

LATONIA LAKES RESORT

ONCE A KENTON COUNTY SUMMER GET AWAY

BY: ROBERT D. WEBSTER

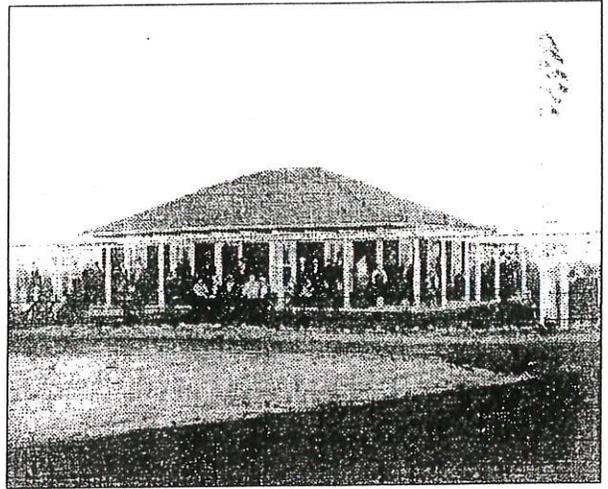
The tiny community of Latonia Lakes, now with about 300 year-round residents, was originally developed as a summer resort and weekend get away destination. It is located on the eastern side of Taylor Mill Road, about five miles south of Interstate 275. The cities of Covington, Independence and Ryland Heights, as well as small pockets of unincorporated Kenton County, surround the tiny community.

As its 1930 newspaper advertisement stated, it was "Kentucky's Beauty Spot". Promoted to residents of the hot, dirty, noisy and over populated cities of Covington, Newport and Cincinnati, it offered a place to cool off, relax and meditate for a price far less than similar resorts located further away.

The resort officially opened in 1931. Within the first four weeks of its existence, more than 900 home sites, each priced at just \$77 had been sold and more than 40 small cottages had been built in the summer colony. At the time, the development, headed by the firm of Schaub and Ott, was the fastest growing real estate project in the region. In the second month, a beautiful new clubhouse was erected and lots in the first phase of the subdivision had been sold out completely.

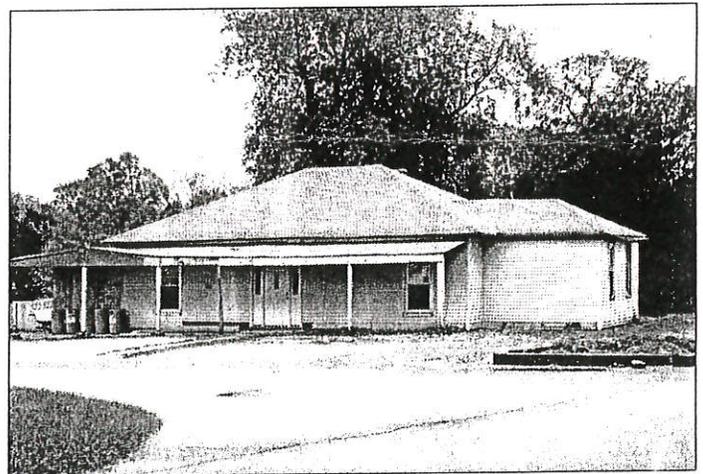
In the second season, several tennis courts had been built and summer residents enjoyed weekend parties at the clubhouse. Families would show up on a Friday afternoon and stay until late Sunday evening, when they had to make the twenty mile drive back to town. Many would make their vacation plans to spend a week or two at their "summer home". Fish were abundant in each of the four large lakes on the property and swimming and boating were available in the crystal clear waters as well.

At the resort's peak, nearly 300 cottages were eloquently situated across the incredibly well-maintained property. Many of these homes, nearly identical in design, were built overlooking the four lakes. The typical cottage had two-bedrooms, bath, kitchen and screened porch.



