

The Niles Register

The Niles Historical Society
 PO Box 368 Niles, Ohio 44446
 President: Roselyn Watson

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES & MUSEUMS

May-June 2008

Your membership donation helps support the general fund for the museum. Please look at the front label, if there is a * before your name, your dues have been received for this year. You should be receiving the news letter which is published 6 times a year.

If you are not a member and are interested in membership for yourself, or for a friend, send \$15.00 individual or \$25.00 family to:

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

We are glad to accept membership donations at any time during the year.

HELP....

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS WHO ENJOY GARDENING.

The soil at the museum is a joy to work with. The soil here has been "worked" in for years and years, providing a lush rich base for the tender plantings. Time flies by so fast when you are busy weeding and caring for the gardens. Very relaxing, and it is a pleasure to work in the gardens at the museum. Volunteering doesn't mean a six month commitment, rather, it is only for you to set the time and hours you would like to help. If you think it sounds interesting, just give us a call at the office (330)544-2143 and we'll call you back. Thank you.

GARAGE SALE DATE SET

We will be having our famous garage sale on August 15 & 17 this year. As you are doing your spring cleaning, please save good, clean items for the sale. Sorry, we can not accept the items until after "Heritage Day" (August 3rd) because of lack of storage space. We will let you know more about that later.

BOB WHITNEY – BILL SULLIVAN

Our Sympathy is extended to the families of *Bob Whitney* and *Bill Sullivan* who passed away recently. Both of these fine men were members and workers with the Society and will be deeply missed.

BUILDING-CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT

The following is a list of the most recent donations we have received for the Capital Improvement Fund for the new building expansion during March. A grant is being applied for at the *Ohio Culture Facility Commission*. Matching funds are needed to be eligible for one of these grants so all the money donated will allow us to enlarge our base request. We are also requesting funding from foundations and individuals who desire to assist us in this project. Our deepest thanks to you, who have donated to the campaign.

Sincerely,
 The Committee

- Donald & Mary James
- Marcia Buckhanan
- Robert & Siromani Stoll
- Freemont & Betty Lou Camerino
- Robert & Sue Bullock
- Thomas A. Taylor

- Martha Jane Crum
- Betty Moritz
- Lois Barrett
- William & Betty Sullivan
- Angela Kercher
- Martha & Bill Jensen

- Era Alfonsi Thurston In Memory of..... Mr. & Mrs. P.T. Alfonsi
- Era Alfonsi Thurston In Memory ofsister, Emma Goff
- Dean Cavacos In memory of.....Michael & Caroline Cavacos
- David & Gillian Jenkins In memory ofNorma Jenkins McBride
- Betty Whitney In memory of..... Hazel K. Bieber
- David Dull..... In memory of..... Hazel K. Bieber
- Shirley & Chuck Harris..... In memory of..... Robert Whitney
- Nancy Malone..... In memory of..... Robert Whitney
- Roselyn Watson In memory of Robert Whitney
- Vivian Jane Whitney..... In memory of..... Robert Whitney
- Shirley & Bill Stephens..... In memory of..... Robert Whitney
- Delores J. Tirlea In memory of..... Robert Whitney
- Julia Misceovich..... In memory of..... Robert Whitney
- Eleanor Woodford In memory of..... Robert Whitney
- Bonnie & Sid Grisell In memory of..... Robert Whitney
- Helen Grisell..... In memory of..... Robert Whitney
- Mr. & Mrs. James Basista In memory of..... Robert Whitney
- Jean Williams..... In memory of..... Robert Whitney
- Ruth Van Huffel..... In memory of..... Robert Whitney
- George & Audrey John..... In memory of..... Robert Whitney
- David & Amy Seidel In memory of..... Robert Whitney
- Judith Pelton..... In memory of..... Robert Whitney

BOOK SALE

Roselyn Watson, President and *Nancy Malone*, Secretary of the Niles Historical Society are showing the



new book, "Breaker Boys" that is for sale at the Ward-Thomas Museum. Cost \$20.00 We have several books for sale, so stop by and check them out. They make nice gifts for your friends.

We are often asked if we still have the Pictorial Book that was first printed in 1979. Yes, we have had it reprinted six times. It sells for \$20.00 also.

