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Pensacola Park Post

A Monthly Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association Distribution
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Lexington's Love Affair with the Automobile by Rebecca C. Glasscock

In my early years of living in Pensacola Park, I talked with several residents who remembered, with great fondness, the Interurban. No one in this neighborhood had to walk far to catch it, as there was a Limestone/Nicholasville Road line. Unfortunately, the Interurban was not the transportation remedy that had been anticipated. Between 1900 and 1920, 250 miles of electric interurban streetcars were built in Covington, Henderson, Lexington, and Louisville. The peak rail mileage came in 1930, and then declined. On April 21, 1938, the last interurban streetcar pulled into the Loudon Avenue "boneyard." The causes of the demise of the Interurban, owned by the Kentucky Traction and Terminal Company, were primarily the Great Depression and the new fascination with the private automobile. At the time, most of the cars were American-made. Buick, Cadillac, Lincoln, Ford, Chevrolet, and Pontiac are still familiar names, but there were others as well: Delahaye, Hudson, Packard, DeSoto, Nash, Riley, and REO. Lexington had a number of well-appointed dealerships. Clay Reed, who moved to 136 Penmoken in 1931-32, was a mechanic for Kittrell Callaway and Webb, the dealership for REO. The REO got its name from its founder's initials (Ransom E. Olds). Mr. Olds founded Oldsmobile in 1897 and the REO in 1905. The most memorable of the REO's was the 1927 REO Flying Cloud and the 1931 REO Royale 8.

One of the many competing dealerships was Kinkead-Wilson Motor Company, at which Newell Hadden (who moved to 111 Suburban in 1928 and then to 101 Wabash in 1937) was a salesman; Joseph T. Hagen (who moved to 164 Suburban in 1928 and then to 113 Goodrich in 1952) was a salesman; and J. Hal Webb (who moved to 134 Goodrich in 1931-32) was a secretary. In 1915, when the company was founded, it was located at 139 N. Mill. Within four years, strong business necessitated a move. The company moved to 339 W. Short and then, as business continued to grow, to 169-181 N. Mill. One of Kinkead-Wilson's most memorable public relations feats occurred in February of 1947. Kinkead-Wilson was the center of attention when Charles Bohmer, Bohmer Flying Service, brought his Ercoupe for display in Kinkead-Wilson's showroom for a month. He then removed the wings and drove the Ercoupe from the dealership to Blue Grass Field.

Other Pensacola Park residents who worked for the automobile dealerships included Vincent Modica (who moved to 169 Penmoken in 1935), a Department Sales Manager; and Edgar Sutton (who moved to 172 Penmoken in 1935), a mechanic; both were employed at Dixie McKinley Motors. Employed at Fred Bryant Motor Company, the Oldsmobile and Chevrolet dealership, was William Uttinger (who moved to 128 Suburban in 1930), a stockkeeper; and Robert Carly (who moved to 128 Penmoken in 1933-34). One of the area's largest dealerships was Charles Sturgill Motors, at which Albert Nantz (who moved to 128 Lackawanna in 1953) was the Service Manager. Lynn Rouse (who moved to 112 Goodrich in 1930 and then on to 117 Goodrich) was a salesman for Tanner-Field Motor Company. Marion Heaton (who moved to 176 Rosemont in 1931-32) was a mechanic for Geary-Gay Motor Company, the Hudson Essex dealership; Albert Powell (who moved to 133 Penmoken in 1928) was a salesman for Thompson-McKinley Used Cars; Thomas Bond (who moved to 115 Suburban in 1931-32) was a mechanic for the Ford dealership, Frazer Motor Company and later a Department Manager at Holmes Motor Company. Mammoth Auto Sales Company employed Mark Williams (who moved to 151 Suburban in 1928) as a foreman, and Clarence Robinson (who moved to 166 Wabash in 1952) was a mechanic for Poole Motor Sales. The private automobile was sublime, but nowadays with traffic woes and the accompanying ecological problems, wouldn't an updated version of the Interurban be a welcome innovation?



