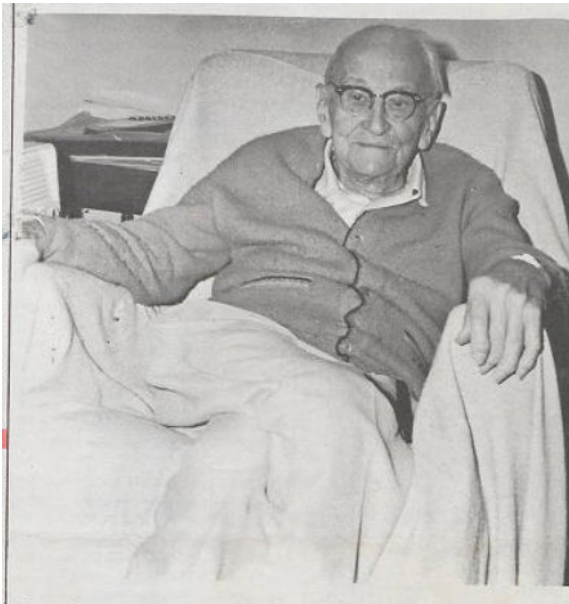




# Ports and Portholes



Oliver  
Childs  
Topky:  
Hardware  
and a  
Helping  
Hand

Oliver Childs Topky, circa 1967



# Pinney Dock- Kinder Morgan



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Kinder Morgan provides energy, transportation, and storage services in a safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible manner for the benefit of people, communities, and businesses. Delivering Energy to Improve Lives and Create a better world.



# Oliver Childs Topky: Hardware and a Helping Hand

When Oliver Childs Topky, one of the sons of Henry and Harriet Childs Topky, was born on June 26, 1870, in Athens, Ohio, his father, Henry Joseph Topky, was 33 years old and his mother Harriet Jane Childs was thirty-one.

Traveling branched through Oliver's family tree. His paternal great grandfather immigrated from Germany, settling in Dayton, Ohio where he met and married his wife. They had two sons, and one of them enlisted in the Civil War. His maternal great grandfather traveled to Ohio from Connecticut in a covered wagon.

## In The Footsteps of Their Father



### Henry Joseph Topky

A biographical sketch in "Athens Home Coming," in 1904 reveals that Henry Joseph Topky was born at Dayton, Ohio, May 25, 1837, and came to Athens in the year 1858. For many years he conducted a large hardware establishment under the firm name of Childs & Topky, Mr. Childs being his father-in-law.

In July 1883, the *Athens Journal* reported a social call at the close of the week from our former genial and prominent townsman Mr. H.J. Topy of Ashtabula "whose striking physical vigor and mental elasticity present a fine example of male vitality. Mrs. Topky, who accompanied him on his visit, will remain sometime longer among her former friends here. The latter part of his life he resided at Ashtabula, Ohio, where he died February 5, 1901."

Oliver and his older brother John and his sisters Laura and Hattie moved to Ashtabula with their parents in 1875 when Oliver was just five and John nine.

Ashtabula was a small town in 1870. *The Ashtabula Weekly Telegraph* of September 1870 estimates the Ashtabula population as being 1, 417 people, but growing and prospering. When the Topkys arrived and consulted their local *Telegraph* for shopping and other opportunities they found H.L. Morrison advertised his business in the *Ashtabula Weekly Telegraph*, offering grocery items,

boots, shoes, hats, crockery, books, paints, oils, and hardware. Dr. King, Dr. Eames, and Dr. H.B. Van Norman and Dr. R.B. Van Norman addressed the medical needs of the citizens and druggists. Swift and Willard filled prescriptions and offered remedies to keep the populace healthy.

The Lake Shore & Michigan Southern and Erie Railways provided swift transportation to local and far away destinations and Seymour Giddings & Company and W.W. Smith were just a few of the manufacturers providing jobs for workers to earn the money to travel on the railroad or buy horses and buggies for slower trips. George C. Hubbard and Crosby & Wetherwax offered hardware merchandise for sale. Henry Joseph Topky and his sons would eventually join the ranks of the hardware merchants in Ashtabula.

W. Peerless, Superior, & Champion Mowers and Reapers, with all the latest improvements. For Sale by H.J. Topky.

Tiger Self-Operated Sulky Hay Rake, and Revolving Hay Rakes, for Sale by H.J. Topky.

