

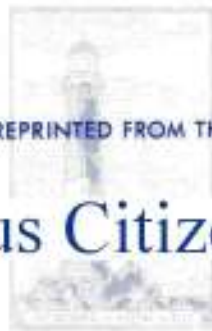
# Columbus Mayors



A BICENTENNIAL PRESENTATION

REPRINTED FROM THE

Columbus Citizen-Journal



## ● FOREWORD ●

The Columbus Citizen-Journal in 1975 has presented life stories of the mayors of Columbus since establishment of its government in 1816.

This was one of our newspaper's services to Columbus and Ohio during our country's Bicentennial.

In the biographies of 44 mayors (now presented in book form) the history of Columbus has been told chronologically and interestingly. Included are anecdote, humorous incident, ethnic competitiveness, historical insight, important milestones — and with distinguished visitors listed.

Columbus awaits its first woman mayor. The 44 men of the city's first 169 years were a varied lot of mayors. They differed in stature, attitude, occupation, wealth, background, outlook, zeal and ability.

Our "Columbus Mayors" project was a first-ever. Never before has the history of the city been presented mayor-by-mayor. Some early-day mayors almost had become forgotten men.

Considerable research was necessary to compile the 44 biographies. Many persons helped in the research, and the Citizen-Journal thanks everyone at City Hall; the staffs of the Ohio Historical Society, Columbus Public Library and Green Lawn Cemetery; the authors of Columbus and Franklin County histories (including Mayor William T. Martin); those who wrote centennial books for churches and other institutions; relatives of former mayors, also the former mayors who still live.

The information in this book is part of the Columbus heritage —surely to continue useful and instructive for students, in school and out. We regret that pictures of all mayors were not available. A long-time search was made for a likeness of Jarvis W. Pike, our first mayor. His life ran into the age of photography, but no picture of him is known to exist.

However, many pictures are included in an impressive gallery of Portraits of Our Mayors in City Hall.

**Charles Egger, Editor  
Columbus Citizen-Journal**



JAMES A. RHODES  
GOVERNOR

THE STATE OF OHIO  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE HOUSE, COLUMBUS 43215

May 16, 1975

Dear Mr. Egger:

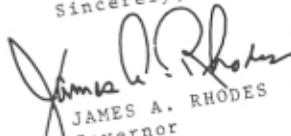
It is a great pleasure for me to congratulate the staff of the Columbus Citizen-Journal for the splendid work they have done in bringing this priceless history of the Mayors of Columbus to all citizens of our city.

As a former Columbus mayor and a student of history myself, I highly recommend this book to all Columbus citizens, particularly at this time when our city is preparing to celebrate America's bicentennial anniversary.

Not only does this book offer the reader a wealth of historical information concerning Columbus and its past leaders, it also serves to remind us of the importance of history as a guiding light for the future of Columbus.

As Governor of Ohio, I urge all citizens to read this educational and enjoyable book, and I commend the staff of the Citizen-Journal for their hard work and patriotism in producing an exemplary contribution to the cultural and historical heritage of Columbus.

Sincerely,

  
JAMES A. RHODES  
Governor

TOM MOODY  
MAYOR



**CITY OF COLUMBUS**

**OHIO**

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Mr. Charles Egger, Editor  
Citizen-Journal  
34 South Third Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Mr. Egger:

These sketches of the Mayors of the City of Columbus provide a valuable and entertaining glimpse of Columbus through the years - its people, its problems, its accomplishments, and its pride.

Above all else, Ben Hayes has captured the human warmth of our Mayors, which is a reflection of the warmth and personalities of the citizens of Columbus.

The Columbus Citizen-Journal is to be commended for this excellent series, which certainly will contribute to our local understanding and appreciation of our Columbus heritage in the period of our Nation's Bicentennial. Your publication provides instruction to the young, enlightened entertainment to the mature, and rich memories for the elderly.

Sincerely yours,

*Tom Moody*

TOM MOODY, Mayor

TM:pm



THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

280 EAST BROAD STREET  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215  
TELEPHONE 614-228-6361

May 15, 1975

Mr. Charles Egger, Editor  
The Citizen Journal  
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Mr. Egger:

The measure of progress of any city is readily found in the capabilities of its civic leaders, the most important of whom must necessarily be the Mayor.

It is a wonderful part of the Bi-Centennial that you have contributed by publishing a record of all the men who have so ably served Columbus as its chief executive.

From Mayor Pike in 1816 to Mayor Moody today is less than the span of three life times, yet in that brief period the primeval forest has been transformed into the thriving metropolis that is now Columbus.

Columbus has been fortunate in its choices of Mayors, some of whom I have been proud to know personally. Now, as we look forward, perhaps young men (and women) still in school will read this booklet and be moved to aspire to become a Columbus Mayor of the future.

Sincerely yours,

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Walter English*  
Walter English, President

WE:dr

# Jarvis W. Pike

1816-1817

## *First of a Series*

Jarvis W. Pike, when he was first mayor of Columbus in 1816 and 1817, set several records. He was called "Judge Pike" although not a lawyer. He was 22 years old; never again did Columbus have so young a mayor. Also, he is the only mayor of Columbus who had the governor of Ohio arrested.

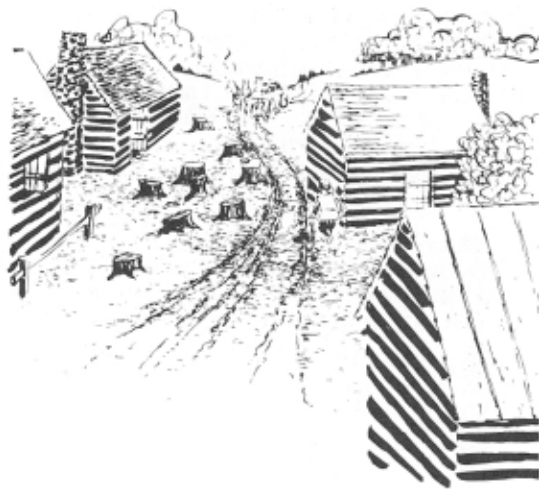
The first councilmen of Columbus probably chose Pike their mayor because he was experienced as a magistrate. Before arriving here in "Infant City" he had been "associate" judge in Oneida County, N. Y. Giving High-st some character, if not paving, was among accomplishments of "the Pike administration." A rough public markethouse that had been pegged together was removed from the middle of S. High. An "uptown" problem was stumps in the street.

**THOSE THAT** believed a state capital, even an embryo one, should have a main street clear of stumps circulated among the meager population and collected \$200; with it men were hired to render High-st stumpless.

In historical accounts of the early city, Judge Pike is best remembered as Capitol Square's farmer. He grew corn one summer, wheat the next, alternating the crops for five years on the 10 acres in the center of the town. He kept wandering hogs out of his state-owned field with rail fencing. Even this detail was set down: Mayor Pike put five mortises through each post, so his fence was five rails high.

**HIS FENCING** materials were "worked" out of trees he cut in clearing the acreage. Freshly-toppled trees were deer provender. Joel Buttles, who had just moved to Third-st, saw deer come at night to browse on leaves within their reach.

Ridding downtown Columbus of forest was much hard labor for the young mayor. Other early-day residents were George and Benjamin Pike. Pike relatives believe that they were Jarvis Pike's brothers, and that they took part in the



timbering. All three, it has been said, previously lived in Massachusetts.

**CLEARING THE** Square was something the state government had hired Mayor Pike to do. He was not paid immediately. When Gov. Thomas Worthington brought from Chillicothe in 1816 the state seal and other accoutrements of his office to establish the state government here, Mayor Pike had him taken before a justice of the peace for nonpayment. The bill was paid.

The incident, although brief might have rankled Gov. Worthington, proud Virginian. Later, he led a penitentiary crew "to clear underbrush" from Capitol Square. That foray could have suggested that Mayor Pike didn't do a complete or satisfactory job.

**A CIVIC** duty of all early mayors was to promote the sale of lots, in that way aiding the four proprietors that had founded Columbus. The Franklin Bank was organized during his first year of mayor; he was authorized to sell its stock.

Concurrently the Columbus Literary Society was founded and Mayor Pike, himself, bought but one share of that.

He had welcoming duties; in 1817 President James Monroe rode in from the

north, escorted by a large committee and the Franklin Dragoons; Mr. Monroe was the first President to call in Columbus. That same year hardly noticed was the arrival of the progenitor of the Deshler banking family. Coming overland from Easton, Pa., David Waggoner Deshler, carpenter, bought a Broad-st lot just west of High, giving a gold watch as part of the down payment. At the end of Mayor Pike's term, reported The Ohio Gazetteer, Columbus had 200 houses and 1500 persons.

**JUDGE AND** Mrs. Pike (she was Eleanor Moore, commonly called Ellen) went into the hotel business. They had a tavern at Main and High streets, at

another time another on W. Broad. Judge Pike also was in the stagecoach business with William Neil and Robert Neil. A contemporary advertisement indicated they bought 100 horses at a time.

In 1832 a firm named Jarvis Pike & Co. published The Thompsonian Recorder, which 10 years later was moved to Cincinnati. Mayor Pike was a great great uncle of Mrs. Henry G. Franz of 4069 E. Livingston-av and of Mrs. M. D. Hohentstine, the wife of the jeweler. He died, aged 59, in 1854; his grave is in Union Grove Cemetery of Canal Winchester. He was moved there after being buried first in a family graveyard on a Moore farm north of Circleville.



# John Kerr

1818-1819

*Second in a series of 44*

John Kerr, second mayor of Columbus, was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, about 1778. He attended the University of Dublin; was a knowledgeable man in several fields including mathematics and engineering. He came to America in a great wave of Scots-Irish migration.

Kerr knew music and was interested in other culture; when the Columbus Literary Society was organized in 1816 it had Kerr as its first secretary. The papers of his estate included many drawings Kerr had made of buildings. He was the first surveyor to be hired by Columbus' first city council.

He kept the job of surveyor when mayor (his years were 1818 and 1819) and remained a Columbus councilman until his death in 1823. He had been a wealthy man; he "left a large fortune." The land-office business had been his business.

Kerr came here in 1810, having bought government land, and lived first in Franklinton, a settlement about what now is Broad-st and West Innerbelt. He had land from State-st to Livingston-av, and it became city lots, for sale, after Columbus was platted in 1812 by Joel Wright, an agent of the state, and Joseph Vance, surveyor.

Kerr and three other Columbus "proprietors" Lyne Starling, James Johnston and Alexander McLaughlin, dealt with the state government in creating the capital city during the War of 1812, a time of boom.

Kerr had his own land office on W. Broad, and for a time acted as agent for the proprietors jointly. Unfortunately, the first financial crisis in Columbus occurred while Kerr was mayor (in 1819). Many buyers defaulted on payments, and lots reverted to Kerr and his partners. Some Columbus settlers left and went to Indiana. Meanwhile, here, some choice



**John Kerr**

lots facing Capitol Square were offered for \$300 each. Other lots, now in downtown Columbus, were bought at sheriff's sale for \$7 and \$8.

Of the four proprietors, only Mayor Kerr and Starling weathered the protracted hard times. Kerr was elected president of the Franklin Bank, of which he was a founding director when it was organized in 1816.

If born in 1778 (as historians have guessed) Kerr was 45 at the time of his death. He was buried in old North Graveyard, a tract west of High-st at Vine-st, to which he, as a councilman, had created an access road. It is not known whether Mayor Kerr was among pioneers later moved to Green Lawn Cemetery. His grave was listed as "lost" at time of removal.

Kerr-st was named for him.



# Eli C. King

1820-1822

Third in a series of 44

Eli C. King, third mayor of Columbus, was among early settlers in the Broad-st-High-st area — as early as 1814 King had established himself as a tanner, according to Col. Alfred E. Lee, historian. At another time a company of Columbus artillery was led by a Capt. Eli C. King.

Also, King was selected a Montgomery Township justice of the peace (in 1816) just in time to hear a money dispute between the governor of Ohio (Thomas Worthington) and the mayor of Columbus (Jarvis W. Pike). It was a quick case with the mayor getting his way; he was paid.

**MAGISTRATE KING** kept his justice of the peace authority until chosen mayor of Columbus in 1820. He was mayor also in 1821 and 1822. In the three years Mayor King and members of council entered municipal problems of enduring importance — the protection of life and property.

In 1821 the Night Watch was started. Under direction of a town marshal a force of men patrolled Columbus from 10 p.m. until 5 a.m., with authority to make arrests. In 1820 Columbus had 1,450 inhabitants (U. S. Census figure) and there were, apparently, miscreants among them.

**MEN OF** the Night Watch would bring "the disorderly and suspicious" before the mayor "for examination at sunrise." Or, so the ordinance said. Some mayors, perhaps, opened Court later than sunup. Not until 1891 did Columbus get a police court judge: Judge Mayor King and his successors had the onerous task of hearing cases based on misdeeds of the disorderly and suspicious. In later days, mayors resigned the office, having found the "sunrise examinations" irksome.

Columbus' first big fire occurred early in 1822. Eight buildings were destroyed. So another branch of public safety began as Mayor King held office.

**IN EARLY SPRING** of 1822 Mrs. David W. Deshler, housewife on Broad-st just west of High-st, wrote to her sister in Easton, Pa.: "The first fire of, any



consequence that ever took place in this town . . . eight buildings were consumed. They were all small shops except one, a small dwelling house."

The city government bought ladders, for firefighters to climb. And plans were made in 1822 for three companies of men. That led to such firefighting companies as Niagara, Fame, Hornet, Neptune and Phoenix. Some pulled hand pumps to fires, others reels of hose on carts.

**IN THE SAME** year, 1822, Columbus became a place of manufacturing. There was a new foundry, its principal output plows for farmers.

Henry Clay was here during the winter of 1820-21, as a lawyer protecting land titles of clients. Mrs. Deshler had an opinion of Mr. Clay; she thought his reputation more impressive than his appearance. She thought him plain.

E. Broad-st. as muddy as it was wide, had a "wet" spot from Fifth-st eastward. In those days, when they said wet they meant bottomless. Mayor King had the stretch corduroyed — that is, surfaced with logs. Many residents worked out their road tax on that project.

Historians also say that Mayor King at a later time helped build a road to Granville.

## *Fourth of a series of 44*

John Laughrey, fourth mayor of Columbus (serving only in 1823) had lived several years in western Pennsylvania, and when he came to Ohio in 1817 he was a man of 33, a mechanic and a builder.

