

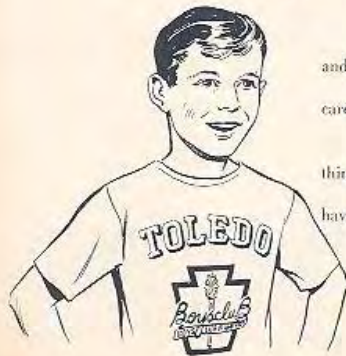
THE BOYS' CLUB OF TOLEDO



AND THE TOLEDO NEWSBOYS' ASSOCIATION



AFFILIATED WITH THE BOYS' CLUB OF AMERICA AND THE TOLEDO COMMUNITY CHEST



I AM A BOYS' CLUB BOY

I have a clubhouse where I can find something to do anytime after-school and in the evening. I belong and I can afford to belong on an equal basis with all the other members.

I have the opportunity to develop my body in the Boys' Club gymnasium. I can learn to swim and take care of myself in the water and maybe save a life.

I can read and do my lessons in the peace and quiet of the Boys' Club library.

I can learn to make and do things in the arts and craft classes. There are a lot of other interesting things that I can do—I can learn things that will help me in my job when I grow up.

I get to know many fine fellows. The Boys' Club workers are my friends and I can go to them when I have any troubles and for advice about many things.

I can go to camp and eat, and play and swim with wonderful boys and men.

For all these things I am grateful.

I will do everything I can to show my appreciation and make the most of my Boys' Club.

I will take care of the Club building and equipment because they are mine.

I am glad I live in free America and I will always try to be a good citizen.



"Great ideas – great inspirations come to us not through the abstract – but through some Human Agency."

The story of Toledo Newsboys Association and The Boys Club of Toledo is the story of two men.

"God must have loved the newsboy to have given him two such men as John E. Gunckel and J. D. Robinson."

So spoke one of the "Newsies" grown into manhood and citizenship in Toledo; and it is significant that from 1892 to 1948, only two families—the Gunckels and the Robinsons—guided the T.N.A. and its successor, The Boys Club.

It is easy to think that there was divine intervention in choosing these two men to befriend that neglected product of the streets – The Newsie.

From widely separated backgrounds they found their way to a common task.

To a common interest – "The Boy of the Streets."

When men are called by names such as "Gunk" and "J.D.", it stems from a liking and affection, especially if it comes from the heart of a boy – and, more significantly, one who is nature in the raw.

But on with the story of "Gunk" and "J.D."

John E. Gunckel founded the Toledo Newsboys Association (T.N.A.). How was that done?

John E. Gunckel was born in Germantown, Ohio, August 14, 1846. He moved to Toledo and engaged in R.E. business but his liking for R.R. career led him into the office of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern R.R. ticket office; and in 1892 was passenger agt. with offices in the Old Boody House, St. Clair & Madison, where the Ohio Bank Building is now.



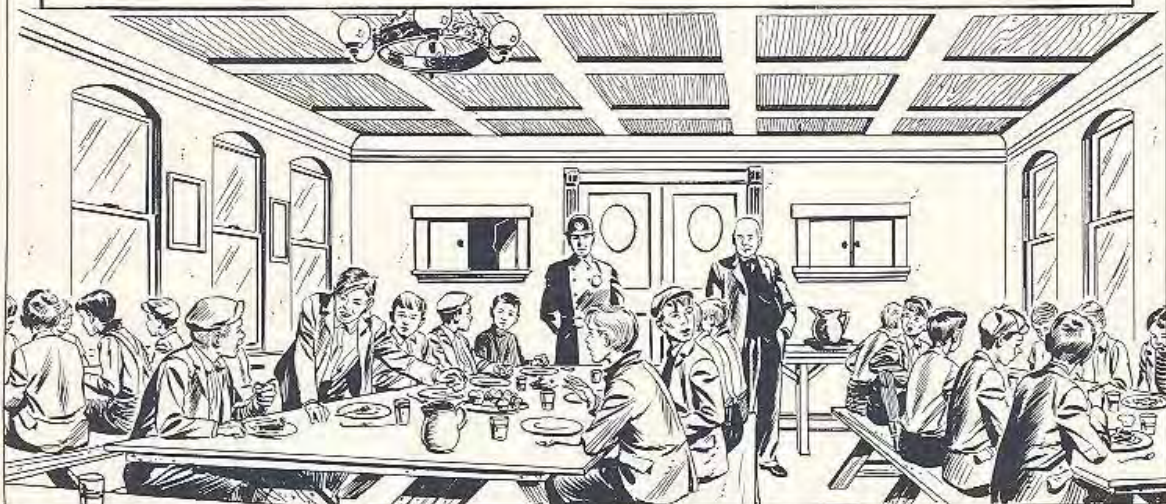
Early in his career in R.R., while traversing the downtown streets he became interested in newsboys and bootblacks - "Boys of the Streets".



