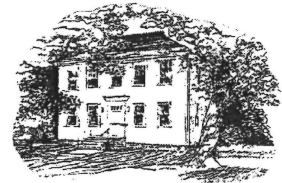


# IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

*From the Indian Hill Historical Society*



**Buckingham Lodge**  
1861

## The Miami Boat Club: The Later Years - Part II

Since its founding at the turn of the twentieth century, the Miami Boat Club was a popular venue for picnics and parties. Its location at a bend in the Little Miami River, down a long driveway in a tiny town made it an almost exotic destination.

In 1963 NASHY Enterprises booked the first of many performances by big band orchestras at the club. NASHY was an acronym for the concert sponsors: Bill Niland, Bert Amann, Skip Smith, King and Lingy Harrison, and Eric Yeiser. King Harrison was instrumental in forming the group. He knew numerous musicians, and negotiated all the contracts with the bands. Invitations were sent to music enthusiasts all over southwestern Ohio. Guests were asked to pay between \$12- \$25 for live music, draft beer, soft drinks, and set-ups. Many brought picnics or used the Miami Boat Club's grill. If a guest wanted a cocktail, he brought his own bottle. After casual dining, the big bands (with 12 -17 members) played.

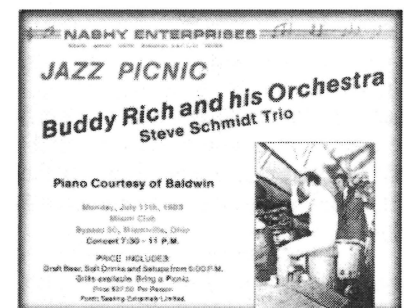


Noted performers were Count Basie, Woody Herman, Stan Kenton, Les Brown, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Harry James, Maynard Ferguson, Buddy Rich, and Chase. During breaks, band members mingled with guests. Usually the bands played on weeknights – it was less expensive to book them then. Some bands were surprised at the less-than-glamorous location, or the lack of a formal dressing room, but once they played, and heard the reverberations of their instruments from the hillsides, they realized it was a unique spot. There was no dancing, just appreciative listening and some standing ovations for the amazing music. Bands were thankful for a tuned piano – courtesy of Janie Harrison – whose piano was used for every NASHY event. Many bands returned to the Miami Boat Club more than once. NASHY events were so crowded that 2 tents had to be rented and placed at the periphery of the pavilion. Several times, the crowd exceeded 300.

Each member of the NASHY group had responsibilities. There was a treasurer, a greeter, a man who procured the beverages, a man who rented tents, a man who organized the seating, and one who worked with the bands' agents. It did not matter that the mosquitoes were "as big as crows" once the party started. For about 20 years, NASHY provided outstanding entertainment for grateful audiences who still treasure their memories of those magnificent nights.

Another group hosted the very popular Face Parties of the 1970s and 1980s. Six men: Tony Hobson, Jens Rosenkrantz, David Temple, Abbot Thayer, and George and John Warrington invited their friends to the Miami Boat Club for 10-15 consecutive years for revelry. Guests were asked to arrive in costume, to "put on a new face" for the summer get-togethers. Notable outfits included one man who paddled to the club in a canoe dressed as a Native American, a woman attired as Lady Guinevere, and a man who dressed as a Star Wars EWOK. The parties showcased local rock and roll bands, including Timmy Goshorn and Friends, the Dauphine Street Blues Band with Eric Waits, and the Modulators. About 150 guests heard and danced to popular tunes of the era. Like the NASHY nights, these evening events combined music and friends at riverside.

The recently refurbished club is still a popular gathering place. It has a website and regularly scheduled events for members and their families. Rich in history, the Miami Boat Club has been the site of great camaraderie for more than a century.



*Thanks to Jane Harrison, Harold LeBlond, Jr., Duke Smith, Abbot Thayer, and Eric Yeiser for their assistance.*