

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 641, Covington, Kentucky 41012

Bulletin

June/July 1998

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From the President.....

Since this is an election year for local and Congressional candidates, it is fitting that all of our members think about the KCHS elections this fall.

There will be at least two board seats up for election as well as all officers. I, personally, would like to see members clamoring to seek office, as unrealistic as that may seem.

Please indulge me in a moment of seriousness. The Society is developing into a more viable organization. This is not to say that it has not been viable previously, but the needs are growing. Our small staff needs to be larger.

I would like to see the position of "Volunteer Coordinator" at the Board level to oversee the development of job descriptions for the growing need for volunteers. The NKH magazine requires innumerable tasks that our small staff and I cannot accomplish in a timely manner. We are still in need of a program coordinator to plan monthly programs for KCHS meetings.

All of these jobs are being done by me and other officers taking double duties. There is no reason that a county like ours with 140,000+ population cannot adequately staff an historical society to accomplish its mission!

Please consider your commitment to this increasingly exciting venture, when our election occurs in the fall. The *Bulletin* will be carrying more information about our future plans. We want to hear from you.....about your vision for KCHS and your expectations of the Society.

Karl Lietzenmayer
1998-9 President

Smile for Daddy: Reminiscences of a Wonderful Wallingford Childhood

by Marjory Meanwell

The name, Wallingford, comes from "The Wall by the ford." The Covington Wallingford family came from Wallingford, England, near Windsor. The family settled in Pennsylvania, but later two brothers came to Kentucky. It is not known whether the Covington Wallingfords founded the Kentucky town of Wallingford but it seems likely. My grandfather, Dr. J. T. Wallingford, grew up in Flemingsburg, Kentucky which is near Wallingford.

Dr. Wallingford practiced medicine in Covington for years, mostly from his three-story home at 1334 Madison Avenue near 13th Street (now torn down). His office was on the first floor. He was a very popular doctor. One woman told me many times how he had saved her life. As a little girl, she had diphtheria. My grandfather was called to her bedside in the middle of the night. In order to get the medication to save her, he and her father drove the horse and buggy to the pharmacist's home, got him out of bed, and took him to his pharmacy to get the medicine that saved her life.

My grandfather was appointed Covington Health Officer in 1909, and promised a staunch campaign against smoke pollution. He was especially concerned about the Children's Home near the railroad tracks in the area of 13th and Madison. Sometimes the children could not be allowed out to play because of the soot and the smoke.

"They tell me that manufacturers will leave if we attempt to enforce the laws," he was quoted as

saying in Kentucky Post of May 6, 1910. "Well, let them leave. The health of the community is more important."

He and my grandmother, Rose, my uncle Robert, and my father, Eugene lived upstairs. They always said the back yard was full of boys playing ball and other games. My grandmother later had a beautiful garden, cultivating beautiful flowers, including prizewinning iris. My grandmother said, "First we raised boys; now we can raise flowers!"

My grandfather loved to build! He built the apartment house

on 20th Street. It has a "W" over the door. He also built a row of identical houses of the latest building material, concrete block, on 20th Street near St. Elizabeth Hospital.

When he retired, he built a house at 314 Garrard Street with a large apartment on the first floor and two smaller apartments upstairs. He assumed that when his two sons married, they would live upstairs! A write-up in the paper in 1915 said, "Dr. Wallingford's house on lower Garrard Street is almost ready for occupancy and will be completely modern in every respect," meaning that the house would have a coal furnace and bathrooms!

In 1917, my father and my mother, Bernice DeVore, married and moved into the first floor apartment with my grandparents. I was born in 1918, and we lived there until 1925.

One event stands out in my mind. When I was about five years (old enough to read), my grandfather planted crocuses across the back yard in the shape of the letters in my name. When they grew, he took me up to the upstairs porch and surprised me by having me look down. There was my name spelled out in many-colored crocuses in full bloom! I will never forget it.

