

# 15 WOMEN AND A MILLIONAIRE'S WILL

Mrs. Charles H. Weed

Mrs. Harvey D. Gouldner

## How a Great Charity is Having Its Start in Cleveland

FIFTEEN women of Cleveland, Ohio, are wrestling with the biggest problem that has been left to the wisdom of a similar group in a generation, if ever. They are to set upon its feet, to inaugurate a large and remarkable philanthropy. They are to expend annually the income of an estate valued at \$3,000,000—an income of at least \$150,000 a year—in helpful charity, and they are to do it just as they see fit.

When Benjamin Rose, a Cleveland millionaire, died, some months ago, it was found that he had left the bulk of his great estate to charity. He aimed to benefit especially the aged poor and the crippled young. And he selected fifteen women of the city to act as a board of managers in carrying out his wishes.

So far as known, no other body of women has ever been intrusted with such a mission. The whole situation is unique. In consequence, fifteen Cleveland women are now busy with plans for spending the money to the best advantage.

### SUMMARY OF THE ROSE WILL

I direct the Citizens' Savings and Trust Company to incorporate the Benjamin Rose Institute, to be limited to a board of fifteen members. It is my purpose to provide relief and assistance, so far as I am able, to respectable and deserving needy, aged people, as far as practicable, and most of the Anglo-Saxon race; and to aid needy crippled children, and furnish either at their own homes or at their places of abode such help as necessity of the case requires.

For the needy aged, help shall be provided to men 65 years old and upward, and to women of 60 and upward.

I ask that my cottage home near Willoughby be used as a home for aged people; after ten years, trustees may determine how work there shall be continued. The board of managers shall be the judges of what persons shall get aid, and in no case shall more than \$50 a month go to one person. The help for children shall be limited to six months.

"NOTHING so threatens the human race as the constantly increasing number of crippled children. Through poverty or neglect these little creatures are being sacrificed, often on the altar of crime. How they suffer! What a drain on society!

"The most pitiable spectacle in all the world is an unhappy aged person or an unhappy aged couple. I speak especially of those who once had plenty, lived temperately and well and through no fault of their own have found themselves suffering. How sad it is to behold that specter constantly rising before the eyes of these people of advanced years!"

Benjamin Rose, a Cleveland millionaire, spoke thus to a friend five years ago and revealed his idea of charity. The friend did not realize it, but Mr. Rose was at the time outlining the provisions of his last will and testament.

The Benjamin Rose Institute, for the young and the aged, is now a reality. Fifteen kind and loving women of the oldest families of Cleveland are planning already what they should do to comply with the wishes of the unique benefactor.

He put the trust in their hands. The women realize that the philanthropic work before them is much different from anything of the kind ever undertaken, but they are cool and calm. Mr. Rose selected women that would not get excited.

"His preference for women trustees arose over the fact that he thought them more in sympathy with the unfortunate than men and more qualified to determine who should have relief," says Judge W. W. Boynton, lifelong companion of the millionaire and, the man who penned the Rose will.

### FACING MANY PROBLEMS

After legacies and debts are paid, the entire income of the Rose estate, appraised at over \$3,000,000, will be used to lift the burdens of the crippled young and the deserving aged. At least \$150,000 a year will be available.

"I was so surprised when I heard he had chosen me," said Mrs. Harvey D. Gouldner, wife of a prominent marine lawyer. "I never dreamed he had me in mind."

Thirteen other women were just as surprised. The only woman Mr. Rose asked personally to serve was Mrs. J. M. Lewis, wife of his family physician. In each one of the fifteen, however, the millionaire appears to have seen a "quality of mercy."

"I could not get away from that thought at our first meeting," said Mrs. Lewis. "In the face of these women I could see an abundance of grace and love."

