

**The Landscape In Niles Ohio Is Constantly Changing**

Through the years, since the first resident of the village decided to settle near the banks of the Mosquito Creek, till today, it is hard to imagine this area all covered in trees, and only a simple pathway leading to the next homestead.

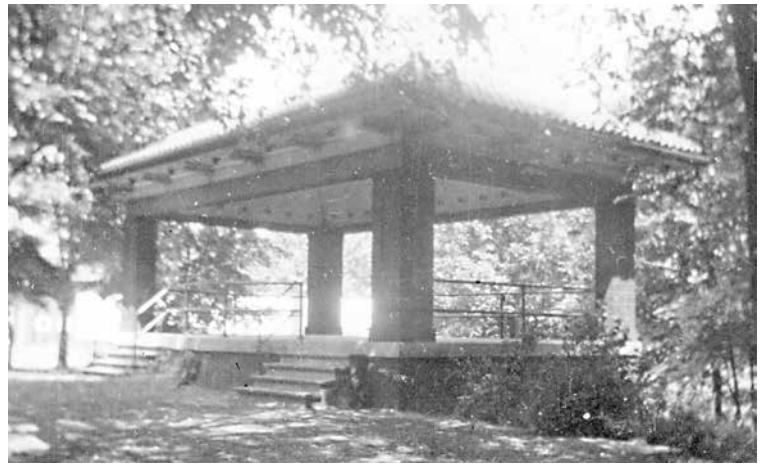
The hardships our pioneer settlers had to endure are impossible for us to begin to comprehend. It is even hard for some people to imagine what happened to the “doughnut” in town and it wasn’t that long ago it disappeared. For the younger generation, lost forever, is the “hometown” atmosphere of walking the streets to town for a movie, meeting friends and just visiting with your neighbors, and always having an ice cream cone at Isaly’s before walking home.

The Historical Society tries to keep the memories alive by exposing you to the many colorful stories and views of the “yesterdays” in Niles. This month we will show you pictures of some of the changes that have taken place through out the years.

Do you remember when Church Street crossed over State Street and made a curve down the hill to the east and ended up connecting with Robbins Avenue? Back in the 1930’s the north end of State Street ended at Church Street.



You can clearly see the McKinley Memorial Building(A) in the upper left of the picture. Just to the right of it, is “Church Street”(B) and it goes straight down to the lower right side of the picture. The lower center part of the aerial view clearly shows the Central Park with the fountain(C) in the center, just to the left of Church Street. The band stand(D) was located on the northeast side of the fountain. On the other side of Church Street was a small railroad freight station, and the B&O tracks.(E)



Bringing you up to the present time, the Central Park Apartment building is now located in the general location of where the fountain and band stand was located. Now, State Street extends out to Robbins Avenue and the new bike trail comfort station is being built on the north side of what was Church Street where the railroad station was located.



Why was this change made? Well, there was a real danger of the railroads crossing over Robbins Avenue. 17 people were killed at those tracks and it became apparent that changes had to be made. The tracks needed to go over Robbins Avenue. State street was extended to Robbins Avenue and Robbins Avenue would dead end into Main Street in the separation project. Editor’s note—This construction took place in 1953 and also included the underpasses for North Main Street and a new bridge crossing Mosquito Creek on Robbins Ave.

This pictures shows the area where the B& O station once stood and now it will be the new home of the bike trail comfort station. The bike trail will eventually extend from Ashtabula south to the Mill Creek Metropark Bike Path in Canfield, Ohio, then on south to the Columbiana County border. Parts of the trail are completed now and being used.

Both Niles and Warren portions of the Greenway primarily are being paid through Federal grants. Niles will have a 4 ½ mile stretch to be completed this year.





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.

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

**Save this date April 26, 2011 Spring Dinner**

Annual Spring Dinner Will Be Held At Ciminero’s Banquet Center, 123 Main Street In Niles.



*Shirley Griffin* from Salem, Ohio will be the guest speaker. She is a highly motivational speaker and you will thoroughly enjoy her message.

Her talk is entitled “Fetch the What-cha-ma-call-it”. Shirley will bring along items for you to

identify and has told me that if you have something at home, and you don’t know what it is, bring it along, see if you can get some answers.

