the Union National Bank. It should be noted here that all of the expense of transporting the Wirt Collection to the Arms Museum, as well as all expenses incurred in preparing the space for the Wirt Collection in the Arms Museum, were taken care of with funds from the Wirt trust.

At about this time with the completion of the display and exhibition of the Wirt Collection, as I say, Mrs. Schaff came in on a part time basis at the Museum, usually in the morning for about two hours and likewise in the afternoon, and sometimes a few times a week for half days. One day Mr. Wick came into the Museum after Mrs. Schaff had been there for some time and as he and I were walking through the Museum, we were discussing the affairs and conduct of the Museum in general. He said to me, "You know, my daughter, Harriet, has been with us now for some time, and it is my hope that if and when you should decide to resign or should be unable to continue any longer as Director of the Museum, and Secretary and Assistant-Treasurer of the Society, I would like my daughter, Harriet, to succeed you in that position. So with that in mind, I would appreciate it very much if you would gradually begin to acquaint her with the many things that you are doing as Director and general supervisor and particularly to acquaint her with the bookkeeping process, and the conduct of the general affairs of the Museum."

He asked me what my feelings were about that. I told him that at that particular time I had no intention of resigning my position at the Museum. I felt that my work there had been a very rewarding and satisfying experience for me; that I was enjoying it very much, and that I hoped my health would enable me to continue in that capacity for a long time. As for his hope that eventually his daughter would become the director of the Museum, I felt that the trustees of the Society would probably be more than willing to have this accomplished because of his many years of service to the Society and the fact that he had kept the Museum alive during the early years from the time of its incorporation in 1909 and through the lean years before he became aware of the Arms bequest. I felt it was only fitting that a member of his family be eventually given that position. That was my honest feeling about this matter. I even went

so far as to say that if the time arrived when he felt that his daughter should be given this position and I had not yet indicated my intentions to resign or had not become incapacitated in any way, he had only to notify me of that fact. I assured him that I would cooperate with him regardless of my own feelings in the matter, if that change was his wish and the wish of the trustees. I would then be glad to step down as Director of the Museum.

E: Wouldn't that be in violation of the will? The will says, if I'm reading it correctly, that as long as you were willing and able you still maintained the job of Director of the Museum, does it not?

W: I think it does.

E: Or to that effect, anyway.

W: It implies this, but it doesn't say it in so many words. In his statement to me about this, Mr. Wick said that it was not likely that the time would come when he would wish such a move until his daughter had raised her family of three young daughters. Hopefully she would take over when she was able to give full time attention to the Museum and give the attention that such a position would require of her. I felt that that in itself placed this change at enough distance in the future that probably I would be at a point where maybe I would want to retire or be ready to relinquish some of the responsibility.

E: Did Mrs. Arms ask that you find an easier job?

W: Yes, that is true. Mrs. Arms intended that my duties at the Museum should gradually become easier for me. So, succession was dropped then. I never mentioned it to anyone. I was a trifle surprised at the time that he had made his suggestion, but as I thought it over, I could see that since he himself had devoted so many years to the Society, he would like to feel that some member of his family was there to carry on even after the time when he would no longer be there. That was in about 1968 or possibly early in 1969. I neglected to say that when Mrs. Shaff came in, Mrs. Cowden had shortly before or after that left the Museum for other employment. Mrs. Cowden had been named as assistant secretary to fill in at times when I might be absent

on vacation, or ill. Her leaving left the office of Assistant Secretary vacant, so Mrs. Shaff was given that office of the Society and authorized to have access to the safe deposit box, to sign checks, and things of that kind. But she still continued on the part time basis.

In the meantime, about late 1967 or early 1968, Mrs. Rosemary Collins had joined the staff as a typist and cataloguer, and as my assistant when Mrs. Cowden left.

I think I have covered most of the happenings at the Museum up to the year 1970. We began that year with larger groups of school classes and other clubs and organizations of different kinds, which was in keeping with the gradual growth of the Museum since it had been set up. To adults, other than members of the Society, we charged the admission of fifty cents. Children older than fourteen years--but even then, they must be accompanied by an adult--we charged ten cents. All school groups, whether elementary, high school or college, were admitted free when they came in groups. Senior citizens, military personnel in uniform, and Society members were admitted free of charge. This schedule of admissions was set up not with the idea that it would bring in any large amount of money to the Museum or the Society, but more or less as a means of protection against too many transients or possibly some undesirable people coming in, people who would have no appreciation whatever of the Museum or its purpose. It was generally a protective measure and not one that was ever expected to produce much income. This was its purpose.

