

**Charles Jacob Vettiner**

*"The Flying Dutchman"*

by Becky Walker

**2009**

Charlie was born April 24, 1908 to Charles Frank John & Margaret Apollonia Wenz Vettiner in their home at 627 Caldwell Street in the Schnitzelburg Community of Louisville, Kentucky.



**Charles Frank John Vettiner & Margaret Elenora Wenz Vettiner**



**Elizabeth Apollonia Vettiner age 4 & Charles Jacob Vettiner 5 months old**

Before he turned 1 his parents moved to a house on McHenry Street and then to his boyhood home located on Goss Avenue. This house is still standing and is just about a block from a historical marker outside of Hauck's Grocery Store. The marker mentions George Hauck's and Charlie's contributions to the Germantown Community.



Charlie is standing on the porch of his childhood home.

Charlie with his lifelong friend George Hauck



## Charles Jacob Vettiner's baby pictures



*Charles 1 year old*  
**1 year old**



**2 years old**



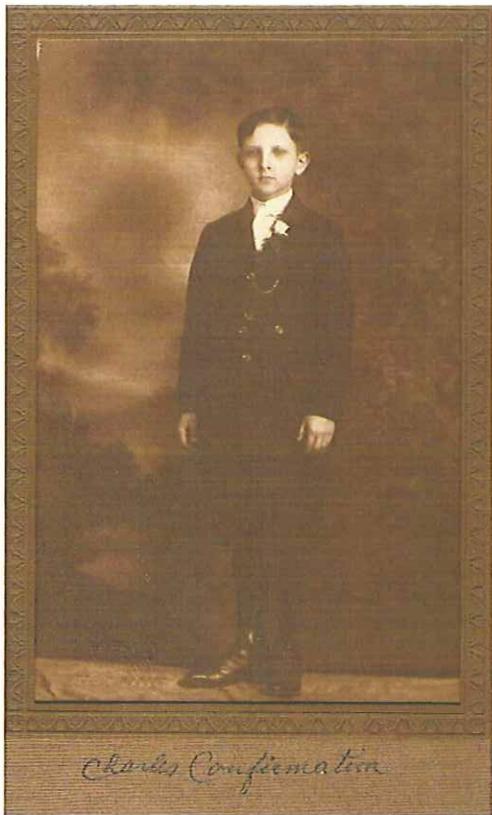
### **Godfry Russman's 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday**

Charlie Vettiner is sitting on the front row, and his sister Elizabeth is standing in the third row.



**Charlie age 3**

Charlie Vettiner age 12 Confirmation Photos



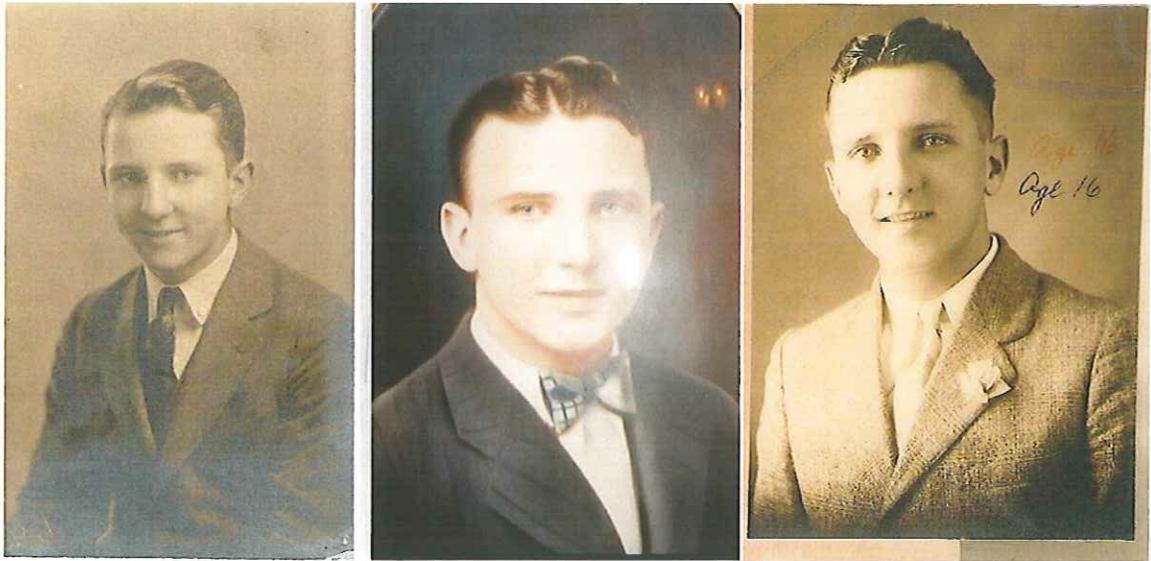
This is my confirmation picture made in 1920. I was 12 years old.  
 Pictured with me from left to right are my first cousins Ernestine Wenz, Gudex, Marie Hutchinson Grant and my sister, Elizabeth Vettiner.  
 Charles J. Vettiner  
 4-29-1979  
 my mother and Aunt Lene are in back ground.

Charles Jacob Vettiner



purpose. You ask why I am a Christian. I reply that I am a Christian because I have thought it through and I know that for me there is no other way to live that is so satisfying or so potentially valuable. I am a Christian because I want to be one and I believe in a God who wants me to be one. # + \* + \*

**Charlie Vettiner's teenage years.**



**Charlie  
played  
forward.**



**Cherokee Demolay Team 1925**

**Family photo 1925**

1016  
Goss  
Avenue

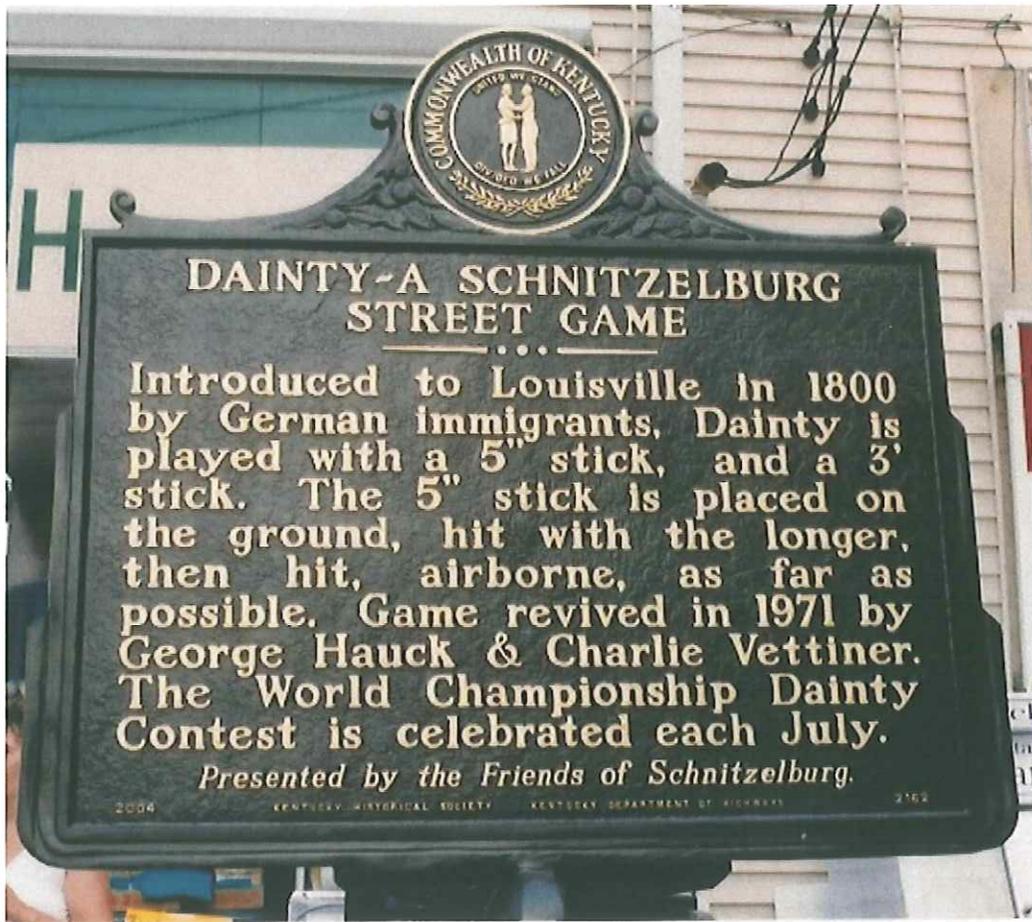


There is now an historical marker mentioning both Charlie and George on the corner of Goss Avenue and Hauck way. The marker is placed in front of where you see the coke machine.



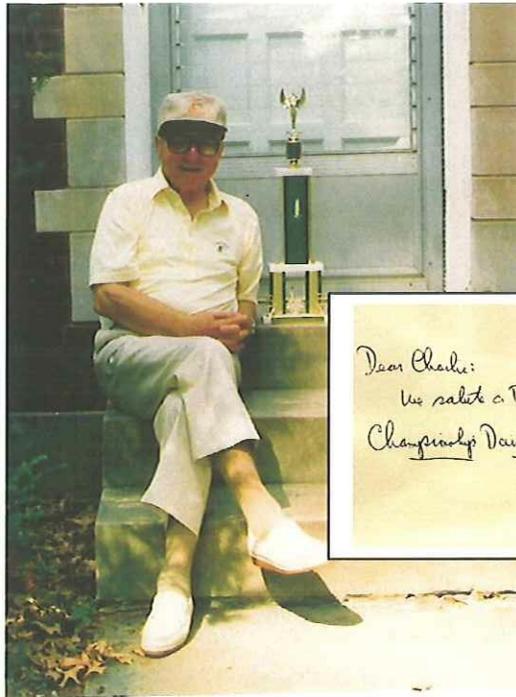
**Historical Marker Presentation Ceremony**

From left to right:  
Gene & Patricia Vettiner Dukes (Charlie's daughter)  
George Hauck, Abby & Lacy Walker (Charlie's Great Grandchildren), Steve Porter (Charlie's Grandson), Crystal Devore, and Jim Walker





Life long friend George Hauck.

