



Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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November / December

2008

I Bet You Didn't Know

Tidbits of Northern Kentucky History

I bet you didn't know Thomas More College was originally Villa Madonna College.

In 1903, Villa Madonna Academy, a Catholic convent and girls' boarding school opened atop a hill overlooking the Ohio River three miles west of Bromley. The college organized there in 1921 and operated until 1929, when it moved to 12th and Scott in Covington. The school was the first four-year degree institution in Northern Kentucky.

The new campus in Crestview Hills was dedicated in 1968. The new name was in honor of Thomas More, lord chancellor of England, who was martyred for his faith under King Henry VIII.

The Kentucky Encyclopedia, Kleber

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The Kenton County Historical Society
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Ex officio - Karl Lietzenmayer

Upcoming Programs

Celebrating American Roots Music

The Behringer-Crawford Museum, in cooperation with the Kentucky Humanities Council, will host: *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music*, a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition.

Through a selection of photographs, recordings, instruments, lyrics and artist profiles, this wonderful exhibit will explore the distinct cultural identities of American roots music forms. The exhibition will examine the progression of American roots music, as rich and eclectic as our country itself. *New Harmonies* will be on view beginning with an opening reception on Friday November 14. The exhibition closes January 9, 2009. For more information, contact the museum at www.bcmuseum.org or at (859) 491-4003.

Annual Historical Society Christmas Party

This year's annual Christmas party will once again be held at the historic Amos Shinkle Townhouse – a bed and breakfast located at 215 Garrard Street in Covington. All Society members and their guests are welcome. We will supply hors d'oeuvres and drinks, but feel free to bring a festive dish if you'd like. For additional information, contact the Society at (859) 431-2666.

Date: Tuesday December 16, 2008. Time: 6:30 in the evening.

History Day 2009 — Mark Your Calendar

History Day 2009 has been scheduled for Saturday April 4, 2009 in the brand new NKU Student Union Building. Though details are far from being finalized, it is certainly time to mark your calendars now! More information will follow in the January/February Bulletin. For further information, please contact John Boh at (859) 491-0490.

ARTICLES FROM BACK ISSUES ARE INDEXED ON OUR WEBSITE!

Sister Mary St. Clair, SND

Northern Kentucky Teacher and Musician

Karl Lietzenmayer

On 5 April 1901 the youngest child of Adolf and Clara Kentrup Schramm was born. The baby girl was christened Jeanette Bertha at Mother of God (Mutter Gottes) Church, Covington on 11 April that year. Her father was a dentist and Jeanette joined her sister Hilda and her five brothers to complete the family's seven children.

The family lived at 719 Madison Avenue in the heart of the city and Jeanette grew up as a member of Mother of God parish and attended Notre Dame Academy, then located on 5th Street.¹ All the children attended Notre Dame through the eighth grade and the girls would continue high school in the all-girl NDA. Jeanette studied piano with Sisters Agneta and Innocenta from age ten until she graduated from high school in 1920. During her years at the Academy, she was consistently featured as an accompanist and soloist in the school's recitals and plays.

Jeanette's mother died on 4th June, 1922² and the very next year, she entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Notre Dame, leaving her four brothers home with her father. Hilda had married in 1918,³ but her father and brothers were unhappy to see her leave home. Both they and most of her friends made no secret that they fully expected her to leave the novitiate and return home soon. Most thought her personality was not suited to convent life.

How mistaken they were! On 3 January 1924, Jeanette was invested and made her first vows two years later. As a novice, she took the name Mary St. Clare, in honor of her deceased mother, Clara. Her first teaching position was in one of the Notre Dame grade schools. In 1928, she was appointed assistant to Sister Mary Erma in the music department of Notre Dame Academy – accompanying the chorus

