

the Kenton County Historical Society



4-91

April

Kenton County Historical Society

P.O. Box 641
Covington, Kentucky 41011

R E V I E W

April 1991

PROGRAM ON PRESERVATION OF DOCUMENTS, PHOTOGRAPHS, HEIRLOOMS, ETC.

On Saturday afternoon, May 11th,
Kenton County Library, Covington, Mr. Bill
Black will demonstrate how to clean,
deacidify, emboss, and in other ways
preserve valuable articles including
books, photos, letters, newspaper clippings,
documents, and the like.

Mr. Black, who is an archivist at the
Lloyd Library, Plum street, Cincinnati,
will describe methods and materials used
to preserve family heirlooms.

The program is sponsored by the members
of the Kenton County Historical Society
and is free and open to the Public. This
will be a special Saturday afternoon
program held also in the Library's public
meeting room.

Saturday afternoon

May 11

1:00 PM

Kenton County Library Public Meeting Room
Fifth and Scott streets
Covington

NOTE TO HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS:

On Saturday, June 29th from 9:30 AM
to 3:00 PM, there will be a meeting of the
Northern Region of the Historical Confederation
of Kentucky (HCK) at the Boone County Library
Florence, Ky. In addition to other items
HCK staff members from Frankfort will discuss
the Kentucky Bicentennial Celebration plans
for 1992. Any questions or suggestions should
be addressed to the Kenton County Historical
Society. This meeting is planned specially
for organizations and groups in the Northern Region.

THE HELLMANN LUMBER COMPANY

According to Don Hellmann of Hellmann Lumber (at 312 West Twelfth street, Covington), a sizeable portion of wood building materials for Northern Kentucky originates in the Canadian forests, passing through Canadian sawmills, and distribution sites, such as in Ontario province (up I-75), and, in addition, maybe through wholesalers such as Georgia Pacific (the largest; it has an Ohio office). Such species as hemlock, fir, spruce, and mixed types for 2x4s, 2x6s, etc. come from Canada; yellow pine, for floor joists, for instance, from the South (Louisiana, Arkansas); Ponderosa pine and fir for 2x4s, moldings, doors from the West (Washington, Oregon); redwood for exterior trim and siding from California; cedar for exterior trim and siding from British Columbia.

Hellmann also purchases from distributors located near the Southern Railroad tracks at Crescent Springs. While two retail competitors are also at the tracks, in Erlanger, Don considers this not much of an advantage because materials for his yard arrive on extended flatbed trucks worth, say, \$4000 per load. Hellmann does not like to commit to a railroad boxcar load worth, say, \$20,000. A truck line can satisfy a request in two days while a railroad would take two weeks, and with more chance of error.

Before over-the-road trucking Hellmann's received mostly from the railroad docks on the west side of the tracks near the present Twelfth street viaduct (close to the location of Ken Building supply). But certainly after World War I motorized local trucking replaced archaic horse and wagon delivery and long distance trucks supplanted much railroad transport.

While a large supplier might handle "tract" builders, Hellmann more typically

furnishes materials and fabricates special dimensions (in sashes, stairs, rails, etc.) for rehabbers and for "custom" builders of new homes. Years ago local "mills" like Hellmann cut most moldings and sashes. Now most come in standard sizes from companies like Georgia Pacific. However, Hellmann now has to deal in newer noncombustible items, treated lumber, particle board, wafer board, plywood, and, as well, the non-lumber items like roofing products and insulation. In addition Hellmann now finds it profitable to keep a good inventory of tools, hinges, locks, brackets and other common hardware.

Recently Hellmann built a new warehouse at 1532 Russell street, a former location of T. W. Spinks, once a large supplier of hard materials (bricks, sand, lime, etc.) until sold about 1941 to J. W. Wilde, who continued the business.

Don considers Hellmann's to be the oldest continuous lumber supplier under the same family name now that an older one, Weingartner in Newport, has moved to Alexandria Pike under a new designation. Hellmann's original horse stable and office remains on Fisk street just south of West Twelfth. Don's great grandfather Clemens immigrated from Germany and started Hellmann's about ten years later in 1877. And still later he ran for city Alderman in a Democratic Party primary. (by John Boh)



BEHRINGER-CRAWFORD MUSEUM:

From April 20th to June 9th there will be a recycling exhibit at the Museum. The exhibit has two parts--an educational walk-through which demonstrates most effective consumer choices for the environment, and a showing of sculpture with environmental theme by a Russian artist. Bavarian Waste Services of Northern Kentucky is a sponsor. in conjunction with a number of other important parties.

OTHER KCHS ITEMS:

Available is the 1880 Federal Census Index (vol. I, A-K; vol. II, L-Z) at \$25.00 per volume or \$50.00 per set including postage compiled by genealogist Dorothy Wieck.

In the Summer of 1991 a Barge will be floated down the Ohio River and docked at various river cities along the way. The barge will carry displays with themes about the life and culture of the Ohio River. Some seven states have been, and will participate, directly including Ohio and Kentucky. The barge is scheduled to be docked at Cincinnati July 15-22, and will provide an opportunity for visitors from Northern Kentucky. But for Northern Kentucky the Kenton County Historical Society is pleased to announce that Dr. Louis Thomas has agreed to speak on Thursday July 18 in connection with these river festivities and the theme. The theme is ALWAYS A RIVER, about life and times along the Ohio, a nostalgic but learned look back in reflection of ourselves. Dr. Thomas' presentation will have the title, THE OHIO RIVER VALLEY: ENTRANCE TO THE INTERIOR.

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Kenton County Sesquicentennial-1990
State of Kentucky Bicentennial-1992

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