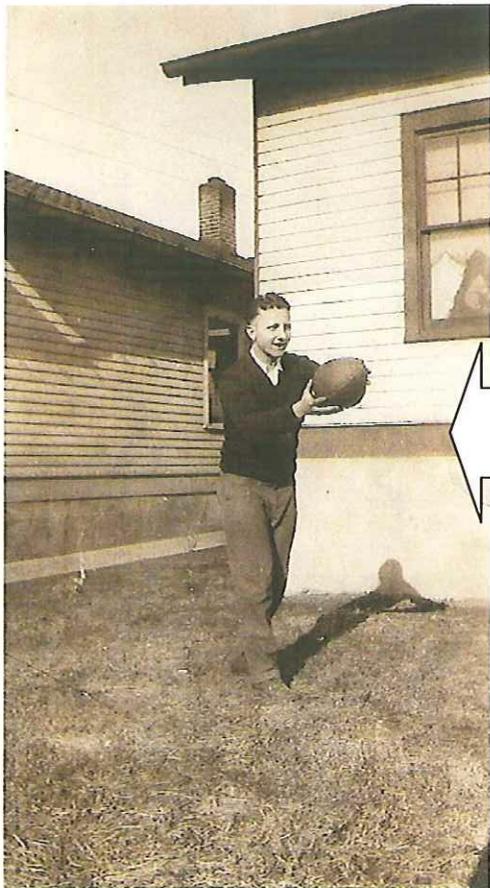


Charlie wins the dainty contest in 1988.

Charlie Vettiner attended Louisville's Male High School and after graduation went on to the University of Louisville, but he later transferred to Western Kentucky Teachers College (now known as Western Kentucky University).



Louisville Male High School



Charlie could drop punt the football about 50 yards.

### U. OF L. ATHLETE ENROLLS HERE AS WESTERN STUDENT

Charlie Vettner, Football and Basketball Star, Enters School

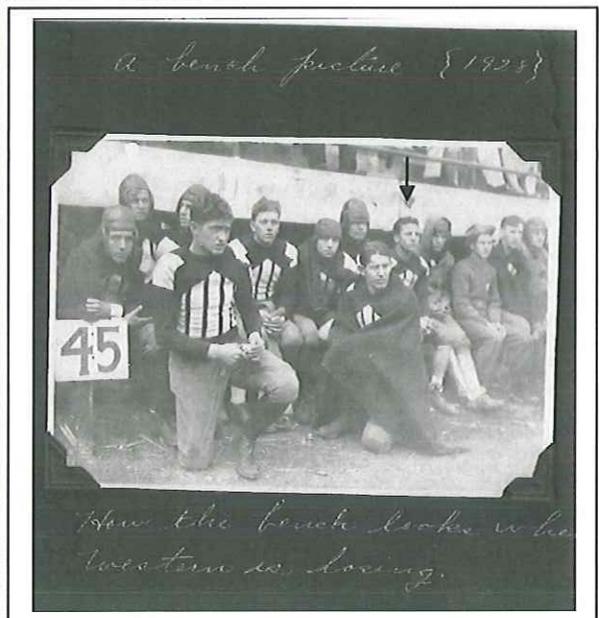
Western Teachers College enrolled one of Louisville's crack athletes when Charlie Vettner, of University of Louisville fame, registered this week for college work at the institution and cast his lot with the Teachers for the coming athletic season.

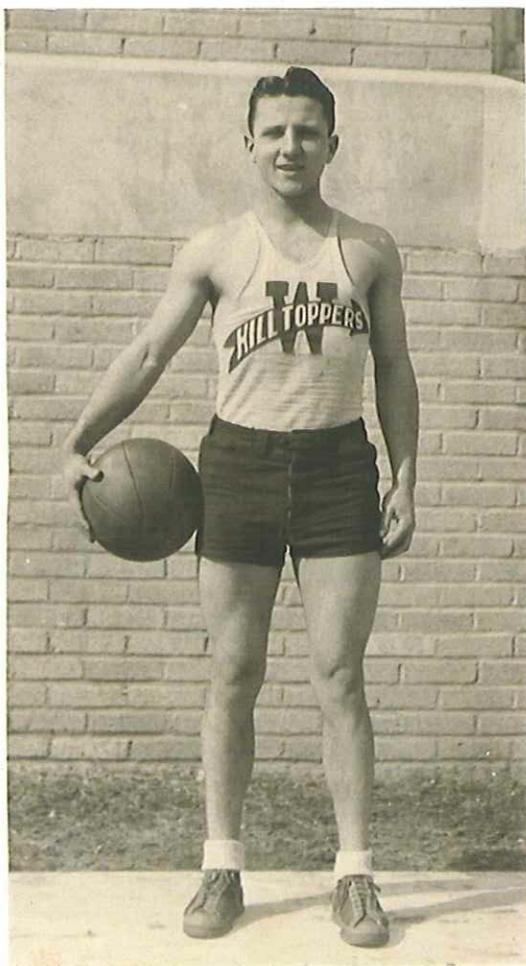
According to word received this morning from the sports department of the Louisville Herald-Post, Vettner was captain of the University of Louisville frosh basketball team two years ago, but last year he was in college.

This year, the Louisville paper reports, U. of L. was looking for big things from him in football. Vettner is a speedy half back and is one of the best broken field runners of this section. In addition to these accomplishments he can put about fifty yards.

In basketball he is a flash, being a deceptive dribbler and a deadly shot.

While attending Western Kentucky Teacher's College now known as Western Kentucky University Charlie played five sports football, basketball, baseball, tennis and track. He was the first Louisville boy to letter at Western.

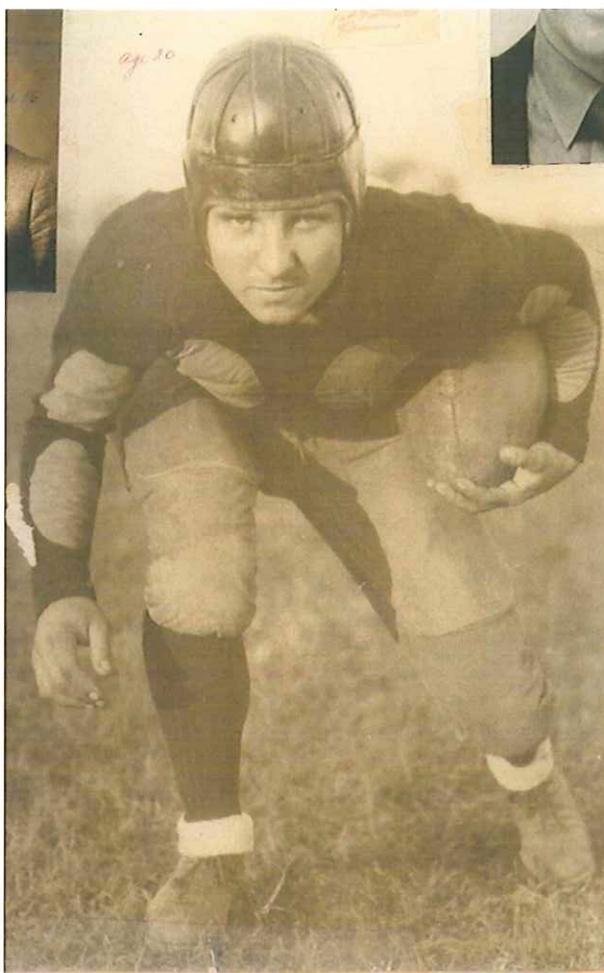




**CHARLES "Jakie" VETTINER, Guard**

*"Jakie" came from Louisville; he possessed much natural ability, dribbles the ball with plenty of speed and accuracy, and he should be a very vital factor in the athletic circle during the next two years."*

Source: 1929 Talisman Yearbook page 123



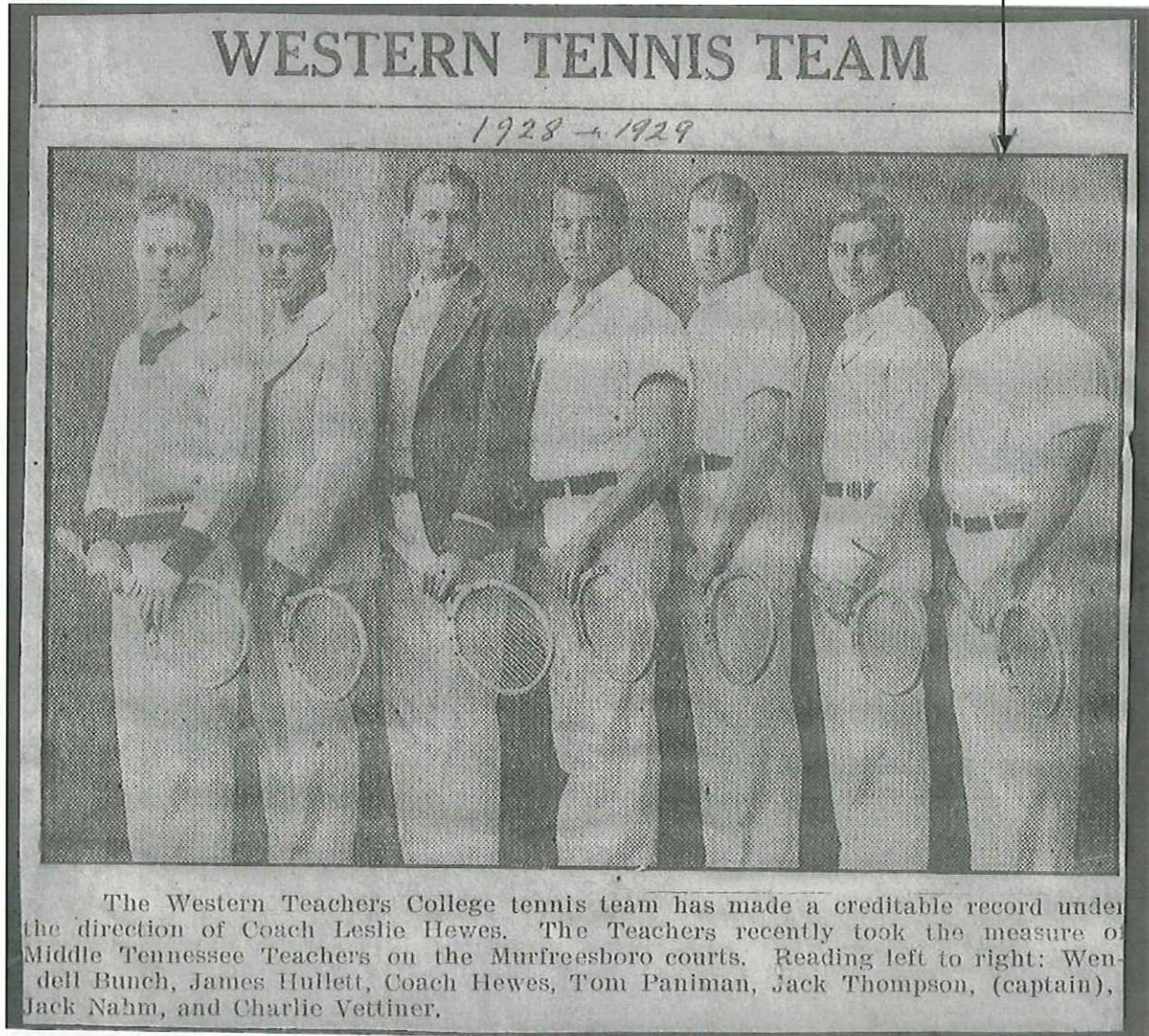
**Charles Vettiner, (Half)**

*"Jakie is a splendid football man; he is fast, shifty, and by all means should make a real record next year."*

