



Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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Judge John B. Read:
30 years Serving Kenton County

Judge John B. Read shown second from the left

Judge John B. Read: 30 Years Serving Kenton County

John Boh

Like William Goebel, the assassinated Kentucky Governor from Covington, John B. Read (1878-1947) was a son of immigrants who made a successful career as a reformer. For almost 30 years, Read was Kenton County judge (1916-1945). He was judge during America's entry into World War I, Prohibition, the Great Depression, the closing of the Latonia Race Track, the Second World War and the county's acquisition of land in Boone County for a new airport.

Covington was a densely populated urban center with many civic, cultural, charitable and religious organizations, institutions and public agencies. His memberships included those in the Covington Rotary Club and Knights of Columbus.¹ In 1929, 100 candidates called the "John B. Read "Class" (honoring the past president of the group) were initiated in the Covington Aerie No. 329, Fraternal Order of Eagles at its home on 16 East Eighth Street.²

When awarding prizes to winners, Judge John B. Read in 1929 praised the Covington Civitan Club for sponsoring an essay contest on "good citizenship" for students in public and parochial junior high and high schools.³ In 1931, Judge Read was toastmaster at a Kiwanis Club in a gathering, for business as well as pleasure, held at the Kenton County Infirmary. Members would play golf at Twin Oaks which adjoined the infirmary immediately before dinner. There would be horseshoe and other games. A speech titled "What St. Elizabeth Hospital does for the aged and infirm" was given by Charles B. Furber, Covington attorney.⁴

Read's father was an immigrant from England, his mother from Ireland. He was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, before his family moved to Covington around 1880. He attended St. Mary's in Covington, Xavier High School in Cincinnati. and then became a student of law under William A. Byrne. who himself had apprenticed under John G. Car-

lisle. In 1905 as a Democrat in his mid-20s, he was elected to the office of Covington Police Judge. In that role, he had an eye for reasonable, empathetic policies, like not naming juvenile defendants in newspapers and looking toward their rehabilitation.⁵

Campaign to be County Judge

Already in 1913, Read was a candidate for County Judge after leaving his position as Police Judge. His campaign statement in the *Kentucky Post* said that the "Judge of the County Court has duties which brings him close to individuals and families. To the County Judge bereaved widows or orphans must go to settle their property affairs after death has taken the head of the family." To the County Judge the parent or any other person makes complaints of youthful delinquents, and the very best judgement is required in properly directing such disobedient or wayward children." (The 1891 Kentucky Constitution left it to the legislature to designate the specific powers for the county's office holders).⁶

The campaign statement continued: "The Judge and County Commissioners also handle county funds, work to improve roads and maintain all county institutions. The County Judge has concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Judge in all civil cases up to \$200, and has limited criminal jurisdiction." Read was qualified due to legal training and some judiciary experience. He had a clean record and was a solid family man raised in Covington.⁷

Appointment as County Judge

The story of Read's appointment as County Judge in 1916 was told by another Catholic of similar ethnic heritage, Stephens Blakely, in a statement regarding the recently deceased former Governor A. O. Stanley: Read had come to Blakely's office in the old Peoples Bank Building at Sixth and Madison, telling him, "I think I can get the job of County Judge."

Blakely recalled: Read had been a law partner in the office of William A. Byrne, but afterward “never made a go at practicing himself.” He had been Police Judge, had lost a bid to be City Commissioner and then to be County Judge. Judge Walter W. Cleary, the winner, however, had died in 1916. Blakeley suggested that they take the Kentucky Central train to Frankfort. At Stanley’s office in the new capitol building, other people were waiting in the “ante-room,” one or more from Covington looking to be appointed Kenton County Judge. Blakely, who was a Commonwealth Attorney, knocked on a side door and Governor Stanley let him in. “Governor, Read wants to be County Judge.” Stanley did not know Read, but immediately upon Blakely’s request signed a “blank commission paper” appointing Read. Blakely recalled that Governor Stanley “never regretted it as Read was constantly reelected and Stanley “relied heavily upon him for many years....”⁸

Reelected

After his appointment, he ran in special election defeating Bert King for County Judge. In 1921 he had no opponent from either party, and he won subsequent four-year terms.⁹ In 1929, his Democrat opponent in the primary, William G. Hargis, made these claims about himself, surely to imply some shortcomings in the current Judge: He “unconditionally favored good roads, not built short of proper engineering standards; a fair share of road funds from gasoline taxes paid by the county’s citizens; competent, efficient and incorruptible employees; political appointments without regard to politics or religion; equal justice regardless of color, wealth or social standing; fighting loan sharks and usury; a home for indigent children; and opposition to special taxes and assessments upon any class for improvements unless absolutely necessary.” Judge Read quietly had no comment about Hargis’ statement, and won that primary and defeated his Republican opponent.¹⁰

In 1937, he survived his greatest challenge from Democrat Charles S. Durrett. In 1941, Read won by a wide margin. Then, Democrat William E. Wehrman, who had been County Attorney, finally defeated him in the Democratic primary, just two years before Read’s death in 1947 after an extended illness. He had retired to his long-time home at 1338 Greenup Street.¹¹