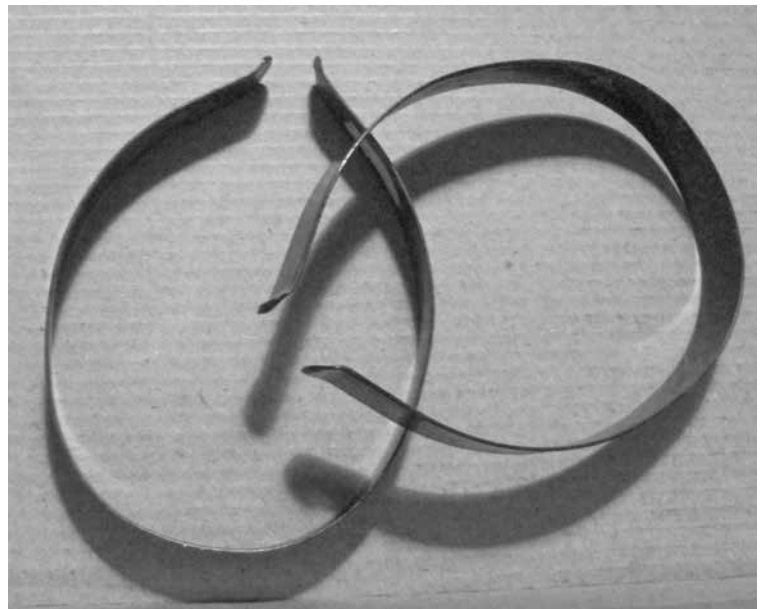
Tickets for the event can be purchased through any member of the Executive Committee or by calling 330-544-2143 and leaving your number. We will return your call. Donation \$20.00 each. Ticket deadline is April 18, 2011.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm with the program to follow.

All will enjoy this fun filled light hearted evening on April 26, 2011 at Ciminero’s Banquet Center.

*Ray Donadio in 1954 Does anyone know where in Niles? John is driving, his wife, Estelle is next to him, Sally Soda, Goldie Muccio, and Mary Lambert. They were the Nyre(?) sisters and the car is a 1948(?) Chrysler.*

**What is it??**



*This photo is an example of forgotten items from the past, bring your unidentified relics to discover their purpose.*

**New Officers For The Year 2011-2012**

- President: .....Fremont Camerino
- Treasurer: .....Patty Burgess-Fisher
- Assistant Treasurer: .....Frank Burke
- Secretary: .....Nancy Malone
- Corresponding Secretary: .....Betty Whitney
- Trustees: .....Fred Kubli, Jessie Scott, Roselyn Watson

## The "Blue Iris" Comes To Town.

It has been a long time since we had a home town "bakery" in town. Many of our members would remember the *Kaiser's Pastry Shop* at 5 East State Street in the late 50's and 60's. There was also the *Magic Oven* on North Main Street some time ago.

Now we have the "Blue Iris". It is located at 606 Robbins Avenue, in that little strip of stores where *Tunison, Cornicelli Cleaners, Niles Printing, and Progressive Camera Shop* were all located at one time.

*Melissa Yohman* attended Mount Carmel school and graduated from Niles High School in 1987. She was trained in floral arts and later went to **La Cordon Bleu** in Pittsburgh where she received her degree in Pastry Arts. She met her husband, *Steve Murphy* there, who is a graduate of the same school.



They have moved back to Niles and bake an assortment of 70 flavors of cupcakes and cinnamon rolls. They also take orders for cakes that are a delicious one-of-a-kind design. There

are no preservatives used and they use European Butter and fine imported Chocolate. Everything is fresh, baked daily and any leftovers are donated to a church group who tend to the needy. They also work with the TCTC with Niles students.

It's great to have a new business in town and we are glad to have Melissa and her husband, Steve back home again. Stop by and see them, you'll be glad you did..

---

## The Endowment Fund, Was Established In 1988 By The Niles Historical Society.

We periodically publish the names of recent donors and the names of the honoree.

### Recent donations received from;

*William Bauman Estate*

### In Memory of *John Rankin*

*Quest Club of Niles*

### In Memory of *Suzanne D. Larsen*

*Nancy Malone*

*Roselyn Watson*

*Ruth Van Huffel*

*Diane Corbin*

*George & Audrey John*

*Ed & Patti Dougherty*

*Deutscher Musik Verein, Inc.*

*Kettering Medical Center*

*Elizabeth Whitney*

*Dorothy Leo*

*Frank Burke*

*Sofia Froom*

*Jeff & Rita Reidel*

*Gem City Home Care,*

*Curves Lunch Bunch*



## Additional Information about Circle Park

*Daughters of Veterans* furnished the flag pole. Several trees were donated. Including one Silver Maple from *Elizabeth Russell* in honor of her husband who was killed during WWI and *Mrs. T. E. Thomas* donated the "Spirit of Education" fountain for the Central Park wading pool. The pool was 50 foot in diameter and 14 inches deep in the center. Through the years many people enjoyed the free band concerts and the children, under the age of eight, played in the wading pool. Rotary, Kiwanis and Exchange Clubs each donated a bed of flowers to add to the beauty of the landscape.