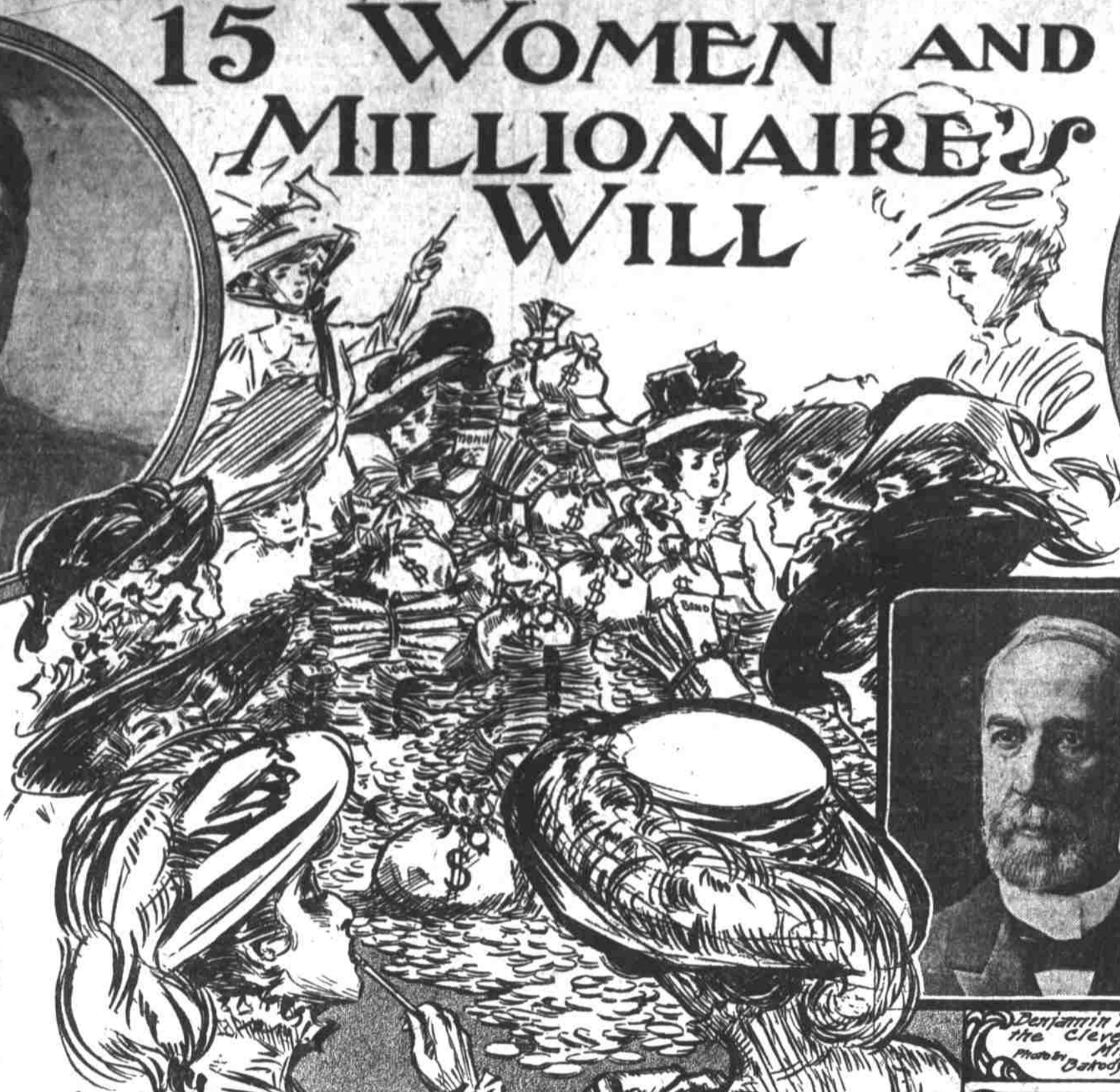
"It was his money," Mrs. Lewis added, "and I think we had better respect his wishes a great deal in spending it. It was no doubt his idea to build an institution for the aged at his cottage on Lake Erie. He does not require it, but it was surely his desire that those beautiful twenty acres should be devoted to this cause." And herein there is a difference of opinion among the trustees.

