

President's Message

Friends, We are having a very wet spring!

The "Big Check" presentation by the Ohio History Connection took place on April 12. In attendance along with members of the Niles Historical Society were *Steven Mientkiewicz*, Mayor of Niles, *Giovanne Merlo*, City Auditor, *Bianca Rozenbald*, City Grant Writer, *Megan Wood* of the Ohio History Connection and *Andy Veroff*, Ohio History Fund and Outreach Manager. This grant is for ADA improvements to the Ward – Thomas property.



1803

Date **March 1, 2024**

Pay to the Order of: **City of Niles** **\$ 18,981.00**

Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-one and 00/100 Dollars

Ward-Thomas Home ADA
For Improvements & Estate Upgrades

Megan Wood

Students from Trumbull County ESC Vocational Program were on the grounds May 1 & 2 trimming bushes and trees, edging and mulching. The student volunteers are under the supervision of their instructors *Jeff D'Altorio* and *Chris Sutton*. Our thanks for all their hard work.

Ralph Tolbert has created a QR code on the newsletter for easy access to the Society website and has added additional stories.

The **America 250** subcommittee for planning events for the celebration in 2026 met on April 30. The committee plans to coordinate events and create a passport to scheduled events in Trumbull County with prizes to be awarded for the most Passport Stamps.

Family Day is scheduled for June 1, 2024, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Warren–Trumbull County Library on Mahoning Avenue in Warren. This is in conjunction with the kickoff of the library's summer reading program. Organizations will set up tables and tents outside and will have activities and prizes for the children in attendance. This event is free and open to the public.

On May 29, 2024 at 12:00 PM the **Young at Heart Group** of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel invites all Senior Citizens to attend a presentation by *Vince Bevacque* of the Community Connection. Community Connection is a non-profit providing free technological help for seniors. This service includes help with computers, phones, tablets, Alexa, etc. If you are in the area and would like to learn of this service call Sandy at 330-652-8329 or Anna Marie at 330-719-5716 to make a reservation by May 23. Lunch is served at noon at a cost of \$8.00 in Holy Family Hall of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 381 Robbins Ave., Niles. The presentation will follow.

Burnside started heating company fifteen years ago

Niles Daily Times June 17, 1939

Fifteen years ago this month the Burnside Heating Company was started in Niles. It had its beginnings in a little shop on Linden Avenue and remained in that location until three years ago when it moved to its modern rooms at 51 State Street. *John Burnside*, the owner of the business, has been in the heating business for the past eighteen years. He took his first training from the Skinner Furnace Company in Cleveland, then worked in this business in Warren for three years prior to opening his own shop here in Niles.



Mrs. Burnside standing on her porch on Linden Avenue.

As another phase of his business Mr. Burnside does repair work on all makes of heating systems and installs and repairs roofing and spouting. He installed the tile roof on the Mt. Carmel Church and Parsonage which is to date the largest tile roofing construction in Niles.

Mr. Burnside, in addition to taking care of his regular business has found time to invent and patent a rural gas generator called the Burnside Rural Gas Generator which is designed to bring the comfort and convenience of gas to those living beyond the limits of the city gas mains.

Mr. Burnside expresses great confidence in the future of air-conditioning in Niles and expresses the belief it will not be many years before no home will be without this, the most modern of all heating and ventilating plants.

Niles Daily Times July 1940

Mr. and Mrs. C.G. Hoskins, Mesopotamia, announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, *Hope Elinor*, to *Walter D. Burnside*, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Burnside, Jr. of Niles. The wedding is planned for Sunday, August 25, the birthday anniversary of both Miss Hoskins and Mr. Burnside.

Hope and Walter would later have two sons, *Walter Denny* and *Barry* and a daughter, *Bonnie*. They would rent a house on Orchard Avenue next to the Ash Path and later purchase a home on Hartzell Avenue.

Denny (1942-2022) graduated from The Ohio State University in 1968 with a Bachelor's and Master's degree. While at OSU, he won many awards from the university, IEEE and AMTA. He also won the Distinguished Public Service Award from NASA which is the highest form of recognition for a non-government employee. In addition, he was named Emeritus Professor which he still held. In 2010, he founded NeWave Sensor Solutions, an RFID innovation small business. While working at OSU he and *Robert Burkholder* created a novel RFID antenna, which they patented and formed the basis of NSS.