Nuts, glass, hooks, latches, screws, bolts, hammers, planes, saws, hatchets, adzes, all carpenter's tools and building materials, paints, oils, putty, turpentine, etc.etc. by H.J. Topky.

Ashtabula Telegraph

July 20, 1877

Oliver Topky received his education in Ashtabula area schools, and he graduated from Division Street High School in 1889. There were six students in his graduating class, two boys and four girls. He later married one of the girls, Julia Cooper on September 4, 1895, and they eventually had two daughters, one who died in infancy, and Laura who grew to adulthood and married Abraham Gloeckler.

After attending business college in Poughkeepsie, New York for one year, Oliver later joined his father and brother John in operating the Topky hardware store in Ashtabula Harbor. Topky Hardware soon became a designated destination in Ashtabula city and township. An 1886 full page advertisement in the Marine Review of Cleveland shows that Topky operated as a ship chandler, a shop selling

items for ships and boats, as well as a hardware store. After John died in 1898 and their father Henry Joseph Topky died in 1901, Oliver continued the business with the help of his staff. Mr. Topky finally retired from the hardware business in 1964.

The hardware store was a business when the harbor had a booming shipping trade. Goods were sold by the carload for use on the lake boats. As Mr. Topky recalled, only sailboats were able to enter the harbor and they were towed by tugs. Because the harbor was too shallow for steamboats, a tug had to go on before ships to dredge sand out of their path.

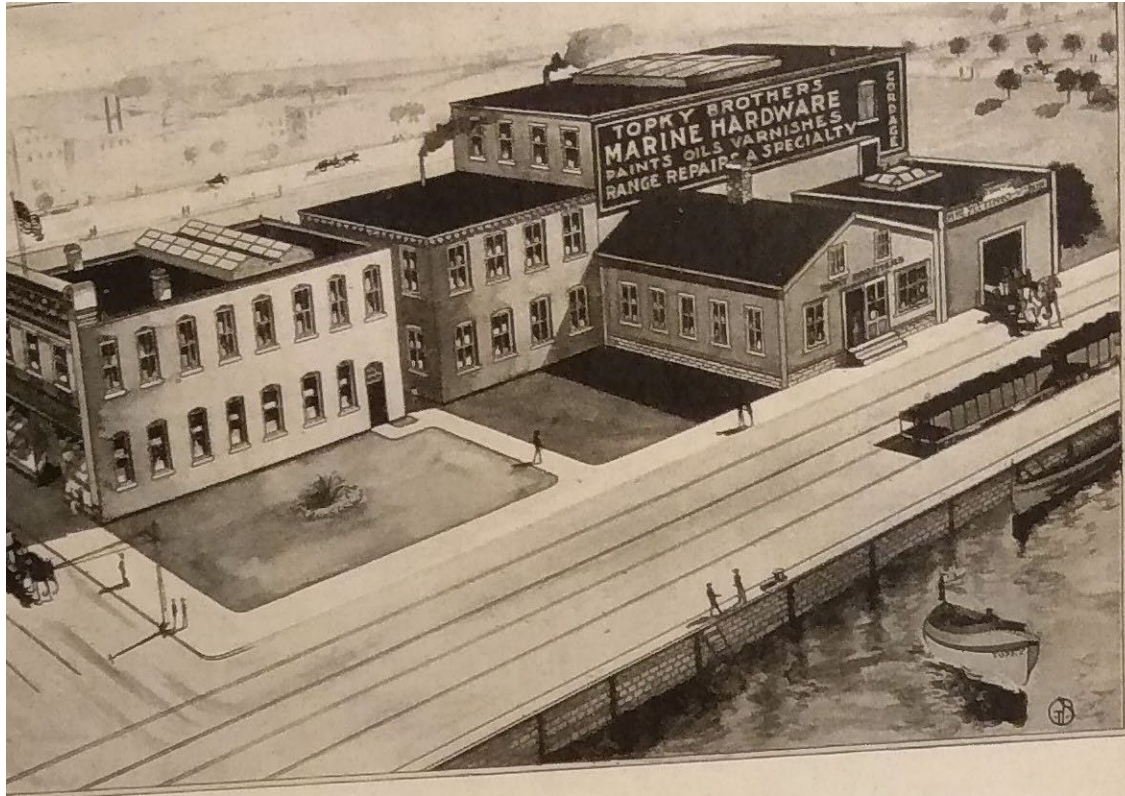


The Ashtabula Woolen Mills was started in the year 1909, with T.J. Rennick, President and O.C. Topky, Secretary. The company was later sold to Sigmund Korach, in 1916.