"It would certainly be wrong to try to maintain an institution," says Mrs. Imogene Fisher. "We could accomplish so much more by going to the homes to extend the charity. I think the deserving would hesitate to go to an institution for aid."

Other women believe it would be best to keep away from the institution entirely, because thereby aged people could be saved the misery of separation. Mrs. Lewis concurs in this, but would have the institution and home plan both working.

"I believe it was Mr. Rose's idea to keep secret every act of charity," declares Mrs. W. P. Champey. "A group of cottages might work well, but a big building might not be practicable. If we can only do as he would have us do, that is, if we are able to carry out his ideas—it will be a great satisfaction." Mrs. Champey is one of the most philanthropic women in Cleveland. She is the wife of one of the city's leading manufacturers.

"Now if only Mr. Rose's father or some other rich man should supplement Mr. Rose's work with help for deserving girls and aid to widows who have children, wouldn't it be grand?" speaks Mrs. Champey. "Mr. Rose picked



Rose Building, Cleveland, Part of the Estate



Benjamin Rose, the Cleveland Millionaire

Photo by Oskody-Bergner



Rose Cottage, Lake Erie Nucleus of Institution for the Aged

the most important lines of charity, but the two I have mentioned rank next in order."

"The Visiting Nurses' Association will probably assist the board of managers in selecting people who are to be given assistance," says Mrs. J. J. Sullivan, wife of the president of the Central National Bank and Superior Savings and Trust Company. "The nurses could undoubtedly render invaluable service in the matter of locating worthy crippled children. They could also assist in the investigation of applications of all kinds."

"Few realize what a grand work this will be," said

Margaret Huntington Smith. "It is hard for some to understand how far even \$25 a month will go. It would often be sufficient to preserve a home, to keep father and mother together, to prevent the parting of mother and daughter, especially where there are invalids to be cared for."

A question that is troubling the board of managers as much as any is the reference of Mr. Rose to his money being spent "mostly on the Anglo-Saxon race." Cleveland is recognized as one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the country. In the last five years the foreign popu-

lation has increased enormously. On top of this, the charity is to be confined principally to Cuyahoga county. Fine distinctions will have to be made in some cases to abide well within the testator's wishes.

"Mr. Rose hardly meant to exclude the foreigner, as I see it," comments Mrs. H. C. White, "although he plainly shows his inclination to favor the American born. He shows his good judgment again by not doing too much either for the old folk or for the little ones. He never failed to place every person on his own resources as much as possible. He made his own fortune and relied only upon himself. He expected all to do likewise, but believed in rewarding effort."

Mrs. Charles H. Weed, one of the city's most prominent women, is also taking an active interest in carrying out Mr. Rose's wishes.

The women so far have held but one meeting. That was preparatory to incorporation. Mrs. C. C. Bolton, visiting abroad, was the only one of the fifteen absent. At this meeting Judge Boynton explained the will and the trust that had been conferred. Attorney Andrew Squire, the most prominent corporation lawyer in the state, will also present to assist in organization.

The Citizens' bank will see that the women are properly organized and that they start out right. They will

be on a good business basis from the start, but it will be up to them to spend the \$150,000 or so yearly.

In a statement Judge Boynton points out what he believes were Mr. Rose's intentions, though not expressed in the will.

"In the original memo of instructions to me," he said, "as to what he desires the will to provide respecting the constituency of the governing board, it was stated that no minister of the gospel should ever become a trustee or member of the board. This not because of any disrespect for the ministry or religious bodies, as Mr. Rose was a churchman himself, but because of a deep-seated wish to give the bounty to be administered by the institution a range and universality as respecting deserving, needy people, with inclination toward the Anglo-Saxon race. This in order to keep the administration beyond the reach of any individual demand. The trustees must determine in all cases who the beneficiaries shall be."

