

Why Take Pictures?

Each one of us remembers little things about Niles downtown and the neighborhood in which we grew up in...but how quickly the memory fades. Looking at pictures helps to bring memories back into perspective.

Taking pictures of simple everyday things can be worth millions in memories years from now. Take for instance the old kitchen table where you sat and talked to your grandmother or perhaps the over stuffed chair that



grandpa fell asleep in. Before you clean out your house and get ready to move, take the time to go through and take snapshots of the rooms and the items in them. Years from now you'll be glad you did.

Also, insurance agencies encourage you to take pictures throughout your home in the event of a disaster. Putting the pictures in a safety deposit box will insure that you have not forgotten the little details. With digital cameras today, it is very easy to record snapshots. Try it, you'll be glad you did, and so will your children. We urge everyone to take pictures and don't forget to put dates on the back. You think you will remember, but you don't...

PS: Consider sharing those memories with the Historical Society to preserve the memorable events of Niles.

No, it's not too late to renew your subscription/membership to "The Niles Register" newsletter and membership in Niles Historical Society. Check the front of the newsletter. Is there an * by your name?

*If there is no * we may be removing your name from our mailing list.* Not that we want to, but costs prohibit us from carrying people on our mailing list forever. The cost is: \$15.00 single ...\$25.00 family. AND **thanks** to all who are current...

While we are on the subject of finances, please keep in mind that we have an "Endowment Fund". Donating to the Niles Historical Endowment Fund is a nice way to remember or honor someone. The principal is never used and an acknowledgement is sent to the honored person or family. Just mark your donation "in care of" the Endowment Fund. For more information, please call the office, 330-544-2143...Remember all contributions are tax exempt.

1930-1965 --Pictures Wanted

We have thousands of pictures in our files, but **very few** pictures of downtown Niles from 1930 - 1965. We have lost so much, even being able to remember how it all looked and the character of the old buildings before urban renewal. Yes, the *Niles Bank* and the *Dollar Bank* buildings are still there, although they both have different names on them now.

The *Robbins Theater* building is still standing, but hasn't been open in years. The old five and ten cent store is there, but now it is a *Dollar General*, and the *Holeton* building stands next door. It is the last remaining "old" building in town. It was built in 1897.

So once again we are asking our readers to drop off any pictures that they may have that reflect Niles history. Pictures of buildings, pictures inside the workplace, the street where you live, all are interesting. . With the loss of a daily paper, current events are not being preserved as they once were. The Internet today flashes pictures across our pc's and then it is gone in an instant. The ability to do research years from now will be impossible unless preservation takes place now...Please help... Thank you.



Looking north at Main & State Streets.

Reminder – Spring Dinner

Don't forget to get your tickets for the Spring Dinner held at *Ciminero's* 123 Main Street on April 27th at 6:00pm. The dinner will be served followed by a very informative program by *Sarah Vodrey*, the curator with the Museum of Ceramics in East Liverpool. She will be talking about the "Hidden Beauties of Pottery"
 Public is cordially invited, tickets are \$20.00 and available by calling the office (330-544-2143).



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
and check out the Photos and Stories links.

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

For the past three newsletters we have included the article that *David Dull* had written. David graduated from Niles McKinley High School with the class of 1943. He wrote the story for his class newsletter. I asked him if we could reprint it in our newsletter. He was glad to share the story with us.

We have received many notes from our readers telling us how much they enjoyed reading David's story. As David wrote down his story his memory "walked" store by store through what was a very busy little town during the 1940's. Sadly David passed away on October 12, 2009.

Here is the last and final chapter of his walk as he wrote it.

I had lunch with an old friend and classmate, *James Bernard, Jr.* and we talked about State Street in downtown Niles, circa "43". I am now prepared to continue our walk around State Street and East Park Avenue. Jim's knowledge was invaluable and he deserves most of the credit. I cannot say "Thank You" often enough to Jim for his help.

We turn the corner from South Main Street onto State Street and the first business beyond the *Home Federal Savings and Loan Assoc.* is the *Sweet Shop* where you could buy all kinds of confections. For some reason, known only to my mother, I was not allowed to frequent that establishment, even if I had the money to spend.

The next business is *Guy Altiero*, a shoemaker and, as I learned the other day Jim's grandfather. The following building is unoccupied, but on the second floor is the *Redman's Hall*. One of our neighbors was a member of the Redman lodge, but I have no idea the purpose of that organization.