Civic and Political Duties

Read chaired efforts to honor veterans after World War I. A memorial tablet was placed in the city building naming soldiers and sailors killed.¹² Judge Read made known in 1918 that he had accepted the job of Democratic campaign manager for Kenton County, as a friend of Governor A. O. Stanley, who was then running for the United States Senate. It was a patriotic duty in carrying out the wishes of President Wilson, who has endorsed Stanley. Electing a Democrat was essential for supporting the policies of the President.¹³

In 1928, a petition signed by 4401 citizens was to be presented to Judge Read calling for an amendment of the Covington city charter to be placed on the ballot this fall regarding a new City Manager form of municipal government (which would be adopted in 1930).¹⁴ In 1928, meetings took place in Northern Kentucky counties to organize workers for a campaign to make Mammoth Cave a national park. Kenton County chairman Judge Read called a meeting of workers and others.¹⁵

Truancy

In 1917, a letter from the Covington Board of Education praised Read who was also the Kenton County juvenile judge, for “progress made in eradication of truancy in public schools.”¹⁶ An editorial entitled “Keep Up the Good Work” in the *Post* referred to that letter from the Board of Education thanking Read. The editorial noted the importance of school attendance and the value taxpayers get from such dedicated efforts.¹⁷

Family and Children

John B. Read apparently was a very hard-working County Judge. In those difficult times there were very many news reports about his and others’ plans and initiatives. However, the newspapers, of course, were not able to report all program outcomes put into perspective.

In 1920, Judge Read chaired the group organizing a Rotary Club for Covington (Rotary clubs do charity work). Ten persons had signed up and another meeting would soon be held to get enough members for a charter application to the national organiza-

tion.¹⁸ The *Kentucky Post* in 1922 posed a dozen questions and two of Read's answers were these: If he were a Covington official he would try to obtain playgrounds for our boys and girls. Covington's needs included a home for dependent and delinquent children and their maintenance by religious and fraternal organizations of day nurseries.¹⁹

Another charitable organization was the Humane Society. Judge Read was president in 1925. He addressed a letter to "...citizens of this county," appealing for funds and referring to the "comprehensive child aid program" which the society hoped to continue. The previous year the Society had aided hundreds of children who had suffered neglect by parents. The organization relied almost entirely on contributions.²⁰

Even before the upcoming stock market crash and Great Depression, Judge Read told the Covington Rotarians in 1927 that he had too many responsibilities to work on all the charitable needs. Having to preside over the Fiscal Court, the Quarterly Court and the Juvenile Court made it impossible to give enough attention to all the juvenile work.

He suggested establishment of a Domestic Relations Tribunal. It could be modeled after Ohio courts. It could help prevent divorces, separations and keep families together thus allowing more children to benefit from their parents' continued care. Churches should provide homes for delinquent children. He claimed that habitual truancy had been virtually eliminated in the county by having students report weekly to the teacher.

The county had indeed achieved very much. There were 11,000 children in the county. Of 135 cases, only eleven resulted in court sentences to the reformatory. He commended the two orphanages and praised the Rotary Club for its work surveying rural schools and in rehabilitating crippled children. At this meeting, Adelbert Thomas of the State Department of Health presented the survey of the rural schools of Kenton County provided by the Rotary and other Covington organizations. Under the leadership of Rotary clubs, 23 counties in Kentucky had been surveyed. One result had been the establishment of a full-time county health department in Henderson County.²¹

In 1928, Judge Read and attorney Alfred P. Lewis sponsored a bill in the state legislature requiring the consent of children before divorces are granted. For infants, a court would appoint a guardian *ad litem* to represent the interest of the minors. The guardian could require court-ordered witnesses to testify. Judge Read hoped that such legislation would curb separation and divorce and lead many couples to reconcile.²²

Juvenile Home in Devou Park

In 1927 as Judge for the Kenton County Juvenile Court, in a meeting of still another civic group, the Civitan Club, Read stated that a concrete road had been built in Devou Park but that World War I had delayed efforts to build a larger Covington Protestant Children's Home replacing the old building at Fourteenth and Madison Streets. The Civitan Club was then working on the community campaign requesting the cooperation of churches and organizations. Covington promised \$20,000 and the county and state might provide more.²³ In 1990, it was renamed the Children's Home of Northern Kentucky, now a specialized treatment and aid center for a variety of needy parents and children. It serves people of all religions without regard to race or creed.²⁴

Legal Aid Society

Judge Read in 1928 endorsed the idea wholeheartedly, proposed in a *Kentucky Post* editorial, that a Legal Aid Society be established for helping persons appearing before court but unable to pay for legal counsel. Judge Read and others, through the work of the Humane Society and Juvenile Court, saw that the poor need legal services as well as medical attention. The medical profession was already doing much work for the unfortunates of our community without recompense. Legal Aid Societies already served in big cities supported mainly thru the Community Chest fund.