So we went into the year 1970. A few more guides had come and some had gone. The staff and the personnel then consisted of the guides who were on an hourly wage basis, Mrs. Shaff who was on an hourly part time basis, Mrs. Collins, Helen Hall and myself. Mrs. Curran, the housekeeper, left in 1966. George Riddle had reached a point where he wasn't able to take on any additional duties, so at that time in 1966 I added another maintenance man, Lawrence Smith, who took over part of the maintenance work, mostly on the inside, but also on the outside. He did the heavier housekeeping work, such as running the sweeper, waxing the floors, and that heavier work inside. He was also on a part time basis. We also added Mrs. Hilda Flesch on a part time basis to help

Helen Hall with the Arms collection and to do the lighter housekeeping work. She is still there. She is a daughter of Mrs. Arms' former laundress, Mrs. Anna Swager. That's the beginning of 1970, I don't recall the exact dates, just that they were right in that period.

From the time the Museum was opened to the public, we had a real problem because of inadequate parking space for visitors to the museum, particularly for the large school buses which were coming in increasing numbers. So in about May or June of 1970, Mr. Wick called a meeting of the Trustees to consider the possibility of providing additional parking space on the grounds of the Museum. Since Mrs. Arms had stipulated in her will that the space between the residence and the garage, where she had always had her rose garden, should be maintained as garden space, and not used for any other purposes, Mr. Wick suggested to the trustees that a parking lot be constructed on the lower southerly part of the property immediately adjoining the property of the Romanian Orthodox Church with access to the lot from Wick Avenue. After very lengthy deliberation and discussion by the trustees and the exploration of any other possibilities, it was finally their reluctant decision that the area suggested by Mr. Wick presented the only available space, and Mr. Wick was authorized to proceed with the construction of the parking lot there. This he did immediately and the parking lot was ready and available for use by the time of the annual meeting of the members, in September of 1970.

Speaking of annual meetings, I don't believe I have mentioned that when I was setting up the account books in 1961, I learned that the fiscal year of the Society had always been from September 1 to August 31, thus allowing only a ten day period for preparation of reports to be presented on the 10th of September when the annual meeting was always held. Of course, this had presented no problem during the more or less inactive years of the Society, but by the year 1964 or 1965 with activities increased and much more detailed reports involved, it became practically impossible to complete the records and obtain an audited report within ten days. So, application was made to the Internal Revenue Department, and permission obtained to change the fiscal year to end on July 31, thus allowing sufficient time for the preparation of the annual reports before the annual meeting.

Now we're leading up to the time of preparation for the close of the fiscal year on July 31, 1970. Right at that time, Mrs. Shaff took most of the summer months off, from the time her children were out of school early in June, until they returned in September. So, she was not there during the middle of the year, or at the close of the fiscal year on July 31, 1970. This is when I began preparation of the reports for the annual meeting. This meeting was held on September 10th of each year. This had been the custom from the time of the original organization of the Society, because that was the date on which the Society was organized in 1875. So, the annual meeting was held that year in the large room in the garage building. The weather was very warm.

We decided that the meeting would be held out there in the garden where it would be more comfortable for everyone. In connection with preparation for the meeting, as was my usual custom, I asked Mr. Wick if he had his report ready, and if he would want me to type it for him. He said that he had everything that he wanted to know, and that it was all prepared. He asked me to give a much briefer report than I had in previous years, as he felt that the members were not interested in statistical details. Instead, he suggested that I ask Miss Molly Russell, one of the guides who had been with the Museum for quite a long time, to give a report on her experiences and the experiences of the other guides who had been conducting tours through the Museum. He also asked me not to arrange to have a newspaper reporter present at the meeting, although he had always insisted upon this in the past.

All of this, in fact Mr. Wick's whole attitude about the upcoming annual meeting, seemed very strange and unusual to me at the time. However, I attributed it to the fact that he had been much more active and involved than usual during the preceding weeks in insisting that the parking lot be completed in time for the meeting. It was apparent that this had been quite a strenuous and exhausting undertaking for him, which we all felt was more than he was physically able to handle. I was concerned about this as well as the fact that Mr. Wick had several times mentioned to me that he was troubled and concerned about getting his own personal and family affairs arranged to his complete satisfaction for the future, insofar as that was possible. It was very apparent that all of this had been preying very heavily

on his mind and so I thought it best to say nothing, but to comply with his directions regarding the meeting.

