

Home Town News

# friends



# PULLING TOGETHER

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AUGUST 18, 1979

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*The*  
**Home Town News**

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BY MAIL THROUGHOUT THE WINTER MONTHS. SEVEN DOLLARS  
WILL RESERVE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TODAY. DEADLINE FOR  
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# THE WAY IT WAS

OR, WHO IS THIS CORADINE MYERS AND WHERE'D SHE COME FROM????

(Coradine Myers has been our feature writer)

This August marks the 39th year since the Myers first discovered Kelleys Island. Traveling on the old Mascot piloted by Harold Neuman, they landed at the old store dock (across from Casino) and the first person they met was Irma Conkle bustling about and taking care of the freight.

After setting up their camping site near Titus and Lake Shore rds, they rented a boat from Capt. Hamilton from which to fish. Huey and Tom Lange dropped by to offer an endless supply of crabs for fishing.

The following year, they rented the Conkle's Beehive. Later, the family rented one of the limestone company cottages (near Craft's) and spent many hours fixing it up. Each year they would beg Roy Fenwick to please sell the cottage to them, and he always promised to do that if it was ever for sale. However, the property was sold to the state and later to a real estate developer.

One day when Lee and his aunt, Louise Potts, came over looking for houses for sale they discovered Mrs. Blatt's (Ted's mother) and they left a deposit. Three families, including Lee's brother and Mrs. Potts son, Howard shared the place on Division street for 18 yrs.

Four years ago, the Myers discovered to their delight their present home which once belonged to the Kelleys, Gus Sun, the Darby's and finally the Myers...historically, the home is even older than the Wm. Kelley home.

After selling their home in Independence, Ohio, the Myers moved to the island as permanent residents. Since then they have been active in numerous civic projects as well as church work.

Coradine has been gracious enough to supply us with her friendly column of island news throughout the winter months, keeping friends and neighbors informed of island happenings during the months when we cannot be there in person. We think she deserves a standing ovation for her efforts and hope she will continue this winter....

GLACIAL GROOVES.....FINEST EXAMPLE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD!!!



Visitors to Kelleys Island are impressed with the size and shape of these glacial grooves. Of great geologic significance, they are approximately 25,000 years old and began forming when the climate was much cooler and wetter. A great continental glacier flowed from Canada into northern Ohio.

After the climate warmed and the ice melted (nearly 10,000 years ago) the island retained a spectacular reminder of the glacier's presence here...these huge glacial grooves, which had been carved into the limestone bedrock by the constant slow-moving action of the advancing glacier.

Because of their size and ease of accessibility, these are the most famous glacial grooves in the world!!!

Excavation operations were begun in 1972 to uncover the hidden grooves. Utilizing backhoe, shovels, pics and even brooms, the crew uncovered an exposure which measures 396 ft. in length. The straight cracks running across the grooves are called joints. They usually form in rocks such as limestone as a result of the application or release of pressure on the bedrock. The fossils visible are the remains of plants and animals which lived in Ohio thousands of years ago when the area was covered by a shallow saltwater ocean.



There are other smaller examples of these grooves on the island along the north shore. Some very spectacular grooves were destroyed during quarrying operations on the island in the early 1900's. Known as "The Great Grooves", they extended for at least 2,000 ft. with 15 ft. depth and 30 ft. in width.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Happy Anniversary!

Mr. and Mrs. Logan Bickley recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception in Sandusky, Ohio at the Knights of Columbus.

Married on the island, the couple spent most of their married life there. They are the parents of Martin and Eileen Beerck. Martin will be remembered for the years he transported passengers to and from Sandusky for Sky Tours.



Logan and Catherine Bickley

Eileen serves as a TV hostess for Good Samaritan hospital, of Sandusky.

While island residents, Logan Bickley and his brother, Len, were partners in the commercial fishing business. When he retired from the lakes, Logan and Catherine operated a candy store on Columbus Avenue in Sandusky, and later were famous for their popcorn balls sold from the "little red wagen" in the square there.

The couple have nine grandchildren, and often can be seen with the entire clan "porch sitting" on their cottage front porch.