There was no such local fund but Judge Read thought that, if called to the attention of the Bar Association, arrangements could be made. The Kenton County Bar Association President in 1928 named a committee. Sentiment seemed to favor moving forward with legal aid work by first studying the Cincin-



Children's Home of Northern Kentucky

nati Legal Aid Society. Younger members of the Bar could do the work under the supervision by older members. A group of younger members expressed their entire willingness, according to the newspaper.²⁵

Infrastructure

The sale of stock in the Dixie Water Company to the Kenton County Water District No. 1 was approved by stockholders in 1927. The Dixie Water Co. supplies water to Ft. Mitchell and suburban districts. In operation since 1926, it purchases water from the city of Covington and has a booster pump station on the Dixie Highway. Based on legislation passed by the state legislature in 1926, Judge Read appointed Stephens L. Blakely, F. J. Hanlon and Herbert Jackson commissioners for Water District No. 1.²⁶

In 1929, Judge Read, County Engineer Harry G. Meiners, County Attorney Alfred P. Lewis, Auditor Tom Rogers and County Commissioners Dan Huesman and Carl Bogenschutz represented Kenton

County in appealing to the State Highways Department for work to begin on the county's \$1,500,000 road building program. Separate delegations of city officials from Ludlow and Bromley also attended.²⁷

In 1932, at a joint meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court and the Bond Commission, it was decided to proceed with widening and improving the Dixie Highway. It would also be a relief measure for the unemployed. The work would be done between the Covington incorporation line and the end of Ft. Mitchell car line, about 1.4 miles, costing \$115,000. The federal government would pay \$22,500, the county \$50,000 and the state the remainder. The State Highway Department would pay back the county with work on other roads in the next few years, such as the Taylor Mill road, to be completed in April 1935.²⁸

During Judge Read's time, WPA construction in Kenton County as of 1940 included 102 miles of highways, streets and bridges; 29 bridges and viaducts of 388 linear feet; 276 bridges and viaducts of 5,211

linear feet; 276 miles of ditch and pipe; 15 miles of sidewalks and paths; 25 miles of curbs; 10.7 miles of gutters; two schools; one recreational building; one armory; one public building; one stadium; two parks; twelve playgrounds; four athletic fields; two swimming pools; one pumping station; one sewage treatment plant; 2 miles of water mains, aqueducts, and distribution lines; 1449 water consumer connections; 29 miles of storm and sanitary sewers; 108 sewer service connections; 490 sanitary lavatories; and .07 acres of unclassified drainage.²⁹

County Health

In the office of County Judge Read, a Child's Health Council was formed in 1928 for promoting health activities in parochial and public Schools. Read was appointed chair. Florence Hauswold of the State Child Health Bureau outlined the program.³⁰

Judge Read in 1929 was appointed chair of the Kenton County Board of Health and Dr. H. C. White County Health Officer at a meeting in the Judge's office. The new board members were Judge Read, Dr. White, Dr. Clifford N. Heisel, Dr. C. R. Slater and William H. Harton. The Board had acquired property at Tenth and Scott streets, and was preparing plans for a permanent building to facilitate the Children's Clinic, Antituberculosis League and other health organizations.³¹ The *Kentucky Post* on August 2nd 1929 printed a front page photo of Judge Read laying the cornerstone for the new county health building.³²

After working part time for the county, Dr. Henry Clay White was appointed to head the new county health office, charged with providing medical services, including nursing and dental, for school and for indigent needs. During the 1937 flood Dr. White provided antidotes for typhoid and tetanus and provided other special needs. White headed the county health office at 912 Scott Street until 1954, with the title by then of County Health Commissioner.

In the 1920s, it had become even more urgent to provide free diagnostic clinics, school inspections, and nursing service along with the State Board



Judge Read laying the cornerstone for the county health building

of Health's own sanatoriums. In 1920, Kentucky's death rate from typhoid was one of the highest in the nation. By 1929, with Rockefeller foundation aid, Kentucky had 45 full-time departments; in 1940 eighty-six of the state's 120 counties had full-time health departments under the State Board of Health.³³

Rural Extension

At a Covington Chamber of Commerce meeting in 1929, Judge Read spoke of the importance of Agricultural Extension before an audience of county agents and county judges. Judge Read gave an overview of Kenton County agriculture. County extension agents meet every two months to discuss their work. Rural contentment was important and extension work vital, Read said. Of 104,320 acres of land in the county 84,000 or eighty per cent were farms. Owners farmed seventy-five percent, tenants the rest. According to the last census the value of farm crops in 1924 was \$78,709.³⁴

In the Midst of the Great Depression

The annual report made public in 1930 by Judge Read, President of the Humane Society, might to many make the twenty-first century seem more tolerable. The Great Depression followed the Stock Market Crash in late 1929. In the year ending in October 1930, the Humane Society had handled 2,998 complaints in one of the busiest years in its history. It did approximately 3989 investigations and received about 4785 phone calls about every type of charitable and humane case.

