

150TH BIRTHDAY NILES

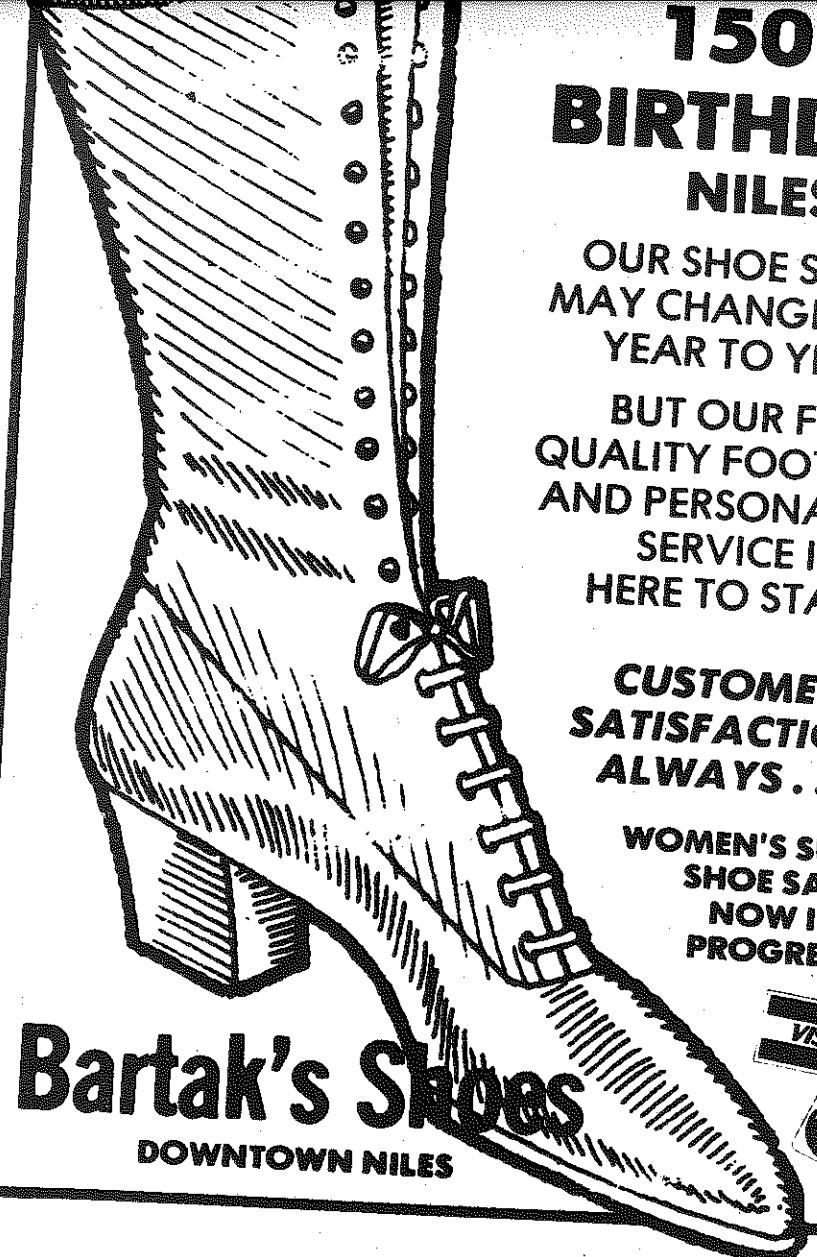
OUR SHOE STYLES MAY CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR, BUT OUR FINE QUALITY FOOTWEAR AND PERSONALIZED SERVICE IS HERE TO STAY!

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION ALWAYS...

WOMEN'S SUMMER SHOE SALE! NOW IN PROGRESS



Bartak's Shoes
DOWNTOWN NILES



An early explorer in 1718 called the St. Joseph River valley "the best adapted of any to be seen, for the

Chief Pokagon related removal of area Indians



Simon Pokagon

Beese Lake in Hillsdale County and ends at Lake Michigan at St. Joseph. The first explorers here used the river as one of

boats used to ply the river from Lake Michigan all the way to the town of Three Rivers, carrying commerce up and down the river for pioneers.

One of the most dramatic incidents in the history of Niles was the removal of the Pottawatomie Indians from this area to new lands in the west.

Chief Simon Pokagon, in his book "Queen of the Woods", published after his death in 1899, relates an emotional story of the Indians' removal between the years 1830 and 1850.

The preface says Pokagon's purpose in writing the book was stated as:

"In all of his (Pokagon's) writings, he constantly bore in mind the children of this broad land, with the ardent wish that the prejudice against his race which has been so thoroughly instilled in their young minds by stories told in the home, and taught in the schools through incorrect histories, might in the future be overcome."