As a young man, during the War of 1812, Laughrey had commanded a regiment of volunteers in the Lake Erie campaign. The Laughrey family had been living in Rockville, Me., when he was born.

**WHEN LAUGHREY** became mayor of Columbus, it was only 11 years old and growing. More mercantile establishments were standing flank to flank on High-st, with hitching racks for horses at the street. At times, Indians still living up the rivers, rode in and hitched shaggy ponies there.

At the time a veritable complex of buildings was filling the High-st side of Capitol Square (Mayor Laughrey might have worked on some of them).

**THE FIRST** Columbus state house, brick walls, hipped roof with a steeple in the center, stood at State-st and High. Other buildings ranged northward. Next to the Capitol was a row of state offices, drab brick, unadorned, two stories high, doors to the first floor opening right on the street.

The governor (Jeremiah Morrow when Laughrey was mayor); the state treasurer, secretary of state and other state officials had offices in the row. On the second floor was a small state library that Thomas Worthington, when governor, had started. The walnut shelves that held the books were built by carpenter David Deshler.

**THERE WAS** excitement about getting the federal court here from Chillicothe, and citizens made donations to help erect for it an ungainly domed building which stood in front of the present State House. A modest building was built behind the federal building to house county offices



when the county seat was taken from Franklinton across the river.

An early school also was held in a log cabin that stood somewhere on the 10 acres that the founding proprietors set aside for what now is Capitol Square. Later, volunteer firefighters housed equipment in a shed behind the brick statehouse. Also there was a town pump, its overflow causing a muddy streak all the way down the State-st slope to where the Ohio Theater now is.

**LAUGHREY, AFTER** being mayor, made a mark by taking contracts for Ohio public works projects.

In 1828 he had 300 men digging the Ohio Canal by Circleville. Laughrey built 12 miles of it there. Main achievement of the contract was leaping the canal across the Scioto River.

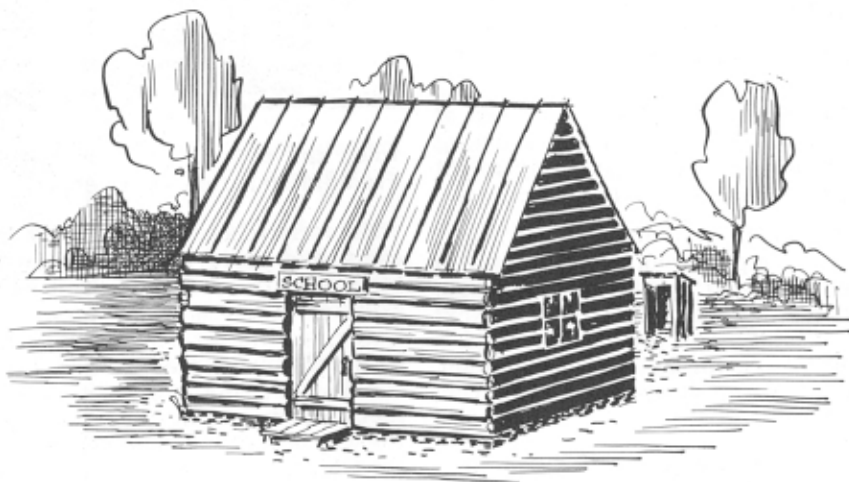
To support an aqueduct large poles had to be driven into the bed of the river. That was done at low-water time in summer. By Dec. 16, 1828 foundation timbers of the middle pier had been pegged among the clustered poles, or pilings.

**THE AQUEDUCT** was of wood, and when completed, held enough water to float a loaded canal boat. Beside the flume was bracketed a cleated bridge where walked mules to tow the slack-water barges.

Mayor Laughrey's name sometimes was spelled Loughrey, even Longhenry. His daughter married Dr. William M. Awl, a pioneer in specialized care. Dr. Awl was

first superintendent of Columbus State Hospital.

It is believed that Laughrey, as a contractor, followed the canal toward Portsmouth, and remained in southern Ohio as an orchardist. One of Mayor Laughrey's granddaughters once remarked that he made a great contribution to the fruit culture of that part of the state.



# William T. Martin 1824-1826

*Fifth of a series of 44*

Judge William T. Martin, fifth mayor of Columbus, helped during the years of 1824, 1825 and 1826 to contribute to a tradition that the city have a friendly, understanding and approachable man in charge at City Hall.

"In each and every office he was the model of official efficiency and promptness, wound up his career by writing the best early history of Columbus that was ever printed" — that was said of Mayor Martin in 1909 by Col. William A. Taylor in a history that Taylor wrote. The history, still used extensively, is "History of Franklin County"; it was printed in 1858.

**MAYOR MARTIN** was tolerant and charitable in daily police court. In his time many newcomers had "court trouble"; the newcomers included a considerable number of slaves that had been freed in the South.

The Martin home was on northwest corner of Main and Front streets. Mr. Martin was called Judge Martin because he had been an associate of the Common Pleas Court. Judge Martin lived here 51 years, and did much for Franklin County.

**HE AND MRS.** Martin (Amelia) named their son (born in 1819) Benjamin Franklin Martin. He became a lawyer, and was Franklin County prosecuting attorney.

During the three years Judge Martin was mayor, the city emerged from a depression that had caught most citizens money-short soon after the War of 1812 ended. A chief factor in renewal of good times was the winning of a land-title suit by wealthy Lyne Starling, chief "proprietor" of the capital.

Judge Martin was born in Bedford County, Pa., on an April 6, later a historic day for America. He came here in 1815, and pitched right in. He was member of the first school board, and was teacher, for a while, in the log cabin school that stood in Capitol Square.

**HE SERVED** township, county and



William T. Martin

city. He was a director of the infirmary. Through the years, Judge Martin seemed to have been secretary or recorder of most everything. So he should have written the town history. Among his important positions: That of Franklin County recorder.

In an 1890 history, Judge L. J. Critchfield wrote of Judge Martin's ability and fidelity, adding: . . . "his stately presence, dignified appearance, elegant manners, general culture and intelligence are remembered by the older citizens."

On the West Side, Martin-av is named for the fifth mayor. He died here on Feb. 19, 1866. Mrs. Martin lived 94 years, her death occurring in 1885.

*Sixth of a Series of 44*

When Gov. DeWitt Clinton of New York, celebrated canal builder, came to Columbus in the summer of 1825 he was entertained and acclaimed at a public dinner at the Sign of the Golden Bell, a High-st tavern then operated by James Robinson, sixth mayor of Columbus.

The tavern was High-st's oldest, and was located south of State-st where the fruit stand of Cappy Bros. now is. It had several proprietors and several names during its existence. In "the Bell" on "Gov. Clinton night" a new era of crosscountry transportation was hailed, with Robinson believing what he heard.

**JAMES ROBINSON** was mayor of Columbus only eight months, in 1827. He resigned on Sept. 11; next he became president of the then-new Columbus and Sandusky Turnpike Co., a toll road to Lake Erie that took more than seven years to build.

Orange Johnson, a banker, was chief promoter of the turnpike. Mayor Robinson was president of the company only a year (he was succeeded by Joseph Ridgway Sr.) but Robinson never found time to serve again as mayor.

**HE HAD BECOME** a member of Columbus City Council in 1823 and continued a member until he became mayor in 1827. In with Mayor Robinson went a new town marshal, John Kelly. When the mayor resigned he did not become a councilman again — he simply left government.

Biggest event during his term was the breaking of ground for the stretch of canal between Lockbourne and Columbus. It was in late April. Mayor Robinson and 899 others marched down the slope to the Scioto River. It was a showy turnout.

**MAYOR ROBINSON** had been host to the great Gov. Clinton two years earlier



but, ironically, had only a meager role in the canal groundbreaking.

State officials manned ceremonial shovels and wheelbarrows, then loaded, wheeled and dumped the first loads of excavated earth. (Allen Trimble, a Henry Clay Whig, was governor; he had done much to further canal building.)

Travelers in and out of Columbus, a town of nearly 2,000 permanent residents, increased as did the number of taverns.

**MAYOR ROBINSON** also operated, for a time, the old Columbus Inn on southeast corner of Town-st and High. That building was the first meeting place of Columbus Council members in 1816. It was a two-story frame building, and was torn down in 1854.

Most of the High-st taverns had benches in front of them, and the benches, in good weather, were filled with male loungers. First man to stand up had to take the others inside and buy drinks for all — that was the custom. In those days taverns were the hotels; nearly all of them sold whisky and rum. Temperance houses came in later.

# William Long

1827—1833

*Seventh in a series of 44*

William Long, seventh mayor of Columbus, filled the office soberly and dutifully from 1827 to 1833. In that time the town passed the 2,000-mark in population, and both the canal and the National Pike reached the riverfront.

Long was an early settler. On June 16, 1813, he and Rebekah Morrison Suddick were married. It is believed that Joel Wright, who named original Columbus streets, named Long-st for Mayor Long. In 1816 Long was appointed first clerk of Columbus' public market. Later he was a councilman, also served for a time as recorder of Council meetings.

**MAYOR LONG**, at the beginning of his first term, went back to an earlier town marshal, Benjamin Sells. He later switched around, then rehired Sells. Dr. Lincoln Goodale was his recorder.

In 1833 Mayor Long had as surveyor Byron Kilbourne, later the founder of Milwaukee. Kilbourne, in that year, resurveyed the early work of Joseph Vance and Joel Wright, Columbus platters. Center stones were planted then at the crossings of the streets. In years that followed other surveyors used the stones as starting points.

**THE FIRST** penitentiary (which stood south of Lazarus Annex) caught fire, and the flames were fought by a bucket brigade formed between the burning building and the Scioto River. One line of men passed buckets of water up the slope, another line handed them downslope for refilling.

Also in 1830, Gen. Duncan McArthur, the richest man in Ohio, was injured at State and High streets in a freak accident. On the Saturday night of Feb. 6 a wood porch, loaded with snow, in front of a dry goods store collapsed on the old Indian fighter, and injured him terribly. His right knee never swung right afterward. At the time Gen. McArthur represented the Chillicothe district in the Ohio Senate.



**William Long**

He later was elected governor, but did most of his campaigning in a carriage.

Halfway through Mayor Long's tenure a historian itemized his growing town. Columbus in 1831 had 350 dwellings, 15 general stores, 10 lawyers, five doctors, four churches, one bank. Population was 2,434.

Streets were extended into additions where more dwellings were being built. The additions followed the lead of John McGown, the first developer, who had added South Columbus in 1814. McGown had died at the age of 75 in 1824.

Mayor Long was a county official later in his life. He was Franklin County treasurer from 1835 to 1841.

# Philo H. Olmsted

1833,  
1838—39

*Eighth in a series of 44*

Col. Philo H. Olmsted, eighth mayor of Columbus, was one of the New Englanders that settled in Worthington, Blendon Township and Granville. He was Columbus mayor in 1833, later served a 2-year term through 1838 and 1839.

Col. Olmsted had several occupations, newspaper editor being the principal one. He was state printer, ran taverns and hotels, was a retailer of drygoods on High-st. and also helped promote a turnpike between Columbus and Granville.

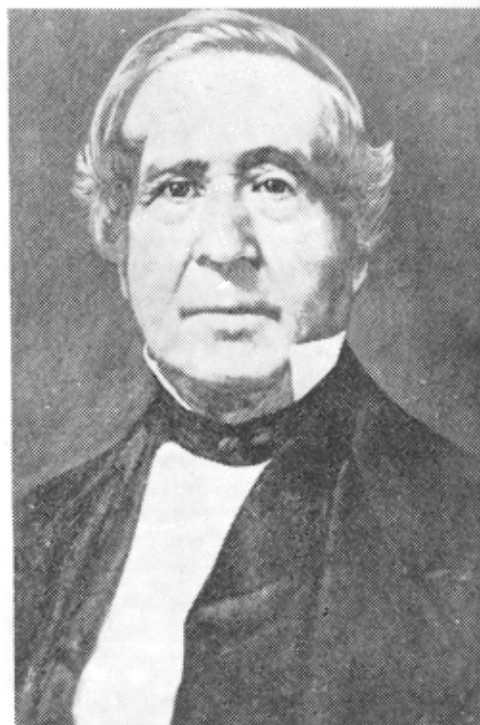
Mayor Olmsted had the first board of health, with Dr. Peleg Sisson its chairman. Among its endeavors was abatement of foul-smelling "nuisances" along the banks of the canal and rivers.

**GEORGE B. HARVEY'S** career as town marshal began under Mayor Olmsted. Marshal Harvey was destined to much night-time patrolling of the growing city. Later, children of the Deshler family knew him as "Old Harvey;" their memoirs relate that he walked principal streets, wearing a big overcoat, carrying a heavy cane and a pierced-tin lantern. He had worked as a carpenter on the first state house (at State and High streets) and he and his wife, the former Jane Armstrong, were the first couple married in Columbus (in 1814).

Mayor Olmsted was a Whig, an Episcopalian, and his home was on W. State-st. He and Mrs. Olmsted, the former Sarah Phillips of Mercersburg, Pa., had 12 children.

**THE MAYOR** was 15 years old when his father, Francis Olmsted, a Revolutionary War soldier, brought the family into Ohio from Simsbury, Conn., in 1808. They established their home in what now is Minerva Park, and in 1821 opened the first tavern of Blendon Township in a frame building at Blendon Corners.

Meanwhile, Philo Olmsted, as a teenager, went to Worthington, and worked



**Philo H. Olmsted**

for a newspaper, *The Western Intelligencer*, published there. Both he and the newspaper moved to Columbus; later he was editor of *The Ohio State Journal* and other newspapers. He commanded the Franklin Dragoons for a time, hence his title of colonel.

**IN 1839** Col. Olmsted operated the Neil House when it still was called the National Hotel. Seven years later he became manager of the United States Hotel, it having been built at Town and High streets by the Buttles family.

He had been a Columbus councilman, also served in the Ohio Legislature. During the Civil War Colonel Olmsted bought horses for the Union Army. He died here in 1870.

*Ninth in a series of 44*

John Brooks, 49-year-old High-st merchant, got something on April 14, 1834 he soon began to loathe — the voters of Columbus chose him to be their ninth mayor, giving him 42 more votes than they did the incumbent.

The 449 votes cast (Columbus population was about 4,000) were divided among five candidates: Brooks 161, Col. Philo H. Olmsted 119, Thomas Wood 66, Elijah Ellis 64 and Isahel Chitenden 39. Forty-one days earlier Columbus had been incorporated as a city.