Ward-Thomas Museum
Home of
The Niles Historical Society
503 Brown Street
Niles, OH 44446

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



Preserving and promoting Niles' History for future generations
Scan the QR Code to visit our website.
Visit our Website: www.nileshistoricalsociety.org
Check out the Photographs and Stories links.

Monthly Calendar

Museum 'Open House'
The first Sunday of each month, 2-5
Last tour begins at 4 pm

Membership Meetings

Westenfield Room
10:00 am First Saturday of each month

Call for private tours to be scheduled

330.544.2143

Officers

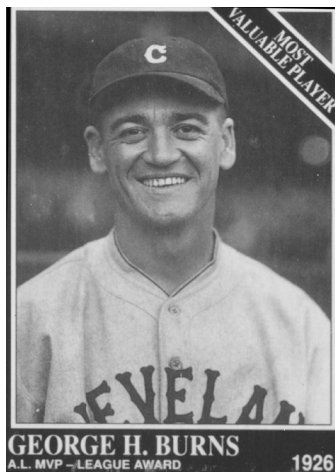
Anna Maria Beagle.....President
Dave Martin.....Vice-President
Lynda Ralston.....Treasurer
Coleen Tominey.....Secretary

Audrey John.....Curator

Ralph Tolbert.....Newsletter and Website

Trustees:

Anne Townley, Nancy Malone, and Sandy Bilovesky



GEORGE H. BURNS 309

George Henry "Toga George" Burns
Height: 6'1.5" Weight: 180 Bats: Right Throws: Right
Born: Jan. 31, 1893, Niles, OH
Died: Jan. 7, 1978, Kirkland, WA

YEAR	TEAM	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	AVG
1925	CL-A	151	603	97	216	64	3	4	114	.358

George H. Burns was voted the American League MVP in 1926. He played 1st base for the Cleveland Indians, and racked up some impressive statistics; .358 batting average, 97 runs scored, 216 hits (tied Charles Rice for 1st), 64 doubles, 3 triples, 4 home runs, and 114 RBIs in 151 games. As a team, the Indians led the league with 333 doubles and 331 strikeouts, but still came in 3rd behind the pennant-winning Yankees whose roster included Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. With 207 runs produced, George finished 3rd behind Ruth (238) and Gehrig (226). On April 18, 1923 George made history as the first man to get a base hit at the new Yankee Stadium. He played 1st base for the Boston Red Sox, and singled in the 2nd inning, but was later called out trying to steal 2nd. George got on base again in the 7th with a walk and scored on a triple by 2nd baseman Norman McMillan, but it wasn't enough to overcome the lead that Babe Ruth established in the 3rd inning when he drove in 2 runs with the first of the 41 homers he hit that year. George ended his 16-year career as a player with an impressive .307 batting average, batting over .300 eight times.

The Sporting News®
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George Burns—Most Valuable Player in American League

George Burns was born in Niles in 1893. He played professional baseball for the Detroit Tigers(1914-1917), Philadelphia Phillies (1918-1920), Cleveland Indians(1921-1921,1924-1928), Boston Red Sox(1922-1923), New York Yankees(1928). He returned to the Philadelphia Phillies for his last season(1929).

Burns was chosen as the most valuable player in the American League because he was second to Babe Ruth in driving in runs; because he had set a new world's record for two base hits; and because he inspired his team mates to finish second by staying out of only one game while suffering with a broken rib at the time when the Indians were battling with the Yankees for the pennant. His team was nosed out by a game and a half at the finish of the season.

George Burns made an unassisted triple play while on the 1923 Boston Red Sox team. He caught Cleveland first baseman, Frank Bower's line drive, tapped Rube Lutzke off first then ran to second to tag Riggs Stephenson before he could return.

