

Shannon Rodgers mourned

KSU benefactor worked tirelessly for school, museum

By Dotty Lane
Record Courier fashion editor

Shannon Rodgers, who, with his late partner, Jerry Silverman, was responsible for bringing the Kent State University Museum to Kent and for establishing the Shannon Rodgers/Jerry Silverman School of Fashion Design and Merchandising at Kent State, died Tuesday at Robinson Memorial Hospital in Ravenna, where he had been a patient for one day following a bout with double pneumonia. He was 85.



Rodgers

The KSU museum and fashion school, which have captured national attention, were made possible by the generosity of the talented designer and his longtime business partner.

When he retired from his New York business, "Jerry Silverman & Shannon Rodgers," Rodgers

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Rodgers was devoted to KSU

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made the KSU Museum his second career. He served as associate director, creative director and curator of the facility, which opened in October 1985.

He worked tirelessly to make the facilities at KSU the best in the country and an unequalled opportunity for students, something that was not available during his career.

KSU President Carol Cartwright paid tribute to the university benefactor as "an inspiration to Kent State University."

"Those of us who have had the privilege of knowing him have been awed by his talent, his endless energy and his caring for students. Our Kent family embraced him and he embraced us. We cherish both the man and the living legacy he created in this vibrant environment that will always be a tribute to him. We will miss him."

Born Aug. 3, 1910 in Newcomerstown, Ohio, Rodgers took great pride in his ancestry, which he could trace to Jonathan Chapman, who became known as Johnny Appleseed. Even as a child on the family farm, "Buckhorn," he spent his time with a pencil and a pad, sketching whatever he saw.

His family commuted between Newcomerstown and Cleveland and he was educated as an architect at Western Reserve Cleveland School of Art and spent much of his time at the Cleveland Play House. One of his teachers saw his potential and suggested he take his talent to New York City.

His first drafting job there was with the Bergman Studios in Manhattan, coincidentally founded by a fellow Newcomerstown native. Those were Depression days and when he observed his co-workers crossing Seventh Avenue to moonlight as fashion sketchers, he said to himself "If they can do it, I can do it."

After a day at the studio and four hours of sketching, he would hustle to the Metropolitan Opera House where he was a "super," carrying a spear and leading a horse on stage. "I knew every opera presented there," he said. After that he began designing costumes for Broadway shows.

It was his work on Katherine Hepburn's first Broadway play, "Warrior's Husband," that caught the eye of Hollywood producer Cecil B. DeMille, who induced Rodgers to go to Hollywood to work on the costumes for his upcoming movie, "Cleopatra." There he would stay for almost a decade, dressing the major stars of the day including Barbara Stanwyck, Loretta Young, Dinah Shore, Mary Astor and others.

World War II came and, for the next five years, he was in the U.S. Army Transport Ser-



The Shannon Rodgers/Jerry Silverman show presented at Kent State University in 1982 was only the first of the spectacular presentations the two "gentle men of 7th Avenue" in New York, Shannon Rodgers, left, and Jerry Silverman, right, would bring to the university. With the two men is Nan McCann, producer of the show and, at that time, director of the Higbee Co. in Cleveland.

vice, bringing soldiers back and forth between United States, Europe, the South Pacific and Asia.

When the war was over, he decided to stay in New York. It was there that he met and was hired by Jerry Silverman, a Harvard Law School graduate who had given up his career as an attorney to run the fashion House of Martini. When Rodgers' designs outsold others there, the two men decided to go in business on their own. That was in 1959.

Under the label "Jerry Silverman by Shannon Rodgers" the two had one of the most successful women's clothing establishments in New York. The beautiful, wearable, understated dresses and suits that seemed to please the most discriminating women were designed by Rodgers and sold by Silverman.

The business flourished beyond their expectations. Their clothes were preferred by Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon and other celebrities of the day. They created personal wardrobes for many Hollywood and Broadway stars, as well.

But Rodgers' love of beauty did not stop with designing. He had an eye that was able to capture detail of every beautiful thing at a glance and a memory that stored it all. As he and Silverman traveled the world, they brought back a treasure trove of furniture, jewels and objects d'art.

He loved to tell the story that he was introduced to the beauty in period costumes by attending an "acquisition day" for the Victoria and Albert Museum in

London. The curator warned him of what he had in store. "It's worse than dope," she told him. "One leads to two, two leads to four." He was hooked. When he retired in 1977, he had collected more than 4,000 pieces which are the core of the current KSU Museum collection, which is housed in Rockwell Hall.

When it was time to retire, the men wanted to direct their accumulated treasures and their fortune toward training young people for tomorrow. Both had worked hard to further the industry and upgrade conditions in the New York garment district. Rodgers served on the board of many philanthropic organizations as well as the Fashion Institute of Technology and taught at the Parsons School of Design.

He brought his costumes and his fall "Jerry Silverman" collection to Kent for a show in the late 1970s and both Rodgers and Silverman fell in love with the people and the school in Kent.

In the early 1980s, when Rodgers was presented the Ohio Governor's Award, he and KSU President Brage Golding sat on the dais together. When Golding mentioned the word "curriculum" in connection with a museum, Silverman and Rodgers decided to bring their collections to Kent.

Thomas Barber, dean of the College of Fine and Professional Arts, under which the fashion school operates, paid tribute to Rodgers as "a world class citizen," connoisseur of the arts and "a gracious and generous benefactor."

Rodgers captured the hearts of everyone he met, regaling them with his stories of meeting famous dignitaries such as the Dalai Lama, Gore Vidal, Prince and Princess Michael of Kent and Douglas Fairbanks Jr., to name only a few, and his travels around the world.

After his partner died in 1984, Rodgers made Kent his permanent home and worked tirelessly to create amazingly beautiful displays at the new museum. His name brought the bigwigs of the fashion world to Kent including Eleanor Lambert, Mary McFadden, Pat Kerr, Pauline Trigere and others. Each went away overwhelmed by what they saw and pledging support for the facility which bears the name of their friends, Shannon Rodgers and Jerry Silverman.

Rodgers served as an adjunct professor at the fashion school and was the first inductee of its Hall of Fame in 1989. He received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from KSU in 1985.

He received many awards but the one of which he is most proud is the BAMBI Award bestowed by his peers. He was a member of the Costume Society of America and associated with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum and the Museum of the City of New York.

Memorials may be made to the KSU Museum or to the Shannon Rodgers Scholarship Fund, Rockwell Hall, Kent State University Kent, Ohio 44242. A memorial service for Rodgers will be held at a later date.

Obituaries

Designer Shannon Rodgers Dead at 85

NEW YORK — Shannon Rodgers, a designer whose gregarious spirit was captured in his lively party dresses, died Tuesday at Ravena Memorial Hospital in Ravena, Ohio, after a bout with double pneumonia.

He was 85 and lived in Kent, Ohio, where he devoted his retirement years to the Kent State University Museum, a fashion gallery and archive that he founded with his longtime business partner, the late Jerry Silverman.

Rodgers was the design half of the team of the powerhouse dress company Jerry Silverman Inc., a manufacturer known for dresses and suits and for many Miss Bergdorf creations in the Sixties and Seventies. In addition to the fashion museum, Rodgers and Silverman also established the Shannon Rodgers/Jerry Silverman School of Fashion Design and Merchandising at Kent State.

Rodgers was remembered by Seventh Avenue Tuesday as a jolly, spirited designer who had an eye for detail, who loved to cook, and who was passionate about the museum he founded. His name was not mentioned without reference to Silverman, who died in 1984 at the age of 76.

They were also known for their parties, which they threw in adjoining duplex apartments atop the Mayfair Hotel, overlooking Central Park.

Bill Blass said Rodgers was "big, blustering, modest and quite civilized."

Thorough his association with Jerry Silverman, Blass said, "They made a breakthrough in smart, moderate-price clothing. That was certainly a contribution to American fashion. But perhaps what they'll be best remembered for is collecting fashion and clothes and books to donate to the museum at Kent State."

"Shannon had a great sense of humor, he was a great storyteller, and he was a great party-giver and party-goer," Stan Herman, president of the Council of Fashion Designers of America, recalled Tuesday. "His designs represented a very happy and commercial spirit."

Herman said Rodgers, in using design elements from Europe, "made Paris acceptable for Americans, and set the tone for Seventh Avenue for a good 15 years."

Raphael B. Malsin

NEW YORK — Raphael B. Malsin, former longtime head of Lane Bryant, died Friday at his home in Harrison, N.Y., at age 95.

The special-size chain was started by his mother, and Malsin became its chief executive officer in 1938. He held the post until 1972 but remained a director.

