



THE CORBIN COMMITMENT

A History of The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation

THOMAS M. WELSH

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THERE WERE OTHER NOTABLE BIRTHS IN 1901, TO BE SURE, BUT TWO STAND OUT

01

David Corbin



based on the symmetry of their life’s work, their care of and contributions to others, and how they were viewed by those who knew them. One was recognized for his trumpet (cornet technically), infectious smile, and raspy voice. The other was recognized for his voice in his community and for trumpeting business, organizations, and charitable causes that elevated the standards by which so many in his community lived.

The latter, David Chenault Corbin, was born in Georgetown, Ky., on Aug. 25, 1901. It was a

year noted for, among other events, the assassination of President William McKinley, the first Texas oil gusher, the incorporation of U.S. Steel, and the birth of Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong.

Armstrong, also born in August, had 19 top-10 hits, one of the most appreciated being “What a Wonderful World.” We’ll never know if Mr. Corbin ever sang along to that tune, but he most certainly spent a great deal of his life working to make its title a reality.



Mary Swinney and David Corbin's 1924 wedding invitation.

THE CORBINS *of* KENTUCKY

Georgetown is located about 12 miles from Lexington, as the crow flies. It was originally called Lebanon when founded by Rev. Elijah Craig but was renamed in 1790 in honor of President George Washington. Today it is the seventh largest city by population in the Bluegrass State, and it is the seat of Scott County. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, its 2019 population was 34,992.

Mr. Corbin, the son of Lannis and Virginia L. (Chenault) Corbin, lived in Georgetown until he was six years old, at which time he moved with his parents to Indianapolis, Ind., where he attended elementary and high school. At the age of 18, he enrolled in the Marmon Car Training Course, learning the basics of the automobile business from mechanics, road tests, and sales work.

Auto sales captured his interest, and at age 20 he left Indianapolis and returned to Kentucky – this time to Lexington to become an employee of Kentucky Motors, where he would soon become the firm's sales manager.

While in Lexington he became interested in more than cars and began courting a school teacher named Mary F. Swinney. She was from Eminence, Ky., in Henry County, about 27 miles from the state capital of Frankfort. They were married June 14, 1924.

The Corbins at Bermuda's Castle Harbour Hotel in 1952.
— The University of Akron Archival Services



The GM YEARS

Though it likely was difficult for the newlyweds to leave their home state, David and Mary Corbin left Kentucky in March of 1926 so he could join the General Motors Co. It was a move that set the wheels turning and paved the road for a future move that would benefit the citizens of Akron and Summit County for years to come.

The couple settled not far away, in Cincinnati, where Mr. Corbin served first as district manager, then assistant zone manager, and finally city manager. Though now on the other side of the Ohio River, in 1931 he nonetheless was made an official Kentucky Colonel by then Gov. Fred D. Sampson. It wouldn't be the last honor bestowed upon him.

In 1933 the Corbins left Cincinnati for Omaha, Neb., where Mr. Corbin became one of the youngest zone managers at GM. He would continue to serve as zone manager in Cincinnati in 1935 and in Philadelphia in 1937. In 1940 the Corbins moved back to Ohio for good when he was named zone manager in Cleveland, in charge of all Northern Ohio Chevy dealers.

AKRON, CITY CHEVROLET and C.C.C. RENTAL

As zone manager in Cleveland, Mr. Corbin traveled to Akron occasionally, and it was on one of those trips that he became acquainted with the owner of City Chevrolet, W.L. "Skipper Bill" Copley. It didn't take long for the acquaintance to become a partnership; and on Saturday, Dec. 30, 1944, it was announced that Mr. Corbin was leaving General Motors after 19 years to join "Skipper Bill" two days later at the Akron dealership. Mr. Corbin was now co-owner and secretary/treasurer of City Chevrolet, located at 333 E. Market St., and given the moniker "Captain Dave" in the dealership's retail advertising campaigns.

The Corbins moved to Akron and into a home at 549 Avalon Ave., nestled among tree-lined streets in the city's west side, between West Exchange Street and South Hawkins Avenue. They would later move less than a half mile away to 365 S. Rose Blvd., where they lived for the remainder of their years.

In a "Biography in Brief," published in the *Akron Beacon Journal* in 1948, Mr. Corbin told Oscar Smith that he never regretted coming to Akron and going into business there, adding that he was sold on Akron's hospitality. The same article described Corbin as a tall, affable Kentuckian who

spoke with a Kentucky drawl and loved to smoke and hunt and collect pipes and guns.

Although the Corbin-Copley partnership was a successful one, a little more than three years later "Skipper Bill" pulled up anchor and set sail for a Buick dealership across town. At the time Buick did not allow its dealers to own competing dealerships, so "Captain Dave" took the helm, purchasing Copley's half of the business (625 shares) for what accounting firm Chandler, Murray & Chilton determined to be fair market value. Mr. Corbin would run the business for 24 years. During that time City Chevrolet not only became one of Ohio's largest auto dealerships, but Mr. Corbin became a prominent voice both in the auto industry and, to the benefit of all around him, the Akron community.

The Akron community was good to Mr. Corbin as well. Following World War II, there was a surge in automobile ownership, and the Akron area was no exception. City Chevrolet's sales ranged from \$4,417,000 in 1949 to a high of \$9,104,000 in 1965.

In line with General Motors' recommended policy for dealers' compensation, from 1949 to 1970 Mr. Corbin's annual City Chevrolet salary was \$30,000. In addition, he was paid



City Chevrolet, 333 East Market Street in Akron.

— Fred Tambling Studio



a bonus of 10% of the company's net profits. His highest annual income from the dealership was \$70,000 for each of the years of 1949, 1950, and 1951. He would have earned another \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year in stock dividends.

Mr. Corbin wasn't just successful in selling cars; he also was one of the very first to profit by leasing them. Recognizing that large companies might prefer to invest their capital in other places, Mr. Corbin, along with Copley, helped form in 1946 C.C.C. Rental Inc., of which Mr. Corbin became the sole owner in 1948. He persuaded companies to lease their vehicle fleets rather than purchase them. One of his first corporate customers was the B.F. Goodrich Co., to which he leased 20 cars for use by salesmen from coast to coast.

Just as Mr. Corbin grew City Chevrolet, so too did he grow C.C.C. The company became one of the largest car leasing firms in the Midwest, and at its peak leased more than 800 cars to clients in 39 states. Mr. Corbin served as president and treasurer while Mrs. Corbin served as secretary. Two men who would remain key advisors over the years and who would be prominent members of The Mary S.

and David C. Corbin Foundation, Bruce "Scotty" Bierce and George W. Daverio Jr., served as assistant treasurer and assistant secretary, respectively.



An INDUSTRY LEADER

Mr. Corbin didn't just work for GM or run City Chevrolet. Just as he would lead many community organizations later, he took on local, regional, and national leadership roles in the auto industry. He was president of General Motors Clubs in Cincinnati, Philadelphia, and Cleveland. He served as chairman of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Inter-Industry Highway Safety Committee. He served on the General Motors Dealers Advisory Council and the Chevrolet National Dealers Planning Committee. Closer to home, he served two terms as president of the Akron Automobile Dealers Association and was also president of the Ohio Automobile Dealers Association.

Mr. Corbin often spoke out locally and nationally on industry issues such as safety, quality, ethics, ingenuity, and advertising.

He admired the Japanese for their skill and ingenuity in producing quality automobiles, once saying to the *Akron Beacon Journal's* James Jackson, "They learned from us and now we have a great deal to learn from them."

A vigilant advocate of ethical advertising in the auto industry, in 1956 Mr. Corbin urged car dealers across the country to subscribe to the "Recommended Standards of Practice for Advertising and Selling Automobiles" set up by the National Automobile Dealers Association and the Association of Better Business Bureaus.

He was tall and thin, but his name and voice carried weight. His opinions mattered.



1951 meeting of Chevrolet's National Dealers Planning Committee. – General Motors Photographic Section



Recognition for his service on Chevrolet's Dealer Advertising Council. – General Motors Photographic Section

MEMBERSHIPS, LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, *and* AWARDS AND HONORS

Mr. Corbin was a busy man. What follows is an estimated account of his involvement in various community organizations, the leadership roles he held, and the many awards and honors he received.

MEMBERSHIPS

Akron-Area Boy Scouts of America
Akron Automobile Dealers Association (also former president)
Akron City Club
Akron Regional Development Board
American Golf Classic Board of Governors (also former vice chairman)
Bluecoats Inc.
Freemasons (32nd degree Shriner)
Navy League Area Council (also president)
Newcomen Society in North America
Ohio Automobile Dealers Association
Portage Country Club
Rotary Club of Akron (also former president)
The Summit County Historical Society
The University of Akron College of Business Administration Advisory Committee
The University of Akron Hilltoppers
The University of Akron Lamplighters
Trustee, The University of Akron Foundation
University of Kentucky Fellows Society
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Akron, Ohio
World Series of Golf Board of Governors

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

President (1947-1952), Akron Automobile Dealers Association
President (1955), Ohio Automobile Dealers Association
President (1959), Portage Country Club
Chairman of board of trustees (1948-1956), Better Business Bureau of Akron
Board of governors (1956-1962), International Association of Better Business Bureaus
President (1950-1951), Akron Chamber of Commerce
President, General Motors Clubs of Cincinnati, Philadelphia, and Cleveland
General Motors Presidents' Dealers Advisory Council (1960-1961)
Chevrolet National Dealers Planning Committee (1953)
Co-founder (1951)/president (1956), United Foundation of Akron
Vice chairman, St. Thomas Hospital Lay Advisory Board (Akron, Ohio)
Summit County chairman (1955), President Eisenhower's Inter-Industry Highway Safety Committee
Trustee, Summit County Society for Children
Director, Centran Bank
Director, The Salvation Army
Director, Goodwill Industries

AWARDS AND HONORS

Kentucky Colonel (1931)
Better Business Bureau Hall of Fame (1986)
Better Business Bureau Service Award (25 years) (1979)
Paul Revere Silver Bowl Community Service Award (1964)
American Red Cross – Resolution of Commendation (1979)
American Red Cross – Distinguished Volunteer Service Award (1979)
City of Akron – Distinguished Service Award
Rotary Foundation of Rotary International – Paul Harris Fellow Award
Peter Bommarito Award for Outstanding Voluntary Community Services (1975)
Marquis Who's Who in America
Marquis Who's Who in Finance and Industry

END of an ERA

Successful and respected as Mr. Corbin was, all good things must come to an end. In 1969, after an illustrious 43-year relationship with Chevrolet, Mr. Corbin sold the City Chevrolet dealership (though he retained the name City Chevrolet Inc.) for \$858,813.49 to Ralph MacIntire, a Huron, Ohio, car dealer who renamed the dealership MacIntire Chevrolet.