### THREE GENERATIONS SHARE JIM AND EILA RUSSELL'S LOVE FOR ISLAND

Known as "Pappy" around the waterfront, Jim Russell's ties with Kelleys Island go back many years.

As a telescope lense grinding instructor at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, he discovered the island through property the museum owned here.

He and his wife Eila, now reside in their little cottage at the end of Huntington Lane.

At the age of 80, Jim Russell rarely spends an idle moment. If he isn't out on his boat fishing, he is home talking on his amateur radio with operators around the country.

He was the first amateur to transmit across the Atlantic with a homemade apparatus in 1921!!

The safety Director for the City of Fairview Park, he also served as Township Judge for 24 years. In addition, he worked as an attorney in Cleveland for many years.

For the city of Rocky River, he served as small claims referee, and worked as an electronics instructor for Lorain Community College



Jim and Eila Russell

Mr. Russell also wrote a news paper column for the Fairview Herald.

Mrs. Russel worked as a legal secretary for her husband for many years.

She served as a church soloist in Cleveland area, having spent most of her life there.

Continued....



The Russel's are members of the United Methodist Community Church, Kelleys Island.

They are proud grandparents to eleven grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

A close-knit family, the Russell's get together with their daughter, Caroline and her husband, Jerry Taylor for island picnics on a regular basis...the Taylors share their enthusiasm for Kelleys, and purchased two cottages here; Chigger Hollow, and Taylor's Toehold.

Recently, Caroline's son, Cliff Donley, and his family were living in Chigger Hollow, so three generations had the opportunity to share their island stories together.



Cliff Donley....Jerry Taylor

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The Taylors purchased property once belonging to the Milleys in what was left of the old Italian settlement on the island's south shore near Vi Haig's home.

Two of the remaining structures were renovated by the Taylors and now stand as proud monuments to the hard-working ethnic people who originally built these sturdy homes.

Mostly quarry workers, the Italian immigrants who lived there shared a common heritage and a love for their new life on an island in the middle of Lake Erie.

The Taylors are fascinated with the history of their area and enjoy long talks with their nearest neighbors, Evangeline Bonchi and Mrs. Adam Bianchi, who were among those early settlers and still can tell tales of their impact upon the island's heritage.

Jerry Taylor was born in Alabama to a family of hard-working farmers. His experience in self sufficiency has paid off. There is little that Jerry cannot build, repair or innovate. Although he works mainly in the field of electronics as a technician.

"Jerry became a Yankee by marriage...I call him my 'Southern Comfort'", Caroline laughed.

Continued....

Caroline Taylor is a 4th grade teacher in the Bay Village, Ohio school system.

She has three children, Cliff, Kit, and Holly (who was married on the island summer of 78).

A fine water color artist, Caroline also enjoys music... and often sings along to her piano music. A diversified lady, she can be seen riding adeptly upon her motor cycle or delicately pinching unwanted foilage from her tomato plants.

#### ROCKERS EARN OVER \$500 TO DEFREY CHURCH EXPENSES ON KELLEYS ISLAND

By Marge Rumel

Rockers are only for old folks...right? Wrong! Not when 19 young people gathered in the village town hall on July 27, 1979. Under the direction of Mrs. Chares (Diane) Hacker, they rocked the hours away for the painting fund of Zion Methodist Church here.

It was Mrs. Hacker's idea that each participant was to get as many sponsors as possible who would pay 25 cents per hour rocked. The actual rocking began at 4PM. What began vigorously soon settled down to a steady rythem. I noticed rockers walking across the floor with their occupants...all headed strangely in one direction. The food table loaded with chips, hot dogs, brownies and various other treats was their destination.

To pass the time away, games were invented and traditional card games, parcheesi, puzzles and scrabble kept the rockers mind's occupied as well as their feet. Many books were in evidence.

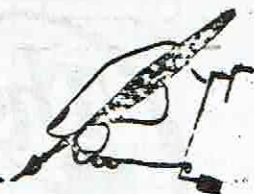
A record player (going full blast) three radios on high volume and later a TV all were a part of the good clean fun which required everyone to yell and shout to be heard above the noise. One girl suffered a cut forehead from an accidental stray sandal which got mixed up in a "snow ball fight" with wadded newspapers.