Now we come to *Jensen's Hardware*, a business that occupies several store buildings and in fact occupied several buildings as we turn the corner. As I stated before, I thought *Jensen's* was the only hardware store in town. Probably because it was the first one any one living on the south side came to when going to town.

The following business is the *Manhattan*, a bar and restaurant, mostly bar...Because we have not attained the legal drinking age of 21 years, we do not have any reason to open the front door. *Dependable Ford Cleaners* occupies the next building. As I mentioned before, my family walks right past on our way to *Fusco's*. The following door leads us into the *State Liquor Store*. I believe my mother was a charter member of the W.C.T.U. (*Women's Christian Temperance Union, Ed.*) Needless to say, we shunned the State Liquor Store.

Now we have arrived at the *Bus Depot*, a beginning point for countless vistas—mostly however, the beginning point of a trip to either Warren or Youngstown. For one semester at Youngstown College, I was without an automobile and became very well acquainted with the inside of the bus depot, both in Youngstown and in Niles. Inside the depot was the *Postal Telegram Co.* and a small counter where you could buy a cup of coffee and a piece of pie, etc.

Leaving the Bus Depot behind, we continue our walk along State Street, past the *Sanitary Barber Shop* (*Frank Bleakly* has a sign shop in back), *John Katicos* has a shoe shine parlor and a hat cleaning business. If my shoes get shined, it is done at home. We arrive at the *Warner Theatre*.



The Warner is not the best theatre in town, but on Saturday afternoon, for 10 cents, we are going to see a double feature, a cartoon, and most importantly we are going to see a serial of Buck Rogers, or Dick Tracy, or the Lone Ranger, or some other heroic figure. Of course, we will have to return next Saturday to see how our hero got out of that mess. After leaving the theatre, we pass *Ross Barber Shop* ((Jim remarked on how many barber shops there are in the city.) and we come to *Mrs. Guarnieri's Candy Shop* where the aroma permeates the air and it is difficult to pass by with out spending a nickel or two.

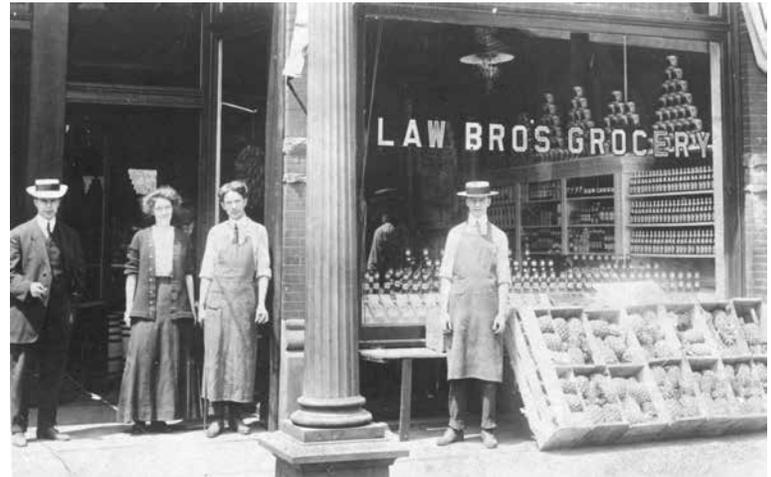
On the corner stands the *Penn Auto Store*, another place where we boys dream of jazzing up our future automobile. If we would cross Park Ave. and continue along State Street,



we would pass our classmate "*Lucy*" *Shing's* parents laundry, *Emory Powers* towing, *Mango's Cab Co.*, *Kay's Bowling Alley*, and several other establishments, but we are not going to do

that, today we are going to turn left onto East Park Ave.

We walk past *Bonanno's Tailor Shop* and come to Jim Bernard's favorite place, his father's barber shop and music store. Many a band member and music lover can find an occasion to visit *Mr. Bernard's* shop in addition to those who get a haircut. We leave Bernard's and continue our walk up East Park Avenue and pass *Robbins Furniture Co.*, *Paul's Cut Rate*, the *Niles Hardware Co.*, and come to *Law's Market*. You can call Law's on the telephone, order your groceries and



they will deliver in a collapsible wooden box,

The next establishment is the *Center*. Within a few years it will become "*Headly's*" a combination restaurant and Ice Cream Parlor. After World War II, I will meet some new friends, re-acquaint myself with some old friends and spend some considerable time at "*Headly's*. Beyond that there is the



Spot Restaurant and Bar and again the *Dollar Bank*.