ANNUAL DINNER TICKETS ON SALE

Tickets for the Annual Dinner are being discussed by *Marilyn Rankin*, on the left and *Gerrie Miller*, is on the right. They are looking forward to the event to be held on April 30, 2008 at *Cimino's Banquet Center* in Niles. *Dave Fleming* will be the speaker. He is a senior writer with *ESPN Magazine*. Tickets are available by calling the office: (330) 544-2143.



TEST YOUR MEMORY

In the grassy area where Vienna Avenue curves onto Robbins Avenue there was a billboard with three lights as in a traffic signal. The green light indicated no accidents, yellow indicated an accident, and red a traffic fatality. How long did the red light stay on after a traffic accident resulted in a death? Answer within this newsletter.

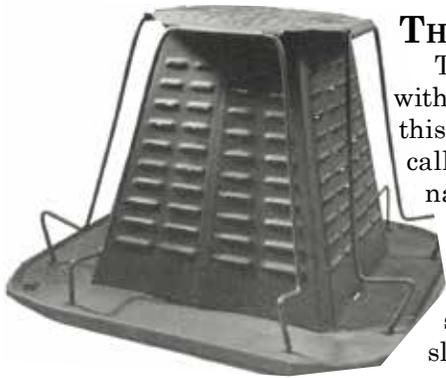


Niles Historical Society
P. O. Box 368
Niles, Ohio 44446

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

**Calendar
April – June 2008**

April 26, 2008 Ticket deadline for dinner
April 30, 2008..... Executive meeting 11:00 AM
April 30, 2008..... Spring Dinner6:00 PM at
Ciminero's
May 3, 2008 Membership Meeting.... 10:000 AM
May 4, 2008 Open House..... 2-5 PM
June 1, 2008 Open House..... 2-5 PM
June 4, 2008 Executive meeting 11:00 AM
June 7, 2008 Membership Meeting..... 10:00 AM



THE KNOBLOCK TOASTER

This top of the stove toaster was made of steel or tin and wire. They were a pyramid shape with a flat top and could be used on a gas, gasoline or oil stove. There were several brands, but this particular toaster was manufactured in Niles and was patented December 1909. It was called the Knoblock Pyramid Toaster since it was invented by *Mr. Knoblock*, who was originally from East Liverpool, Ohio.

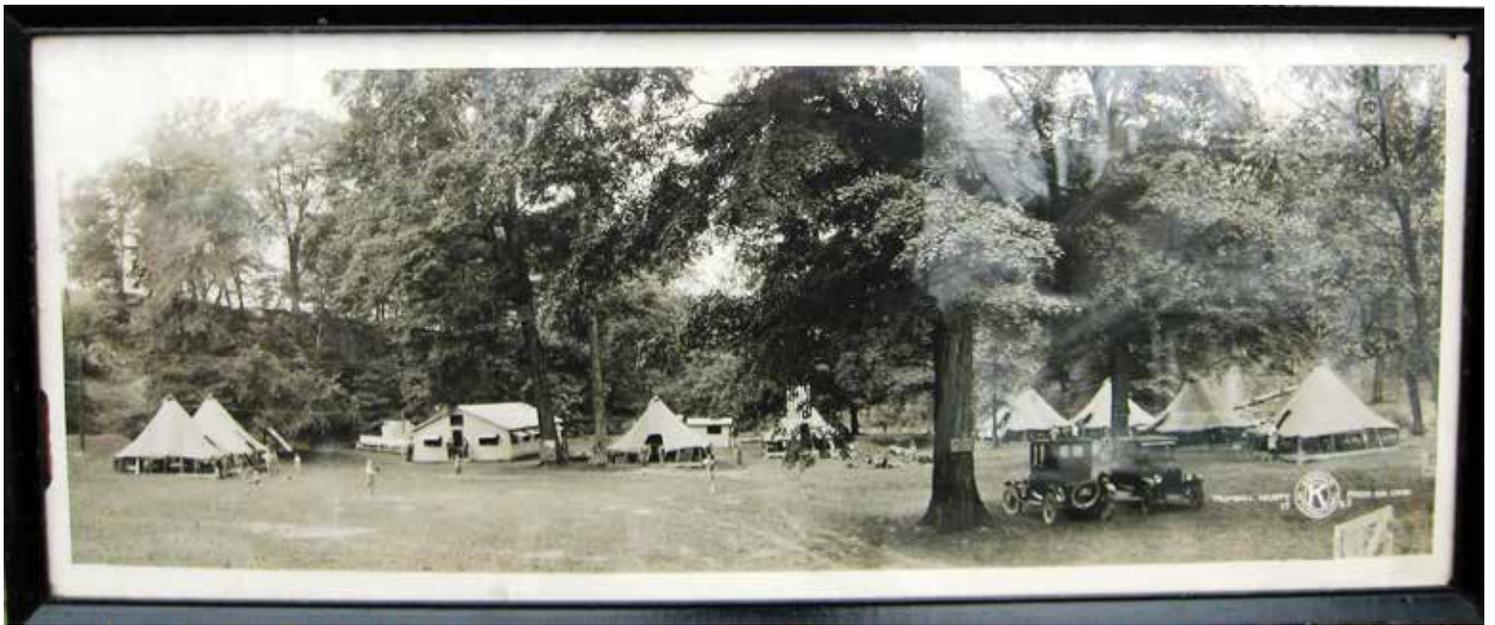
Knoblock purchased a frame building at 100 Erie Street in Niles about 1911 and was doing business as *Wilson Mfg. Company*. He manufactured small kitchen utensils, including the Knoblock toaster. His toaster had a hollow interior and vented sides; each slice of bread rested against the square-shaped wire frames attached to each of its four slanted sides. The top of the toaster was flat so that a pot of coffee or tea could be kept warm while the bread toasted.