The company was later involved in bitter litigation between Malsin and his half-brother, Arthur Malsin, and in 1982, the chain was sold to The Limited, which continues to operate it as a separate unit.

Malsin was a past chairman of the National Retail Merchants Association, now known as the National Retail Federation.

Surviving are his wife, Elaine; three sons, Steve, Peter and Scott, and a daughter, Amy.

But Rodgers was best known for his fun party dresses, like poodle and umbrella skirts, in which he used plaids, ruffles and taffeta, he said.

Richard Martin, curator of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute, said Rodgers had a keen ability to look at fashion in terms of elements.

Recalled Martin, formerly curator of the Fashion Institute of Technology's galleries, "We once did a show of Balenciaga at FIT, and he walked through it with me, pointing out details that he had used in his creations. He never copied a full design from Paris, but he took individual pieces of Paris fashion and made

them work in dresses for Americans."

Former Bergdorf Goodman chairman Ira Neimark said, "Shannon and Jerry Silverman were a great team. At one time they were a major resource for Bergdorf Goodman, and one of the first major resources for Miss Bergdorf Dresses."

Rodgers was born in Newcomerstown, Ohio, and often noted he was the great-great-nephew of Jonathan Chapman, who became known as Johnny Appleseed. He graduated as an architect from Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

He came to New York, landed a job on Broadway drafting sets

for the stage, got a taste of costume design, and eventually a Hollywood contract with Cecil B. DeMille. He created costumes for such films as "Cleopatra."

He served in the U.S. Army Transport Service for five years during and after World War II, then he returned to New York, where he got a job at the House of Martini, a dress company. It was there that he met Silverman, who was running the business. In 1959, with a third partner, Sheldon Landau, they formed Jerry Silverman Inc., a dress firm. Silverman was the selling force, Rodgers designed and Landau was the production head.

Under the label Jerry Silver-

man by Shannon Rodgers, they built one of the most successful houses on Seventh Avenue, and it was generating about \$15 million by 1970.

In 1970, the company was bought by Warnaco. Rodgers and Silverman stayed on until they retired in 1980 and 1981, respectively. Warnaco sold the division in 1981 to a group of private investors, and it eventually closed.

Rodgers and Silverman founded the museum at Kent State in the early Eighties.

Rodgers had no immediate survivors, and he is to be cremated. Plans for a memorial service at Kent State were not complete.

— Dianne M. Pogoda

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CHICAGO APPAREL CENTER AT WORLD TRADE CENTER CHICAGO

A reputation for stories

Area woman has a talent for remembering anecdotes

BY IRIS FRUCHEY
Newcomerstown News

It's evident Marjorie Randles is a good friend to many people. When she celebrated her 87th birthday on July 17, she received 87 birthday cards and well over 30 telephone calls.

Mrs. Randles, who lives on Co. Road 21 south of Newcomerstown, has a reputation for her quick wit and has several anecdotes about her earlier years in the Newcomerstown area.

One story is about the ice house that the Buckhorn farmers built many years ago.

As the story goes, "according to Grandpa Gardner", the Buckhorn Valley farmers joined together in the fall and built a 40x60 log building, using 12-inch thick logs and cementing them together with mud. The only opening was a heavy plank door on one end which was large enough to permit a team of horses to pull a sled load of ice into the building.

While one group of farmers took their ice saws and cut ice blocks from the Buckhorn Creek, the other farmers went to the sawmill and got

sawdust. Then the work began, as blocks of ice and sawdust were layered in this building. The building was completely filled and tightly sealed.

When spring came, those farmers who helped with the project were welcome to come and make use of the ice.

Marjorie's grandparents, John and Martha Gardner, had a "jersey dairy" farm, and Grandma Gardner drove the wagon through the streets of Newcomerstown selling milk. She carried with her a tin quart measure and sold milk by the half-pint to any amount desired.

Upon her return to the farm, the remaining cream was put through a separator and they made ice cream. On the evening route, there were many customers who were very happy to purchase the ice cream, and the children were especially happy.

The ice supply from the ice house would last nearly all summer.

About 1910, the Gardners sold the delivery wagon and then sold their milk to the Produce Company, located near the Pennsylvania Railroad in Newcomerstown. They then went out of the dairy business in 1944.

Mrs. Randles also provided this memory:

"It was Saturday evening about 7:30 p.m. and in the 'Good Ole Summertime.' My grandmother was ill and had been for several weeks. Mother had gone to town for groceries and Chet had gone fishing. I was up in the room with Grandma and Grandpa was on the front porch.

"All at once Grandpa yelled, 'Marjorie, come quick, the bull is out and headed towards Shaw's.' I ran downstairs and to the front porch. Grandpa hollered, 'Hurry, that bull is headed up the road. Get ahead of him and start him back home.' He was big jersey bull and very cross, too. I was afraid of him but I had never let him know it so he minded what I said to him.

"It was just dusk and there was a lot of traffic. I always wore an apron with a pocket in it and I always carried one of Chet's white hankies in the pocket for emergencies. I knew I'd have to flag some of the traffic down so I pulled out the hankie and started flagging the traffic coming behind me.

"The first car slowed to a full stop and the next smart-aleck hollered 'Get the heck out of the road' and

struck the back end of the first car, caving in his own engine. I kept running behind the bull and got him headed down toward the barn where Grandpa had opened the gate. We got him in his stall and I returned to the house to check on Grandma.

"I had been there only a few minutes when I heard a rap on the door. I came down to find a highway patrolman. He said, 'Are you the lady whose cow caused that accident?' I replied, 'It wasn't a cow, it was a bull and I suppose you would say it was the bull's fault but it wasn't. It was the man in the second car because he wasn't watching where he was going.' The patrolman said, 'Well, it was getting dark, you should have had a light on the bull.'

"I thought about that, and then said, 'Well, they're piped for water and gas but they're not wired for electricity!'

"He never said a word. He just turned and went down the steps and went to D.B. Moore's filling station at the corner of Canal and College streets. He asked Mr. Moore, 'Who is the lady who lives on Buckhorn Road and usually wears a pink dress?'

"Mr. Moore said, 'Oh, that's our Marjorie, what's she done now?' The patrolman told him about the accident and what I'd said. Mr. Moore ended up telling other people about it and people tormented the patrolman so much that he ended up asking for a transfer and went to the western part of Ohio."

ONE OF MARJORIE'S friends sent her the following card for her birthday:

"First 80 are the hardest; after that, party. Oh, I have good news for you! The first 80 years are the hardest. The second 80 are a succession of birthday parties. If you forget anybody's name, forget to keep an appointment, promise to be at two or three places at the same time, or spell words wrong, you need only to explain that you are 80. Everybody wants to carry your baggage and help you up the stairs. If you spill your soup, your shoes don't match or you forget to mail a letter for a week, that's alright because you are 80.

"At 80, you can relax with no misgivings. You have a perfect alibi for

everything. Nobody expects much of you anyway. If you act silly, it's your second childhood. It is a great deal better than being 65 or 70! At that time, they expect you to move to a little house in Florida and become a discontented, grumbling, limping 'has-been.' But, if you survive until you are 80, they are surprised you are alive, surprised you can walk and surprised you reveal lucid moments!

"At 70, people are mad at you for everything! At 80, they forgive you for anything! If you put off until tomorrow what you should do today, that's alright, you're 80!

"Life begins at 80! Lucky me! Lucky you! You have that day coming!"



Marjorie Randles

Boogy was a monthly trip into the county's past

Tuscarawas County saw the introduction of a unique publication in January 1916 — a monthly newspaper devoted exclusively to local history.

The newspaper, called *The Boogy*, was edited and printed by a Mill Township farmer and civil engineer by the name of Ralph Waldo Hinds. The newspaper's unique name came from the family farm east of Newport, called the "Boogy Farm," but in none of Hinds' writings does he ever explain where the farm's name came from.

The newspaper lasted seven years, but in that time Hinds published a wide variety of articles on the history of the area around the Twin Cities, information that in many cases isn't available anywhere else.

Hinds, son of James and Sarah Clark Hinds, was born on the family farm Sept. 14, 1875. He graduated from Dennison High in 1895 and soon after displayed an interest in writing.

Jan. 1, 1900, he began keeping a diary. He wrote a book called "Opossum Farm-

ing" in 1911 and the "Hinds Farm History and Atlas," in 1912, which included a detailed history of every building on the family farm as well as blueprints showing the boundaries of the property.