**COL. OLMSTED** swore Mayor Brooks in on April 21, and precisely midway in his term, on the next April 21 Mayor Brooks resigned. A biographer of Brooks stated he was a man of accomplishments, a steadfast retailer with tenacity. But "the petty affairs" he had to deal with in the mayor's office — that miasma he chose not to face following April 21, 1835.

Mayor Brooks, records indicate, was paid \$75 for his year of service. Undoubtedly, fees collected by any justice of the peace in surrounding Montgomery Township would have exceeded that. At the time the city was trying to get more operating money; there was a tax on dogs, and the price of tavern and coffeehouse licenses was increased.

**THERE WAS** a "big jam" of people at Brooks' inaugural as the first "city" mayor; one of his daughters fainted. The ceremony probably was held in the first state house at State and High streets.

Brooks was born at Lincolnshire, Maine, June 12, 1785, the son of a refugee from Nova Scotia, and died here Feb. 26, 1869. He was a merchant for 66 years.

Before coming here, Brooks was a bank cashier, also a justice of the peace, having entered business at age 15. His Maine



**John Brooks**

background was reflected in his invention of a popular style of chopping ax.

**BROOKS AND** his family, having arrived in Columbus in 1828, ran the White Horse Tavern. By 1830 he had established a store at Rich and High streets, selling hardware and groceries. His home was on the southeast corner of Rich and Third streets. Mr. and Mrs. Brooks had 13 children.

The new "city" government had a Council of 12 men, two of them, William T. Martin and William Long, former mayors. For political purposes, the city was divided into three wards. Mayor Brooks was economical; he had one man serve both as marshal and as supervisor of the public market. In its first 18 years Columbus was a borough.



# John Bailhache

1835

*Tenth in a series of 44*

The Ohio experience of John Bailhache, a native of the Isle of Jersey, began at a saltworks near Zanesville and was concluded as Columbus' 10th mayor.

Bailhache, a Whig, was mayor in 1835, having been appointed by City Council to serve the second year of John Brooks' 2-year term. He left soon after, and went to Alton, Ill., where he lived the remainder of his life.

**THE FRIENDLY** little man, 5 feet tall, came to Columbus in 1825 to publish a newspaper, *The Ohio State Journal*, which he did for the next 10 years, meanwhile making hundreds of friends, the closest to him being Lyne Starling, 6-feet-6, the tallest man in Columbus.

**APPARENTLY**, Columbus was amused by the pair, one 18 inches taller than the other; city histories contain several anecdotes about them. Starling was wealthy, one of the four proprietors that established Columbus as permanent Ohio capital. He and Bailhache hung out in John Young's Eagle Coffeehouse across High-st from the governor's office. It was called Whig headquarters.

The National Republicans of Ohio met here in the fall of 1831; they chose Bailhache and Starling as their delegates to the party's next national convention. Bailhache, in his newspaper, expressed dismay at the field of candidates for public office. Only idols he had were Gen. William Henry Harrison and Henry Clay. In 1835 he supported Gen. Harrison for president.

**BAILHACHE WAS** born on the English Channel island in 1787; when a young man he came to America to join relatives, the Sarchets of Guernsey County. They were from the Isle of Guernsey. At first, Bailhache worked at a saltworks the



Sarchets had in the Muskingum River Valley.

When the business failed, Bailhache turned to journalism. He had been a printer's apprentice in Jersey. He published newspapers in Chillicothe, Circleville and Cincinnati before coming to Columbus, devoting most of those years to Chillicothe. While Bailhache lived there, Ross County voters chose him to represent them in the Ohio Legislature.

**BAILHACHE** was a Methodist in his early years; later, he was an Episcopalian. A biographer said he had "good sense" and dignity.

The Capital City, when Bailhache was mayor, reached from Livingston-av to Union Station; it extended eastward as far as Grant-av, and the west boundary ran along the canal, then up the Scioto River to the new penitentiary.

# Warren Jenkins

1836-1837

*Eleventh in a series of 44*

Warren Jenkins, 11th mayor of Columbus, rode the wave of Whig-party ascendancy in Ohio, directing the city in 1836 and 1837 as Joseph Vance, the first Whig governor, held the Capitol Square office.

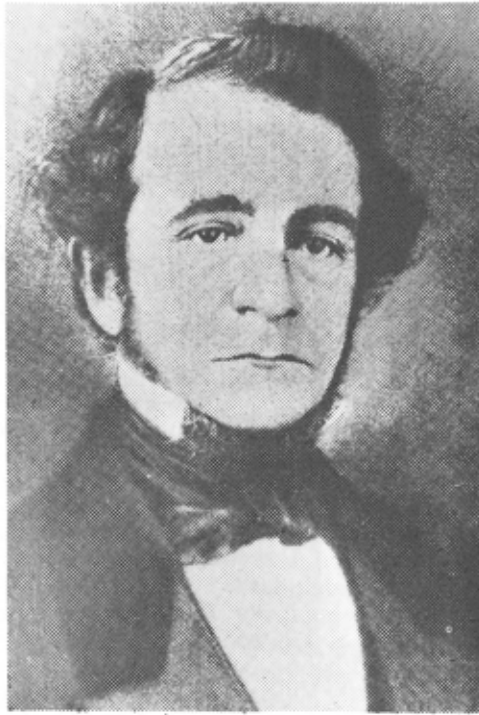
And Mayor Jenkins could do nothing to prevent an abrupt commercial downturn. The Ohio State Journal in 1836 boasted that there had been a 100 per cent increase in Columbus population in 5 years — to 5,500. The building of the National Pike continued across western Ohio; that was good activity.

**THE FIRST** theater had opened in autumn of 1835, at 37 N. High-st, City Council deciding it would pay an annual fee of \$75.

A recession came in 1837. Prices declined. Business became languid. Some Columbus residents had paid taxes with counterfeit dollars, and the city marshal was stuck with them. Gov. Vance's programs for completion of canals and more money for schools eventually were voted, but not in time to help Columbus from its doldrums.

**MAYOR JENKINS** lived on the west side of High-st south of Main-st. He was a justice of the peace before being elected mayor. Another of his connections: The Ohio Register and Anti-Masonic Review was published here from 1830 to 1833, having been moved here from Milan, and Jenkins was one of its editors.

Mayor Jenkins resigned Sept. 4, 1837, to become a bank cashier. It was the Mechanics Savings Institute, a new bank of which William Blackstone Hubbard was president. Hubbard built his huge dwelling on N. High-st, it rivalling in size the E. Broad-st mansion of Alfred Kelley.



**Warren Jenkins**

**THE COLUMNED** Kelley house (on the site of the Christopher Inn) was completed during the time Mayor Jenkins was in office, and caused much comment, including some out-of-state. At the same time eastward expansion of the city encountered undrained highland which some said was unhealthy. There were standing ponds, and unpaved streets were alarmingly muddy.

Jenkins continued in Whig politics. He was on the state central committee in 1839 with such outstanding men as Lewis Heyl, Thomas Ridgway Sr. and Kelley.

# John G. Miller

1840

*Twelfth in a series of 44*

John G. Miller (1795-1871), the 12th mayor of Columbus, is recalled frequently as having been a brother-in-law of President John Tyler. That was a factor in Columbus leadership because Miller traded the job of mayor for the postmastership as soon as Tyler became President.

Miller, a Virginian qualified as a lawyer, came to Columbus in 1830; 10 years later he was elected mayor (as a Whig). His majority was 219 votes. Mayor Miller, at times, was known as a National Republican and as a States-Righter. It was a time of flux in political parties; the era of Loco-Foco and Know-Nothingism was about to dawn.

IN 1838 lawyer Miller had started a newspaper called *The Ohio Confederate* which later was the *The Old School Republican*. He helped Alfred Kelley and Thomas Ewing direct the Harrison-Tyler campaign in Ohio. He was a speaker the night of April 9, 1840, when the Franklin County Straightout Tippecanoe Club was formed behind the Eagle Coffeehouse about 69 S. High-st. Five days earlier Miller had been elected mayor.

"A courtly Virginia gentleman; urbanity of deportment; great dignity" was written of Mayor Miller by Columbus historians. He was born in Goochland County, Virginia. His middle initial stood for Guerrant. He was an honor graduate of William and Mary College, and was admitted to the bar in Philadelphia.

**MAYOR MILLER'S** first wife was Christian Tyler; later he married her sister who had been Mrs. Otis Crosby. The Millers lived on the northeast corner of Third and Broad streets, the address today being 100 E. Broad-st. The mayor's son, another John G. Miller, later was mayor of Sandusky for several years.

Columbus' 12th mayor was an exceptional orator in an era when there were many. When the cornerstone of the State House was placed, Judge Miller was Orator of The Day. It was said at the courthouse that his erudition ran beyond comprehension of most jurors and that he



John G. Miller

would have won more lawsuits with more common language.

**TYLER WAS** placed on the Whig ticket as Gen. William Henry Harrison's running mate to please States-Rights advocates; he came to Columbus Sept. 24, 1840, and was formally welcomed by Mayor Miller. Tyler was third president to visit Columbus. James Monroe and Gen. Harrison preceded him.

Gen. Harrison was President but a month; as soon as he died Vice President Tyler became President. Mayor Miller got the Columbus postmastership May 4, 1841, which he held until 1845.

He was mayor about 13 months. In later life, Judge Miller made investments, and was director of a gas company. In the 1850s he was elected and reelected a justice of the peace in Montgomery Township.

*Thirteenth of a series of 44*

Thomas Wood, the 13th mayor of Columbus, was appointed to the office by members of City Council in May 1841, as soon as President John Tyler named John G. Miller, Columbus mayor No. 12, the Columbus postmaster. Wood served only until the next election.

Wood was a well-qualified magistrate. He was a justice of the peace in Montgomery Township from 1828 to 1842 (serving right through his months as mayor). Wood was appointed in 1828, and he succeeded David Waggoner Deshler who had resigned. Deshler, by the way, was progenitor of the Deshler banking family. Both Mayor Wood and Deshler came to Columbus in its early years, and lived the remainder of their lives here.

Wood ran for mayor in 1834 in the first "city" election; he finished third to a busy merchant who resigned the office because the petty arguments that composed "the police court" side of the job got under his skin.

**MAYOR WOOD'S** term in 1841 was a time of rising costs. Frank Spade, for instance, was paid \$18.12 for hauling dirt and night watching. Official records in a City Hall vault show that Spade received \$24.37 the next month for the same work. Then, Spade's pay the third month was \$25.80.

If Spade or another member of the Columbus Night Watch arrested a suspicious person, he was held in a tiny calaboose beside State-st (immediately behind Columbus' first State House); that calaboose was among the mayor's responsibilities.

The fires that occurred still were



fought by volunteers. In 1841 some public cisterns, mostly under the streets, were placed here and there as a source of water for their hand pumps. In the canal area there were hog-slaughtering sheds; as meat-packing became a big industry the problems of sanitation were demanding solutions of Council and Mayor Wood.

**THE TERM** in office for Mayor Wood occurred between the Columbus visits of President John Tyler and author Charles Dickens, so his ceremonial duties were at a minimum that year. Had a celebrity come to town, Gov. Tom Corwin, the Whig Party's extraordinary orator, surely would have been top greeter.

Three years after leaving the mayor's office, Wood was a member of the first board of directors of the Franklin Bank as reconstituted under the 1845 state banking laws. In 1852 and 1853 Wood was the bank's president, serving between the presidencies of Samuel Parsons and Deshler. The fortunes of the Swan and Parsons families were invested in the bank.

Fourteenth in a series of 44

The 14th mayor of Columbus, Col. Abram I. McDowell (1793-1844), was born in Kentucky, and served in the War of 1812 in a company of Kentucky volunteers. Later, Col. McDowell settled in Franklinton where his well-known son, Irvin, a Civil War general, was born Oct. 15, 1818.

At one time Col. McDowell commanded a Columbus military company, the Franklin Dragoons, which drilled in the Sheep Pasture, an open area on the east side of High-st between Rich and Main streets.

**IN YEARS** since, Mayor McDowell has been described as popular, jovial, urbane, with a commanding, portly appearance. A genuine "social" gentleman, it was said, with "bonhommie."

Col. McDowell was mayor in 1842 only, population of Columbus passing 8,000 and rapidly growing — and that year undoubtedly he was among those greeting Charles Dickens, the great man of London, at a reception in the Neil House where Dickens stopped during his American tour.

"The town is clean and pretty," was Dickens' compliment to Columbus.

**THE SULLIVANTS** and the McDowells were closely allied. Col. McDowell and Eliza Selden Lord, whom he married in 1817, had six children, the general being oldest, and getting the colonel's middle name of Irvin.

The family had moved to the east side of the Scioto River before Col. McDowell became mayor, and established their home at Spring and Front streets, the house facing Front-st. In 1829 City Council gave Col. McDowell permission to build a bathhouse on Spring-st. Whether it was public or solely for the use of the McDowells is not known.



Col. McDowell had many other interests, and served in other public positions. He was Franklin County recorder from 1817 to 1831. Also, he was clerk of the early court of the vicinity, and, it was said, only his humor at times kept it going.

**HE WAS** among directors of the Franklin Bank when it was incorporated Feb. 3, 1816. For a time he was in the stagecoach business with William Neil. Col. McDowell helped build the road between Columbus and Granville. He was an early officer in the Columbus and Sandusky Turnpike.

The McDowells were Scots-Irish and Episcopalian. McDowell-st, on the near West Side, probably was named for Col. McDowell's uncle, Judge John McDowell.

# Smithson E. Wright

1843-44

Fifteenth in a series of 44

Smithson E. Wright (1807-1881), the 15th mayor of Columbus, served his full 2-year term in 1843 and 1844, for the city a time of change and development.

Enforcement of laws was prime topic at meetings of the City Council; in 1843 a new marshal, George Riordan, was hired to supervise the Night Watch and related protection of life and property. But, after a year, Marshal George B. Harvey (who served at the post for a long time) succeeded Riordan.

**DER WESTBOTE**, most successful of German-language newspapers in Columbus, began in 1843, and immediately it was a factor in local politics. Simultaneously, there was the question of moving boundaries of the voting wards. German immigrants were settling, in concentrated manner, in the Main-st and Mound-st region.