As a vintage Ashtabula Harbor businessman, Oliver Topky remembered many of Ashtabula's firsts involving ships and railroads. He knew the names and stories of some of the first ships in the harbor, including the Tempest, the Ashtabula, Joshua R. Giddings, Arctic, Mary Collins, and Plow Boy. He could tell tales of the Great Lakes Engineering Company which launched the Steamer Louis R. Davidson in 1912, as its first ship in its Ashtabula yards.

He told a story of one of the first carlines in Ashtabula where the rides sold for two cents. Area people thought the prices were too high and that the owner was a tyrant. To combat this outrageous price some of the harbor people with city council authority went to the carlines one night and tore up the ties.





# TOPKY BROTHERS

## SHIP CHANDLERS

ESTABLISHED 1886

Ashtabula Harbor, Ohio

Marine and Heavy Hardware,  
Pipe Fittings, Valves and  
Packing. Electrical Goods,  
Cordage. Agents for Russell  
& Watson and Born Steel  
Ranges.

Our Complete Equipment  
enables us to fit out the  
forward or after end of a  
boat on short notice.

## *Oliver Topky Benefits His Colleagues, both Human and Harbors*



The transition from Bethel to Bethel Goodwill was not seamless, but logical and Oliver Topky and his philanthropy smoothed the way.

In 1867, The Western Seamen's Friend Society adopted new policies to strengthen efficient operations in Cleveland and other large cities by placing Bethel work completely under local control. The Seamen's Friend Society combined church work and secular relief and in 1867, established The Bethel Union Auxiliary which assumed many of the relief activities. In 1883, the Bethel delegated all its religious work to the Western

Seamen's Friend Society and focused on non-sectarian relief. Clara E. Fall, widow of Reverend John O. Fall, served as the final superintendent of the Cleveland mission located on Superior Avenue. The Society closed in the early 1920s.

The Ashtabula Harbor branch of the Western Seamen's Friend Society invented and reinvented itself like a Lake Erie wave and is still doing so in the Twenty-First Century. On June 16, 1899, the Ashtabula Bethel Association of the Western Seamen's Friend Society filed incorporation papers stating its ambitious mission. The Ashtabula Society identified its purpose and efforts were "for the temporal and spiritual welfare of seamen, boatmen, railway operations, lumbermen, fishermen, longshoremen, and others of similar avocation and to families of dock districts and many people isolated from regular churches or otherwise unreached by denominational agencies." The Western Seamen's Friend Society also advocated temperance,

sponsored religious services, and provided relief to the poor and disabled. As the century progressed, the people in the Western Seamen's Friend Society decided the organization need to "embrace all needy people in wharf distress," not just rowdy and peaceable sailors.

The Ashtabula Bethel Association of the Western Seamen's Friend Society proposed to fulfill its mission by establishing reading rooms, missionaries, industrial schools, and bureaus of literature for distribution on vessels. Signers of the articles of incorporation were: J.E. Savage; A.J. Beckwith; W.H.N. Bugbee; George E. Close; A.J. Williamson; and W.H. Burton.

A newspaper article published on March 11, 1905, in *The Beacon Record* informed the public that the Bethel Board of directors had completed negotiations to purchase a two-story brick block and lot located at the corner of High and Market Streets. Mrs. Kiley of the Harbor owned the property at the time and set the purchase price at \$5,000. The Seamen's Bethel board considered her property the best of several sites they looked at and explained that it was necessary to move because the current bridge over the river was scheduled to be removed and the river channel widened, and the river's course straightened.

The land where the Bethel stood on the riverbank was to be condemned and the Bethel Board members expected that money from "property damages" would cover the purchase of their new property. "Until it becomes necessary to move, however, no shift will be made, the present Bethel continuing open while the occupants of the Kiley block will remain during the same period." The Bethel board planned to remodel the interior to facilitate their work. Rumor had it that the new building had many advantages over the old building in location and offered larger quarters.