Concluding at 11PM, the rock a thon still had 16 participating.

We thank all who gave so generously of time, rockers, food, pillows and more food. Also to the clean up crew. And to Mrs. Hacker, for her idea, time and work. A special thanks to our young people who participated from both churches and visitors. We had two rocking grandmothers during the evening. Thanks to our chief of police and two sheriffs deputies, and to REv. Warren Walton, our Pastor. We are all proud of our young people...their efforts brought a total of over \$500.00 to a worthy cause!



# our readers write



Dear Carol and Julie,

What a joy to meet you both in person. Ours too, being the privilege to join the community of Kelleys Island for Vinnie, Tony and Mike, the graduating class of '79.

So, OK, I love Kelleys; the water, living on top of it, watching my children build us a house, watching them all ski, fish, laugh and love. I cherish Father Sherbno's blessing our house and all of his masses.

But, Jack and I aren't educated into this life on the Island, when the children leave...we are here and need to know how to live. After the 9-5 life in the big city, we're in shock. We don't know how to fix a car...our beloved Bert Miller rescued us twice on a cold rainy day. Wonderful Frank Pohorence brought us groceries across our muddy ground. Pat Seeholzer and her mom and relatives made me feel welcome at Sandy Beach when Sue Wheland and I were here alone for 10 days in '77.

We attended and loved seeing everyone at one winter pot luck at the Vets..."Pee Wee" and Kim and Rob watkins and Coradine and Gentleman Jim Seeholzer.

Bob and Pixie Schwartz are forever doing for everyone on the North Side. Ray Kladel and Ed Ondrak [spelling?] rescued us many a time and from them we learned a most valuable philosophy; "You fish first!" This can be translated so many ways...like do what gives you joy first, the rest will always be there...

I sew, love to write letters and read, do Yoga, bike ride...still the boredom sets in...It would be a great service to us to have some feedback on this from those of you who have made it through winters. Our yard work goes on and on of course, in the summer.

The thing that makes the Island is it's simplicity, the true attraction which has been preserved by the strengths of the Islanders.

Jack was very proud to be a part of the Memorial Day Ceremony. He even met a Viet Nam pilot (Jack was in WW 2.) He brought him home and they talked of flying for two hours!

Continued next page.....

# The Music of

Kel  
Islo

THE KELLEY ISLAND WALTZ

Words and Music by Eileen Martin



The Kelley Island Waltz



is the best dance you can do The



Kelley Island and waltz puts new

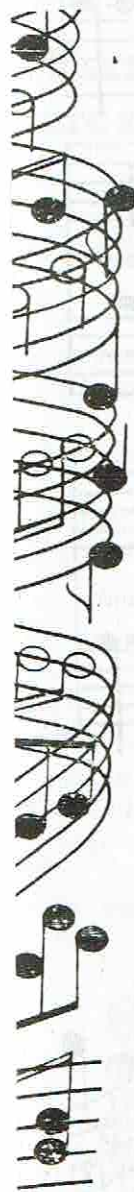


life back in to you Young and



ys

id



old are hap py as they dance the whole night

This system contains the first line of the song. It features a treble and bass staff in 4/8 time with a key signature of one flat. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staff.

thru The Kell ey Isl and walt tz will

This system contains the second line of the song. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the staff.

never leave you blue Danc ing by the

This system contains the third line of the song. It includes a bridge section with a key signature change to two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the staff.

water while the moon is shining bright

This system contains the fourth line of the song. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the third system. The lyrics are written below the staff.