Source: Talisman Yearbook 1929 page 116

Vettiner

Charlie



**Charlie came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in the  
State Doubles Tennis  
This is a photo of his trophy:**



## Western Teacher's College 1928 Baseball Team

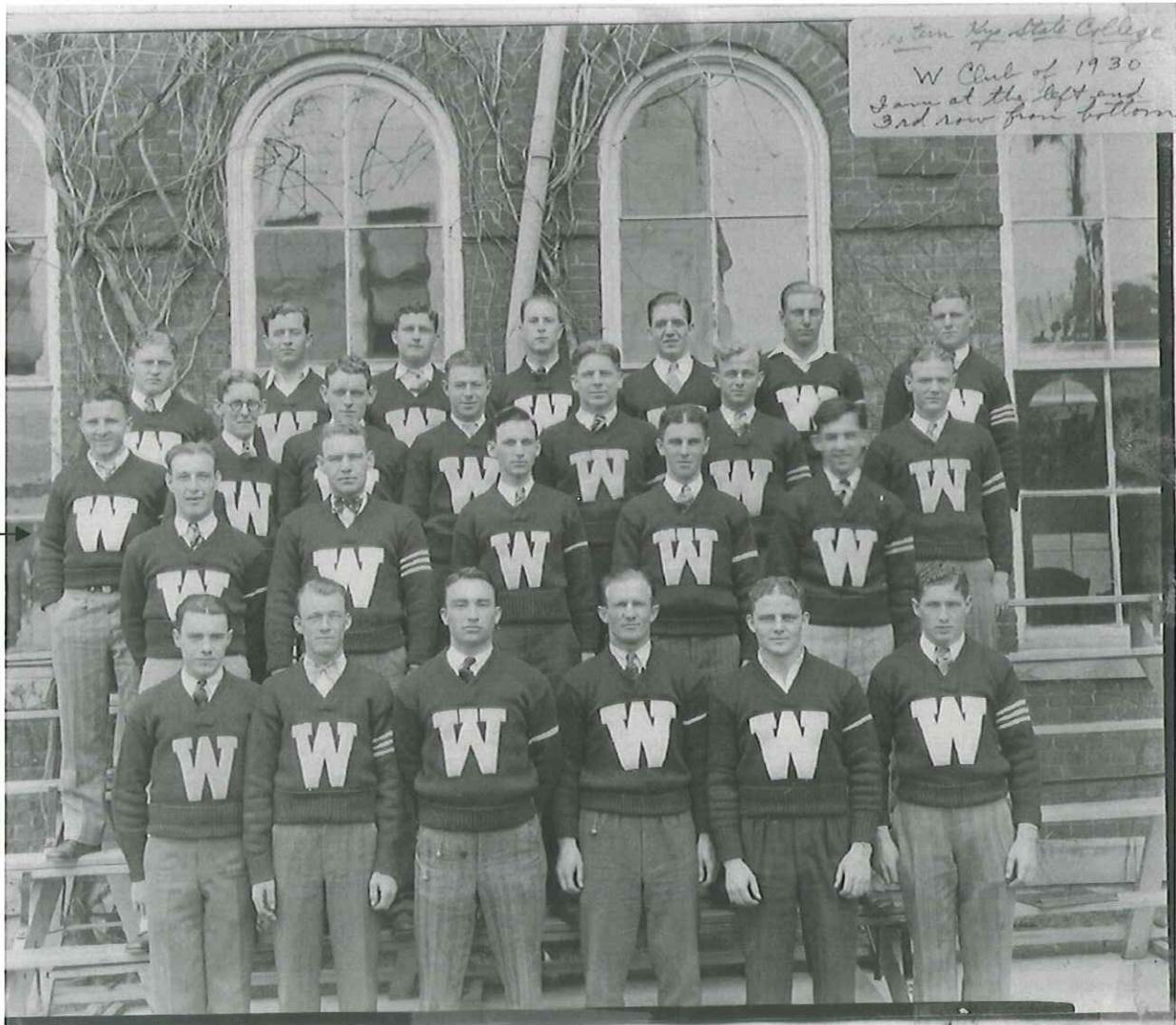


Back Row: Williams, Vickers, Nicholson, Payton, T. Ellis, Stansbury, Baugh, Smith, Rodgers, & Morris (Captain)  
Front: Oliver, Gulette, Carl Evans, Myers, L. Ellis, Baskett, Ausenbaugh, Ashcraft, Vettiner, & Cecil Evans

### State Champs

“When the curtain dropped closing the 1928 baseball schedule, it left behind pleasant memories of the best ball team that ever represented Western. Twenty sons of College Heights were grouped together to form one of the fastest teams in the south. These boys mowed down all S.I.A.A. opponents in slashing style, winning for Western the first state championship title in the school’s history.”

Quote and Photo Source: Talisman Yearbook 1929 page 130



## “W” Club

### MEMBERS

Baldwin, Dann  
 Baugh, Lenorice  
 Blewette, Asher  
 Connors, George  
 Cook, Leon  
 Cummins, Rupert  
 Ellis, Leslie  
 Ellis, Thomas  
 Elrod, Turner  
 Evans, Cecil

Gullette, Arthur  
 Hightower, Warren  
 Hornback, Teddy  
 Mansfield, Paul  
 Oliver, Robert  
 Perry, Robert  
 Peyton, Peter  
 Reynolds, Delmar  
 Rogers, Wassel  
 Smith, Basil

Stansbury, Edgar  
 Taylor, Paul  
 Terry, William  
 Thompson, Brucie  
 Tyler, Richard  
 Vaughn, Paul  
 Vettiner, Charles  
 Vickers, John L.  
 Wicker, Alton  
 Williams, Lynn

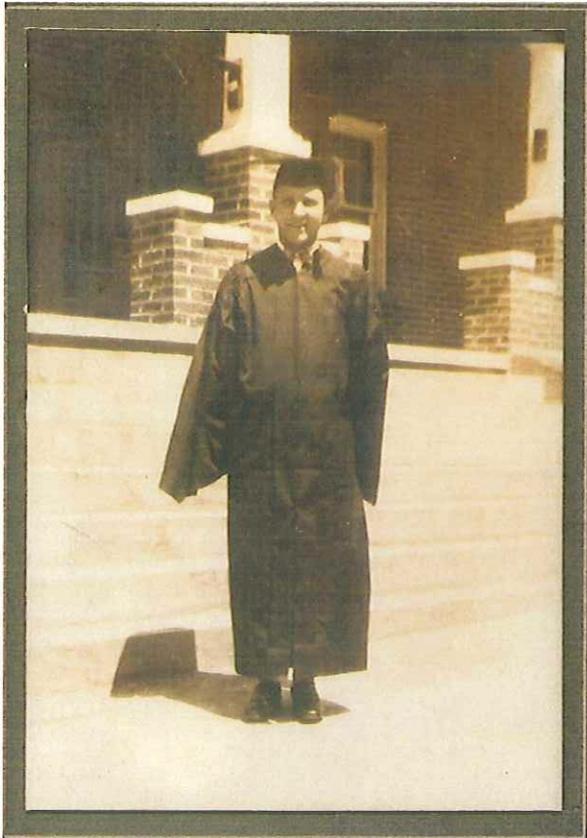


**This 1930 photo was taken of Charlie Vettiner and his soon to be wife Flossie Baker Tolle on the campus hill at Western Kentucky Teacher's College in Bowling Green, Kentucky. They were married for 59 years.**

While attending college in Bowling Green, Kentucky he met and married Flossie Baker Tolle of Glasgow, Kentucky. Charlie asked Flossie to marry him on April Fool's Day. She claims she thought he was only joking, but then he took her to the Justice of Peace and they were married. However the joke turned out to be on him, because on the way back from the Justice of Peace she broke out with measles.

## Tolle-Vettner Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Tolle yesterday received announcement of the marriage of their daughter, Miss Flossie Tolle to Mr. Charlie Vettner, of Louisville. Mrs. Vettner is a penmanship teacher in the Western Kentucky State Normal School at Bowling Green and Mr. Vettner is a student in the school and will receive his A. B. degree in May. He may be remembered by Glasgowians as one of the referees in the Basket Ball Tournament recently held at Tompkinsville. The young couple will be at home in their apartment at 1346 Kentucky Street, Bowling Green.



Charlie  
received his  
A.B. Degree  
from Western  
in 1930.

After graduating in 1930 they moved to Hardyville, where they both taught and coached Memorial's basketball teams.