In this second book, Hinds wrote a brief description of himself: "He has a nice collection of arrow-heads and a stone ax, old papers, almanacs, etc., which he prizes highly. Ralph is a good knitter with the needles and woolen yarn, he knit a pair of double stockings which received 1st premium for best home-made stockings at a street fair held in Uhrichsville some years ago."

Hinds was reputed to be an excellent surveyor. The story is told that one time he was hired by a coal company to determine where air shafts should be dug for the company's mine. When workers sunk the air shafts, they found that in each case Hinds' calculations were right on the money.

Hinds launched the inaugural issue of *The Boogy* Jan. 15, 1916. "The Boogy is printed right out on the farm where the

Jon Baker



History

clang of the press, mingled with the low harsh snarl of the pet 'possum, sound weary and wild," he wrote in the April 15, 1916, issue. "Where the woodpecker raps and the blue jays cry, while the printer's devil is distributing his 'pi.' "

In the following years he published articles on the history of Newport and the lost towns of Lima and Eastport, as well as reminisces by a man known only as "Nick" who lived in Missouri but grew up in Tuscarawas County.

Hinds also used the paper to promote his ill-fated attempt to secure the Republican nomination for county recorder in 1922.

Classified ads in the newspaper were unusual, to say the least. One was for skunk oil — "Before the chill of March

winds make that COLD a permanent resident of your chest, order a bottle of Skunk Oil from *The Boogy*."

Another ad offered for sale "5 opossums fattened on bread and milk. Also a large quantity of chestnuts, which we will sell at 15 cents per lb. in quantities of 5 pounds or more. 'Possum, with chestnut dressing, is the ne plus ultra of delicacies. Here is your chance for a splendid Christmas feast."

Hinds displayed his interest in nature and animals in his newspaper, with articles on the last wild turkey hunt in Mill Township, stories of a flying squirrel that had taken up residence in his printing office and a story touting one of his cows, "Blue Boogy," as the oldest cow in the state of Ohio.

His newspaper, though, was plagued by problems that plagued many newspapers back then — lack of money. "This issue closes the 5th year of *The Boogy's* existence," he wrote Dec. 15, 1920, "and we find that an editor's royal road to success is not paved with gold bricks."

After Hinds closed the newspaper in

1923, he recycled much of the material into a series of books he called "The Boogy Books." Copies of at least two of these books are still floating around Uhrichsville and Dennison, including No. 2, which tells the story of Tom Carr, a Civil War veteran who murdered his teen-age fiancée in Belmont County when she changed her mind about marrying him. Boogy Book No. 3 gives the history of Ross School in Mill Township, a one-room school Hinds attended as a child.

In addition, Hinds visited many of the old cemeteries in the area, some of which can no longer be found. He recorded information off of the tombstones and, using his surveying skills, drew maps of the old burying grounds.

Hinds, who never married, died at the home of his niece in Indiana on Nov. 24, 1962. He is buried in Union Cemetery at Uhrichsville.

Photocopies of his old "Boogy" newspaper were recently donated to the Tuscarawas County Genealogical Society, and can be seen in the society's library at Dennison.

Mon. Sept. 16, 1991



LOCAL WOMAN WRITES BOOK

Marjorie Randles, left, and Iris Fruchey, right, display a copy of "Bits and Pieces," a book written by Mrs. Randles. The book contains a multitude of anecdotes from Mrs. Randles' life, with Mrs. Fruchey compiling them and typing them for Mrs. Randles.

Local woman records anecdotes

It's a collection of stories about one woman's life and Marjorie Randles hasn't even started yet...she's got a lot of stories yet to tell.

Mrs. Randles, who will be 89-years-old on July 17, recently published her own book, with the help of Iris Fruchey of Newcomerstown, who provided the listening ear and the fingers to type up the information.

The result is "Bits and Pieces," an informal collection of anecdotes and photographs from her 88 years of living what she always describes as a full and delightful life. The book is dedicated to her "Grandma and Grandpa Gardner, my Mother, my beloved husband, Chester (Randles) to my many friends."

"Some of my friends have been wanting me to write a book about my life," she writes. "Folks think I am funny. It's just the way I was born! ...I can not tell you a lot of the things I know about this time. Please do not be offended if I did not get to put your name in it. I might write another some time! If I find the time...I still say 'the first 100 years are the hardest!'"

Among her topics, Mrs. Randles wrote about life in the Buckhorn Valley while she was growing up.

"In the wintertime, when the farmers on Buckhorn were not so busy, everyone would go to one of the farm houses on Friday night just to be friendly and see what was going on in the valley...The men would sit in the kitchen and talk about the crops and the ladies would be in the living room talking about their sewing and quilting and their canning. Later in the evening, they would

make candy, taffy or popcorn. The kids went upstairs to play. One of their favorite things to do was to get needles and thread and sew one fellow's coat sleeve to another man's coat sleeve or just plain sew the sleeves shut. They would mix up the overshoes and tie the ladies' scarves and shawls together. When going home time came everything was in a mess but mamas and papas always seemed to hold their tempers. It was just a whole lot of fun."

And then there was the time when she was 10-years-old and went to visit her grandfather's brother and wife in Dennison...

"...after we had supper and talked a while, Aunt Annie went to the great big thing. I thought it was a clothes closet and started to pull on the front of it and the thing came down and I saw that it was a folding bed. She fixed the bedding ready to sleep on and said, 'Get your clothes off, it is time to go to bed.' I did not like the looks of it, but I had to do what she said. I put on my nightgown and got in that monster. She kissed me goodnight and turned out the light and left me alone.

"They lived close to the railroad. It was not very long until a big train came along and the 'monster' started to shake, then it quickly folded up with me standing on my head. I screamed but she could not hear me, but Uncle Joe said to Aunt Annie, 'did you fasten the bed down?' Aunt Annie said she would check and see. She wasn't very slow when she saw what had happened. She fixed it so it could not fly up again. I did not sleep very well and in the morning I told her I wanted to go home. She never invited me back."

There's also a story about the Randles' dog, Lady...

"Summer time (1945) and the sweet corn was ready to can and I went to the garden on the southside and picked two bushels and took them to the kitchen. Our dog 'Lady' always went with me wherever I went. She had gone with me and had returned to the back porch where she always like to rest.

"I went on with my corn, cleaned it and laid it in the steamer when Chester came home. He came in the

door and said, 'Why did you put so much corn over the back porch? There must be two or three bushels of it.'

"Lady had seen me pick corn so she did her part! It still had the husks on and so I had three more hours to can Lady's corn."

There are also a multitude of anecdotes that just capture a moment in the rural life of Newcomerstown several decades ago...

"There were several one-roomed school houses in the county and the children were involved in a good many spelling bees. The people all loved to attend them and the school-houses were full at these events.

"An old gentlemen was sitting way down in front one evening and he felt nature calling him and he asked some of the men if they would open a window and take hold of his arm and let him down on the ground. Just as they went to drop him, he said, "Too late now boys, pull me back."

One section of the book also includes a list of some old rural axioms

and adjectives, including:

— You can't put an old head on a young body.

— God's clock keeps perfect time.

— So hungry I could eat a sow and ten pigs and chase the boar a mile.

— Sunday angel and everyday devil.

— A new broom sweeps clean.

— A smiling face doesn't mean a happy heart.

— Tighter than paper on a wall.

— I feel like a penny waiting for change.

— She has a shape like a sack full of doorknobs.

Mrs. Randles said she only had enough copies of the book printed for her friends and to give an idea of how many friends she has, she annually mails out close to 300 Christmas cards; and although she has no children or grandchildren, she usually buys gifts for about 40 children.

She said she has only a few copies of the book left, so anyone who wants to see a copy or buy a copy (at a mere \$12 per copy) can contact her or Mrs. Fruchey.

Doll Brought From Erin Is Treasured by Writer

By ANGELINE FRYE

Mary Worley Gunn was born on a farm in Guernsey county, Ohio. She was the daughter of a rural school teacher, who taught before graded schools were ever dreamed of, often having 50 or 60 scholars of all ages crowded into one room.

Her mother was of Scotch-Irish descent with a true Irish humor. One of Mrs. Gunn's most treasured possessions is a doll that her mother brought from Dublin. It is more than 100 years old.

Mother had a few quaint keepsakes

that had come from Ireland's shore,

And of all the things I treasured

There was one I treasured more.

And I hardly dared to touch it
Lest in haste I let it fall—
For the object that I prized so
Was a little Irish doll.