What a great de light You won't for get this

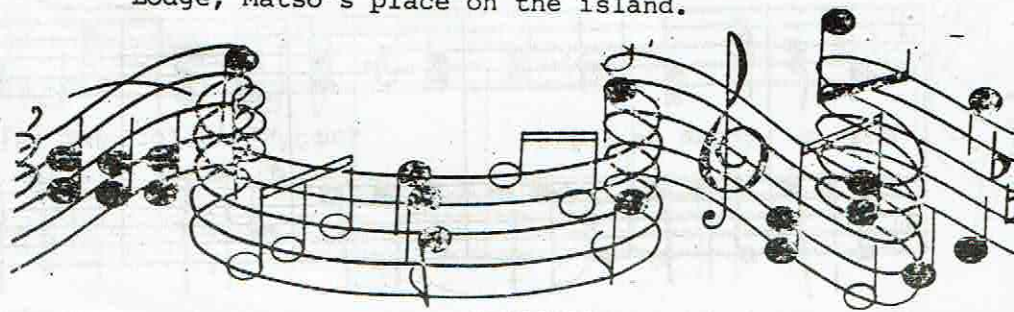
This system contains the fifth line of the song. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the fourth system. The lyrics are written below the staff.

nite May be you will tra vel far and

dance there hand in hand But the Kell ey

Island wal tz is the best in land dance the

Born and raised on Kelleys Island, Eileen Martin's musical talent was discovered at an early age. She mastered many musical instruments with minimal instruction, and continues to thrill audiences today with her organ renditions of the classics and "golden oldies". Recently she performed at The Lodge, Matso's place on the island.





God's blessings to the editors for His gift to them...for all of us to enjoy.

HELEN WINNEN

Lakewood, Ohio/Kelleys Island  
North Shore

## Here is what satisfied subscribers are saying about **US**

Elaine Martin Galloway gave me a copy of the K.I. Home Town News and I devoured every word. I congratulate you on your enterprising spirit. Coradine Myer's column is a joy to read.....

As a native "Islander" and for a number of years Postmistress, I have a very special place in my heart for the island and hunger for any news of my "home town."

Am enclosing a check for the 1979-80 editions.

Hope the Land Owners Home Coming is a huge success...wish I could be there!!!

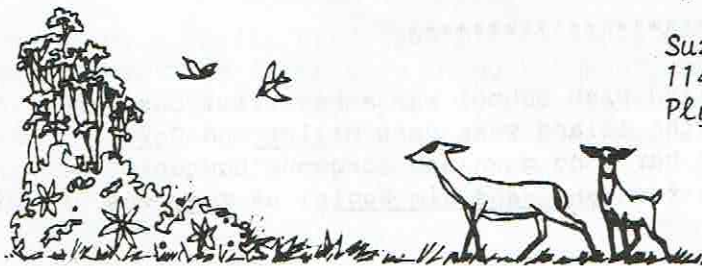
Sincerely,

Virginia (Ginny) Lange Keefer  
3187 College Ave.  
Costa Mesa, Calif. 92626

Just a note to let you know how much my mother, Harriet Farrar, looked forward to receiving your K.I. Home Town News last winter. She really loved the Island, and we planned to spend most of the summer there. Unfortunately, she had a stroke may 26 and passed away May 29, 1979.

We have had a cottage on Kelleys since 1958, so it is like a second home to me. I am looking forward to receiving your paper this winter.

Suzanne Farrar  
114 Mulberry  
Plymouth, Ohio 44865



# Some summer talk

By CORADINE MYERS

Wonder of wonders! We actually made it, (Lee and I) down to Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and back without any gas problems. I was so glad that we decided to take the chance, because it was a beautiful trip from beginning to end.

While the freeways are wonderful time and gas savers, it was a delight to turn off onto a secondary road for the last 50 miles or so. The Red Carpet had been rolled out for us in Oxford as it was the reunion of our graduation class of 1929!

On the way to dinner, as I was walking down the hall from our room, my left foot suddenly went down as though there had been a hole in the floor. Stumbling, I looked back and saw my shoe's heel laying there! I'd walked right off of it! Luckily we were close to our room, and I hurried back limping and changed to another pair of shoes.

We were housed in the same dormitory, which was air-conditioned and quite comfortable. The beds were built in along the walls and slid half way back during the day to serve as couches. We had quite a laugh with one of my former classmates at breakfast the following morning when she complained of the uncomfortable night she had spent on the "narrow beds"! Not realizing that they were to be pulled out at night, she had suffered on that small couch all night...I said, "Martha, it is time you went back to school!"