In 1892 he crossed over to the steps of the P.O. on St. Clair Street and sat down on the steps with a half dozen "Sellers". He said to them: "Why couldn't the newsboys of Toledo have an organization of their own and govern themselves instead of being governed?"

The idea of the T.N.A. was thus born, but it didn't really form until December 25, 1892.

In 1892, John E. Gunckel gathered about him about 102 of the roughest and most unkempt street urchins, mostly newsboys, at a Christmas dinner in the Old Marine Building, corner Water Street and Madison Ave., and formed the Toledo Newsboys Association. They had turkey, pie and ice cream. The newspapers gave immediate and full-hearted support as did the businessmen. The boys selected "Gunk" as president - and leading citizens, trustees. But self-government was the rule. At this first dinner, several police were used to keep order - but never again.

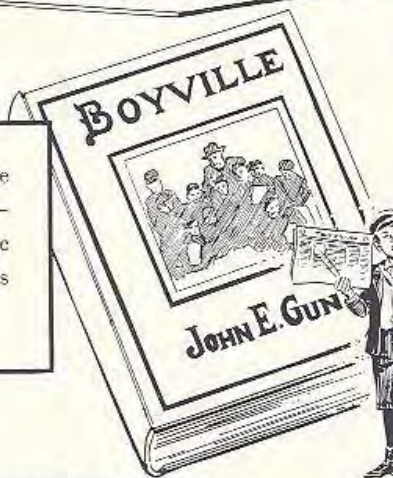




Where did the founder have his office in the early days, and by whom was he employed?

In the Boody House – a hotel and office building – located where the new Ohio Bank Building now is. He was local ticket agent and later passenger agent for the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway.

John E. Gunckel wrote a book: "Boyville" – probably one of the most modest books ever written.



It was rich with his philosophy about recovering, training and developing – that raw product – the Newsie – the Street Merchant – into a useful and fit citizen.



He was called all over the nation to lecture on "His Boys".

All the proceeds from "Boyville" and lectures were used in furthering the T.N.A. He kept none of it for self.

T.N.A.