"As respecting the children," Judge Boynton continues, "Mr. Rose was impressed with the conviction that very many of these, crippled and deformed, could be made whole by expert medical or surgical treatment in the high-class institutions devoted to the cure of such.

He figured that the cure could be effected, if at all, in six months—therefore his reason for placing that limit on the length of time one child might be helped."

Many relatives are believed to be piqued at the way Mr. Rose left his property. He omitted many nephews and nieces and gave few legacies of big amounts, as compared with the provision for the institute. There is no expression of bitterness, no talk of contest. So great is the respect for the testator and so widely is the soundness of his mind admitted that those who might be disappointed have no comments.

Headquarters for the institute will be in the Rose Building, Prospect avenue and East Ninth street, probably the biggest office building in Ohio. It is appraised at \$1,000,000. It was Mr. Rose's wish that his own office in that structure should be used forever by the women in the charity work.

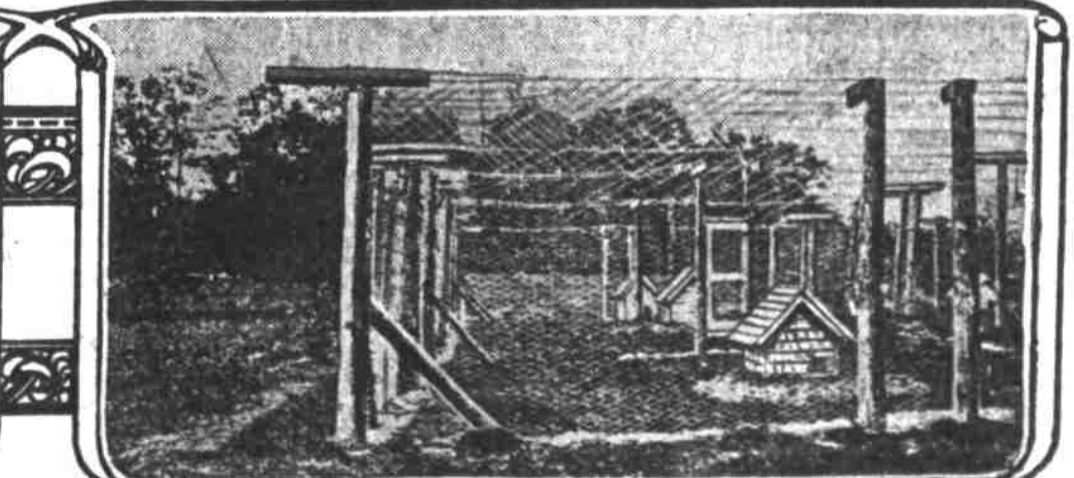
When the millionaire started this building he was some distance from the principal business center. He figured that business must come in that direction. It was vindicated. The trend was that way. He bought heavily in that section, and the increase in value to his own property by virtue of his own investment was enormous.

Applications for assistance are already coming in. Some of these are the applications of victims of accidents or fire, unable to support themselves; some are from elderly people who have suffered from sickness and are about to give up their homes.

## RAISING FOXES as BUSINESS for WOMEN



A Couple of Young Animals

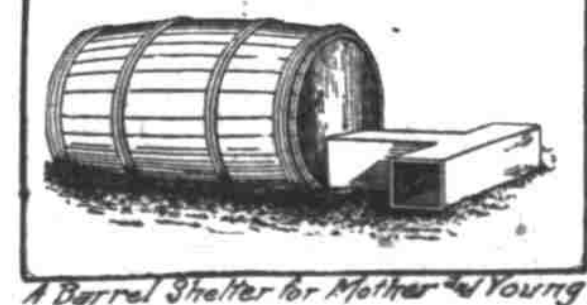


Yard of a Maine Fox Farm

"ALTHOUGH I failed as a chicken breeder, I am now making \$1000 a year raising foxes for sale," remarked an enterprising New Hampshire woman the other day.

"There is always a good demand for fox pelts," she continued. "Prime common red pelts bring from \$1 to \$5; prime cross from \$5 to \$15, and prime silver from \$75 to \$300 each."