The Ercoupe at Kinkead-Wilson Motor Company



FREE TREE MULCH:

Firstly, a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped move the mulch around Penmoken Circle, especially Landon Sallee! Secondly, we still have a large pile of tree mulch left over and it is up for grabs for whomever would like to take some to mulch their yards. You just have to come take away whatever you want. The pile is located at the end of Penmoken in the circle.



RESCHEDULED: Come Meet Your New Council Representative

Due to the ice storm, we had to reschedule meeting with our new council representative. Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association will now host Council Member Amanda Bledsoe at the association's meeting on Thursday April 7th at 7pm at Hunter Presbyterian Church, in the Undercroft room. Mrs. Bledsoe will take the floor to introduce herself to the neighborhood and address some of the pressing topics/concerns at hand. A Q&A from the neighborhood will be opened. Hope to see you all there.

Gearing up for the Plant Sale this year!!

Due to Covid our annual plant sale fundraiser has been on hold for the past two years. This year we are finally going to have it. It is tentatively scheduled for May 14th (Saturday), time TBD, location TBD.

We are looking for any volunteers who would like to help out with the event.

We are also looking for any donations of outdoor plants, vegetables, etc for the event as well. The success of this event last time was due to all the neighborhood hard work and donations of a wide variety of plants. The funds raised helped so much, being used for trees, grant matches, and neighborhood improvements.

So if you have any time, any tables to lend, seeds to sow, plants to give, please email us at pensacolapark@gmail.com.

Let's get to planning and planting!



THE PENSACOLA PARK GARDEN

Early spring planting should include cool season annuals such as petunias, pansies, and dianthus. Cool season veggies like beets, chard, kale, lettuce, and spinach can also be planted in March. This is great time to add trees, shrubs, and perennials.



HOW TO ORDER A PENSACOLA PARK EMBLEM

Please visit our website www.pensacolapark.org to order any emblems, or write us at pensacolapark@gmail.com. Payment is via paypal, check, or cash. There are three types of emblems you can order:

- Flag. Comes in three colors: 2'x3' Black, Green, Red (\$85)
- Metal Plaque. Comes in two sizes: 8x8 (\$165) and 5x5 (\$80)
- Stickers. Comes in eight different colors (\$2 each)



PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO PENSACOLA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

As an organization we do not currently collect any neighborhood association dues, instead we function off of grants, fundraisers, and donations from the neighborhood. Donations allow us to go after matching grants, buy trees to increase our canopy, improve street conditions, throw community events, and be able to print this newsletter. If you would like to donate, you can either: (1) Drop off Cash or Check to our GREEN PPNA mailbox at 107 Lackawanna Rd / (2) Use Paypal @ pensacolapark@gmail.com

ABOUT PENSACOLA PARK PRESERVATION SOCIETY AND PENSACOLA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Pensacola Park Preservation Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 formed by Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association in order to bring together residents and businesses located in the Pensacola Park Nationally Registered Historic Boundary, for the common good of (1) preserving the historic integrity and resources of the area; (2) creating an environment that promotes sustainable and appropriate growth for the neighborhood; (3) providing historic education and assistance to those in the Pensacola Park Neighborhood for the preservation and rehabilitation of historic homes, structures, and landscapes; and (4) Unifying and being representative of all the original streets in the Pensacola Park Historic boundary. Also check us out online at www.pensacolapark.org, and follow us on Facebook @ Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association.

If you have any questions or would like to submit topics or op-eds to Pensacola Park Post, please feel free to write us at pensacolapark@gmail.com. If you would like to stop receiving the free monthly post, please write us and put "stop post" in the heading, along with your physical address. Thank you.

Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA) and Pensacola Park Preservation Society (PPPS), our nonprofit, are not affiliated with WGPL Neighborhood Association. PPNA/PPPS represent ALL streets in Pensacola Park Historic District, including: Goodrich, Lackawanna, Nicholasville, Norfolk, Penmoken, Pensacola, Rosemont, Suburban, and Wabash.