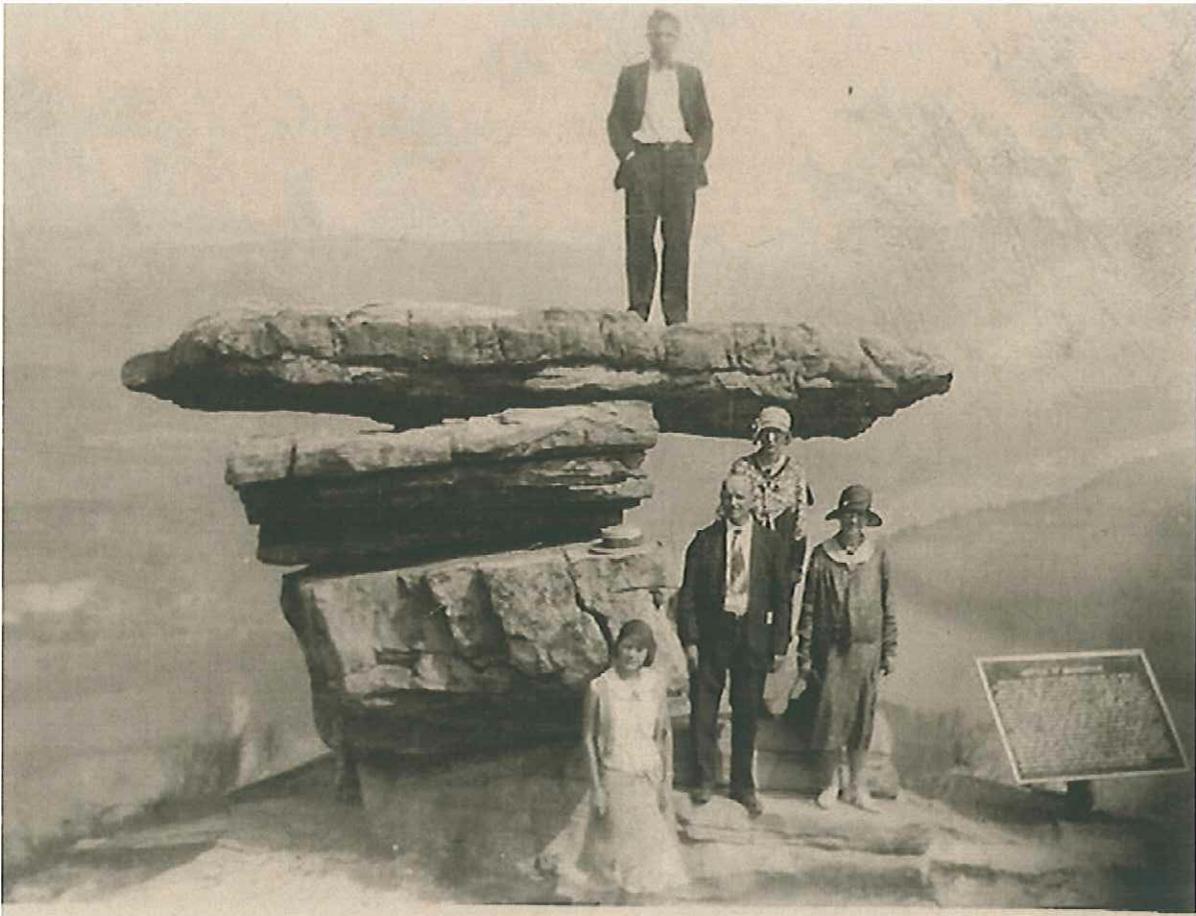


Charlie and Flossie both coached Memorial's girls' basketball team.



Players left to right:  
Tony Handy  
Don Bale  
Will Paul Lawson  
Charles Weller  
Billie Curle  
Coach Charlie Vettiner

## A Vettiner Family Vacation

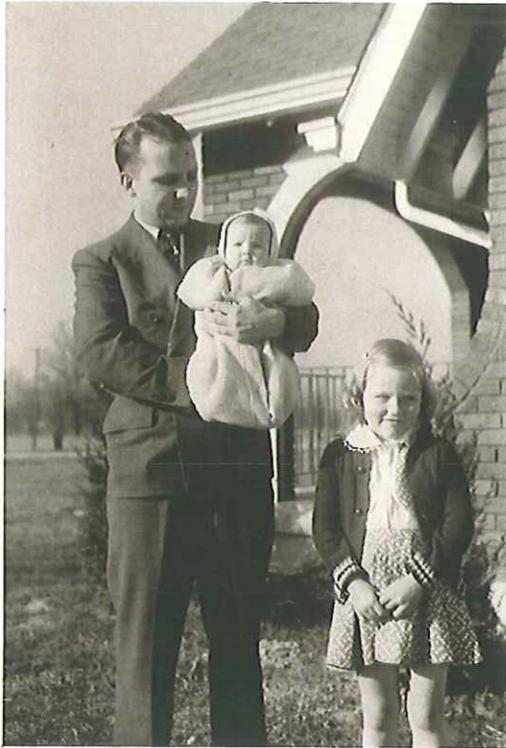


Charlie shows off his bravery / adventuresome spirit, while Flossie keeps both of her feet planted firmly on the ground. Also in this picture are Charlie's parents and sister.

In 1932 Charlie brought Flossie home to Louisville, Kentucky. They had a home built on East Esplanade at the base of Kenwood Hill. This is where they would raise their two daughters and live the rest of their lives. Their daughters are Barbara Ann Vettiner Porter and Patricia Tolle Vettiner Dukes.

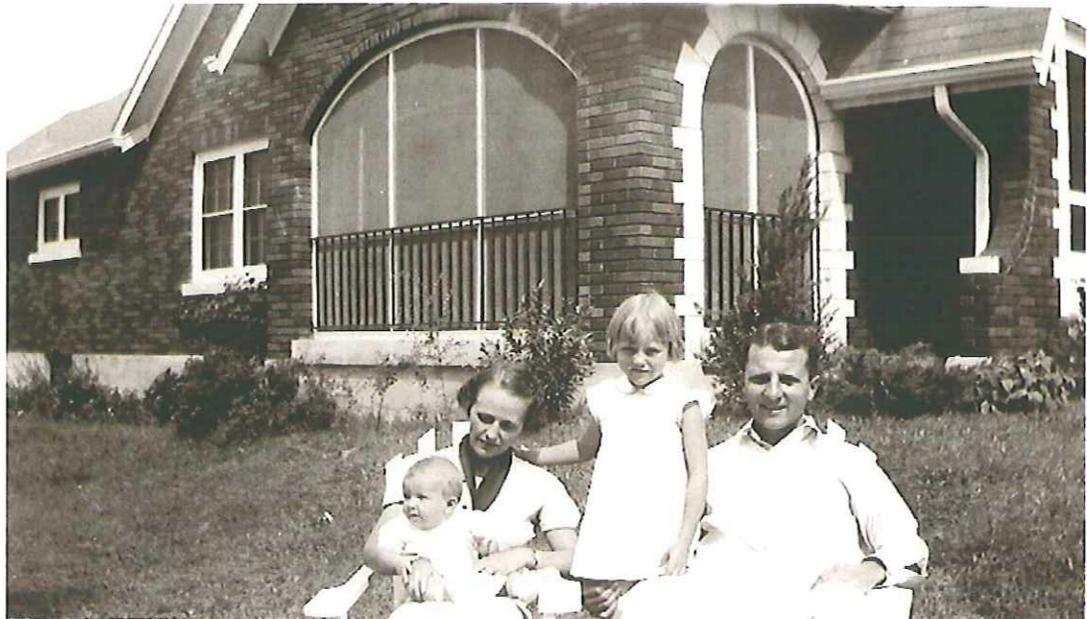


*Charlie &  
Flossie's first  
daughter,  
Barbara Ann  
Vettiner was  
born January 19,*



*On December 18, 1938  
Patricia Tolle Vettiner  
arrived.*

*She is being held by her  
father and big sister  
Barbara is in the photo.*



Flossie is holding Patricia, with Barbara and Charlie  
in the side yard of their home at 205 East Esplanade  
in Louisville, Kentucky.



Charlie standing out in front of the Vettiner family home at 205 East Esplanade, Louisville, Kentucky 40214.

During the war he was the director of public safety at Jeff Boat & Machine Co. While there he received national attention for the safety articles he wrote during this time period.



1944



He taught math at Fairdale High School for 12 years and coached Fairdale's first football team.



Coach Charlie Vettiner



School Days  
1945-46

Both of my grandparents had qualities that made them excellent teachers who had a far-reaching impact on the lives of their students. Both were creative, expected the best from their students, respected their students for who they were, and encouraged them to accomplish great things. Their impact upon the young lives they touched was life long. When they both died in December 1989, I had the privilege of talking with many of their students at the funeral home, and one after one kept telling story after story of how they had made a difference in their lives by believing in them.

Charlie and Flossie Vettiner both taught school before he became the Director of the Jefferson County Parks & Recreation System. Flossie continued teaching until she retired after teaching a total of 41 years. The class below thought enough of them as teachers that they invited them both back to their class reunion.



**Charlie & Flossie Vettiner 1974 (first row, center)**

## Vettiner Voted State's Best Cage Official

By JOHNNY CARRICO

Courier-Journal Staff Writer.

Douse your light, Diogenes!  
There really is an honest man.

It's Charley Vettiner, Kentucky's most popular scholastic basketball official.

How can you be sure? That's easy. When 106 Kentucky coaches—any one of whom would challenge the integrity of "Honest Abe" Lincoln were he to work a ball game—when 106 of those



Doubting Thomases yield an excellent rating to an official's work, then the man must be honest.

In a field where the stigma of "robber" and "thief" is quick to spring to the lips of coach and spectator alike, it is a tribute to Vettiner that not a single ballot labelled his work "fair" or "poor." Only seven votes termed him "good."

Vettiner's achievement marked the fourth straight occasion on which he was named Kentucky's best arbiter and the sixth altogether. This year's margin was his biggest, 93 "excellents" being his former high.

Vettiner previously announced that he has quit officiating in order to devote full time to his job as supervisor of the Jefferson County Playground and Recreation Board.

Second in the ratings, which appeared in a recent issue of the Kentucky High School Athlete, is Dalton Williams with 36 "excellent" counts. Jack Thompson is third with 33; L. J. "Duke" Coleman is fourth with 31 and Edgar McNabb is fifth with 21.

Charlie was a basketball official, for which he was voted best referee in Kentucky by the coaches four years in a row. He was known for his reputation of being fair and honest.