Then, in August of 1971, Mr. Corbin sold the assets of C.C.C. (again retaining the name C.C.C. Inc.) to Mid-America Leasing, owned by car dealer David Towell. The sale price was slightly more than \$1.5 million.



Pictured here with his predecessor, Bob Eddy, Mr. Corbin was elected president of the Ohio Automobile Dealers Association in 1954. –Stivas Studio



A Chevrolet Soap Box Derby banquet in Akron. –Tobias Studio

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR

To say that Mr. Corbin contributed to his community would be like saying Louis Armstrong could blow his horn. In an editorial noting Mr. Corbin's passing, published March 10, 1989, the *Akron Beacon Journal* said, "He didn't just belong to important community boards or work on important community events: Very often, he led them." A prime example of his leadership was the city of Akron's 150th anniversary. Sixteen Akron community leaders formed a corporation to aid in Akron's sesquicentennial celebration. Elected president of the organization, which was named Ohio Sesquicentennial of Summit County, was David C. Corbin.

The list of organizations and charitable causes he championed is long and impressive, with names that remain familiar today: the American Golf Classic, the Rotary Club of Akron, and The University of Akron, to name a few. His assistance benefitted them all.

But he had his favorites.



Mr. Corbin, president of Ohio Sesquicentennial of Summit County, and a native Kentuckian, teaches Sesquicentennial Queen, Janet Bailey, the proper way to aim a muzzle loader prior to the Akron parade celebrating Ohio's 150th birthday. – Joe Boyter/Bill Samaris, Akron Beacon Journal

AKRON CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Mr. Corbin was chosen to head the Akron Chamber of Commerce in 1950. Other officers that year were Charles Sauvain of Mohawk Rubber, lawyer Edmund Burroughs, B.F. Goodrich's L.L. Smith, and Fred Pockrandt of the Albrecht Grocery Co.

Mr. Corbin led the organization's first membership drive while serving as its first vice president in 1949. At the time, he told the *Akron Beacon Journal*, "The companies that are enrolling will provide added strength to the chamber's voice by including many more phases of Akron's industrial and commercial interests."

As the top officer of the chamber, Mr. Corbin also led Akron's first community forums, which were town meetings designed to discuss what makes the wheels of American business go round. Believing that discord is the fruit of ignorance and that harmony is the natural result when people understand each other, he said they would first study the basic facts and principles of the American business system, and that once those principles became clear, it would be easier for all to see how each group and individual is affected by developments in the changing economy.

In 1950, as part of Akron's 125th anniversary,

Mr. Corbin wrote a letter, addressed to the chamber's president in the year 2000 (he also wrote one to the head of the Rotary Club of

Akron), which was to be included in a time capsule that was to be opened in that faraway year. It read as follows:

Dear Sir:

I have just written a letter to the President of Rotary 2000 A.D for I have the unique privilege of serving as president of both Rotary and Chamber of Commerce in 1950.

You undoubtedly will see copies of the 1950 Akron Beacon Journal and historical records of Akron's progress. These will inform you of the turbulent 125 years since Akron's founding and the present unsettled conditions resulting from the Korean situation. Consequently, I will confine my brief message to the Chamber of Commerce.

I am enclosing a membership directory, a manufacturing directory, and copies of our publication, "Akron in Action."

You will see that we have what is today a healthy 1,250 members supporting our activities. You will also see the committee organization through which we work.

Current projects include: (1) working out municipal, county and school financing; (2) an ambitious highway program; (3) a downtown improvement project; (4) obtaining a new post office; (5) conducting a continuous traffic, industrial and home safety campaign; (6) improving the airport; and (7) at this moment the All-American Soap Box Derby. Perhaps you can find out who won the 1950 Derby and send him my regards.

The Chamber has many active and interested men working unselfishly for the good of this city. It is my sincere hope that the results of our efforts today have made Akron a better city for you.

Cordially,

David C. Corbin
President

ALL-AMERICAN SOAP BOX DERBY

Myron Scott was a photographer in Dayton, Ohio, in the summer of 1933 when he took photos of boys racing homemade cars. He was so impressed with their races that he acquired a copyright to the name "Soap Box Derby" and started searching for a sponsor to help establish a national program. It didn't take long for Chevrolet to decide that making the Derby part of its national marketing efforts and aligning its brand with wholesome competition and downhill racers made significant sense from a reputation and sales standpoint.

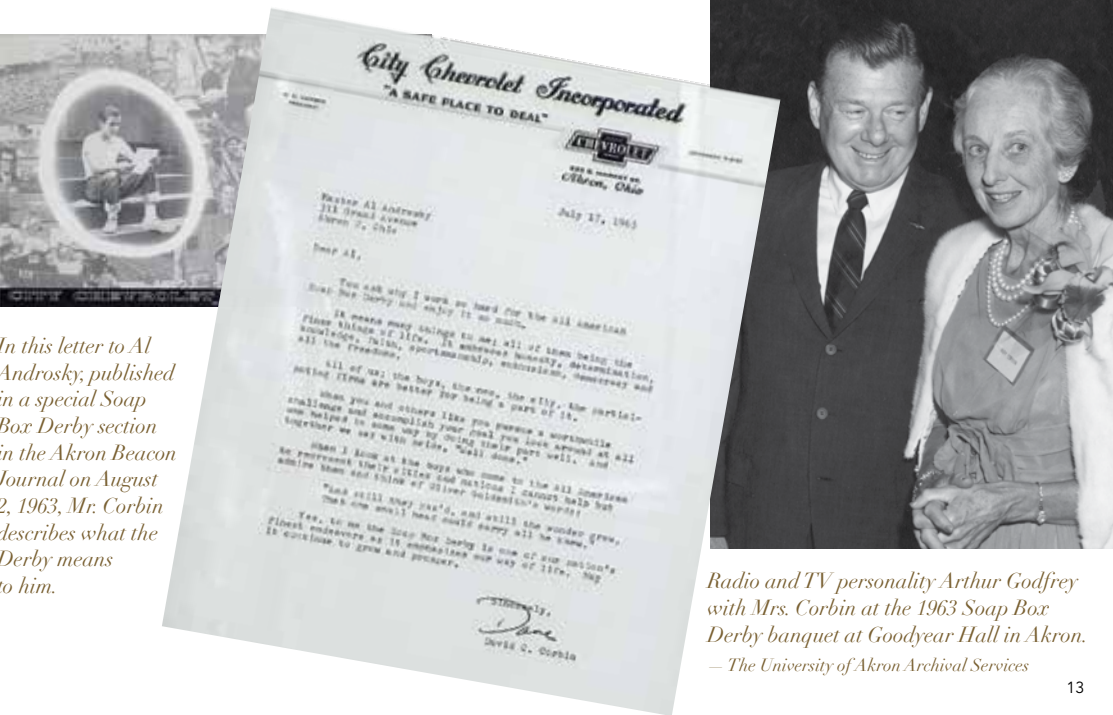
The event moved to Akron in 1935 in part because of the city's central location and hilly terrain. The first race in Akron was run on Tallmadge Avenue.

Scott went on to work for General Motors in Detroit and was later credited with naming the Chevrolet Corvette. Chevrolet would "own and operate" the Derby from 1934 until 1972. Along with a number of community leaders, including the legendary John S. Knight, Chevrolet saw the need for a permanent track site for the "World's Greatest Gravity Race," and in 1936, through the efforts of the WPA (Works Progress Administration), Derby Downs was built in southeast Akron.

The race ran continuously except for a four-year hiatus during World War II. It resumed in 1946, just a year after new City Chevrolet co-owner David C. Corbin came to town.

Like original City Chevrolet owner Bill Copley before him, Mr. Corbin knew the importance of the event to Chevy and also what the Soap Box Derby meant to Akron. He became active, especially in the local qualifying races in Akron.

He held car construction clinics at the dealership, helped organize and host sponsor and dealer parties at the Mayflower Hotel during race week, and provided courtesy cars.



Radio and TV personality Arthur Godfrey with Mrs. Corbin at the 1963 Soap Box Derby banquet at Goodyear Hall in Akron.
— The University of Akron Archival Services

The Greater Akron Chamber's 2018 Annual Report listed membership at 1,533. Although not a large increase from Mr. Corbin's day, the chamber estimated that its members in 2018 employed 117,000 people, paid \$2.3 billion in wages, and generated \$66.2 billion in revenue.



*The Red Cross building at 501 West Market Street in Akron is named in honor of Mary and David Corbin.
—The Red Cross of Greater Akron and the Mahoning Valley.*

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Drive to or from downtown Akron on West Market Street, and you will see the headquarters building of the American Red Cross of Summit, Portage, and Medina Counties. You also will see that the names displayed prominently on the building are those of Mary S. and David C. Corbin.

Mr. Corbin joined the Summit County Red Cross Board of Directors in 1960. Over the years he served on a variety of volunteer committees. In 1971 he was elected chairman of the Red Cross Board. He served three terms, but his service to the Red Cross continued the rest of his life.

It is fitting that the Red Cross building in Akron

bears his name, for during his three years as chapter chairman, he directed the search for a new chapter headquarters and served on the New Building Transition Committee in 1974.

On April 19, 1979, at the age of 77, Mr. Corbin was awarded the Red Cross Distinguished Community Service Award, the organization's highest award for community service. As a longtime Chevy dealer, he must have been a bit perplexed that the evening's program referred to him as the "Mr. Cadillac of Community Service."

The program lauded Mr. Corbin for his service to his community, saying that it was the board of directors' consensus that David Corbin had been a significant part of Akron's cornerstone

for more than 30 years and that few individuals possessed his social consciousness and fewer still had equaled the high caliber and broad scope of his service to the community. The program further stated that it was impossible for the tribute to relate all the generous contributions of time and talent David Corbin made to the Greater Akron Area. However, it is a matter of public record that he had a definite and positive impact on the lives of every Summit County resident through his civic and philanthropic leadership in all facets of the community, business and industry, education, preservation of Akron history, and the quality of services provided by area health and welfare agencies and institutions.