Pauper account expenditures were \$5783.76 handled by Tinsley Rogers county humane officer and overseer of the poor. The Humane division spent \$1956. Rogers was assisted by police matron Cassie Mayer. Of 181 arrests made, 170 parents were charged with cruelty to their children; two per cent for cruelty to animals; and the balance were Police Court offenses. The Humane Society also collected alimony awarded to wives by the Circuit Court. In 1929, \$36,751.11 was collected and turned over to the mothers. 211 fathers were then paying alimony for 330 children. The Humane Society's working income came from contributions of various organizations, individuals and societies.³⁵

The year 1931 was busy and difficult for Judge Read and others. In his courtroom in the Covington City Building, the Executive Committee discussed terminating the Kenton County Relief Committee. Chairman John C. Hermann said that it was in competition with other relief organizations seeking similar sources of funds. It would have to disband or find a way to continue. Representatives were to meet with other charitable organizations hoping to make plans for the Relief Committee either to continue or to disband and leave the work to others.

The Relief Committee at that time was aiding seventy-five to one hundred families. Aid had to continue whether or not the County Committee was disbanded. The Committee was giving employment to sixteen men permanently and forty-three temporarily; six women permanently and fifteen women temporarily. A small portion remained of the \$10,000 given by the city of Covington. Since organizing some months previous, the Committee had received

\$2,033.30 in donations. From the sale of wood cut by men getting relief, \$1,934.24 had been raised. The County Relief Committee had been handling cases other organizations had not listed on their programs. For November 24 to January 20, the Relief Committee reported: food orders 1196; clothing 448; coal orders 235; wood orders 109; families given no relief 249; cases referred to other agencies 82; unable to locate (wrong address) 58.³⁶

Apparently, the County Relief Committee was continued as articles of incorporation were filed in November 1931 by John C. Hermann, Forest J. Alvin, John J. Bell, Judge John B. Read and Ullie Howard, with charity its purpose and contributions its means of support.³⁷

Also in 1931, Judge Read was made president of a new organization called the Babies Milk Fund Association of Covington organized in Mayor Thomas F. Donnelly's office and sponsored by Dr. James P. Riffe, Covington Health Officer, and Dr. H. C. White, County Health Officer. Fifteen were named to the Board of Directors. Judge Read said that he would soon appoint five prominent citizens to solicit funds from merchants and civic and fraternal organizations.³⁸ Judge Read was again elected president of the Humane Society.³⁹

By 1932 the Kenton County Relief Fund had run out of money. A letter was sent to a selected list of 1000 Kenton County citizens making a special appeal for funds. \$200 per week was said to be required for the present relief and unemployment. The city and county had already contributed much and had about reached their limit.⁴⁰ That same year in Judge Read's courtroom, plans were started on another strategic initiative, the Kenton County Relief Chest, Chairman John Richards named temporary chairmen for the six city wards and one for the county district. Chairman Neuman Armstrong announced a date for organizing the latter. Then the County Relief Chest would meet again in Judge Read's courtroom.⁴¹

The Latonia Race Track and Kenton County Centennial Celebration⁴²

Judge Read would make comments at the opening ceremony prior to Eleanor Roosevelt in Washington pressing the button at 9 p. m. on June

14th to open officially a ten-day Kenton County Centennial celebration at the Latonia Race Course.⁴³

On July 8, 1938 Franklin D. Roosevelt himself had appeared at the Latonia Race Track in a rally before a crowd estimated to be 15,000 to 35,000, or possibly even more, for Alben W. Barkley, running for the Senate against A. B. "Happy" Chandler. In a notable incident, documented in a photo, Chandler, a fellow Democrat, had forcibly seated himself in the parade vehicle. Chandler waved and beamed a wide smile, with Barkley seated on one side and FDR on the other, both obviously embarrassed by the wretched intrusion.⁴⁴

In February 1940 the *Kentucky Post* reported that Centennial organizers John R. Walsh and L. J. Dooley while in Washington would have an appointment and invite President Roosevelt to Covington. It would be a return engagement, the newspaper noted, given F. D. R.'s recent appearance in 1938.⁴⁵ The President, however, did not come, but Mrs. Roosevelt was to push the ceremonial opening switch for the Centennial from Washington.

The celebration was expected to attract more than 10,000 persons through the gates which were to open at 1:00 p. m. that afternoon. Featured entertainment included a tight rope walker 110 feet high, the Beckmann and Gerety Shows, a unit of the Amusement Corp. of America and Ted Fio Rito and His Band⁴⁶ playing dance music from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a. m. The dance floor was a specially built platform. Another orchestra played in the afternoons from 2:00 to 5:00 p. m. The Kenton County Women's Political History Committee, Kenton County Homemakers Committee and the Kenton County Agricultural Committee presented many exhibits. It was a ten-day celebration from June 14 to June 23 at the Latonia Race Track. Admission would be ten cents.⁴⁷

The variety of attractions included talks by visiting notables like the Covington Mayor and races. The Gerety troupe included freaks, dancers, thrills. Performer Prince Nelson did breath-taking aerobatics on a tight wire 110 feet in the air, without a net below, afternoon and evening. WCPO apparently did

regular broadcast programs from a glass booth. Fans could watch Harry Hartman broadcast Cincinnati Reds ballgames.⁴⁸

The Kenton County Centennial celebration committee included executive manager John R. Walsh; committee secretaries Ms. Frances Brown and Ms. Anna Fahy; publicity chair Larry J. Dooley; committeemen, Judge Read, Sheriff Henry A. Berndt and Judge Rodney G. Bryson; and general counsel Martin J. Brown. In January 1940, the committee mailed invitations to national, state, county and city officials.⁴⁹

Heavy downpours on the first three days did not prevent 28,000 persons from attending. In the circus or carnival atmosphere, another aerial act was added as well as other new featured attractions. Kenton County women had done a fine exhibit that presents the historical aspect of the celebration in the shelter of the grandstand.