Calendar of Events

May 29, 2024, Wednesday, 12:00 PM
Reservation by May 23, call 330-652-8329 or 330-719-5716.
Community Connection Presentation
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Holy Family Hall
381 Robbins Ave., Niles, 44446

June 1, 2024, Saturday, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Family Day
Warren – Trumbull County Public Library
444 Mahoning Ave NW, Warren, 44483

June 2, 2024, Sunday, 2:00 – 5:00 PM
Open House: Ward – Thomas House
Last tour at 4:00 PM

June 8, 2024, Saturday, 10:00 AM
Business meeting in Westenfield Room
All are welcome to attend.

July 6, 2024, Saturday, 10:00 AM
Business meeting in Westenfield Room
All are welcome to attend.

July 7, 2024, Sunday, 2:00 – 5:00 PM
Open House: Ward – Thomas House
Last tour at 4:00 PM

Burnside Heating Co. to Occupy Fleck Building.

Niles Daily Times December 10, 1942.

Two of the biggest real estate deals to be consummated in Niles in the past two years, were announced today. They were: The purchase of the garage building and lot at 148 North Main Street, occupied by the Fleck Pontiac Company by the Burnside Heating Company and the purchase of the Pritchard Motors Building and lot at 319 Robbins Avenue by the Fleck Pontiac Company.



Pritchard Building, new Pontiac Dealership at 319 Robbins Avenue

John Burnside is the proprietor of the Burnside Heating Company and *Ernest Fleck* is the owner of the Fleck Pontiac Company.

The Fleck Pontiac Company also purchased the entire stock and equipment of Pritchard Motors. The Pontiac garage was purchased from the Niles Bank Company and the Pritchard Motors Garage from Allen E. Pritchard.

Burnside announced that he hoped to move his business from the present location at 51 East State Street to the Main Street location about January 1st.

Fleck stated that "he was now doing business at both locations, but expected to be entirely moved to the Pritchard Garage building by the latter part of this week."

Pritchard Motors was the oldest automobile sales and service business in Niles, having started business November 15, 1923. Established originally as Williams and Pritchard, they occupied the Williams Block on South Main Street and they also maintained a branch office in Girard for many years.



Burnside Heating was located in this building on North Main Street.

Allen Pritchard bought out his partner's share of the business in 1928, after which Pritchard built the present building in 1929 and moved to that location. Pritchard maintained Dodge sales and service and when the Plymouth car was put on the market in 1928, he added it to his line. When Pritchard was asked about his plans for the future, he replied that "they are indefinite".

The Burnside Heating Company, too has been established for 19 years. For many years, Burnside operated the business from his home which for many years was on Beaver Street. Six years ago, his business was moved to 51 East State Street.

Three and a half years ago, John Burnside's son, *Walter*, entered the firm, upon completion of his college education, which included engineering and heating courses at Miami University, Michigan State University and Youngstown College.

The present Pontiac Garage will be remodeled considerably to conform to the needs of the Burnside Heating Company. The present display room will continue to be used as a display room. The center section of the building will be used as a shop and a mezzanine floor will be installed for storage of stock and materials. The rear room will be used for storage of trucks and other equipment.

"I have just purchased considerably more equipment to enlarge our sheet metal department," John Burnside stated. "It is our intention to have the best and most effective equipment for complete engineering facilities for domestic and industrial sheet metal heating and ventilation services."

Fleck Pontiac is the most recent entry into the local automobile field. The firm started September 1940 with the purchase of the business from Charles Stiver, a local Chevrolet dealer.

Ernest Fleck, proprietor, stated that all his present automobile equipment will be moved to the new location where it will be added to that purchased from Pritchard Motors. The combined equipment, Fleck stated will give his service department a most completely equipment plant specializing not only for Pontiacs but also Dodge and Plymouth.

Service facilities will be greatly enlarged Fleck said inasmuch as the new service department will have a space 100 feet by 50 feet, more than double the present area.

In addition, the building is the "last word in an automobile garage". Fleck commented, "Electrically operated doors and automatic heat are but of the few of the many modern facilities in the new building. Direct entrance from Robbins Avenue is also provided."



The home on the left, 1117 Robbins Ave. was built by *Mr. and Mrs. Allen Pritchard*. The house on the right, 1119 Robbins Ave. was built by *Mr. and Mrs. William Pritchard* in 1922.

