

**Christmas Toys of Yesterday...**

Toys of yesterday were simple and forced you to use your imagination. One of the most sought after toys of the 1900's was the "kiddy car". Plans were available and many carpenters were instructed to build one for a certain good little boys.

You could let your imagination run away as you traveled throughout the house pretending to deliver products the way the grown men did at work. You and your friend would find all types of unimaginable situations for you both to ride the kiddy car and "see the world."

Seen here is Historical Society member, *Lloyd Rupp* from Canfield, who will be 94 years old on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Little boys wore hand made dresses at that age and his little bare feet would "walk" the kiddy car down the side walk.



**Do You Know What This Is?**

Remember when rolling your own cigarette saved you money? All you had to do was to put the thin paper in the cradle, put tobacco on it and lift the handle to allow the paper to roll over the tobacco. It would look a little rugged, but it served the purpose and in time you could get pretty good at "rolling your own".



Seen here is the item recently donated to the museum for rolling your own cigarettes. .

**Niles in the Little Steel Strike of 1937**

This pack of "Camels" cigarettes has a real story behind it. It has been unopened for years. It was dropped from the airplane when the strike was on at the Republic Steel plant in Niles, Ohio in 1937.

Large numbers of Republic workers refused to leave the plant during the strike and remained at work. Unable to supply them with food and necessities, the company resorted

to an air-delivery system. Planes could not land at the Niles plant so an "air drop" system began. This pack of cigarettes, however missed its mark and fell outside the compound. It was picked up by a little boy named *George John* and he brought it home. George NEVER smoked, but loves to save things, so he recently donated it to the museum. Well, it definitely carries Niles history with it and is over 73 years old now.



The strike was marked by bitterness and violence and the Governor, *Martin Davey*, put Mahoning and Trumbull counties under martial law. Troops patrolled Niles, Warren and Youngstown. A "back-to-work" movement began, successfully breaking the strike.

**What Do All of These Items Have in Common?**



The one on the left is a soapstone warmer, with a heavy wire handle attached. It was placed in the fireplace or on top of the stove to get hot, then it was carried up to the bedroom and ran around between the sheets to provide warmth in a cold bedroom. It was also used to keep the feet warm when sledding.

The center one is a triangular shaped foot warmer, used when you went for a carriage ride to keep your feet warm. The hot charcoal was placed in the "drawer" on the side of the warmer. It is made of heavy sheet iron, covered with Brussels carpet, and "entirely fireproof" and will hold heat up to 16 hours. These were sold by Sears and Roebuck for \$1.74 in 1900. They were also sold for the automobiles before heaters were installed in them.

The one on the right is another warmer that was filled with boiling hot water. It was placed between the sheets in the bed also.

All of these things were once "comfort items" for the people living in the 1900's. They are on display at the Ward-Thomas Museum and can be seen on the first Sunday of every month from 2-5 pm along with thousands of other items.



Niles Historical Society  
P. O. Box 368  
Niles, Ohio 44446

Non-profit  
Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Niles, OH  
Permit #337

Visit our Website: [www.nileshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.nileshistoricalsociety.org)  
and check out the Photos and Stories links.

<p><b>Monthly Calendar</b></p> <p><b>Public Open House</b> The first Sunday of each month 2-5 p.m.</p> <p>Private tours may be scheduled by calling: The office 330.544.2143</p> <p><b>Membership meetings</b> – 10:00am The first Saturday each month</p> <p><b>Executive meeting</b> – 9:30am prior to membership meeting.</p>	<p><b>Trustees:</b> Fred Kubli, Jesse Scott, Roselyn Watson</p> <p><b>Officers:</b> Fremont Camerino .....President Patricia Nelson ..... Vice-President Nancy Malone .....Recording Secretary Betty Whitney..... Corresponding Secretary Ruth Van Huffel.....Treasurer Frank Burke ..... Assistant Treasurer</p> <p>Anne Townley ..... Program Editor Chairman Audrey John ..... Research Editor Nancy Malone ..... Education Editor Ralph Tolbert ..... Technology Editor</p>
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### Membership 2010

Our 2010 membership campaign has been very successful. With the subscription to the newsletter “The Niles Register” you become a member of the Niles Historical Society and are insured of receiving the bi-monthly newsletter.