Then, just as it seemed that the acquisition of the new building was a done deal, another newspaper reported that the Kiley done deal had turned into a deleted deal. May Colling found an article in the October 27, 1906, *Beacon Record* with headlines heralding: "Dispute Over Seamen's Bethel Ends in Assault by the Reverend W.H. Woodring." According to the *Beacon Record* story, Bethel Superintendent F.S. Converse and Reverend W.H. Woodring, pastor of the Gillmore-Smith Church had gotten into an argument when Superintendent Converse criticized the building committee. The two gentlemen had a history of disagreeing about building ways and means for the new Bethel.

In this latest disagreement, Reverend Woodring contended that he had not struck Superintendent Converse with his fist but rather he had produced his exasperated



smack at Converse's face with his hat. The smack landed on Converse's mouth, he demanded an investigation of the incident, requiring Reverend Woodring to defend himself.

May Colling, Ashtabula Harbor Historian, discovered two other versions of the story of the new Bethel building in the *Ashtabula Telegraph* of April 3, 1907. One story, titled "History of the Bethel Association and How the New Building Came About," stated that signers of the articles of incorporation were S.R. Harris, A. Pickett, Ira B. Bishop, W.H. King; William Perregoy; Martin Johnston, Emory N. Tilton, T. Alden Stancliffe, and John P. Krum.

Since its inception date of 1907, the Ashtabula Bethel had at least half a dozen superintendents who struggled to operate the Bethel. F.S. Converse, who had an "estimable wife," was the only superintendent that the article mentioned.

The article also mentioned that F.S. Converse and his wife took charge of the Ashtabula Seamen's Bethel in the spring of 1895, which is four years before the Bethel was incorporated in 1899. The story stated that the first Bethel, the 1890s Bethel, was purchased through a subscription drive with money raised "largely through the efforts of the late George B. Raser." The local Bethel of that period was a two-story building "on the east side of the river," and the Seamen's Bethel operated there for many years before the early Twentieth Century era when it outgrew the building.



*The old Bethel being demolished.*

A surge of foreign workers settling in Ashtabula to build the docks, houses, ships, and other items needed in a booming economy likely helped the Converses conclude that they needed a new building to ensure the future success of the Bethel. The work that the Converses did at the Ashtabula Seamen's Bethel came to the attention of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Riddell and they offered to construct a new building if the Bethel would furnish the lot. The Riddells convinced the Bethel directors of their sincerity and ability to complete the project. They abandoned their plans for the Kiley property.

May Colling provided documentation of the agreement between Robert and Sarah



A. Pomeroy Riddell, husband and wife, and the Ashtabula Seamen's Bethel directors for the donation of a new building. The agreement stipulated that the transaction would take place when the association purchased the land and the Riddells approved it. The Riddells agreed to pay up to \$7,000 for an architect, plans, and construction of a brick or concrete building. Construction was scheduled to begin on April 15, 1906.

The conditions of the sale stipulated that the Ashtabula Seamen's Bethel would purchase the lot from Sarah A. Riddell and she would transfer the Warranty Deed to the Trustees of the Ashtabula Bethel Association. The lot was located on High Street, which later would be named Morton Dive, and finally become Goodwill Drive. The

transaction went smoothly, and L Wilson was hired to be the architect of the new building. The newspaper article described the building as measuring 38x 65 feet, commanding an imposing view of the river.

The story continued, "The architect, in designing the new Bethel, had an eye for a cheerful interior and the windows are numerous.... The front elevation is particularly attractive with two large plate windows, one on either side of a wide main entrance and over the latter is a large stone tablet on which is inscribed: 'Bethel. This Building is Donated to The Ashtabula Bethel Association by Sarah Pomeroy Riddell.'"

The main floor of the building stood several feet above the street level, which provided room for a deep basement below, deep enough to allow ample equipment storage. A chapel that could comfortably seat two hundred people was located on the right of the main entrance, and a ward capable of holding eight single beds opened behind the chapel. Another ward of the same size stood across from it in the rear hall. A large apartment extended from the main entrance over halfway to the rear. It was built so that it could open into the next room when it became necessary to expand.

A "general reading room" stood to the left of the hall with an office in one corner. A restaurant was located in the back of the reading room, featuring a fully equipped kitchen. The building also included a second floor which had been "done

off into nineteen rooms, including toilets, baths, and a storeroom.” Ten bedrooms and a six-room living suite for the superintendent and his family completed the second floor. The article stated that “the bedrooms were large and pleasant and neatly furnished.”

