

Returning to my roots by K.J Nutt

I guess you could call this a return to my ancestor's "living grounds". My father Klete Boyer, and my mother Catherine Duddleston, met while living with their parents at 510 & 508 N. 5th St. in the mid 1920's. They married in 1927 and would live off and on with the Boyers at 510 for the next 10 years.

My parents were born in Lafayette in 1900 & 1910. Their parents had come to Lafayette from southern Indiana. My grandfather Boyer worked on the Monon R.R., which is what brought them to Lafayette, until his retirement.

I have memories as a child of going to First Christian Church at 6th and North, then walking to my grandparents afterward. The iron fences and rock walls (that I walked on top of) are a clear and vivid memory of this neighborhood. My grandparents moved to N 21st st. to be near us when I was 10ish. My journeys to the Centennial Neighborhood would halt for the next 14 years.

In 1977, I opened my hair salon, "K. J. Nutt & Friends", at 509 N. 4th. The Lafayette Urban Ministry location was the Caboose Restaurant and Miners Paper and Party supply. The parking lot next to my salon was an old abandoned house. The mall across 4th was an empty lot where equipment and scrap from Vierk Supply was stored. By this time all my grandparents, father, & brother had passed over. My mother was a bit concerned because the neighborhood was in disarray.

In the early 80's, I bought the house at 513 n 5th and had it removed. The original door from that house is on my salon. The stairway was dismantled and given to Tim Croxton whose grandfather had built it.

My dream was always to live downtown but I do not possess the talent or desire to refurbish an older home. When the brownstones were planned, it seemed like the perfect opportunity for me. And now like my grandparents, my address is 508 N. 5th. St. On a personal note, I graduated from Jeff High School, Huffers Beauty College, and Indiana Barber College. I have attended Purdue University as the mood strikes.

I have two children, Echo and Sage Harrington. Three employees: Omar Delak, Kay McManus Willey and Jennie Ahlrick.

I am very grateful to all of those who have restored our neighborhood and had the foresight to plan for the new dwellings.

I still attend church at First Christian Church, cut hair on 4th and live on 5th. Guess I'm here for a while.

K. J. Nutt



Block party celebrates neighborhood revitalization

Several community organizations joined forces October 8 to celebrate the realization of a major neighborhood revitalization project. The Sunday afternoon event recognized the near completion of eight brownstone residences and six row houses on Fifth Street between Brown and Wall Streets. Historic Centennial Neighborhood Association hosted the celebration, with assistance from the Neighborhood Action Committee, the City of Lafayette Development and Redevelopment Department, Lafayette Urban Enterprise Association, and the housing co-developers, Neighborhood Housing Services and Paradigm Development.

Festivities began with a parade down Fifth Street by the Voyageur Fife and Drum Corps. Next, leaders of the project pointed out to a crowd of about a hundred the history and purpose of the project. Phyllis Hunt,

HISTORIC Autumn CENTENNIAL NEIGHBORHOOD 2000

president of the Historic Centennial Neighborhood Association, put things in perspective: "Six years ago, if you were standing here you would be standing on railroad tracks." After hearing her account of how the development took shape, Lafayette mayor Dave Heath responded that the brownstones and row houses are an example of how neighborhood groups and cities can pool their efforts to make positive changes in downtown areas: "It's something all neighborhoods should look at and be proud of," he said.

About two hundred-fifty people came out in brisk fall weather to enjoy refreshments, take in games, displays and amusements and to view a unit of both the row houses and the brownstones. Both sets of residences were developed as affordable owneroccupied housing, where buyers receive grants for down payment assistance. As guests toured the row house, they heard a string quartet sponsored by Allegro Violin Shop.



Refreshments consisted of soft drinks (serving stand courtesy of Coca-Cola), ice cream (donated by Ben and Jerry's) and popcorn (provided by Midwest Party Rentals). Games, displays and other activities were provided by the YWCA and the Imagination Station, with assistance from the Purdue Liberal Arts Student Council.

Further assistance for the event, in the form of cash or loan of equipment, came from Bundy-McNear Insurance Agency, the Downtown Business Center, Historic Ninth Street Hill Association, Jan's Alley Flowers, Lafayette Printing Company, Midwest Party Rentals and Risk Dental Clinic.

Our sympathies are with the Godbys

We extend our sympathies to Mike and Bonnie Godby for the recent death of Bonnie's father.

Sales of the N. 5th St. Brownstones and Rowhouses

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Our last report from Neighborhood Housing Services, indicates that four of the six rowhouses have sold and that three of the eight brownstones also have sold. Centennial Neighborhood Association wants to take this opportunity to welcome all these new neighbors.

## To visit our website:

http://www.historiccentennial.org

As Autumn draws to a close, Historic Centennial Neighborhood Association would like to wish everyone "Happy Holidays and a Joyful New Year."





Appreciation is given to the following members for their financial support by joining the Historic Centennial Neighborhood Association. It is their believing in the future of the neighborhood, and the efforts currently underway for neighborhood revitalization that makes this so wonderful.

Chris Agnew Rev. Tim Alkire, St. Boniface Church Bundy McNear Insurance Agency Dennis Carson, Lafayette Urban Enterprise Association Barbara and Paul Dixon First Christian Church Shirley and Jack Gerhart Anne and Todd Helfter Dorothy Hovey and Elmer Dickman Phyllis and Michael Hunt Joan and Bob McIlwain Gretchen Mehring Bob Mertz Joe Micon, Lafayette Urban Ministries Midwest Party Rentals Elizabeth Mork Dick Nagel Carol and Bill Risk Mark Scharer, Paradigm Development St. Johns Episcopal Church Leon Thorpe Trinity United Methodist Church Thomas Wang Rob Reason YWCA Jane's Gourmet Deli & Catering

CNA welcomes the following new members:

Midwest Rentals Reiss Johnson Properties

Will Carter K.J. Nutt & Friends Hair Salon

If you paid membership dues and your name is not on this list, please contact Dick Nagel, CNA Treasurer, at 420-7737.

| Centennial is a great neighborhood that is on the move.<br>We invite you to become a member and be a part of the action! |                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Membership Dues paid now                                                                                                 | will be effective through December 31, 2001 |
| Yearly Dues: \$20<br>Resident/Owner<br>Friends of Centennial<br>Business/Organization                                    | Neighborhood                                |
| \$10<br>Tenant/Renter                                                                                                    | Additional donations graciously accepted.   |
| Name(s)                                                                                                                  |                                             |
| Address                                                                                                                  |                                             |
| Address(es) of property own                                                                                              | ed in Centennial:                           |
|                                                                                                                          | (Office)                                    |
| I am interested in becoming i                                                                                            | nvolved as:                                 |
|                                                                                                                          | Officer in the Association Helper           |
|                                                                                                                          |                                             |
|                                                                                                                          |                                             |

Mail check and application form to Dick Nagel, Loeb House Inn, 708 Cincinnati St. 47901