We have 51 new members this year and have well over 400 former members that have renewed their membership. This money allows us to continue the work of caring for the Ward-Thomas Museum and the preservation of the Niles area history.

We are very proud of our heritage in Niles and are forever thankful for the support our members give us, along with receiving your membership check,

Many of our members sent notes thanking us for keeping them in touch with the Niles area through the newsletter. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

If you are unsure if you have paid your subscription/ membership, just check on the address label on the front of this newsletter. If there is an asterisk (\*), then you are a current member according to our records.

If you feel our records are incorrect, please notify us by calling (330)544-2143 or sending a note.

Although we hate to remove your name, we will be reviewing the accounts soon. Please let us hear from you before we take that action.

### Endowment Fund Donations Received in 2009

In memory of Richard Ward .....Jan Chambers  
In memory of Mary Straight..... Dennis C. Straight  
In memory of Robert Whitney ....William & Helen Whitney  
In memory of Doris Voorhies ..... Elynor Monosmith  
In memory of June Williams ..... Betty Whitney  
Donation ..... William Bauman Estate  
Donation ..... Dave Prosser

### Historical Society Annual Meeting February 6, 2010

The annual meeting, usually held in January, had to be canceled because of very heavy snow and cold temperatures. We will hold the annual meeting on February 6, 2010. The executive meeting will be held at 9:30 with the annual meeting to follow at 10:00 am.

All members are urged to attend and others interested in the society’s mission. On the agenda is the election of officers and discussion of plans for the year 2010. mailing address.

### Membership/Subscription

Membership dues for a year and “The Niles Register”

\$15.00 single, \$25.00 family  
1 year = 6 issues

## "We Continue Down Main Street"

written by *David Dull*, 1943 graduate Niles High School

Next door we find *Morton's Hardware Store*, which surprises me, because I thought the only hardware store in town was *Jensen's* on State Street. Next is the *Niles Dry Cleaning Shop*. Again I am surprised, I thought the only dry cleaner was *Fusco's* and again it was on State Street.

No self respecting town could be without a dining car, Niles is respectable and has the *Lor-A-Lee Dining Car* which is the next establishment we walk past. My family did not "eat out" so I had no occasion to enter the *Lor-A-Lee* until later in my life.



Emma sandman, Howard and Laura Davis, Georgia Horn, Mary Mangino, Emma Featsent in front of Lor-a-Lee Dining car

We now walk past *Frech Brothers Groceries*, *The American Legion*, *Rice Electric* and pause at the *McKinley Restaurant*. When Lois and I were married, we purchased, from *Rice Electric* a "Servelle" gas refrigerator. It kept our food cold for over 20 years without one single service call. There must be some reason they stopped making gas refrigerators, maybe they were too good.

In any event, we are at the *McKinley Restaurant*. Again, my family did not "eat out" so I never entered the restaurant as a youth. However, in the late "40's" and early "50's" Niles had a bus service and I was a bus driver for one or two years. The main stop was in front of the *McKinley Restaurant*. They served good hot dogs and very hot black coffee that helped keep a sleepy bus driver awake during his next run. College students do not get much sleep.

The next door leads to the *Western Union & Telegraph Co.* Although many telegrams were sent, nobody wanted to receive one. It might be sent from the President of the United States and began with "I regret to inform you...." Too many of those were being sent ever day.

We now pass *Mervyn's Jewelry Store*, where you might purchase your class ring and/or some little bauble for your latest girl friend.

Several steps more and we are at the entrance to the *Antler Hotel*, which was situated on the northeast corner of Main and Park Avenue. I personally have no recollection of ever setting foot inside the hotel, but some of my classmates must have



had someone they knew stay overnight. The *Antler* was not reputed to be a "flea bag", that claim was reserved for the *Commercial* on the corner of State and Park Ave.

Having crossed Park Avenue we continue past the *Dollar Savings and Banking Co.* (now *Farmers Bank*) where *Mr. Hamrick* sat in the corner office overlooking both Main Street and Park Avenue and kept an eye on the town's activities.