Correction: April-May issue Waddell Park article "original acreage extending the park from the city limits to the **Pennsylvania** railroad tracks on the west and including all of the land between Warren and Park Avenues." Thanks to *Bob Smith*

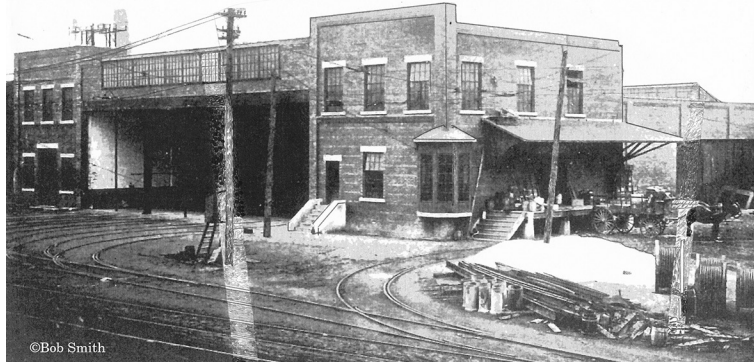
The Niles Penn-Ohio System Car Barn –Bob Smith

Electric trolley transportation began in Trumbull County with the opening of the Niles & Mineral Ridge Electric Railway on January 12, 1893. Then the Trumbull Electric Railway began operation between Niles and Warren on June 19, 1893. To complete the trolley traction lines in southern Trumbull County, the Mahoning Valley Electric Railway began operation in 1895 with trackage from Niles through Girard connecting with the Youngstown trolley system. Electric trolley transportation had begun in 1888 in Richmond, Virginia with a successful installation designed by *Frank Sprague* (1857–1934).

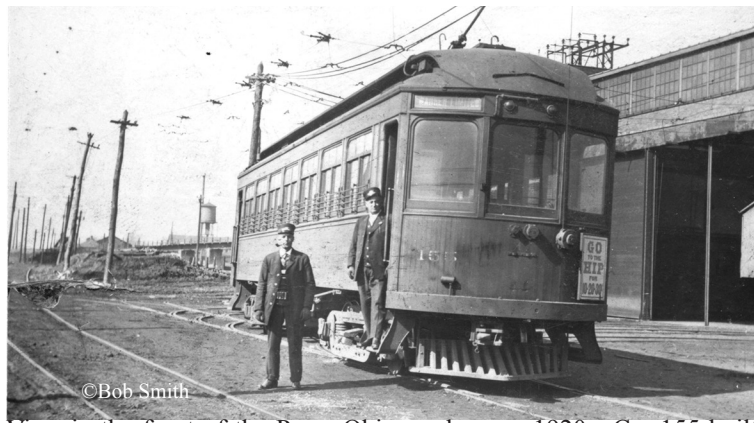
Although Warren was a larger city than Niles, Niles became the center of trolley operations with the erection of a large car barn along Mosquito Creek just north of Robbins Avenue. The aforementioned trolley (known as ‘traction companies’) were merged during the 1902–1906 period, becoming the Mahoning & Shenango Railway & Light Company, which then became the Penn-Ohio Electric Company, and finally in 1930 became the Ohio Edison Company.

These trolley operations were actually interurban companies because they ran between cities and not just with routes within cities.