Urban beautification had a start; in his diary Joel Buttles, High-st merchant, wrote that sugar maples and peach trees were set along Columbus streets.

In 1843 Mayor Wright introduced John Quincy Adams, ex-President, at a reception in First Presbyterian Church (on site of the Hartman Theater Building); Adams was on his way to Cincinnati where he dedicated an observatory atop what now is called Mt. Adams (for him). In 1844 the city was saddened by the death of pioneer John Brickell on July 20; as an old man, Brickell had lived in a riverfront cabin; as a child, he had been the Indians' captive.

**AFTER LEAVING** the mayor's office, Wright became a High-st merchant, selling hardware, groceries and drygoods under the firm name of S. E. Wright & Co. In 1848 he was elected Franklin County auditor, and served two terms.

Columbus' first intercity railroad, the Columbus & Xenia, and the Little Miami, its extension to Cincinnati, took the Wright family from Columbus. He became treasurer of the railroad, had his office at the south end of the line; in time, Wright became a leading citizen of Cincinnati.

Mayor Wright was born in Belmont County; he was a country school teacher before coming to Columbus in 1828. He married Matilda Martin, daughter of Columbus' fifth mayor, William T. Mar-



tin. Both families lived on the northwest corner of Main and Front streets.

**MAYOR WRIGHT**, when first in Columbus became a printer; then was part owner of The Ohio State Journal in 1835, 1836 and 1837. His being a journeyman in printing led to Mayor Wright being a leader in the Mechanics Beneficial Society; among the prime interests of the Society was protecting the interests of mechanics, manufacturers and artisans.

In 1841 the Society built Mechanics Hall on the southeast corner of Rich and High streets, and while he was mayor Wright was its president.

The Franklin Lyceum (of which Alfred Kelley was president) was affiliated, and Monday-night scientific lectures were held in Mechanics Hall. A scientific library also was maintained there.

**IN 1835** Peter Hayden, foundryman, had brought the idea of prison-labor in manufacturing here from Auburn, N. Y., and, although only five years organized, the Mechanics Society fought Hayden's proposal strenuously. Also, in 1838 a Mechanics Savings Institute was incorporated.

Mayor Wright, in politics, had been a Whig, later was an Independent Republican; he became a Unitarian. He was a long-time secretary of the Cincinnati Literary Club when he lived there.

# Alexander Patton

1845,  
1847-48-49

Sixteenth in a series of 44

Alexander Patton (1791-1858), the 16th mayor of Columbus, was in and out of office in the late 1840s, his service as mayor totalling four years. He was mayor in 1845, stepped aside and let Augustus S. Decker fill the office of mayor in 1846 — then Patton was mayor again three straight years, 1847, 1848 and 1849.

Patton and the city started together. He was 21, in 1813, when he came here and lived, at first, in a log cabin beside the Scioto River. Columbus, then, was just a year old. Patton probably worked on the first Columbus State House, because his brother, Michael, had the carpentry subcontract on it.

**ALEXANDER PATTON'S** service to the city was diverse. As a justice of the peace he filled several terms. At one time he was chief of the volunteer fire department. As contractors, he and his brother built several downtown buildings, including the long High-st building north of the State House (which was on the High-State-st corner). The long building was 2-story brick, and contained offices of the governor, secretary of state, treasurer and the state library started by Gov. Thomas Worthington.

During Mayor Patton's terms the city experienced boom and development, exoduses and a record flood.

Immigrants, mostly Germans, kept coming until Columbus had 17,656 persons in 1850. Construction workers were scarce. Houses were being built everywhere. Starling Medical College was erected at Sixth and State streets. The Gwynne Block and the Fourth Street Markethouse (the principal buildings, later, of Central Market) were started.

**SOLDIERS LEFT** Columbus for service in the Mexican War. Adventurers assembled in overland caravans to go to California gold fields. Illuminating gas was piped along Third-st. In 1847 the first



telegraph message received in Columbus caused excitement.

The January flood of 1847 crested 19 inches higher than marks left by the 1832 flood. River water hid the guard lock at the head of the canal. The current swept away the soap works, warehouses and slaughterhouses.

**IN 1848** the sewer system began. William Murphy, contractor, cut a hand-dug trench down Broad-st to the river. The trench was 18 feet deep where the drainage crossed the gravel ridge of High-st. The sewer drained spring-fed East Side ponds, also the land about the new medical college, the mental institution and Alfred Kelley's mansion which stood on site of the Christopher Inn.

Mayor Patton was born in Hanoverton, Pa., of poor parents. Learning the carpenter trade gave him a start. He was a Universalist, married twice and had 11 children. His home was at Town and Front streets, the Lazarus Annex site. Maiden names of his wives were Elizabeth Carns and Nancy Green.

*Seventeenth in a series of 44*

Augustus S. Decker (1813-1872), 17th mayor of Columbus, held office only in 1846; in the main, Mayor Decker was a drygoods retailer and manufacturer of assorted wares.

Mayor Decker was a Whig when he came to Columbus; in his later years he was a Republican. The Decker home was on the south side of Rich-st east of Fourth-st.

**THE FIFTH** Ward, just south of his home, and destined to become "solid German" voting as a bloc, was created during Mayor Decker's term. Germans on City Council from the Fifth were Louis Hoster, Solomon Lighter and Asa Walling. Three years later James H. Stauring came on.

Mayor Decker served the city in several ways. He was a director of the Infirmary in the 1840s and 1850s. Also in the 1850s he represented his home ward, the Fourth, on City council.

Mayor Decker was born in Pennsylvania, either in Reading or in West Hanover. His middle name was Stoner. He married Martha Crum; he came to Columbus in 1840 after having had experience clerking in a drygoods store in Harrisburg, Pa. Michael Decker, his father was a millwright. He came to Columbus, too, and for a while followed his trade here.

**THE DECKER** drygoods store was on High-st at Rich. Mrs. Hermon M. Hubbard, a spirited leader of Columbus society, was another newcomer from the east — and she once wrote of the "so-called drygoods stores" on High-st.

"Where could be found with drygoods goods not so dry — whisky, rum and other



strong drinks," Mrs. Hubbard reminisced. But such retroactive, fun-poking indictment did not apply to Decker's store.

Not only was Mayor Decker called pious; it was said that he had pious Decker ancestry. For 25 years Mayor Decker was superintendent of the Sunday School of Town Street Methodist Episcopal Church. He was a trustee of the church, also of Zion Chapel.

**MAYOR DECKER** invariably was called a temperate man; "great industry" and "firmness" were ascribed to him. With two partners, he had factories west of the canal under the name of A. S. Decker & Co. Two of them were called the City Mills and the Novelty Mills.

In 1853 he helped found a wholesale grocery firm, Decker & Hibbs. Decker retired in 1868, and continued to live here the remaining four years of his life.



# Lorenzo English 1850-1861

*Eighteenth in a series of 44*

Lorenzo English (1819-1888), the 18th mayor of Columbus, served the city throughout a decade of improvement, progress and expansion (his five terms running 1850 to 1861), then Mr. English continued politically active to help elect several Ohioans to the White House.

He was a native of New York, a graduate of Oberlin College, a lawyer, a Methodist, a Whig — later, he was one of the founders of the Franklin County Republican organization.

**MAYOR ENGLISH'S** second-floor office was in the Rich-st end of a new market-house eventually called Central Market. His Rich-st home was just west of St. Joseph Academy He was progenitor of a large Columbus family. Cynthia A. Cole was the first Mrs. English; later Mayor English married Mary Keane. His law firm was English & Baldwin; railroads were among its clients.

Among events while Mayor English was in office: Dr. Lincoln Goodale gave Goodale Park to the city. The State House was completed. Part of E. Broad-st became a parkway as trees, mostly elms, were set in four rows. William G. Deshler, banker, got the idea in Havana; he and Alfred Kelley directed. Also on the committee: John Noble.

**COLUMBUS' FIRST** intercity railroad started running between here and Xenia. A dedicatory excursion so elated state librarian John Greiner he wrote a song, part of which was:

*We hail from the city,*

*the Capital City,*

*We left in the storm and the rain;*

*The cannon did thunder, the people did wonder,*

*To see pious folks on a train.*



**Lorenzo English**

The entire top floor of the markethouse was used for city government and services. It was Columbus' first actual City Hall. There was a large room in which Mayor English held morning court sessions.

**A SEPARATE** building, called the calaboose, was built west of Central Market. It stood on the lot which later was called Farmers Market. The calaboose contained several lock-up cells, and quarters from the town marshal and his staff.

The town surveyor had his title changed to civil engineer. In 1860 the title of chief of the fire department was created, John Miller being appointed chief engineer on Nov. 26.

# Wray Thomas

1861-1864

*Nineteenth of a series of 44*

Wray Thomas, the 19th mayor of Columbus was a lawyer and a bachelor — he was the city's magistrate in 1861, 1862, 1863 and 1864, which in America were war years by anyone's definition. In politics, Mayor Thomas was a Peace Democrat, then pronounced "Copperhead" north of the Ohio River — yet Columbus histories contain nothing negative about Mayor Thomas.

Instead, in Columbus, a city well peopled with gentlemen, it was said that Wray Thomas was most gentlemanly of them all. His manners were southern. He was born in Richmond, Va., and at the University of Virginia was a classmate and friend of Edgar Allan Poe.

**AMONG MAYOR THOMAS'** clients during his first years as a Columbus lawyer was Lyne Starling, another Virginian, who was the city's richest man until George M. Parsons came along.

The Civil War did bring turmoil and excitement to High-st; it seems, however, that Mayor Thomas let state authorities and the military subdue the rougher element.

He is remembered for patience in the daily magistrate's court on the second floor of Central Market. The Rich-and-Fourth-streets area had much squabbling, but Mayor Thomas listed every fuss as petty "grievance." He would sit endlessly listening to two women, each trying to give the other the worst of it. Hardly ever did Mayor Thomas fail to send them home feeling neighborly.

**AS EARLY AS 1838** Wray Thomas was in Columbus, here to buy Virginia land warrants. Two years later a Capt. Wray Thomas helped direct the Columbus memorial service for Gen. William Henry Harrison who had died soon after becoming President.

Immediately John Tyler was President; soon Thomas was active in the Columbus anti-Tyler bloc. He served in the Ohio Legislature during the 1840s. The first Columbus city directory (in 1843) listed him boarding at Russell's, a



**Wray Thomas**

downtown hotel. He was a member of the board of directors of the Franklin Bank when it was reorganized in 1845 under a new state law.

**PERHAPS THE FRANKLIN** was among the Columbus banks that shipped six tons of gold to Toledo when the Confederate cavalry raid led by Gen. John Hunt Morgan started across Ohio in 1863. Later, 15 of Gen. Morgan's Kentucky thoroughbreds were auctioned in front of George Merion's livery stable.

Also military: Columbus Council, meeting in April, 1862, on the second floor of Central Market, voted \$1,000 for the expenses of a committee to lobby in Washington for a federal arsenal and armory. The Government did buy part of Robert Neil's woods, and start building what now is called Ft. Hayes.

Concurrently, horse cars started running in downtown High-st. The famous round-cornered Neil House was built; it stood until 1923. In 1862 the city's high school was moved to a Romanesque brick building at Sixth and Broad streets.

# James G. Bull 1865-68, 1871-74

*Twentieth of a series of 44*

James G. Bull, the 20th mayor of Columbus, directed eight busy post-war years, his time being the Time of Great Improvements. He was mayor in 1865, 1866, 1867 and 1868 — then after being out of office two years, Mayor Bull was elected to serve four more years.

Columbus population in 1870 was 31,174. During Mayor Bull's eight years of leadership High-st was paved, water mains were laid, a State-st bridge was built across the Scioto River, a City Hall was built (on the Ohio Theatre site), Schiller Park was acquired, organization of police and fire departments became effective, and Columbus capitalists built a railroad into the mineral-rich hills of the Hocking River Valley.

**MAYOR BULL WAS** a Democrat; his support included both Germans and the Irish. The party would be disrupted by ethnic factionalism when strong personalities, Charles Engelke and Barney McCabe, competed head-on for police authority.

Also, during Mayor Bull's administration, Billy Naghten was elected president of City Council on the 165th ballot. Jacob Reinhard of the South Side led opposition to Naghten during the marathon balloting. Naghten, a railroader, was a leader in St. Patrick's parish.

**FROM NAGHTEN-ST** (named for the councilman) to Main-st High-st was paved in 1867 with the Nicholson patent, meaning wooden blocks. In winter, sly ones loosened the blocks and carried them home for heating fuel.

In 1868 the City Hall was planned, and bonds were issued. The City Council met in the new building's Chamber for the first time March 25, 1872.

Twenty-five police officers, uniformed in blue, supervised by the marshal, were authorized in 1868. Columbus historians says Alexis Keeler was elected superintendent of police in May 1869; Engelke was marshal for the first time.

**SAMUEL THOMPSON** was the next superintendent of police. Engelke was given the title of Police Captain. In 1873 Mayor Bull started the present police



**James G. Bull**

system, under enabling state legislation; in early days it was the "metropolitan" system.

Of a pioneer family, Mayor Bull was born in 1838 where Clintonville is today. Thomas Bull Jr., his grandfather, a soldier in the Revolutionary War, had settled there. The mayor's parents were Alonson and Hannah Bull; his middle initial stood for Gilbrugh.

Mayor Bull married Laura Brelsford, and their children were Richard, Harry and Nanny. He was with Company F of the 95th Ohio in the Civil War, commissioned a lieutenant.

Frank H. Peters of Lockbourne and Thomas C. Peters of 58 S. Remington-rd are great-nephews of Mayor Bull, and Mrs. Russell O. Wagner of 1716 Forest-st is their sister.

Mayor Bull lived at 156 E. Mound-st later at 180 N. Front-st. He liked ceremonial duties; to the city he welcomed, at various times, President Andrew Johnson, Gen. U.S. Grant and delegates to a national saengerbund.

# George W. Meeker 1869-70

*Twenty-first in a series of 44*

George W. Meeker (1833-1890), the 21st mayor of Columbus, ran the growing city in 1869 and 1870. He was a lawyer and a Democrat, and in later life was the long-time secretary of the Democratic State Central Committee.

His sons, Claude and G. W. Meeker, became more famous than was the mayor. An investment broker, Claude Meeker was a dynamic Columbus civic leader and wealthy Bexleyite. His brother was an industrialist, a promoter of railroads and interurban lines. He owned the Westerville fairground, also was one of the owners of the land on which Minerva Park was built.

