

Pleasant outing to Weston, legend of the Ohio

This exciting trip back in time is titled “A Pleasant Outing.” It shares with us a trip to the town of Weston on the Ohio River, and the Legend of the word O-hi-o. From the archives of The Crittenden Press, Nov. 4, 1897.

Visit to Weston

One morning about two weeks ago when the sun shone bright, the sky was blue, and air was balmy and laden with sweet autumn odors; all things inviting to a day’s outing, a small party, of whom the writer was one, started on a pleasure excursion to see the sandbars on the Ohio at Weston.

The place of general rendezvous was Ira C. Hughes’ on the Morganfield Road. Here the line of march was formed starting with Mr. Ira C. Hughes, his wife, Millie, and their two children, Virgil and Camilla, Henry Agee, Miss Mary Thomas, of Carthage, Tenn., Jim Henry Paris, and his wife, Mrs. Eliza Paris and their three children, Louis, Clarence and Willie, Mrs. Sallie Powell, Miss Cora Fritts, W. J. L. Hughes, Miss Maud Hughes and Roy Hughes.

Mr. Henry Agee and Miss Mary Thomas were in a buggy and the rest of us were divided up and packed in two two-horse wagons. At Post Oak school house, we were joined by a surrey containing Mr. Ed Farley and his wife, Mrs. Annie Farley and their two bright-eyed children, Miss Myrtle and Master Clyde. These completed the list and we now numbered exactly 20. I give every name because, like the Knights of the Famous Round Table, we abhor distinctions.

Then we started, the buggies gently buzzing, and the dust flying high. We passed Mattoon and turned into the old Flynn’s Ferry Road,” over which many an emigrant wagon with its wooden axletree, old fashioned lynch pin, sky scraping end bows, with tar bucket hung to the coupling pole, rolled, and lumbered and bumped over the black-jack stumps in the early days of the present century, when this country was a wilderness, and George Flynn conducted the first ferry that was ever established across the Ohio

River where Weston now stands.

After a merry jolly trip of a little over two hours, we reached Weston at a little after 10 o’clock. It was a complete surprise; we

took the town without firing a gun, and the people surrendering at discretion.

We unharnessed our teams and established ourselves in the shade of the trees on the bank of the river at the mouth of Camp Creek, overlooking the fifteen miles stretch of river from Weston to Elizabethtown.



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

Beauties of the Ohio River

In fact and fiction, in song and story, in the finest and grandest products of the painter, the beauties of this river have been celebrated.

Away up in the Alleghenies, a tiny streamlet starts rolling, and tumbling, and foaming over rocks, leaping over toy cascades, gathering the water from a thousand ravines and gulches till it becomes a roaring mountain torrent; and still sweeping on, now skirting a rich meadow of bottom land, and now passing beneath the shadow of towering bluffs and beetling crags, it becomes a beautiful and romantic little river and meets another stream that rises within the hearing of the awful thunders of Niagara. After receiving many a sportive branch and rippling rill and foaming creek and watering many a farm and garden in Western New York and Pennsylvania it, too, reaches the magnitude of a river. These are the Monongahela and Allegheny. Like two merry, rocking, romping children they unite their



After a two-hour wagon ride from Marion, this party arrived at the river town of Weston and set up camp for the day, ready to enjoy camping and boat rides on the Ohio River.



The beautiful Ohio River as seen from the bluff on the Illinois side.

destinies and form the beautiful Ohio. This from busy, bustling smokey Pittsburg, the New Castle of America, starts on its tortuous course to the “father of waters,” bearing upon its crystal bosom the commerce of the most enlightened, happy people on earth passing through a country whose fertility of soil is not equaled by that of any other region of like extent in the world, a region embracing many commonwealths, each of which would rival in grandeur and magnificence the greatest of the ancient empires. Along its banks are thriving towns and populous and opulent cities like gems of gold on a string of silver.

How did this river get its name, and what does the name signify? What do we understand by the word Ohio?”

Here is the Legend

An Indian chief of the Miami tribe then occupying the shores of Lake Michigan, with a small band of his tribe, wan-

dered southward on a hunting excursion. A few miles from the Ohio they startled a deer from his cover and despite all their wiley maneuvering, the wary animal eluded the hunters, frequently in sight but always escaping the winged shafts sent after him.

The deer led the hunting party southward till late in the afternoon when they suddenly emerged from the dense forest into an open spot on a high piece of ground overlooking the river. About the middle of the stream was the deer, bravely swimming for the Kentucky shore, and safely beyond the reach of its pursuers’ arrows, but all thought of the deer was lost in contemplation of the exquisite beauties of the scene before them.

For five miles above and 10 below, the majestic stream was in full view. Kentucky, then an unbroken wilderness, presented a landscape of undulating hills and fertile valleys, all clothes in the rich, green

foliage of May, that looked like a land of enchantment.

The sun was setting and a roseate radiance beautified land and water; far down the river was a small island covered with green trees that appeared to spring up from the limpid element itself and looked like an emerald setting in a sea of opal.

Whatever fault the savage may possess, he rarely fails to appreciate the beauties of nature, and in the plenitude of his wonder, admiration and amazement, the chief uttered the ejaculation, “O-high-O” meaning great river. And the chief had unconsciously given to the noble river a name that was destined to go with it through untold centuries.

At a later day, the French came to this territory and explored the river from Pittsburgh to Cairo, and reveled in its beauties. They called it “La Belle Rivire” meaning Beautiful River.

We have seen the Ohio at Weston many times and at all seasons of the year, but we never before saw such a display of sand bars as at present.