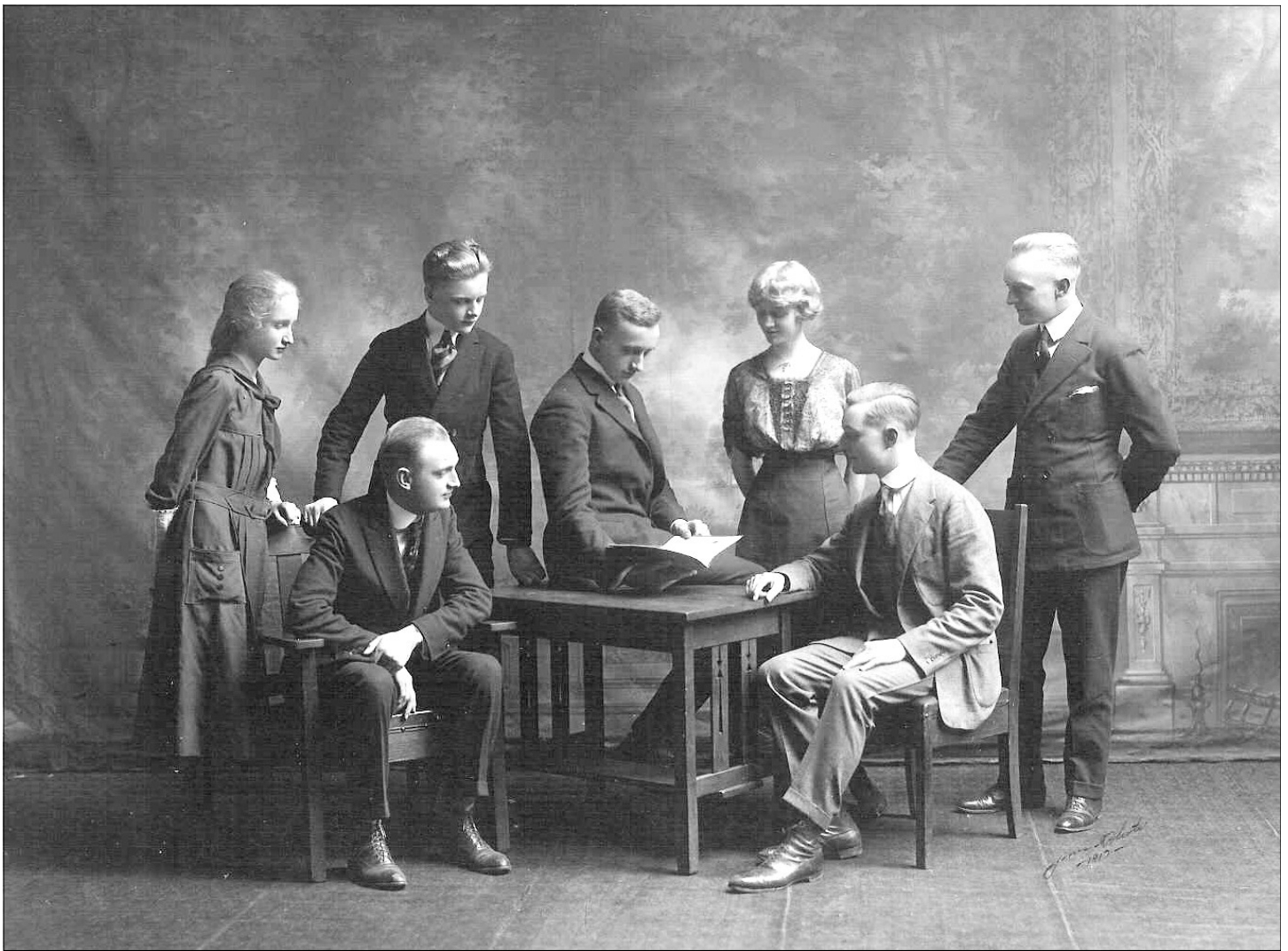
and teaching piano. She also studied violin and cello for a year in order to help with grade and high school orchestras.

In time, Sister St. Clare received her BA degree in piano from the College Conservatory of Music, Cincinnati; a certificate in organ; and a Masters Degree in Gregorian Chant with Rev. John deDeo Oldegeering, OFM, from the College of Music.

In addition to her position at Notre Dame Academy, Sister served as organist at Mother of God Church for ten years. She was frequently called upon to serve as organist at other Diocesan functions and as a substitute in parish churches.