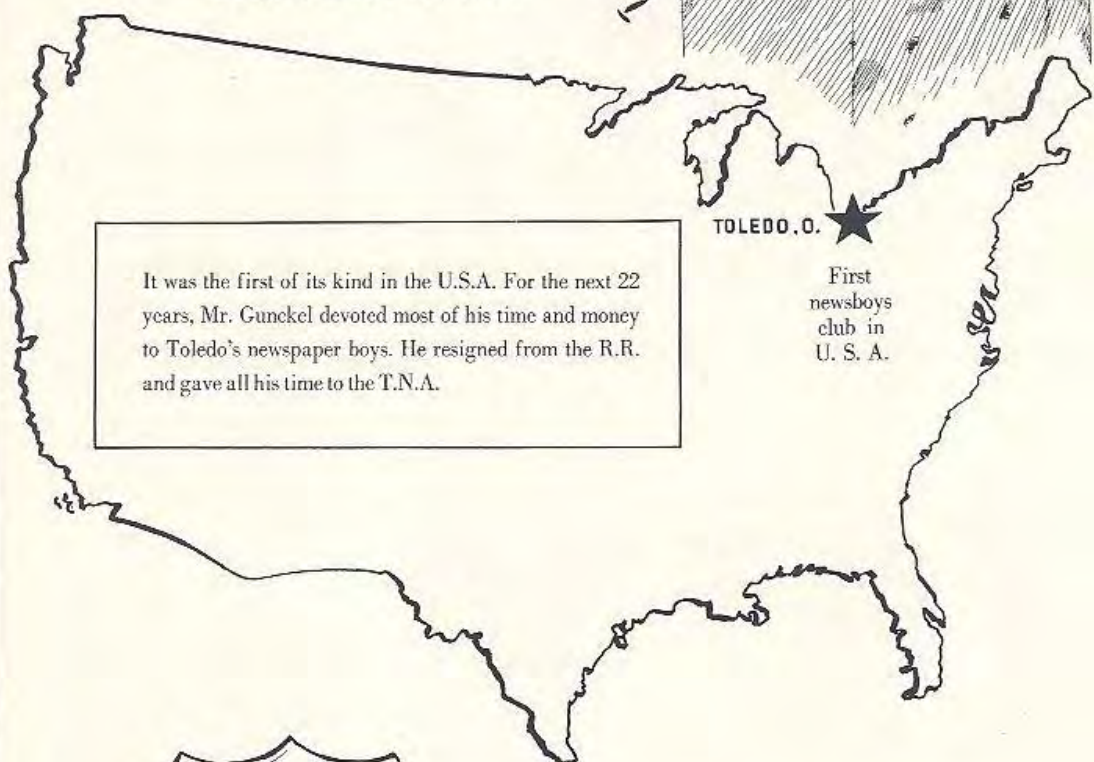
GUNCKEL

In what year was the T.N.A. Building erected?

In 1908 Mr. Gunckel's Toledo friends, rich and poor alike, began a movement that culminated in the erection of the splendid Newsboys' Building on Superior Street near Cherry at a cost of \$100,000.00. It was dedicated on Washington's Birthday, 1911.



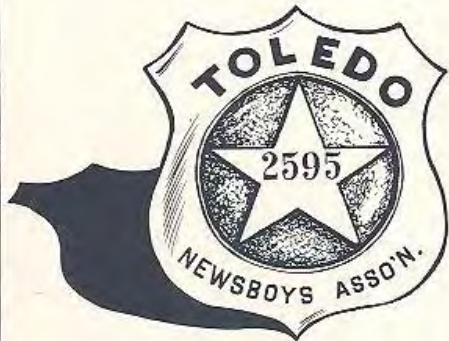
JOHN E. GUNCKEL 1908



It was the first of its kind in the U.S.A. For the next 22 years, Mr. Gunckel devoted most of his time and money to Toledo's newspaper boys. He resigned from the R.R. and gave all his time to the T.N.A.

TOLEDO, O.

First newsboys club in U. S. A.



The T.N.A. (Toledo Newsboys' Association) adopted self-government - and the members were divided into carriers and sellers. Membership was indicated by a badge such as this:

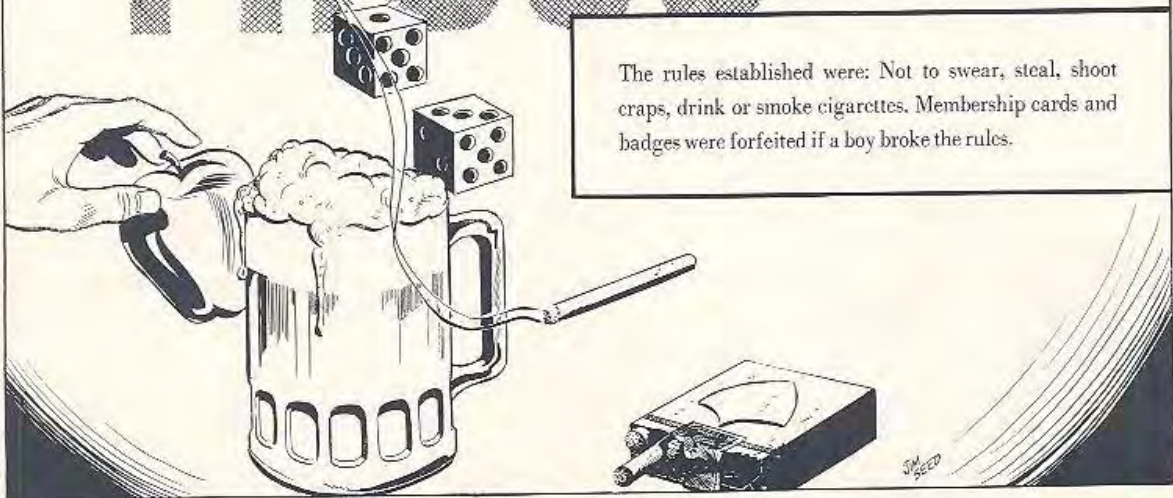


One of the earliest recruits to assist "Gunk" was John Mockett, who annually gave substantial gifts of clothing to the neediest boys. "Gunk" let the boys pick the needy and worthy - another original idea in self-rule.