Only a few more steps and our senses detect a truly enjoyable establishment, where, for one thin dime we can



purchase a "Sky Scraper" ice cream cone or any number of other ice cream treats in a multitude of flavors. All of which

tasted fantastic on a hot summer day. Those of us with weird tastes might purchase a pickle from that big jar standing on the top of the counter. Some stores still advertise "Isaly's Chip Chopped Ham".

Reluctantly leaving *Isaly's* we walk past the *Men's Shop* where we might buy a new Sunday suit and come to *Reznor's Drug Store*. My sister worked at *Reznor's* for a short period of time while still in high school. One night, a man came into the store and asked to purchase some "Trojan's". My poor unsophisticated and uninformed sister, not knowing the product, shouted very loudly to the druggist, "Where are the "Trojan's"?", to the embarrassment of all. She was told to go home and talk to her mother.



Miss (Becky?) Tock



Our footsteps now take us to the *Ideal Super Market*, but just before we arrive, there is a doorway and steps that lead us to *Jones Pool Room*. A young man could wile away many an hour in that pool room, but it was not the same as *Krieger's*, boys did not stand in front to watch the girls go by.

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We walk along in front of *Daniel's Shoe Store* and come to *Hoffman's* where you could purchase the "finest" dry goods. There cannot be a classmate who has failed to be fascinated while watching the trolley system that transported the money and sales slip from the sales counter to the office and back again with the change. Continued on page 4

There is a name for that apparatus, but I cannot bring it to mind, nor do I plan to peruse the dictionary. If anyone remembers the name, please let me know. I would be appreciative.

We now amble past *Pritchard's Clothing Store*, *Leopold's Shoe Store*, *Nader's Clothing Store*, *Doubet's Jewelry Store* and we arrive at the *Home Federal Savings and Loan Association*, which sits on the northeast corner of State and Main Street.



Hartzell Building, site of Home Federal Savings Bank

The stores we just passed made little impression on me, but I do have some memories. Leopold's because they had an X-ray machine to make sure your new shoes were a proper fit and Doubet's because that is where my family purchased my graduation ring, which I still have but do not wear. Somehow the ring got smaller in size.

We have no more reason to enter the Home Federal Savings and Loan Association than we did to enter the other financial institutions in town. Unless we needed to see *J. M. Elder, M. D.*; *J. H. MacQuarrie, D.D.S.* or Attorney *H. A. Mills*. They inhabited the second floor.



Duke Doubet, jeweler

We are now ready to turn the corner into East State Street and walk "around the donut" which we will do in a later newsletter. Also, I need to talk with someone who spent more time on State Street than I did. My memory is a little sketchy. I trust our little walk had brought back fond memories of your youth and you have enjoyed a little vicarious reminiscing.

At the top of the next column are two photographs from the '70s before Urban Renewal completely changed the appearance of the Main Street buildings. The top image shows Pugh Hardware and the Antler Hotel looking South down Mainstreet. The bottom image shows buildings where previously Leopold's and the Hartzell Building were located on Main Street.



### Spring Dinner April 27, 2010

"*Hidden Beauties; the Art Pottery of East Liverpool.*" will be presented by *Sarah Webster* on April 27, 2010 at the annual Spring Dinner for the Niles Historical Society.

Sarah Webster is the director of the *Museum of Ceramics* at East Liverpool, Ohio and sixth generation descendant of pioneer potters. She is well qualified to bring us the pottery history of East Liverpool which is known all over the world.

Most people think of East Liverpool as mainly the source for only ordinary dinnerware, from that area of Ohio. It was, however, the home of such potteries as *Knowles, Taylor* and *Knowles, Oakwood* and *Craven* pottery. She will be showing examples of ware by individual potters and decorators for whom beauty was as important as the utility value.

The dinner will be held at Ciminero's Banquet Center on Main Street in Niles on Tuesday, April 27 at 6:00pm. Cost of dinner and program is \$20.00 and reservation must be received by April 21. Tickets will be available through society members and by calling 330-544-2143.



Museum of Ceramics,  
400 East Fifth St.  
East Liverpool, Ohio 43920