**HOWEVER, BY** being elected, Mayor Meeker defeated banker Luther Donaldson. (It is worth a historical aside: Donaldson did so much for the city, as a councilman and otherwise, that it is remarkable he never was mayor.)

While Meeker was mayor more than 4,000 acres of adjacent land was annexed to the city. Franklinton was brought inside the corporation, and so was a district called Birmingham which was west of Goodale Park. Other expansion was southward and eastward. Also, the city bought a site at State and Pearl streets for erection of a City Hall (which Donaldson directed from groundbreaking in May 1869 until the building's completion).

**CHARLES ENGELKE** and Capt. Henry Heinmiller became the heads of the departments of police and fire while Meeker was mayor. The three of them might have been boyhood chums because Meeker was born on High-st opposite the courthouse.

Joshua and Hannah Meeks were his parents — her maiden name had been Van Brimmer. Joshua died when the future mayor was a small boy.



George W. Meeker

Mayor Meeker studied at Otterbein College and a Buffalo, N. Y., business school. He was a public-school teacher, a bookkeeper and served several terms as a justice of the peace. He became a lawyer just before he ran for mayor.

He married Miss Harriet Hatch of Westerville, and they lived at 284 E. Long-st.

**MAYOR MEEKER** was faced with the Sunday-closing problem. The matter of saloon regulation had come up before, whether the side door of a saloon as well as the front door should be locked on Sunday.

The problem persisted past 1900, causing Columbus mayors more headaches than did street car strikes. Mayor Meeker, deluged with petitions, ruled such a decision should be made by a police commission that then existed.

# John H. Heitmann 1875-78

*Twenty-second in a series of 44*

John H. Heitmann (1841-1894), the 22nd mayor of Columbus, was among the foreign-born Columbus residents comprising a fourth of the city's population in the 1870s. He was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to America when he was 24.

Mayor Heitmann's two terms as "bürgermeister" were in 1875, 1876, 1877 and 1878 — he was first of the German mayors (among other well-known Germans elected later: Philip H. Bruck and George J. Karb).

**GERMANS OF** the Fifth Ward elected Emil Kiesewetter, a Civil War veteran, to City Council for two years during Heitmann's time as mayor. Kiesewetter later became an outstanding business leader and bank president.

Mayor Heitmann came to Columbus to teach in the German schools, and was principal of them for four years. He had acquired culture in Germany, next in Cincinnati which, at the time, was a German cultural center of America. The Heitmann family lived at 141 E. State-st, later at 615 E. Rich-st.

**LATER, HE** became a lawyer, and served in the Ohio Legislature. During his mayorship, Columbus had aggressive agitation and rioting during the 1877 railroad strike. Idle railroaders surrounded factories, urging workers to walk-out and join them. Gov. Thomas L. Young ordered out militia companies to restore order.

A cleaner downtown area was a major municipal drive during Mayor Heitmann's terms. High-st was paved a second time; a composition of coal tar, asphalt and crushed stone was used. The completion of the paving was celebrated on Sept. 29 with joyful street dancing at Gay and High streets.



John H. Heitmann

There was similar paving on State and Town streets. Regular sweeping of downtown High-st (with a horse-drawn device) was started in 1877. About the same time the fire department opened a new S. High-st engine house. A tunnel for horse cars was dug under railroad tracks at Union Station (the viaduct would come much later).

**A BIG** event in Capitol Square in early March of 1877 was the leaving of Gov. Rutherford B. Hayes, having been elected president, for the White House. Schiller Park, then called City Park, was being beautified; a lake was created while Mayor Heitmann ran the city from his City Hall office at State and Pearl streets.

In 1875 the Ohio Prohibition Party held a convention in the Council Chamber, picking candidates for state offices.

# Gilbert G. Collins 1879-80

*Twenty-third in a series of 44*

Gilbert G. Collins (1830-1885), 23rd mayor of Columbus, injected the "reform" movement as a vote-getter into our municipal politics, and, in one way or another, it has been with us ever since.

Mayor Collins, running the city in 1879 and 1880, had Scots-Irish ancestry. That meant Germans took a back seat while he was mayor. Soon Charles Engelke learned he no longer was police chief.

**HE WAS** replaced by Stephen A. Rhodes, who, in due time, was replaced by John W. Lingo. The fire department was next; D. D. Tresenrider replaced Chief Henry Heinmiller.

There was a rebellion of butchers operating in the public markethouse (undoubtedly, most of them were German). They wanted protection in what they considered a situation of unfair competition. They paid a city tax, and outsiders didn't.

**STREET IMPROVEMENTS** continued under Mayor Collins, and a new police headquarters was built in 1879 at Town and Scioto streets. It was a square fortress, and had its back against the Scioto River's edge. Cells were in the cellar which resembled a dungeon.

Women were becoming increasingly involved in police arrests, and it was in that Town-and-Scioto building Mrs. Lucretia Gibbons, police matron who lived on nearby Ide Terrace, began her compassionate intervention for unfortunate women. In later years a house for fallen women was established on S. Seventh-st (now Grant-av).

**CITY HALL** (on the Ohio Theatre site) was but seven years old — but it was remodeled. The Council Chamber, a large cavern, was improved acoustically. The city had 11 wards in 1879, each electing two men to Council.

Both Mayor Collins and his father were



**Gilbert G. Collins**

teachers. The mayor was born in Essex County, N. J., and his parents brought him to the New Albany countryside when he was 9 years old.

Gilbert taught in Franklin County schools from 1854 to 1859, then during the Civil War worked in the office of the Ohio adjutant general. In 1862 he became a lawyer, later took over the law practice of William Dennison Jr., former governor, when President Lincoln called Dennison into his Cabinet.

**MAYOR COLLINS** started serving the city in 1873; in that year he was elected solicitor (city attorney) for two years.

After his term as mayor, Collins developed real estate, North Side subdivisions, in the main. He also was elected president of the Wassall Fire Clay Co. that made sewer pipe and brick.

# George S. Peters 1881-82

*Twenty-fourth in a series of 44*

In the years 1881 and 1882 George S. Peters, a Democrat and a lawyer, was the 24th mayor of Columbus, his long career involving two of America's better known minorities despite the fact he was born rurally, on a Pickaway County farm.

Rev. James Poindexter, black barber and pastor of Second Baptist Church, was a member of City Council during Mayor Peters' term, the minister and a white man jointly representing the Ninth Ward.

**LATER, PRESIDENT** Grover Cleveland appointed Peters, then ex-mayor, to a legal post in the Utah territory. Mormons had founded Salt Lake City, and the bulk of Mayor Peters' legal experience occurred there in cases against Mormons.

While Mayor Peters was in office, John Kilroy became Columbus Waterworks engineer, and remained on that job a long time. Another Irish name was Barney McCabe; Mayor Peters had the experienced McCabe on his police commission.

**THE TOTAL** personnel of the police department was 52, and in 1882 there was a move to increase the number of night policemen. In March a group of citizens met in Walcutt's Hall and protested "a prevalence of crime."

In 1870 Columbus blacks totalled 1847 in the city's population of 31,274; those figures are used because in that year male blacks age 21 or older were entitled to vote. Ten years later Rev. Poindexter was the first black elected to municipal office.



**George S. Peters**

**(HOWEVER, COLUMBUS** history indicates that Rev. Poindexter voted before 1870, registering each time as an Indian. He was a prominent citizen, a leader and Poindexter Village is named for him. He lived at 41 N. Fourth-st.)

Rev. Poindexter was a Republican. During his four years as a councilman, the Ninth Ward representatives are listed: In 1880, Poindexter and M. A. Joyce; in 1881 and 1882, Poindexter and J. F. Baldwin; in 1883, Poindexter and James P. Poston. Rev. Poindexter also was a member of the board of education.

# Charles C. Walcutt 1883-86

*Twenty-fifth in a series of 44*

Gen. Charles C. Walcutt (1838-1898), the 25th mayor of Columbus, merited his military title, being one of the many natural fighters the Civil War thrust into lifetime prominence.

Walcutt gave the 46th Ohio Regiment brave and remarkably good leadership during the Rebellion (he was 24 when he became its colonel), especially in the Atlanta region where there was much gallantry.

**WHEN MAYOR** of Columbus (his years were 1883, 1884, 1885 and 1886) Gen. Walcutt, on High-st, singlehandedly dispersed a mob during a street-car strike.

In a Kentucky military institute he learned civil engineering and battle tactics (he then was a Democrat and voted in 1860 for Stephen A. Douglas for president). When the Civil War began Walcutt was in Columbus and immediately organized a military company of "downtowners," the wildest bunch on High-st. Walcutt intended to lead his men into the Union Army immediately, but William Dennison Jr., governor of Ohio, turned down the company which was called "Charley Walcutt's Bummers." (Walcutt did get a commission, bypassing the governor.)

**A LONG-DELAYED** but direct result of this was a Republican split in Columbus. Because, in post-war years Gen. Walcutt was a Republican, and always he opposed anything that Dennison or Dennison's friends favored.

Gen. Walcutt served. He was warden of Ohio penitentiary. He was collector of internal revenue. He was a member of



**Charles C. Walcutt**

the Columbus Board of Education. He promoted the Franklin County Fair.

**IN THE** 1870s he organized both the Buckeye Baseball Club and the Columbus Cadets, a military company for boys. He and Mrs. Walcutt (Phoebe Neil) had three sons.

The general and mayor was one of 16 children, the Walcutts living for decades in the Town-st-High-st area where they operated several enterprises including a furniture factory, which a family member said later, "specialized in uncomfortable chairs." Three of the general's brothers were artists, another ran a High-st museum.



# Philip H. Bruck

1887-90

*Twenty-sixth in a series of 44*

Philip H. Bruck (1845-1920) was the 26th mayor of Columbus, a musically-trained businessman of pronounced social proclivities and adequate leadership for a city nearing 100,000 in population.

Mayor Bruck rehired Col. Henry Heinmiller as fire chief. John E. Murphy was his chief of police. So, in the thinking of Columbus Democrats, the city had a balanced administration in 1887, 1888, 1889 and 1890. In being re-elected to his second term, Mayor Bruck defeated Gen. Charles C. Walcutt, his Republican predecessor.

**EMERGING IN 1887** as a new councilman of the Fifth Ward was 29-year-old George J. Karb, a druggist destined to become an outstanding figure in Columbus municipal history. He followed Bruck as mayor, later was sheriff.

The Arch City "promotion" was in its incubation, High-st arches having been erected for illumination from sidewalk to sidewalk. Mayor Bruck was a leader in German cultural societies (he helped get the bronze statue of the poet for Schiller Park). For 30 years Mayor Bruck sang in the Maennerchor which his father, John P. Bruck, helped found in 1848. The mayor's parents, from Bavaria, arrived by canal, then settled in the Main-st-Front-st area.

**BRUCK SR.** was both cabinetmaker and justice of the peace. Mayor Bruck graduated in 1861 from the city's first high school, then became a druggist. He was in business (Braun & Bruck) until elected mayor.

Mayor Bruck had married Mary Lenox, and their home was at 961 S. High-st, the house now a restaurant named the



**Philip H. Bruck**

Burgermeister Wein Haus. In 1878 Bruck was fest conductor of an Ohio saengerbund held here.

**HE WAS** secretary of the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, and a member of the Columbus Board of Trade. He was a member of the 133rd regiment of the Ohio National Guard. Other elective offices that he held: member of the Columbus Board of Education, president of the Maennerchor.

New Ohio legislation created police judges in major cities, so Mayor Bruck was the last Columbus mayor to preside in the daily magistrate's court. Following his City Hall service, Mayor Bruck was elected to two terms in the Ohio Legislature.

# George J. Karb

1891-94,  
1912-19

Twenty-seventh in a series of 44

George J. Karb (1858-1937) was the 27th mayor of Columbus in 1891, 1892, 1893 and 1894 — later, after having been the elected sheriff of Franklin County, he returned to City Hall as the World War I mayor from 1912 through 1919.

Mayor Karb was a "magnetic" success—that was the word used in the 1890s to describe the personality of the boy who emerged from the Central Market milieu to direct civic affairs. He was the third German elected mayor of Columbus, and, being the epitome of the burgermeister, outshone the two others.

**IN MAYOR** Karb's favor in 1891 was the newly-created Police Court. Matthias Martin, its first judge, handled jail sentences, fines and other dispiriting matters in the riverside police building at Town and Scioto streets.

Meanwhile, in the uptown City Hall on the Ohio Theatre site, Mayor Karb delved into the positive, progressive, public-pleasing and ceremonial aspect of city leadership.

**HE HAD** attended a business college, then, at 27, he owned and operated a Main-st drugstore. Later, he entered banking and business, and for many years was President Karb of the Central Ohio Oil Co. He once had been a Columbus city councilman, and was a police commissioner.

Karb was tall, open-faced, and had a mustache when fashionable. He favored wing collars, long black coats, usually with a Masonic emblem on a lapel. He was a fraternal "joiner."

**IT WAS** said in his time that he was everyone's mayor. He had a spontaneous welcome for everyone he encountered. "Good morning, Colonel!" he shouted at any man.

Mayor Karb became a greeter, the city was proud of his style. Marshal Joffre, the French hero, was honored by a High-st parade, and Mayor Karb, on the



George J. Karb

reviewing stand, spoke French in welcoming the marshal. Before a crowd of Welsh singers he once shouted "The Red Dragon to the Fore!" in Welsh. While inspecting a Red Cross canteen in Union Station the mayor broke into a popular ditty, "Too Much Mustard", as he reached the condiment pantry.

**ELECTRIC STREET** cars came in during Mayor Karb's first term, and the street railway system continued to grow. Columbus had 140 miles of street railway when Karb left City Hall in 1919, and, he boasted, the cost of tickets had remained at eight for 25 cents.

He was born at Main and Fourth streets. His parents had come to Columbus from Nuremburg, Germany. The family later moved to 315 S. Sixth-st.

He married Kate Van Dine. They lived in the Southern Hotel next on Rich-st and still later their home was on Bryden-rd. It was his habit to call the city "Good Old Columbus Town."

# Cotton H. Allen

1895-96

*Twenty-eighth in a series of 44*

Cotton H. Allen (1834-1900), the 28th mayor of Columbus, came here to help manage the Peter Hayden fortune, and, four years after his arrival, the electorate chose him to run city affairs, too.