Some of Toledo's most prominent are still proud possessors of early badges - Joe E. Brown, Danny Thomas, etc.



TABOO



The rules established were: Not to swear, steal, shoot craps, drink or smoke cigarettes. Membership cards and badges were forfeited if a boy broke the rules.

Did the work of John E. Gunckel extend beyond Toledo?
Yes.

The idea was extended to the entire nation, and newsboys associations have been organized in almost every large city of the United States. The National Newsboys Association was organized in St. Louis during the World's Fair and Mr. Gunckel was chosen as President for life.



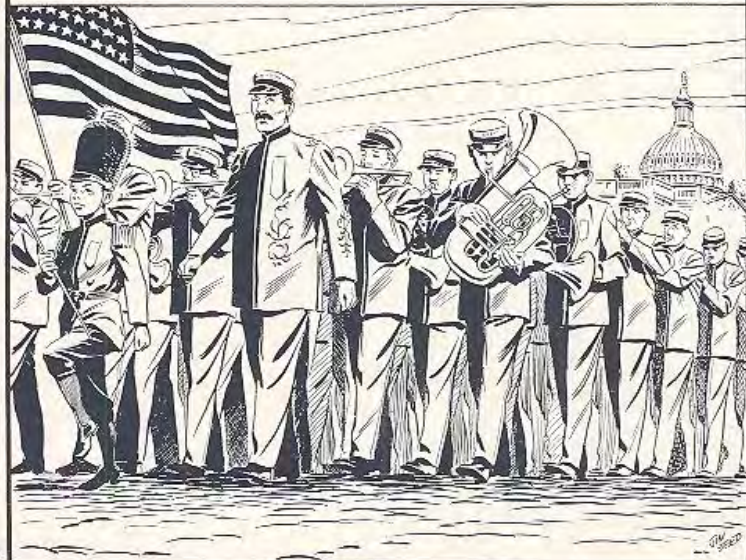
What separate organizations were formed within T.N.A. and under the idea of Better Boyhood – what did T.N.A. stand for?

Under the terms of Better Boyhood, what did the T.N.A. stand for or against, and do? It was against gambling, stealing, use of profane language, and the use of tobacco, remaining on the streets after 9:00 P.M., also against truancy.

The various organizations that were formed in the T.N.A.

Cadets, Newsboys' Band and Knights of the News Bag.

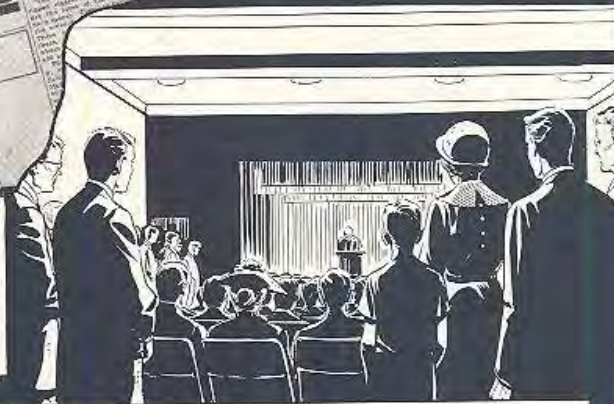
The trustees in 1904 decided to send the band and cadets (65 boys in all) to the inaugural parade of Theodore Roosevelt. They attracted national attention and had a rousing welcome from all Toledo. On their return their Washington showing gave great impetus to the national growth of the Newsboys Association.





John E. Gunckel died August 16, 1915, and never has Toledo seen such tribute paid to one of her sons—city and nation joined in honoring this man.

Memorial services were held at the T.N.A. auditorium and 1600 people packed in to pay last tribute to the great founder.



From all over the country came men who had been enlisted in newsboy work by "Gunckel", and letters, telegrams and flowers from all parts of the country.

Rarely had any Toledoan received such tribute from newspapers, rich, poor and great. Himself not rich in world's goods, was tremendously rich in appreciation of a grateful city and country.





What monument stands to the memory of John E. Gunckel? How built? Where? What was his favorite flower?

A pile of stone in pyramid form at Woodlawn Cemetery, Toledo, Ohio, near running water (his wish).

It was built of stones brought there by loving hands of his own newsboys. His favorite flower was the lotus and each year at memorial services, August 16th, at the monument, newsboys place lotus blossoms on his grave.