As quoted from the Kenton County Centennial celebration booklet (at least fifty pages):⁵⁰

"The Latonia Race Track is the scene of the Kenton County Centennial. Mr. Maurice L. Galwin,⁵¹ affectionately known as "M. L." to his friends, of which there are legion, turned over the magnificent race course grounds to the people of Kenton County in order that they might fittingly celebrate the 100th anniversary of the County."

"Mr. Galwin, and his associates in the Churchill Downs-Latonia Corporation, Samuel A. Culbertson, M. J. Winn, A. J. Carrol, Polk Laffoon,⁵² and Charles Price are hereby extended the grateful thanks of the People of Kenton County."

The Latonia Race Track had been prosperous and prominent nationally. The stock market crash and Great Depression spelled its demise. A partnership then owned both Latonia and Churchill Downs. In those hard times the ownership was unable to keep both financially viable at the same time. The old Latonia Race Track concluded its last meet on July 29, 1939. The Latonia Race Course was sold on March 24, 1942 to the Latonia Refining Corporation (Sohio) for \$263,000. Very soon dismantling of the grandstand, stables and, other buildings started.⁵³

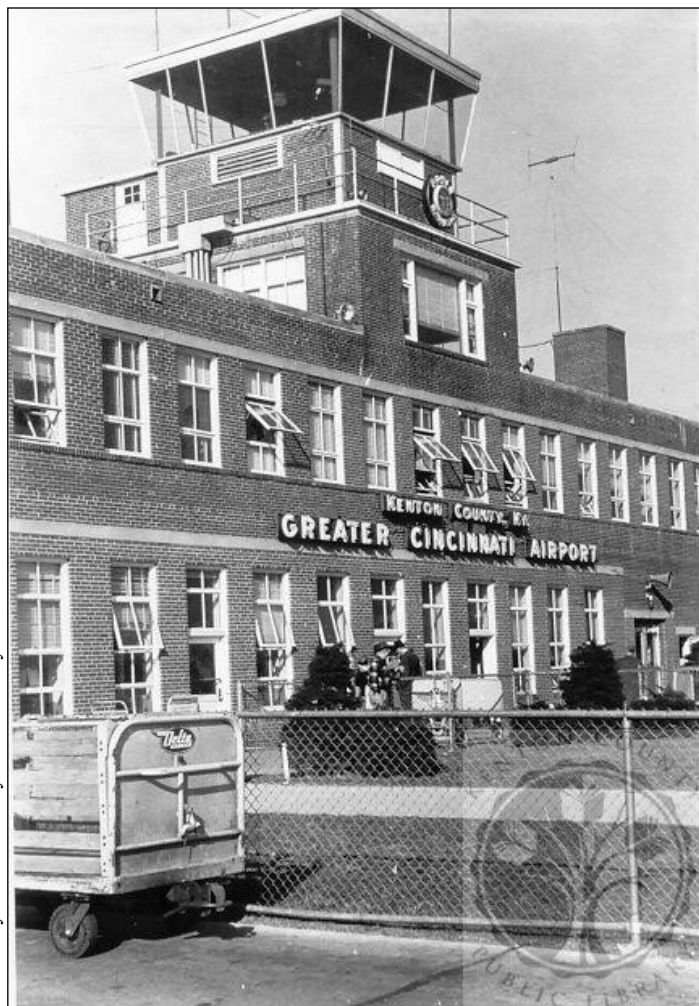
World War II and the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport

Lunken Airport was flood-prone as seen in 1937. Shortly before U. S. entry into World War II, the U. S. military wanted an alternative landing area. Nationally the federal government funded construction or improvements for over 300 airports on sites provided by local governments or organizations. This would include the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport in Boone County. The Kenton County Fiscal Court paid engineer O. G. Loomis who found a higher elevation in Boone County. Loomis got the consent of Judge Nathaniel E. Riddell of the Boone County Fiscal Court to sponsor an airport project.

The Kenton County Fiscal Court however would pay for the land. Loomis with two others confirmed the location, a flat area at Hebron. American, Delta and TWA airlines executives were persuaded to commit to the new airport for the long run. Kenton County Attorney William E. Wehrman started forced sale proceedings for acquisition of several parcels of land. Approval came for \$2 million in federal funds to quickly build four runways and connecting taxiways. The Kenton County Fiscal Court created a Kenton County Airport Board in 1943. In 1944 runway construction was completed and days later U. S. Army Air Corp bombers practiced landings and take-offs and used the runways in Boone County until September 1945.⁵⁴ John Read's long career as County Judge ended.

