

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society Newsletter

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Volume 52 Issue 1

Summer 2024

Inspiration through Heritage since 1875

Happy 150th MVHS!!



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FROM THIS DIRECTION by Bill Lawson

MVHS Enters Its 150th Year!



2024 MVHS Annual Meeting held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 250 East Federal St.

We're beginning another fiscal year, and soon Mahoning Valley Historical Society will begin a most important, year-long anniversary celebration!

The kickoff for the MVHS 150th anniversary year will be Sunday, September 8, with a free public open house at Tyler History Center in downtown Youngstown from Noon to 4:00 pm. Members will receive an invitation to the annual Founders Day event on Tuesday, September 10, our actual anniversary date, at Woodland Estate and Cellars on Logan Way in Liberty Township.

As you see on the cover and in several other locations through this edition of Historical Happenings, we have a very nice 150th anniversary logo designed by Communications Manager Lindsay Samblanet that will appear frequently throughout the year in communications and to mark anniversary-related ongoing and special programs in our print and online publications.



2024 Historic Preservation Award Winners

At the 149th Annual Membership meeting held on Tuesday, June 25, at the Historical Society's most recently acquired building and property at 250 East Federal Street, the members present undertook some important business, including the election of Board members in the Class of 2027.

Among the slate elected to the Board are a new member and a familiar face. Martha Pallante, Ph.D., is a Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences at Youngstown State University. John A. McNally IV, Esq., is General Counsel for Boak and Sons, Inc, and a past Board member. Welcome, Martha, and welcome back, John! We look forward to your upcoming service on the Board of Directors!

A comprehensive report on the most recently completed fiscal year will appear in the fall edition of Historical Happenings in October, along with another dynamic listing of programs and events through the end of 2024!



Monday, October 7: Hispanic
5:00 pm- 7:30 pm
Location TBD

A Walk Through the City... Directories

Recently a patron asked MVHS if we could provide city directory entries for the families of Goeppinger and Resch, particularly looking for information on businesses either had owned within the city up to and including 1900. The patron knew some information to get started. Jacob Resch and his wife Mary, nee: Goeppinger, lived in Berlin Center, Ohio around 1860, later moving to Canfield.

The 1882-1883 city directory was the first listing for Jacob Resch, in partnership with John Goeppinger, his brother-in-law, as Goeppinger & Resch, leather, findings (i.e.: metal claps, rings, etc.), boot and shoe upper manufacturers, located at 71 West Federal Street. At that time Jacob Resch resided in Canfield. Goeppinger resided on High Street.

By the 1883-1884 directory, Goeppinger & Resch had moved to their long-time address of 221 West Federal Street. In 1884-1885 the firm became known as Resch & Sons dealing in leather and shoe findings. At that time John G. Goeppinger was listed as a stock dealer.

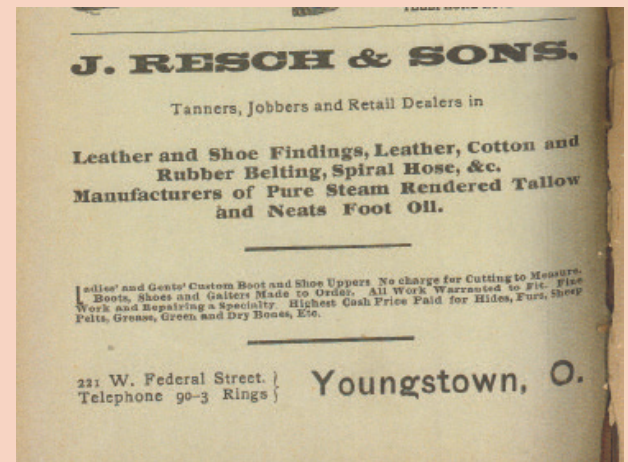
1886-1887 Goeppinger's trade was a dealer in tallow and grease. J. Resch & Sons took on the wholesale and retail sales of leather and shoe findings, leather belting, etc.

Goeppinger listed himself as a dealer in hides, pelts, furs, tallow etc. located at 277 West Federal Street in 1888-1889. J. Resch & Sons actually advertised in this directory for the first time. Their advertisement, which ran in the following directory for 1889-1890, shoed the integral business connection between the family members of Goeppinger and Resch continuing. At this time Jacob Resch and his sons, John J. and Frank J., made up the firm. Another son Albert G. Resch joined the company in 1893-1894 serving as a clerk.