From "The Irish doll"

Mrs. Gunn was a delicate sickly girl and was never blessed with robust health and strength. At about the age of 12 she began writing poetry, and writes, as she phrases it, "just for the love of the thing. The urge is in my fingers, and it must come out. It comes from the heart and soul,

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Mrs. Mary Worley Gunn with her prized doll and a few of the books of poetry she has written

Mar 64

William C. Mills, Newcomerstown archaeologist --

On an October day in 1889, a young pharmacist with an interest in archaeology was examining a gravel bank along Buckhorn Creek just north of Newcomerstown. He struck the bank with his walking stick, and a section of the bank — about 6 feet by 2 feet — came tumbling down. The pharmacist then bent down and picked up a flint arrowhead he found exposed.

He took it home and compared it with his extensive collection of implements found in the Tuscarawas Valley, but it matched none of them. Instead, it matched paleolithic implements he had heard about that had been found in northern France and southern England. Only one arrowhead that old had ever been found in Ohio up to that time.

This discovery brought the young pharmacist, William C. Mills, to the attention of experts in archaeology and helped him turn his hobby into his full-time profession. He eventually became one of the best-known archaeologists in the state in the first quarter of the 20th century.

Mills was born Jan. 2, 1860, in Pymont, a small town just west of Dayton. From an early age, he loved archaeology. He collected prehistoric relics found in the vicinity of his father's farm and read the few books then available on the state's Mound Builders.

He attended Ohio State University, but dropped out in his junior year. Mills then got a degree from the Cincinnati School of Pharmacy, married and began a career as a pharmacist.

In 1888, Mills got a job at Shield's drugstore in Newcomerstown. The Tuscarawas Valley presented him with a new territory in which to hunt for prehistoric relics.

He joined the Tuscarawas Valley Archaeological Society in Newcomerstown, becoming its secretary, and led expeditions throughout the area hunting for relics.

In the fall of 1888, Mills began excavating at a place called Nemo Mound, located on the summit of Nemo Hill, about 2 1/2 miles west of Newcomerstown. He was assisted by W.P. Stevenson of Cambridge and Daniel Miskimen and George Lewis of Newcomerstown.

In the space of 4 feet by 5 feet in the mound, they discovered 26 flint implements -- knives, scrapers and drills. Four feet from the center of the mound, they found the bones of a human body, surrounded by charcoal, burnt clay and ashes. Several pieces of river clam shells also were found around the body.

The next year, at the Central Ohio District Fair in Newcomerstown, Mills displayed his collection.

"The department of archaeology in Floral hall at the Newcomerstown fair was fitted out entire by Dr. W.C. Mills of Newcomerstown from his large and valuable collection, and was surely the one single feature of the fair which attracted general attention and admiration," the Ohio Democrat reported Sept. 26, 1889.

The next month, on Oct. 27, 1889, Mills discovered the paleolithic arrowhead along the banks of Buckhorn Creek. He knew he had made an important discovery, so he sent the implement to Professor G. Frederick Wright of Oberlin College, the leading authority on archaeology in the state at that time.

Wright was intrigued by the discovery, so much so that he and a party of men from Cleveland traveled to Newcomerstown in March 1890 to look over the site themselves.

The discovery attracted attention from across the country. Mills was invited to speak before the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland on his find, and Wright wrote an article about the discovery for *The Nation* magazine.

The discovery, Wright said, helped confirm his theory that humans had lived in Ohio during the Ice Age 8,000 to 10,000 years ago.

"The importance of this discovery is enhanced by the fact that this is only the fifth locality in which similar discoveries have been made in this country, the other places being Trenton, N.J., Madisonville, Ohio, Medora, Ind., and Little Falls, Minn.," Wright wrote in *The Nation*. "But in many respects this is the most interesting of them all, especially as connected with previous predictions of my own in the matter..."

Mills moved from Newcomerstown in 1890 to another pharmacy job, but he eventually realized that his true love was archaeology.

In 1897, he returned to OSU to earn his degree. In 1898, he was elected curator of the museum of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, a job he held until his death in 1928. During his tenure as curator, the museum went from one room in a building on the OSU campus to a separate building of its own.

In the summer, Mills led field expeditions to many of the ancient mounds around the state. He also found time to write several books on the subject, including "Certain Mounds and Indian Sites," "Map and Guide to Fort Ancient" and "Archaeological Atlas of Ohio," a book which is still used by amateur archaeologists in the state.

Wm C Mills 1/2/1860 — 1928

"My first few weeks were extraordinarily challenging. I could not read, write or speak Chinese," Snader said. "I really knew no one and had no contacts. For the first little while, it was also extremely lonely. . . While we were all under legal and binding contracts executed in the United States, we were all fired two weeks later. The Board supposedly realized it had overspent in construction and had no money for operations. We were paid nothing and were told to return to the U.S."

Snyder refused to leave and one of the school administrators found him a new job within a week as a business teacher and an English linguistics professor.

"As a result the city of Chongqing, China, became my home for the next 15 years," Snader said. "While most have never heard of Chongqing, it is one of the largest cities in the world with a population of over 34 million people. In short, this country boy became a big city boy overnight."

Snader said his personal objective was to be the cream of the crop in order to open more doors to do business in China and that proved to be the case.

As a teacher, Snader said that, as far as he is concerned, the Chinese students are perhaps the hardest working students in the world.

"With rare exception they are very polite and respectful," Snader said. "With rare exception, discipline problems are non-existent. Unlike western countries, students are encouraged to make friends with their teachers and

2004, Snader earned his doctorate and was offered numerous university positions in China. He decided to stay in Chongqing, learning more about the Chinese culture.

That led to being named director of the International Masters of Business Administration program. However, he held this position for only a year before resigning because of what he called "extreme corruption" within the school. Snader had demanded the resignation of an official, which he called a "huge mistake, because no one gets fired in China."

"They simply get moved laterally or even promoted to get rid of them," Snader said. "In China, everything is about 'face' or 'saving face,' which is somewhat sacred. I learned this in a face-to-face meeting with Li Xiao Hong, the university president, who subsequently became a respected, close and dear friend. In turn, he introduced me to the mayor, so it was not uncommon for the three of us to be seen drinking Chinese wine together at formal dinners and functions."

During his second year in China, he was hired by one of the largest firms in the city as president of international relations and became a senior officer at several other companies and an associate or adjunct professor at several other universities.

Continuing his educational and business relationships, Snader said he became like a "Chinese brother" to a number of people who trusted him because he was "respectfully critical" of China and the United States. He said officials told him,

China remains a communist country, under the administration of President Xi Jin Ping the number of state-owned companies is now increasing, but they are operating with much less corruption. Today Chinese companies are approximately 80% private and 20% state owned.

One of his biggest mistakes, Snader recalled, was in 2008 when he was invited to sit with President Hujin Tao in the Presidential box for the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games being hosted by China.

"I was both stunned and shocked, but also realized the significance of this great honor," Snader said. "It was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I knew it. However, I had a huge problem. I was scheduled to visit another city to meet with the president of a Chinese hotel group who wanted an American partner. My reputation in China had been built of my integrity, honesty and sense of honor. My word was my bond. Consequently, I humbly and respectfully declined the President's invitation

guards. I always found this somewhat humorous, because a lot of it was simply for show which enabled the company to show its power. I have dined with the rich and powerful including Chinese and Taiwanese movie stars. Believe it or not I have even done more than a few TV commercials and even co-starred in a day time soap opera where I even had an agent. Simply put, many of my experiences were once in a lifetime experiences.

"I can say without reservation that I have eaten the most expensive meal ever served for five people at a McDonalds. My translator and I were invited to a birthday celebration for one of the President's secretaries who loved McDonalds. We traveled a few miles to a McDonalds close to where I lived. Five of us were in a Mercedes limo and of course four guard cars front and back. Where we arrived, McDonalds was packed with a line. While we remained in the limo, the bodyguards and the President walked into the McDonalds. Three

SEE SNADER, B7



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July 5, 2020

Dr. Snader's journey

By Ray Booth
Times-Reporter Correspondent

From Newcomerstown to China and Thailand, Robert Snader had a long, sometimes difficult, always interesting journey in life. But that life ended with a stroke and his death on May 2, leaving his wife, Mikky, and two children to appreciate the memories.

Snader earned his doctorate and was the first executive director of Riverside Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, as well as the president and CEO of the Snader Center for Out-Patient Rehabilitation, also in Newcomerstown. He was a founding father and retired president of the Newcomerstown Emergency Rescue Squad, was a key figure in the building of the David Barber Civic Center and also led a community drive to raise enough money to keep the pool at Cy Young Park open when the village did not have the money. He also was active in other community efforts and was well-known in Newcomerstown and in this region of Ohio.

