

We can start with the father of all time studio chiefs, the Warner Bros- Benjamin Warner!

### The Warner Brothers' Niles Connection

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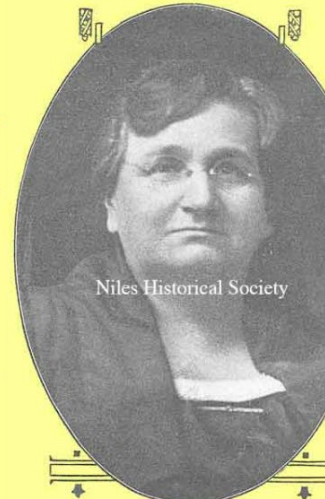


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Where did the Warner Brothers get started in the movie business? New Castle, Pennsylvania may well have the honor of having the first Warner Theater built in 1907, but the Warner brothers began their show business in Niles, Ohio.

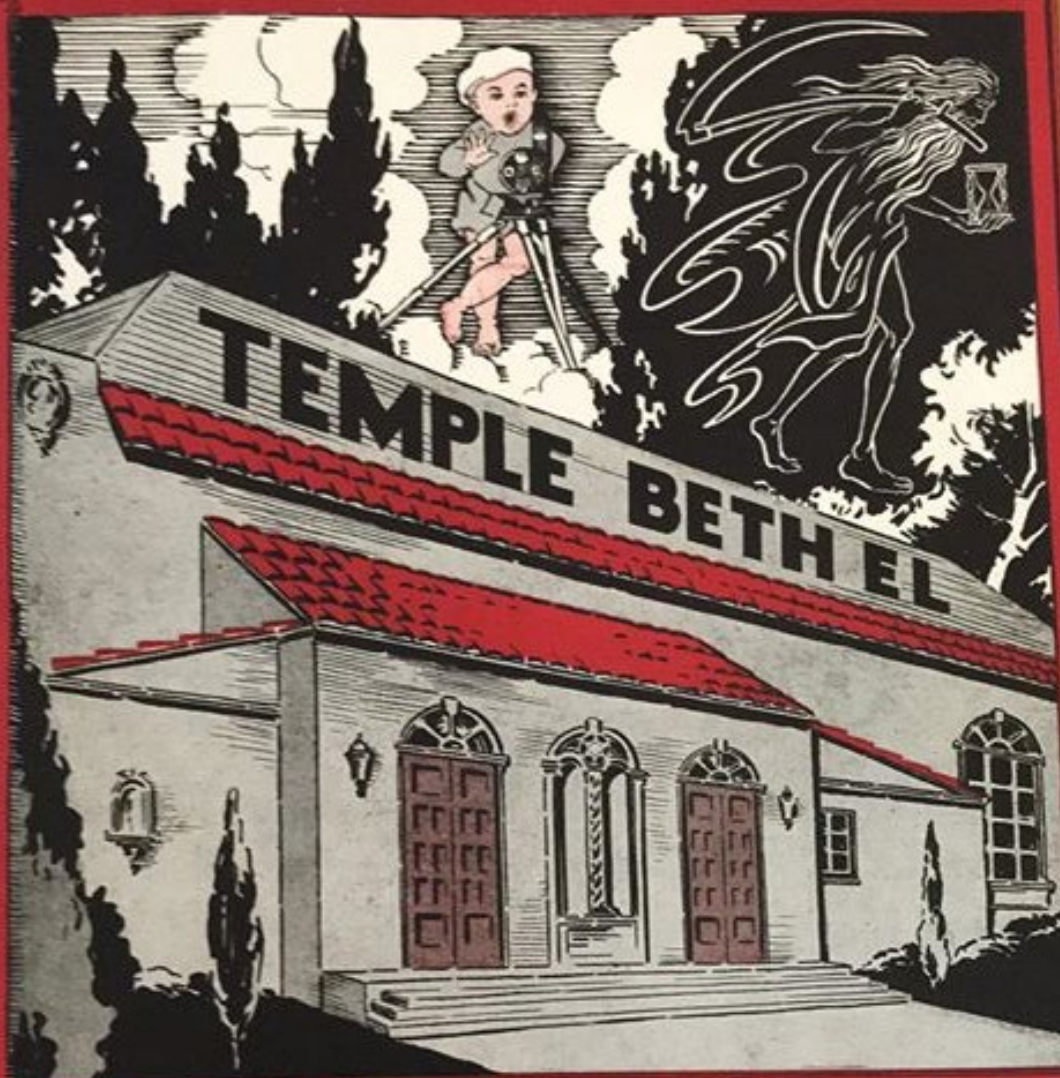
Harry Warner's father, *Benjamin Warner*, was a shoemaker, so it was natural for the oldest son to follow in that trade. According to the program listed below, Harry was 15 and working in the shoe shop and was a familiar figure to all who passed by his window on State Street, which was located exactly opposite the site where the Warner Theatre now stands. Harry was born in 1881, making the year 1896, when they started in the movie business.

