

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Bulletin

May 2000

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KCHS MEETING

DATE Tuesday May 9

TIME 7 - 9 PM

PLACE Trinity Church
4th & Madison
Covington

PROGRAM The Stones
of Covington

Dr. Kees DeJon, Professor of Geology, University of Cincinnati and Henry Brueggeman, Stone Mason, will give us interesting insight into the historic walls that surround us. Refreshments served.

From the President.....

On April 25, The Kentucky Bank held their grand opening at the resurrected Mosler Building (1835) at 3rd and Scott, Covington. Although we know the building as "Mosler," it was built for the Bank of Kentucky, the first depository in Covington.

While we munched on hors d'oeuvres, the pride of those assembled in this building was evident, pride in this extensive renovation, quite an accomplishment. I was reminded of the effort it took to save this remnant of early Covington. There were plenty of forces ready to take it down, but in this instance preservationists and astute planning of viable uses came together to save it.

The Kentucky Bank Building will certainly be included on the tourist circuit, as much as the homes of Riverside, Jack Quinn's restored restaurant and historic area churches. The Society would like to publicly thank all those involved in this endeavor. It wouldn't hurt to patronize the building's resident companies: The Kentucky Bank, Munninghoff, Lange & Company, CPAs, and 722 Redemption Funding.



From the Program Coordinator.....

Dr. Kees DeJon, Professor of Geology from the University of Cincinnati, discusses his research of stones in some of the great buildings of this area.

Henry Brueggeman, Stone Mason, tells interesting stories about stones in the great houses of Covington.

Bernards Bakery, of Covington and Newport, will graciously provide refreshments.

Parking available at the church, corner lot and north of church.

WEB SITE <http://www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histsoc/>

Profile of a KCHS Volunteer: Karl Lietzenmayer, President

by Jo Ann Brown

Many of you may not know Karl Lietzenmayer. Many of you may know him only through his activities in KCHS, his passion for historic preservation. He is super enthusiastic about many things: sometimes it's hard to get him to talk about anything but the project he is working on at the moment. Besides being an historian, he is a chemist, musician, and teacher. Because of his conservative do-it-yourself German background, he is also house painter and mechanic. Because of strong opinions on politics, he is a civic activist. Because of his love for God and church, he is a liturgist student of theology. He is passionate about life. What makes the man? Let me put together a little biography.

On Decoration Day, 1923, through the mist of early dawn, 21 year old Otto Lietzenmayer spied the Lady---welcoming the poor, the hungry, downtrodden. After many days at sea, he landed on Ellis Island.

Economic upheaval in Germany following WW I, had dispersed the Lietzenmayer family from Frankfort to the Americas. Otto's uncle, his father's brother, had gone to Lima, Peru, and that's where Otto was headed. He worked off his passage to the U.S. at a farm in Greenville, Ohio, then came to Northern Kentucky where his brother lived. He had planned to stay with him temporarily until he got enough money to go on to Peru. In the meantime, he met petite Loretta Heithaus. She captured his heart, and he never saw Peru.

They lived in Dayton,



Kentucky, next door to his brother. After Karl was born, they moved to Fort Mitchell, where he attended Blessed Sacrament School.

Karl went on to Xavier High School in Cincinnati, where he got involved in music. He and his friends created the Four Jays Quartet in 1953. They felt they really hit the big time when they sang with Billy May and his band at Castle Farm. Karl even arranged the music for the rhythm section of the band. Alas, the Four Jays broke up when the guys went on to college.

Karl attended Thomas More College, majoring in Chemistry. But his real love was history, so he went on to Xavier University for his masters in history, specializing in oriental history, graduating in 1967. He taught history for 4 years. Marriage and children called for a more lucrative occupation, and he joined the Andrew Jergens Company as a chemist. He retired from Jergens in 1993 where he was supervisor in quality control.

When he wasn't working at Jergens, he pursued his love for music in addition to taking time to be a father. He had learned piano as a child, learned the mandolin by ear, took voice lessons from a woman from Austria named Anni Snitzler Donath, (a woman with a fascinating story, according to Karl, but I won't include it here). While in college, he sang with Leo Grote, founding director of the Chorale Club at Mother of God Church. Mr. Grote, a wonderful mentor for Karl, retired in 1968 and asked Karl to take over as conductor. Karl was fortunate to hire as organist, Mark Schaeffer, son of Bob and Rita Schaeffer, well known organists especially at Cathedral of St. Mary. The high point of their work together was to do Mozart's Requiem with orchestra. It was a "glorious musical experience" according to Karl. He had studied every recording ever made of Mozart's Requiem. The Chorale Club had forty members at the time.