On the day of the meeting, about an hour or so before time, Mr. Wick came in with about four pages of material in his own handwriting. He asked that I type it for him, as this was his introduction opening the meeting. Well, I was busy with other things and didn't have time to do it then, so I asked Mrs. Collins to type it, although she too had other things to do at that time. This was what I had tried to avoid by asking him for his report earlier.

I had asked Mrs. Collins, in the absence of Mrs. Shaff as Assistant Secretary, to be prepared to take notes at the meeting to help me with the minutes later, as it was rather difficult for me to make notes on everything while giving reports and answering such questions as might arise. She had done this very well and been very helpful on several occasions in the past, but was nevertheless rather nervous about it. So, to have to do this unexpected report for Mr. Wick at the last minute was more than a little disturbing for both of us. But this was just another indication of Mr. Wick's perturbed state of mind at that time.

Speaking of Mr. Wick and his writings, I realize that there is a very important contribution that he made to the Society's records that I have failed to mention. In 1969, in response to many inquiries from members of the Society and from others as well regarding John Young, the founder of Youngstown, Mr. Wick had undertaken to write a supplement to the book which the Society had published in 1876, entitled Historical Collections of the Mahoning Valley, Volume I. Mr. Wick's work was more or less a biography of John Young and, later on, the historical record dates of some of the other people who were associated with Mr. Young. Mr. Wick was in the process of writing this supplement, but wasn't making progress as rapidly as he would have liked, so I suggested that he and his daughter, Harriet, work on it together. Perhaps this way they might have it completed by the time of the annual meeting. They did this and when the notices for the meeting went out, included with the notice was a copy of that John Young supplement entitled "John Young's Town in the Connecticut Western Reserve," by James L. Wick, Jr. and Harriet Wick Schaff. Quite a number of people were

helpful in assembling the material for the book, but Mrs. Shaff did most of the research and put it all together.

The annual meeting closed on September 10, 1970, at about five o'clock p.m., which was perhaps a little later than usual. Mrs. Collins and I remained and did what was necessary to take everything into the Museum, leaving it all on the desk in my office. This was unusual as it was not our custom to leave anything in sight on the desks, particularly since the time when the Wirt Collection was brought into the Museum and the burglary-security alarm system was increased to cover more areas of the Museum, and at which time a fire alarm system was also added. This was thought necessary because while we had insurance coverage on everything in the Museum, most of the items are irreplaceable and must therefore be protected from destruction as well as from theft of vandalism. Again in connection with this additional security coverage, Mr. L. A. Beeghly made a third donation to this particular installation; it was about \$2,000. So, I'd say that the Museum was closed that night by Mrs. Collins and myself, if I remember correctly, at probably five-thirty p.m., or so.

The next morning, September 11, 1970, I was very anxious to get to the Museum early because we hadn't been able to assemble the material from the meeting, and we had left things on my desk. I got up quite early and was in a hurry to get to the Museum. Unfortunately, I tripped at the top of the steps in my home and fell to the bottom of the staircase and sustained a number of injuries, including a very badly fractured right arm. This happened at about seven-thirty in the morning. Fortunately my brother and sister-in-law were with me at the time. Almost immediately I realized that I had some broken bones, and the first thing I said was that he'd have to get me to the hospital right away, but before that to call the Museum and tell them what had happened. Mrs. Collins had asked me sometime previously if she could change her hours and come in earlier at eight o'clock a.m. and leave earlier. She had been doing that for a little while, and I knew that she would be there. My brother said to me, "I have to take you to the hospital. Should I call Mr. Wick?" I said, "No," because a number of years previously, Mr. Wick had suffered a severe heart attack, had been unable to continue much of his activities, and was confined to

his home for quite a long time. As a result of this, his doctor's message had been relayed to me by his family that I was not ever to call him at his home and relay any disturbing news of any emergencies of any kind. I followed that restriction from them because Mr. Wick had a blood pressure problem and a heart condition that was serious. The doctor's orders in that regard had never been rescinded; they were still in effect. So I said, "Do not call Mr. Wick. Call the Museum because Rosemary Collins will be there. Tell her what has happened, that we are going to the hospital and as soon as we know the extent of my injuries, you will call her back and tell her. If Mr. Wick comes in before you have heard anything, tell him as calmly as you can what has happened but do not call him at home. We will call and be in touch with him later in the day."