Program cover for the 1979 Red Cross event honoring Mr. Corbin.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

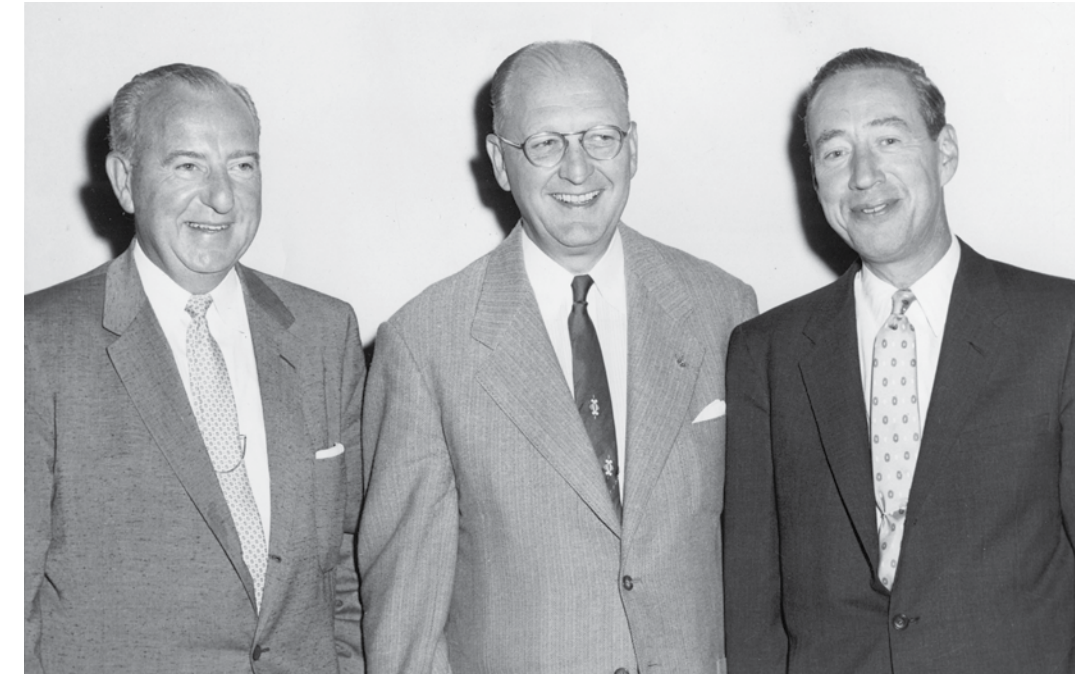
Although many worthy causes occupied his time in his later years, it's hard to imagine that anything took up more of Mr. Corbin's hours or as much of his talent as did the Better Business Bureau (BBB). According to the BBB of Akron's September 1986 FACTS Bulletin, Mr. Corbin was first elected to the BBB of Akron Board in 1948. He became vice chairman in 1951 and served in that capacity until 1956, when he was elected chairman. During his three years as chairman, the BBB of Akron grew in numbers and received many honors for quality of service.

Nationally, Mr. Corbin was elected chairman of the board of the Association of Better Business Bureaus (ABBB) in 1957 and served in that role for six consecutive terms until 1963. According to the BBB, with Mr. Corbin in the lead, the ABBB became international in scope (its name would later change to International Association of Better Business Bureaus), with bureaus being formed in Mexico, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, and Israel. There was also substantial expansion of the bureau network throughout the United States and Canada. It was Mr. Corbin's notion of a national/local merger, an idea he first presented at an ABBB convention in 1955, that ultimately grew into the formation of the Council of Better Business Bureaus, which still exists in that form today.

In 1986 Mr. Corbin was tapped for the prestigious International Association of Better Business Bureaus Hall of Fame. The local

bureau's publication said at the time, "The Akron Bureau is proud of the honor which has come to David Corbin, a man who has been described as a trusted leader among his peers, a valued advisor to those in his industry, a first citizen of his own community and a natural to inspire and encourage BBB executives everywhere constantly to attain higher levels

of achievement." Ken Wilson, retired president of the National Better Business Bureau and himself a BBB Hall of Famer, said, "Dave Corbin had done so much to help build strength, stability and public confidence in the BBBs that he epitomized the best among us for honor, decency, dignity, integrity and trust."



Mr. Corbin with other officials of the Association of Better Business Bureaus. —Carroll Burke Photography

STAN HYWET

Stan Hywet Hall, the great estate built in 1915 by Goodyear co-founder Frank A. Seiberling and his wife, Gertrude, is a National Historic Landmark and was once one of the largest homes in America. The estate, along with the foundation created in later years to support it, benefitted as much or more so from the Corbins' philanthropy and service as did almost any other Akron structure, organization, or charitable cause.

Mr. Corbin became active with Stan Hywet in 1970, when he was elected its vice president in charge of special assignments. With his friend Bob Pflueger (Frank and Gertrude's nephew and the foundation's chairman for more than

30 years), Mr. Corbin quickly began to develop and implement strategies that would not only keep the estate open to the public, but would attract visitors not just from Akron, but from around the world. In March of the following year, he was elected the foundation's president, a position he held until June of 1988, when he was named president emeritus.

In a newsletter following Mr. Corbin's death in 1989, then Stan Hywet CEO John Franklin Miller wrote that Mr. Corbin's contributions to Stan Hywet involved all areas of the foundation's operation. He noted that Mr. Corbin was especially interested in the greenhouse and rose garden, the accomplishments of Stan

Hywet's large family of volunteers, and in the establishment of a sound organization to ensure the careful management of all foundation resources.

Miller remembered Mr. Corbin making a special effort to greet volunteers and to express praise and gratitude for their work. Miller also remembered that, because Mr. Corbin recognized the importance of supporting sound management principles, Mr. Corbin often warned against rushing too quickly to implement changes – regularly advising others to "Give it a think." Nonetheless, Mr. Corbin often said that "if it's good for Stan Hywet, I'm all for it."

According to Miller, Mr. Corbin was all for attracting a large number of visitors to Stan Hywet, believing that a flourishing conservatory and well-maintained rose garden would do just that.

With that in mind, just a few weeks before Mrs. Corbin's death in January of 1977, the Corbins donated \$100,000 to jump-start a fund that would help restore the Stan Hywet greenhouses and conservatory complex (named the Corbin Conservatory today) that had been damaged in a hailstorm a number of years before. The donation helped purchase and reconstruct on the Stan Hywet grounds two 150-foot greenhouses that were acquired from Yoder Brothers Inc. of Barberton, Ohio.



The Corbin conservatory (left) and rose garden (above) at Stan Hywet. – Ian Adams/Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens

The Yoder Brothers were once among the world's largest producers of mums and had for years managed greenhouses for O.C. Barber, the founder of Barberton and, at one time, the largest property owner in Summit County.

The rebuilt structures, meant by Mr. Corbin to be a memorial to Mrs. Corbin, were completed and dedicated in early September of 1980. But as Bill Snyder reported in the *Akron Beacon Journal's* Aug. 31, 1980, issue, Mr. Corbin recognized the importance of a sustainable operation and so contributed another \$100,000 to provide for ongoing maintenance and staffing.

According to Miller, once the conservatory was on solid ground and the endowment established to help offset expenses, Mr. Corbin turned his attention to the Stan Hywet rose garden. Mr. and Mrs. Corbin enjoyed a rose garden of their own at their home on South Rose Boulevard, and Mr. Corbin contributed an additional sum to help make sure Stan Hywet's roses would flourish.



The main mansion at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens in Akron. – Ian Adams/Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens

After Mr. Corbin’s death, The Corbin Foundation built upon his support, contributing \$291,000 over the years to keep those roses blooming.

Miller noted that during the last decade of Mr. Corbin’s life, one of Mr. Corbin’s greatest pleasures was his weekly drive through the Stan Hywet grounds, during which he would admire the estate and, specifically, the splendors of the gardens. Often accompanying him on those drives were his longtime comptroller and foundation board member, Valerie Clauss; old friend Bob Pflueger; and Pflueger’s secretary, Ruth Butler.

The greenhouses, conservatory, and gardens stand today as a memorial to Mary Corbin. A large boulder, which was moved from the Corbins’ home, remains in place by the greenhouses and displays a plaque upon which is engraved a recognition of the Corbins’ generosity as well as Mrs. Corbin’s favorite garden poem.

It reads:

DAVID C. AND MARY S. CORBIN PROVIDED FOR THE RESTORATION OF THESE BEAUTIFUL NEW GREENHOUSES IN ORDER THAT STAN HYWET WILL ALWAYS HAVE FLOWERS.

THE KISS OF THE SUN FOR PARDON, THE SONG OF THE BIRDS FOR MIRTH, ONE IS NEARER GOD’S HEART IN A GARDEN, THAN ANYWHERE ELSE ON EARTH.

At the entrance to Stan Hywet Hall is a crest with the words *Non Nobis Solum* (Not for Us Alone). Mr. Corbin spent a good part of his life making sure that the wonders of Stan Hywet would be appreciated not just by the people of Akron, but by visitors from around the world.



Above, left: The headline of Bill Snyder’s 1980 Akron Beacon Journal article recognized Mr. Corbin’s generosity.

Above, right: This plaque, recognizing the significance of the Corbins’ donation, says (in part): “From those of us who appreciate and understand the significance of the gift of a restored Greenhouse Complex and the beginnings of an endowment to help operate it. A living gift from you and your wife Mary that we will see the results from in the gardens of Stan Hywet, in the educational programs it will stimulate and in the pleasures it will bring to our guests.”

Left: A slice of a birch tree that grew in Stan Hywet’s conservatory hangs in The Corbin Foundation’s office. It was presented to the foundation in appreciation of its ongoing support to Stan Hywet.



UNITED FUND

The year 1951 was the beginning of the United Foundation of Akron. It was in that year, after six months of study, that a citizens’ committee decided that Akron would join other major American cities in an effort to consolidate the fundraising efforts of health and welfare organizations. So, a United Fund (UF) (later to be renamed United Way) was created. No longer would there be separate campaigns by the American Red Cross, Polio Foundation, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, National Tuberculosis Association, or Crippled Children Society.