# Vettiner, No. 1 Referee In State, To Join U. of L. Athletic Staff

By TOMMY FITZGERALD, Courier-Journal Staff Writer.

Official announcement is expected in a few days of the addition of Charley Vettiner, No. 1 basketball referee in Kentucky for the past three seasons, to the athletic staff of the University of Louisville.

Vettiner, at present mathematics teacher at Fairdale High, a position he has held for 12 years, will join the University as a physical education activities man, it is reported, part of his duties being to conduct Navy and civilian gym classes.

Although Vettiner, traveling in the state on his annual clinical tour, could not be reached for confirmation of the report, it is understood he is ready to sign for the new job. The official announcement, it was learned, awaits the return to the city, probably Monday, of Dr. Einar W. Jacobsen, president of the University.

Because of his wide personal acquaintance with high school principals and coaches in the State gained through his basketball officiating and the officiating clinics he has conducted over the State for the Kentucky High School Athletic Association in the past three years, Vettiner also is expected to be of invaluable assistance to the university as a good will man. In this capacity, he is qualified to play an important part in the athletic expansion program planned by the University.

Although he has done no coaching his 12 years at Fairdale, he has been active in recreational work. Last summer he was in charge of the recreation center at Valley Station.

### Coached At Memorial High School

Before coming to Fairdale, he taught and coached basketball for two seasons at Memorial High in Hart County, his first teaching assignment after being graduated from Western State Teachers' College. At Western, where he matriculated upon his graduation from Louisville Male, he participated in football, basketball, baseball and other sports.

Five times and the last three seasons in a row he has been rated

the No. 1 basketball official in Kentucky. These rankings are obtained from opinions expressed on the quality of a referee's work by the schools for which he officiates.

Last year he refereed 75 games in the state. His work was rated excellent in 64 of the games, good in eight, fair in two and poor in only one.

Except for expressions of pleasure over the expected addition of Vettiner to the staff, things were quiet at the U. of L. gym yesterday, Coach Peck Hickman being forced to call off practice for his Sea Cards when he joined several of his players on the flu list.

Hickman was irked by this enforced idleness because he figures his fast-stepping Sea Cards, victorious in six straight games, will need all the polishing they can get for their game with Murray Saturday night at the Male Gym.



In 1945 he was hired as a member of the faculty at the University of Louisville in the Athletic Department where he implemented programs in intramural sports.



Courier-Journal Photo by Key.

**GOOD LUCK!**—Ray Baer, retiring Jefferson County recreation director, gives Charley Vettiner, his successor, a bit of advice and equipment.

## Vettiner Named Recreation Head

### Takes Post As County Director As Ray Baer Returns to Football

Smilin' Charlie Vettiner, voted the best basketball official in the state five times by Kentucky high school coaches, yesterday assumed the duties as director of recreation for Jefferson County.

Acting as assistant since March, when he began preparing for his new job, Vettiner succeeds Ray Baer, who has held the post for a little over a year. Baer, however, will remain at his desk until approximately August 1 to finish some of the projects he has started—such as the Junior Olympics. After that he plans to devote his time to coaching the St. Xavier football team and to the insurance business.

Graduate of Western State Teachers College, Vettiner is receiving an appropriate reward for his brilliant athletic work during the past decade. He has conducted official basketball clinics for the Kentucky High School Athletic Association, teaching the fine points of the game to men in all sections of the state. During the last two years he has helped the Jefferson County recreation program by handling the large and popular Valley Station playground and swimming pool. And he was, for a while, a member of the University of Louisville physical education staff.

Vitality interested in junior athletics, Vettiner has a wide ac-

quaintance in the county and is intimately familiar with the recreation program. Those points had much to do with his appointment, said the Rev. L. M. Sanders, chairman of the Jefferson County Recreation and Playground Committee, when Charlie was appointed assistant last March under a plan whereby he eventually would succeed Baer.

Vettiner, who expects to appoint an assistant soon, said he was pleased to take over the new job and expressed the hope that he would do as well at the post as Baer.

#### WELL DONE

"Ray has met the challenges of the directorship admirably and has introduced a number of innovations which have created a great deal of interest among people in the county," Vettiner said.

"I hope I'll be able to continue the program on as sound a footing as Ray."

Vettiner taught mathematics at Fairdale High for 12 years while building an enviable reputation as a basketball official. For the last three years in succession he's been voted tops in that field.

He went to work for the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation in 1946 and was named to be the head of the Parks and Recreation Department following Baer.



*Charles Estlin's*  
FIRST PLAYGROUND STAFF, YEAR--1946

He was a pioneer in reaching across racial lines to provide recreation programs, and provided opportunities for the handicap and less fortunate. Food drives were set up so that no one would be forgotten in hospitals at Christmas. One of the children that grew up on crutches (due to polio) in his recreation program went on to become Director for the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation (Bobby Kirchdorfer).

## Bobby Kirchdorfer's Courage Recognized

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc., which was founded by Franklin D. Roosevelt and is located at 120 Broadway, New York 5, N. Y., has contacted the Jefferson County Playground and Recreation Board through its Kentucky Chapter in the Marion E. Taylor Building.

According to Matilda Eagle, director of the department of information a broadcast was carried a few days ago over the Mutual Station WOR in New York telling the story of Bobby Kirchdorfer, who though paralyzed from the waist down for more than 9 years, won the wheelbarrow race in the track meet conducted by the Jefferson County Playground and Recreation Board at Mill Creek.

According to the National Foundation, Bobby's feat was of great interest to them and to Station WOR which is the largest radio station in New York accord-

ing to information received from Bovard Clayton of Louisville's WGRC. The Jefferson County Playground and Recreation Board was asked to provide a contact for the Foundation in order that more information could be gleaned about Bobby.

When Ray Baer and Charlie Vettner pointed out to Mrs. Mabel F. Wear of the Kentucky Chapter that another county boy, Glenn Sherrard of Valley Station, had also whipped polio by carrying off a red ribbon in the Valley Graded School meet she expressed the appreciation of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Foundation to the Jefferson County Playground and Recreation Board for a program which gave these youngsters a chance to show the nation that polio victims were still in the scheme of life.

The executive committee of the Kentucky Chapter is made up of Gov. Simeon Willis, Neil Dalton, T. Carmichael, and M. C. Browder.



"Bobby" Kirchdorfer — Brown Studio Photo

About nine years ago, Bobby Kirchdorfer, then two years old, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester "Buzz" Kirchdorfer, Shively, was stricken with polio and became paralyzed from the waist down.

Bobby took his misfortune in stride and continued to grin. Time came for school and Bobby was there on his crutches. His winsome and perpetual smile won the plaudits and the love of all his classmates.

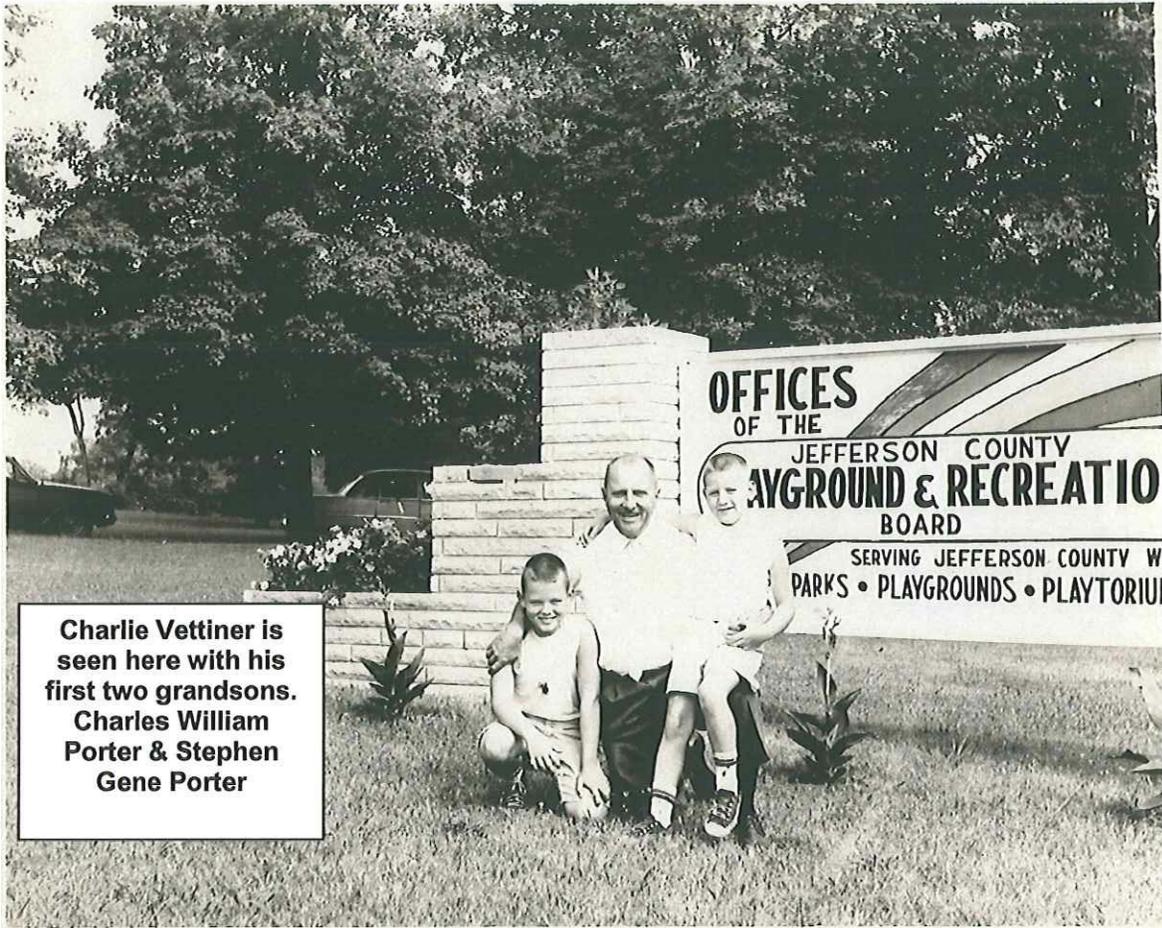
Bobby has always been an ardent sports fan, but because of his misfortune had not had an opportunity to participate until it was afforded Tuesday when the Mill Creek students entered the Jefferson Playgrounds and Recreation Board's program and a wheelbarrow race was announced.