This is what happened and we went to the hospital. Fortunately, the broken arm was my worst injury, though I was pretty badly bruised and slightly in shock. I had x-rays and they put on a rather cumbersome cast because I had sustained a very bad double fracture. My right arm was rendered totally immobile. It had been my intention that I would stop at the Museum after I left the hospital, but I was not feeling too well so I went back home. When I got home I did telephone the Museum and talked to Rosemary and asked her if Mr. Wick had come in. She said no. So I said, "I think that I will be able to come in and see you tomorrow. In all probability Mr. Wick will come in tomorrow, too, and then I will tell him myself so that he can see what the situation is. We are not supposed to alarm him in any way because of his serious heart condition and he just might become too disturbed and worried about the Museum." So I did that.

I went into the Museum the next day and waited until it was customary for Mr. Wick to come in, which was about 11:00 a.m. and I saw that everyone was going about their usual tasks. Rosemary was getting the minutes of the meeting together and I was going over that with her, we had them together in preliminary form. I told her to continue typing on that and that I would probably see her again sometime the next day. On that next day I was in considerable pain and was again unable to go into the Museum. I just stayed home and rested as I knew the work was provided for at least

for a few days in advance, unless some emergency arose. But I talked to Rosemary and asked if Mr. Wick had come in and she said he had not. It sometimes happened that after a meeting he did not come in for four or five days. I said, "I'll be in tomorrow and I have the feeling that he will probably be in."

I went in again the next day and spent several hours there from before 11:00 until well into the noon hours, and everybody was working as usual. In the meantime, I realized that I was really not going to be able to go back to work full time for at least a week or two but I fully intended to go in each day to supervise and make certain that the operation of the Museum was proceeding normally and that nothing was being neglected.

About the fourth or fifth day after my accident I had to go back to the hospital for further x-rays of my arm and wrist. Therefore I did not go into the Museum that day. However, upon my return home I called the Museum to check on operations for the day and to tell Mrs. Collins that I would be in the next morning. But before I had an opportunity to say much of anything Rosemary informed me that Mr. Wick had come in that morning in a very angry and disturbed mood; that in some way he had learned of my accident and had immediately assumed that I was not at the Museum at all, that I was not taking care of my own duties nor supervising the staff in any way. This, of course, was the very reaction that I was trying to avoid by not notifying Mr. Wick of my accident immediately. I had hoped to be there myself when he came in and thus be able to convince him personally that no real emergency existed.

Mr. Wick refused to listen to explanations from anyone. He called the entire staff together immediately and notified them that as of that time he was assuming complete charge of the Museum, that he would be in every day from then on to assign and supervise all duties of the entire staff and act as Director of the Museum until such time as plans could be made for a new director. He advised the entire staff that he considered my failure to notify him immediately of my accident as a personal affront and as evidence on my part of total disrespect for him as president of The Mahoning Valley Historical Society. Thus he completely misinterpreted my intentions and concern in withholding the information from him and at the same time, by his criticism of me, completely destroyed my authority as Director and any hope for allegiance or cooperation from any of them in the future,

should I have any plan to remain there.

This very drastic reaction on Mr. Wick's part was, I learned later, as great a shock to all of the members of the staff as it was to me. And I must admit that his handling of the matter did destroy much of my respect for him as an executive. Prior to that and all through our more than ten years of association at the Arms Museum, I am certain that I had never shown him anything but the greatest respect for his knowledge and devotion and service to the Historical Society and to the Arms Museum. So, after thinking it over for some time, I decided that Mr. Wick had left me no alternative, and that the time had suddenly come for me to resign. Until then I had had no intention of doing so, at least for two or three years yet, as we were nearing the time when I could see the completion of the cataloguing of the Arms Collection, as well as the back-log of the so-called "Old Collection," and could hope to get on a current cataloguing basis, thus having time to devote to new programs and innovations to improve the attendance and interest at the Museum.

