

Remarks made by J. L. Wick, Jr.,
at the meeting of the Board of Governors
of Youngstown College, March 25, 1935.

Gentlemen:

I am going to take you back a few years. However, not as far back as the time when Methuselah was a little boy. Only back to the administration of Lester C. Haworth, General Secretary of the Y. M. C. A.

After the close of the great war, Lester brought to Youngstown, fresh from an officer's training camp in Texas, Leonard T. Skeggs. Lester offered Leonard an opportunity which in his judgment equalled that which confronted the Superintendent of the Youngstown Public Schools. The opportunity was the development of the educational activities of the Y. M. C. A.

The Central Building of the "Y" was at that time only a few years old, having been dedicated by President William H. Taft. It was perhaps the most modern "Y" building in America. Included in its equipment were classrooms for the educational activities.

Leonard was a promotor and a great advertiser. I well remember a typical piece of publicity that he prepared. On its cover was a tower with a large clock, the hands of the clock pointed to 7:30. There was a crescent moon in the picture which indicated that the time was P.M. There were these words "The Hour of Decision". The hour when the youth of the community are at the crossroads. Should they hit the "Primrose Path" or spend their evenings in self-improvement?

It wasn't long before Leonard's department pushed out the walls of the Central Building, and he took over the old residence of Mrs. J. M. Bonnell next to the public library on Wick Avenue, where the activities of the educational department continued to grow. It wasn't long before he was again in need of additional space. He persuaded the Board of Trustees of the Y. M. C. A. to invest \$100,000 in the John C. Wick property which provided larger quarters for his activities.

By this time, Leonard was General Secretary. He had a vision. He presented it to a group from the Board of Trustees of the "Y" and called them a Development Committee. This Committee gave the vision careful study. In the course of time, this dream was rather timidly presented by Leonard and Leroy A. Manchester to Mr. Frank Purnell,

President of the Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company. Mr. Purnell's reaction converted this dream into a reality.

It terminated in that devastating campaign wherein 119 local corporations and individuals pledged, before the opening date of the campaign, \$1,000,000.00, that the Development program of the "Y" could be made possible.

Included in this program was the erection and equipping of the College Building at the corner of Wick Avenue and Lincoln Avenue.

This Building was well underway in July 1931 when, at a meeting of the Y. M. C. A. Trustees, the various and sundry educational activities of the "Y" together with the faculty and this new College Building were placed in your lap. You, who constituted a new body, The Board of Governors of Youngstown College. But, thanks be to God and to Leonard Skeggs' good judgment, Leonard presented with all this, a Director and an Educator who has proved to possess the ability to conduct the affairs of Youngstown College, not only within the budget prepared for him by the Executive Committee of the Y. M. C. A. Trustees, but who with your help and the loyal faculty has been able to operate the College so that substantial sums have been turned over to the Y. M. C. A. It has been said of him that he has been the only man who has been able to operate a college in the black during the last four years.

To me, there is nothing quite so satisfying as to witness the success of any individual or an institution. It has been a great joy to me to serve on this Board with all of you splendid fellows who have so generously responded, when called upon, with your wisdom and judgment at all meetings, many of which have been called on very short notice.

Perhaps the most wholesome aspect of this whole experience is to see success recognized and rewarded. This you did in a grand manner when you requested that the Board of Trustees of the Y. M. C. A. give Howard Jones the title of "President" of Youngstown College. Phil Freider thought that wasn't enough and you have all agreed with him, so in the name of Phil Freider, who unfortunately is unable to be with us this evening, and on behalf of the Board of Governors of the "Y" College, I have great pleasure in presenting to you, Howard W. Jones, this gift.

J. L. Wick, Jr.