Bobby was in the height of his glory because here was an athletic event he could enter. He and his best buddy, Boyd Carter, talked the matter over and they decided to enter as a team. They entered—

they won amid the plaudits of the students, the teachers and the large assembly that was present. And do not think for a minute that it was a "give-away" race. Every team that entered was doing its level best to win. That was the way it should have been and that was the way Bobby wanted it. They won "going away."

We had the privilege of watching that race. The determination that Bobby and his buddy put into it was characteristic of the fight that Bobby has shown since his misfortune.

He won a wheelbarrow race, but he did more than that. He showed able-bodied and physically fit persons that handicaps can be overcome if the will power is there. The will power is in Bobby's brain and heart. By virtue of his victory he set an example to the community. Regardless of the handicap it can be overcome. Congratulations, Bobby, in showing a weary world that "it can be done."



While working for the Parks Department he was a visionary ahead of his time. He fought to acquire more park land for Jefferson County. He dreamed of a rainbow chain of parks stretching from one end of the county to the other. He helped to developed after school programs and teen clubs to help keep children out of trouble. He worked to have the community actively involved with programs so that they would take ownership in programs that the parks department offered.



It... than with... ways to... program is... and...

# County Will See Revolution In Parks, Predicts Vettiner

"The people in this county are going to see a big revolution take place in the next 20 years in their parks and park administration," forecasts Charlie Vettiner, director of metropolitan parks and recreation.

By 1990 the county is going to have to acquire at least 5,000 more acres of parkland here to meet the needs of the projected population of 1,400,000 people. The cost of this additional land will be about five million dollars in the county if the land is purchased within the next five years. If the county waits longer than that all the available land will either have been swallowed up by industry and impossible to obtain or the cost will be prohibitive.

"We've got to meet that need," warns Vettiner. "We'd better not just shift it off or we are really going to have problems in 1990. Now is the time to solve the problems of 20 years from now; we can't just wait until it gets here because that will be too late. We must look ahead."

The increased need for parks will be brought about not only by the greater population, he says, but also by the fact that all those people will have a great deal more leisure time on their hands 20 years from now. Miracle drugs are adding years to individual's lives; after retiring the elderly must be provided some interest in life in which they can stay active. If we don't build enough new parks and recreational centers for them, then "we'll have to build more mental institutions."

As well as the problems of the aged, there will be the threat of the youth. If young people are not given a wholesome place to meet and enjoy themselves, they're going to go out and join the mob scenes. Their energy must be diverted into the proper channels, says Vettiner.

### Time On Their Hands

The third necessity of building more parks comes from the fact that industry is not going to locate here if the park and recreational facilities are inadequate. In order for an

industry to succeed, its employees must be content. Vettiner predicts that by 1990 the 40 hour work week will be reduced to 30, leaving workers with an unbelievable amount of time on their hands with which they are going to be bored and miserable unless he can find some way to use that time constructively. It is in these idle hours when he is not working, in Vettiner's theory, that man destroys himself.

The Metropolitan Parks and Recreation Board already has a master plan in which sites have been selected to make up the 5,000 acres for the new parklands. What remains now is for the county to raise the five million dollars to buy that land.

The board at present has already provided and oversees 68 major parks in the metropolitan system. At least 11 of them are included in the Reporter area, including Black Mudd with 18 acres, Chenoweth with 247 acres, Fisherman's with 65 acres, Highview with nearly 21 acres and McNeely which has almost 82 acres. Thirty acres are included in Newburg Park and Sky View boasts nearly 76 acres. Trevillian Park is located across from the new zoo and includes some 75 acres.

The zoo itself is also included with the parks for which the board's director Charlie Vettiner is responsible. The two major parks in this area are Cherokee and Seneca. Nearly 1,000 acres are included within the boundary of the two parks together; the parks are joined and appear to be one large park with golf courses, a creek, playgrounds, picnic areas and wooded sections.

opened at the end of the summer. Two tennis courts have already been finished and it is hoped the golf course will be done soon.

The park, Vettiner says, "should be named for Ennis Johnson because he has done more for parks and recreation in this particular area than anybody else."

Johnson, a Fern Creek man, served on the county playground and recreation board for 12 years and before that had worked continually in the recreational program since it was begun in 1946. At that time he was one of the first to come forward and help the struggling program get started.

Work will probably be begun soon on another project, that of building a swimming pool near the Bowman Field area. Vettiner says that he has \$400,000 to spend on a pool in that general location and that he has found a place in Seneca Park where he would like to put it. According to the parks director the need for a pool in that area is great as the nearest one is at Crescent Hill or the new pool just opened in Fairdale in June.

What the park board would like to see would be the proposed plan for a state park located south of Fern Creek at the 1800 acre Floyds Fork site and joining another 1800 acres in Bullitt County win approval from Frankfort. The county could save the five million dollars the board estimates it would cost to develop that park if the state built the park instead of the county. This also would leave only 3,200 acres of parkland for the county to acquire in the 20 years instead of the whole 5,000.

### Working On Fern Creek Park

The new 28 acre park presently being built behind the Fern Creek School is nearing completion and may possibly be

Kentucky has the second highest TB case rate in the continental United States.

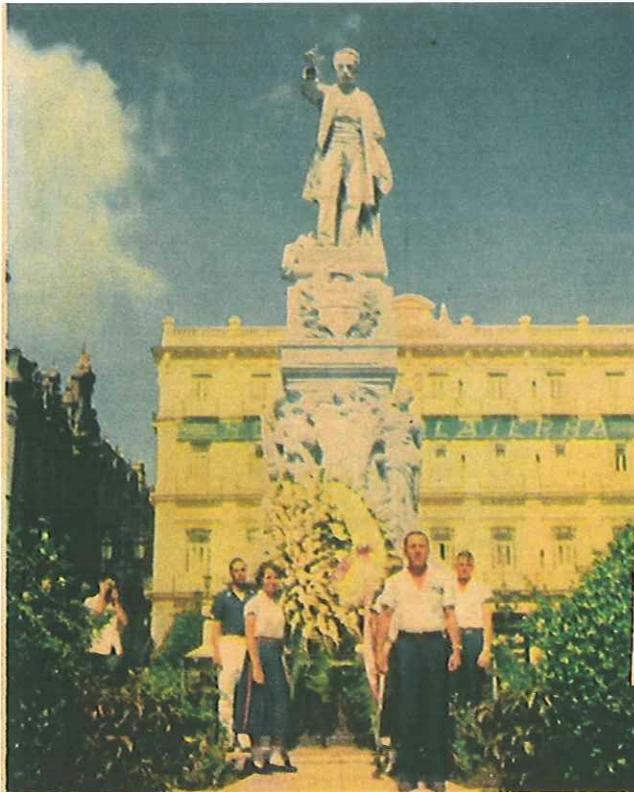


### Highlands Funeral Home

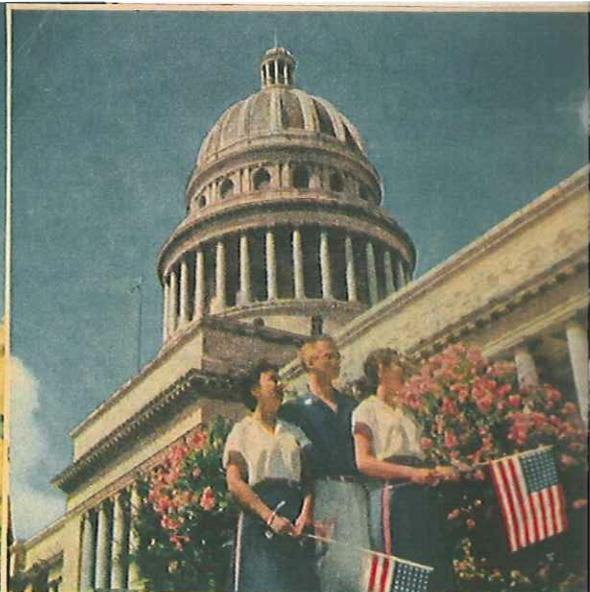


4321 TAYLORSVILLE ROAD

## Jefferson County's Young Ambassadors Trip to Cuba 1955



They laid a wreath at the statue of Jose Marti, revered by Cubans as the father of their independence. Here is Charley Vettiner, leader of the good-will youth mission, making a brief speech. Seen with him are Arthur Ahl, Patricia Vettiner and J. G. Whelan.



The Cuban Capitol was a must sight for the Jefferson County Young Ambassadors. Joyce Hellman, Roy Jeffries and Mary Alice Hershell take in the sights from in front of the building in Havana.

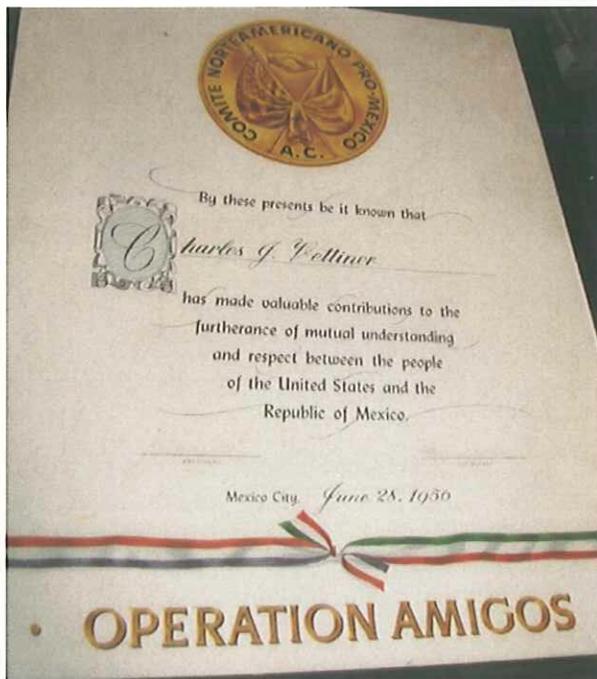


The Kentuckians got around quite a bit in Havana, even taking a stroll en masse down the Prado, main Havana street. They earned their own money to pay for the trip by plane to Cuba and Florida.