---

## Please look at the address label on the front of your newsletter.

Membership in the Niles Historical Society provides you with the bimonthly subscription to the "Niles Register" for ONE YEAR. We place an asterisk (\*) on your label which is then placed on your newsletter. This is to remind you that you are a member in good standing. If there is no asterisk, our records indicate we have not received your check this year. So, please check your address label, thank you.

Our membership/subscription fee for one year is \$15.00 for a single, \$25.00 for a family. It may be sent any time to the Niles Historical Society; P. O. Box 368, Niles, Ohio 44446

Your subscription/membership fee is the main source of income for us to continue the job of preserving history in Niles. Our staff is all volunteer, providing untold hours in maintaining the four buildings, grounds and content of the museum plus all the research we are asked to do.

We sincerely thank you for your monetary support each year. Our membership keeps growing each year and we are presently sending out nearly 800 newsletters every other month. We have had a total of 55 new members so far this year. Some were listed last month and recently the following people have joined. Welcome to all.

*Rosemarie Bartscher*

*Denise Davis*

*Paula Griffiths*

*Wendy & John James*

*Mrs. Limongi*

*Patricia McMahon*

*Mr. & Mrs. Mel Pentecost*

*Ernest Safran*

*Barbara Sanning*

*Lawrence M. D'Amico*

*Mrs. Gallo*

*Doris Imburgia*

*Charlotte Leonard*

*Joyce & Richard Mahan*

*Barbara Paulik*

*Mary L. Powers*

*A. Salerno*

---

Test Your Memory(Look at the two photographs on page 4)

Who is delivering milk from Warren Sanitary and what year? No, I don't know the name of the horse.

Identify the four young ladies in the convertible with Johnny Pressell. Answers at the bottom of page 1.

Sue came to our garage sale with an armload of items she wanted to donate to the society for our sale. If you have ever set up for a garage sale, you know things can look rather in disarray. Sue looked around and asked "Can I stay and help you?" We rarely hear those words, naturally, we were glad to accept her help. That was several years ago, and that was the beginning of Sue Larsen becoming actively involved in the society.



It bothered Sue to no end, that President McKinley's grandmothers' stone was in such a deplorable state at the Niles Cemetery. She worked in her quiet manner getting all the details in line. She contacted *Diane Corbin* from the Warren Marble Company and they worked together, getting a "rubbing" from the old stone, so the new stone would look as close to the old one as possible. With all the attention to this project, an anonymous donor paid for the cost of the stone and installation. Needless to say, Sue was delighted, but it was because of her persistence and the blessed donor that, President McKinley's grandmother, *Anne Allison*, now has a new stone.

Sue served as a docent at the museum frequently and was always more than willing to help out where ever needed. In December, Sue Larson had accepted the nomination for Vice-President of the Niles Historical Society and would have been elected on January 8, 2011. However she died in her sleep just a week earlier.

She was a wonderful, sincere person, and is greatly missed..

One of our oldest Historical Society members is *Dave Prosser*. Dave celebrated his 99th birthday at the retirement center at Copeland Oaks in Sebring, Ohio on February 24th. He says "I don't know why I am still here, but I get three good meals a day." He still has his great sense of humor and would love to hear from his former students. Though he is well cared for, his days are long and getting a phone call or note means more than you will never know.



His address is:

David Prosser 5800 South 15th Street, Crandall Medical Center, Sebring, Ohio 44672-2087 and his phone number is; 330-938-6126- ext 49204 .

The new *Niles Nickname Book* will soon be sent to the printers and we will inform you when it will be available to purchase.

*Correction: The shoe store in Joe Perrone's story in the last newsletter was incorrectly identified as John Katua's store. The correct name is Katicos located at 88 E. State Street.*

"Pictorial History II" Book Committee

We have created a new committee to review the possibilities of publishing a new "Pictorial History" for the Niles Historical Society. Members of the committee are *Nancy Malone, Sandy Bilovesky, Ralph Tolbert, Anne Townley* and *Audrey John*.

They have met several times and are presently looking over all of the pictures we have in our collection. We have hundreds of pictures, class pictures, and individual pictures, but what we are really lacking are the pictures of the buildings and streets in Niles, especially of anything of downtown Niles before all the old buildings were demolished.

Can you help us out?? Winter is a good time to go through that old shoebox of pictures you have stashed away in the attic. We would love to scan the pictures and get them right back to you. Remember scanning a picture does not hurt the picture and if we can, maybe we will publish it in the new "Pictorial Book".

If you have any questions, please call 330-544-2143, leave your name and number. We will return your call promptly.

The photographs below are two samples that come from "The Wall" at *Joe "The Barber" Merlo's* barber shop at the Village Center. Joe is a member of the Class of '63.