Judge Read's Legacy

In 1948, members of the Kenton County Bar Association placed a large portrait of the recently deceased Read in the Kenton County courtroom of the City Building at Third and Court streets. A resolution was read and made part of the bar association's official record: The late Judge Read was long a bulwark of the Democratic Party. During his judgeship the first concrete roads were built in Kenton County; the site of the Kenton County Airport and the Tuberculosis Sanatorium acquired and the County's Vocational School begun. Judge Read conducted a program of disposing of juvenile cases in a manner that provided the offender with a desire to rectify his mistake and follow a worth while (sic) course.⁵⁵



Courtesy Kenton County Public Library — Faces and Places

Endnotes

1. Jim Reis, "John B. Read Led Kenton with Foresight, Compassion," K. P., Oct. 18, 1998
2. "Eagles to Add 100," K. P., April 23, 1929, p. 1
3. "Club is Lauded," K.P., May 14, 1929, p. 7
4. "Not All Work, Kiwanis Club Combined Pleasure with Business," K. P., May 28, 1931, p. 5
5. Jim Reis, cited above
6. In 1975 an amendment to the constitution "relieved" the county judge and commissioners of "judicial duties." The chief Kenton County officer in now the "Judge-Executive." - A Citizens Guide to the Kentucky Constitution, Compiled by Laura Hromyak Hendrix, Edited by Tom Lewis and others from the Legislative Research Commission, Frankfort, Kentucky, revised October 2005
7. "For County Judge," photo, K. P., July 31, 1913, p. 5
8. "A. O. Stanley," a brief, recollection written immediately after Stanley's death in 1958 by Laurie Blakely recalling the story of Read's appointment - vertical Files, Kenton County Public Library, local history section
9. "Candidates File," K. P., June 26, 1929, p. 1
10. "Primary Opposition for Judge Read," K. P., July 3, 1929, p. 1
11. Jim Reis, cited above
12. Jim Reis, cited above
13. "Read to Campaign," K. P., Oct. 5, 1918, p. 1
14. "Will Petition [City] Manager Vote," K. P., Sept. 4, 1928, p. 1
15. "Park Fund \$2500 Nearer!" K. P., Feb. 26, 1928, p. 1
16. "Judge Read Is Commended on Truancy War," K. P., Feb. 6, 1917, p. 1
17. "Keep Up the Good Work," editorial, K. P., Feb. 7, 1917, p. 3
18. "Rotary Club in Covington," K. T. S., Oct. 23, 1920, p. 9
19. "Know Him? John Read Kenton-co Jurist," photo, K.P., June 28, 1922, p. 1
20. "Humane Society in Need of Funds," K. T. S., March 17, 1925, p. 3
21. "Read Proposes Another Court," K.P., March 25, 1927, p. 10
22. "Judge Hopes to Curb Divorce Evil in State," K. P. Feb. 9, 1928, p. 1
23. "Juvenile Home Urged by Civitans," K. P., June 16, 1927, p. 1
24. *Gateway City, Covington, Kentucky, 1815-2015*, edited by Paul A. Tenkotte, James C. Claypool and David E. Schroeder, Covington, Kentucky: Clerisy Press pp, 127-129
25. "Lawyers Move to Give Aid," K. P. Feb. 24, 1928, p. 1

Kentucky Trivia

A new, ongoing feature from Michael Crisp's

"The Best Kentucky Trivia Book Ever," available at
bookstores or at michaelcrispsonline.com

This issue features

Strange Laws

Questions

1. in many parts of Kentucky, it is illegal to use this type of weapon for fishing.
2. In Owensboro, a lady is forbidden to purchase this type of clothing without her husband's permission.
3. Section 1 of Ordinance #0-5-2001 in Fort Thomas strictly prohibits a person's pet from "molesting" pedestrians on these large moving objects.
4. Until KRS 437.050 was repealed in 1975, what prison sentence could you get for "throwing missiles" at a public speaker?
5. According to KRS 436.600, "no person shall sell, exchange, display or possess living baby chicks, ducklings or rabbits which have been dyed or colored" unless you meet this quantity of animals.
6. In Lexington, it is illegal to carry this type of food in your back pocket while walking down the street.
7. In Frankfort, it is illegal to shoot this off of a police officer's uniform.
8. By law, every Kentucky citizen is required to take one of these at least once a year.
9. Kentucky law states that a person is "sober" unless her or she cannot hold onto this.
10. By law, a woman who is a resident of Kentucky cannot do this to the same man more than three times.