As one of the founders and incorporators of the original United Foundation of Akron, Mr. Corbin joined many of the most respected names in Akron on the organization’s board of trustees in 1951. Serving with him (among others) were such notables as John S. Knight, Harvey Firestone Jr., Norman Auburn, Roger Berk, Bert Polsky, Lisle Buckingham, Galen Roush, E.J. Thomas, Jack Heslop, Lee Jackson, Hayes Jenkins, P.W. Litchfield, Ben Maidenbunrg, C. Blake McDowell Jr., William O’Neil, John Pflueger, and David Towell.

Those names are forever etched in Akron’s history, but it was from that list that Mr. Corbin was chosen to be the first general chairman of the inaugural United Fund Campaign. The goal was to raise \$1,990,309 to support the Akron District’s principal health and welfare agencies. With continuous encouragement and some significant arm twisting, the campaign reached its goal, and Mr. Corbin was not only reelected to the board the following year, but he was also publicly thanked for his role in the successful campaign at the organization’s 1952 annual meeting. His support of UF would continue over the years, and in 1956 he served a term as board president.



United Fund President Oscar Hunsicker congratulates Mr. Corbin, general campaign chairman, on a successful 1951 campaign. —Julius Greenfield/Akron Beacon Journal

SERVING ONE AND ALL

These many years later, it would be almost impossible to list every cause, campaign, and charity that Mr. Corbin adopted as his own. Perhaps his friend John Franklin Miller summed him up best, describing Mr. Corbin as a man determined to return to his adopted city a substantial portion of the fruits of his success, whose great personal warmth, ready smile, and dignity of bearing made him the very image of a southern gentleman.

This warm, southern gentleman ferociously attacked barriers that stood in the way of the fruitful endeavors of those who lived and worked around him, and he consistently committed himself to Akron’s social and economic progress.



Mary S. Corbin



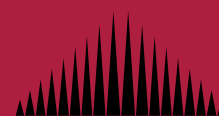
David C. Corbin

A FOUNDATION *for* FUTURE GIVING

Mr. Corbin's commitment to Akron would go beyond his own lifetime. On March 27, 1965, Mary and David Corbin, along with attorney Bruce "Scotty" Bierce, met at 500 First National Tower in Akron (the office of Bierce's law firm, Brouse McDowell) to create and establish a foundation to carry on their philosophy of philanthropy, not only in their retirement years, but also after their deaths. Mr. Corbin acted as chairman, and Mrs. Corbin kept the minutes.

The meeting began with Mr. Corbin stating that he had requested the preparation of a Declaration of Trust, which he presented. The three signed their names to the document and agreed to act as trustees until their successors were appointed and qualified.

The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation



THE DECLARATION OF TRUST

THE MARY S. AND DAVID C. CORBIN FOUNDATION

1. This Declaration of Trust made this 27th day of March, 1965, by Mary S. Corbin and David C. Corbin hereby establishes The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation.
2. The purpose of this Foundation is to devote and apply the property and the income derived therefrom exclusively for charitable, religious, scientific, literary or educational organizations exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the 1954 Internal Revenue Code, and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended; provided, however, that no part of this trust fund shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual, and no part of the direct or indirect activities of this trust shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, or of participating in, or intervening in (including the publication or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, this trust shall not conduct or carry on any activities not permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its Regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended, or by an organization contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of such Code and Regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.
3. **Trust Fund.** The property to constitute this trust and Foundation shall consist of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) transferred to the Trustees at the time of execution of this instrument, together with such other assets as the creators of this trust, or anyone else, may from time to time transfer to the Trustees. All of this property is to be held by the Trustees and disposed of exclusively as herein provided.
4. **Use of Trust Fund.** The Trustees, except as hereinafter limited, shall have the power and authority and are directed to distribute from time to time such amounts of income or principal of this trust fund as they in their discretion may determine, for the purposes specified in Article 2 hereof. In no event shall the income of this trust fund be accumulated so as to offend the provision against unreasonable accumulation of income within the meaning of Section 504(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and its Regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

FUNDING

The foundation's path to philanthropy was started with an initial donation of \$100 from Mr. Corbin. Much more would follow. The foundation's not-for-profit Articles of Incorporation were approved by the secretary of state of Ohio on Dec. 8, 1969.

Along with Mr. and Mrs. Corbin and Bierce, the other co-founding members were Arden E. Firestone and George W. Daverio. The five served as the foundation's first board of trustees.

In the beginning, the trustees met periodically at Brouse McDowell to discuss organizational issues, investment strategy, and worthy recipients of Corbin dollars. Later meetings would be held at the Akron City Club and Portage Country Club.

In those early days, Mr. Corbin's personal donations, along with investments from City Chevrolet Inc. and C.C.C. Rental Inc., funded the foundation, and disbursements were made to charities and organizations both by Mr. Corbin and by the foundation based on his interests and the results of discussions and recommendations among the board members.

EARLY BENEFICIARIES

At a special meeting on June 17, 1970, Mr. Corbin pointed out that in accordance with the action of the board of trustees of the original foundation, the old trust had transferred its assets to the new corporate foundation, and he acknowledged the receipt of \$35,514 by the corporation as of June 11 of that year. Trustees also approved the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the officers of this corporation invest and keep invested a substantial portion of the funds of this corporation or foundation in either C.D. arrangements with local banks or in commercial paper or other investments which will earn for this corporation the highest return, consistent with safety, at the direction of said officers.

The trustees approved another resolution at that meeting which read:

Be it resolved that the trustees at this time designate the following organizations as possible recipients of gifts or grants from the Foundation: The University of Akron, United Foundation of Summit County, American Red Cross, YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts of America,

Girl Scouts of America, Sumner Home for the Aged, Summit County Children's Home, Goodwill Industries, Father Flanagan's Boys' Home, Boys' Town, Nebraska, Salvation Army, churches for capital improvements, colleges and universities with gifts or grants to be made by the Trust to such organizations for either general or special purposes; provided however, the various corporations, associations and institutions mentioned herein are not listed with a view to precluding the trustees from making gifts or grants to other corporations, associations, trusts, funds and institutions of similar character which may qualify under the Internal Revenue Code; and it is understood that the naming of the corporations, associations and institutions above do not in any way assure to them the making of gifts or grants from the Trust, but that the making of such gifts or grants shall be determined by action of the trustees and be made from time to time to such corporations, associations, trusts, funds, or institutions of a similar character as those above mentioned, as the trustees in their discretion may from time to time designate.

From 1970 to 1990, The Corbin Foundation contributed approximately \$246,570.14 to civic, charitable, and community causes. Available records are not complete, but, during that same time period, Mr. Corbin made personal donations of more than twice that amount – giving at least \$524,000.



A plaque from the Red Cross expressing its grateful appreciation for The Corbin Foundation's outstanding support of the Summit County Chapter.

LOOKING AHEAD

During a meeting in June of 1978, Mr. Corbin shared with the board his personal views about the foundation's future, particularly regarding what should be done following his death and the material funding of the foundation from his estate. He suggested that, going forward, the board should always include a lawyer and a certified public accountant, as well as a membership that represented a sufficiently broad spectrum of individual charitable interests, so that the validity of requests for grants could be properly evaluated.

At a December 1982 meeting, Mr. Corbin told the board that he would be leaving an envelope addressed to the board and containing letters and/or memos expressing his wishes and thoughts that he would like the board to discuss and consider. He gave them an example of how such a letter might read. In 1984 he again distributed to the board a sample of how such a letter would read. Then, three years later, in December of 1985, Mr. Corbin presided over a meeting attended by board members Valerie E. Clauss, David B. Albright, Robert C. Brouse, James S. Hartenstein, Joseph M. Holden, Louis A. Maglione, and Raymond R. Wernig. At the meeting Clauss distributed and led a review of financial statements reflecting the composition of the foundation and a valuation of its assets at that time, as well as those of City Chevrolet Inc. and C.C.C. Rental Inc. The total was \$7,202,491.19.

During the meeting Mr. Corbin updated his 1982 observations on the ultimate course of giving that he had formulated for the guidance of the board after his death. A written copy of those observations (prepared by Brouse) was

distributed to the board. It read (in part) as follows:

“In the course of discussions at meetings of the Foundation and its corporate and financial records, you will find reference to charities

The Mary Corbin Green at The University of Akron, created with the help of a \$330,000 grant from the Corbin Foundation. – Julius Greenfield/Akron Beacon Journal



which I favor and/or in which I had an interest during my lifetime. Additionally, talks between you and my treasurer, Mrs. Clauss, and/or my accountant, Lou Maglione, and/or my lawyer, Robert Brouse, or Joe Holden, will advise you of charities to which I have made personal contributions and whether such contributions evidence continuous support or represented a “one-time” recognition. In the envelope that contains this general letter to you, I expect to add, from time to time, additional messages that represent current thinking on my part on organizational matters and the like.

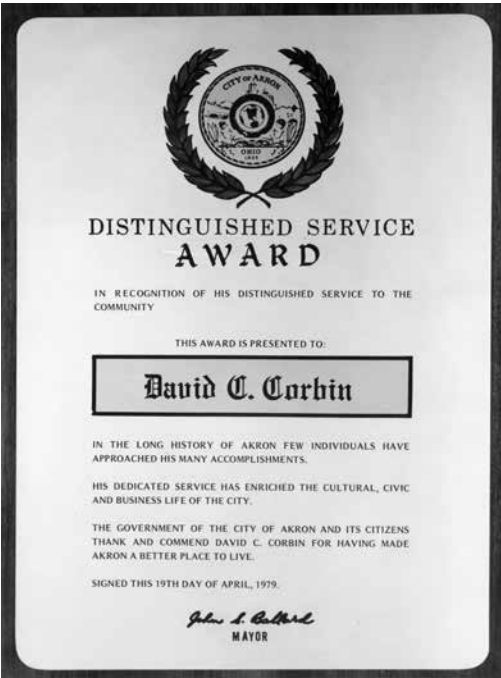
I recognize that circumstances will change over the years and that when the Foundation is materially funded from my estate the scope and amount of its contributions must broaden. A review of the recipients and nature of the contributions made during my lifetime will indicate the area of my charitable interest and give you, and your successors, some general guidance which I hope you can follow. As you must broaden the scope and increase the annual distributions from the Foundation, (\$700,000+), it is my preference that you give primary consideration to the city of Akron and Summit County charitable organizations, and/or local chapters of national charities located in this area, for it is here that Mrs. Corbin and I spent our productive years. This does not mean that an extremely worthy cause outside this area is not to be considered.

