

Capital Improvement Report

Only 10 short months ago the society announced plans to build a new building just north of the main museum building. The building will provide us with the space desperately needed for lectures, school programs, research and our ever expanding collection of objects that are continually being donated to the museum.

Our largest collection, and most popular is the “First Ladies Gown” collection. These are full size replicas of the presidents wives dresses at the Smithsonian in Washington DC., The new building will house the dresses in a glass enclosed display area with descriptive information about each dress. The information will provide a viewer an opportunity to see the changes of style through the years and learn about each era the president served. This will be a visual history lesson for students and visitors to the museum and this is a treasure worthy of being preserved. Presently, with our limited space, we are unable to display all the 32 dresses at one time.

Docent Training. .. We welcome YOU..

We will soon be having school tours and fall bus tours starting and we need to increase our staff of docents. If you like meeting people and sharing history, you'll enjoy being a docent. It is a rich rewarding position, sharing the beauty of the museum, and encouraging others to understand our history is enjoyable. If you are interested in serving as a docent and would like to help, please call the office. You can leave your name and phone number and we will return your call and inform you as to the dates and times training will take place.

A Busy Summer At The Museum.

Many hours were spent on our knees planting and weeding the flower beds, but it was all worth while. With all the rain we have had this summer, it really helped make the flower gardens a show place. Right now, they are at their best. The visitors to the museum enjoy wandering through the gardens viewing the many varieties of perennial and annual flowers. Our special thanks to all the garden helpers at the museum this year.

“Luncheon on the Lawn” held on July 26, was a sell out with 60 attending. Under a large tent, we served a special lunch prepared by society members, then listened to the guest speaker, *Elizabeth Clark*. Later, a tour of the gardens and the museum was enjoyed by the ladies.

Elizabeth Clark did a wonderful job telling us about President Hoover's wife, *Lou Henry Hoover*, born in 1874. She was a self-sufficient, versatile woman who graduated from Stanford in 1894 and married *Herbert Hoover* in 1899. Her husband was a self-made millionaire, and when he became president of the United States, he served without pay. A replica of Lou's gown, as seen at the Smithsonian in Washington, is on display in the main hall of our museum.

“Heritage Day”, held on August 3rd, turned out to be a beautiful day with no rain and a nice crowd attending. While the museum was open for tours, *Helen DeMalio* worked her magic with her bobbin lace and knitting and *June Karovic* showed her skills in quilting. These are nearly lost arts and we are so pleased to see these ladies demonstrating them again.



In the Westenfield Room, the *Warren Area Miniature Club* displayed their “Room Box” treasures. *Betty Whitney* showed a part of her beautiful collection of miniature shoes, which she has been collecting since 1990. *Barbara James* displayed her interesting button collection. Each shared interesting facts about their hobby with the visitors.

The Civil war re-enactment groups were dressed in period clothing and informed the visitors about their daily life, as if they were visiting from the year 1861. Ladies in long dresses explained the number of layers of clothing they wore and what their daily chores were. *Hugh Mullen* showed some of his Civil War artifacts in his collection.





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

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

Calendar for September & October 2008

- Sept. 3 Exc. Meeting.....11:00 am
- Sept. 6 Membership Meeting.....10:00 am
- Sept. 7 Open House 2-5 pm
- Oct. 1 Exc. Meeting..... 11:00am
- Oct. 4. Membership Meeting..... 10:00am
- Oct. 5 Open House 2-5pm



Tower Rooms

Tower rooms became popular during the Victorian era and many can still be seen on houses around the streets of Niles today. Usually they are small rooms, located off the main room, which the architect just added to the house design. However, some tower rooms just extend from the second floor.

See how many you can correctly identify. Tower pictures are on page 4 and the answers are on page 3.

Start with image above: PO1.1783 which appears again in a different view on Page 3. No fair peeking!