The Knoblock toaster and several other brands which appeared on the market about the same time, sold for 19 cents to 23 cents each. Mr. Knoblock died in 1916, but his son-in-law, *W. A. McClellan*, continued the business until the common electric toaster of today became the fad.

Many people have used this type of toaster in their out door camping trips, but if you have one that has the imprint “Knoblock” on the top, then you know it was made in Niles, Ohio. You can see our Knoblock toaster in the “Business” room on the second floor of the museum next time you visit.

HISTORY FACTS ABOUT NILES SCHOOLS

The first school in Niles was opened in 1834 on South Main Street, south of the Mahoning River. The first teacher was *Herman Harmon*, a descendant of the first settler, *Ruben Harmon*. A second school was later built on the corner of Leslie Ave. and Linden Ave. Both were one room school houses. In 1870, Central School was built. It housed a twelve year twelve grade school system, started out with 6 teachers, and was considered the high school until McKinley High School (now Edison Jr. High School) was built in 1914. *Frank Robbins* was the first student to graduate from Central High School in 1875. He was the only one in his class. In 1888, there were 1,370 pupils attending Niles Schools (not all were from Niles. Some students were from neighboring towns, and paid tuition to attend Niles, due to their more advanced educational opportunities compared with other area towns and villages



KIWANIS FRESH AIR CAMP

Niles Kiwanis Club was formed in 1922. In 1924, *Mr. John Wilder*, Niles industrial leader, was president of the Niles Kiwanis Club. He was largely responsible for involving all Trumbull County Kiwanis clubs in this new venture. They set up a Fresh Air Camp for special children. In 1926 a stock company was formed. A four-acre wooded campsite on the north side of Mines Road, about a half mile east of the Niles-Cortland Road was purchased for \$2,400. The camp was established to provide a healthy atmosphere for children from 6-12 years old who needed dental work, had nutritional deficiency, or might be susceptible to tuberculosis infection. They were chosen by *Ann Llewellyn*, the county public health nurse and they stayed at the camp from six to eight weeks.

A 80 foot deep well, equipped with an automatic electric pump, supplied plenty of pure water. There was a mess hall, and a dorm that housed the boys at one end and the girls at the other end. The office and personal quarters of the supervisor were in the center of the building. There were four paid supervisors and three volunteer staff who helped teach the children to be kind, helpful and thoughtful at all times. Volunteers guided the children in playing games, doing art work, caring for the pets of the camp, and also they told stories around the camp fire.