So, not having heard from Mr. Wick personally, I arranged to call on him at his home late that afternoon or early evening. I told Mr. Wick that since I had been notified by Mrs. Collins that he was relieving me of my position as Director of the Arms Museum, and the entire staff had already been notified of that fact, I could only assume that he was holding me to our conversation of several years earlier when I had agreed to his plans for the future management of the Museum if and when I decided to resign. Mr. Wick was greatly surprised at my visit and did not receive me too cordially. Neither would he accept any explanation from me, nor did he deny any of his actions or remarks to the staff at the Museum that day. So, seeing that his attitude was adamant, I told Mr. Wick that while I considered his treatment of the situation totally unkind and unwarranted in the circumstances, he had made it utterly impossible for me to be associated with him personally in the future. I told him that in spite of my promise to Mrs. Arms to remain at the Arms Museum as long as I was physically able to do so--of which arrangement and promise to Mrs. Arms Mr. Wick was well aware,--he had made it impossible for me to do so. I would therefore accede to his plans and submit my resignation without, in the best interests of the Society and the Museum, giving the matter any more publicity than he had already occasioned.

However, I told Mr. Wick that it was my intention to return to the Museum the next day, and for as much time as was required to complete all of the work and records that I had in progress, I would submit my resignation only when all of my records and duties were in complete order and up to date.

At the end of September of 1970 I submitted my resignation, sending it to Mr. Wick in the form of a very brief letter stating that due to injuries sustained in a fall in my home which would make it impossible for me to remain and to carry on my duties for a time, I felt that perhaps it was in the best interests of the Arms Museum that I submit my resignation as Director of the Museum and as Secretary and Assistant Treasurer of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society. I purposely did not include a resignation as Trustee, as I hoped and intended if possible, to remain there in that capacity. I hoped that the Board of Trustees might understand that.

After my visit with Mr. Wick and before submitting my letter of resignation, I did call on Mr. Donald Lynn, First Vice-President of the Society, and explained the situation to him, as I felt that in his position he was entitled to know all of the circumstances, and because he had always been very kind and understanding and helpful to me whenever I had to refer to him in Mr. Wick's absence or illness. I did not mention it to any of the other trustees, nor in fact to anyone else, not even members of my own family.

Very shortly after that I received a brief letter of acceptance of my resignation, together with a check from the Society as a gift in appreciation of my services.

That brings me to the end of my years as Director of the Arms Museum and as Secretary and Assistant Treasurer of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society.

E: What was the typical day like for you when you were Director of the Museum, starting in the morning? You needn't elaborate if you don't want to. Just, what type of things did you expect to do when you got there in the morning?

W: We went in to the Museum in the morning at nine o'clock. I was usually there about eight-thirty, but the whole

staff was there by nine and doing their usual jobs, whatever they were. Mrs. Goodman would be doing the accessioning and cataloging along with Mrs. Cowden and Mrs. Collins. Their offices were on the lower floor, and my desk was in a first floor office. I usually answered the telephone because nine times out of ten, the call was for me anyway, or would have to be referred to me. I scheduled all the tours by telephone, as a rule, then provided guides for them. I also answered any other telephone inquiries, and there were quite a number of them that came in from time to time. I met also any people who might call at the Museum for business reasons of any kind; I was always the one to whom they came. Then I would proceed to complete records of the attendance from the day before; I kept a constant, running record of that. I did the general bookkeeping. Sometimes when a particular group was coming in, I would go in at that time and give the little preliminary welcoming talk which I had always given, until the time that Mr. Beede joined the Society. After he came in as a guide and had been there a short time, I had asked him to do that when he was there. Otherwise, I usually did that.

When a large group came in, it was necessary to divide them because of the layout. We started one group on the second floor, one group on the first floor, and those remaining, in the basement. This was done in order to give the groups, particularly the children, an idea of what was going to happen. I gave a brief talk to explain what they would see on each floor while the groups were being so divided.

There were some days when I was busier than others. I would consult with Helen Hall about the Arms Collection and things that we might be contemplating, either in exhibiting different gowns, changing the dining room set up, and other such things. I would consult with George Riddle about his work for the day, and the girls who spent their hours in the offices in the basement to see that work was progressing. In general, I supervised everybody and their work. I handled the payroll and all the tax reports, and answered quite a number of mail inquiries from time to time about events in Youngstown history. Those inquiries became so numerous that we would have had to hire additional staff to handle them.

E: Was there any feeling on your part that now with the

opening of the Museum, which was dedicated primarily to the Mahoning Valley, that the Public Library was transferring all those calls up to you?