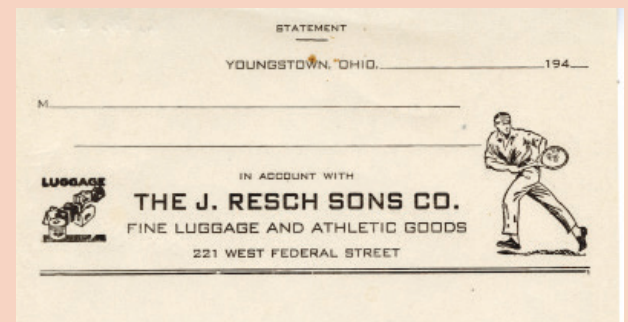
Advertisement from the 1901 city directory showing the Resch building at 221 West Federal Street.



The 1897 directory showed that John Goeppinger was a manufacturer of "high grade laundry and toilet soap" while continuing to deal in hides, pelts, tallow, wool, etc. This business took on the name Youngstown Soap Company by 1898's listing.



1889-1890 advertisement for J. Resch & Sons. N. H. Burch & Co's Youngstown City Directory, page 177.



Statement from the 1940s

J. Resch & Sons continued to serve from their 221 West Federal Street location until after Jacob Resch's death in December 1901. Around 1902 the firm incorporated as J. Resch Sons Co., headed by John Justus Resch who served as president of the firm until his death in 1917.

By the 1940s, the company specialized in fine luggage and athletic goods as evidenced by this original statement found in the collections of MVHS. The firm ceased to exist some time after 1947's listing. The 1949-1950 directory shows Livingston's at the 221-229 West Federal Street location.

History To Go 2024 Programs Announced

HISTORY To Go EVENT SERIES

MVHS is once again hosting its popular *History To Go* event series, offering historical walking tours, a Mahoning Valley scavenger hunt road race, the always-popular Oak Hill Cemetery tour, and a journey across the state line. Watch the MVHS website and social media posts for more detailed information on each and how to sign up.

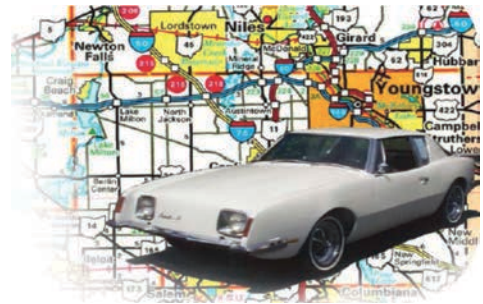
Amazing History Race 10:

Friday, August 9 – 5:30pm

Begins at Tyler History Center and ends at Arms Family Museum with a pizza party.

\$8 adults; \$6 seniors 60+ and students ages 5 – 13; children under 5, free.

Online registration only



History on Tap

Thursday, August 22 – 6:00pm-8:00pm

Cedars West End: 706 Steel St., Youngstown

History of Youngstown Night Life

Taco Bar and historical presentations

\$35 per person-Online registration only



Founders Day Open House

Sunday, September 8 – Noon to 4:00pm

Tyler History Center

Walking tours

Family-friendly crafts and activities

Free Admission

150
MAHONING VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Years



Oak Hill Cemetery Tour

Saturday, October 19 – times TBA

Begins and ends at Oak Hill Cemetery Chapel

344 Oak Hill Ave., Youngstown

\$10 per person

Online registration opens in October



This is Youngstown: The Hispanic People of the City

Youngstown photographer Tony Nicholas has been a successful working artist for the past 20 years. Nicholas has had his work shown at museums throughout the Midwest and Eastern U.S., including Tyler History Center. In 2015, Nicholas joined Chris Yambar and Janet Macoska for the exhibit *Rock Gods: The Art of Rock 'n' Roll Photography*, which filled Tyler's first floor galleries with iconic images of live music performances.

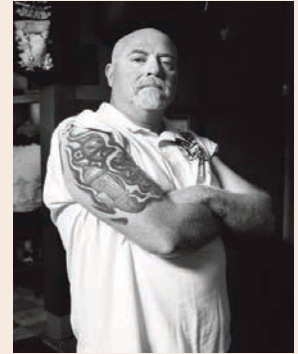
Nicholas returns to Tyler History Center this September with a photo-documentary project highlighting local Hispanic people and culture. The exhibit, *This is Youngstown: The Hispanic People of the City*, will feature thirty-five photo portraits and biographies of a range of people from Youngstown's Hispanic community including everyday people of all ages, blue-collar workers, business owners, professionals, and academics.