"Silver Fox Farming" is the title of a recent pamphlet written by Wilson H. Osgood, of the Biological Survey, and issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. It declares that "the growing and world-wide demand for furs of high quality can be met only by increasing the number of animals producing them."



A Barrel Shelter for Mother and Young

IN STUDYING the industry of silver fox raising, officials of the Biological Survey visited a number of persons engaged in it. It was found that while many experiments had failed, some had succeeded to an extent indicating important possibilities for the future.

It was found, too, that success has depended, as a rule, upon the personal fitness of the one undertaking the business rather than upon the following of any set of rules.

When furriers speak of the silver fox they generally mean those dark phases of the ordinary red fox, variously termed silver, silver-gray, silver-black or black. It is the common fox of northern North America, the crafty Reynard of books, one must not confuse it with the gray or tree fox of the southern part of the United States, which is a different animal of little fur value.

"Silver foxes vary," says the recent bulletin, "from those in which the color is entirely grizzled to those in which it is entirely black, except a few white-tipped hairs on back and rump. Finally, in the black phase, the white is absent from all parts except the tip of the tail. In general, the cross fox is fairly common, the silver gray is comparatively rare and the pure black is excessively rare."

"Silver fox farming," Biological Survey officials believe, may be carried on successfully in northern states, or north of a southern boundary that crosses Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and South Dakota, but this favorable zone dips southward along the mountains in New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and in all the states of the Rocky Mountain region and westward.

The New Hampshire woman who is now successfully launched upon a career of fox farming secured her stock by mothering a half dozen fox kits that had been left

orphans. These were of the ordinary red fox tribe, but in the next generation two silver foxes appeared. After that it was a matter of selection to develop and fix the silver phase.

Most beginners, however, have to purchase their stock animals. These bring such a high price that few raise the silver fox. The silver foxes are sold at \$300 to \$400 a pair. Good specimens rarely command less than \$500 a pair, and much higher prices have been obtained.

If a breeder could fix and develop the pure black strain, his fortune would be assured. The skins of these animals, according to Mr. Osgood, of the Biological Survey, range from \$500 to \$2000 each.

Being assured of the possession of stock animals, the prospective raiser must prepare a place for them. Foxes require very little space and thrive in inclosures not more than forty feet square. A total space of five acres is ample for extensive operations, and a good-sized business can be conducted on two acres or even less. A half acre is enough for six pairs of foxes, and that is about all the beginner should attempt to handle.

A few trees or small shrubs should be within the inclosure, to afford shade and a feeling of seclusion to the animals. Sandy soil is better than any other.

Inclosures are made with wire net fencing, the meshes being not greater than two inches. This fence should be about ten feet high and sunk into the ground two feet, to prevent burrowing out, while an inward overhang should be at the top to prevent the animals from climbing out. The sunken part of the fence should be turned in a foot or more and flat stones placed along the edge of the fence at the surface to discourage burrowing.

Inside the inclosure should be compartments—the number depending upon the number of animals—not less than forty feet square, and each compartment should have a small house or shelter box—one made of a barrel is sufficient.

### FEED COSTS LITTLE

Some raisers prefer to dig holes for the animals; these should be about three feet deep and roofed over so as to turn the rain. The nursery must always be well drained and perfectly dry.

Foxes in the wild state eat a great variety of food, such as rabbits, mice, birds, insects and berries. They are omnivorous and will eat almost anything that is palatable to them, besides such, such as food as table scraps, bread and oat biscuits.

"A fair daily allowance for each animal," the Bulletin says, "is one-fourth of a pound of meat and a small handful of assorted scraps."

"According to an estimate of an experienced breeder, one fox fed with a meat and skim milk, the cost of feeding one fox, when everything is purchased, is 1 cent a day. In actual practice, in his case, the cost was less, since he was able to utilize scraps from his table to obtain much of the material from his neighbors."