There are quite a few other things we give to (see list) that I would like continued. Since you will have the income from over \$7 million, you will be able to do much more for this area than we are doing now.

Also, in all probability, I will have the names of some men that I would like for you to give consideration to for replacements or additions to the Board.”

In September of 1989, the board unanimously resolved that the number of trustees be fixed at seven, and at a special meeting of the trustees on June 22, 1994, the board agreed on the following criteria for the selection of new members:

- Conformance to Corbin Philosophy
- Diversity of expertise: attorney, CPA, banker, broker, general business
- Consider Mr. Corbin’s suggested names
- Civic-minded
- Time available for grant investigation, et cetera
- Availability to attend meetings
- Foundation manager
- Summit County-based
- Active in local civic affairs
- Sound moral character
- Compatibility with the group
- No conflicts



In 1979 Mr. Corbin was honored with the Distinguished Service Award from Mayor John Ballard and the city of Akron in recognition of his service to the community.
– Carpenter’s Studio Inc.

From left, Lloyd Mentzer, Harvey Wietz, Lee Weingardt, and Mr. Corbin at an auto dealers outing at Brookside Country Club in 1947.
– Fred Tambling Studio



By the time of Mr. Corbin’s death on March 7, 1989, the \$7 million had grown to \$9,300,000. As he wished, the foundation was materially funded through the transfer of that amount from his estate. In 2001, following her death, an additional \$850,000 was donated from a trust Mr. Corbin had established for Valerie Clauss, his trusted comptroller and longtime treasurer of the Corbin Board.

In 1990 the foundation began accepting formal grant requests. That year 103 grant requests were reviewed. Nine were granted, totaling \$600,000 (\$500,000 of which was for two three-year commitments). Another \$21,560 was distributed by way of contributions. That was also the first year that the board began to meet quarterly.

On Oct. 22, 1991, trustees met for the first time at the foundation’s first formal office on the ninth floor (#910) of the Society Building (later renamed the Key Building) at 159 S. Main St., in downtown Akron. It was just one floor down from Mr. Corbin’s former business office. This location would be the foundation’s home until it relocated in 2012 to 50 S. Main Street, Suite 703.

From Mr. Corbin’s original \$9,300,000 and the income generated by the investment decisions by board members over the years, The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation, as of Dec. 31, 2020, had contributed more than \$27,291,747.50 to approximately 230 deserving organizations in the Akron and surrounding areas. Of those 230, the organizations shown on the following page make up the top 20 by total grant amount (\$15,696,951.16) from 1990 to 2020.

TOP 20 ORGANIZATIONS *by* TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT *from 1990 to 2020*

(Listed alphabetically)

ORGANIZATION NAME	GRANT YEARS
Akron Art Museum <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	1990-2020
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	1991-2020
Akron General Development <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	1991-2007
Akron Zoological Park <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	1993-2018
American National Red Cross <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	1993-2020
Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	1990-2020
Community Hall Foundation Inc. d.b.a. Akron Civic Theatre <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	1992-2018
Cuyahoga Valley Preservation and Scenic Railway Assoc. <i>Peninsula, Ohio</i>	1993-2020
Habitat for Humanity of Summit County Inc. <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	1990-2020
International Soap Box Derby Inc. <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	1990-2020
Interval Brotherhood Home <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	1993-2007
Musical Arts Association/The Cleveland Orchestra <i>Cleveland, Ohio</i>	1992-2020
(The) Salvation Army <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	1990-2020
Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens Inc. <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	2014-2018
Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens Inc. (Greenhouse) <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	1990-2012
Summa Health System <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	1990-2015
The University of Akron Foundation <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	1990-2020
United Way of Summit County <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	1990-2020
Western Reserve Historical Society Hale Farm and Village <i>Cleveland, Ohio</i>	1991-2020
Young Men's Christian Assoc. of Akron <i>Akron, Ohio</i>	1990-2020
Total \$15,696,951.16	



The Corbin Foundation has been dedicated to enriching the lives of the people of Akron and Summit County since 1965. Including the original five members, 20 civic-minded professionals have served as members of its board. In keeping with Mr. Corbin's advice, there have been six business executives, five lawyers, three accountants, two bankers, two financial advisors, and two combination lawyer/accountants. Each has tried to abide by the guidelines Mr. Corbin first outlined regarding the type of charities and organizations he favored. Each has adhered to an investment strategy that is diversified and conservative and that has grown the \$9,300,000 Mr. Corbin bequeathed to the foundation into a balance, as of December 31, 2020, of \$22,599,608.80, net of the \$27,291,747.50 that has been distributed.

Mr. Corbin would likely consider the foundation's performance over its 55-year history and the good that has come from its financial support quite a success story. The trustees who have contributed their time and talents toward achieving that success did so not in pursuit of recognition or reward; rather they did so to honor his memory and to distribute the wealth that accumulated to the organizations and causes that were most important to him.

Mr. Corbin in his office, holding the certificate of merit that City Chevrolet received from the Newspaper Executives Associates Inc. in 1959 for outstanding newspaper advertising. — The University of Akron Archival Services

The PILLARS

Along with Mrs. Corbin, the early members of the Corbin Board were people that Mr. Corbin considered friends. They were people he trusted and whose advice he valued. They were the pillars upon which he built the foundation. Individually, they were prominent Akronites who had each achieved notable success in their given fields. Together, they formed a team that helped him grow the foundation's assets and award grants to worthy organizations. They also set the stage for the board members who would follow them.

Here are their stories.

MARY S. CORBIN

Mary S. Corbin was at her husband's side for 51 years. She assisted him in his business endeavors and his philanthropic efforts, as she shared his belief in the importance of community involvement and helping others.

A 1921 graduate of the University of Kentucky, she was a member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Chapter P.E.O. Sisterhood. She taught school in Kentucky early in her life. Later she became a fellow of the University of Kentucky.

A 33-year resident of Akron, she, like her husband, was a longtime member of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Corbin was described by those who knew her as a caring person who was very gracious and always elegantly dressed. Slim and active,

she loved golf and encouraged other women to take up the game. She served as president of the Portage Country Club Ladies Golf Association.

She devoted many hours to the Sumner Home for the Aged, serving as president of its board of managers and as a life member of its board of trustees. She also was president of its Women's Auxiliary.

Mrs. Corbin was there at the beginning of The Corbin Foundation. She served as its secretary from its first year until 1977, the year she died.

In Mr. Corbin's life, she always came first. Appropriately, the foundation's name begins with hers.



*Mrs. Corbin (far right) and others
at a Chevrolet Dealer Party
during the 1952 Soap Box Derby:
— General Motors Photographic Section*

BRUCE W. “SCOTTY” BIERCE

Bruce “Scotty” Bierce first earned fame on the football field and then in the courtroom and corporate office. One of the Akron area's best and most beloved athletes, he starred on his high school team in Cuyahoga Falls, then played end at The University of Akron in 1917 and 1918 and again in 1919 after returning from the Naval Reserve in Chicago.

One of the first professional football players, he played for the Akron Pros, league champions of the American Professional Football Association in its inaugural year of 1920. (The league would be renamed the National Football League in 1922.) He is a member of the Sports Hall of Fame of both The University of Akron and Summit County.

On the gridiron, Bierce lined up against the likes of the legendary Jim Thorpe, but after using his football earnings to pay his way through Western Reserve Law School, Bierce earned his own legendary status as a corporate and labor attorney and became a senior partner at Brouse McDowell, one of Akron's most successful law firms.

He was a former president of the Akron Chamber of Commerce, the Akron YMCA, and the Downtown Kiwanis Club. He was a member of Silver Lake Country Club, the Akron City Club, the Lone Star Fraternity, Westminster

Presbyterian Church in Akron, and the Wendell L. Willkie Post of the American Legion.

Along with Mr. Corbin and Bill Copley, Scotty Bierce was a member of City Chevrolet's board. He served on The Corbin Foundation Board until 1977. He died April 26, 1982.

GEORGE W. DAVERIO

It has been said that George W. Daverio's career should be used as a model for students in business school. Upon his death, the *Akron Beacon Journal* described him as a self-made man who was both teacher and practitioner. For many years he taught accounting at The University of Akron, but it was as the head of the Akron accounting firm Chilton, Stump and Daverio that he made his name. He worked there from 1947 until 1979, after having merged it with Touche Ross & Co. in 1975.

The University of Akron paid tribute to Daverio in 1991 when it named its accounting school The George W. Daverio School of Accountancy. At the time, Dr. Orville Keister, head of the school, said: “His name stood for excellence. It's appropriate that his name be associated with the school.”

From 1927 until joining Chilton, Stump and Daverio, he worked at Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., heading its federal tax division for 13 years.

A graduate of The Ohio State University and The University of Akron's School of Law, Daverio was named Ohio State's College of Commerce Honor Man in 1929. He was a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Federal Taxation Committee, and The Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants. In 1968 he received the Certified Public Accountant's Distinguished Service Award.

He also was a member of the Akron Bar Association and of the advisory board at The University of Akron's College of Business Administration. He was a member and treasurer of the Family Service Society. He was a member of the Special Citizens Review Committee of the United Fund, a member of the United Community Council, and a member of the Summit County Red Cross. He was president of The University of Akron Lamplighters; a trustee and member of the Summit County Mental Health and Retardation Board; and a trustee of the Albrecht Grocery Profit Sharing Trust for Employees, the Vaughn Family Foundation, and the Akron Chemical Co. Employees Profit Sharing Trust.

Daverio served as assistant secretary of The Corbin Foundation Board from its inception until his death in 1981.

ARDEN E. FIRESTONE

For much of his career, Arden E. Firestone had to endure questions about how a Firestone ended up at Goodyear. That he was often described as an easygoing gentleman probably answers why; though, tired of being asked the same question over and over, he would politely explain that no, he wasn't related to the famous family that started Firestone Tire and Rubber Co.