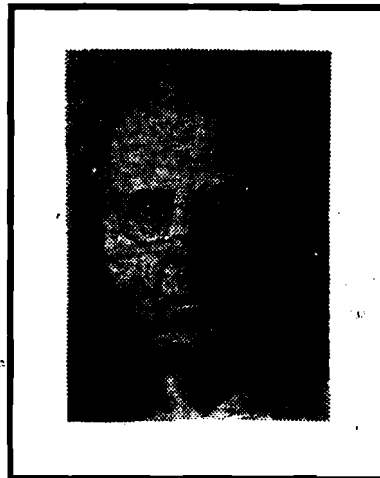
My parents built a house in the back over-looking the Licking River when I was seven years old and my sister Janet was born. The house is still well preserved by its present owner. It has a beamed ceiling, a Rookwood fireplace, plaster arches, and other lovely



Marjory Wallingford, age 2
Father received prize for photo
"Smile for Daddy"



Dr. John T. Wallingford



T. Eugene Wallingford

The Wallingford Coffee Company

Letter to the Editor From *The Enquirer*:

Russell Baker's column "Time to Stamp Out Rich Foods" really made me chuckle.

My Dad, loyally employed by Wallingford Coffee in Cincinnati, lived to the ripe old age of 96.

He was employed up to the age of 87. He also drank his beloved coffee (regular)—six to eight cups a day and one before retiring, with a warm Danish nightly. His final request of me was to take a pound of Wallingford's coffee, two cups and a percolator with him. He has it. Mother, who took cream in her coffee, lived to be 98 and has her cream with her to join him. We always sang "You're the Cream In My Coffee" for them.

Donis Kocher
Terrace Park

"The reason for us growing the way that we are is because we have a lot of good people," said Herman Kabel in a 1990 article in the Cincinnati Business Record. Chairman of the Board Kabel went on to say, "I have people who have been with me for years and years."

T. Eugene Wallingford bought a small coffee delivery business in 1909, and named it The Wallingford Coffee Company. It had one horse and delivery wagon. Wallingford had the coffee roasted by Karl Heinz. In 1930, as his business increased, he moved his offices into a four-story building at 37 East Court Street, and began roasting his own coffee in Cincinnati. There were many roasters in the Cincinnati area. In 1945, there were fifteen coffee roasters in the Cincinnati area. But as of 1990, only Wallingford remained.

The company has always specialized on a quality product, and geared the business toward the institutional market rather than grocers. They sell special gourmet blends to fine restaurants and hotels. Early in the business they created a loyal customer in the White Castle fast food business. Now we can buy Wallingford-packed coffee under the name of White Castle in grocery stores.

In 1947, Mr. Wallingford convinced his son-in-law, Jack Meanwell, to bring his daughter, Marjory, back to Covington from Canada to work in the coffee business. Meanwell worked in sales and eventually became president. The Wallingford Coffee Company has become the leading coffee roaster in Ohio through a series of acquisitions. In 1957, the company merged with Kabel Coffee Company. They expanded into Dayton and Columbus, Ohio markets. In 1960, Wallingford purchased Moraine Fine Foods, Inc., Dayton, Ohio, and three years later he bought The Boat House Coffee and Tea Company in Cincinnati.

Mr. Wallingford retired in 1965. He died in 1967, leaving the business in the able hands of Mr. Meanwell. In 1972, Mr. Kabel bought out the family business with the promise that he would keep the Wallingford quality and the Wallingford name.

To the Editor.....

