

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS



PRESERVING THE VALLEY'S HISTORY FOR 133 YEARS

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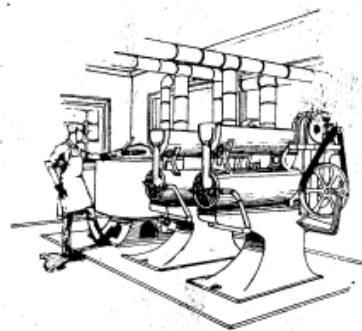
In a Good Humor: The Ice Cream Facilities at Burts

In the early 1920's, Harry Burt developed a smooth chocolate coating that was compatible with ice cream; after his son gave him the idea of freezing a wooden stick in the ice cream to make a sucker type treat, the Good Humor Bar was born. Burt's invention would freeze itself into history as an iconic American summer tradition. Burt's confectionery at 325 West Federal offered a large, state of the art factory to begin mass-producing Good Humor Bars, and housed hardening machines and storage freezers. Burt then sent a fleet of trucks with a Good Humor Man dressed in white into the local neighborhoods to sell his ice cream. Burt described his ice cream factory as such:



The original "Good Humor Man" Harry Burt in uniform with one of his trucks in 1924.

There is no secret about the goodness of Burt's Ice Creams. It is simply a matter of compounding rich, pure creams, sound fruits, nut meats and fine flavorings. We use Cream that is 25% butter



Ice Cream Freezing Machine

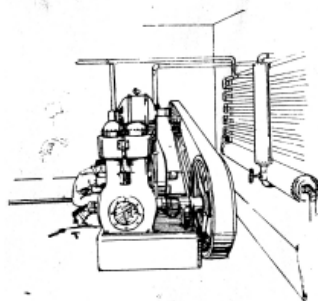
fat, which means that every gallon of "Burt's" Ice Cream has a content of about 1 1/2 pounds of butter when finished. The fruits we use are as sound as you would insist on serving at your own table.

The Good Humor Suckers

The "Good Humor" Chocolate Ice Cream Sucker is a distinctive "Burt" Confection. A generous portion of Burt's own delicious ice cream in Vanilla or Chocolate flavor, completely encased in Burt's own exclusive coatings (milk chocolate, granulated chocolate, nut meats, etc.) and with a handle of clear maple wood for convenience in handling.



Burt's "Good Humor" Suckers



Refrigerating Room

Burt's Quality Ice Creams may be had in standard flavors in bulk and brick form or in individual molds of Fruit, Vegetable or Flower.

Also there are the delicious fancy Ice Cream Puddings, fancy Nut Creams and Burt's Water Ices made with pure fruit juices and sugar.



Ice Cream Hardening Room

The human hand never touches it in making, packing, serving or eating. A unique, sanitary, healthful "Burt" confection as popular with grown-ups as with children - regularly preferred, in fact, for service at parties, dances and exclusive social functions.

Tokens of Affection

A new exhibit at the Arms Family Museum featuring Historic Valentine postcards and greeting cards. Opens January 13, and will run through February 28, 2009.





December was a pivotal month for *The Campaign for the Mahoning Valley History Center*. A large gift from a local Foundation brought the campaign over the half way point of \$3 Million raised.

Campaign volunteers are continuing their training and will start personal solicitations to keep the momentum going towards the ultimate \$6 million dollar goal.

The firm of bshm architects, inc. are continuing work on schematic designs for the building, and have provided colorful renderings of interior and exterior views. A committee of MVHS Board members, staff and consultants began the process of interviewing exhibit design firms to assist in the construction of interactive exhibits and learning spaces.

A Record Setting Season

The holiday decorations at the Arms Family Museum of Local History brought in record attendance in December. A staggering 1,737 patrons visited the museum between Thanksgiving and January 4th. The following individuals and compaines provided financial support for the Holiday Open House and special holiday displays:

- Dave & Terry Bayowski
- Bermann Electric
- C&C Ribbon
- Kathy Chismar
- Commonwealth Suburban Title Agency
- Antionette DeSteven
- Robert & Eva Doyle
- Fast Signs
- Charlotte Gelhaar
- Patricia Herdman
- Mrs. F.W. Knecht, III
- William M. Neckerman
- Jerry & JoAnne Nunziato
- Joanne Dove Prisley
- R&R Signs
- Frank Rulli
- The Sampler
- Super Stitches
- Town n' Country Nursery
- Verna J. Wylie

From This Direction

A holiday present arrived in mid-December announcing to the MVHS staff that Olive F. A. Arms and her residence, now the Arms Family Museum of Local History, are on the map for scholars and enthusiasts of the American Arts & Crafts movement. *A New and Native Beauty: The Art and Craft of Greene & Greene* (edited by Edward Bosley and Anne Mallek, © The Gamble House and Merrill Publishers Ltd., 2008) is a collection of essays focusing on the extraordinary portfolio of architecture that brothers Charles Sumner and Henry Mather Greene bestowed upon Southern California early in the last century.