He was mayor in 1895 and 1896, a Sound-Money Democrat running Columbus government "like a business." Mayor Allen previously had been in St. Louis, western dispersal point for the Hayden line of manufactured iron fittings for horse saddlery and harness.

**THAT WAS** the better-known line of Hayden products. Iron in many shapes and sizes came from the huge works and foundry beside the Scioto River where City Hall now is. (The office of Mayor Allen was on the Ohio Theatre site.)

Cast-iron building fronts, some imitating wood, stone or marble, were made by Hayden's works. Metal columns and other members still can be seen, with the Hayden name, on older commercial buildings in Columbus.

**THE BUILDING** at 20 E. Broad-st was built by Peter Hayden in 1869, and "Hayden-Clinton Bank" still is molded in the terra cotta above its first-floor windows. He had clay and mineral enterprises at Haydenville and other Hocking Valley points.

Mayor Allen, upon taking office, promoted Patrick Kelly, a born-in-Ireland sergeant of detectives, to police chief. He kept Henry Heinmiller as fire chief, and new firehouses were built. Today Mayor Allen's name remains on the stone markers of No. 10 house on W. Broad-st



**Cotton H. Allen**

and No. 12 on Oak-st just east of Parsons-av.

**IN PORTRAITS**, Mayor Allen looks as if he was a prudent conservative — and it is doubtful that the stripes of his necktie were as bright as Yeteve Smith painted them in an oil portrait for the City Hall gallery.

Mayor Allen was born in Auburn, N. Y. His parents died when he was a small boy, and when he was 11 he started to work in a cotton factory in Northhampton, Mass. He worked there four years. His middle initial stood for Hayden, and Peter Hayden was his uncle.

# Samuel L. Black

1897-98

*Twenty-ninth in a series of 44*

Samuel L. Black (1859-1929), the 29th mayor of Columbus, was a Democrat, a lawyer and a man of principle — and was elected to one term. He ran Columbus as mayor in 1897 and 1898, and was willing “to invite” strong opposition early.

Mayor Black told intimates that a man named Conrad Born who said he represented Columbus brewers, handed him a list of men to appoint. “I can’t do that,” Mayor Black said.

**BORN, ACCORDING** to the mayor’s recollection, had a quick reply. “If you don’t take our slate you will be a one-term mayor — we’ll defeat you next time,” was Born’s gloomy promise.

“They did” — Judge Black liked to recall, smilingly, years later because he had become by then a distinguished judge; the lives of hundreds of boys and girls were straightened and strengthened by the understanding man.

Black became the Probate Judge of Franklin County in 1903, then five years later under a new state law, according to Osman C. Hooper, Columbus historian, he specialized in a new Juvenile Court.

**WOMEN AS** well as men who neglected or abused children feared Judge Black. Judge Black, Hooper reported, was “tough” on parents as he tried to improve children’s plight.

Mrs. Black matched her husband as a humanitarian; she was active in health, charity and welfare organizations. She was a leader in the fight against tuberculosis.

**JUDGE BLACK** resumed the practice of law in 1917 when he retired from Juvenile Court. He had been a lawyer since 1886. At one time his firm was Powell, Owen, Ricketts & Black. He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1883.

While Judge Black was mayor Union Station was completed, the municipal electric light plant and the West Side



**Samuel L. Black**

levee were built, and the Franklinton Centennial was held. In Bexley Camp Bushnell was established for the mobilization of Spanish-American War soldiers.

Felix Jacobs was Director of Public Improvements for Mayor Black — under Jacobs plans for Griggs Dam were completed, also he built the Jacobs Conduit, the city’s first source of “safe” water.

**THE CONDUIT** is a long, underground tunnel of porous brickwork in the Scioto gravel, and it runs from the Light Plant to a point west of the Waterworks. The Light Plant still uses water from the Conduit.

Mayor Black’s grandfather was another Samuel Black, a native of Ireland. At Kimbolton, O., Mayor Black earned his first dollar by splitting firewood for his grandfather. When he was 10, his family moved to Cambridge. Dr. William Black was Mayor Black’s father.

# Samuel J. Swartz 1899-1900

*Thirtieth in a series of 44*

Samuel J. Swartz, in 1899 and 1900 serving as 30th mayor of Columbus, was a lawyer by profession, and a Republican in politics. He was born on a Fairfield County farm in 1859, and his father, Eli Swartz, who had enlisted in the 46th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, was killed in a Civil War battle at Shiloh, Tenn., when Samuel was 3 years old.

The mayor-to-be attended both the Pleasantville Academy and the Fairfield Union Academy (at North Berne) before going to college in Delaware, O. He was an 1881 graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, and became a lawyer seven years later.

**FOR FIVE** years, as a young man, Mayor Swartz worked as a traveling salesman — in that time he developed knowledge of Ohio and talent for leadership in politics. He organized the Ohio League of Republican Clubs, and was the league secretary.

That service was recognized by Gov. Asa Bushnell in his appointment of Swartz police judge of Columbus. In the next election, Swartz was voted a full term (three years) — and next step in a subsequent election was seeking the office of mayor.

**MAYOR SWARTZ** was Columbus' first Republican mayor since Gen. C. C. Walcutt's two terms. In the intervening 12 years Mayor Swartz' predecessors, Bruck, Karb, Allen and Black, had been Democrats.

By electing Swartz, Republicans "turned the gang out of power" — that is a quote from the Jacob H. Dorn biography of Dr. Washington Gladden, clergyman-councilman. But Mayor Swartz' two years in old City Hall on the Ohio Theatre site were turbulent. In the first year his director of public safety was impeached by City Council, graft being charged.

**IN ALL**, Mayor Swartz had three different men as safety director. In the second year another resigned when faced



**Samuel J. Swartz**

with a "sensational revelation." Also from the Dorn book: The Christian Citizens' League, a new organization, demanded saloons and theaters be closed on Sundays.

"Stormy scenes" in the safety department including the laying-off of policemen who voted Democratic. Chief Patrick Kelly, on the force since 1877, was "busted" to his old rank, sergeant of detectives.

**THE LAW-ENFORCEMENT** line was that "outsiders" were brought into the Police Department by the Swartz administration; this included hiring of J. M. Walcutt as "superintendent" of police.

Mayor Swartz returned to the practice of law in 1901 when Democrats regained control at City Hall. In his early Columbus days Mayor Swartz lived at 123 N. Central-av. He later lived on the Near North Side.

# John N. Hinkle 1901-02

Thirty-first in a series of 44

John N. Hinkle, 31st mayor of Columbus, was one of the city's major surprises — a nearly unheard-of North Side Democrat who ran the city in 1901 and 1902 after squeezing through two elections early in 1901.

Mayor Hinkle was a 47-year-old soap-maker, and the most that could be said of him politically at the time was that he had been "active" in precinct work and had contributed money to the local Democratic organization. He was owner and president of the Cacti Soap Co. of Buttes-av.

**THE CACTI WAS** not a large soap factory. Furthermore, Hinkle's main supporter was Columbus Press-Post, a newspaper remembered in 1975 by few.

In the campaign, Hinkle's first bid for public office, he promised Columbus "a business administration," and told voters he would not "farm out" privileges or power. He later declared his campaign expenses as \$35, most of it for carriage hire.

**ON HINKLE**, daily newspapers had used two remarks constantly during the campaign: "Not well-known" and "he has no organization." He won in the primary election (on March 12) by 52 votes. Next, on April 1 (what a day!) Hinkle won the mayor's seat by 386 votes. Feeling foolish on April 2, when results were in, was a newspaper that had been making pre-election references to Hinkle's opponent (Henry C. Taylor) as "Mayor Taylor."

Great excitement stirred old City Hall on the Ohio Theatre site immediately. John J. Lentz, powerful Democrat, started to assemble a Cabinet. Owners of The Press-Post, Mayor-elect Hinkle's "personal organ," were omnipresent. Upshot was that the in-comers talked Mayor Samuel J. Swartz into quitting a few days early.

The surprise was over. Mayor Hinkle sort of settled-in. A little more was



John N. Hinkle

learned of him; he had come to Columbus from Union County when he was 34. His home was at 1098 Highland-av.

Mayor Hinkle wanted a street-car fare of three cents, liked the idea of the city generating its own electricity, and advocated that all public-service utilities be municipally owned and operated. But, according to comments made then, strategic moves of the gas company, the Rail-Light and phone companies tended to baffle Mayor Hinkle.

**MAYOR HINKLE** led a delegation to consult Andrew Carnegie, steel magnate, on Carnegie's providing Columbus with a public library. That occurred, and Mayor Hinkle helped obtain a site for the building (at the east end of State-st).

With newspapers other than The Press-Post Mayor Hinkle was secretive about the seemingly public endeavor. The mayor was interviewed often about it because Carnegie's philanthropy was a national controversy.

A library would be a suitable habitat for most people, Mayor Hinkle offered in one interview — but declared he never had been in one. In giving irrelevant replies to questions, he said he was a good soapmaker, and a healthy one because he danced often in the Elks Club.

A WOMAN reporter persisted in pinning-down, trying to pin-down, the status of negotiations with Carnegie. Mayor Hinkle blandly recited his own biography — that he had been a traveling salesman,

also a teacher (six years), and that, at one time, he had studied medicine. That remark led to his (Mayor Hinkle's) intestines.

He told her there was much fat among and about his intestines, a salubrious condition that kept him free of disease. He said he was glad that he was of large stature and corpulent, and again mentioned Elks dancing as beneficial.

Hinkle-st, on the South Side, was named for him.



CITY HALL, COLUMBUS.

# Robert H. Jeffrey

1903-05

Thirty-second in a series of 44

The name of Robert H. Jeffrey (1873-1961) who was the 32nd mayor of Columbus, has remained closely associated with another city, Bexley. His election as mayor, also his tenure of office, almost three years (1903, 1904 and 1905) were unusual.

Mayor Jeffrey, his home then at 71 Winner-av, was oldest son of a wealthy manufacturer and banker (Joseph A. Jeffrey); he had been president of the Columbus Board of Trade before he was elected mayor at the age of 29. And the way he was elected approached acclaim.

A **NONPARTISAN** Municipal Union, seeking betterment, had sprung up to organize independent voters into a solid bloc. The Union indorsed 21 candidates — 11 in one party, 10 in another. For mayor it backed Jeffrey, a Republican.

It was said then that his margin of victory was biggest ever for a Columbus mayor-elect. The young millionaire-to-be gave the office eclat, a style some might equate with the Kennedy years in the White House. Mayor Jeffrey attacked his duties with vigor. His law enforcement curbed gambling.

**THE OPEN-SALOON-ON-SUNDAY** remained foremost among "evils" listed by church-oriented pressure groups, and, in time, a new civic-betterment group emerged and charged that Mayor Jeffrey was "slow" toward that expected crack-down.

An expert on 1900-1920 Columbus government has called the Jeffrey administration "progressive and honest." The progress, however, was qualified as "gradual." After three years of pressures Mayor Jeffrey chose not to seek re-election, and the mayor's office reverted to the Democrats.

**MAYOR JEFFREY** grew up in the Town-st-Washington-av area. He was a graduate of Williams College, and when 22 started to work in the chain shop of Jeffrey Manufacturing Co., which his father had founded to produce mining machinery.

In 1901 he became assistant general manager, and, when elected mayor, was a Jeffrey vice president. Columbus then had a population of 160,000. "We tried to



Robert H. Jeffrey

visualize what Columbus could become," Jeffrey said, later in his life, when reminiscing. "We set about to provide a foundation for that development." And he added: "So many things needed to be done."

A **WATER** supply was a prime concern; the dam now named Griggs was underway. The building of the Center of Science and Industry at 280 E. Broad-st was started during the Jeffrey term (for decades it was Memorial Hall).

Mayor Jeffrey, as were his predecessors, was elected for two years — but the Legislature changed Ohio election times, and that change extended the Jeffrey tenure beyond two years.

**ALL IN** all, his being Columbus mayor became just an interlude in his life, in comparison to long-time main endeavors which included running the factory, managing investments, helping shape Bexley into the city it is today.

He became general manager of Jeffrey Manufacturing in 1907, also was planning his estate between Alum Creek and N. Parkview-av. In 1941 he gave that home (known now as Jeffrey Mansion) to Bexley; he then was chairman of the board of Jeffrey Manufacturing.



# DeWitt C. Badger 1906-07

*Thirty-third in a series of 44*

Judge DeWitt C. Badger (1858-1926) was the 33rd mayor of Columbus, directing city affairs through 1906 and 1907. Earlier, he was a congressman the same length of time; much longer segments of his career were in the practice of law and as a Common Pleas judge.

Mayor Badger, while in City Hall, lived at 1041 Bryden-rd. Mrs. Badger's maiden name had been Sidney Slaughter. Among their children were Clinton and Minnie. He owned farm land in Madison County. He once told an interviewer that his first wages (25 cents a day) were for stacking straw with a threshing crew. The mayor's affinities were for his family, the law and the land.

A Democrat, Mayor Badger was elected in a landslide year for his party. His duties as mayor ranged from the happy occasion of dedicating the Carnegie Library, at the east end of State-st, to filing charges against three men comprising the Columbus Board of Public Service. That is remembered as a bribe scandal connected with the paving of E. Broad-st.

**MAYOR BADGER** was born in rural Madison County, the son of the Benjamin Badgers (she was Martha Willoughby). He attended local schools, then began teaching in them when he was 17. He later attended Mt. Union College, in 1881 became a lawyer. In Central Ohio, then, the Common Pleas Court comprised a three-county district, and Mayor Badger was elected to it from Madison County. Later, he was moved to Columbus.

After serving 10 years, Judge Badger (according to Osman C. Hooper, local historian) resigned from Common Pleas in 1903 to go to Washington, he having been elected to Congress the previous November.



**DeWitt C. Badger**

His law firm was Badger & Ulrey. When his term as mayor had ended, he practiced law in a suite at 8 E. Broad-st.

**BOTH MAYOR** Badger and his predecessor, Robert H. Jeffrey, were among speakers at dedication of the Library. The marble structure had been started in 1903, completed in 1906. The cost exceeded \$200,000, the amount given to the city by Andrew Carnegie, steel magnate.

Mayor Badger, in accepting it, remarked that Columbus as a city was becoming greater and better as each year rolled by, citing the Library as visible proof. (Previously, there had been reading rooms in City Hall on the Ohio Theatre site.)