When Sister Erma was appointed Novice Mistress in 1939, Sister St. Clare became head of the Academy's Music Department. During her leadership, the NDA Chorus became renowned in all of Northern Kentucky for the quality of its performances. Kentucky State honors became perennial and the group enjoyed increasing popularity.⁴ Sister Mary St. Clare had many professional contacts in Kentucky. She was well known among area musicians and a number of them were her students. Sister also composed numerous songs among which were: "Hymn of Pascal Triumph," "Strolling Down the Lanes of Memory," "Dad of Mine," "Elect of Notre Dame," "Ave Maria," and various mass settings. These were published under the pseudo name of Jan Karl, her own name, and sometimes simply The Notre Dame School of Music.

The original work that Sister was most proud of was the musical play, "The Shadow of His Hand." She wrote the music for a Martin dePorres play and Sister Vincentia wrote the libretto. It was successfully



Schramm Children
L to R (rear): Jeanette, Edward, Karl, Hilda, Clarence L to R (seated): Alois (Al), Cyril

produced in early 1950 in the old Mother of God school auditorium.

In the summer of 1960, Sister St. Clare was appointed organist at the Provincial House on Dixie Highway, Park Hills. She set up a music studio in the west side of the convent. She also gave lessons during the day at nearby St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright. Later in 1981, Sister assisted with the organ on Sundays at St. Charles Care Center, while residing at the Provincial House.

In the years at the Academy on Fifth Street and later in the Provincial House at Park Hills, Sister was known for her love of community. Her happy disposition made her the life of any group, party or

gathering. She delighted in playing cards with the sisters and was known to bid high as long as she had the joker. Likewise she was quick to lead any singing group with her piano skills. While this writer was music director at Mother of God Church, Sister attended many of our concerts. Her evaluation of our presentations was very valuable. Her kind criticism was always constructive, honest and helpful with specific suggestions for improvement.

Sister St. Clare began to show signs of physical feebleness and some mental confusion in the late 1980s. In 1988 she was admitted to Lourdes Hall with signs of Alzheimer disease. Even in her physical and mental capacity, Sister had ways of flashing bits of humor and showed signs of the art of making fun

of herself rather than causing hurt to another. Toward the last, her nurses and visitors sometimes saw flashes of the "old Sister Mary St. Clare."

All in her immediate family preceded her in death. She left this world 24 March 2000. Robert Schaffer, Covington Cathedral organist, as an old friend, was asked to play the organ at her funeral. He graciously accepted and Sister St. Clare (Jeanette) must have smiled as the triumphant sounds pealed from the convent organ as inspiration to all those in attendance. She is buried in the convent cemetery.⁵



*Dr. Adolf Schramm
age c. 25 years*



*Above: Clara Schramm and Daughter Jeanette c 1918
Cover photo: Sister Mary St. Clair c 1975*

1. The Academy, presently re-located to Park Hills, stood where the present Federal Courthouse now stands near Montgomery St.
2. Obituary, *Ky Post*, 5 June 1922.
3. Hilda Marie Schramm married Anthony J. Wissel, 18 June 1918.
4. NDA Archives; Province Obituary March 2000.
5. Rev. Charles Rooks & Rev. Allen Meier concelebrated the funeral mass. Nieces, nephews, friends and alumnae celebrated with the Notre Dame community.

Brief Schramm Family Genealogy⁶

Parents:

Adolf Schramm (16 Jul 1866 – 26 June 1931) and Clara Kentrup Schramm (11 Aug 1862 – 4 June 1922)

Children:

Alois J (born 10 Mar 1889) Married Florence Craig (1 Dec 1923)

Hilda Marie (born 27 July 1890) Married Anthony J. Wissel (18 June 1918) Died 14 Aug 1938

Cyril P. (born 8 June 1892) Married Emma Stahel (10 Jan 1924) Died 17 Nov. 1956

Children: Janet (born 7 July 1926) Married Dr. Ernest Abernathy (6 Jun 1949)

Ann (born 10 Jan 1930) Married Horace Judson

Clarence A. (born 11 Sep 1894) Married Mary Emral (10 Sep 1924)

Children: Mary Clare (born 2 Aug 1925) Married Edwin H. Duhme (28 May 1949) Died 1 January 2008

Martha Mary (born 21 Oct 1926) Died 20 May 1997

Karl Edward (born 24 Dec 1896) Married Jean Snyder (4 May 1935)