Included in the book is Ann Scheid's essay, "Independent Women, Widows and Heiresses: Greene and Greene's Women Clients," with the first published account of the connection between Olive Arms and her sister, Laurabelle Arms Robinson, and cousins David Tod Ford, Sr. David Tod Ford, Jr. and Freeman Arms Ford, all clients of the Greenses. Scheid noted that the Robinson and Ford homes in Pasadena, California were "clustered together on South Grand Avenue, overlooking the Arroyo Seco," a canyon that cuts through the city.



Laurabelle & Olive Arms

Scheid recounted that Olive and Laurabelle built their homes within a year of each other (1905 and 1906, respectively), and she referenced Olive's essay on her home design philosophy

called "The Story of My House." Although little other information survives, Scheid believed that "since the sisters were very close, it is probable that Laurabelle was familiar with Olive's ideas, and may have been influenced by them." Also included in the book is a beautiful, full-page portrait photograph from the Historical Society's archives of Laurabelle and Olive as young women.

Inclusion in this book is a very exciting and affirming first step in a very important process of documenting the Olive Arms house as an Arts and Crafts era masterpiece. ✨

~H. William Lawson

Get your Hands-On: Mahoning Valley Trailblazers

Rebecca Whittenberger, Curator of Education

How much do you know about the people who founded our local community? Test your knowledge of these historic Mahoning Valley trailblazers by matching their name to their description. It may surprise you to learn "Who's Who?" and the remarkable contributions these local residents made to our community.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. John Young | 5. Turhand Kirtland |
| 2. Dora Schwebel | 6. Mary Ann Campana |
| 3. Elizabeth Armstrong | 7. David Tod |
| 4. P. Ross Berry | 8. William Rayen |

- A. An Italian immigrant, she became the first licensed woman pilot in Ohio. She set a light aircraft endurance record of 12 hours and 27 minutes in 1933.
- B. One of the first surveyors in the Connecticut Western Reserve, he battled swamps, ague, and wild animals while surveying land to be sold. He settled in Poland, Ohio.



C. A freeborn African-American contractor, he built the Rayen School (1866), Governor Tod's mansion (1868), the first Mahoning County Courthouse in Youngstown (1876), and many other buildings in Ohio and western Pennsylvania.

- D. Before receiving her master's degree from Case Western in 1953, she was the first African-American librarian at Youngstown College. Then she became the first African-American to work for the Youngstown City Library.
- E. Born in Youngstown in 1805 at the family's Brier Hill farm, he became a lawyer, served as Minister to Brazil, and was Ohio's Civil War Governor.

- F. During the Great Depression, she baked bread and sold it door-to-door; today the 4th generation of her family continues to expand the bakery she started in 1906.



- G. A land speculator who bought land from the Connecticut Land Company, he offered Catherine Hillman any six acres of land if she would settle in his new town, thus encouraging other families to move there.
- H. He opened the first tavern in Youngstown, started a store in 1812, wrote legal documents, became a local judge, and left money to build a free public school. ✨

Answers are on page 4.

Artifact-ually Speaking

Pamela L. Speis, Archivist

Every week MVHS receives on an average 5 to 20 research queries, ranging from e-mail, regular mail, telephone calls and in-person requests. Some are easy to answer, others are not. In the fall of 2007 a patron needed assistance identifying the subject of a portrait. The painting of an older man in suit and tie had been found by the patron while he leased office space at the Stambaugh Building in downtown Youngstown.



The first thought was the subject might be the late Fred King, of the funeral home Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller & King. Archivist Pam Speis visited the funeral home and viewed a portrait of Mr. King which turned out not to be a match. The funeral home directed her to Mr. King's grandson, to see if the man in the portrait could be another member of the family, which he was not.



From the *Youngstown Vindicator*, May 14, 1966. **Bank gets founder's portrait** - Charles B. and David S. Schaff present an oil painting of their late father, Philip H. Schaff, founder and first president of the Peoples Bank of Youngstown, to Paul E. Lange, current president. The presentation Friday marked the bank's 50th anniversary. The portrait is a gift of Mrs. Schaff in honor of her husband, who was president of the bank from 1916 to 1956.

