

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS



PRESERVING THE VALLEY'S HISTORY FOR 132 YEARS

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Meetings, Parties & Banquets: Examining the Second Floor of Burt's

The second floor Rainbow Assembly room and the Peacock Banquet Room on the mezzanine, were open and beautifully appointed spaces at Burt's. The grand staircase provided a centerpiece between the two rooms and included a balcony to look over the large ballroom; while the floor to ceiling windows overlooking downtown and the hillside to the north provide a fitting backdrop. Again, we visit Mr. Burt's souvenir booklet from 1922 for a description of the second floor:



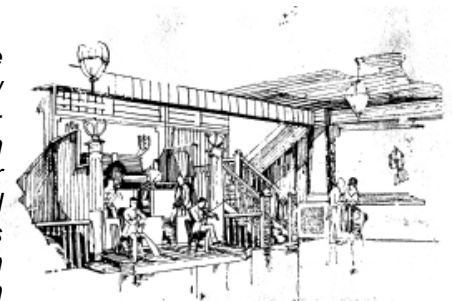
Peacock Banquet Room

"The Peacock Room" is a delightful daylight room with decorative scheme balanced about a Peacock Motif. It is exclusively for private service, and will appeal especially to clubs that

meet regularly, whether at the noon or other hour. Acoustic properties of the room favor any sort of speaking program and service facilities insure quick and quiet service of the most tempting menu. The "Peacock Banquet" Room is also available, of course, for Banquets, Afternoon Card Parties, etc. Comfortable seating capacity is 125.

The Ross Radio Era

After Ross Radio occupied 325 West Federal street, the second floor ballroom was still used as an assembly space for radio and television events including sock hops hosted by WBBW Disc Jockey Dan Ryan. At some point in it's history a thin wall was erected between the Peacock Banquet Room and the Ballroom with a large mural of a garden and the banisters were painted with a faux marble finish. Lighting fixture mouldings with "Club Vogue" printed on them are still existant on the ballroom walls. It is not apparent if the "Club Vogue" era was during Burt's or Ross' tenure in the building. In later years, the staircase was covered between the first and second floors and the ballroom was used by Ross Radio for stock storage. ✪



Rainbow Assembly Room

To the Rainbow Assembly Room on our second floor has been given 3,600 square

feet of ball room floor. In this alluringly beautiful room will be given Musicales [sic], Lecture, Concerts as the acoustic properties are ideal for this purpose and large Banquets and Ball functions. It is available to proper parties for large noon club meetings, afternoon club meetings, afternoon affairs and evening events. A raised dais at one end of the room gives orchestra and speaker accomodations. The seating capacity is 750; the floor easily accomodates about 100 couples.

It will be noted that implements, equipment and machinery which support our service are hidden and repressed, so that patrons are not subject to their annoyance.

Congratulations!

On July 2, 2008 the Harry Burt building at 325-327 West Federal Street in Youngstown was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Information about the National Register can be found here:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/index.htm>





THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE
MAHONING VALLEY
HISTORY CENTER

To encourage support from a broad base of local donors, the Historical Society is structuring its Fundraising campaign in a way that promotes volunteer involvement. Several prominent community leaders have already stepped forward to help raise funds. These Mahoning Valley boosters include James H. Sisek, President of Butler Wick Trust Company, and David H. Sweeney, President of Sweeney Auto Group, who have agreed to co-chair the effort; and Jeanne D. Tyler, Douglas M. McKay, Sallie Tod Dutton, Charlotte Gelhaar, C. Gilbert James, Jr., Mary Alice Schaff and David Tod are serving as campaign honorary chairpersons.

The early months of the fundraising effort have been dedicated to building a leadership team that will reach out to individuals, businesses, and foundations throughout the Mahoning Valley.

The campaign has been in a quiet phase while securing major pledges. A public phase will soon be launched to invite support from a broader base of donors.

The Campaign for the Mahoning Valley History Center will officially kickoff during the Founders Day events in September.

As of August 31st the campaign has raised just under \$2.8 million dollars toward the \$6 million dollar goal. ✪

From This Direction

In 1875, most Americans were conscious of the fact that they were on the eve of this country's Centennial. That year contained many significant historic events, including:

- ◆ George "Charmer" Zettlein pitched the first nine inning shut-out in professional baseball
- ◆ Alexander Graham Bell made the first telephonic voice transmission
- ◆ The world's first roller skating rink opened in London, England
- ◆ Former President Andrew Johnson, the first to be impeached, died at his home in Tennessee
- ◆ Albert Schweitzer, Helen Rowland, Carl Jung and Aleister Crowley were born
- ◆ Harry B. Burt, renowned Youngstown confectioner and inventor of the Good Humor ice cream sucker, was born in Bazetta Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, on August 9
- ◆ The Mahoning Valley Historical Society was founded at the second annual Pioneer Reunion in Youngstown on September 10.