After looking at the river for a while, we spread our dinner on the river bank; the exercises of the morning had whetted everybody’s appetites, and ample justice was done to the repast.

After dinner we chartered two skiffs, and Ira Hughes and Henry Agee to man one of them and my friend Eli Swansey

and myself to handle the oars of the other, with Eli as chief pilot of the expedition.

By dexterous manipulation through swift waters, and once being caught aground on a sandbar, we maneuvered across the river and landed and beached our barges on the Illinois side. We climbed the bank and stood on the shore and looked up and down the river. We were in agreement with the Indian chief and the Frenchmen, the Ohio was truly a beautiful sight.

The sun was now sinking low in the West we remarked, and the unfavorable conditions of navigation being reversed we made the return trip in about five minutes.

Then voting the day a fine success we hitched up our horses, and with grateful feelings to the good people of that quiet little village for the civilities shown us, we left them to a much needed rest, and started home.

If you have never seen the view of the Ohio from high atop the bluff from the Weston Cemetery on the Kentucky side, or from the top of the bluff on the Cave-In-Rock, Ill., side, you have missed a beautiful sight. Truly one of Crittenden County’s treasures.

(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com).



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UPCOMING

EVENTS

MAY 1-3 7 p.m.	<i>The Music Man Junior</i>
MAY 10 7:30 p.m.	<i>Amanda Edmonds Locke Foundation featuring An Evening with The Todd Hill Orchestra</i>

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NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY

RECOVERY BY ENVIRONMENTAL SURCHARGE OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY'S 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PLAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in an April 30, 2025 Application, Kentucky Utilities Company (“KU”) is seeking approval by the Kentucky Public Service Commission (“Commission”) in Case No. 2025-00105, pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute 278.183, of an amended compliance plan (“2025 Plan”). (Collectively, KU’s Application and supporting testimony and exhibits are KU’s “tariff filing.”) If approved, KU will begin recovering capital costs associated with a new pollution control facility in the 2025 Plan under KU’s existing Electric Rate Schedule ECR (also known as the Environmental Surcharge tariff) through an increase in the environmental surcharge on customers’ bills beginning in December 2025.

KU filed an application with the Commission on February 28, 2025, in Case No. 2025-00045 seeking approval to construct a selective catalytic reduction system at the Ghent generating station to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, which are a precursor to ozone. In Case No. 2025-00105, KU is seeking an order approving the 2025 Plan to recover the costs of this new pollution control facility through its Environmental Surcharge tariff. This project will help ensure ongoing compliance with regulations issued under the federal Clean Air Act as amended, including the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone.

The estimated total capital cost of this new pollution control facility is \$152.3 million. Additionally, KU is requesting recovery of future incremental capital and operation and maintenance expenses associated with this new pollution control facility. KU is also asking to recover the cost of publishing this customer notice through the Environmental Surcharge over 12 months and to have Environmental Surcharge recovery of future Commission-approved administrative expenses, including customer notice costs.

Beginning in December 2025, the initial bill impact for KU’s Group 1 customers is estimated to be a 0.01% increase with a maximum increase of 0.81% in 2029. Group 1 includes Rate Schedules Residential Service (RS), Residential Time-of-Day Energy Service (RTODE), Residential Time-of-Day Demand Service (RTODD), Volunteer Fire Department Service (VFD), All Electric School (AES), and all Lighting Rates (i.e., LS, RLS, LE, and TE).

RS and VFD customers using 1,085 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.01 up to \$1.09. RTODE customers using 1,043 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.01 up to \$1.14. RTODD customers using 987 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.02 up to \$1.80. AES customers using 25,620 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.30 up to \$24.28. LS and RLS customers could expect a monthly increase of \$0.00 up to \$0.12. LE customers using 2,473 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.02 up to \$1.59. TE customers using 147 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.00 up to \$0.15.

Beginning in December 2025, the initial bill impact for KU’s Group 2 customers is estimated to be a 0.01% increase with a maximum increase of 1.10% in 2029. Group 2 includes Rate Schedules General Service (GS), General Time-of-Day Energy Service (GTODE), General Time-of-Day Demand Service (GTODD), Power Service (PS), Time-of-Day Secondary Service (TODS), Time-of-Day Primary Service (TODP), Retail Transmission Service (RTS), Fluctuating Load Service (FLS), and Outdoor Sports Lighting Service (OSL).

GS customers using 1,657 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.03 up to \$2.41. GTODD customers using 19,652 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.31 up to \$25.26. PS-Secondary customers using 30,434 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.39 up to \$32.35. PS-Primary customers using 35,028 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.45 up to \$36.82. TODS customers using 189,538 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$1.54 up to \$126.82. TODP customers using 1,242,574 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$8.25 up to \$678.42. RTS customers using 7,387,224 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$38.91 up to \$3,199.31. FLS-Transmission customers using 44,229,667 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$237.46 up to \$19,525.53. OSL-Secondary customers using 4,627 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.17 up to \$13.87.

The Application described in this Notice is proposed by KU, but the Commission may issue an order resulting in an environmental surcharge for customers other than the environmental surcharge described in this Notice.

Comments regarding KU’s 2025 Plan and Application may be submitted to the Commission through its website or by mail to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.

Any person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, establishing the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication of this Notice, the Commission may take final action on the Application.

Any person may examine KU’s tariff filing at the Commission’s offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or through the Commission’s website at <http://psc.ky.gov> or KU’s website (<http://www.lge-ku.com>) after KU makes its tariff filing on April 30, 2025. KU has requested a deviation from the requirement to make the tariff filing available at its office at One Quality Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40507. If the Commission denies that request, KU will make the tariff filing available at its office upon request by any person.