A great man had an idea. He made the idea live and T.N.A. was born. It spread to the nation, and the boys of the street found friends. Cities now cultivated the hitherto neglected crop of street merchants, and each year harvested Better Citizens.



All because of a great soul; John E. Gunckel had an idea of unselfish service and put it into action.

THE GUNCKEL MONUMENT

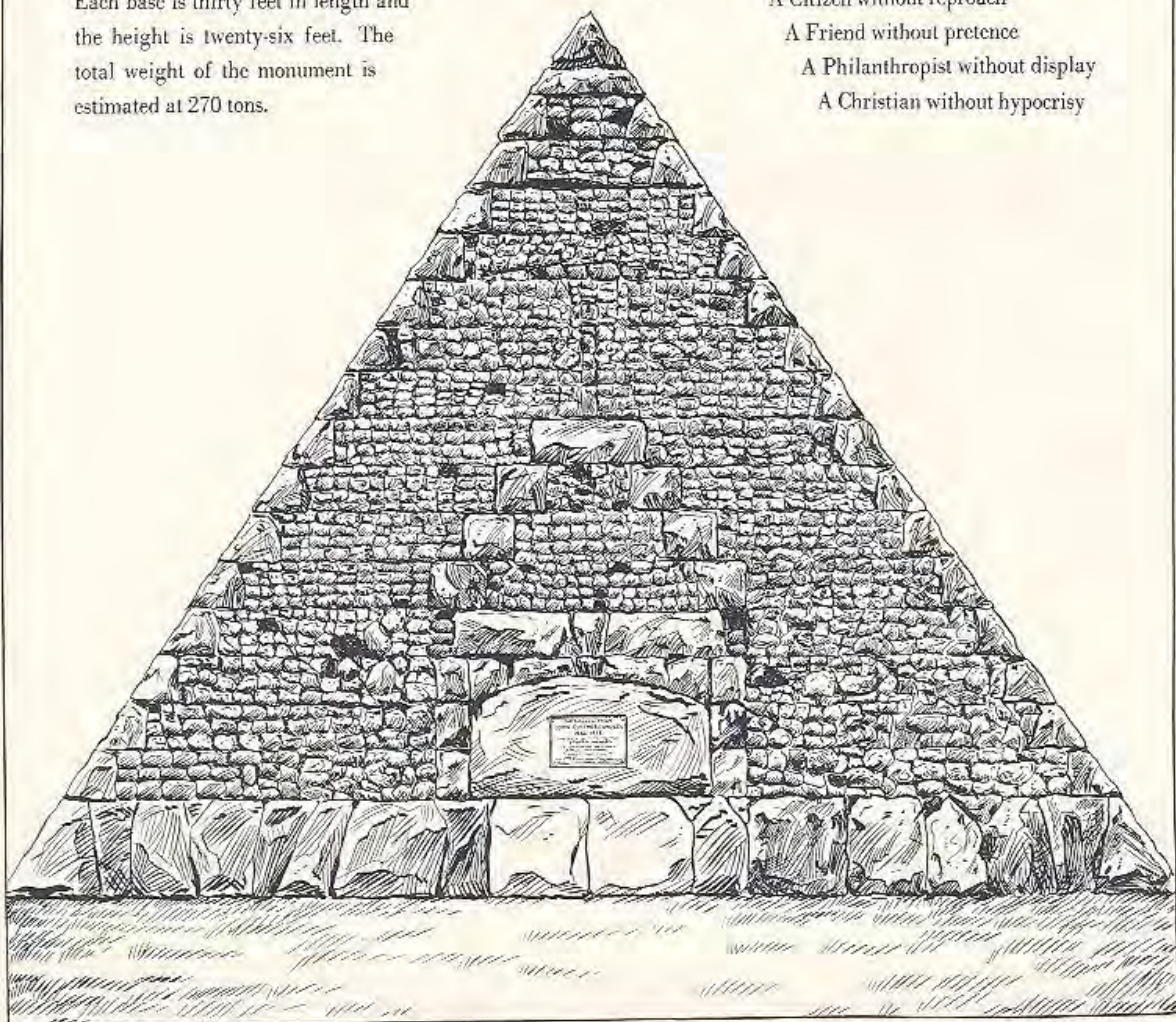
Erected in 1916 over the grave of John E. Gunckel, Founder of The Toledo Newsboys' Association. Dedicated August 11, 1917. Situated in Woodlawn Cemetery, about one-half mile from the entrance, on brow of hill overlooking a winding stream. Composed of over 30,000 stones contributed by newsboys, ex-newsboys, newsboys' sisters and school children. Many of the stones sent from distant places; among them agates and souvenir stones from the Holy Land and other rare stones from China, Japan and Alaska. Each base is thirty feet in length and the height is twenty-six feet. The total weight of the monument is estimated at 270 tons.