# Charles Anson Bond 1908-09

*Thirty-fourth in a series of 44*

Charles Anson Bond (1873-1943) was the 34th mayor of Columbus, his term covering 1908 and 1909. He was a handsome, energetic Ohioan, born in Findlay, a man of both vision and accomplishment. A Bexley relative recalled that the retail stores of "Uncle Anson," Bond Clothes, were in 25 cities in 1928 when he sold the chain. A super-salesman in a Rolls Royce—another relative's description—who made and lost three fortunes. If Columbus could have kept Mayor Bond to work on its problems!

Mayor Bond, 34 years old at the time, stated in his only political campaign here, that he would be a mayor "of all the people." There were billboard warnings: "Don't be fooled by false issues." The clothing merchant promised that as mayor he would "work for a broader and bigger Columbus." Mayor Bond was backed by the Liberal League as well as the Republican organization.

**IT THEN** was realized that Columbus was headed for greater destiny. Planning had been started for a metropolis. Water and sewerage needs of the future seemed gigantic. Much of Mayor Bond's time was consumed by planning as the city grew toward the 1910 population of 181,511.

He lived at 44 Wilson-av when mayor. His first retail location had been at 237 S. High-st. By 1908 the Bond store was at Gay-st and High, and the mayor was president of C. A. Bond & Co. His name, Bond Clothes, still is at 43 N. High — but the store is empty.

**AS A** Clevelander, Bond lived in the biggest mansion on Lake Shore-dr, the house overlooking where Rocky River enters Lake Erie. In due time, he bought 12 weekly newspapers in Ohio, said Jack Morehouse, a nephew, and had headquarters for them here.

Bond later lived in New England, also owned a pecan plantation near Cordele, Ga. His promotions included super free-ways for over-the-road trucks only (the



**Charles Anson Bond**

Pennsylvania Turnpike followed) and the former Columbus mayor was planning a chain of hotels along the Atlantic Coast long before Holiday Inns came.

**A MAN** who knew Bond well gave him this compliment: "I try to avoid him; he always sells me something."

His final home was a historic Warrenton, Va., estate near Washington D. C. He is buried in Green Lawn Cemetery, as are both of his wives. Their maiden names were Blanche Hull and Lelia Keys. Mayor Bond's parents were David W. and Louisa Krone Bond.

**GERARD BOND** of Cleveland and Ft. Lauderdale is Mayor Bond's son. Gerard's sister is Mrs. W. C. Calhoun of Sumner, Md. Anson Jr., another son, went to Hollywood a long time ago to make movies, and today his whereabouts is a mystery to local relatives.

Mayor Bond's nieces of the Columbus area are Mrs. Richard T. Rector, Mrs. Ray Zettler and Mrs. Herbert Price.

# George S. Marshall 1910-11

Thirty-fifth in a series of 44

George S. Marshall (1869-1956) was the 35th mayor of Columbus, and in his single term during 1910 and 1911 Mayor Marshall shook up the city (population 181,000) more than any other person ever did.

The vigorous lawyer carried the Republican ticket with him in a "reform" landslide. The party's glee club sang: "Let George Do It!" and The Columbus Citizen called his big-margin victory "a rebuke to machine politics."

**DAILY NEWSPAPERS**, in congratulating Mayor-elect Marshall, apparently did not expect him to be all he turned out to be. Previously reform had been advocated but gradually achieved.

Municipal ownership of utilities, smoke abatement, elimination of overhead wires, taxes on interurban rail lines, elimination of long-tolerated vice districts were among Marshall's aims, according to Osman C. Hooper, Columbus historian.

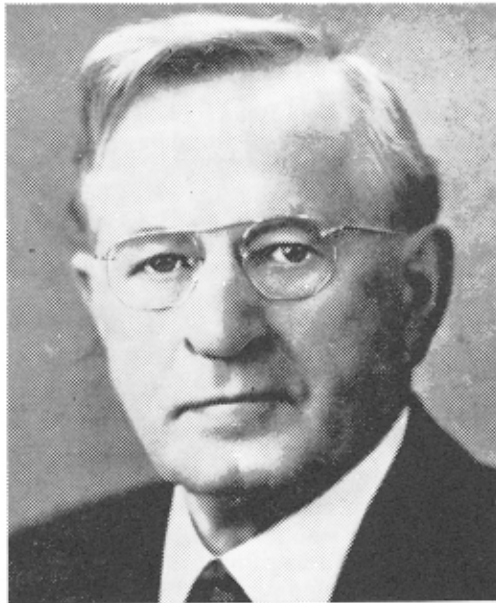
**IN HIS** second year, Mayor Marshall reported to City Council that civic betterment had been achieved: Cleaner streets and alleys, closing of the Seventh-st vice area, effective enforcement of Sunday and midnight closing ordinances for saloons.

"No administration could undertake so much without treading on corns," Hooper commented. "The program was nothing short of revolutionary."

**MAYOR MARSHALL**, allied with cultural and religious organizations, wanted to continue as a reform mayor. But Democrats brought back Mayor George J. Karb who nudged out Marshall, then returned the city to customary "easy" ways.

Marshall first entered Columbus government in 1898 as a councilman from the OSU campus area. He soon discovered (he wrote later) that "brewers and other liquor interests and the public-service corporations dominated the life of the city . . . the spoils system ruled most everywhere."

Failure of Mayor Marshall's re-election bid was ascribed to combined factors — the Karb charisma, the Marshall reforms, also a street-car strike in 1910. Troops were in the city to try to preserve



George S. Marshall

order, and that undoubtedly cost Mayor Marshall votes.

**MAYOR MARSHALL**, one of seven children, was born four miles southwest of Corning. He was a rural teacher before getting two Ohio State University degrees. He passed the bar in 1896. Three years later Marshall became an assistant city attorney. He was elected city attorney later, and held the position during the administrations of both Mayor Badger and Mayor Bond.

Mayor Marshall's first home in Columbus was at Neil and Ninth avenues. When elected mayor he lived at 217 W. 11th-av. The Marshall home later was at 221 Oakland Park-av. Mrs. Marshall's maiden name was Alice Badgley; the family was long affiliated with North Broadway United Methodist Church.

**COMMON PLEAS** Judge George B. Marshall is Mayor Marshall's son. Judge Marshall's sisters are Mrs. Richard W. Gordon of 600 Glenmont-av, Mrs. Lehman U. Hollinger of Wooster and Mrs. Edward V. Greaf of Pittsburgh.

Mayor Marshall, upon leaving City Hall, practiced law here for 34 years. Following his retirement in 1946 he wrote a book, "The History of Music in Columbus, Ohio."

# James J. Thomas 1920-31

*Thirty-sixth in a series of 44*

James J. Thomas, the 36th mayor of Columbus, served the city well for 12 years, a longer uninterrupted tenure than any other mayor before or since. He served three consecutive four-year terms.

He was inaugurated Jan. 1, 1920, and apparently turned out to be just what the city, weary from World War One and in the economic doldrums following the war, needed. Mayor Thomas ushered in an era of quiet city building and development, including a new City Hall and Central Police Station and the beginnings of Port Columbus.

**DESPITE THE** depressed economy, the early twenties were marked by general optimism. Opha Moore in his "History of Franklin County," describes the prevailing atmosphere of the times. Franklin County suffered rather less than the average U.S. community, he wrote.

A wide diversity of comparatively small industries and the presence of state government with necessarily large local expenditures tended to ease an otherwise distressing condition, Moore wrote. He noted another major factor.

**"IN ADDITION,** we have witnessed an enormous diversion of capital and expenditure from usual channels to the automobile industry and the purchase of cars necessary to put the entire country on wheels. Incidentally, some billions of dollars have been required from the taxpayers to build the roads on which to wear out the automobiles purchased and keep the manufacturers busy making new and more expensive ones."

Such was the scene when Thomas took over as mayor. He operated quietly, shunning controversy where possible but moving steadily ahead. The old City Hall, which stood where the Ohio Theater now stands on E. State-st burned during Thomas' second year as mayor.

**CITY GOVERNMENT** was forced to find quarters around the city where space was available. The mayor moved into the public library as he laid the corner stone for a new City Hall which was opened seven years later in 1928.

Thomas defeated George J. Karb for his first term as mayor in the November, 1919 election—first election in which



**James J. Thomas**

women voted. He promised relief from traffic congestion, a city planning group and additional recreational facilities.

**THOMAS WAS** born at Wrexham in Denbyshire, North Wales, in 1868. He was brought to the United States by his parents when he was one year old.

As a teenager he sold newspapers at Broad and High streets, then worked in machine shops and factories. Later he became a messenger for the old United States Express Co. and worked his way up to agent in charge of the Columbus district.

**HE WAS ONLY** 29 years old when elected to his first public office—Columbus City Council. He served two terms and was Council president during the last term.

The idea of a civic center for downtown Columbus was advocated by Mayor Thomas. First of many buildings he envisioned as part of the civic complex was Central High School, with the new City Hall and police headquarters and new state office buildings to follow.

**DURING THOMAS'** long incumbency, the city electric light plant was greatly improved, one great intercepting sewer was built and the entire sewer system extended and made more serviceable.

He was a Republican, a Mason and member of the Knights of Pythias.

# Henry William Worley 1932-35

*Thirty-seventh in a series of 44*

Henry William Worley, a native of England who was brought to America by his parents when he was 7 years old, topped a career of public service to Columbus by winning election as the city's 37th mayor in 1932.

Politically he was a liberal Democrat and embraced the New Deal philosophy when it came into ascendancy with the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt as president. He served for 10 years on City Council before running for mayor. His 14 years of service on council and as mayor were marked with frequent battles with the utilities over rates.

**WORLEY WAS** born in Battersea, a suburb of London, April 9, 1877. He came with his family to New York in 1884 and lived there until the Spanish-American War broke out. After military service during the war, he came to Columbus to make his home.

He learned carpentry as a youth and became active in the labor union movement. Throughout his political career he espoused the causes of the working class. Elected to his first term in City Council in 1922, he led a fight for low gas rates and supporters claim his efforts were largely responsible for savings to gas consumers estimated as high as \$10 million.

**IN THE HARD** times of the recession, he was the first mayor to establish cash relief. Through his efforts Columbus took advantage of New Deal programs. Among them was a huge Public Works Administration program in the city.

A \$1 million city light plant expansion brought him into conflict with the utilities. His opponents went to court to obtain injunctions, but he managed to increase the earnings of the municipal light plant some \$350,000 a year and used the funds to cut taxes.

**HE CLASHED** with the electric utility again over proposed hikes in street car fares. Worley charged that he was threatened with political extinction if he did not go along with a street car fare boost of at least two cents.



He also charged that he was promised support for mayor if he'd "listen to reason" on a street car fare hike. In council, he served on the Utilities Committee. As president of council, he put through a resolution pledging council to fight against any street car fare increase not arrived at by the franchise route. He fought for a five-year franchise with a flexible car fare balanced by reducing domestic residential electric rates.

**WHEN HE WAS** in City Hall both as councilman and mayor, there were few dull moments. In 1928 he was on a committee which probed charges of drinking, immorality and bootlegging in City Hall.

Worley lived at 2286 Indianola-av and owned an organ factory at 694 E. First-av. He built and installed church organs, some of them still in use. He also built homes.

# Myron B. Gessaman 1936-39

*Thirty-eighth in a series of 44*

Myron B. Gessaman, the 38th mayor of Columbus, served in a difficult era for city governments generally—the late depression years. He was mayor from 1936 through 1939, when he lost a bid for a second term in a bitter and highly controversial campaign.

He was born in Youngstown, O., Oct. 15, 1894, son of George D. and Frances L. Gessaman. At crucial times in his life, he has been able to turn apparent defeat into victory and go on to higher things. In 1921, he came to Columbus because he lost out on a job offer.

**WITHIN A YEAR**, he was an assistant Columbus city attorney. Thirteen years later he was mayor of Columbus. Defeated for a second term, he bounced back to become a judge of the Franklin County Common Pleas Court, where he served for more than 30 years.

Judge Gessaman's experience was broad. He won a bachelor's degree from Western Reserve University and had entered law school when the United States entered World War One. He joined the U. S. Army Ambulance Service and served as an ambulance driver in Italy, carrying the wounded of St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne battles to hospitals.

**AFTER THE** armistice he remained for evacuation duty then served in Germany with the Army of Occupation. Back in Ohio, he pursued the study of law and was admitted to the bar in 1919.

From 1923-28 he was an assistant city attorney, an assistant Franklin County prosecutor from 1928 to 1931, then ran for the Ohio House of Representatives and served in the General Assembly from 1933 to 1935. He was majority floor leader for the Republican majority in 1935. He went on to serve four years as mayor and was elected to the Common Pleas bench in 1943. Thus, his experience covered all three branches of government—administrative, judicial and legislative.



Myron B. Gessaman

**AS MAYOR**, Gessaman instituted a program of strict traffic regulation and law enforcement. In 1938 the death toll from traffic accidents dropped by 58 and the number of injuries by 1,141.

Gambling, particularly the so-called "numbers racket," was rampant throughout the United States during the depression years. Columbus did not escape this national craze. Gambling became the hottest issue in the 1939 campaign. Foes charged gambling flourished under Mayor Gessaman. He replied with figures showing that during his administration, gambling arrests by city police increased nearly ten-fold as the city waged a relentless war against the gamblers. In 1938, 4,752 arrests were made for gambling.

During his administration, the city's bonded indebtedness was cut about in half, although the city had the lowest tax rate of any of Ohio's seven largest cities. Despite chronic fund shortages that plagued U. S. cities during the depression, progress was made toward improving sewers, water lines, playgrounds and parks.

# Floyd F. Green

1940-43

Thirty-ninth in a series of 44

Floyd F. Green, the 39th mayor of Columbus, presided over the city during the years of World War II.

Use of the word colorful to describe public figures, especially political figures, has become trite but there certainly was nothing drab and colorless about the city's 39th mayor. Handsome and personable, he is remembered for the aggressive political battles he waged and the way he fought back against political foes who charged he was soft on gambling and failed to live up to campaign promises.

**CITIES ACROSS** the nation were on notoriously short rations during World War II and Columbus was no exception. In one campaign Green coined the slogan, "Get out of the red with Green."

The fact that Green genuinely liked people proved a political asset. An unusual way of shaking hands to convey genuine warmth became a trade mark of his campaigning style. The late Michael "Mike" Desmond, political reporter for the old Columbus Citizen dubbed it a "double-barreled handshake."