But in 2003, Snader said he felt like he had no choice but to leave the United States to pursue another career, arriving in Guangzhou, China, hired by an American headmaster as a teacher in a new international school. Snyder said being an educator was the easiest way to get a visa and that educators are well-respected in China. He also completed a doctorate in business



PROVIDED PHOTO

■ Dr. Robert Snader is pictured with his wife, Mikky, and their twin children, Abby and Annie.

vice versa. In reality, this took me quite a long time to accept and practice simply because it was a huge cultural difference.”

Snyder said his students consistently scored 20% higher than other students in the same classes with different instructors and that allowed him to develop a highly respected reputation and to not be subject to strict rules applied to other foreign teachers.

Subsequently, a university professor introduced Snader to the president of a large manufacturing facility in Chongqing.

“After a luxurious and very expensive lunch and an hour of negotiations, I was hired as the Vice president in charge of international affairs,” Snader said.

After the end of his

“You have now lived here for years among all Chinese people both rich and poor. You treat all equally. You have taken the time to learn our culture and respect our ways even when you do not agree, and during those times you are patient in explaining your differences and thoughts while respecting ours. You have never looked down upon us and always treated us as your equal. I was both humbled and flattered but also mystified. Was not my way the way all people should respect each other? Perhaps if this were true, there would be far less problems in the world.”

Snader said he wasn't bothered about working in a communist country, noting it was an economic system, not a political system. He said while

and kept my appointment and scheduled meeting. As things turned out, the potential business failed and I have regretted the stupidity of my decision even until this day.

“My 15 years in China gave me opportunities and experiences which I otherwise would not have known. I have eaten in some of the most famous restaurants throughout China and been the guest of some of the most beautiful hotels in America (which would make the majority of U.S. hotels look shabby. A few of the restaurants had tables and chairs plated with gold and service and cuisine to match.

“I have stayed in Presidential Suites with a valet, beyond extraordinary. As an officer of high end companies, I have traveled with body

has laid the foundation for as extensive and and lucrative business. At present his machines are being maufactured by Jeffries M'fg Co. of Columbus, but he hopes to become so situated as to manufacture them himself. He now has three plants and machines in operation and the Pennsylvania railway company takes the entire output of one machine. This means a big and reliable income for an indefinite period. Mr. Shoemaker has labored hard to accomplish these gratifying results, and his friends congratulate him on his phenomenal success.

Newcomerstown, Ohio
Wednesday
May 16, 19063



SNADER

From Page B6

minutes later we were escorted into a fine large table. My boss ordered in Chinese language, of course. When I asked my translator what he had ordered, she whispered in my ear, "Everything." My translator asked me to step away and told me he had ordered 2-3 of everything on the menu. There was nowhere to put all the food so McDonalds staff had people building shelves in the floor to ceiling windows. Of course 95% of the food was never touched.

However, this is classic with wealthy Chinese businessmen. Where a wealthy American man will never show his money, the wealthy Chinese man will flaunt it for the whole world to see. This is China."

Snader said he left China in July of 2015 when his wife, Mikki, completed her PhD. His employment ended in April of 2015. While Snader was 66, the mandatory retirement age in China was 60. But because he was considered a valued asset professionally both within the university system and in business, he was politically protected for nearly six years.

"However, when Xi Jinping became President, things changed dramatically," Snader said. Visa and work rules for foreigners were suddenly strictly enforced. Foreign experts and educators were being vetted for violations. In April of 2015 I was suddenly called to an emergency meeting with the Vice President and Dean of the Department where I was

working. When I walked into the office I asked if there was a problem. The Vice President and Dean both looked at me strongly and said, 'You're fired' and then broke out laughing and giving me hugs. Both were not only colleagues but dear and cherished friends as well. They explained that I was fired because they could no longer protect me and they had received word that the police were going to raid the university the next day. My termination was immediate in the middle of the term. I was quickly and secretly escorted off campus and had dinner later that night with the Dean and VP where they explained everything to me about the political changes in the country.

"While my days in China were drawing to a close, I had a month or two to reflect on my years in China and the many friends I had made over the years, many who are still close and highly valued and revered. China had been my second life and in many respects my saving grace. I am eternally grateful."

Snader said his first trip to Thailand was on Feb. 5, 2009.

"It was my first trip to physically meet my future wife, Kanpitcha, who is known to everyone by her English name, Mikky," Snader said. "Thailand was a country to which I had always wanted to travel but simply had no objective reason to do so. Once Mikky invited me, I was more than eager for a variety of reasons. . . Thailand is a beautiful country. Its bodies of water and beaches are stunningly beautiful and it is for this reason that Thailand is one of the world's top tourist

destinations. The cost of living is surprisingly low."

But there were some cultural things that were a bit hard to get used to.

"I learned that when I went shopping with and/or for Mikky I had to always walk 20 steps behind her which was very aggravating to me," he said. "This is true everywhere in Thailand except the famous tourist destinations.

"When one retires, he becomes a has-been, just like the high school football star after completing his final game. When working, I encountered new and exciting challenging experiences every day. That is gone now. When working there is a high degree of respect (if earned) that goes along with the job, and this gives one a boost in self-esteem on almost a daily basis. When one retires, this becomes quickly absent. Working gives one a sense of purpose and value in life. As human beings, we need a genuine purpose in life. We need to value ourselves and others value and respect us as well."

Snader's death stopped his latest plans as he was still contemplating starting a small company in 2020. In addition to Snader's wife and 6-year-old twin daughters in Thailand, Dr. Snader leaves three sons, Atty. Shaun R. Snader of Falls Church, Virginia, Robert B. Snader Jr. and Zachary A. Snader; and a daughter, Rebecca E. Snader, all from Ohio. He was preceded in death by his twin brother, William R. Snader. Memorial services and interment took place in Trang, Thailand. Memorials may be made to NERS Inc. in Newcomerstown.

From Shovel To Machine

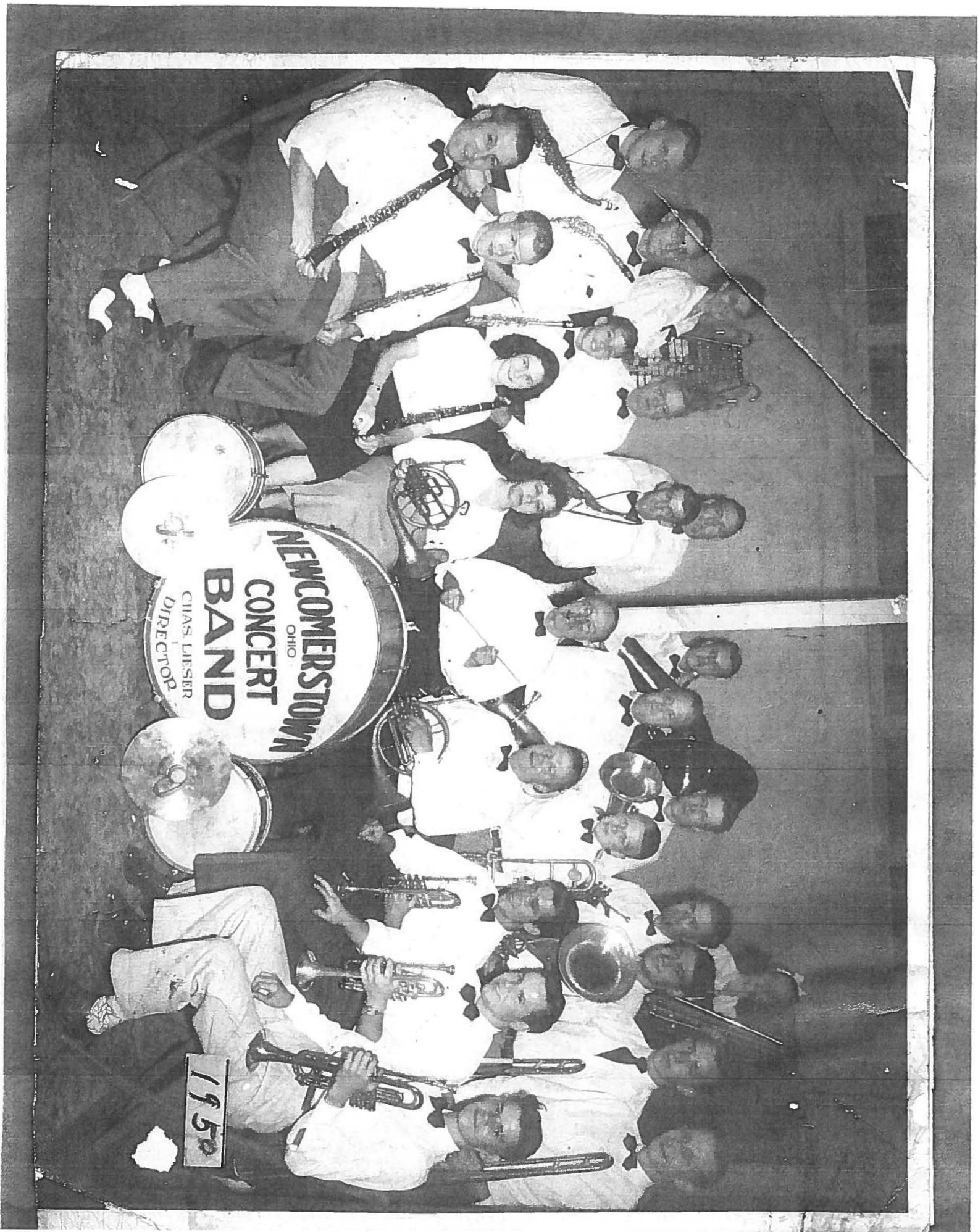
An Invention of Great Capacity Revolutionizes the Sand and Gravel Business