This monument was erected by the citizens of Toledo, in a movement inaugurated by the Toledo Ex-Newsboys, from stones contributed by the school children of the city. The copper plate embedded in the monument contains the following:

THE NEWSBOYS' FRIEND
JOHN ELSTNER GUNCKEL
1846 - 1915

"There was a man sent from God whose name was John."

TOLEDO HONORS
A Citizen without reproach
A Friend without pretence
A Philanthropist without display
A Christian without hypocrisy





Each year at sundown on August 16th, the anniversary of his passing, former newsboys and today's boys club members bring the lotus, the flower he himself planted in Toledo, to spread around the headstone of John E. Gunckel's grave in front of the monument.

One of the three speakers at Mr. Gunckel's funeral in 1915, the only former "Newsie" on the program, has been and still is the speaker at these annual memorial visits to his monument and grave. He interprets the life and work of John E. Gunckel to the living.

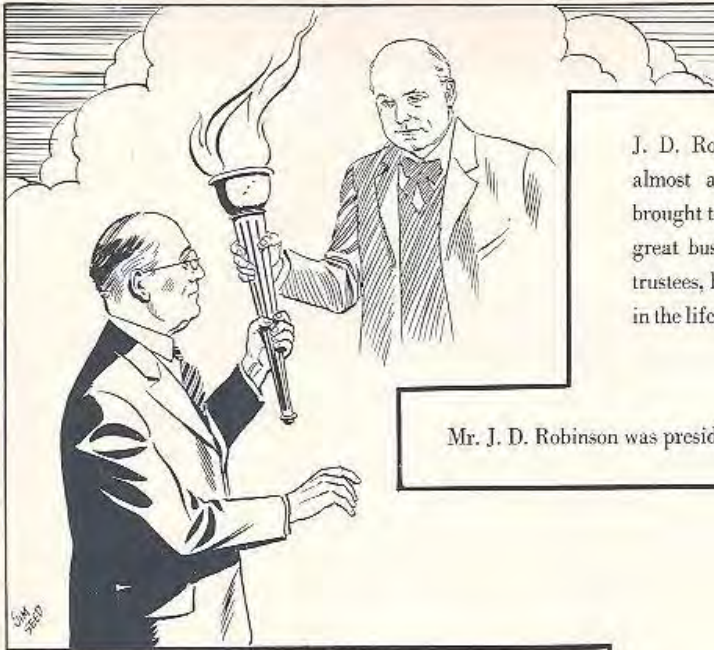


John E. Gunckel ("Gunk") through his works - lives today.

With the passing of their beloved leader, John E. Gunckel, trustees and boys wondered who would succeed him and "carry on".

When one of the older boys asked: "Who will be president now?" The answer was quickly and most naturally forthcoming. And out of the mouth of another boy it was - "J.D. (Jay Dee) of course."

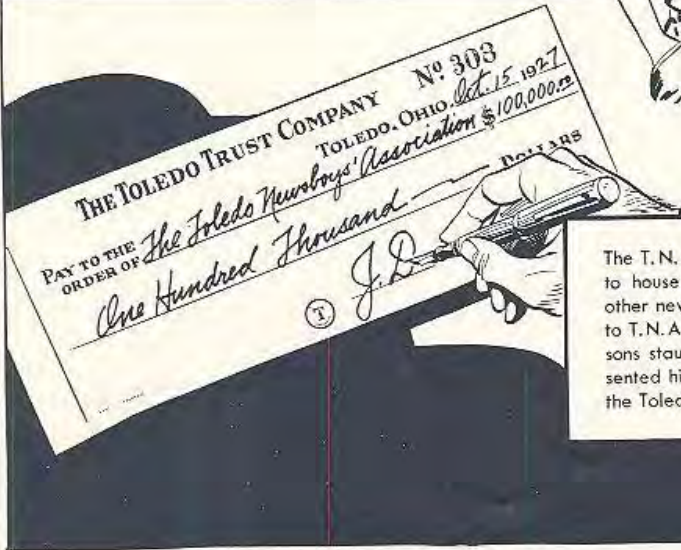




J. D. Robinson who had assisted John Gunckel was almost as well-known as "Gunk" himself. He had brought to his friend John Gunckel—his time, money and great business ability. He gladly answered the call of trustees, boys and citizens; and with "J.D." a new phase in the life of T.N.A. began.