The basement was finished off in cement and, “has a large sleeping ward where the cheapest lodging accommodations will be furnished. There is space for eighteen cots and a change is contemplated by which twelve more can be added.” The building was heated with hot-water heat and had an “automatic heater attached to the bathroom tanks...” Also in the basement are a four-bowl lavatory, two toilets and four shower baths.” The building was piped for gas and wired for electricity throughout, and all trim was natural wood. The lot was big enough that a 50- or 60-foot addition could be made in the future.”

A October 26, 1906, *Beacon Record* article included a photograph of F.S. Converse and Reverend Woodring, who had apparently settled their differences. By the time the new building was dedicated in April 1907, Mr. Riddell had died, but Mrs. Riddell attended. The dedication services included music and song, and an invocation. The Bethel Sunday and Swedish children performed songs and Bethel President Barton and at least a half dozen pastors took part in the service.

The Bethel Association successfully operated for many years, but times and finances changed, and operating revenue diminished. By 1920, both the Western Seamen’s Friend Societies in Cleveland and Ashtabula ceased to operate. The Board of the Ashtabula Seamen’s Friend Association contacted the Lake Carriers Association and asked them to take over the operation. They declined. On January 20, 1920, the Ashtabula Bethel’s executive committee met with a group at the Ashtabula YMCA. The group, comprised of President Dowell, Messrs. Good, Hewins, and Morley and two representatives of the Finnish Salvation Army with J.W. McClure as spokesperson, asked the Bethel if the Salvation Army could take over its operations. The Salvation Army representatives and the Bethel Board quickly reached an agreement, and the Salvation Army took over the building and the work of the Ashtabula Seamen’s Bethel.

Nearly a decade later, the Great Depression ravaged the United States economy and the Bethel operation closed. In 1935, the Ashtabula Ministerial Association and Dr. Edgar Helms, founder of Goodwill Industries, created the Ashtabula Goodwill Industries. The organization acquired the vacant Seamen’s Bethel on Morton Drive in Ashtabula Harbor. Because the building was known as the Bethel Building, the organization was known as the Bethel Goodwill. The first executive secretary of the Ashtabula Bethel Goodwill was Reverend S.L. Thomas, who earned a salary of \$1,200 dollars a year paid by funds from the Community Chest.

He and his wife lived in furnished quarters on the second floor. Reverend Thomas resigned in 1938, and a succession of Goodwill executives included:

Anna L. Turpenen- 1938-1942

Howard R. Dunlavy – 1942-1965

Mr. Girkin- Mid 1966-1971

Mr. Gurley – 1971-1973

Harbor residents remembered the Christmas parties at Goodwill with the entire neighborhood participating. May Colling recalled that merchants and neighbors donated gifts, food, and money to help people less fortunate.

In 1951, the Ashtabula Exchange Club raised more than \$17,000 to remodel the main building. In 1962, philanthropist Oliver C. Topky donated funds to add a chapel and that same year the Civic Development corporation donated funds to expand the retail store.

May Colling documented a usual 1962 remodeling program. The Riddell building that the Salvation Army had operated and later transferred to Goodwill was beheaded. The upper floor of the building was razed, and the original building without the second floor, still lies within the walls of the present Goodwill.

According to May Colling, it is the section south of the Laura Topky Chapel. She wrote that “In the remodeling a new brick front and matching new additions,” were added. Now the entire building looks as one.”

When Oliver Childs Topky, an Ashtabula benefactor, died, he left in his will \$5,000 to the Smith Home for Aged Women and \$5,000 for Goodwill Industries, Ashtabula. The will created an approximately \$25,000 a memorial trust fund with the annual quarterly income to go to both those organizations as well as to Lake Avenue United Methodist Church, the YMCA, and the YWCA. Farmers National Bank was appointed trustee and the trust set out guidelines should any of those bodies dissolve.

May Colling related another story about the history of the Bethel building. She said that “In 1963 when the store was being rebuilt and the chapel constructed by Matt L. Kujala, our sons were attracted to watching the construction process and particularly interested in getting any scrap wood for their own construction projects. “Matt knew the boys and not wanting them in the way, told them that he would see to it that they got some scrap wood, but they would have to stay away from the site. True to his word, at closing time Matt’s men delivered scrap wood to our house. The boys’ pals were really impressed.”



