



Roof slate on barn roof after repair work.

Membership Renewal Time

We thank our "Life Members" for their continued support and now is the time to remind the rest of our readers to renew their membership. . We decided to send the membership form with the November newsletter this year to save the cost of a separate mailing.

The membership money is used by the society to pay for maintenance of the Ward-Thomas Museum and the publishing of the newsletter. To date, this year, the society has spent over \$824.00 dollars just to print and mail the news letter. If you enjoy reading the newsletter, we hope you will seriously consider renewing your membership so we can continue this program. .

Enclosed is a membership form and the return envelope for your convenience. If you would like a friend to receive the news letter, please print their name and address on the back of the membership form and we will send them a complimentary copy.

Please mail the enclosed form with your check to:

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

Thank you again for your support.

Barn Roof Repairs Made.

Maintenance is essential to the life of a historical building as we all know. Just like your own home, constant repairs and upkeep needs to be attended to, of course the cost keeps rising, which doesn't help matters either.



Barn roof holes before the repair work.

Recently we had the front steps and a part of the barn roof repaired. *George John*, has done a wonderful job keeping on top of the necessary needed repairs that must be made to keep the buildings in good condition. Thanks, George.

Tour the Museum...

Thanks also to *Nancy Malone* who continues to conduct tours of the museum. If you would like your social group, church group or visiting family to tour the museum, please call the museum and make an appointment. If you find it hard to visit on the first Sunday of each month when we have our public tours, schedule a private tour. Our docents are very proud of the museum and love to show it off.

Office number is (330)544-2143.

Oops, We made a mistake.

Last month the picture of the tower rooms was interesting, but we named two of the pictures as being located at 722 Robbins Ave. The house on page 3 is located at 19 Butler Street in Niles. Sorry for the mix up.

To view our Website that features local buildings, people and historical events, enter the Web address below in your Web browser:

<http://nileshistoricalsociety.org>



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

Non-profit Organization
 US Postage Paid
 Niles, OH
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Calendar for November & December 2008

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|---------|------------------------------|----------|
| Oct. 29 | Exc. Meeting | 11:00 am |
| Nov. 1 | Membership Meeting | 10:00 am |
| Nov. 2 | Open House | 2-5 pm |
| Dec. 3 | Exc. Meeting | 11:00am |
| Dec. 6 | Membership Meeting | 10:00am |
| Dec. 7 | “Christmas” Open House | 2-5pm |

The building location may be the same, but many Niles’ businesses have changed. For example, since *James R. Williams* has purchased the Holloway Funeral Home, it is now the Holloway - Williams Funeral Home Inc. at 611 Robbins Avenue.

The old Korner Dairy that used to feature a Christmas tree on its top has been completely remodeled and now houses the offices of *Linda Bennett*, State Farm Insurance agent and *Dr. Angel Ricciuli’s* Chiropractic Center at 641 Robbins Avenue.

To see more changes to buildings on Robbins Avenue, please turn to page 4.

If you have any photographs of buildings, people or events, call: (330)544-2143. and we’ll scan your photographs, preserve your piece of Niles history, and include it in our archives.

Scanning does not harm the original photograph which is returned to you safely. In fact, having an archived scan also means that if something happens to your original, a print could be made from the Historical Society scan.



Old Korner Dairy



Pier Restoration at Ward-Thomas Museum

While leaving the driveway at the Ward-Thomas Museum, a service truck accidentally struck the left stone pier at the driveway entrance. The way it hit the upper section of the pier,



it caused the entire pier to collapse. A heavy iron gate had to be removed while repairs were made. Insurance covered the cost of the pier reconstruction.

James Construction was called upon to rebuild the pier. It was like putting together a puzzle, for each stone had to be cleaned and then they had to decide how to rebuild it, matching it to the other pier.



Fortunately the stone cap on top of the pier was not broken in the fall. However it was very heavy and the *City of Niles* workers came to our aid and used a crane to place it on top of the new pier. It matches perfectly with the pier on the right side of the driveway. The stone workers did a masterful job of recreating the original pier.

During the rebuilding of the pier, we had to remove the heavy iron entrance gate. It was determined this was a good time to have the gate sandblasted and painted. Both sections of the driveway gate and a walk-in gate all needed attention. *RTI International Metals*, a local company formerly RMI, said they would donate their services to sandblast and paint all three sections of the gate.

The City of Niles employees came over to the museum and lifted the sections of the gate on their truck. They then transported it over to RTI on Warren Ave. Arrangements were made through *Bob Halavick*, at RTI and *Dave Detchon* and *Bob Parilla* did a beautiful job of restoring the gate to its original beauty. It was estimated that the gate was installed about 1914 and weighed over 2,000 pounds.

After the refurbishing was completed, the City workers hoisted the gate sections back in place with the use of a crane. Final securing of the gate was accomplished and once again the entrance to the Ward-Thomas Museum is completed to its former glory.



Accidents do happen and we are thankful no one was injured. We appreciate the participation of the RTI employees, City workers and James Construction for helping the society work through the problem.



Stone Workers L to R *Dan Durflinger, David James & Tim James*



RTI workers.: *Bob Halavick, Terry Miranda, Dave Detchon, Bob Parilla*

Let's Take a Drive On Robbins Avenue

Things are changing in Niles, rather they have been changing for some time. Ever since the 1962 fire at the H. H. Hoffman department store and the start of Urban Renewal, things have changed considerably downtown on Main Street. . This month we decided to take you on a visual tour of Robbins Avenue and see some changes that have been made on that main thoroughfare.



Macali's Super Market is now "Family Dollar".. at 353 Robbins Ave.



461 Robbins was the *Mauro Store*. Now it is store selling 'Quality Second hand Goods' called *Loriann's Park Place*.



Reese, Wynyard Funeral Home is now Lane Funeral Home. 415 Robbins



Located at McKinley Heights was the Mears Realty building That is now gone and a new Walgreen Drug Store covers that entire corner at Robbins Ave. and Warren-Youngstown Road.



Rogers Lumber at 363 Robbins, a family-owned business, recently closed after 61 years of supplying building materials.



McKinley Heights Fire Station can be seen to the right of the Walgreen building now.



Morabito's Robbins Market at 533 Robbins is now Ward's Costume Shop.