In 1995, Karl is fortunate to have married Peggy Carson who shares his love of music, antiques, church and community work. Peggy is an accomplished soprano who studied at the College Conservatory of Music and spent some years conducting children's choirs and in musical theatre. They both sing in the Northern Kentucky Symphony Chorus and in the choir at Trinity Episcopal Church where they are members. They are often called on to perform duets and sing in many other musical events.

Karl's involvement in KCHS is fairly recent. In 1986, he



Karl, David Black, Pat O'Brian, Bob Gausepohl
The Four Jays

bought a 103 year old house in Latonia built by James Earle, mayor of Latonia. Karl started researching the Earle family. Charles King at Kenton County Library and John Burns, professor of history and author of the History of Covington taught him how to do the research, creating Karl's increased interest in local history. Now Karl could not only teach history, he could write it. Karl began attending KCHS meetings.

Karl jumps into things with both feet. He got involved in KCHS immediately, and by 1993 had published the first Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine sponsored by KCHS. With Jim Kelly's expertise in production, the magazine won the American Association for State and Local History award in 1995. In 1997, the magazine won the Kentucky State Historical Society Award.

Karl was elected president in 1999 after two terms as secretary. He is very proud that KCHS won the Kentucky State Historical Society President's Award for Excellence this year. He believes a

combination of attributes won the award: the publishing of Newport Barracks, and other papers, improved programs, improved bulletin, and the continuation of Northern Kentucky Heritage.

NKH is a time consuming project, and when his term as president expires, he plans to continue with the magazine full-time. Well, almost. He is on the Board of Preston Plantation in Trimble County. He does substitute teaching, works in a music store, works on his 103 year old house. He is also continuing his musical activities, caring for his 95 year old mother, and keeping up with his six children, four step-children, and nine grandchildren.

From the Historical Confederation of Kentucky

Paris, through May 30, exhibit at Hopewell Museum, God Home and Country: Victorian Punch Paper Needlepoint

Frankfort, through June 4, Kentucky History Center, Saving Kentucky's Treasures

Paducah, through July 8, Museum of American Quilter's Society, Celebrating 20 years of Quilt Scholarship

Louisville, through July, Filson Club Historical Society, Samuel M. Plato: Building a Dream

South Union, Shaker Museum, Then and Now: A Museum's Progression, phone 800-811-8379

Editor's Note

Thanks to Ray and Nina Wood of Chicago who sent us a March 12th article from the Chicago Tribune about Covington's Virginia Bennett, considered by towboat captains and pilots to be a "harbor mother."

The Kentucky Post published an article about her on Monday, April 22, stating that a mile marker had been installed in her honor. We hope we can do a follow-up story.

A Three Hour Cruise Up the Licking River

Saturday August 5, 2000

1:30 PM - 5 PM

from Queen City Riverboats Harbor, Dodd Drive, Dayton

\$10.00 per person

Join the Campbell County, Kenton County Historical and Genealogical Societies aboard The Spirit of Cincinnati. Send your payment as soon as possible to The Campbell County Historical and Genealogical Society, 19 East Main Street, Alexandria, Kentucky 41001 Phone 635-6407

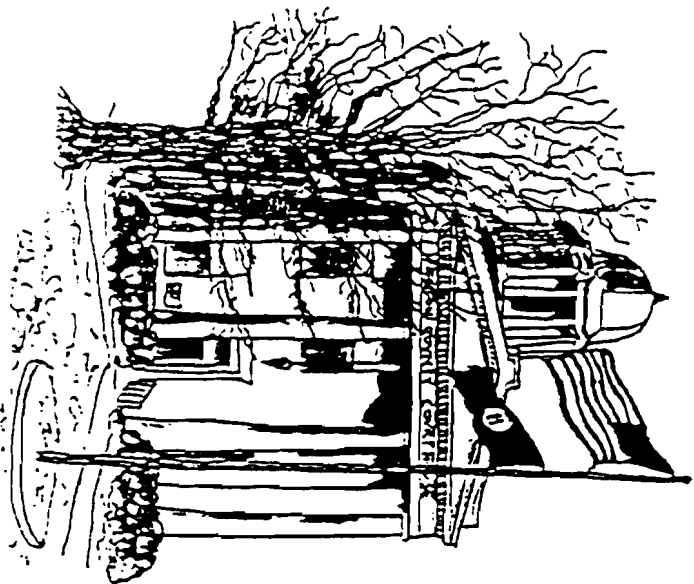
Super Saturday Samplers Kentucky Historical Society

A series of Saturday events designed for children and families. These events will be held seven times throughout the year at the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort. For more information about any of these events, contact Jennie Boyd at (502) 564-1792

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