Answers

1. Bow and arrow at six weeks if each weighs
2. A hat more than 3 pounds
3. Passing vehicles
4. 6-12 months and \$50-\$500
5. Six. The animals must also be at least 2 months of age, with the exception of rabbits, which may be sold
6. An ice cream cone
7. His or her necktie
8. A shower or bath
9. The ground
10. Marry him

26. "Sale Approved, Dixie Water Co. Stockholders Give O. K. to Project," K. P. Aug. 4, 1927, p. 3
27. "To Make Appeal, Delegations Will Seek to Have Road Work Started," K. P., Jan. 21, 1929, p. 2
28. "Dixie Highway Contribution to the Project Given as a Relief Measure," K. P., Jan. 8, 1932, p. 1
29. "Report Is Made on WPA Projects...Three Local Counties are Included," KY Post, July 10, 1940, p. 5
30. "Plan Health Council," K. P., Dec. 5, 1928, p. 1
31. "Board is Organized. Judge John B. Read Is Named Chairman of Kenton-co Group," K. P., May 25, 1929, p. 1
32. "Judge John B. Read, of Kenton County Fiscal Court, Laying Cornerstone of New Kenton County Health Building," (photo) K. P., Aug. 2, 1929, p. 1.
33. Dr. Alvin Charles Poweleit, "The Kenton-Campbell Area of Kentucky--Its Medical History and Society--The Campbell-Kenton Medical Society" (1957), Papers of the Christopher Gist Society; John H. Ellis, *Medicine in Kentucky, 1977*; phone interview with Virginia Jones by John Boh
34. "Read Is Speaker at Meeting. 'Agricultural Extension' Is Jurist's Subject," K. P., July 16, 1929, p. 2; "Judge Speaks. Rural Population Must Be Contented, Says Read," K. P., July 17, 1929, p. 2
35. "Society Files Annual Report," K. P., Nov. 26, 1930, p. 3
36. "May Disband County Relief," K.P., May 12, 1931, p. 5
37. "Articles Filed. Kenton-co Relief Organization Is Incorporated," K. P., Dec. 16, 1931, p. 1
38. "Prepare Plans for Milk Drive," (photo), K. P., July 8, 1931, p. 4
39. "Society Elects. Kenton-co Humane Officers are Renamed for a Term," K. P., Nov. 13, 1931, p. 1
40. "Relief Fund in Kenton-co Is Exhausted," K. P., March 7, 1932, p. 1
41. "Relief Plans Being Pushed. Temporary Ward Chairman for Chest Are Named," K. P. April 30, 1932, p. 1
42. The Kentucky legislature on January 29, 1840 passed an act stating that all land west of the Licking River then in Campbell County will henceforth become the new county of Kenton County as of April 30th 1840 with a county seat located as near the center of the new county as possible. - Kentucky Acts 1839-40, pp. 109-111; *Western Globe*, Jan. 29, 1840
43. Mrs. Roosevelt to Open Centennial Celebration Officially Tonight - Big Kenton-co Show Is On at Track; Gates Opened for 10-Day Observance," (photo) K. P., June 14, 1940, p. 1
44. James C. Claypool, *The Tradition Continues, The Story of Old Latonia, Latonia and Turfway Racecourses*, T. I. Hayes Publishing Co., 1997, p. 82; Jim Reis, "The 'Race of the Century'... Chandler, Barkley Vied for Roosevelt's Attention in Tight Senate Race," K. P., Feb. 28, 2005, p. 4K
45. "F. D. R. to Hear of Centennial," K. P., Feb. 24, 1940, p. 2
46. "Theodore Salvatore Fiorito (December 20, 1900 – July 22, 1971), ¹ known professionally as Ted Fio Rito, was an American composer, orchestra leader, and keyboardist, on both the piano and the Hammond organ, who was popular on national radio broadcasts in the 1920s and 1930s. His name is sometimes given as Ted Fiorito or Ted FioRito" – Wikipedia, "Ted Fio Rito"
47. "Mrs. Roosevelt to Open Centennial Celebration...", cited above
48. "Hi, Lookee, Lookee! See the Show at Latonia," K. P., June 15, 1940, p. 1
49. "Centennial Committee Begins Campaign," (photo) K. P., Jan. 9, 1940, p. 1
50. Listed in the Centennial booklet were Judge Read and County Commissioners George F. Collopy, Hugh Smith and M. L. Finan; County Attorney William F. Wehrman, County Clerk Sam Furst, Covington Mayor William Beuttel, Jr., Covington Police Judge Eugene Benzinger, President of the Chamber of Commerce J. Wayne Rusk, Jr., the thirteen-member Agricultural Committee; and dozens of women on Kenton County Homemakers Centennial Committee from Independence, Covington, Bromley, Ft. Mitchell, Walton, Erlanger, Lakeside, Demossville, and Spring Lake. The booklet had reminiscences by Pryor Tarvin, editor of the *Kentucky Times Star*; "Mason-Dixon's Line" by Carl Saunders, editor of the *Kentucky Post*; brief notes about "early churches," Monte Casino, Governor Goebel and Frank Duveneck, commercial ads, etc.; "This History Printed by Acorn Press," 411 Madison Ave, Covington
51. Covington born Maurice Galvin was part of Latonia Race Track management that oversaw the sale of the Latonia Racecourse to Standard Oil. A very prominent lawyer, he worked for Kentucky governors. He was also attorney for the Stewart Iron Works, the Union, Light, Heat and Power Co., the C & O Railroad and other prominent clients and was cofounder of WKCY. - See Karl Lietzenmayer, "Maurice Galvin," Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society, March/April 2013; see Roger Auge, "Maurice L. Galvin," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, edited by Paul A. Tenkotte and James C. Claypool, Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 2009, p. 384
52. Polk Laffoon, Jr., was a prominent Northern Kentucky thoroughbred horse racing enthusiast and owner. He was president of the Latonia Jockey Club which operated the Latonia Racecourse. He was Vice-president of Churchill Downs. - see "Laffoon, Polk, Jr.," *Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, p. 528
53. James C. Claypool, *The Tradition Continues*, p. 91; "Latonia Race Course," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, pp. 537, 538
54. "Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, pp. 179-181
55. "Portrait of Judge Is Unveiled, in Ceremonies at Covington City Building – John B. Read Honored by Bar," K. E., April 14, 1948, p. 1K