Child: Michael (born 12 Jan 1936)

Edward H. (born 28 Feb 1899) Married Gertrude Hanlon (31 Dec 1937)

Child: Hugh Edward (born 13 Sep 1938)

Jeanette Bertha (born 5 Apr 1901 – died 24 Mar 2000)

Entered Notre Dame Convent Covington 15 July 1923 as Sister St. Clare

Covington Slave Murder/Suicide

Karl Lietzenmayer

Ever since the re-awakening of the story of Margaret Garner, more information about the plight of those enslaved is coming to light. It would be assumed that Margaret's story was not terribly unique, in that other captured slaves would have rather died than return to that condition. Below is a discovery of just such an event that happened in our own community 157 years ago. The following is taken from "The Bugle," an anti-slavery newspaper in Salem, Ohio, June 2, 1848. Apparently there were two such incidents described here. More research into these events is necessary for clarification. The author thanks Dr. Ann Butler, Kentucky State University for sharing this with us. Dr. Butler believes the captive slave suicide/murders that Margaret Garner's plight represents were not that unusual. She feels the following incident (far more dramatic than Garner's) never hit the national newspapers because anti-slavery sentiment had not reached fever pitch in the 1840s and the incident occurred in a slave state (Kentucky) and was probably ignored or suppressed by the mainstream press – except for abolitionist papers.

Murder and Attempted Suicide

We learn that a Mr. Rust, living back (south?) of Covington, on Tuesday, brought a slave man and woman with two children to the jail in that place (Covington) and put them in a cell for safe keeping, intending to send them "down the river," at the first favorable opportunity.

In the morning, it was found the man had cut the throat of his wife and children and attempted to kill himself by cutting his own throat. He was alive at the time of our information and it was thought that he might recover. What his motive was, we have not learned, but it is not hard to find one sufficient.

To a slave who, despite his debasement, has the heart of a man in his bosom, the sugar fields of the South are a hell, to be gladly escaped

from by death. We can well imagine that in the dim light of *his* reason, it seemed to him a *holy* deed to place those whom he loved in that grave where there is no master's whip, and all are free alike in the eye of the Great Master of all....

Since writing the above, we have learned that the supposition we have made is true, and that the wife was not only willing, but anxious to die. It is thought that the man will die [as well]. It is to be hoped so. The catastrophe of this new enactment of *Virginius*, should be no other than death [see below]. Our horror of the deed changes to admiration and our heart throbs at it.

We learn that the slave man and woman concerned in the *Virginius* tragedy over the [Ohio] River, were to be sold down the river while the child was to stay behind. They were quite opposed to going down the river, but would have been quiet had their child been along.

The trader proposed that they should all come together and stay together till they were shipped, when the child could be taken back again to Grant County. The slaves were not informed of this arrangement and only discovered it by accident as they were placed in jail. They then resolved upon the dreadful deed and the mother cut the throat of the child herself, the husband cutting hers and then attempting to complete the great sacrifice, by the immolation of himself.

The Kenton County Historical Society is always looking for stories for its award-winning Bulletin, as well as Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine. Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about submitting an article.

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1942 Plane Crash Kills Two On Covington's Eastside

Bev Wedding

It was on an early Sunday afternoon, August 9, 1942, when 29-year-old Ross Leach contacted his friend Carl Ogden with a special request. Ogden, an experienced pilot, owned the Covington Dental Laboratory and often flew his 1941 Culvert Cadet two-seater monoplane over the skies of Northern Kentucky. Leach, another well-qualified pilot, had just recently sold his smaller, piper airplane ~ as he was scheduled to join the Army Air Corps the following morning to work as a flight instructor. He wanted to see his hometown from the air just one more time before he left. Leach's request to Carl Ogden early that morning was to borrow the monoplane to take friend and fellow pilot, Walter Mohan for a short flight over the area.

At first, Ogden refused ~ pointing out that the winds were just too strong that day. By late afternoon, however, the winds had subsided and a second request was made. With Ogden's permission, the two men made their journey across the Suspension Bridge and along Eastern Avenue to Cincinnati's Lunken Airport.