Happy 133rd anniversary, and unending thanks to all, past and present, who have contributed to the success and growth of our organization!

~H. William Lawson

History to Go

The Young Leaders Advisory Board has again planned an intriguing schedule of events for the popular History to Go series.

October 23, 2008 - Continuing the celebration of Youngstown State University's centennial, Drs. Donna DeBlasio and Martha Pallante will share the history from their book, *Youngstown State University from YoCo to YSU*. Time and venue are still to be determined.

January 2009 - Celebrate the anniversary of television as former news reporter Tricia Perry shares her graduate thesis research on Warren P. Williamson, Jr. and the development of WKBN.

March 2009 - Back by popular demand! The return of the Money Movie, with Rich Morgan - join us for a fun time watching Jack Carson in the 1950's caper *The Good Humor Man*.

May 2009 - Learn the history of some of the beautiful homes and institutions around Wick Park on a fun History Walk.

June 2009 - Join us for a fun party celebrating Downtown Youngstown! ✪

Get your Hands-On:

Classroom Resources

Rebecca Whittenberger, Curator of Education

As another new school year begins, we invite local teachers and educators to utilize free educational resources available from the MVHS education department. Our presentations and learning kits are specifically designed to teach local history and cover a wide range of topics, class subjects and content standards.

'Museum-in-a-Suitcase' Presentations: Native Americans or Pioneers

Presented by a museum educator, each presentation is about an hour long and includes original and replicated hands-on artifacts, maps and pictures.

Learning Kits:

Immigration: understand the immigration process and it's local impact on the Valley

Timelines: create various types of timelines while learning important dates in local, national and world history

Warm as Wool: use a storybook and related artifacts to teach history and language arts

Old Fashioned School Day: learn what school was like a century ago

1810 Journey to Ohio: use an authentic diary to experience a long ago pioneer journey

Hispanic Awareness: learn the cultural heritage of local residents who are Hispanic

African-American: learn the cultural heritage of local residents who are African-American



African Drums

Irish-American: learn the cultural heritage of local residents who are of Irish descent



Mask from India

People of India:

learn the cultural heritage of local residents who are of Indian descent

Each learning kit can be borrowed for up to two weeks and includes lesson plans, projects, artifacts, games, etc.

"What Do You Know?" Articles

Teach local history in your classroom using this special series of articles featuring numerous local history topics. Available to download from our website, these articles can also be used as pre and post school tour activities. ✪

Artifact-ually Speaking

Pamela L. Speis, Archivist

Business & Media Archives of the Mahoning Valley



Ellie Katz & Florence Mirkin

When collections arrive at the Mahoning Valley Historical Society, sometimes information is lacking that would assist researchers, and staff alike in interpreting and understanding the artifact. Photographs are especially at risk for loss of data as many come in without the “what, where, who and when” parts of the story. The archival library was graced with a visit from four volunteers from the Jewish Community Center recently. Florence Mirkin, Ellie Katz, Mimi Sniderman and Aaron Grossman joined Darlene

Muller in searching for images to be duplicated to be used as decorative art at the JCC. In the process, they were able to identify formerly unknown individuals in photographs from the Youngstown Area Federation – Jewish Archives, providing valuable “who, what, when and where” information, along with having a great deal of fun in the process.

Mike Kupec and John Wolboldt likewise volunteered to identify people, places and events documented through the Mahoning Valley Council Boy Scouts of America collection recently donated by Tony Valley. With many years of shared scouting experience in the area, Mike and John were able to provide much needed information to round out the collection. They too had a lot of fun reminiscing.

A special note to historians and genealogists who find themselves needing Ohio Death Certificates from 1908-1953, there is a pilot website being developed that includes this block of records. www.labs.familysearch.org provides an opportunity to view the actual image, print a copy, and search these records, free of charge. The site is actively adding records to its fully searchable database and is not limited to the above records. Check it out! Maybe you will find that missing piece of information you have been searching for, or add to a mystery. Unlike subscription services, access to the records through this database is completely free of charge. Other highlights include church records from Great Britain, Czech Republic, Germany, Mexico; census data from federal and state sources; records from Norway and other countries.