Again the program mentions the start of the family in Niles. "Many residents of Niles will also remember the first exhibition of the motion pictures in this city given by *Mr. Albert Warner*, a crude affair perhaps when contrasted with the handsome edifice which now becomes the shrine of the silent art in this community, but as the art has developed so have its pioneers progressed with it and the Warner Theatre with its initial program stands as an eloquent example of the fact".



This item from the Niles, Ohio, historical society, about the first movie theater started by the sons of Benjamin Warner, who began his career as a shoemaker. Shown in the picture at the top, Benjamin Warner, above his five sons and to the right, the mother of the Warner Bros. <https://nileshistoricalsociety.org/Warner.htm>

In 10 years after the founding, father Benjamin was the President, and he brought the studio clout to bear in the 1932 New Year's celebration:

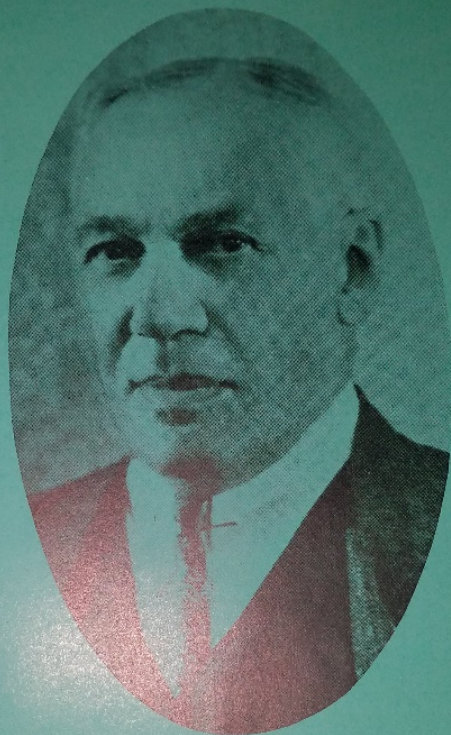


**NEW YEAR EVE**

**1931 - 1932**

**WARNER BROS. SUNSET STUDIO**  
**HOLLYWOOD CALIFORNIA**

## *Our President*



MR. BENJAMIN WARNER

*K*NOWN to the world for his association with his sons in the building of a great industry, Mr. Benjamin Warner is yet firmly identified, as are other great leaders in a world of accomplishment, in the church of his faith. Possessed of a deep devotion, sincerity of purpose and the will to do, Mr. Warner has brought to Hollywood Temple Beth El, of which he is the revered president, the same devout idealism for which his character is known by thousands of co-workers in business and the professions. He labors quietly and unstintingly for the needy; he labors tirelessly for the furtherance of the exalted purposes of Hollywood Temple Beth El.

A great personality, a great leader . . . Mr. Benjamin Warner.



*Warner Bros. and First National Stars Say  
"Happy New Year" to Mr. Benjamin Warner*



*These Warner Bros. Stars Add Their Wishes  
to Mr Warner and Temple Beth El*