Both men were long-time Covington residents. Ross Leach and his wife, Dorothy (Kays) lived at 1613 Greenup Street. Walter Mohan, 23-years-old, lived at 1909 Madison Avenue. At 6:15 in the evening, the two men took-off from Lunken with Leach behind the controls. Fifteen minutes later, both men were dead and a twisted pile of burning debris lay in the middle of the intersection of Covington's Bush and Garrard Streets.

Brushed Tree Tops

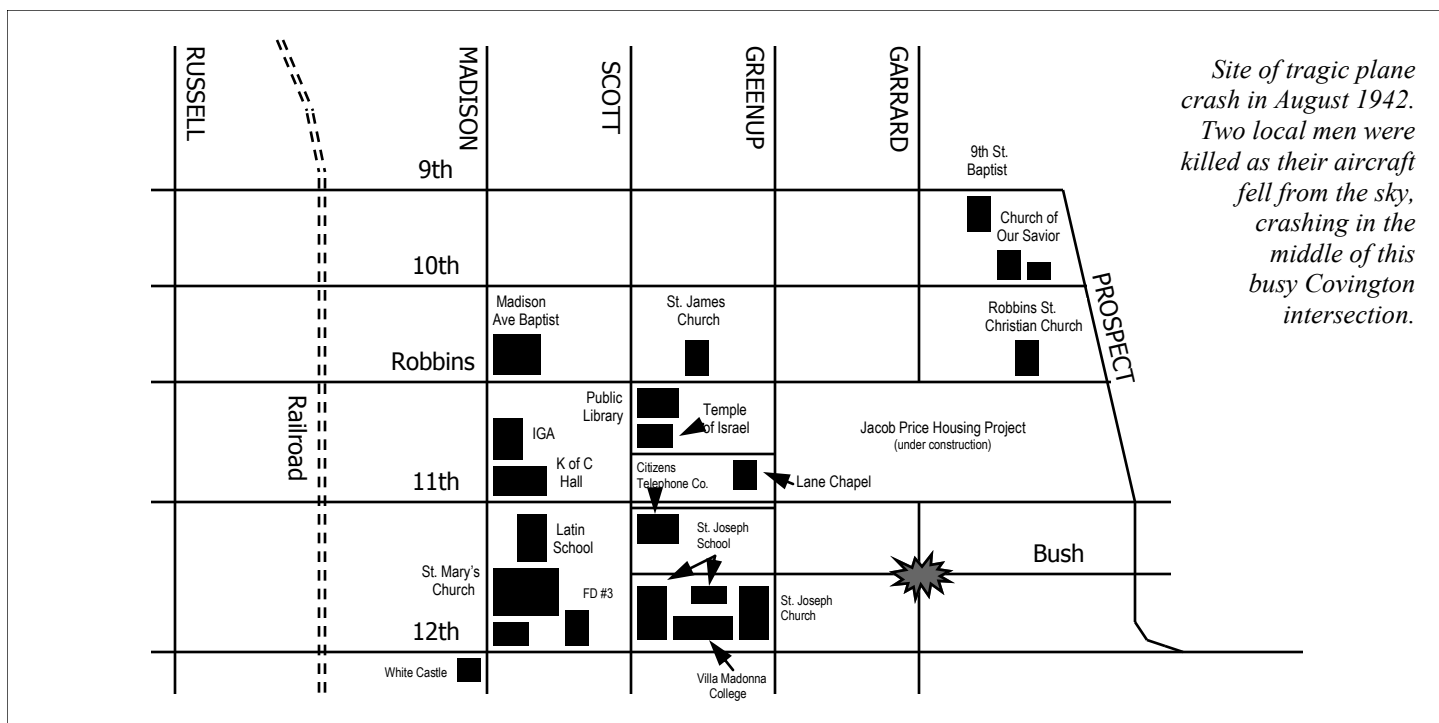
One witness told the *Cincinnati Enquirer* the plane made three vertical turns to the left and was attempting one to the right when the pilot apparently lost control. The plane spiraled down and crashed. Another witness said the plane brushed treetops on

Scott Street, two blocks from the crash site just before impact. Still another said the plane was at about 1,500 feet, when it suddenly dropped in altitude. The motor stuttered and the wings wavered, as the pilot appeared to be trying to regain control of the failing aircraft.