## Bethel Reports

Conneaut Evening News

Superintendent is a Quaker

Ashtabula Bethel is in good hands.

Much good work is being done by Western Seamen's Society in that city.

Ashtabula, Ohio April 29, 1905

F.S. Converse, for nearly 20 years a resident of Cleveland is now superintendent of the Ashtabula Bethel. Mrs. Converse, who is assistant superintendent, is a former student of the Cleveland Bible Training School. Under their supervision a still greater work is expected among the sailors of this most important Great Lakes Harbor than has ever been accomplished in the past. A new Bethel has recently been purchased by the Bethel Association and is to be thoroughly altered and equipped for the work.

Last year over 2,000 clean lodgings were furnished to sailors and homeless men at the Ashtabula Bethel. Besides this, scores of charity cases in the city were given temporary relief. Over 3,000 periodicals were distributed on boats, in hospitals, in lockups. A reading room is maintained and both indoor and open-air preaching carried on. The rapid growth of the city is increasing the necessity of working along this line noticeably.

Since coming to Ashtabula, Mrs. Converse has started a Sunday School at the Bethel among the children who do not attend elsewhere. She also conducts a sewing class for girls on Saturday and the attendance is most encouraging.

Mr. Converse resigned his position as traveling salesman for a Cleveland wholesale store to take up evangelistic work. Both he and Mrs. Converse are members of the Quaker Church of Cleveland.,

The Bethel work in Ashtabula was incorporated in June 1893, as the Ashtabula Bethel Association of the Western Seamen's Friend Society. The Board of Directors is composed of twenty members, all of whom are residents of Ashtabula and ten of whom are ministers representing nearly every major denomination in the city. The officers are: Reverend W.H. Woodring, C.W. Askem, vice-president and treasurer; and Reverend W.F. Weir, secretary.

Conneaut Evening News

Wednesday May 3, 1905

Found Bethel in Good Shape, Favorable Report by Superintendent

Faithful work by Mr. Ashley did much work for the local institution.

Following is a report of the condition of the affairs at the Conneaut Bethel made by the superintendent and published with other reports in a circular recently issued. It is a pleasure to report the work in this place. The Bethel is a combination of chapel, boarding house, and reading room, and is largely patronized by the better class of sailors.

The Sunday School has about seventy-five members and is the only English place of worship at the harbor.

Superintendent Ashley has worked early and late, holding religious meetings daily and making the Bethel a power for good in the midst of a population of mostly foreigners. More iron ore is unloaded here than in any other port on the lakes. The Society owns the Bethel property, which is free from debt, and is doing a grand work. A local paper says: The work of the Bethel has never been carried on so well as in the past year under the hard and consecrated labors of Superintendent Ashley. He has worked early and late like a Trojan and one can see the result of his labor. Thousands of men have been provided with meals and lodging. The Bethel Home accommodating about fifty men per night during navigation season. A good Sunday School is carried on and the spiritual work is in a healthy and thriving condition. The Lord bless Captain Ashley and his good wife in their labors among the sailors.

## Oliver Topky Extended Many Helping Hands

Too outgoing and ambitious to confine his interests strictly to his hardware store,



Oliver Topky often ventured into his community to see what he could see and do. He talked about the early days of Ashtabula and contemporary newspapers and periodicals record his memories for succeeding generations, and he spent much of his time improving and enhancing his harbor community and places beyond the confines of the harbor.

Thoroughly convinced of the importance of higher education, libraries, hospitals, and parks in developing a thriving city, Oliver Topky backed up his convictions with donations of his time and money. He served on the Harbor School Board for forty-two years and made a substantial donation, including seventy-eight acres of land, for the Kent State University Campus in Ashtabula. He founded and served on the Board of the Harbor Building and Loan Company for forty years and was a director of the Marine Bank for forty years.

He contributed money and land to the Ashtabula General Hospital and land and an organ to the Lake Avenue Methodist Church Ashtabula Harbor in addition to serving many years as a church trustee. He helped build the Topky Memorial Library. For many years he maintained a park along the Lake Shore and his Topky Gardens adjacent to his Walnut Boulevard home attracted sightseers and admirers for years.

