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.

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.
Visit our Website: www.nileshistoricalsociety.org and check out the Photos and Stories links.

**Monthly Calendar**

**Public Open House**
The first Sunday of each month 2-5 p.m.
Private tours may be scheduled by calling:
The office 330.544.2143

**Membership meetings** – 10:00am
The first Saturday each month
Executive meeting – 9:30am prior to membership meeting.

**Trustees:**
Fred Kubli, Jesse Scott, Roselyn Watson

**Officers:**
Fremont Camerino.................................President
Nancy Malone.................................Recording Secretary
Betty Whitney.................................Corresponding Secretary
Patricia Burgess-Fisher.........................Treasurer
Frank Burke.................................Assistant Treasurer
Anne Townley.........................Program Editor Chairman
Audrey John.................................Research Editor
Nancy Malone.................................Education Editor
Ralph Tolbert.................................Technology Editor

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**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(s?) sisters and the car is a 1948(?) Chrysler.*

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**What is it??**

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

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**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.

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, Crandal 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.