Clyde Reed, of 123 East 11th Street, was quick to report the crash to the fire department. He was not so alert as to keep a pickpocket from stealing his wallet with \$7 in it, while he was viewing the wreckage. Many residents of the area quickly arrived on the scene to offer assistance, but it was easily determined that no one had survived the horrific impact. Both bodies were crushed and burned beyond recognition and later had to be identified from dental records. Most of the witnesses told the same story ~ that the plane appeared to be "stunting" ~ though that was never proven. It was thought that Leach's familiarity with the neighborhood and his experience with flying helped him bring the plane down in a spot where there were no houses.

Japanese Invasion

Mary Luckman's house was very close to the crash site and flames were so intense that her house nearly caught fire. She told reporters she thought the Japanese were attacking, and ran through her yard to warn neighbors. Josephine Hall, of 1114 Garrard Street, suffered cuts on her leg and over one eye when a part of the wooden propeller from the plane flew through a window in her residence. She was treated at St. Elizabeth Hospital and released. Grace Mary Kruetzham, 9 years old, was playing in her side yard at 302 East 12th Street. She said the intersection was clear except for a little dog, which the plane almost hit. The dog did catch fire, however, and ran off down the street. Grace said someone caught the dog and "put him out" according to an article in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* the following day.



Site of tragic plane crash in August 1942. Two local men were killed as their aircraft fell from the sky, crashing in the middle of this busy Covington intersection.

Several residents near the crash scene said they never heard a motor, only a whirring sound, and then a terrific crash. Ralph Mitchelltree, 1126 Garrard Street, heard the whirring sound and ran to a window where he saw a big “flare up.” He was pretty sure he heard someone scream. An awning over a window below his second floor apartment caught fire. The grocery store on the first floor was not damaged. Street wires and house wires right outside his window were torn down. There were no other injuries and there was no other damage to property.

Mrs. Arthur Fischer was standing a block away in front of a café at 12th and Garrard. She heard no noise, but turned in time see the plane hit the ground and burst into flames. At one point the onlookers, numbering over 1,000 according to a *Kentucky Post* reporter, were so close and tight around the airplane that firemen had to turn the hoses toward them to move the crowd back.

Fr. Paul Congetta, from St. Mary’s Cathedral, gave absolution to the two men before their bodies were taken from the wreckage.

Mrs. Catherine Mohan, Walter’s mother, had not heard of the crash. She had attended a movie at

a theater in Covington and was heading home on the bus. The bus driver knew the family and told all the passengers as they boarded not to mention the plane crash, and that one of the mothers was on board. She started reading over a man’s shoulder when she saw the headlines in a final edition of the day’s *Cincinnati Enquirer* and collapsed.

Leach’s mother also collapsed when she received the news. And, after going to the funeral home to view the body, she had to be taken to St. Elizabeth’s hospital. Margaret Shea, 13-year-old sister of the pilot, ran to the crash scene as so many others in the neighborhood had done. While standing in the crowd, she overheard a man telling others that Ross Leach was onboard the plane, just as one of the charred bodies was being taken from the wreckage. She looked, but was not able to tell if it was her brother’s body.

After the Civil Aeronautics Authority’s, Charles Sivert viewed the scene and the plane, he said the only violation of rules for aviation was the fact that the plane was flying below 1,000 feet. That prompted City Manager, Jack Maynard, to call on citizens to report on any planes they should see flying under 1,000 feet. He asked them to get the numbers off the plane, the color, and the size of the aircraft.

Annual Toy Train Exhibit

Ross Leach was survived by his wife Dorothy, his mother, Anna Mae Shea, one sister, Margaret Shea, and three brothers, William Leach, Chester Leach, and Joseph Leach. He was buried in Linden Grove Cemetery following a graveside service the following Tuesday. Walter Mohan, 23 years old, left his mother, Catherine, and one sister, Evangeline, who was seriously injured earlier in the year when a bus in which she was riding overturned outside Washington D.C. Mohan was given a Requiem High Mass at St. Augustine Church and was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Carl Ogden had sold his dental laboratory business the day before the crash, so he could devote more time to his flying. Like Russ Leach, he was preparing to be a flight instructor. After the crash, he continued flying and became a member of the Civil Air Patrol and a member of Cincinnati's Q-B Flying Club. He eventually owned Consolidated Dental Laboratory and the Ogden Institute, a dental laboratory school in Covington. Ogden was involved in all these activities when at the age of 54, he suffered a fatal heart attack. He died November 30, 1964.