Pokagon tells how the Indian was pushed farther and farther into the great western territory until government action reduced

their territorial possessions to a mere fraction of the original.

As early as the time of President Jefferson, 1800, the whites took the position that the Indians and whites should be segregated. President Martin Van Buren said in 1837 "a mixed occupancy of the same territory by the white and red man is incompatible with the safety or happiness of either." He went on to say, "it is suggested that they (the Indians) be removed to a country west of the Mississippi much more extensive and better adapted to their condition than that which they now occupy."

The removal of the Indians had its beginning in 1796 when General Anthony Wayne in the Treaty of Greenville, Ohio outlined the territories belonging to the white man and to the red man.

In 1826 at Carey (near the site of the present Niles), Lewis Cass headed a committee to conclude a treaty with the Pottawatomies by which a large section of southern Michigan was ceded to the white man.

The Indians were given, in return, an annuity of \$2,000 in silver from the government, and \$2,000 more for the purpose of education among the Indian tribes. These annual sums, however, were subject to approval of Congress.

Through Rev. Isaac McCoy, leader of the Carey Mission at Niles, and William Polke, prominent citizen of northern Indiana, the warlike tendencies of the red men were kept from exploding into violence.

Neither McCoy nor Polke were in any way connected with the government but

rather helped shield the Indians from injustices on the part of the eager and expansion-minded young United States government.

Between 1834 and 1837 the Pottawatomies agreed to a series of treaties that had the effect of exchanging their land in the Niles area for new land in the Kansas territory. These treaties inaugurated the long trek westward for the Pottawatomies.

The first to leave was the 100 member band of Naswau-gee, Nebosh and Kewa-na bands which left Fulton County, Indiana in 1837. They left voluntarily with George Proffit, a white man who conducted them to their reservation in the southwest.

Many more followed until in 1851, A. Coquillard ended a total emigration of 4,792 Indians from this territory with a group of 700 leaving.

Chief Pokagon and his group of Indians, however, were not required to leave this area. His work among the white people was welcomed. Pokagon had entered Notre Dame at the age of 14 and then attended Oberlin University in Ohio where he graduated in 1848.

He spent his entire life working to remove the white man's prejudice against the Indian.

At the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, Pokagon represented his tribe and was one of the central figures in the Indian exhibit and program.

The passing of Pokagon, the last of the Pottawatomie chiefs, marks the end of that tribe as a cohesive force in Southwestern Michigan. Since that time, the Indian has been assimilated into the main stream of life although not always happily.

TALK of the TOWNS

Niles

Progress has been marked in the city of Niles for 150 years. Not rapidly... but steadily. We at Willis A. Brock Co. are proud to be a part of that progress serving individuals and groups with their various needs in trophies, plaques, and jewelry sales... Not to mention our jewelry repairs and engraving.

chief, though he as a captive. The old ability to Pokagon orator, and willing for public sp... tribe.

Chief Le... the civil Potawatomi years, an respected Indians and th... His advi... sought. He as Sagaqu... been descr... courageous far, the writ... date or pla... Leopold. W... 1841, he wa... been 66 year... born in 1775.

Tradition... was born a... was a cap... presented by Chief Topene... One writer s... name Pokag... rib."

The story... when he wa... was wearing of his Potatims, instead feather, to s... tempt for the tribe.

Another... Pokagon shield" or "The fact that the condition that of the civi... volumes for hi...

Each import... a village of his of Pokagon an... 200 or 250 in th... was located on the western p... County, Mich... Isaac McCoy... Pokagon and h... commenced a... miles from Ca... and manifi... disposition themselves... comfortable."

This village... in the southe... what later be...trand Township... half of section... north half of Berrien County... not far from th... trail and approx... miles southwest... the head of Poka... and about two m... Bertrand.

The exact si... located by the United States G... Survey made... Clark, Jr., a g... surveyor, dated 1835.



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Leopold Pokagon

Did You Know.

In 1814 the total population of the state was 762.

In 1816 a boundary line of Indiana was established as running due east and west from a point 10 miles north of the southern extreme of Lake Michigan.

In 1821 the first of three treaties, by which the United States obtained from the Indians the territory now embraced in Berrien County, was made.

The first treaty of August, 29, 1821, was made by the Ottawas, Chippewas and Potawatomies. This ceded 11 of southwestern Michigan except that part of Berrien County lying between the river and the lake. The Treaty of Chicago negotiated personally by Gen. Cass provided as

follows: The go pay the Pot \$5,000 per year and \$1,000 support a black and provide a to the Ottawa year forever a blacksmith, t farmer.

In 1822 the McCoy, a missionary, what was kno Mission. It wa school for Indi first few ye practically sel Finally when s and the Ind farther west was moved an in Missouri in Mission on December.