Saturday they hosted an outdoor barbeque and as dress was very informal we noted many T-shirts and slacks. Since more than 75 percent of them read "Miami University, Lee said we should have brought along a Kelleys Island University T shirt to wear that night. They really would have been conversation pieces! Dog-gone, why didn't we think of that sooner?

\*\*\*\*\*

Graduation day for Kelleys Island High School was a beautiful one, and two of the proudest people on the island were Bert Miller and Coke! Vinnie Thorne was so lovely in her long gown and gorgeous bouquet. And it was a special occasion for Vange and Jim Bugle, as Tony was



y oungest and the last to graduate in the family. Jim and Pat Seeholzer have one more to go after Mike. Such handsome boys!!!

The reception following was simply scrumptious. And did you notice those lovely "mums" garnishing some of the platters? Well, I was informed that they were not mums, but Onions, cleverly crafted into flowers by Coke herself. And she baked 3 of her huge nut tortes which have become famous among the islanders.

\*\*\*\*\*

Orchids to all the islanders who lent a hand to help out those stranded students last May, especially to Windy Richard Wingate who turned over his entire Kamp Kellisle to the groups of youngsters, stranded here with their teachers. (A sudden summer storm stranded several hundred students who had been camping at the State Park). In recent years, islanders have shown their generosity in their attitude towards other stranded visitors...

\*\*\*\*\*

Eleanor Liwosz is back on the island once more, after being taped up for broken ribs in that recent fall she suffered here. Hope nothing more happens to you, Eleanor, and that you can enjoy the whole summer in peace.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our sincere sympathies to Eileen Johnson at the loss of her husband Dewey. They had just made a trip to their new house on Marblehead, when Dewey suffered a stroke on the way to the dock and luckily made it to the ticket booth where John Neuman took charge. Rushing him to McGruder Hospital for immediate care, where he died on Saturday. Again, our deepest sympathies. (The Deweys have been island residents for many years residing on the south shore near town).

\*\*\*\*\*

One of my favorite headlines placed above my column by Carol and Julie read "Happiness is friends in my kitchen", because it is so appropriate. We have a sign post on our front lawn with our name on it and I feel it should include the words "Coffee Shoppe". With our kitchen windows facing the main road, so many of our friends pass by in the mornings on their way to the post office or the store and see

us at the table. Often they pull in and share a cup of coffee with It is one of the distinct pleasures of living here, the unexpected pleasure of drop-in company. In one week we had: Bucky Harris, Rox Fox, Jakie Martin, and Mary Schock. Since this column was written, there have been many more. We are blessed with good friends.

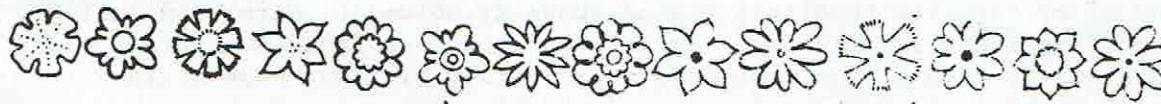
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Many summer visitors were amazed to view first-hand the storm damage resulting from another severe storm the island suffered in June. This storm centered over the Lake Erie islands and created havoc with the grape crops on North Bass and surrounding isles. Here, the main damage resulted to large trees along the road which passes Minchell's property and runs to the beach. It appears as if a twister touched down following a path parallel to the road. Behind the shrine many large trees are down and they were toppled across the road all the way to the Sennish property.

Lee witnessed an unusual happening that day of the storm. We were on our front porch watching the storm build up, when suddenly Lee grabbed my arm and practically threw me into the house and slammed the door! He then pointed out on the lake where a WALL OF WATER ABOUT 10FT HIGH Had formed out of nowhere and seem as though it was headed directly for our front porch!!! It was the first time either of us had witnessed such a thing, and islanders tell us that it was probably caused by a vacuum or "low" as the storm front moved in. The water was sucked up into the clouds, but when it reached a certain weight, gravity took over and forced it back into the lake basin again. A frightening sight, and first-hand look at the power of the elements.

Jessie Martin told me she and Jake had picked up some of those golf-ball sized hailstones which fell, and put them into their freezer to show the non-believers. Now, why didn't we think of that??