Six Men Operating the Machine
Screen and Load Gravel
At the rate of

1500 TONS PER DAY
One of Newcomerstown's Citizens
Makes Use of the 20th Century
Idea and Achieves Success

In connection with the recent sale of two modern-devised sand elevators at \$5,000 each, there hangs an interesting story. About 12 years ago, Mr. R.L. Shoemaker of this city began in a small way and with limited means to develop the sand and gravel industry. He filled contracts for the Pan Handle railway company with a capacity of 2 or 3 carloads per day; and even at this, the company laid a switch to the sand pits located near Coshocton, and Mr. Shoemaker kept at it until he realized that he must in some wise increase his capacity. This led to the invention of a sand elevator with a daily capacity of from 1,200 to 1,500 tons, employing only six men. That's quite a difference between his former and latter methods—four laborers and 2 or 3 carloads per day; or 18 laborers and 60 to 65 per day.

This new machine constructed entirely by machine entirely of steel, and steel belts are used instead of leather or rubber. The sand and gravel is elevated from the pit by means of metallic cups or buckets, and is separated by screens, the sand being deposited in one car and the gravel in another. As the machine completes its work while in motion, it sends a perpetual stream of the assorted materials into the cars, and its capacity is thereby augmented to a wonderful extent. In fact there is no other machine on the market that can begin to compete with this one, and for this reason Mr. Shoemaker has been awarded four big contracts for sand and gravel for concrete work at Columbus, in the face of several competitors. This fact led to the sale of two of his machines for placer gold in South Dakota, to parties in Columbus connected with a company known as the Ohio Beaver Creek Mining and Development Co., operating in Lawrence county, S. Dakota. On Tuesday of this week, Mr. Shoemaker, accompanied by his son Lellan and Henry Hess, Esq., left for Columbus, where they were joined by Hon. T.C. Lentz, President, and other members of the mining company, enroute for Dakota to install the machines, which require slight alterations to do the work of placer mining. At present it costs about 30 cts per ton to handle the sand and gravel containing the precious metal, but with the new machine this cost can be reduced to 2 or 3 cts per ton, besides separating the material into convenient form. Of course this will practically revolutionize placer mining, and the development of sand and gravel industry as well, which has become one of the greatest industries of our land, as concrete material is being used every where in the construction of culverts, bridges, buildings, pavements and for many other purposes. Mr. Shoemaker was fortunate and wise in his anticipation of this substantial and enormous industry, and



NEWCOMERSTOWN
OHIO
CONCERT
BAND
CHAS. LIESER
DIRECTOR

1950

Left to right
1st row:

Wendell "Andy" Yanai

Eugene Chapman

Joann Lieser

Charlie Lieser

Fred Reed

David Williams

Bill Evans

Carl Gray

2nd row"

Kenneth Patterson

Elmer VanSickle

_____ Wilkin

Lawrence "Buck" Wilkin

Robert Bond

Leslie Besst

Gary Carney

Charles Lieser, Jr.

_____ McCrone(?)

Dallas Carney

Rear:

Katherine Lieser'

Charles Raine

David Leading

Earl Gibson

LOCAL

Fran Murphey, Page 2 • Ohio News, Page 2
The Region, Page 3 • Deaths, Pages 6, 7

Top designer Rodgers dies

• The fashion kingpin and partner
were leading benefactors at Kent State



Shannon Rodgers

BY JEWELL CARDWELL

Beacon Journal staff writer

Former New York fashion kingpin and women's fashion designer Shannon Rodgers died yesterday at Robinson Memorial Hospital in Ravenna.

He was 85.

Mr. Rodgers and his late partner Jerry Silverman donated more than \$5 million in costumes, antique furnishings and objets d'art in 1981 to establish the Kent State University Museum and its companion, the school of fashion design and merchandising that today bears their names.

Mr. Rodgers was the designer and Mr. Silverman, a lawyer, was the business manager behind their famous Seventh Avenue business, known as Jerry Silverman Inc.

"God was sitting on our shoul-

ders all the way," Mr. Silverman said about their successful career.

Famous for understated elegant styles, the two dressed movie stars, first ladies and ordinary women alike.

And they counted among their friends the Duke and Duchess of Windsor and actress Marlene Dietrich.

Mr. Silverman died in 1984.

Before a hip injury and a decline in his overall health, Mr. Rodgers had served as associate director, creative director, museum curator and adjunct professor at the school.

Mr. Rodgers, a descendant of Johnny Appleseed, was born in Newcomerstown.

Mr. Rodgers studied at the Cleveland School of Art, then a part

See KENT, Page D6

KENT

• Rodgers described as
accessible to students

Continued from Page D1

of Western Reserve University, and the John Huntington Polytechnic Institute.

Then came World War II. Mr. Rodgers had a five-year stint with the Army Transport Service.

Mr. Rodgers began his career as a designer on Broadway before Cecil B. De Mille hired him to costume his production of *Cleopatra*.

Mr. Rodgers was the first inductee in Kent's Fashion Hall of Fame in 1989. In 1991, he was elected a fellow of the Costume Society of America and he was named Outstanding Philanthropist by the North/Central Ohio Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives.

Even with his celebrity, Mr. Rodgers remained accessible to students and interested in what they thought. Kent State University President Carol A. Cartwright remembered him this way:

"Shannon Rodgers was an inspiration to Kent State University. Following the death of his partner, Jerry Silverman, he continued to nurture their dream of creating a world-class museum and developing a curriculum for the study of fashion at Kent.

"Today these two outstanding facilities combine to make Kent one of the premiere learning environments in the country for students studying fashion design and merchandising."

Thomas J. Barber, dean of Kent's College of Fine and Professional Arts, said:

"Those of us who have had the privilege of knowing Shannon have been awed by his talent, his boundless energy and his caring for students. We cherish both the man and the living legacy he created.

"Shannon and Jerry brought a certain brilliance to Main Street."

Memorials may be made to the Kent State University Museum or the Shannon Rodgers Scholarship in care of the Kent State University Foundation, Kent 44242.

A memorial service will be announced later.



Dot and a Dash

by Dotty Lane

This week has been taken up by calls from across the country, mourning the death of Shannon Rodgers. While Rodgers was the benefactor and became the associate curator of the Kent State University Museum, he was also my friend for more than 25 years.

Of all the designers on Seventh Avenue when I began covering the shows, Shannon and Jerry were the favorites. They had time for everyone. It never mattered that ours was a small paper.

What a privilege it was to stop in their beautiful Park Avenue apartment for drinks after the shows. I was there the day the amber necklace came from Moshe Dayan of Israel that can now be seen at the museum. They took me to lunch at Le Cirque, dinner at La Grenouille and "21." They opened doors for me from New York to Los Angeles.

Both Shannon and his late partner, Jerry Silverman, were men of uncommon charisma and a talent for making things beautiful. New York fashion doyen, Eleanor Lambert, said, "Shannon was one of the pillars of American fashion and won't be forgotten. His courage and dedication that ended with that wonderful school and museum is something for everyone to admire."

Eleanor brought American fashion to the forefront and she believes that the men affected the way the fashion world operated. "They had a holistic view about fashion, how it fitted into life in general. They gave the fashion industry a new dimension. They gave it a dignity it hadn't had before. They infused it with a culture," she told me when I was in New York.

Shannon's friend and designing colleague, Pauline Trigere, was also deeply touched by Shannon's death. "Shannon was one of my oldest friends, and Jerry. They were the most generous people. Their parties were the best, the chicest, the most fun. Shannon was so knowledgeable and had such great taste. In antique clothes, he knew what he was collecting, he learned their quality and beauty and had a devotion and respect for the clothes."