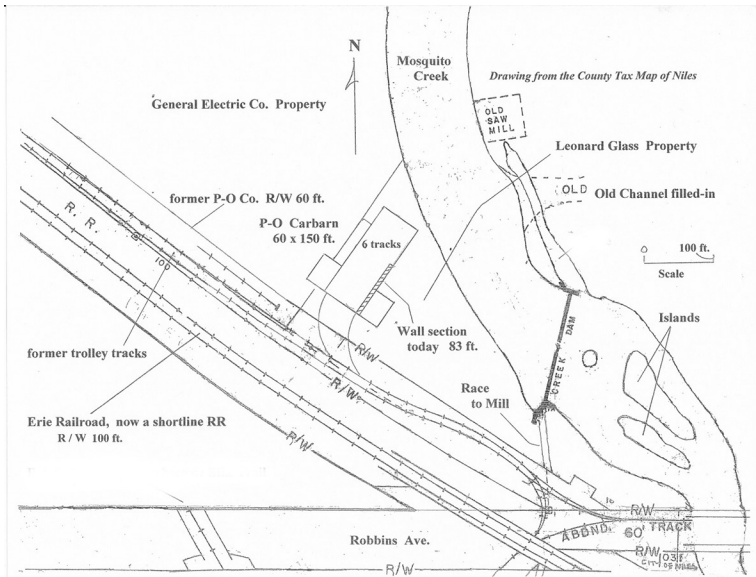
In 1911, the Mahoning & Shenango Railway & Light Company built a new larger car barn of brick and masonry materials (size approximately 150 X 65 feet) with a substation and freight house/offices adjoining the car barn. The car barn had six tracks to store approximately 20 trolleys/interurban cars.



The Penn-Ohio System Niles car barn, built in 1911 to replace an earlier wooden car barn which was shown on the 1899 Atlas of Trumbull County. The 1911 car barn was located between the Erie Railroad tracks and Mosquito Creek and was demolished ca 1934. In 1985, Warren Trolley historian, *Herb McBride*, and NHS member, *Bob Smith*, inspected the car barn site discovering that the discarded concrete freight house steps were still on the rear of the Leonard property.



View in the front of the Penn-Ohio car barn, ca1920s. Car 155 built by the ‘home-grown’ Niles Car & Manufacturing Company in 1908, one of the six-car order that year. The car sat 54 riders, with an overall length of 51 feet. The roll sign says ‘Warren Express.’ The Niles Car & Manufacturing Company buildings built in 1901, are still in use by the Cleveland Steel Container Corporation on Mahoning Avenue at Erie Street. This interurban trolley was scrapped in 1926.



This map is based on the standard County Tax Map. Note the car barn and trolley trackage. Other historic map features are: the mill raceway and former sawmill and Mosquito Creek dam which existed on the 1874 Atlas of Trumbull County. Note the remaining wall section at the rear of the Leonard Glass Company.

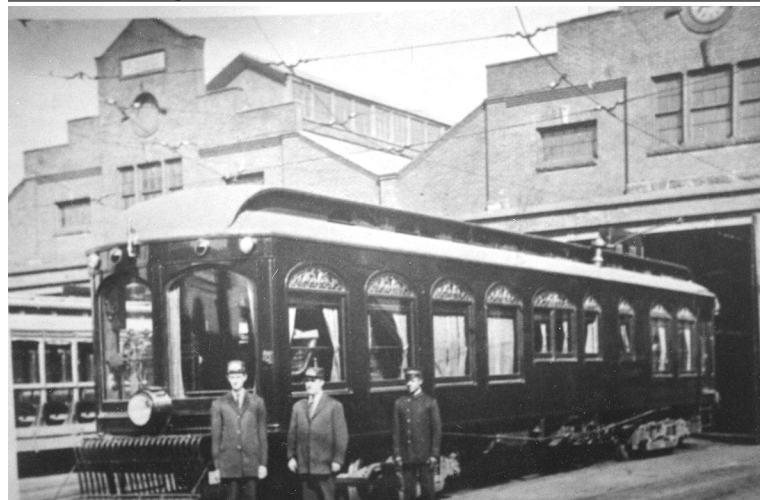
The Penn-Ohio system ended all Niles-centered trolley operations on December 31, 1931, with nostalgic newspaper stories covering the ‘last runs’.

The large car barn was demolished, after being offered to the City of Niles which declined the offer. It is unknown exactly when the demolition took place, but a May 1938 aerial map shows the structure gone.

Today there remains an 83foot section–edge of the south foundation wall at the end of the Leonard Glass property. Some of the former trolley company’s property was purchased by the General Electric Company.



A postcard photo of the Interurban streetcar barns and Heaton’s dam across the Mosquito Creek.



The interurban car, “The Northern” at the Niles station streetcar barns. To learn more about the car barn and streetcars, follow the link: <https://www.nileshistoricalsociety.org/carbarn.htm>