Turning north we again see the *Antler Hotel*, side entrance, cross Park Avenue and begin our stroll along the north side of East Park Avenue. We walk past the *Park Hair Shop*, *Mauro Sales and Service*, *Totten Insurance*, *Soriano Sales and Service* and arrive at the *Parkway Café*. Later in my life, I will discover that the *Parkway* served the very best open faced hot roast beef sandwiches with mashed potatoes and gravy. They were delicious!!!



Next to the Parkway is *King's News Stand*. For several years, when I was about 12 years of age, I had a paper route and the newspapers were picked up at King's News Stand and also where you paid your bill every Saturday. The papers were not the only thing picked up, if you listened. I learned much about the "Rackets" that flourished in our fair city, where, how and why of events that were hardly ever printed in the *Niles Daily Times*, or any other newspaper.



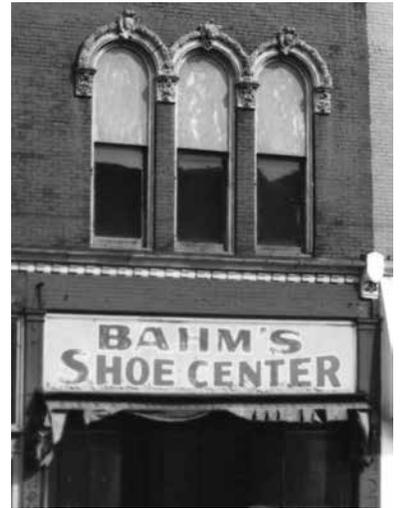
But we continue, crossing Pine Alley and walking past *Sammy's Service Station*, the *Royal Grill*, where dances are held every Saturday night, *Soreo's Shoe Repair Shop*, *Lapolla's Barber Shop* and come to *Tricomi's Market* on the corner of Park and State Street. We now cross the intersection and face the entrance of the *Commercial Hotel*, an establishment I only entered once, later in my life, and with several friends.

We immediately turn right, cross Park Avenue and enter *Shaker's Store*, where you can find all kinds of merchandise from workingman's



gloves to ladies apparel. As we continue along State Street, we pass the *Landmark Café*, *The Bureau of Workman's Compensation*, *Star Lunch*, *Jack's Place*, *Fusco's Dry Cleaner's* and enter the door of the *Belmont Lunch* where we are going to sit at the counter and eat an extremely good Hot Dog.

As we walk along this section of State Street there are a number of vacant storefronts, but there are a few establishments. *Henry Davis* has a plumbing business, *Pat Fusco* has a law office and also sells insurance and real estate, *Walter Burnside* operates a heating and cooling service, *Baum Brothers* sells shoes, there is a *Union Labor Hall*, a *Western Auto Store*, and the *Salvation Army* and a *Poultry Market*. If we continue we will end up at the *Pennsylvania Depot* where we might catch a train to almost anywhere. Almost all of these buildings we have passed are two stories and upstairs there are people who live "in town", however I didn't know any of them, so we can't stop and visit.



We turn and continue along State Street and pass the *Sample Furniture Co.*, *Tonk Electric Sales and Service*, several empty storefronts and come to *Sam Rubinstein's Emporium*. Rubinstein sold school supplies. I believe every school book and /or supply. I needed from time I started First Grade until I went to High School, was purchased at Rubinsteins'. Sam was one of the nicest and kindest men I have ever known. He was truly a gentleman.

Our walk through downtown Niles, circa "43" is now ended. I am aware that we have missed some of the business that flourished on West Park Ave., West State Street and Church Street, but we have covered most of the business in our fair town and certainly the places you and I would have had occasion to frequent as teenagers. I also hope you have enjoyed reminiscing with me and that many fond memories of your youth have flooded your senses. May God bless all of you every day.

David Dull class of 1943, Niles McKinley.

Editor's note: Many of these photos are from the documentation for Urban Renewal during the 1970's which by nature contain no people. Perhaps your photos would show the buildings with people that are the real story of the history of Niles.