Mr. J. D. Robinson was president of Libbey Glass Company of Toledo, Ohio.

Mr. Robinson, a very successful businessman, active in business, civic and philanthropic efforts, brought a timely supplemental phase to the work to the T.N.A. He continued Boyville and self-government, but added vocational classes and developed them. Vocational guidance throughout these classes was a current and timely emphasis in Boy Work.



The T.N.A. Building was remodeled at a cost of \$100,000 to house the new vocational classes and equipment and other new recreational phases. All of this cost was a gift to T.N.A. from Mr. J. D. Robinson. Among Mr. J. D. Robinsons staunchest supporters was Mr. C. O. Miniger who presented him with a check for \$25,000 to further the work of the Toledo Newsboys' Association.

The boys called Mr. Robinson "J.D." (as Jay Dee) and their affection warmed the heart of this restrained, dignified businessman.



The T.N.A. now had classes and teachers in carpentry, drawing, shoe repairing, typing, printing and journalism.

Under Mr. Robinson's direction, T.N.A. grew by the addition of a thousand members or more who took part in vocational guidance.



Mr. Robinson was assisted by his sons Joseph (Joe) and Jefferson (Jeff) who took an active part in T.N.A. work.



On November 8, 1929, the boys' friend and guide (J. D.) Mr. J. D. Robinson passed away.



The friends of T.N.A. boys and men hoped that these great men "Gunk" and "J.D.", sent by God, were now together.



THE NEWSBOY'S
PLEDGE,
HIS CODE



I give thanks to a Divine Power that turned the minds and hearts of John Gunckel and J. D. Robinson to Boy Work, of which I am an heir.

With a grateful heart I give my word that I will follow in the path they chose for me, and I therefore promise.

I will always be on the square — live clean deeds, think straight thoughts, and make good, for them, for self, and my city.

AARON B. COHN



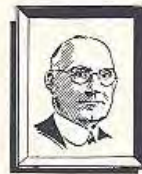
Again the question: Who now would "carry on" for T.N.A. The answer was found.

Will H. Gunckel, son of the beloved founder, John E. Gunckel, succeeded to the presidency of T.N.A. Will had been prominent in the association, working side-by-side with his father and then "J.D."

For many years, Will had organized the Sunday afternoon programs of entertainment and speakers. He rendered many services in the growth and development of T.N.A.



In 1930, Will H. Gunckel was succeeded by Joseph Robinson, the older son of "J.D." (Jay Dee). Responsibility calls out latent talents and all friends of T.N.A. soon found that Joe took hold of T.N.A. with the same vision, vigor and administrative "know how" characteristic of his father.



SIM SEED

During the 18 years from 1930 to 1948, the T.N.A. had its greatest development. The organizing genius of "Joe" Robinson was characterized by several outstanding contributions to the T.N.A.



1. He enlarged the Board of Trustees with young, active leaders of civic life of Toledo; and received real active assistance from each of them.



2. Camp Big Silver on the Robinson Memorial Reservation was founded on July 1, 1936, by J.D. Robinson, Jr. ("Jeff") and J.W. Robinson ("Joe") on land purchased in memory of their father.



3. In 1942, Joe Robinson saw that T.N.A. could be greatly benefited by a very radical change, i.e., to affiliate with Boys Clubs of America and its wonderful program.



Consequently, T.N.A. as such ceased to exist and The Boys' Club of Toledo was born. The slogan of Boys' Clubs is "Building the Citizens of Tomorrow". Thousands of boys have graduated and have gone into the life of Toledo as effective and useful citizens.



It is a remarkable fact that in 56 years, from 1892 to 1948, only two families – the Gunkels and the Robinsons – have served as presidents of T.N.A. and its successor, Boys' Club of Toledo.



They have written an enduring chapter in the history of Toledo. As long as Boys Club work will be done, "Gunk" and "J.D." and their sons will be remembered.



4. It is a living testimony to the memory of "Joe" Robinson that after his death in 1948, that the three succeeding presidents were men that he had recruited to the work of Boys Club of Toledo.