Brage Golding, who was KSU president when the gift was given, said, "He had a very big heart. He was a caring, generous benefactor and the university will be poorer for his loss."

Architect Ted Curtis, who was responsible for planning the renovation of the museum building, was speaking from his home in California when he said, "Shannon's generosity, talent, warmth, charm and laughter will continue to reverberate throughout the KSU Museum, school, community, the fashion world and our hearts. We must continue to fulfill their dreams of the "Gift to the Nation." They left a great legacy with KSU."

And current museum director, Jean Drueselow, said. "Shannon was the most generous of men — giving to all of us through the warmth of his personality and humor and through the passion with which he created exhibitions and collected beautiful things. We will miss his boundless enthusiasm for life and art."

"He was a creator of beauty," said Jerry Schweigert, owner of the Inn of Kent. It was in Schweigert's apartment that Shannon entertained such luminaries as John Weitz, Mary McFadden, Judith Lieber, Zandra Rhodes and, yes, even Prince and Princess Michael of Kent.

"He could create beauty out of anything," Schweigert said, referring to the way in which Shannon was awed by the beauty of nature and of his surroundings. "He was a great friend."

And Thomas Barber, dean of the College of Fine and Professional Arts at KSU, was also a friend. "Shannon's zest for life was like a fabric masterpiece — each thread abounding with vibrant color, creativity and inspiration to accent the uniqueness of the designer. He left an indelible imprint on our hearts."

CASH T

8/16/1964

Newcomerstown Native Noted As Designer

Norman Bel Geddes left Newcomerstown at the age of 19. He had a noted career that included commercial designing, stage and movie productions and inventions.

He was married twice and had two daughters by his first wife, from whom he was divorced in 1933.

He became famous after designing the stage settings for "The Miracle" in the 1920's.

His last visit here was in June of 1941, when he spent a weekend with an aunt and uncle, the late Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Beers, North College st.

"I may retire in Newcomerstown sometime," he said then. "This is where I started and I don't have ties any place else."

His home was located on Main st. just east of the C and M. tracks. He did much painting there, often using his youthful companions as models.

At one time he used to deliver groceries for his uncle Melancthon Yingling, whose store was located on Main st.

In Newcomerstown, Geddes also tried his hand at show business. Once he formed the Empire Stock Co. Their first show was staged at West Lafayette. He remembered that "the show was so bad we had to leave by the back door."

Another of his show flings was a "magic show" with himself as the magician. This one was staged in a theater where the Athletic club on Bridge st. used to stand.

He recalled that he pulled a goose from a lady's coat and that his mother was shocked. "I suppose if it had been a rabbit, it would have been all right," he said.

Credited with originating "streamlined" design, Geddes introduced innovations in productions which ranged from Dante's "Divine Comedy" to "Dead End," which he also produced.

Norman Bel Geddes died suddenly of a heart attack in New

**ONE HUNDRED AND TEN
YEARS AGO - 1910 11/22**

Norman Geddes, attending art school in Cleveland, spending a brief vacation in Newcomerstown.

The May 16 Hot Line item about Barbara Bel Geddes's background brought a reply from Newcomerstown Mayor C.R. Yingling, who says her family was from Newcomerstown.

The question was, "Was the family of Barbara Bel Geddes from Newcomerstown?" The information in Hot Line came from Who's Who in America, to which celebrities send their own biographical information. Apparently, Barbara Bel Geddes did not mention her father's Newcomerstown origin, so it did not appear in the book.

Yingling's letter states, "The family (father Norman Bel Geddes) was from Newcomerstown. They lived at 130 E. Main St. Barbara Bel Geddes

Hot Line

Anna Lee Brenda



is the only daughter of the late Norman Bel Geddes, the noted theatrical designer and author.

"Norman Bel Geddes was the elder son of Luella Yingling Geddes and Clifton R. Geddes. Norman attended school in Newcomerstown. Barbara Bel's mother was, I believe, from somewhere over east. She and Norman were married after he had left Newcomerstown for New York City to mold his fame. Luella Yingling Geddes and I were second cousins and I now am the 'last of the Mohicans' in this area."

NINETY YEARS AGO

- 1930

6/28

Norman Bel Geddes, a native of Newcomerstown, is named official director of lighting at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933.

S.A. Neighbor enters the insurance business.

Joseph Daugherty and John Atkinson graduate from Ohio State.

Newcomerstown Boy Scouts are given permission to use the old Opera House room above the mayor's office for meetings.

Newcomerstown Native Noted As Designer

Norman Bel Geddes left Newcomerstown at the age of 19. He had a noted career that included commercial designing, stage and movie productions and inventions.

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Credited with originating "streamlined" design, Geddes introduced innovations in productions which ranged from Dante's "Divine Comedy" to "Dead End," which he also produced.

Norman Bel Geddes died suddenly of a heart attack in Newcomerstown at the age of 65 in 1958.

Artist Showed Abilities Here

Among the many natives and former residents of Newcomerstown who have gained fame for the village is Norman Bel Geddes, theatrical and industrial designer.

Bel Geddes first showed his artistic ability in Newcomerstown schools where his drawings during classes led him into the principal's office.

His mother was the former Flora Luella Yingling a native of Newcomerstown, and many of Bel Geddes' early years were spent there visiting his grandparents Malancton and Catherine Yingling.

Although born in Adrian, Mich., April 27, 1893, Bel Geddes considered Newcomerstown his home town and his book "Miracle in the Evening" relates many of his adventures as a youngster there.

At the time he was involved in the drawing controversy in the Newcomerstown school his mother was employed as music supervisor in New Philadelphia schools. Soon after the drawing incident the boy transferred to Front Street school here.

His first act there was to cover the blackboard with colored chalk caricatures of his teacher and principal. As a result he was expelled.

Soon after this J. Hal Donahy, cartoonist at the Cleveland Plain Dealer, wrote to Bel Geddes and told him he had had a similar experience in school here and advised him to get into art school and concentrate

JAN 4, 1996



The men who made the Kent State University Museum and school of fashion possible, Silverman, left, and Rodgers, right.

Jan 4, 1996



Actor Cliff Robertson, Rodgers and Designer Bob Mackie at the museum's opening "Dazzle."



Designer Pauline Trigere, Rodgers and former Miss America Bess Myerson.

Shannon Rodgers; Fashion Designer For Stars Was 85

RAVENNA, Ohio, Jan. 10 (AP) — Shannon Rodgers, who dressed movie stars, first ladies and many others in the 1960's and 70's as the designer for the Seventh Avenue business Jerry Silverman Inc., died on Tuesday at Robinson Memorial Hospital here.

He was 85 and had been a longtime resident of New York City before moving to Kent, Ohio, in 1987.

Mr. Rodgers was the designer, and Mr. Silverman, a lawyer, was the business manager behind the house, known for the understated elegance of its styles. They were favored by Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon and a number of Hollywood actresses.

Mr. Rodgers retired in 1977. Mr. Silverman died in 1984.

In 1981, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Silverman donated more than \$5 million in costumes, antique furnishings and art objects to establish the Kent State University Museum and its companion, the school of fashion design and merchandising that bears their names.

Before a decline in his health, Mr. Rodgers had served as associate director, creative director, museum curator and adjunct professor at Kent State.

He was born in Newcomerstown, Ohio, and began his career as a designer on Broadway. Mr. Rodgers was later hired by Cecil B. DeMille to design the costumes for his 1934 film "Cleopatra," and this led to a number of positions designing costumes for Hollywood productions.

Mr. Rodgers was the first inductee in Kent State's Fashion Hall of Fame in 1989. In 1991, he was elected a fellow of the Costume Society of America, and he was named Outstanding Philanthropist by the North/Central Ohio Chapter of the National Society of Fund-Raising Executives.

14 Jan 1996



The parties given by Shannon Rodgers and Jerry Silverman were legend, this one in their apartment on Central Park West in New York, overlooking the city's skyline. Actress Donna Reed can be seen smiling and dancing at left, Silverman dancing in the center and Rodgers at right.



An original sketch by Shannon Rodgers.



Shannon Rodgers with buyers in his showroom.