W: Yes, that did happen frequently, not only with the Public Library, but also with the Chamber of Commerce. As a rule, Mr. Johnson at the Chamber of Commerce would call me first and tell me that he had a letter from somewhere and that their records had no information about it. He asked that if he sent it to me, would I answer it. If I felt that I could, I did that for the Chamber. But, there were occasions when the information asked for was too extensive and I simply had to tell them that if they could arrange in some way to come to the Museum themselves or delegate someone else to come for them, we would be glad to make available to them any information that we might have on the subject of their inquiry. We had to stress, however, that they would have to do their own research and none of the material could be removed from the Museum.

While I am on this subject of information contained in the Museum, I realize that I have failed to mention one of the most important and valuable of the many contributions that Mr. Wick made to the Society and the Museum, and that is what we always referred to as "Mr. Wick's Files". These files consist of several steel filing cases containing a veritable storehouse of information in the shape of newspaper clippings, pictures, booklets, correspondence and notations relating to people, companies, institutions and events in any way connected with the history and development of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. These files represent almost a lifetime of collection on Mr. Wick's part, and the information they contain was readily available to him, but we immediately found that this was not true for us, for Mr. Wick's index to the files was a chronological one only, and not an alphabetical one, and that he relied on his very remarkable memory of time and events for reference to them.

This represented a real obstacle to their use by any of the rest of us, but Mrs. Cowden was assigned to the task of preparing an alphabetical index, using both the materials in the files and the chronological index supplied by Mr. Wick. This was quite a long and arduous task, but has proven to be well worth the time and effort involved.

Also, in this connection, another task assigned to Miss Helen Hall from the time she joined the staff at the Museum was to keep these files current as far as possible by adding newspaper clippings and any other material of historical interest.

Other sources of information available at the Museum are the histories of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley by Joseph G. Butler, Jr., the so-called Williams Histories, the Sanderson history and the Harriet Taylor Upton histories, all of which contain much valuable research material on the settlement and early development of this entire area. Also, the Society has more than 700 bound volumes of early Youngstown newspapers, a gift from the City of Youngstown, which are available in chronological order on sturdy steel shelving erected by the Society on the first floor of the former garage or annex building of the Museum.

To return to your question about my daily routine at the Museum, in addition to the activities I have already mentioned, I did all of the bookkeeping throughout the year, with an annual audit at the end of each fiscal year by certified accountants. I did the banking, ordered all supplies, paid all bills, and anything else that might come up in the course of the day. Also, in addition to the usual quarterly payroll tax reports, there were the state franchise report and the Federal Information Return to be filed each year, all of which I took care of. However, any legal matters or questions were referred to Mr. Lynn, who had acted as attorney for the Society over a long period of years without expense to them.

A very pleasant feature of our day at the Arms Museum was the fact that as a rule the staff all had lunch together there either in the large kitchen, or in the enclosed rear porch when the weather permitted. Having the kitchen facilities there we could have hot or cold drinks, as preferred, and each of us provided our own food. This was also an advantage in that most of the staff was in the Museum and available throughout the entire day, and telephone calls or visitors could be taken care of at all times.

Shortly after my resignation from the Museum, a reorganization of the staff and some of the officers took place. Mrs. Harriet Wick Shaff was appointed as Director of the

Museum, retaining the office of Assistant Secretary of the Society; Mrs. John F. Tyler was elected Secretary of the Society, serving as a volunteer without compensation; Mr. Fred Tod was elected Treasurer, Mr. Wick resigning that office and retaining only the Presidency of the Society; and Mrs. Rosemary Collins was appointed as Office Manager and to do the daily routine bookkeeping and monthly supervision by the certified public accountants.

Some months later, however, Mrs. Collins resigned to take other employment and other arrangements were made with which I am not familiar. Later on, I am not sure just when, Mrs. Alden C.--Pat--Cummins joined the staff as assistant to Mrs. Shaff and, judging from such observations as I have been able to make, she had proven to be a very valuable and capable asset to the Museum.

I feel that it is only fitting that this narrative include a few words about Mrs. Olive Freeman Arms, whose bequest made it possible for the Arms Museum to be established. Mrs. Arms was born in Youngstown, on January 15, 1865, the youngest of six daughters of Charles Dayton Arms and Hannah Wick Arms. She told me that she was born in a house on West Federal Street in the block between Hazel and Chestnut Streets, which of course has been gone for many years. Her mother, Hannah Wick Arms, was the daughter of Caleb Wick and Maria Griffiths Wick. Mrs. Arms' grandfather was the son of Henry Wick and Hannah Baldwin Wick who were, I feel quite sure, the first members of the Wick family who came to Youngstown. Mrs. Arms told me they came traveling by horseback from Pennsylvania in the year 1802. So, she was the great-granddaughter of two of the very earliest pioneers of Youngstown.