Then and Now



Left: F.W Woolworth at 7th and Madison in Covington, circa 1942
Right: The Madison Event Center which occupies the same building today.
Left image courtesy Wikipedia, right image courtesy The Madison website.

Mystery Photo

Can you identify the Mystery Photo? The answer is found below.



Answer:

The unusually shaped buildings on the northwest corner of Pike and Madison, Covington.

Kenton County Historical Society

March/April 2020

ARTICLES FROM BACK ISSUES ARE INDEXED ON OUR WEBSITE!

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I Bet You Didn't Know

*Tidbits from Kentucky's heritage
for every day of the calendar year*

March 1, 1862: Camp Beaugard, a Confederate training center in Graves County was evacuated. Epidemic had killed 1,000 men.

March 6, 1866: Berea college officially became integrated with the enrollment of three black girls as students.

March 18, 1925: A series of tornadoes swept across Kentucky causing millions of dollars in damages and killing 17 people.

April 9, 1865: Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army of Northern Virginia to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.

April 12, 1861: Fort Sumter was attacked. Maj. Robert Anderson, a Kentuckian, was in charge of the fort.

From: *On This Day In Kentucky*, by Robert Powell

Programs and Notices

Kenton County Historical Society

Northern Kentucky Regional History Day, **Saturday March 14, 2020**, Erlanger library

8:00 a.m. - Registration and look at display tables

9:00 - 9:45 a.m.

Keynote speaker Bob Webster will present "A Brief History of Northern Kentucky"

10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m. First Sessions

Dave Schroeder - "He Went to Buy the Thanksgiving Turkey, But Never Came Home"

Paul Tenkotte - "Women's Suffrage in Northern Kentucky"

Doug Von Strohe - "Everyday People: Life in Covington, 1850-1920"

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Second Sessions

Wayne Onkst - "Presidential Visits to Kentucky, 1819-2017"

Stuart Sanders - "The Ohio Belle Murder"

Kaira Tucker - "Tiptoe Through the Tombstones: Cemetery Adventures in Northern Kentucky and Beyond"

12:45 p.m.-1:45 p.m. Third Sessions

Pamela Ciafardini Casebolt - "The Wadsworth Watch Case Company of Dayton, KY"

Bernie Spencer - "Latonia and the Great Aviation Meet of 1909"

Bridget Stryker - "Historic African American Resources in Boone County"

Behringer Crawford Museum

The Annual Two-Headed Calf Award Dinner

This joyous gala will commence at 6 p.m., **Thursday, April 9** at Northern Kentucky University's Votruba Student Union Ballroom. The event will include dinner, cocktails, live music, a silent auction, raffles, free parking, and then the both serious and light-hearted awards ceremony. Four categories of recipients will be honored.

GREAT NEWS! KCHS President ROBERT WEBSTER will be receiving Two Headed Calf recognition for exceptional achievements in the "HISTORY" category! Tickets are \$100 per person or \$800 for an entire table. For reservations, call 859-491-4003 or purchase tickets online.

"Be Moonstruck by the Fashion of a Female Icon"

"From Rituals to Runways: The Art of the Bead Exhibit"

If you don't have tickets for Cher's Cincinnati concert on April 7 (or even if you do!), you can still get an up-close look at some of the music icon's glittering and glamorous costumes at the Behringer-Crawford Museum. Four of Cher's dazzling beaded outfits are on display as part of the museum's newest exhibit, "From Rituals to Runways: The Art of the Bead." The costumes, mostly created through the tambour beading process, were designed by celebrity Hollywood designer Bob Mackie and worn by the star for the Sonny & Cher TV show and concerts during the 1960s and 1970s.

The exhibit celebrates the art and integral roles that beads have played in society over the centuries, from prayer and devotion, to art, fashion and décor. They've been made from wood and stone, bone and tooth, glass, plastic and gemstones – all of which are represented in the exhibit, which runs through May 10.

A number of special activities will take place during the exhibit. For more information or to purchase tickets for any of the events, see the website or call the museum at (859) 491-4003. Learn the Art of Beading as Hands-On Workshops will begin at BCM: Tambour Beading Workshop with Robert Haven; Beaded Jewelry Workshops; and Beaded Flower Workshops. (See the Museum's website for information including cost per workshop.