The mystery man was Philip H. Schaff, who had served as the Peoples Bank founder (originally Morris Plan Bank) and president from 1916 to 1956. The patron was ecstatic that the Historical Society was able to identify the man, and that members of the family still resided in the Valley and were active with MVHS. This led to the patron donating the portrait to the Historical Society. ✪

Serendipity came in to play nearly a year later, while pulling materials relating to the Peoples Bank from the Builders of Youngstown Collection which included a newspaper article from 1966. The article spoke about the presentation of an oil painting of the founder and first president of the Peoples Bank of Youngstown, complete with a photograph.

The portrait was the same one found in the Stambaugh Building. The

Sight & Sound

Business & Media Archives of the Mahoning Valley

The following is an excerpt from *The Smaller Picture: Warren P. Williamson Jr. and the Age of Broadcasting in Youngstown, Ohio, from Wireless Radio to Television*, a thesis by Tricia Perry. Ms. Perry conducted extensive research in the Business & Media Archives and recorded several oral interviews with the Williamson family to complete a Masters Degree in History from Youngstown State University.

A chicken coop, a boy full of wonder and an invention called the wireless...these unassuming parts provided the foundation for what would one day become local broadcasting empire WKBN Radio and Television.



Warren P. Williamson, Jr.

Williamson's first home was an impressive structure at the corner of Warren Avenue and Market Street. At that time, the family owned a great deal of acreage on Youngstown's developing south side. Young Warren's childhood was filled with typical boyhood adventures: afternoons in Mill Creek Park, climbing trees and playing "Kick the Can," buggy rides to town, and baseball games in the empty fields near his home. When he was of school age, he rode a motorcycle to the Yale School on the city's north side. But it was another activity that he associated most closely with his first home. "My first interest in radio developed when I was living on that corner," Williamson said. "I was 12-years-old at the time."

During World War I, Williamson enlisted in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and became a communications operator stationed in Pecos, Texas. There he had a life-changing experience. While receiving encoded signals over a wireless radio, he was surprised to hear a woman's voice. "This lady had picked up her telephone and called her butcher, ordered her meat for the day, and hung up her telephone," Williamson explained. "Now this is the first voice transmission I ever heard, which came over the system for dots and dashes." The experience planted the seed for what would become a career in broadcasting for Williamson. ✪

History to Go

The next installment of the *History to Go* free lecture series will be on Thursday evening, January 22nd from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the City Centre One building in downtown Youngstown. *The Smaller Picture*, with Tricia Perry, former WKBN news reporter, will focus on WKBN's transition from a pioneer radio station to becoming the sixth station in the nation to broadcast a UHF television signal in 1953.



The City Centre One building is located at the corner of Champion and East Federal streets, next to the YMCA. Evening parking is available in the attached lot off of Walnut street or behind the Commerce Building. For more information on this free event, please call the Historical Society at 330-743-2589. ✪

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society,

founded in 1875, educates and promotes an interest in the history of the Mahoning Valley by collecting, preserving and developing material representative of the people who have inhabited the region.



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Leann Rich, Editor



Upcoming Events

Exhibit Opening

Tokens of Affection

Tuesday, January 13 through February 28

Arms Family Museum, Hallway Gallery

History to Go

The Smaller Picture, with Tricia Perry

City Centre One, Downtown Youngstown

Thursday, January 22

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

MVHS Staff Notes

Museum guide Barbara Lyras began acrylic art classes two years ago at the YMCA in Boardman. This past summer, one of her pieces won the Blue Ribbon Award at the Canfield Fair, and now she will have two pieces in an upcoming show at the Butler Institute of American Art. The show is *Area Artists: 72nd Annual Exhibition* and runs Jan. 25, 2009 through Feb. 22, 2009. She will also be the "Featured Artist" at The Polish Arts Club of Youngstown Scholarship Tea at the Butler North location on Feb. 8, 2009. Congratulations, Barb! 🌟

Mahoning Valley Trailblazers Answers: 1-G; 2-F; 3-D; 4-C; 5-B; 6-A; 7-E; 8-H

2009 Calendars

Calendars are still available in Greystone Gifts for \$10.00. Order with a credit card online at www.mahoninghistory.org or by phone at (330) 743-2589. \$12.00 includes applicable tax and shipping.

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