He was born May 25, 1908, in East Akron, the son of a local grocer who owned and operated a store at Spicer and Exchange streets. Though he worked at his father's store when he was young, he always aspired to be a lawyer. He graduated from Central High School, The University of Akron, and the University of Michigan Law School.

In 1932 Firestone started a private law practice with his partner, Walter Hutchison. Ten years later Firestone joined Goodyear's Law Department before entering the U.S. Navy in 1944. He served as a communications officer in the Pacific theater during World War II. One year after returning from the Navy in 1946, he was named Goodyear's assistant secretary of foreign operations, and then was elected secretary of the company in 1953.

Relaxed, mild, and soft-spoken, he was described by friends as a man who could look at a situation, analyze the facts, and come up with the right decision – a man people naturally turned to because they trusted his judgment.

He was a member of the Ohio, American, and Federal Bar Associations; the American Society of Corporate Secretaries; and the Kiwanis Club of Akron. He was president of the Portage Country Club, the Akron City Club, and the Akron City Hospital; and he served on the boards of the United Fund Foundation, the Akron Auto Club, and Summit County Red Cross. He was a 30-year member of First Evangelical United Brethren Church and served on its board. Later he also served on the board of the Litchfield, Ariz., Rehabilitation Center.

Firestone served as vice chairman of the Corbin Foundation Board until 1977. He died March 9, 1993.

DAVID B. ALBRIGHT

A longtime resident of Akron, David B. Albright was a 1936 graduate of Buchtel High School and later graduated from Wittenberg University and the Harvard Business School. He was an All-Ohio basketball player at Wittenberg and, like his friend "Scotty" Bierce, is a member of the Summit County Sports Hall of Fame.

A veteran of the U.S. Army Air Forces, Albright was employed for 13 years by the Bell Telephone System in Cleveland, Akron, and New York City. In 1953, he joined Akron Savings & Loan, then headed by his father, Archie Albright. Four years later he was named president and ultimately chairman of the board, before retiring in 1984. He relocated to Longboat Key, Fla., in 1988.

He was president of West Akron Kiwanis Club; member emeritus of The Salvation Army Board; and member of the Akron City Hospital Board, the Akron Regional Development Board, the Akron Community Trust, the Akron Automobile Association's Board, and Bluecoats Inc. of Summit County. He was active for many years with the YMCA of Akron. He was involved in the formation of Summit County's charter government and for more than 70 years was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church of Akron.

Albright spent many years on Wittenberg's board, including serving as chair from 1984 to 1989. The school's tennis facility is named after him. He was a member of Portage Country Club, The Sharon Golf Club, Longboat Key Country Club, the Sarasota Yacht Club, and the Cedars Tennis Club.

He summed up his personal philosophy this way in a 1969 *Akron Beacon Journal* article: "To help people on a person-to-person basis. Patience is not one of my virtues and I have none with people who don't care about their fellow man."

Albright served on The Corbin Foundation Board from 1977 until he died in 1994.

ROBERT C. BROUSE

Five generations of Brouses had lived and worked in the Akron area by the time Robert C. Brouse was born in 1913. Before his death

in 2004, he would help manage one of Akron's most respected law firms and leave a legacy of corporate and community service that will last for generations to come.

While attending Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio, he was chosen to attend the prestigious Ecole du Montcel French school near Paris. He would later graduate from Princeton University and the University of Michigan Law School.

Brouse became an attorney in 1938 and practiced law with Brouse McDowell (the firm co-founded by his father, Edwin, in 1919) until his retirement in 1983. Like other early contributors to The Corbin Foundation, he went to war to defend his country from 1942-1946, serving as a naval officer with the Pacific Fleet during World War II.

Returning to Akron after the war, he continued his service to his firm and community. He specialized in estate planning and taxation and represented many high-net-worth individuals and their businesses; however, he stepped out of his specialty area at least once, representing a client who had been sentenced to death for desertion during the Korean War. It's not known today why the client chose an estate planning and taxation expert to keep him from being executed, but Brouse saved his life by getting the sentence reduced to a dishonorable discharge.

Brouse was also believed to be one of three Akron lawyers who, in the mid-1950s, helped convince B.F. Goodrich executive and Akron

Our PRESIDENTS



*Robert C. Brouse
Served 1977-1990*



*Joseph M. Holden
Served 1990-2010*



*Roger T. Read
Served 2010-2014*



*Robert M. Bonchack
Served 2014-2019*



*Robert C. Berk
2019-present*

philanthropist Edwin Shaw to donate \$1 million to start the Akron Community Foundation.

In addition to numerous corporate directorships, Brouse was on the boards of Akron Children's Hospital and its foundation, Western Reserve Academy, Phi Delta Phi (Kent Chapter), Akron Community Foundation, Akron City Club, Akron YMCA, Portage Country Club, Permanent Federal Savings, and Brouse McDowell.

He chaired the Akron Bar Association section of the 1956 United Fund Red Cross Joint Campaign.

Robert Brouse served on The Corbin Foundation Board from 1977 until 1992.

JAMES S. HARTENSTEIN

Jim Hartenstein's career was spent in the insurance business, but, like other Corbin Foundation Board members, he spent his

adult life helping civic organizations and charitable causes.

Born Oct. 19, 1922, he grew up in Akron and attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. During World War II, he served as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force and then, after the war, returned to Akron and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from The University of Akron in 1948.

He worked for Akron Agencies Inc. and Acme Insurance before forming the James Hartenstein Insurance Agency in 1958. Two years later he merged his company, creating Akers-Hartenstein Insurance Agency, of which he was named president.

Another merger created Akers, Hartenstein, Daley Insurance (AHD). Then, in 1978, Hartenstein

merged AHD with the New York brokerage firm F.B. Hall, serving as executive vice president of F.B. Hall of Ohio. He retired from F.B. Hall in 1986, after more than 40 years in the insurance business.

He was named “Outstanding Young Man of Akron” by the Junior Chamber of Commerce and received the Distinguished Service Award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Hartenstein served as president of the Insurance Board of Summit County, founder and chairman of the board of the Cascade Club of Akron, founding president of the West Akron Kiwanis Club, co-chair of the Akron Children’s Hospital Fund Drive, president of the Visiting Nurse Service of Summit County, and president of the Lamplighters at The University of Akron.

He was a board member of the United Way of Summit County and an emeritus board member of Akron General Hospital, the Akron City Club, the Portage Country Club (of which he was a 60-year member), and the Summit County Red Cross. He was also senior warden of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

Hartenstein served on The Corbin Foundation Board from 1977 to 2007. He was elected its vice president in 1990 and its vice president and treasurer in 2001.

RAYMOND R. WERNIG

Raymond R. Wernig was born in Madison, Wis., on May 17, 1920. He moved to Akron when he was seven and was raised by his brother,

Charles, and sister-in-law Marguerite. He attended elementary school and high school in Akron, graduating from Buchtel High School.

He returned to Madison to attend the University of Wisconsin, graduating with degrees in history and economics. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and Army ROTC. Upon graduation, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

While at Wisconsin, Wernig met and fell in love with Martha Elizabeth “Marty” Gardner. They were married in 1941 in a military ceremony, exiting the church under an archway of 14 sabers. From that day on, they seldom crossed swords, raising six children and celebrating 77 years of marriage before passing away within eleven days of each other in 2018.

Wernig was a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and spent 36 months overseas during World War II with tours in Northern Ireland, England, France, and Germany. He was awarded the Bronze Star with three Battle Stars and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before leaving the service in 1945.

The Wernigs returned to Akron, and he began his career as an executive with the R.C.A. Rubber Company, and then spent 44 years as one of Akron’s most trusted and successful financial advisors. His personal and business ethics were second to none, and his understanding of math and business trends unparalleled. He retired in 2010 at the age of 90 and spent his later years

both in Akron and in Naples, Fla. He loved golf and was a longtime member of the Portage Country Club in Akron and the Royal Poinciana Golf Club in Naples.

His community service was exemplified through his 22-year vice chairmanship of Stan Hywet’s board of trustees. He also served the Rotary Club of Akron, Junior Achievement, E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall, The University of Akron (named an Honorary Alumnus in 2004), Hower House, and the Ohio Ballet.

A man of faith, he was an active volunteer with the Catholic Service League, and with St. Vincent de Paul Parish School, Our Lady of the Elms School, and St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, all in Akron, and with Walsh Jesuit High School, in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. He also was the recipient of the Sisters of St. Dominic Friend of the Elms Award in 2007.

The Raymond R. and Martha G. Wernig Foundation was established in 2000 to support their philanthropic interests.

Ray Wernig served on The Corbin Foundation Board for 32 years, from 1981 until 2013.

VALERIE E. CLAUSS

Other than Mrs. Corbin, no one served Mr. Corbin more faithfully, or was more dedicated to him and what he believed in, than Valerie Clauss.

The daughter of Beatrice Ragland and James Dalton, she was born April 16, 1923, in Trion, Ga. She attended Summerville High School in

Trion, where she was a three-year basketball all-star before graduating in 1940.

She was a faithful, longtime employee of Mr. Corbin and a trusted advisor. She served as vice president/treasurer of City Chevrolet Inc. and C.C.C. Rental Inc.

In 1981 she was named comptroller of The Corbin Foundation. She became a trustee and the foundation’s treasurer in 1984. Petite but forceful, she was determined, after Mr. Corbin’s death, to advocate his causes, and she was instrumental in firmly guiding trustees in administering the foundation as she thought he would have wished.

Clauss died in 2001, at the age of 77.

LOUIS A. MAGLIONE

Mr. Corbin’s suggestion that there should always be an accountant on the foundation’s board likely stemmed from his appreciation of the knowledge, expertise, and contributions of his accountant, friend, and longtime Corbin Board member, Louis A. Maglione.

Born in Akron, Ohio, on Feb. 26, 1940, “Lou” graduated from St. Vincent High School, where he was a two-sport athlete, and later from The University of Akron, where he earned a degree in accounting. A superb college baseball player, he had offers from two teams to play professionally.

He served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army before starting his career with the Internal

Revenue Service. He later worked for national and local CPA firms before co-founding the firm Brott, Kusmits, Maglione, Mardis & Co. The practice would later be merged with Bruner Cox LLP.

