

the Illinois Central Railroad at the time of his death. Much of the large estate left by Miss Foley was inherited from him. And you must believe me when I say she was greatly concerned about doing something that would "live on" and include him and his concerted efforts. After much deliberation, she collaborated with Merle Abbett, Superintendent of the Fort Wayne Schools, and whom she held in highest regard, and so came about the Foley Scholarship Trust.

In her Last Will and Testament she specified that an \$800.00 annual scholarship fund be instituted for a College or University education for a child of a Pennsylvania Railroad employee residing in Fort Wayne.** (May I call your attention to the two-fold purpose of this: (1) being restricted to children of Pennsylvania Railroad employees it obviously limited the field of applicants and narrowed the honor of the chosen one to someone connected with the company with which her brother had been affiliated, thereby honoring the memory of Tom Foley; (2) showing her great love for children and being able to do something for them, through the medium of that which meant so much to her -- a good education-- she paid tribute to her own life's work.

After a few small personal bequests, she bequeathed the rest of her property in trust to the Peoples Trust and Savings Company which was also named as executor. It is alleged that she left over \$85,000 in personal property after payment of all indebtedness, cost of administration, and specific bequests. In addition she left real estate valued at \$10,000.

The terms of the will specified that only one person was to receive income from the trust at any one time. The scholarships were to be awarded by Merle J. Abbett of the Fort Wayne Public Schools; Donnelly P. McDonald of the Peoples Trust and Savings and George Leonard, Judge of the Probate Court.

A series of court battles ensued. Several nieces and nephews and grand nieces and grand-nephews sought to contest the will. The local court's decision which was in Miss Foley's favor was appealed to the State Supreme Court. This high court also refused to sustain the contentions of the nieces and the nephews that they should share in the estate. They also further claimed that the trust would accumulate in perpetuity and they sought to share in the residue. The case would have had to be taken to the U.S. Supreme Court if the contenders sought to appeal the case further. This was not done.***

**Facts concerning the Foley Scholarship Trust (except amounts were given in an interview with Merle Abbett.

*** Facts about the contesting of the will, amounts of money involved, and results were taken from the clippings on "Celia Foley" in the library of the News Sentinel.