For Nicholas, who has captured a myriad of subjects, this celebration of the Hispanic people of his home city can do many positive things within the community and beyond. The exhibit will illuminate our inherent similarities, an important effort in the current divisive climate. It will serve as a cultural documentary of the people who make this city what it is in this moment in time. This project will celebrate the grit, determination, innovation, and longevity of Youngstown's Hispanic Community, qualities that the city's whole population have in common.

The exhibit will open to the public Saturday, September, 7, and remain open through January, 2025 at Tyler History Center's Youngstown Foundation Community History Gallery.



Nancy Serrano
by Tony Nicholas



Jose Antonio Pagan-Rivera
by Tony Nicholas



Maria Rodrigues
by Tony Nicholas

Maple Turner III at Arms Family Museum



Collage by Maple Turner III

This July, Youngstown artist Maple Turner III is bringing twenty-two new artworks to Arms Family Museum. The exhibit will feature paintings of the Gilded Age homes, carriages, and residents of Youngstown's Wick Avenue and Crandall Park neighborhoods. It will also include scenes from New York City, where Turner lived from 1999-2005. These two settings influenced Turner's development as a young artist at East High School and Youngstown State University, and as he continued his post-graduate education in New York. The exhibit opened to the public Saturday, July 27 at Arms Family Museum and runs through the end of December, 2024.

Reflecting on the 2023/2024 School Year

By: Dante Bernard

Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, I have had the privilege of presenting our suitcase programs to hundreds of classrooms across Northeast Ohio. Over the course of nine months, we were able to reach over 5,000 students from as young as the kindergarten level, all the way through 8th grade. We discussed topics such as: *Natives in the Valley*, the *Underground Railroad*, the *Civil War*, the *Settling of the Connecticut Western Reserve*, and the *Industrialization of Youngstown*. The varying age groups presented a new challenge to create grade-specific curriculum for each content, but it was one that I was excited and motivated to embrace.

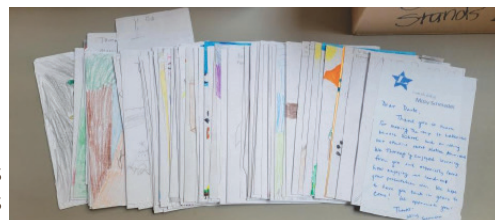


Dante teaching about Native Americans

As Museum Educator for the Mahoning Valley Historical Society, I have been given the opportunity to share my passion for education and history with the youth of the valley, while at the same time allowing me to learn from the next leaders of America. It has been an incredible honor to present our material to so many schools. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity. This school year has given me countless memories. My most cherished one being the multiple times I was handed manila envelopes filled to the brim with handwritten letters from students. These moments have made my experience in this position enriching and unforgettable. I am very thankful for the overwhelming support I have received from my family, friends, and community, and I cannot wait to see what this next year has in store.



Thank you notes from students



Thank you notes from students

BITES AND BITS OF HISTORY

PRESENTED BY
THE JOHN AND
LORETTA HYNES
FOUNDATION

Bites and Bits of History lunchtime programs are held at noon on the third Thursday of each month at Tyler History Center.

Grand Homes of the Gilded Age of Sharon, PA

Taylor Galaska,
President and Marketing
Director, Sharon Historical Society



July 18, 2024

At the center of a once-busy industrial region of the country, the city of Sharon, Pennsylvania experienced rapid growth in the 19th and 20th centuries. Explore a transformational era in Sharon's past with this in-depth look at the grand homes that once graced the streets of the East and West Hills.

Albert Parella: Rediscovering an Iconic Youngstown Artist

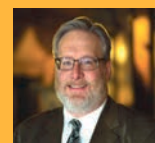
Carla Davanzo,
Poland Historical Society
August 15, 2024



Youngstown native Albert Parella enjoyed a stellar career as an advertising executive, art director and art teacher, all while staying true to his original passion, watercolor painting. The Poland Historical Society, in a joint venture with Mahoning Valley Historical Society, presents the artwork of Al Parella in a show and sale of the paintings of this award winning Youngstown artist. Join us for a preview of this event and learn the history of Al Parella and the art he created, much of which is still displayed proudly throughout the Mahoning Valley to this day.

Mahoning Valley Historical Society: The First 150 Years

Bill Lawson,
MVHS Executive Director
September 19, 2024



Learn about the founding of Mahoning Valley Historical Society.