During his distinguished career as a tax professional, Maglione served many businesses, foundations, and individuals in the Akron area. He was a president of the Akron-Canton Chapter of the Ohio Society of CPAs and was active with the American Professional & Businessmen’s Club, the Knights of Columbus, St. Hilary Church, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

One of the most beloved and respected Corbin Board members, Lou was a wise, kind, and gentle man with an easy smile and a good sense of humor. He and his wife, Mary Jean, were staples at Corbin Board events over the years, and other board members were always pleased to be fortunate enough to sit near them.

Lou Maglione served as a member of The Corbin Foundation Board for 35 years and was elected vice president in 2011. He retired from the board in 2019, just three months before he died.

JOSEPH M. HOLDEN

Joseph M. Holden served the Corbin Foundation for almost 25 years, joining the board in 1984 and holding the positions of assistant secretary, vice president, and

secretary, and president, the latter of which he held from 1990 until his death in 2010.

A lifelong resident of Akron, he attended Buchtel High School for two years before graduating from the New Mexico Military Institute in 1945. He graduated from Harvard University in 1949 and Western Reserve University School of Law in 1952, where he was a member of the Phi Delta Phi law fraternity.

Holden was an accomplished attorney, serving as assistant Summit County prosecutor before becoming a partner with law firms Carson, Roderick and Holden; and Brouse McDowell.

An active civic leader, he served as president of the board of Akron Children’s Hospital and as a trustee of its foundation. He also was a trustee at the Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio; the Portage Country Club; and the Akron City Club. He was a member of the First Congregational Church of Akron.

At Holden’s funeral service, longtime Corbin trustee Roger T. Read told attendees that Holden was extremely conscientious and thorough in everything he did, had a zeal for what was proper, was a consensus builder, and made every effort to follow the guidelines Mr. Corbin set forth for his foundation. Other Corbin trustees described Holden as a gentleman lawyer; quiet, thoughtful, and contemplative; serious but with a quick smile; loyal and respectful; a person you could count on. And finally, he was described as a very effective leader, a caring community citizen, and an honest man.

An EVOLVING BOARD – CIVIC-MINDED CITIZENS COMMITTED to the CORBIN PHILOSOPHY

ROGER T. READ

Ask almost any Akron-area nonprofit organization for the name most associated with philanthropic support, and you will most likely hear Roger Read.

During a 28-year career at Harwick Chemical Corporation in Akron, Read helped build the company into a nationwide producer and distributor of rubber and plastics compounding materials. He served in finance, planning, production support, human resources, and product management before being named president and CEO in 1989. He retired from the company and sold his ownership interest in 1995.

He graduated from Akron's Buchtel High School in 1959, where he captained the track team. He also was a track star at The University of Akron, graduating in 1963 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, then earning an MBA in 1966.

Read currently serves as a board member of the Smithers Corporation and is a former trustee of the GAR Foundation and Leadership Akron.

He is also a member of The University of Akron's Business College Advisory Council.

He is past chair or president of the Akron Rotary Club, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, Akron Automobile Club, The University of Akron Foundation and The University of Akron's Business College Advisory Council.

Often recognized for his contributions to his community, he was the recipient of the Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award and the Association of Fundraising Professionals' Outstanding Philanthropist Award in 2002. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from The University of Akron in 2006, the United Way's Distinguished Service Award and the Association of Fundraising Professionals' Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007, the H. Peter Burg Community Leadership Award from the Red Cross in 2008, and the Greater Akron Chamber's H. Peter Burg Economic Development Leadership Award in 2020.

Read joined The Corbin Foundation Board in 1992 and served as its president from 2010 until he retired in 2014.

ROBERT M. BONCHACK

Bob Bonchack has served on the Corbin Foundation Board since 1994 and has always been quick with a joke but dead serious about fulfilling the foundation's mission to enrich the lives of the people of Akron and Summit County.

A banker and lawyer, he served as the board's president from 2014 to 2019 and almost always started board meetings with a humorous story.

Born in Pottsville, Pa., he graduated from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa., in 1972 with a Bachelor of Arts in History. He graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1975.

Throughout his more than 30-year banking career, he served as assistant vice president of National City Bank in Akron; vice president and trust officer of First National Bank; and senior vice president and senior trust officer of FirstMerit Corp., and then of Huntington Bank before retiring in 2017.

He has served on numerous nonprofit boards, including the Akron Symphony, OPEN M, the Akron Art Museum, and Weathervane Playhouse.

SOPHIE E. ALBRECHT

A Corbin Foundation Board member since 2001, Sophie E. Albrecht has been a strong and passionate voice in support of worthy causes in the Akron and Summit County areas, especially those relating to education, the arts, and children.

Born in Akron to Teofila and Joseph Cyc, she attended Akron Public Schools and graduated from Garfield High School before earning a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts-Political Science from The University of Akron in 1971. She graduated from the university's School of Law in 1978 and was admitted to the Ohio State Bar Association that same year.

She worked in the legal department of The Timken Co., serving as superintendent of labor relations. She practiced law with David Lieberth & Associates and also served as a magistrate at the Summit County Juvenile Court and in the Akron Municipal Court system.

A member of the Junior League of Akron, she is a former member of the Akron Board of Education, the Stan Hywet Board of Trustees, and the United Disability Services Board. She was the coordinator/founder of the Guardian ad Litem Program of the Summit County Juvenile Court.

Most notably, she was capital campaign chair of a \$2 million fundraising campaign to renovate the Magical Theatre Company in Barberton,

Ohio, and remains a dedicated supporter of that acclaimed children's theatre program.

She married F. Steven Albrecht in 1975 and with him has carried on the charitable work of the F.W. Albrecht Family Foundation.

ROBERT C. BERK

When Mr. Corbin suggested in 1978 that, going forward the board should always include a lawyer and a certified public accountant, as well as a membership that represented a sufficiently broad spectrum of individual charitable interests so that the validity of requests for grants could be properly evaluated, he must have had Bob Berk in mind.

He attended elementary school in Akron and Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio. He graduated from Babson College in 1981 and from Boston University School of Law in 1984. He is a member of both The Ohio Society of CPAs and the Ohio State Bar Association.

Prior to returning to Akron in 1986, Bob Berk was staff and senior accountant at Arthur Anderson and Co. in Boston, Mass.

As vice president, treasurer, and secretary of Creative Technology since 1986, he handles the firm's accounting, business, insurance, tax, human resources, building maintenance, and rental agreements. Until 1994 he also served as vice president and general manager of

WAKC-TV 23 (formerly WAKR, Channel 49), the longtime ABC-affiliated TV station that his grandfather and father founded in 1953.

Berk's contributions to his community are equal to or greater than those of the early Corbin Foundation Board members. Since 1990 he has been a member of the boards of trustees of Akron Children's Hospital and Children's Home Healthcare. Since 1987 he has been a member of the board of trustees of the Akron Zoological Park and is a past board chair. He is a member of the board of the Old Trail School Foundation. Since 2007 he has been a member of the board of trustees of Bluecoats Inc., and was elected its president in 2019.

He has also served on the boards of trustees of the Summit, Portage, and Medina Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross; the Akron Art Museum; the Portage Country Club; the Fairlawn Heights Neighborhood Association; the Amputees Opportunities Unlimited Association; the Old Trail School; The University of Akron College of Business Advisory Council; Goodwill Industries of Akron; the Ohio Ballet; the Children's Hospital Foundation; and the Greater Akron Musical Association (Akron Symphony Orchestra).

Berk has been a member of The Corbin Foundation Board since 2007, and in 2019 he was elected its sixth president.

MICHAEL A. SWEENEY

Michael Sweeney has been practicing law at the Firm of Brouse McDowell and been a resident of the Akron Area since 1985. He is currently Of Counsel with the Firm where he specializes in wealth perseverance and family business transition. He is a 1976 cum laude graduate of Cleveland Marshall College of Law and holds an undergraduate degree from Cleveland State University. He is a graduate of Leadership Akron Class XIII and a member of the Ohio, Akron and Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Associations.

He is past president of the Akron Tax and Estate Planning Council, former board chair of the Akron Community Foundation and former board chair of Goodwill Industries of Akron.

He has served on The Corbin Foundation Board since 2011.

R. MARK WERNIG

As the old saying goes, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. So, when Ray Wernig stepped down from The Corbin Foundation Board in 2014, the selection committee didn't have to look far to find a replacement with the same core values, skill set, and commitment to the Akron community.

A respected Akron financial advisor like his father, Mark Wernig was chosen to step into his dad's very large shoes. Since its beginning in 1965, the Wernigs are the only father and son to both serve on The Corbin Foundation Board since its founding in 1965.

A graduate of Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and the College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., Mark Wernig has, since 1980, worked with various national wire-house investment firms, and has been senior vice president of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management since 2008.

A 1988 graduate of Leadership Akron, he is an ardent supporter of nonprofit organizations, he has been a board member of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens Inc. since 2015 and currently serves as its board chair. He is a member of the boards of the United Way of Summit County and the Summa Foundation.

Mark Wernig is a past board member of the American Red Cross of Summit, Portage, and Medina Counties; the American Cancer Society; the Summit County Medical Services Bureau Inc.; and the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Council of St. Vincent dePaul Parish in Akron, where he also serves as an investment advisor. He is the past president of the Rotary Club of Akron and

was the founding president of the Akron Rotary Foundation.

His Rotary Club sponsor in 1980 was Mr. David C. Corbin

THOMAS M. WELSH

Tom Welsh joined The Corbin Foundation Board in 2015. An Akron native, he has been an active volunteer with civic, community, and charitable organizations for most of his almost 50-year communications career.

He attended elementary school in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, then Akron's Archbishop Hoban High School. He graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism in 1973.

He worked as a sports reporter for the *Akron Beacon Journal* and the *Massillon Evening Independent* before joining The General Tire & Rubber Co., where he served as a public relations and advertising copywriter. He joined Ohio Edison (now FirstEnergy) as director of advertising in 1977 and served in a variety of communications roles before being named vice president of communications then senior vice president of external affairs. He was senior vice president and assistant to the CEO when he retired from FirstEnergy in 2009.

After leaving FirstEnergy, he founded TMWelsh Consulting, a sales, marketing, and communications consulting firm.