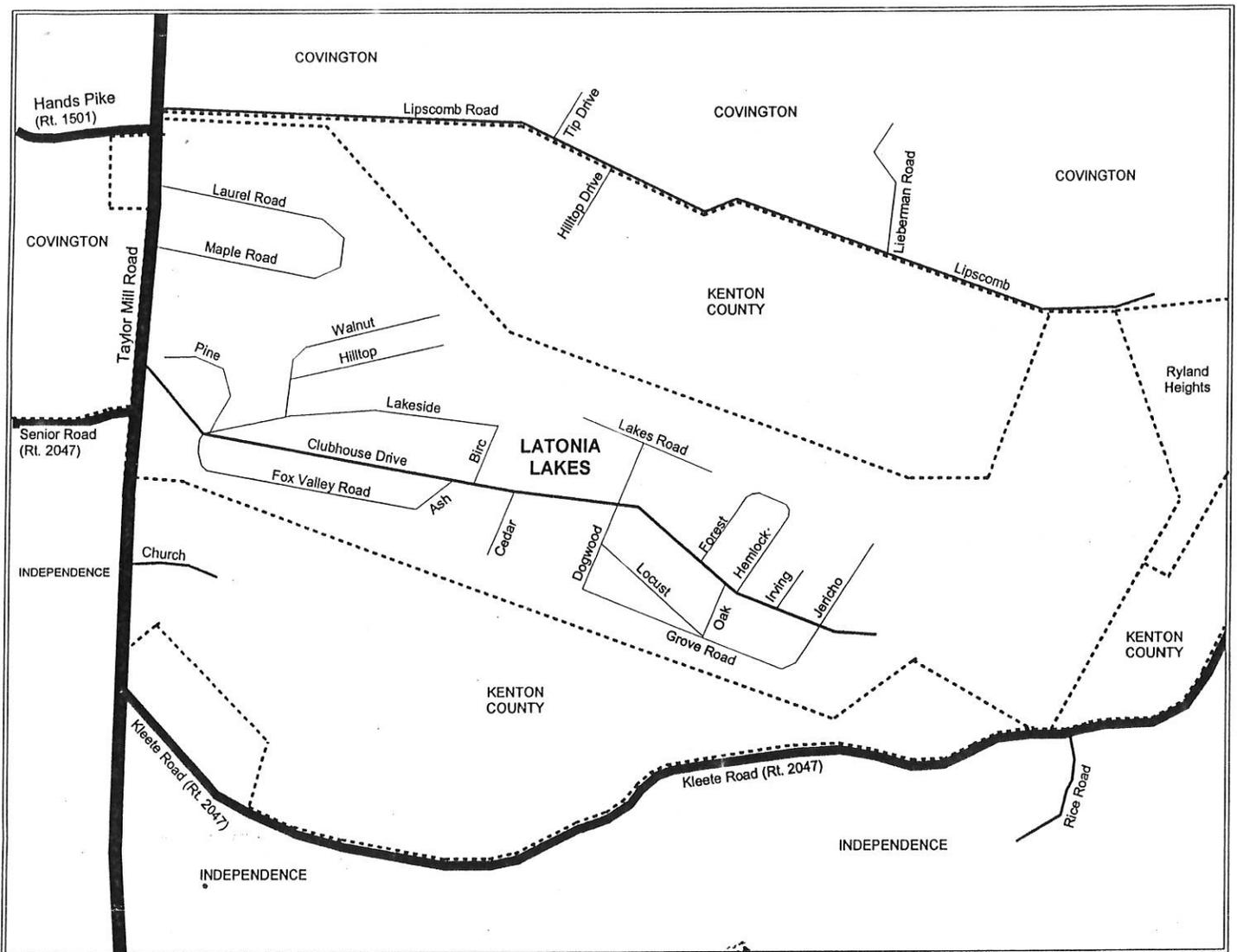
Top photo is the original clubhouse, during a weekend party at the summer resort.

The bottom photo is of the clubhouse as it exists today.



The construction of new homes strongly diminished during wartime years and the entire development began a slow but steady decline. Many who had purchased lots were forced financially to leave them vacant. Lack of additional revenue to the project caused immediate disrepair to many of the resort's wonderful amenities. Property that was to become the third phase in the development also remained vacant. Eventually, families that were unable to sell their properties simply abandoned them.

2006 WILL BE 75TH ANNIVERSARY



Today, only 124 homes remain in the tiny neighborhood. The tennis courts are long gone and there is no boating or swimming permitted in the one remaining lake on the property, not that anyone would dare venture into the murky waters anyway.