Special Note From The Author

"I remember the evening of the crash, as my parents, Ray and Thelma Bramlage, and my sister, Shirley, were visiting my grandparents at 16th and Garrard. We all walked up to see the fire. I recall seeing a fireman on a ladder extended in the air, leaning over the thick smoke from the burning plane. I remember the firemen pulling objects out of the burning plane with a long-handled hook. We all stayed just a short time before my mother said to my dad, "Let's get the girls out of here." In my adult life, I asked mom about the hook, as it was such a vivid memory, and she said we left because they were pulling body parts out of the plane. Mom, Shirley and I had been standing on the sidewalk and daddy was standing in the street, with water from the fire flowing down towards us in the street and gutter. Mom said that in the days following the fire, she tried to get the smoke and burning body smell out of daddy's shoes and couldn't do it. The shoes had to be thrown away."

Sources:

Cincinnati Enquirer, August 10, 1942, pg. 1
Kentucky Edition of the Cincinnati Times-Star, August 10, 1942, pg. 1
Kentucky Post, August 10, 1942, page 1
Personal interview with Marge (Leach) Cummings, July 31, 2008
Personal interview with Jane Ogden, July 29, 2008

The Behringer – Crawford Museum's 17th Annual Holiday Train display is on track and opens November 15th. It is the largest interactive holiday train display in Northern Kentucky with more than 25 stations for kids of all ages. The layout features 250 feet of track and Lionel, Marx and Plasticville toy trains as well as sets from the past and present.

The museum also houses the permanent Faragher Train Layout and Model Community with more than 100 buildings and 250 figures populating the streets of a typical 1940s era city! The Faragher train exhibit also contains interactive features.

The Holiday Toy Train exhibit opens in conjunction with New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music, a Museum on Main Street exhibit in partnership with the Smithsonian. This exhibit introduces visitors to the broad range of musical styles and traditions that mirror our nation's diversity. Both train displays complement the museum's newly developed exhibits entitled, "Rivers, Roads, Rails & Runways." Visitors experience "History in Motion" while discovering the region's history and culture. Hear stories of the commuters on the Kentucky, gaze at the last streetcar of its kind known to exist in the United States. Pilot the representational packet boat along the Ohio River – a favorite activity of children. Stop in at the drive-in theater and enjoy an original 1950s era show in a 1959 Buick Electra. Soar through the development of the International Airport. Bringing the region into view through the lens of transportation, visitors to the museum will encounter the past and venture into the future while enjoying artifacts, interactive displays and hands-on activities throughout the 20,000 square foot facility.

Admission to the museum is: \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors (60+) and \$4 for children (3+). Group tours are welcomed. And, Santa will be visiting the museum from 1-3 p.m. on December 6th and 20th. For further information, call (859) 491-4003.

Life in the 1500s

[The following tidbits of information have been circulating over the Internet for many years now. I have had the opportunity to research many of them and while a couple might simply be folklore, most appear to be true] – Editor

Facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because there were ample flowers growing to help hide their body odor, as baths were generally taken only a few times a year. Hence, the custom today of the bride carrying a bouquet and girls dropping petals of flowers in front of her path.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice, clean, hot water, then all the sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last were the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, “Don't throw the baby out with the bath water.”

Houses had thatched roofs – thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the often the only place for animals to stay warm, so in cold weather, all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) made their homes in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, “It's raining cats and dogs.” With this style roof, there was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. A bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

Generally, the floor in people's homes was simply dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, “Dirt poor”. The wealthy sometimes had slate floors that would get slippery and cold in the winter when wet, so they

spread thresh (tiny bits or seeds from broken straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. When the door was opened, some of the material would blow out and need replacing. Eventually, a piece of wood was placed in the entranceway – termed a threshold.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the vegetables remained in the pot for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, “Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old”.

Rarely, and on special occasions, the men might obtain some pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, “bring home the bacon”. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and “chew the fat”.