He is an honorary board member of the All-American Soap Box Derby. He is a member of the Professional Advisory Board of Kent State University's School of Journalism & Mass Communication and is past chairman of the board of directors of the American Red Cross of Summit, Portage, and Medina Counties. He has served as a member of the National Alumni Board of Kent State University. He is a former member of the boards of directors of the Playhouse Square Foundation, Bluecoats Inc., the Summit County Historical Society, the United Way of Summit County, and the Better Business Bureau of Akron.

Welsh was honored as the Kent State University School of Journalism & Mass Communication's Distinguished Alumnus in 2002 and, in recognition of his contributions to the community and to The University of Akron, was named an honorary alumnus of The University of Akron in 2004.

LAURA B. CULP

Laura Culp may be the shortest-tenured member of The Corbin Foundation Board, but she is a longtime contributor to her profession and to her community.

She is partner-in-charge for construction and real estate services at Sikich, a leading professional services firm specializing in accounting, advisory, technology, and managed services, and has worked for more than 30 years with owners of privately held businesses to help them grow their wealth and implement tax-saving strategies.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, she graduated from the Columbus School for Girls and from Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Business. She also holds a Master of Taxation degree from The University of Akron.

She is a Certified Public Accountant, a Certified Construction Industry Financial Professional, and an American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Personal Financial Specialist.

Her community and civic activities are no less impressive. In addition to numerous committee and advisory council positions, she is or has

served as a board member of Akron General/ Cleveland Clinic, GAR Foundation, Akron-Area YMCA, Greater Akron Chamber, United Way of Summit County, Akron Development Corporation, Akron Roundtable, Ardmore Inc., Junior League of Akron, Leadership Akron, Ohio Ballet, The Volunteer Center of Summit County Inc., Our Lady of the Elms Parent Club, and American Society of Women Accountants.

She has received the Western Reserve Girl Scout Council Woman of Distinction Community Volunteerism Award, The University of Akron College of Business Administration Dr. Frank L. Simonetti Distinguished Alumni Award, Pinnacle Award-Lisle M. Buckingham Leadership Award, Leadership Akron Lieberth Community Vision Award, Read Family Difference Maker Award, Akron-Area YMCA Hunsicker Service to Youth Award, Great Trail Council Boy Scouts of America Community Service Award, and The Junior League of Akron Sustainer Inspiration Award. In addition, she has been named the United Way's Woman Philanthropist of the Year, a Northeast Ohio ATHENA Finalist, and a Women's Network Woman of Achievement.

She joined The Corbin Foundation Board in 2020.

ERIKA J. MAY

Beyond Mr. and Mrs. Corbin, there have been numerous key names associated with The Corbin Foundation over the years: early board members Bierce, Brouse, Clauss, and Hartenstein; and, later, Wernig, Holden, Maglione, and Read. But, since 1990, no name has been more tied to The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation than its longtime grants administrator Erika May.

May graduated from The University of Akron in 1978. During her last quarter at The University of Akron, she began working at Brouse McDowell, primarily for Oscar Hunsicker Jr. In 1986 she gave up full time at Brouse McDowell to become a “floater,” meaning that she would fill in where needed. The Corbin Foundation Board President Joe Holden was a partner at the firm and, as May recalls being told later, he noticed her running back and forth to the copy machine, never stopping to chat with the other support staff. Impressed by her work ethic, Holden asked her if she’d be interested in a full-time, part-time job at the foundation – in other words, full time on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The mother of an 18-month-old baby boy and a three-year-old daughter at the time, she decided that “when a job comes looking for you, you consider it seriously and differently than if you were pursuing a job.”

Her official Corbin hire date was June 1, 1992, but she began working at the foundation in 1991. For the first six months, she remained an employee of Brouse McDowell, with her Corbin time billed back to the firm. It was the early days of the “materially funded” foundation, and the board had gone through just one formal grant process. Holden had a handwritten report detailing the grants requested. It was a report she would take on, improve, and prepare for many years to come.

She remembers Holden telling her if she could deal with Valerie Clauss, she’d be fine. So, in addition to her office duties and typing the comprehensive grant report, she shadowed Clauss, whom she remembers as petite, southern, very business-like, and task-oriented. May learned how to reconcile the custodial statements from FirstMerit Bank and the checkbook.

May never knew Mr. Corbin, as he had passed away the year before she joined the foundation; but she has known and worked with 14 of the 21 board members, who have embodied different personalities, skill sets, and interests.

In her opinion, the desire to do what is best for Akron and Summit County is the very heart of The Corbin Foundation, and she is proud that the foundation has made a difference through thoughtful investments and support of nonprofits and civic and cultural institutions.

The integrity of The Corbin Foundation is paramount to her, and she feels privileged to help carry on Mr. Corbin’s legacy and philanthropic passion – to support the organizations that meant so much to him.

To many in the Akron community, Erika May is The Corbin Foundation. Joe Mazur, president and CEO of the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad and former head of the All-American Soap Box Derby, describes her thusly: “Erika is very passionate about what she does. She is caring and thorough. She is out in the community and wants to understand exactly what’s going on at the nonprofits. She’s the best by far at what she does.”

Bob Bonchack agrees, saying: “She has brought professional standards to the foundation and, through her engagement in the community, has been able to offer board members accurate and timely insights into grant requests. Her in-depth knowledge of the Akron nonprofit community has been an invaluable resource for the Corbin Board.”

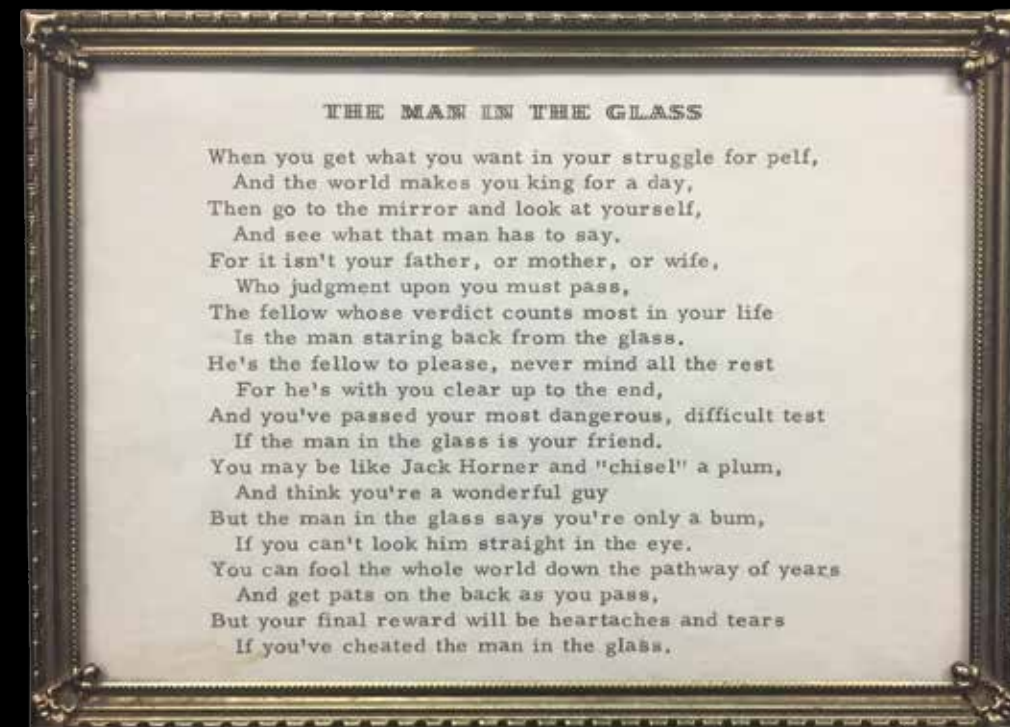
May’s work has enabled charities to develop well-thought-out grant applications with documentable outcomes and has helped enable the foundation to continue to enrich the lives of the people of Akron and Summit County.

Joe Holden and Valerie Clauss would agree that she’s done just fine.

The MAN in the GLASS

Mr. Corbin lived a long and full life. He succeeded at most everything he tried. Though he did not seek acclaim, he earned the respect and admiration of all who knew him. Though he did not seek fortune, he amassed one. He lived his life by his own code and judged himself by his own set of

standards. Though others may have judged him by his success, he judged himself by his service and contribution to others. Ultimately, he judged himself by the words of the framed poem by Peter Dale Wimbrow Sr. that was never far from his desk – by the reflection he saw when he looked in the mirror.



The CORBIN COMMITMENT

The man that David Corbin saw in the glass was wise enough to understand that, invested and distributed properly, the wealth he had accumulated as he traveled down his pathway of years would do far more good, and support far more causes in the future, than he was able to do during his lifetime. More than \$26 million has been distributed to more than 250 deserving organizations. Even he and Mary would have had difficulty envisioning that level of philanthropy.

The beneficiaries change, board members retire and pass on, but the legacy of Mary and David Corbin will live on. Their kindness and generosity will continue. The lives of the people who live and work in Akron and surrounding areas will be enriched even more. The Corbin commitment will continue.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The idea of documenting David Corbin's commitment to Akron and Summit County as well as the people and events that led to the creation and continued operation of the Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation originated from a discussion at a board meeting on August 20, 2018. I was honored to be entrusted with the project and hope this is as accurate an account as possible considering that most of those with real knowledge of the "history" are no longer with us. Nonetheless, I was fortunate to have the help of many people and organizations deserving of recognition.

Thanks to Office and Grants Administrator Erika May for her ideas, time, information-gathering, and overall assistance. Thanks to the current members of The Corbin Foundation Board, especially Board President Bob Berk, for their help, encouragement, and patience.

A great deal of information was obtained from The University of Akron Archives, and many of the photographs came from those files. The kindness and help provided by Director Vic Fleischer and staff, especially John Ball and Mark Bloom, are much appreciated.

Considerable effort and research went into identifying the photographers, studios, and publications responsible for the photographs used in this publication. In most cases that information was available and attributed; however, the age of certain key photos used herein did not permit such identification and attribution with respect to same.

Most important, it would not have been possible to complete this project without access to historical information from news stories, articles, and obituaries published over the years in the *Akron Beacon Journal* and available through the *Beacon Journal* Archives via Newspapers.com. Much of the information in the preceding

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Fred Martin, owner of Fred Martin of Youngstown

John Franklin Miller, former CEO of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens

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Tom Welsh

Visit The Corbin Foundation website at corbinfdn.org