A hearty thank you to all our volunteers and researchers who bring their expertise and enjoyment of history to our facilities. We couldn't do it without you. ✨

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
Reg. Dist. No. 798	COLUMBIA COUNTY
Primary Reg. Dist. No. 8359	CERTIFICATE
Department of Commerce	
1. PLACE OF BIRTH: Mahoning	
(a) County	
(b) Youngstown	
(c) Name of hospital or institution: 648 Wick Avenue	
(d) Length of stay in hospital or institution: (Specify)	
In this community: (Specify month and day)	
2. FULL NAME: WILFORD PADDOCK ARMS	
(a) Sex: Male	
(b) Color of hair: White	
(c) Color of eyes: Blue	
(d) Social Security number: (Specify)	
3. Aged: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Specify age)	
4. (a) Name of husband or wife: Olive Paddock Arms	
(b) Date of death: December 14, 1941	
(c) Place of birth: Jersey City, N. J.	
(d) Usual occupation: (Specify)	
5. Usual occupation: (Specify)	
6. (a) Name of business: (Specify)	
(b) Name: (Specify)	
(c) Address: (Specify)	
(d) Date of death: (Specify)	
(e) Place of death: (Specify)	
(f) Name of physician: (Specify)	
(g) Address: (Specify)	
(h) Name of funeral home: (Specify)	
(i) Address: (Specify)	

Death Certificate of Wilford P. Arms

An interesting piece of history was left behind on the second floor of the Harry Burt/Ross Radio Building and that is a stage set with a large logo for “The Voice of Music.” It was thought at first that perhaps this was a local radio or television program that was broadcast from the



West Federal street location. However, after no evidence was located in the Business & Media Archives, an internet search provided a clue for “The Voice of Music.”

A Brief History taken from www.thevoiceofmusic.com:

“A V-M Product” and “The Voice Of Music” are the brand names of quality audio products manufactured from 1944 until 1977 by the V-M Corporation of Benton Harbor, Michigan.

V-M Corporation was a leading electronics manufacturer and supplier. V-M record changer and tape recorder deck components were purchased by numerous manufacturers for their own lines of equipment marketed under hundreds of brand names.

Many popular phonographs and consoles made in the late 1940's through mid 1970's used V-M record changers. During the late 1950's through early 1960's, most phonographs made in the United States contained V-M changers.

Benton Harbor was the scene of record changer manufacture before V-M Corporation existed. Walter Miller, was an electrical engineer building up New Products Corporation, a custom die cast operation, through the heart of the depression of the 1930's. He had also started Modern Plastics Corporation, a custom plastic molding company in 1937.

Commencing in 1940, New Products Corporation produced the Erwood “blade” type record changer. Some 2,300 of these cumbersome units were being shipped daily by the time World War II cut off all consumer product manufacture (shortly after the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor).

V-M was created as a separate entity in 1944 and distinguished itself early on by producing initial quantities of one of Miller's classified wartime inventions.

In addition to phonograph manufacturers, early customers began to include independent service shops and electronic parts distributors (which probably included Ross Radio). This then led in the early 1950's to designing and building amplified phonographs, consoles, and tape recorders. V-M remains a registered corporation in the State of Michigan, but is no longer engaged in manufacturing activities. Service parts and manuals are now available from V-M Audio Enthusiasts. ✨

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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is published bi-monthly by the Mahoning Valley Historical Society. It is sent as a free benefit of MVHS membership. MVHS is a private non-profit corporation, which owns and operates the Arms Family Museum of Local History, the MVHS Archival Library, and the Business and Media Archives of the Mahoning Valley.



Calendar Reminder!

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society opened the doors to the Arms Museum in 1964. In 2009 The Arms Family Museum of Local History will have been in operation for 45 years. Also in 2009, the Mahoning Valley Historical Society will continue to develop the new Mahoning Valley History Center in downtown Youngstown. To commemorate this landmark year in the history of the Historical Society two special calendars will be produced.

The Story of My House

Excerpts from Olive F.A. Arms' essay on her home will be accompanied by historic photos of Greystone.

In a Good Humor

Learn the history of this ice cream confection and its creator, Harry B. Burt.

Calendars will be available by pre-order from now until September 30th for \$10.00 and then for \$12.95 starting in October. An order form is included in this newsletter.

Upcoming Events

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Wednesday, September 10 | Founders Day Dinner | 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. |
| | Members reception and walk-through of Harry Burt/Ross Radio building | |
| Sunday, September 14 | Founders Day Open House | 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. |
| | Harry Burt/Ross Radio building | |
| Thursday October 23 | History to Go | 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. |
| | Youngstown State University: From YoCo to YSU
Location TBD | |

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