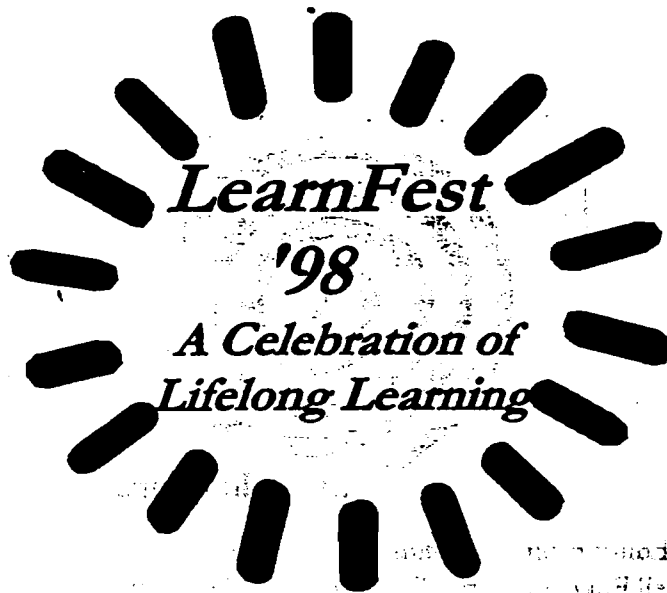
Wood porch railing for rehabing

Is there anyone or knows anyone who could use a wooden porch railing, probably dates from a late 1800s or early 1900s home. It looks like it might have been on a 3rd story porch. It is a 6 foot round railing.

I can be reached at 261-4425 or at home in Ft. Wright at 341-2954.

Mary Lou Hansen

Northern Kentucky University Community Education & Elderhostel



**Saturday, August 1, 1998 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Crestview Hills Mall, 1st Floor, Crestview Hills, KY**

A day of learning & fun highlighting educational opportunities in NKY for children & adults

**❖ Edu-tainment (Center Court)
Performances & Presentations Include:**

- ▶ Hills of Kentucky Dulcimers in Concert
- ▶ "Great Outdoors" Slide Show with Music
- ▶ Poetry Reading by Barroom Bards
- ▶ Creations Theatre Studio Kids' Songfest
- ▶ Hair Perfections Hair Fashion Show
- ▶ Easy Riding: Art of Motorcycling
- ▶ Hats & Boots Dancers
- ▶ Fly-Fishing Tips & Techniques

**❖ Educational Booths, Displays, Demonstrations,
Hands-On Activities, and Surprises!**

NKU Community Education & Elderhostel ♦ 1401 Dixie Highway ♦ Covington, KY 41011 ♦ (502) 262-4425

VOLUNTEER TO HELP MAN OUR TABLE AT "LEARNFEST '98"

August 1st

Pick at least one hour from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

I can help man the table during the hour(s) of: _____



Wallingford House at 314 Garrard Street



Wallingford House behind 314 overlooking the Licking River

details. Its design won an award that year.

I enjoyed living there.

However, we moved to Ft. Mitchell in 1931 when I was thirteen because of problems in the neighborhood. It was during Prohibition when moonshine was being made across the river in Newport. All during the day, shantyboats began lining up on the Newport bank. At night, the people on the boats would row across the river, bring their moonshine up through our backyard, and sell it in front of our house. My father said this was no place for his young teenage daughter.

Neither my uncle nor my father wanted to go to college. It was probably a disappointment to their parents. When my father was only eighteen, 1909, he bought a small coffee company on Elder Street in Cincinnati. He was very fussy and

knowledgeable about different blends and roasts of coffee. Coffee was bought in New Orleans, and roasted at the Karl Heinze roaster near Crosley Field. White Castle soon began to use Wallingford Coffee and still does. It was a dependable customer all during the depression. I always say it was White Castle that put me through college, Western College in Oxford, Ohio, now part of Miami University.

My father sold only to restaurants, hotels, and hospitals. He would not sell to grocery stores as he feared housewives would think the coffee was not "fresh." However, one could go into the plant on Court Street in Cincinnati, and buy it over the counter. The store was always open on Saturday when there was "market" on Court Street. I loved to go with him on Saturday and talk to the people and use the typewriter.

My husband, Jack Meanwell, and I moved down from Canada in 1947 to work in the coffee business. Coffee at the time was only forty cents a pound. When Jack suggested the price be raised to forty-five cents, my father said, "What?! All the customers would quit!"

We sold the business in 1972 to Herman Kabel, Jack's partner. He agreed to always keep the name Wallingford. It had a good reputation which continues to this day. I enjoy seeing the name (it is sold in stores now) and cannot help looking for it in restaurants in the area.

**KENTON COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**INSIDE: Smile For Daddy
and
The Wallingford Coffee Company**

**Kenton County Historical Society
P. O. Box 641
Covington, Kentucky 41012**

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Dedicated to preserving our heritage as the "Gateway to the South"