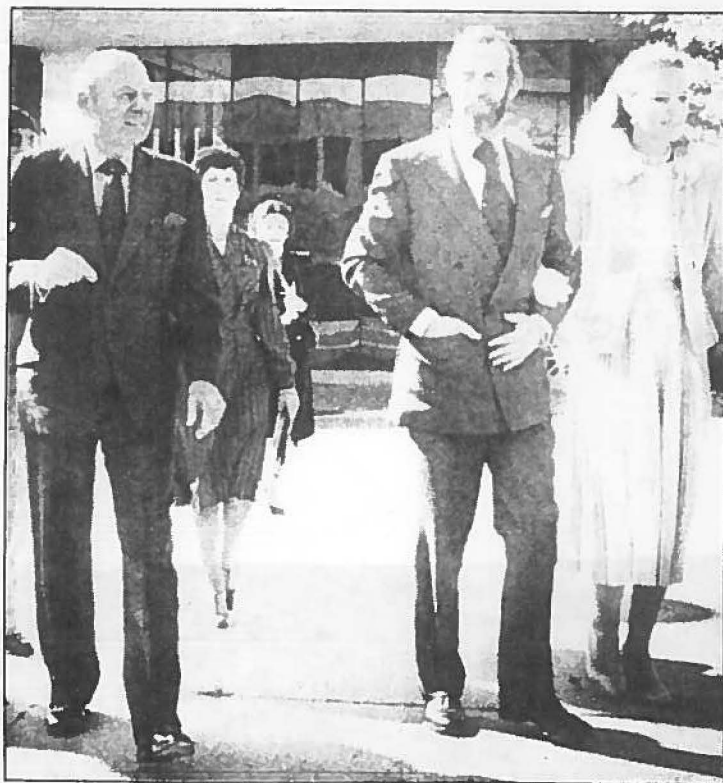
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At left, Rodgers receives an honorary doctor of humane letters degree in 1988 from Provost Terry Roark, left, and Dean Robert Powell, right. Above, Rodgers' home in Newcomerstown, "Buckhorn."



gown designed by Rodgers, center, t television program, and Silverman,



Silverman, left, leaves the KSU Student Center with Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, England in 1982.

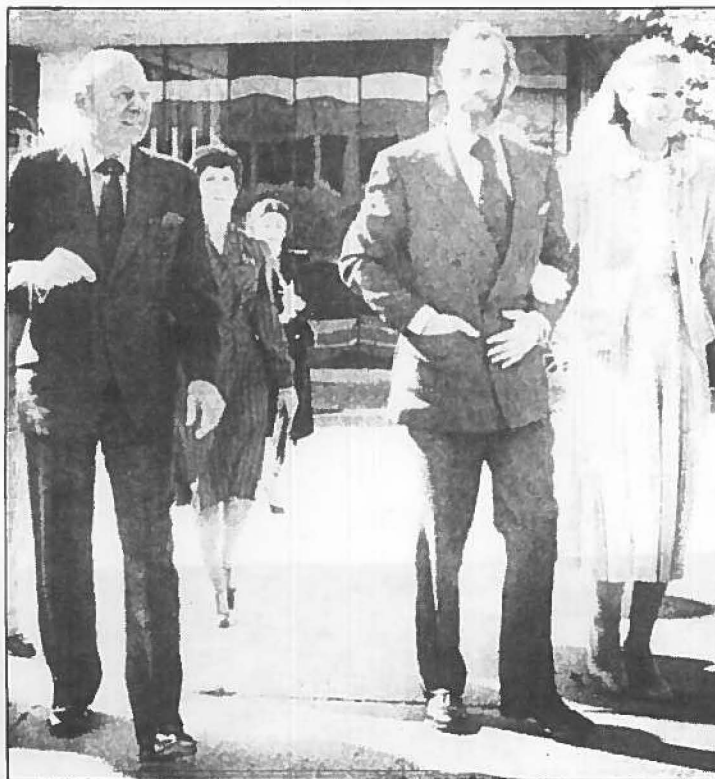
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At left, Rodgers receives an honorary doctor of humane letters degree in 1988 from Provost Terry Roark, left, and Dean Robert Powell, right. Above, Rodgers' home in Newcomerstown, "Buckhorn."



Dinah Shore in a gown designed by Rodgers, center, for her Chevrolet television program, and Silverman, right.



Silverman, left, leaves the KSU Student Center with Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, England in 1982.

4 Jan 1996

By Dotty Lane

Record-Courier fashion editor

When Shannon Rodgers and Jerry Silverman gave their collection of period costumes, art, furniture and cash to Kent State University, it was really a "gift to the nation" and a legacy that will live on now that they are gone.

Rogers, a native Ohioan who designed costumes for the stars of Hollywood and clothes for discriminating women, and Silverman, a Harvard Law School graduate who gave up his law practice to go into the fashion business, developed the Jerry Silverman dress house in New York. The two very successful partners left "all their worldly goods" to the museum and school that they hoped would offer future students a chance to learn about fashion in a way they never otherwise could at Kent State University.

Silverman died in 1984, a year before the museum opened. But he left Rodgers with the charge, "Get the job done and get it done right." This Rodgers did. The museum opened in 1985 amid great fanfare which drew celebrities, even royalty, for a dazzling evening that was called "Dazzle." The school which bears their names opened in 1990.

These men were very much a part of American ready-to-wear history. Fashionable women had always looked to Paris for their style. World War II changed all that. And the fashions which bore the Jerry Silverman label became an integral part of New York's largest industry, the garment industry.

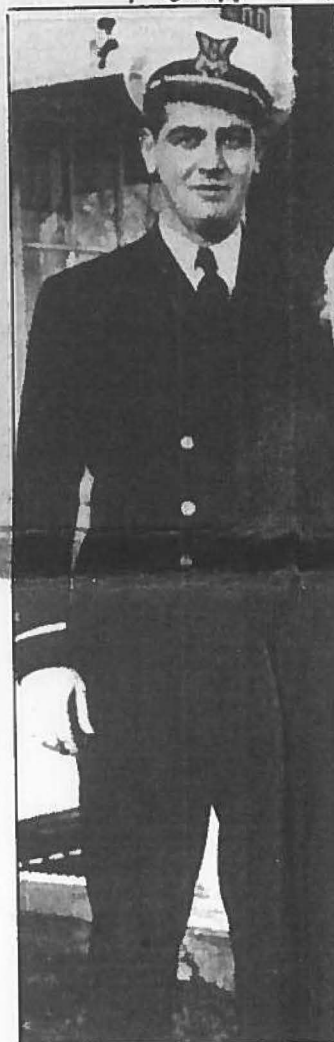
"These men filled a niche we now call 'bridge,'" designer Bill Blass said, clothes that were fashionable, yet affordable. Rodgers designed clothes for Broadway and Hollywood stars, first ladies, the wives of business men and career women across the country in a decade of glamour and creativity. Silverman did the selling. Their clothes were showcased in Bergdorf Goodman's first boutique and other designers jumped on the bandwagon. It started a trend that caught in all over the nation.

They were also very much a part of the era's social life. They gave glittering parties in places like the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Brighton Pavilion in England, but most popular of all, in their own apartment, which was filled with beautiful things.

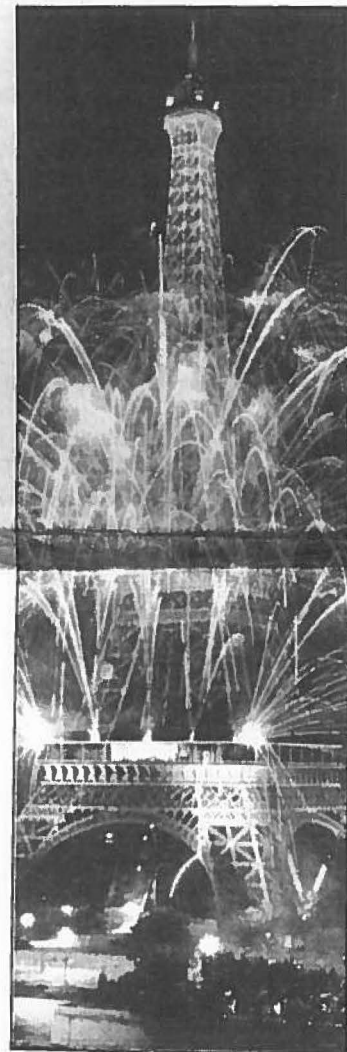
They traveled the world over, collecting beautiful things along the way. And Rodgers had a fascinating story to tell about each and every experience.

"It was through Shannon's selfless determination and foresight that the museum and school became a reality. Today... these two facilities... combine to make Kent one of the premier learning environments in the country for students studying fashion design and merchandising," said KSU President Carol Cartwright.

Thomas Barber, dean of the College of Fine and Professional Arts, said. "The men brought magnificence and splendor to Main Street Kent with their treasures and Shannon's exhibitions."



Rodgers in his military uniform.



Rodgers' birthday party at the Eiffel Tower.