150 Years
MAHONING VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Finding Gold at an Auction

Youngstown resident, David J. Tacsik, stumbled upon an unexpected treasure when purchasing transcription disks at a local auction. After collecting his purchase, he noticed that there were WKBN labels on them. He decided to bring the disks to Stewart Media Archives Center in March, and the staff uncovered their special nature.

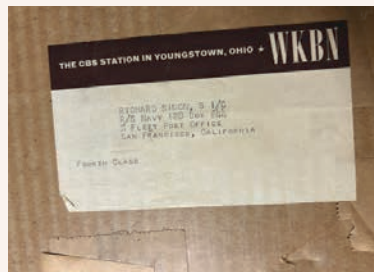
Transcription disks are sixteen inches in diameter, and were used by WKBN and other stations to record audio to a record disk for the purpose of playing at another time. The Stewart Media Archives Center has approximately 900 transcription disks in its collection. The disks brought to us from Mr. Tacsik add a whole new dimension to our collection. They cover the time between September 1945 through January 1946, and the content is centered around sports in the valley. The shipping box that the disks came in was addressed to Richard Siman, of San Francisco, California. The connection between Richard Siman and WKBN is unclear, but we believe Siman attended Wilson High School



Shipping label from
C.P. MacGregor



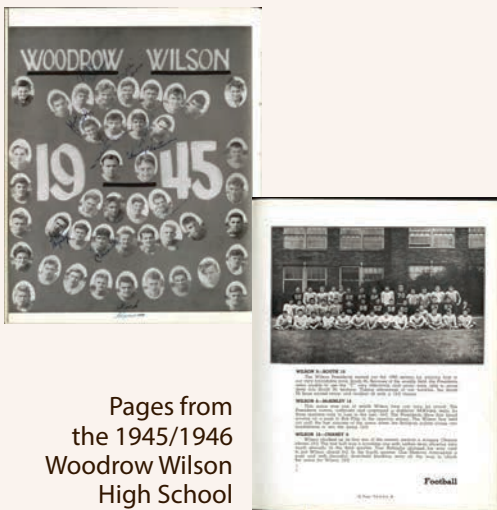
Shipping label



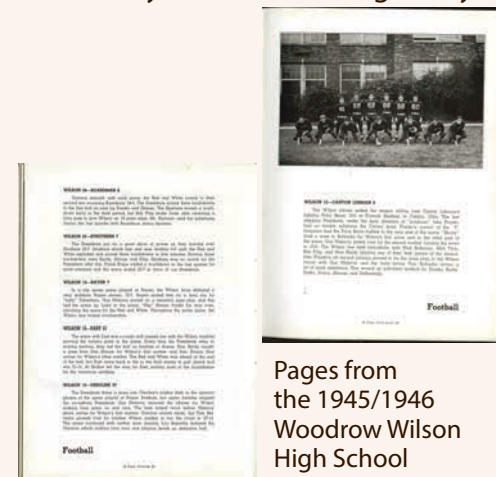
Shipping label from WKBN

before he joined the Navy during World War II, and someone at WKBN wanted him to have the ability to hear the broadcasts of the Wilson High football games while he was away. Six sets of the disks were transcriptions of Wilson High School football games versus South, Chaney, Boardman, Rayen, East and Ursuline high schools. The play-by-play commentary was from long time WKBN sportscaster, Don Gardner, and his live broadcasts of the games were recorded in the studio.

A separate set of disks was recorded in January 1946 of the Youngstown Bears versus the Chicago American Gears. The Bears and the Gears were two teams in the National Basketball League that was founded in 1937. The Bears played for two seasons before folding in 1947. The N.B.L merged with another league to form the National Basketball Association (N.B.A.). The National Basketball League was notable because of the opportunities for African-American players to compete in games with White players during and after World War II. Each of these recordings are unique and hold a special place in the history of the Mahoning Valley.



Pages from
the 1945/1946
Woodrow Wilson
High School
yearbook



Pages from
the 1945/1946
Woodrow Wilson
High School
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648 Wick Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44502

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society celebrates the history of the people of the Mahoning Valley.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

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Lindsay Samblanet, Editor
lsamblanet@mahoninghistory.org

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YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44502

Tuesday-Friday
12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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Congratulations to the 2024 Historic Preservation Award Winners!



2024 Community Revitalization Award

222 South Broad Street, Canfield

Owners: David and Sherry Goddard

2024 Commercial Revitalization Award

Woodland Estates/3128 Logan Way,
Youngstown

Owners: Nate and Dani Wilson



2024 Commercial Revitalization Award

Trek Coffee House/1588 Mahoning Ave.
Youngstown

Owner: Levi Smith