In the past 10 months, 130 people have donated over \$32,000 to the fund. The small donations together have grown and help to establish funding needed to start this project. Applications have been presented to Foundations and the State of Ohio for funding and we are hopeful with philanthropy donations our fund will continue to grow.

Recent donations received for the Capital Improvement Fund.

- C. Gilbert James Jr.....In memory of Adeline Wick James*
- David & Sallie Bohn & sons..... In memory of Uncle Bob Whitney*
- Robert & Siromani Stoll In memory of Orrie Stoll*
- Betty WhitneyIn memory and honor of Bob Whitney*
- Mike WoodfordDonation*
- Stephen & Sylvia Fabian.....Donation*

If you haven't yet donated, or would like to honor someone through your donation, Please do so.

Your donation should be marked:

"Capital Improvement Fund"
and sent to:

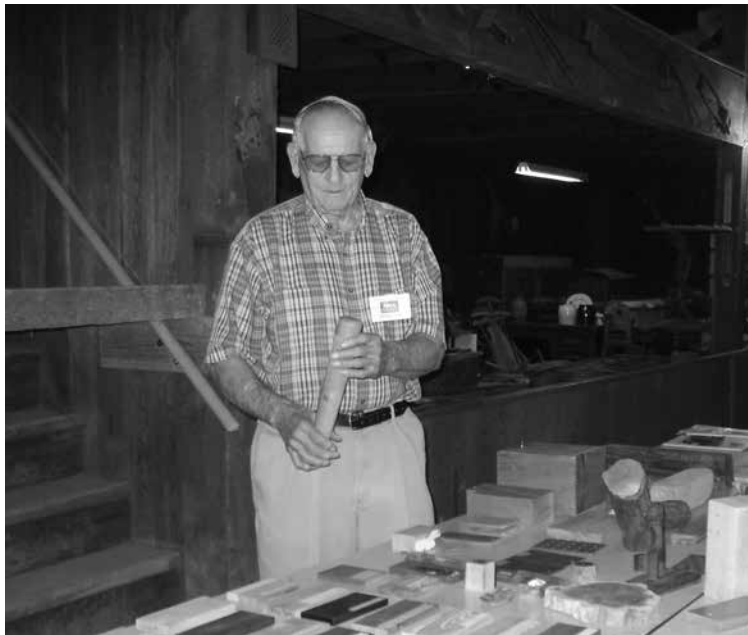
*Niles Historical Society
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All donations are tax-deductible.



“Little Joe” Lattessa played his piano in the gazebo and was joined this year with one of the Civil war soldiers, playing his guitar. This brought an impromptu sing-a-long, enjoyed by all.

Down by the barn was *Dave Cover* who showed some of his unique old farm tools. He explained the development of each tool and its useful purpose for the farmer.



George John had over 300 samples of wood from all around the world in his collection on the tables in the barn.



Sofia Froom selling baked goods during Heritage day.

Of course there was food available. Lemon shakes were a big hit and so was the bake sale of home made goodies. We are very grateful to all the volunteers who helped in every way to make this day a success. It provided the public a chance to visit and relax on a beautiful summer day and also learn some history.



Hope you can join us next year on “Heritage Day”.



722 Robbins

- PO1.1773-1102 Robbins Ave. PO1.1774:-304 Vienna Ave.
- PO1.1775-?North Main Street PO1.1776-911 Robbins Ave
- PO1.1777-129 Vienna Ave. PO1.1778-415 Robbins Ave.
- PO1.1779-418 W. Park Ave. PO1.1780-352 W. Park Ave.
- PO1.1781-532 N. Main St. PO1.1782-104 Hartzell Ave.
- PO1.1784-805 Robbins Ave. PO1.1785-509 Robbins Ave.



PO1.1773



PO1.1774



PO1.1775



PO1.1776



PO1.1777



PO1.1778



PO1.1779



PO1.1780



PO1.1781



PO1.1782



PO1.1784



PO1.1785