Several attempts to annex the tiny town of Latonia Lakes by both Covington and Independence have been rejected by the tight-knit residents. Apparently keeping with the original plan of a get away resort, they would much rather keep their small, independent status.

A large portion of the once thriving resort suffers from common urban decay because of a lack of sufficient tax dollars for necessary repairs to the roads and infrastructure, coupled with an average annual income per household of only \$23,000. The clubhouse, currently being renovated, still

serves as a neighborhood meeting place for the community and each summer, a large picnic is enjoyed by the residents.

The original newspaper advertisement is shown on the following page.

“900 Cottage Sites Established at Latonia Lakes,”
The Kentucky Post, 14 June, 1931, page 9

“Latonia Lakes Advertisement,”
The Kentucky Post, 27 May, 1932, page 4

“Latonia Lakes Clubhouse,”
The Kentucky Post, 29 May, 1932, page 2

2000 United States Census, Internet
<http://factfinder.census.gov>

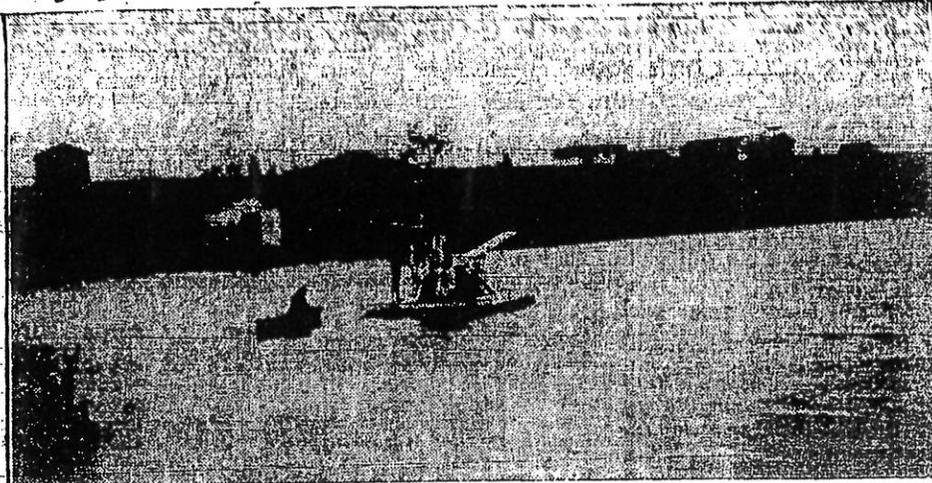
**DRIVE
OUT SUNDAY**

To Kentucky's Beauty Spot

**DRIVE
OUT SUNDAY**

LATONIA LAKES

Enjoy Real Contentment This Summer



Carefree happiness is yours, swimming, boating or fishing, in this, the larger of the four Latonia Lakes. Crystal clear spring water. Sandy beaches.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SWELTER IN THE HOT CITY DURING THE SUMMER

By buying a lot at LATONIA LAKES you can have your own summer home at a resort which offers everything to be found at the most expensive summer places. Think of it! A place to send your wife and children away from the heat and dirt of the city to enjoy all the healthful recreations and sports which LATONIA LAKES offers. Can you afford not to take advantage of this unusual opportunity?

ALL LOTS SAME PRICE

\$12.50 Down

Free and Clear
Warranty Deed

\$77

\$3.50 Per Month

This property insured to us
by Title Insurance and
Abstract Company.

Lots at Latonia Lakes are Limited. An opportunity of a lifetime, either for a home or investment. Don't wait! Come Out Now! See for yourself what Latonia Lakes offer. Then try to duplicate it at many times the price that we are offering.

Only 5 Miles From Covington—How to Get There

Take Madison Avenue through Covington out Decoursey Ave. through Latonia on Winston Avenue, passing to the left of the Latonia Race Track into Taylor Mill Road. Follow the arrows out Taylor Mill Road direct to Latonia Lakes.

Representatives on Property Daily Till 9.

Office: 1319 First National Bank Bldg, MAin 6875.