President Fulgencio Batista received the young people in person and charmed them with his graciousness. He's giving autographs and copies of his autobiography to Billy Noel, Sharon Anderson and others.

He took Jefferson County children on Youth Ambassador Trips to Cuba (1955), Mexico (1956), Canada (1957) and Nassau (1960). He also organized the Western Hemisphere International Youth Friendship Organization embodying ten Latin American countries, the United States and Canada.



### Camp on Tour to Canada 1957



While the Director of Parks and Recreation programs such as driver safety courses, musicals (Showboat and Chuckles), kite flying competitions, bike safety, square dance lessons, Aquacadettes (swimming ballet), dog obedience training, fishing college, baton twirling, boxing instruction, swimming lessons, golf lessons, summer camps, Easter Egg hunts and various craft activities were introduced.



Joyce Spears of Valley, Beverly Joris of Fern Creek, and Pat Spink of Eastern make sure Pat Veltiner has every hair in place before going on stage in the "Chuckles of 1955."

### Valley Students Were Active In 'Chuckles'

The Chuckles of 1955, annual song and dance revue, was put on at the Memorial Auditorium on April 22nd and 23rd. Eighty-eight Jefferson County teen-agers were in the show which furnished the remainder of the money needed to finance their trip to Cuba.

The show was divided into three parts, the first which portrayed the "Youth Ambassadors at Home." It was composed of three numbers, The Pretty Girl, Supper Bunny, and The Wedding of the Painted Doll. The second took place "On the Beach at Miami" and it too had three numbers, Bathing Girls, Strolling, and Walking My Baby.. The third and last part portrayed the Chucklers in Cuba. In this part were the numbers in A Little Spanish Town, My Adobe Hacienda and Salute to Youth.

As a reward for their work Chucklers will be flown by Eastern Airlines to Havana, Cuba and will return home by way of Miami Beach.

#### Valley students in Chuckles:

Carole Jenkins  
Roy Jeffries  
Bruce Morrow  
Nancy Baugh  
Janice Horine  
Barbara Gagel  
Guy Warren  
Sonja Myers  
Lois Prood  
Joyce Spears  
Patricia Veltiner  
Virginia Stockdale  
Lane Butler

Judy Krages  
Sandra Cornett  
Maggie Jekel  
Judy Maxey  
Linda Maxey  
Marilyn Maxey  
Joyce Nash  
Charlotte Ritchie  
Pat Simpson  
Martha Sword  
Drusilla Mitchell  
Billy Smith  
Nancy Johnson

E

SECOND SECTION  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1958



After-class instruction in baton-twirling is given at Goldsmith School by Mrs. Harold Craig to Donnie Fussell, 7; Vickie Eobanz, 11, and Judy Leslie, who is 7.

## PLAYTIME IN THE COUNTY



Courier-Journal Photo

NOW 'EAR THIS . . . The winners of the men's and the women's corn-husking contests last night at the Fairdale Playtorium show the result of their skill. They are Mrs. Irene Schneider and Mack Gerkins.

### Woman Champion Shucker

# Corn-Husking, Square-Dance Jubilee Held at Playtorium at Fairdale School

By RICHARD HUNTER

Some called it corn; some called it square; but it was down-to-earth fun for everyone there.

It was the 10th annual corn-huskin' and square-dance jubilee last night at Fairdale Playtorium, behind Fairdale School.

And, shucks, it was a breeze for Mrs. Irene Schneider, Beulah Church Road, to win the women's corn-husking contest. In the 3-minute time limit she husked 65 ears—two more than the winner of the men's husking contest.

Mack Gerkins, National Turnpike Route 1, was the men's winner, shucking 63 ears.

"You learn a lot, living on a farm," said modest Mrs. Schneider, who lives on a farm.

"First husking I've done in 20 years," said Gerkins, who is in the trucking business.

#### Men Drive Nails Much Faster

The men fared better in nail-driving contests. E. J. Cleland, Fairdale Route 3, won the men's contest, driving a 20-penny nail into a locust post with four licks.

Mrs. Iris Felmley, also of Fairdale Route 3, sent the nail home in 21 licks, to win the women's contest with relative ease.

Most of the women struck only a blow for

masculine superiority, bending the nails and missing the mark.

Chosen "Mr. Hoedown" and "Miss Calico" were Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Bryan, 2317 Woodland. They earned the titles with their colorful country costumes and for participation in various events, including the corn husking and square dancing.

It was a busman's holiday for Bryan. He's a driver for Louisville Transit Company. Both he and his wife were raised on farms.

#### Almost Guesses Pumpkin's weight

A weighty decision won Howard Batts, 2207 Douglass Boulevard, the pumpkin-weight-guessing contest. He guessed the pumpkin weighed 16 pounds 12 ounces. It weighed 16 pounds 13 ounces.

Edward J. Pape, 3033 Beaumont Road, was most on the beam when it came to counting beans. He guessed there were 657 beans in a jar that contained 663.

All the contest winners received gold trophies. The jubilee was sponsored by the Jefferson County Playground and Recreation Board and the Fairdale Recreation Committee.

C. J. 12/14/58

He organized Santa's arrival for the children. He had Santa arriving by boat, airplane, and helicopter. There was a petting zoo with Santa's reindeer and telephone lines to allow children to call Santa.



Gov. Lawrence Weatherby, Mrs. Claus & Charlie Vettiner



By Louisville Times Staff Photographer  
 Santa Claus and his missus dropped into Standiford Field today before starting their rounds here. Santa rested his pack on his new-fangled sleigh—a helicopter—and a doll poked its head up for a look at the light film of snow. The Clauses had five stops scheduled in Jefferson County in their County Recreation Department-sponsored tour.

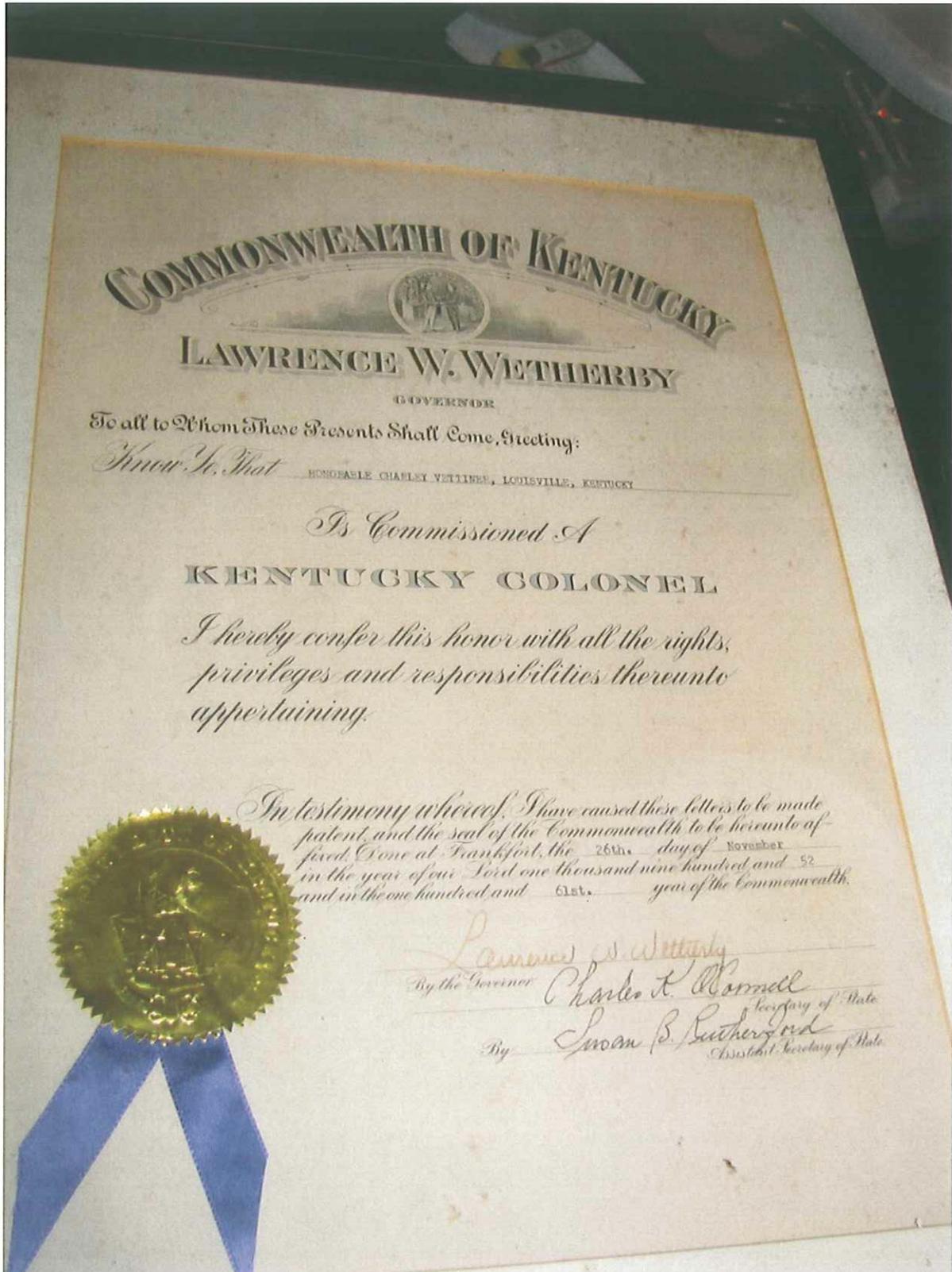
### Christmas Caravan To Visit Central State Hospital Dec. 16

The annual Christmas-caravan program for patients at Central State Hospital, Lakeland, will be held December 16.

The caravan, sponsored by the Jefferson County Playground and Recreation Board, will be in 10 sections, with each section starting from a different location. Any organization is invited to send a car loaded with gifts in the caravan. Further information may be had by calling the board, JUNiper 3-6671.

Cars will meet at these locations at 2 p.m. December 16: Butler High School, Crums Lane; Valley High, Dixie Highway; Fairdale School; Southern High, Preston Highway; Durrett High, Preston Highway; Fern Creek High; Hikes Graded School, Buechel; Jeffersontown School; Waggener High, Hubbards Lane and Alton Road, and Eastern High, Middletown.