A Civic leader, he was named the North End Club's man of the year in 1962, and at the time of his death in 1969, he was working on plans for a civic center for Ashtabula.

His only surviving child, Laura Topky Gloeckler inherited Oliver's philanthropic bent along with musical talent. After attending Oberlin Conservatory for two years and the Chicago Musical College where she learned to play the harp, she returned to Ashtabula to play the organ at the Lake Avenue Methodist Church, She also served on the Bethel Goodwill Board of Trustees.

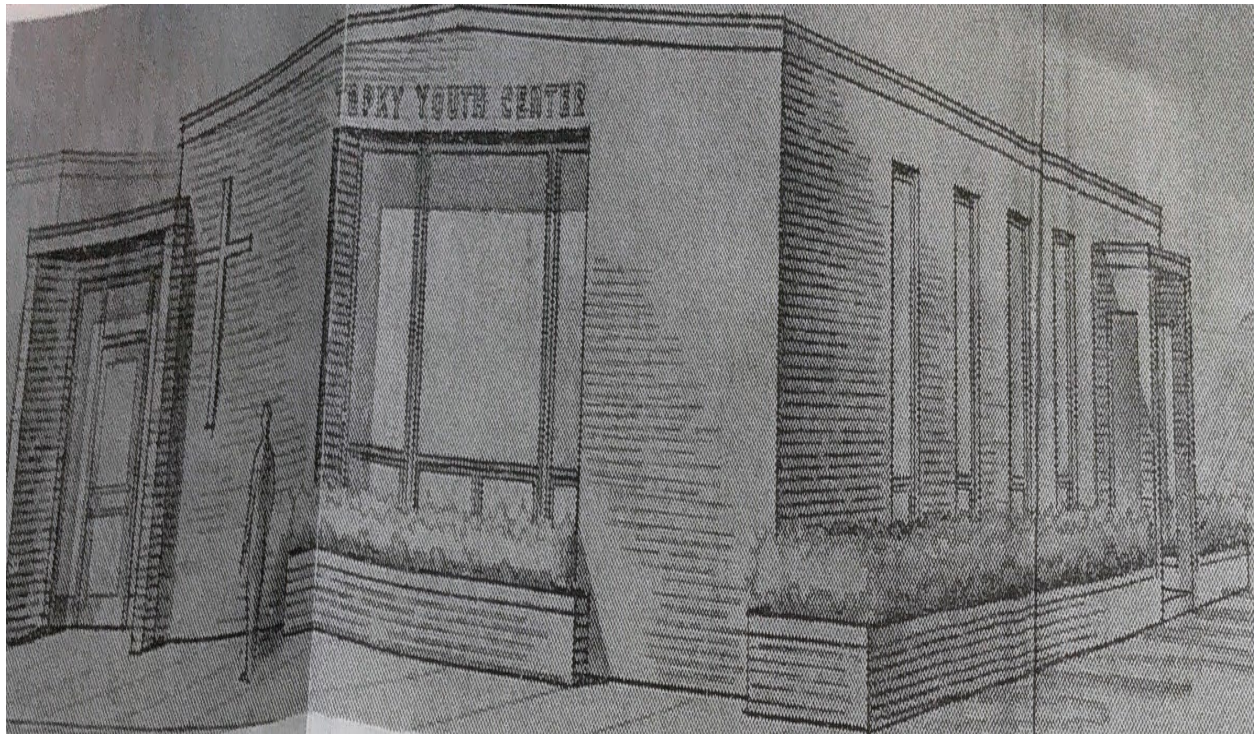
## *The Topky Memorial Chapel, Bethel Goodwill*

Oliver Topky donated the Laura Topky Memorial Chapel to the Bethel Goodwill in November 1962, as a memorial to his wife Julia, who had died on November 5, 1952.

Ashtabula Star Beacon

Tuesday November 20, 1962

Ground Is Broken for Topky Memorial Chapel at Goodwill



The Chapel for Bethel Goodwill Industries will be attached in the north end of the organization building complex on Morton Drive. It will be donated by O.C. Topky, Harbor businessman. The change in name from Topky Youth Center to Julia C. Topky Memorial Chapel came after the death of Mrs. Topky on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1952.