So long till next time,  
CORADINE MYERS





## "Timely Tidbits"

Sincere congratulations to Pastor Warren Walton on his recent installation as a DEACON of the United Methodist Church. The ceremony was held at Lakeside...a group from Zion was planning to cross over in Jakie Martin's boat to form a "cherring section" for him. However, the weather turned bad (it was the day after our big storm) and it was felt unsafe to cross.

Mrs. Paul Eckert, Mary Walton and Bonnie Blatt were all hospitalized at different times. Bonnie was back home but due for more tests, and Mary Walton is scheduled for open heart surgery on August 7th. Cora-dine Myers was back in the hospital for more eye surgery on July 19. Our prayers are always with our Island friends...Good Luck!!!

### AFGAN DRAWING WINNERS:

JUNE: Lil Gross, Cleveland, Ohio

JULY: Roy Erne, Kelleys Island

\*\*\*\*\*

The Zion Methodist church here, sponsored a rock'a thon for youngsters recently. Proceeds from the rocking chairs kept in motion by kids will help finance a new paint job in the church. Rev. Walton expressed his gratitude at the generosity of the community..."We did little to advertise the event, yet response was tremendous", he related. Another example of islanders rallying together and everyone coming out a winner,

\*\*\*\*\*

Velma Betzenheimer recently expressed her joy at the birth of her first grandchild. Son Mark and his wife are the proud parents of a baby boy, named Alexander Betzenheimer, after his great-grandfather.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE FISH NET IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!!!! A new business venture on the island featuring hand-crafted items has been opened by Sharon Bianchi and Kim Watkins. The shoppe is located at the foot of the hill on Division Street beyond the Casino. While on the island, don't miss the opportunity to stop by and say hello, many items are done by islanders and others are fine examples of hand work from area people.

The shoppe is willing to accept your hand work on consignment.



# The 9TH Generation Kelley

Nancy Kelley looks out over the Lake in front of her island home.

Nancy Kelley is the ninth generation of Kelleys to reside on Kelleys Island. Her geneology includes those original K elleys, Datus and Irad, whose foresight included the settlement of the island.

During the early 1800's, the brothers purchased the island which was then known as Cunningham's Island. In August of 1833, the island was changed to "Kelleys".

Nancy presently lives in the ornate homestead of her ancestors on Lake Shore Drive on the south shore. The gingerbread which decorates the house is typical of the period in which the home was built. Nancy's grandfather, W. D. Kelley was so proud of the place, he installed the name-plate which remains today on the foundation.

Nancy's father, William Kelley was born in New York State and worked most of his life for the railroad. He spent every spare moment on the island and Nancy recalls many fond memories of her childhood here.

Because of her father's occupation, Nancy traveled extensively as a child and attended many schools across the states. When her father retired in 1970, he moved here, and Nancy visited on a regular basis.

"I've seen many changes take place through the years here," Nancy said. "I feel it is important that the atmosphere of the island continues to include the natural beauty, peace and quiet that it offers today. It is an oasis in the midst of a world of turmoil, a place to get away, and allow people to make their own entertainment," Nancy explained.



## SPOTLIGHT ON people



Marge and Al Rumel have been coming to the island since 1943 when Al's aunt and uncle "Tepley" owned their present cottage.

His cousin, Gertrude, was a well-known resident, who dearly loved the island and it's people.

The Rumels brought their daughter, Shari here as a child, and now often share their home with their granddaughter, Michelle Painter.

"At one time, Nelson Dwelle tried to persuade me to stay here and become a commercial fisherman. Before he died, Nelson said it would have been a 'dirty deal', and was glad I had not taken him up on the offer", Al said.

"I answered him by saying I did not agree, although the fishing industry was depleted, it was something everyone loved on the island and we loved it too!" Al continued.

The North Olmsted residents spend as much time as possible here. Al is presently serving as treasurer of the K.I. Land Owners Assn.

VISIT:

**DIRTY  
DON'S**

**THE**

**CASINO**

**"EST. 1901"**

**WHERE THE GOOD TIMES**

**ARE ON**

**KELLEYS ISLAND**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**FUN FOR ALL**