Her interest in the Society and in giving her home to the Society was because her father, Charles Dayton Arms, was one of its founding members. In her early years, she had heard much about it because in the first few years of its existence, as its own history shows, it was popular and its meetings were important social events. She had maintained that interest in the Society over the years and was later concerned because it had become almost totally inactive, due to the lack of interest and funds. There was no place for storing anything. These were the considerations that eventually led her to make that decision. She hoped that if the Society had her home, interest in the Society could possibly be revived

and its programs for the continuation of recording history of the Mahoning Valley area might also be revived and preserved for future generations. Her particular interest was that the coming generations be aware of their forebears and of the many things that had happened before their lifetimes, of the type of people who had built Youngstown and contributed to it over the period of her lifetime and even before that. It was her intention that the Arms Museum remain there for generations yet to come as a storehouse of this area's history and accomplishments. I feel that the whole community of the Mahoning Valley, Youngstown, and Mahoning County owe her a real debt of gratitude for her very generous gift to them. I believe I am correct in saying that up until the present time the Arms funds have provided the largest single source of income for the museum and more than half of its regular annual income from all sources.

Mrs. Arms graduated from Rayen School and then attended art school in New York, and later in both Paris and Rome. This explains her unusual ability in designing her home and some of its furnishings later on. She married Mr. Wilford Paddock Arms, a very distant cousin and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Arms, of Sodus, New York, in 1899. Thus her name was "Arms" both before and after her marriage. For the first few years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Arms lived in Pittsburgh, where Mr. Arms was engaged in the coal business. Later they returned to Youngstown, living for a short time on Bryson Street until building their home, now the Arms Museum, at 648 Wick Avenue, which was completed and occupied by them in 1905. A little later Mr. Arms became associated with Mr. W. B. Hall in The Realty Trust Company and The Realty Guarantee & Trust Company in 1909 or 1910, and it was there that I first met Mr. Arms when I joined those companies in 1915, thus beginning my long association with them.

I am particularly grateful to Mr. Warren P. Williamson, Jr., who became President of The Mahoning Valley Historical Society after the death of Mr. James L. Wick, Jr., in 1972, for his understanding courtesy shown to me during the past three years. Also, I am deeply indebted to those who were responsible for my having been named as Honorary President of the Society after the death of Mrs. Henry A. Butler in 1973. Only Mrs. Arms and Mrs. Butler had held this honorary office, and it is therefore a distinct honor for me to follow in their footsteps.

Under Mr. Williamson's able leadership during the past few years, the Arms Museum has continued to show real growth and progress, and a wider base of interest. This was evidenced especially by his very successful promotion of a costly but much needed atmosphere and temperature control system, which has now been completed and almost entirely paid for by a selective campaign for capital funds from a group of interested companies and individuals whose response has been a real tribute to Mr. Williamson and his interest in the Society and the Museum. It is my earnest hope that he will continue his interest in the Society for many years, and that those who come after him will be as aware of and as motivated by the aims and purposes for which the Society was organized and the Museum established.

This narrative is being made entirely from memory without reference to the records available at the Museum five years after my retirement. Therefore, some of the occurrences and dates that I have given may not be exactly accurate, but I feel that they are close enough to present the principal events and activities at the Arms Museum during the first ten years of its history, during which period I was its Director. I do realize that in addition to those I have already mentioned, there were a number of other people who made substantial contributions which should be included here. Among these were Mrs. Henry Butler, the Ward Beecher Foundation, the Mahoning National Bank, and Mr. William J. Hitchcock. In addition to his gifts of family heirlooms, Mr. Hitchcock's contributions to the Society's Life Membership Endowment Fund have reached a total of \$10,000, by far the largest gift to that fund by any one person. There were many others, too, who contributed their time and talents, and to all of them we were extremely indebted and most grateful.

- E: Thank you very much, Mrs. Welsh, for giving us this interview.
- W: You are very welcome, and I'm happy to have done it, and I hope that it will be useful and made available to all who would be interested in it. It is also my earnest hope that all those to whom the affairs of the Arms Museum may be entrusted in the future be made aware of their obligation to comply with all of the conditions under which the gift of the Museum was made to The Mahoning Valley Historical Society, which obligation was acknowledged by and implicit in the Society's acceptance of the gift.

END OF INTERVIEW