As brick is unloaded in the background, the first earth is turned for the Julia C. Topky Memorial Chapel, a service building for Bethel Goodwill Industries. Holding the shovel is George Jeram, president of Goodwill; Oliver C. Topky, donor of the building; and Howard Dunlavy, Goodwill's Executive Director. Behind Mr. Topky is his daughter, Mrs. A.D. Gloeckler, Goodwill trustees, and others shown are Samuel Goldstein, Robert Good, J.A. Millberg, Charles Meister, John Creamer, Frank Laird, the Rev. Olyn Hull, Mrs. Dunlavy, the Rev. E.W. Peterson, Mrs. Ernestine Ericksen, E. Terry Warren, the Rev. Thomas Britton, Ross Smith, and Matt Kujala.

Ground was broken Monday afternoon for Julia C. Topky Memorial Chapel, a service building attached to Bethel Goodwill Industries.

The ground was broken by Oliver C. Topky, who is donating the building in memory of his wife who died November 6, 1952. It is part of a four-phase improvement program at Bethel Goodwill. The building will house a chapel, kitchen, and an all-purpose room. In addition to its use by the forty-five handicapped people employed by Goodwill, it will be a meeting place and recreation hall for community events.

Mr. Topky, an active Harbor businessman at the age of ninety-two, was joined in the ceremony by George Jeram, Goodwill's president, Howard Dunlavy, executive director, and the Rev. E.W. Peterson of Capernaum Lutheran Church.

“I feel this chapel is necessary for Goodwill Industries to continue its sound program of self-help for the handicapped,” Mr. Topky said. “I am happy I can do this in memory of my wife.”

Tracing the 20-year history of Bethel Goodwill, Mr. Dunlavy pointed out the new building will fulfill a third function, service to add to Goodwill’s other functions, operations, and sales.

In his thanks he cited other contributions by Mr. Topky: Topky Memorial Library, Lake Avenue Methodist Church, and large portions of General Hospital.

Thanks also were contributed by Mr. Jeram. Invocation was given by the Rev. Mr. Peterson. Also, in the party, but not making remarks, were Mr. Topky’s daughter, Mrs. A.D. Gloeckler, and all trustees of Goodwill.

While the groundbreaking ceremony was in progress, brick was being unloaded from a truck on the site at the corner of Morton Drive and W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

Goodwill trustees had sanctioned construction when the offer was first made by Mr. Topky several months ago. The building will be attached to the north end of existing buildings.

Designs for all were prepared by Kujala & Koiski, architectural engineers. Matt Kujala, who has met frequently with Goodwill trustees and their Building Committee, also incorporated ideas suggested by Mr. Topky.

The new building for which construction will start immediately is the fourth phase of Bethel Goodwill’s improvement program. Phase 1 is a new retail sales outlet at the corner of Morton Drive and W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street. With construction of a shell financed by Civic Development Corp., it is nearing completion. Earlier this month, the Board of Trustees approved wiring, plumbing, and heating from its own funds.

Phase 2, already approved, is removal of the top floor of the former Bethel Hostel, original building of the group, and its brick facing to match the remainder of the project.

Phase 3, also approved, is reorganization of the present quarters into an operations area alone once sales have been shifted into the new building.

Prepare Workshop

A parallel project, not involving the main operation, is rebuilding of a nearby house into a workshop. After Jan. 1, the Happy Hearts Division- training and work for the mentally retarded – will be established there. This is a new function of Goodwill which has operated for the benefit of the physically handicapped in the past.

Julia C. Topky Memorial Chapel will feature a 30x52-foot assembly hall with a folding door for two simultaneous events. It also will contain an 8x27-foot kitchen, a stage, rest rooms, and storage areas.

It will have a separate entrance, which also will connect with the main operations area to allow access for employees to attend chapel services. A large, recessed window at the front will have a planting box and another such box will extend along the north side of the building.

Mr. Topky contributed the building for community events as well as Goodwill. He has mentioned specifically Boy and Girl Scouts and the Ashtabula County Handicapped Club.

Oliver Childs Topky died on July 27, 1969, a little over a month after his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. He and his wife Julia Cooper Topky are buried in Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Ashtabula, along with their baby daughter, their daughter Laura Topky Gloecker and his son-in-law Abraham Gloecker.





## *The Topky Fountain*

The Topky Fountain in Hall Smith Park on Main Avenue in Ashtabula.