They were literally his men. Joe had planted the seed of service to the Boy, well – because Walter Lathrop, Mason Jones and Al Baker have each served with distinction as presidents of Boys' Club of Toledo.

ORGANIZATION

As evidence of the deep rooted regard of Toledo for the work of "Gunk" and "J. D." and their sons in succession as presidents of T.N.A. and The Boys' Club of Toledo — one has but to look at the current officers and trustees listed below as active workers.

That list reads like a Toledo's "Who's Who" of active citizens.

OFFICERS

A. L. Baker
President

L. Jay Gifford
Virgil Gladieux
Gordon Jeffery
Henry A. Page, Jr.
Vice Presidents

Marvin H. Rorick, Sr.
Treasurer

Marvin H. Rorick, Jr.
Assistant Treasurer

Charles E. Ide, Jr.
Secretary

Lawrence G. Bell, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

Homer Hanham
Executive Director

ACTIVE TRUSTEES

John S. Andrews
Arthur L. Baker
Lawrence G. Bell, Jr.
Swift C. Corwin
William C. Draper
Durwood DuBois
L. Jay Gifford
Virgil Gladieux
Charles E. Ide, Jr.
Martin A. Janis
Cordon Jeffery
George M. Jones, Jr.
Mason B. Jones
Walter W. Lathrop
Philip LeBoutillier
Henry A. Page, Jr.
W. Stewart Retherford
Marvin H. Rorick, Jr.
Marvin H. Rorick, Sr.
George B. Secor
Milo J. Warner

LIFE TRUSTEES

Judge C. E. Chittenden
Aaron B. Cohn
Carroll L. Proctor
Sam J. Logan
William E. Wright

ASSOCIATE TRUSTEES

Judge Paul W. Alexander
Ludlow Ashley
Bernard R. Baker, II
William Baker, Jr.
Stephen J. Balog
Henry R. Bloch
Harold Boeschstein
Urban E. Bowes
E. Leslie Bowsher
George S. Bradley
Ward M. Canaday
Ralph E. Carpenter
Bernard A. Cousino
Richard Day
Michael V. DiSalle

Edwin D. Dodd

Harry C. Fink
Donald A. Finkbeiner
Robert A. Foster
Dr. Will G. Gardiner
Richard C. Heymann, Jr.
Richard R. Johnston
Henson L. Jones
Ray Kest
Thomas L. Kaplin
Maury I. Kaplin
Hampton L. Kirchlmaier
Edward F. Knight
W. W. Knight, Jr.
J. Preston Levis
Jules D. Lippmann
Dr. R. Lincoln Long
Dr. E. J. McCormick
Sam Monetta
Jefferson D. Robinson, III
Frank D. Stranahan
R. A. Stranahan, Jr.
Willard I. Webb, Jr.

1953 STATISTICS

Boy Members	4,029
Total daily attendance.....	94,209
Total activity attendance.....	284,021

CAMP BIG SILVER

The Boys' Club of Toledo Summer Camp	
Total number of boy campers.....	525
Number of campers each period.....	75
Number of days each.....	10
Number of periods.....	7
Number of camper days.....	70

ACTIVITIES AND CLASS SCHEDULE

Club hours are from 4 to 9 on school days; 10 to 5 on Saturdays. School holidays (when all schools are closed) 1 to 9. Members may be here any, or all, of the hours that the building is open and are free to leave as they please.

During the summer school vacation our schedule is 1 to 9 on weekdays and 10 to 5 on Saturdays. Activities in the summer (May 1 to Sept. 30) are swimming, playfield, library, television, game-

room, handicraft, printing and Camp—movies on Saturday at 3.

FALL AND WINTER PROGRAM

(Oct. 1 thru Apr. 30)

Senior Fraternity	Library
Camerooms	Television
Junior Workshop	Movies
Gymnasium	Saturday at 3
Swimming Pool	Wednesday at 5:30

All open during all of the regular Club hours.

Model Building	Art Class	Chorus
Dramatics	Boxing	Wrestling
Tumbling	Weight Lifting	Journalism
Magic	Typing	Plastics
Carpentry	Printing	Photography

Open in the evenings from 7 to 9.

There are many other events such as stage shows, quiz shows, amateur shows, personal appearances, etc., going on at various times. Notice of these is posted on the bulletin boards and announced on the public address system.