"**SIMPLE BUT** effective," Desmond wrote. "Grasp stranger's right hand firmly with your right hand. Grasp stranger's right elbow or forearm with your left hand. Stir vigorously. Serve warm to everyone you meet."

He was born on Denmead-av in Columbus, son of a railroader, worked his way through school and business college selling newspapers and clothing, tried his hand at being a railroad clerk for awhile, joined Seibert and Milburn Co. and Kilbourne and Jacobs Manufacturing Co. as a salesman and served as district manager for the Southwestern Portland Cement Co. He gravitated to politics and served on City Council from 1927 to 1931.

**COLUMBUS HAD** become known as an "open city" in the late 1930's, with gambling and vice flourishing. Gambling was the major issue in the campaign of 1939 which saw Green and another Republican, Myron B. Gessaman, pitted against each other in a hectic battle. Green used the issue effectively but himself became the target of critics when he became mayor early in 1940.

Leaders of the Franklin County Ministerial Association confronted him in an open meeting with charges that gambling



Floyd F. Green

had gone from bad to worse under his administration and demanded a relentless city drive against it.

**GREEN REPLIED** by appealing to the ministers to help him educate the people of Columbus against gambling.

"We'll levy the fines and you tell your people not to gamble," Green told the ministers.

He pointed to church-affiliated groups and their bingo games and warned that when gambling went it would all have to go. Hundreds of thousands of dollars annually were being collected in fines for gambling and helped the city in its financial plight.

**A RISING** young political star eclipsed Green's career. He ran for reelection after the war-time term and was defeated by another Republican, James A. Rhodes, the city auditor who now is governor of Ohio. Green tried again for mayor in 1947 but lost the primary. Refusing to admit defeat he ran as an insurgent Republican and won a place on the ballot, but went down to defeat when the full power of the county GOP machine was placed behind Rhodes.

Death came unexpectedly for Green. He collapsed and died of a cerebral hemorrhage in a Newark restaurant Jan. 12, 1952. He was 52.

# James A. Rhodes 1944-52

*Fortieth in a series of 44*

James Allen Rhodes, Columbus' 40th mayor, is a classic true life example of the old Horatio Alger stories.

He was born into poverty at Coalton, O., Sept. 13, 1909. His father was a coal miner at a time in history when mining coal was at the bottom of the economic ladder. Rhodes' father died when he was eight years old, leaving him as "the man of the family" to help his mother rear two sisters.

**DETERMINATION**, native intelligence and hard work carried Jim Rhodes to the pinnacle of politics in Ohio. He now sits in the governor's seat for the second time.

The mayor's seat was the apex of political achievement for most Columbus mayors. To Rhodes, it was a step on the way up. As a young man, he chose politics as a career and worked his way up from the ranks in the Republican Party.

**ALTHOUGH IT** seemed apparent early in his political career that he was destined for greater offices, Rhodes never stinted any of the lesser posts he held.

His boyhood was a struggle for economic survival and he worked at selling newspapers as an errand boy and at anything he could pick up to help his mother while attending elementary school. The family moved to Springfield, where he attended high school. The family pinched pennies to help him enroll in Ohio State University.

**RHODES BECAME** interested in politics during the depression when the Republican Party was floundering after the defeat of Herbert Hoover and advent of the New Deal. He won his first election victory at 25, becoming committeeman of Columbus' 16th Ward.

Reelected committeeman in 1936 he won a seat on the Columbus Board of Education a year later. In 1939 he defeated T. Blaine Holloway, a veteran Democratic campaigner, for Columbus city auditor. He was reelected two years later, 2 to 1.

**HE CAMPAIGNED** for mayor in 1943 when he was 33 years old. His platform was good government, restoration of abandoned city services and a return to



**James A. Rhodes**

solvency for a city almost \$4 million in the red. Given only an outside chance of defeating incumbent Floyd F. Green, he won by a 2 to 1 margin in the primary and went on to defeat the late Sheriff Jacob E. Sandusky 41,000 to 28,000 in the general election. At 34, he was the youngest mayor of a major United States city.

He promptly carried out campaign promises. Rhodes cracked down on crime and gambling, put the city on a pay as go basis and wiped out the debts, expanded police and fire departments and set up a watch dog system on expenditures.

**IN 1947**, he won reelection--first mayor to do so in 20 years. Much of his effort was promoting Columbus as a good place to live and work.

A major achievement of his second term as mayor was approval by the voters of a one half of 1 per cent city income tax.

Mayor Rhodes was reelected to a third term, then almost immediately started a statewide campaign for the position of auditor of Ohio. Ohio voters accepted him, so Mayor Rhodes did not serve three full terms in City Hall.



# Robert T. Oestreicher 1953

Forty-first in a series of 44

Robert Theodore Oestreicher, the 41st mayor of Columbus, was primarily a businessman. His interest in the civic welfare of his community led him to the avocation of politics.

He was born Feb. 28, 1894, in Nelsonville, O., first-born of William and Catherine Oestreicher, and moved to Columbus with his family while still a pre-schooler. His father was born in Columbus.

**EARLY IN LIFE** Robert was fascinated by the new horseless carriages. As a teenager, he went to work at the Howe Motor Co., first Ford dealer in Columbus, located on S. Fourth-st near Fulton-st.

He attended St. Mary's School in German Village where the family lived. Beyond that, he was largely self-educated. He completed mail order courses in automotive maintenance and other subjects. He spent his life in the automobile business. He was associated with the K. J. Miller Co., Main and Third streets, later Miller-Van Dorn, and later formed a partnership with the late Steve Fanley. He formed his own Dodge-Plymouth dealership at 447 E. Main-st after World War II.

**IN HIS MID-20's** he became interested in the South Side Civic Association, serving as its president. That led to running for Columbus City Council. He was president of Council when the then Mayor James A. Rhodes was elected state auditor and succeeded to the office of mayor. He was defeated in the following election by M. E. Sensenbrenner in a close election. Fewer than 400 votes separated the two, about one vote per precinct. Oestreicher's health was failing at the time, and he was unable to conduct a vigorous campaign.

He served 11 months as mayor.

A son, Robert G. Oestreicher, was the first Columbus airman in World War II to win the Distinguished Service Cross for action in the Battle of the Coral Sea. His first wife, Arline, died in 1936. Their son, Robert, has been associated with Beech Aircraft Co. in Wichita, Kan., for a number of years.

**HIS SECOND** wife, Jane, lives at 287



Robert T. Oestreicher

Georgesville-rd. They had two children, Michael and Lynne. Fred Oestreicher, the publicist, of 47 W. Tulane, is a brother to the late mayor, who died in February of 1955 at the age of 60.

During his public service he devoted much time and energy to expansion of airport facilities and health services. One of his ideas was an early forerunner of today's recreational vehicles. In the early 20s he built a vehicle he called a Kamp Car.

**IT WAS MOUNTED** on a Ford one and a half ton truck chassis and had many of today's camper features, including upper and lower Pullman berths, built-in sink and stove, clothes closets and cabinets. He took his family on an adventurous trip to northern Michigan in 1924 in the Kamp Car.

Oestreicher spent much time at the old Columbus Driving Park at E. Livingston-av and Kelton-av watching such dare-devils as Eddie Rickenbacker, Barney Oldfield and Louis Chevrolet in their 60-mile-an-hour feats. When the park became a real estate development in the mid-20s, Oestreicher was one of its first homeowners. He lived at 921 Kelton-av at Sycamore-st, later moving to Eastmoor.

# M. E. Sensenbrenner 1954-59, 1964-71

Forty-second in a series of 44

Maynard Edward (Jack) Sensenbrenner carved a unique niche in Columbus history as its 42nd mayor.

He served 14 years, longer than any other mayor, with one four-year interruption. His program of annexing territory more than tripled the city's size, making it proof against the suburban strangulation that has hampered development of so many American metropolitan cities. He brought fame to Columbus as the All-American City.

**HE SUCCESSFULLY** set the city on its way to becoming a great American metropolis and a favored place to work and live.

Through it all, he was probably closer to the people as a personality than any other mayor - gaining the same kind of affection as Fiorello La Guardia won from New Yorkers earlier.

**HE WAS BORN** in Circleville, O., Sept. 18, 1902, one of twin sons born to Ed Sensenbrenner, the town's jeweler, watchmaker and Edison phonograph dealer, and Anna Lama Sensenbrenner.

After attending Circleville High School he went to California where he worked for the Los Angeles Times and held other jobs. Jack recalls that during the depression, he stood in long lines with thousands of other unemployed men waiting for laboring jobs at \$2 a day. He returned to Ohio in the mid-thirties, working as a salesman, for the state, and then going into business for himself.

**OVER THE** years, his work with the Boy Scouts and other youth movements and his wide range of church activities including teaching of the city's largest Sunday School class, brought him into contact with thousands of people. These contacts led him to enter politics and win the mayor's office in a lively 1953 campaign. He took office for a two-year unexpired term in 1954 and served until the end of 1959, losing the office to Ralston Westlake. He came back to win it again four years later and served two terms.

Sensenbrenner's era brought a series of solid achievements to his city. Parks and recreation areas and facilities were



M. E. Sensenbrenner

greatly expanded. He added more policemen to the safety department than in the 20 years preceding his incumbency. His administrations saw hefty increases in public housing, particularly for senior citizens. He probably received more awards than any other mayor, including best mayor in the country.

**BUT IT** is in the realm of the spirit of leadership that he is best remembered. The term "spizzerinctum" for the ultimate in get-up-and-go became a household word. Everything great to him was "dynamic." A West Side flood in 1959 cost him the election and forced him to sit out a four-year term before a comeback.

A story about this defeat illustrates Sensenbrenner's sense of humor, even when the joke was on himself. The Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored a train trip around the city. The train passed Dry Run Levee, which had burst in 1959 and cost him the election. The mayor leaned over the side of the car and shook his fist at the stream and levee.

"You daggone, stinkin' little stream. You cost me an election," he quipped to the delight of his fellow passengers.

# Ralston Westlake 1960-63

Forty-third in a series of 44

Floods played a fateful role in the life of Columbus' 43rd mayor - Wallace Ralston Westlake.

As an impressionable child of six years, he experienced the 1913 flood. And it might be said that he rode into office as mayor on the crest of the 1959 flood which ravaged much of the west side of Columbus where he was born and has spent his life. This flood resulted when the Dry Run levee broke after repeated heavy rains and was generally credited with being a major factor in Westlake's unseating of Maynard E. Sensenbrenner, also a Columbus Hilltop resident at the time. Westlake's father was a member of City Council at the time of the 1913 flood, representing the Hilltop area, and the serious impact of floods on their victims was brought home with great force upon the little boy.



W. Ralston Westlake

**WESTLAKE WAS** born in 1907 at 217 Highland-av and has lived all of his life on the Hilltop. He married Helen Siegwald, from the old German section of southern Columbus in 1933, and they now live at 3300 W. Broad-st, in semi-retirement. The former mayor continues to operate his fine glassware business from a studio back of his home.

He inherited his affinity for the glass business and politics from his father, Milton W. Westlake, a native of Bellaire, O., who moved to Columbus as a young man and served for many years as city councilman and county commissioner.

**A LIFE LONG** Republican, Ralston Westlake was elected to Council in 1955 and began his term in 1956. Sensenbrenner was mayor during Westlake's term on Council. The Democrat's ambitious annexation program had run into some opposition from people who complained that the new areas of the city were not being provided with adequate city services, particularly water and sewers. And the 1959 flood provided Westlake with the campaign issue he needed to unseat the popular but controversial Sensenbrenner.

Among Westlake's campaign pledges were rebuilding the Dry Run levee and setting up a system to monitor it to guard against future floods, and extension of water and sewer services into some of the recently annexed areas.

**HE COUNTED** some 75 miles of new sewer mains and miles of new water lines among major accomplishments of his four years in office, along with new recreation and senior citizens centers, electric rate reductions, street improvements, three new parks and a long range park land purchase program. A second sewage disposal plant was started and the police department brought up to full strength. The German Village Commission which regulated the restoration of an entire section of the city was started during his administration. He lost his bid for a second term as Sensenbrenner rebounded into office.

Vigorous and active at 68, he retains his interest in politics, but "only as an observer."

# Tom Moody

1972—

*Last in a series of 44*

Tom Moody, Columbus' 44th mayor, is now in the final year of his first four-year term as the city's chief executive.

He came to the office with an impressive educational and experience background.

**THE 45-YEAR-OLD** mayor was born and reared on the South Side, where he attended the public schools. He received the juris doctor degree from Capital University, Franklin Law School, in 1966 after obtaining his LL.B. from Franklin University Law School in 1956. He graduated summa cum laude from Ohio State University College of Commerce with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1954.

He left private law practice to run successfully for Franklin County Municipal Court, serving two terms, and was elected judge of the Franklin County Common Pleas Court in 1968.

**HE SERVED ON** City Council from 1961 to 1963 and was 28th Ward Republican committeeman from 1958 to 1963.

For two years he was a special agent of the U. S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps, lectured at Franklin University Law School from 1958 to 1960 and at Franklin Law School, Capital University, from 1968 to 1970.

**MOODY RECALLS** that he decided to become a lawyer when he was eight years old and never wavered in the resolve. Election to the judgeship was the frosting on this cake. He felt the judiciary was the pinnacle of the legal profession and found judgeship richly rewarding in prestige and the regard of his fellow lawyers. He got a 98 per cent rating in the Columbus Bar Association preference poll.

But he saw major changes shaping up in society and wanted to be more active in the shaping. Judges pass on accomplished facts, and he felt a compelling urge to play a larger role in decisions before and during the events that shape the future.

**MOODY HAS NOT** been disappointed with the action role he chose. He feels he



**Tom Moody**

has been able to deal very well with some of the problems the administration faced and freely admits improvement is needed in some areas. He feels the Moody administration has made definite progress in improving the structure of municipal government and its ability to perform.

He views the solid waste power plant project now under way as a major achievement that will improve the quality of life in Columbus in the years ahead. The plant will burn 75 per cent solid waste and 25 per cent coal to produce electric power. This will save land that would have to be used for landfill, provide power for more street lighting, salvage metals and other materials, save trash collection and disposal costs and reduce the overall cost of government, in his view.

Many complex problems face modern municipalities, as he sees it, but basic to them all is that of how to effectively utilize the community's main resource, its people, for their highest well-being and achievement.