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This seemed to happen most often with tomatoes, so for the following 100 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous. Bread was divided according to status. Servants got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the “upper crust”.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Family members would often mistake them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a “wake”.

Continued on page 10

A Look Back at The Headlines

An on-going feature reliving local headlines

This issue features:

The Kentucky Post – May 12, 1898.

Suspended only by Her Finger Tips ONE TORN COMPLETELY OFF Fearful Accident Befell a Covington Woman

Mrs. Mary Staggs, of 1508 St. Clair Street, Covington, met with a peculiar and what may be a fatal accident Tuesday afternoon. During a heavy storm she climbed on a stepladder to raise a window. The sash fastened with a patented spring. When she loosened it the window came up suddenly and caught her hand. She jumped back, upsetting the ladder. For a minute she was held suspended in the air by her fingers.

Hand Fearfully Torn

The woman's weight tore one of her fingers completely off at the hand, tearing a tendon from her arm from the hand to the shoulder. Blood poisoning is feared and amputation may be necessary.

Life in the 1500s — Continued

England was fairly small and the citizens started running out of places to bury people. So they dug up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, a surprising number were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying many people alive. So they began tying a string on the wrist of the buried corpse, led it through the coffin and up through the ground and attached it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night long (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer". Now, whoever said History was boring !

Another Farny Tribute

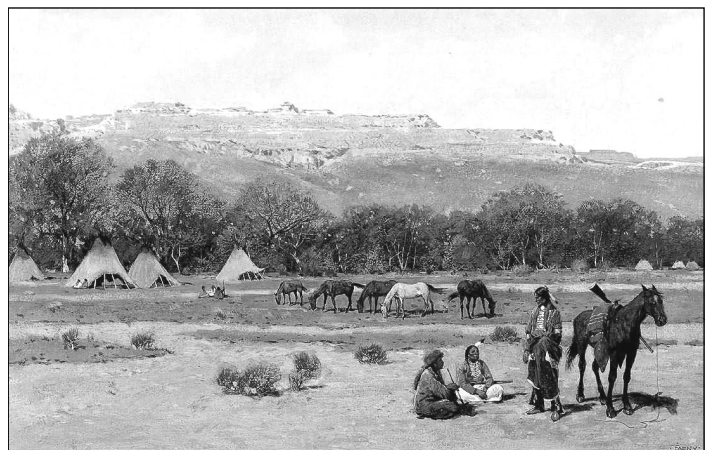
From: Mike Rutledge, *Kentucky Enquirer*

Residents of Covington's Westside neighborhood are reclaiming as their own the 19th century painter Henry Farny, portrayer of western Indians. (see KCHS Bulletin issue May/June 2008)

Farny has been overshadowed in Covington by his friend and fellow painter Frank Duveneck, for whom a bronze statue was erected two years ago at Pike and Washington Streets.

Westside resident Joan Lee thinks Farny (1847-1916) was a more interesting person. She and others are planning a park and sculpture to honor him. Farny, a hunting pal of Theodore Roosevelt, had a bigger-than-life personality. He was respected by the Sioux, who gave him the name Long Boots because of his footwear that extended to his knees. The Sioux represented his name using a circle with a dot in the center. Farny was so proud of that he used it as his signature along with his last name on his paintings. Shown below is his 1894 work titled, "Indian Encampment".

Local sculptor, David Rice, and artist, Paul Tribble, plan to build a six foot sculpture – a three dimensional representation of that "signature". The artwork will be installed either in a proposed Farny Park at Robbins and Banklick or along West 12th Street near Banklick.



Farny's 1894 work titled "Indian Encampment"

Then and Now



The majestic steamboat, Delta Queen, makes a visit to the Cincinnati area.
Left: circa 1950 – right: 2008

Mystery Photo

Can you identify the mystery photo below? The answer can be found at the bottom of the page.



ANSWER:

Decorative trim on building at 8 West Pike Street, Covington.

Kenton County Historical Society
P.O. Box 641
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Dedicated to preserving our heritage as the "Gateway to the South"

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November / December 2008



Feature Story:

Sister Mary St. Clair
Northern Kentucky Teacher and Musician

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1942 Plane Crash Kills Two On Covington's Eastside
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