The recreational equipment was donated by business and individuals. There was a tree house built in 1933 and rested on three sturdy tree trunks about 30 feet in the air. The long sloping stairway beckoned the youngsters to visit this adventurous area.

The Fresh Air Camp did wonders for every one of its young campers. Every child gained weight, was stronger and had a much healthier body at the end of the season. Their strict daily routine was a very important factor in making this project uniquely successful. By 7:30 every morning they had brushed their teeth, washed their face and put their clothes on and were ready for breakfast, which consisted of cooked cereal, fruit, bread and milk. Lunch was a full dinner and the evening meal consisted of soup, sandwich, fruit and milk. *Mary Lukick* was the camp cook for many years and served very healthy meals.

Over the years, many people volunteered and gave financial assistance. By 1940 the camp could accommodate 72 children. However, in a few short years, World War II broke out and that program, like many other community projects had to be put on hold. Now, all that remains, is memories and a picture that hangs on the wall in the Westenfield Room at the museum.

FOOT WARMER



Considering the fact that you didn't have a heater in old cars or in the horse and buggy wagons, you would just take along a "foot warmer" to help keep you warm.. There is a tiny handle on top to carry it to the buggy. Charcoal was placed in the drawer and that would keep the warmer heated for the trip. By placing your feet on the warmer and being wrapped in a heavy wool blanket, a trip could be somewhat bearable. *The red light burned for 72 hours after a fatality.*

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Rupp of Canfield are frequent visitors to the museum and have donated many items to the Historical Society.

Here they are shown standing beside a corn chopper and heat box, now on display in the barn.

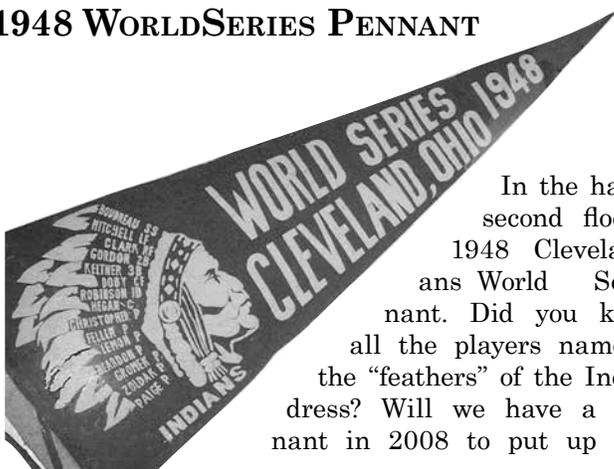


ITEMS IN THE MUSEUM

In a recent newsletter we wrote about the China made in Niles. When you visit the museum, you can see a small sample of Bradshaw China and 110 piece set of Atlas China that is on display. The Atlas has a pink floral design and is outlined around the edge with 18 carat coin gold. The gold trim was painted on by hand by the workers at the factory. Turning the plate over is the trade mark "Atlas China, Niles, O" One can still find Atlas china that was made in Niles at flea markets and antique stores. Buffet in dining room with Atlas China



1948 WORLD SERIES PENNANT



In the hall, on the second floor is the 1948 Cleveland Indians World Series pennant. Did you know that all the players names are in the "feathers" of the Indian head dress? Will we have a new pennant in 2008 to put up beside it?



Display case was built in 1890 By *Mr. Edward Nicholson* It features 1 pr. English Quail, 1pr. Bob White, 2 Meadow-larks, 2 pheasants, 1 weasel, and 1 ferret. It is now on display on the second floor of the museum. The children love pointing out the various animals.



NILES LIBRARY ON STATE STREET

SEPTEMBER 6, 1894

Niles will be supplied with a library and reading room, if the plans of the *New Century Club* do not miscarry.



RIVER SIDE PARK

JULY 5, 1894

The largest crowd that ever assembled at Riverside Park. All day the street cars were taxed to their utmost capacity in order to accommodate the visitors.

Announcing the Niles Historical Website & email addresses
www.nileshistoricalsociety.org
curator@nileshistoricalsociety.org

Please be patient as the Website is being built and features added.