In 1952 Charlie became a Kentucky Colonel.



Charlie Vettiner presented Corn Cob Pipe Awards and Game Guy Awards to help promote and encourage those who worked hard, overcame obstacles, and did unselfish things for others in their community. He also promoted community involvement in the various events the parks department offered.



Bremer Ehler, County Judge/Executive  
JEFFERSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Office of the County Judge/Executive  
Jefferson County Courthouse - Louisville, Kentucky 40202 - 502/581-6161

December 28, 1985

Dear Friend:

It is with great pride that I announce the revision of Charlie Vettiner's Flying Dutchman Award, formerly the Corn Cob Pipe of Honor.

Charlie began this coveted, statewide honor over 40 years ago in order to recognize persons who demonstrated integrity and fairmindedness in all facets of their life. In his monthly publication, The Kentucky High School Athlete, Charlie, the Flying Dutchman, made public those individuals whose meritorious acts would have otherwise gone unnoticed.

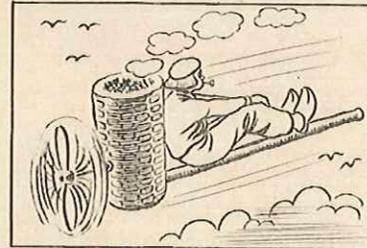
The Cob Pipe of Honor was awarded for 26 years with over 250 recipients. This Kentucky award became sought after on a national and then international level. Past recipients include the former President of Mexico and Cuba's Fulgencio Batista. But, in Charlie's words, "This award is not intended for community members of high repute; this award is to recognize those whose meritorious acts are committed without regard to personal gain."

Now, the Flying Dutchman Award, in keeping with the Corn Cob Pipe of Honor, shall once again recognize individuals unselfish service to their fellowman. If you know someone who has rendered unselfish service to a person, a community or an organization, please take a moment and complete the enclosed application form. Address any inquiries or additional nominations in care of the Honorary Flying Dutchman Committee, 205 East Esplanade Avenue, Louisville, KY 40214.

Sincerely,

*Bremer Ehler*  
Bremer Ehler  
County Judge/Executive

BE/sc



### FLYING DUTCHMAN AWARDS

**COB PIPE OF HONOR**  
To Persons Rendering Unselfish Service

**ABOU BEN ADHEM AWARDS**  
to Groups  
Promoting Good Sportsmanship

**GAME GUY AWARDS**  
to  
Athlete Overcoming Greatest  
Physical Handicaps to Engage in Sports

#### A GAME GUY'S PRAYER

"DEAR GOD: Help me to be a sport in this little game of life. I don't ask for any place in the lineup; play me where you need me. I only ask for the snuff to give you a hurried per cent of what I've got. If all the hard drives come my way I thank You for the compliment. Help me to remember that You won't let anything come that You and I together can't handle. And help me to take the bad breaks as part of the game. Help make me thankful for them.

"And, God, help me always to play on the square, no matter what the other players do. Help me to come clean. Help me to see that often the best part of the game is helping the other guys. Help me to be a 'regular fellow' with the other players.

"Finally, God, if fate seems to uppercut me with both hands and I'm laid up on the shelf in sickness or old age, help me to take that as part of the game also. Help me not to whimper or squeal that the game was a frameup or that I had a raw deal. When in the dusk I get the final bell, I ask for no lying, complimentary stones. I'd only like to know that You feel I've been a good guy."—Chaplain's Digest.

He wrote articles for several newspapers & magazines free of charge, and authored 4 books:

- *County Recreation in Action*
- *Rural Recreation for America*
- *A New Horizon of Recreation Parks and Recreation Projected to 1990.*

(Ironically, he died December 29, 1989 and is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery Section 34, Lot 43. His tombstone has the Flying Dutchman Logo engraved upon it.)

## Charlie Vettiner, Genius Has Turned Author

Some men are good at anything they put their hand to. Charlie Vettiner, 203 Esplanade, is one of those men.

Among other things, Vettiner, dean of Kentucky basketball officials, has turned to writing.

Sports Review, a national publication from Chicago, will print Vettiner's article "Basketball in Kentucky," in its December issue.

### Serves On Rules Committee

Vettiner conducts all basketball schools and clinics for the Kentucky High School Athletic Association. These number 189 over 13 years.

He served two years as a member of the National Basketball Rules Committee of the United States and Canada. This body controls all basketball of the country. There are twenty members on this committee.

On November 21, he will go to Denver to train basketball officials for the Colorado High School Athletic Association. The following day he will fly to Salt Lake City to do the same job for the Utah High School Athletic Association.

### Writes Monthly Column

The Kentucky High School Athlete, the official organ of basketball coaches and officials, carries a monthly column written by him known as "The Flying Dutchman."

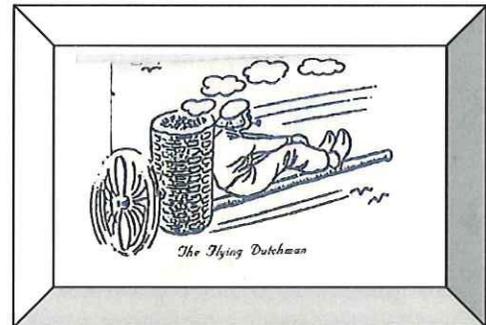
In addition to his basketball



CHARLIE VETTINER

literary endeavors he is the author of two text books, one of which is known as "County Recreation In Action", and the other "Rural Recreation for America", the latter book is used as a text book in 151 colleges.

For 9 consecutive years he was voted outstanding basketball official by Kentucky by a vote of the coaches. Between the years of 1927 and 1946 when he retired from active officiating he had refereed exactly five thousand and one basketball games. This included four consecutive State High School Basketball Tournaments.



Charlie Vettiner was nicknamed "The Flying Dutchman" by Coach Diddle. The story behind his nickname was Coach Diddle had been noticing how Charlie ran from practice each day to the supper hall when one day he said, "Look at that Dutchman fly!" The nickname stuck and Charlie was known as The Flying Dutchman from then on. The Flying Dutchman logo above appeared on his checks and stationary.

He was named 1962's Outstanding Kentuckian for his leadership given to communities all over the state to help them with their park system development ... and he was up against some big names like James Graham Brown, and Adolph Rupp.

## looking back

By MARTIN MOORE

### 10 YEARS AGO

Jan. 26, 1963

President John F. Kennedy ordered the suspension of underground nuclear tests in Nevada during current test-ban negotiations with the Soviet Union.

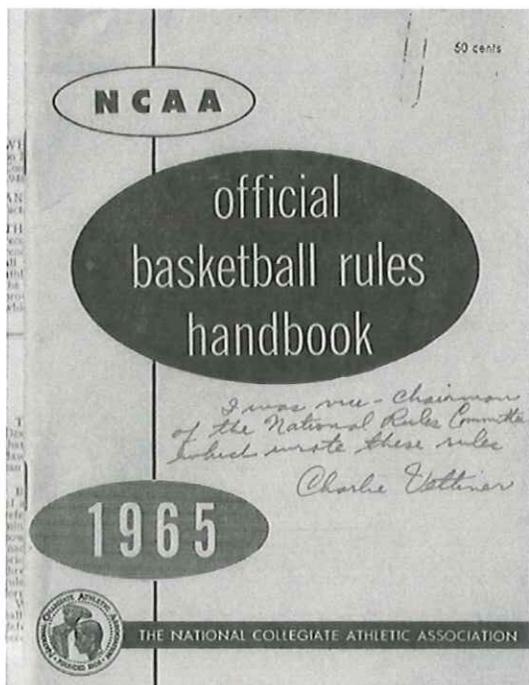
Charlie Vettiner, superintendent of the Jefferson County Playgrounds and Recreation Board since 1946, was named "outstanding Kentuckian of 1962" by the Kentucky Press Association meeting here.

Carr Creek won the 16th annual Louisville Invitational Basketball Tournament, beating Seneca 46-45 in Freedom Hall. It was Seneca's first loss in 15 games. Seneca beat Owensboro in the semi-finals and Carr Creek beat Elizabethtown Catholic.



Vettiner  
1962 photo

He served as one of the 21 members on the National Basketball Rules Committee other members of the committee included such notables as Adolph Rupp and John Wooden.





He taught cage clinics for basketball officials.

Charlie Vettiner



Charlie was ranked the best basketball official four consecutive years and held the honor 5 out of 7 years.

In 1943-44, Charlie Vettner became basketball's top ranked official for the fourth year in a row. When you look at the rankings notice how many games he worked, while still managing to maintain all scores of excellence.

## BALL OFFICIALS 1943-1944

	Ex.	Good	Fair	Poor
Mills, Arthur Lee		1	1	
Monrie, Edwin		5		
Moser, Jake H.	1	2		
Moss, Elwood		2	5	
Mullins, Chester			3	
Mutchler, Bradford D.	10	1		
Neathamer, Thomas		3		
O'Daniel, Henry		1	1	
Ohr, Joe		2		
Parsons, Ralph			1	
Patterson, G. Rowland		5		2
Patterson, Wayne				1
Payne, Patrick M.	3	2	4	1
Peden, R. Eugene			1	
Peek, Kenneth H.			1	
Phelps, Ralph (Rudy)	1	2		
Phillips, James H.	2	2		
Phillips, Paul		8		
Porter, C. A.			2	
Posey, Addison	4			
Posey, William B.	1	2		
Ralsor, Eugene				3
Rasnich, Ber	7	3	4	1
Ratterman, Bernard	1		2	
Reed, B. B.	1		3	
Reid, Cecil			7	
Rex, W. A.		3	1	
Reynolds, William	1	6		
Richards, Logan	1		1	
Roberts, Eugene		4		
Roberts, Lloyd E.		3		
Rose, Andy		1	2	6
Ross, Leslie H.	2	3	1	
Ross, W. C.	1	3	1	
Rudd, Marco M.	9		3	
Russell, Ray			4	
Sanders, Foster J.		6	2	
Schmidt, Carl J.	1	2	1	1
Schuette, Frederick	3	12		
Scott, Hobart			5	
Scott, T. Howard		5	2	1
Sears, Leonard			5	
Sharp, Henry T.		3		
Shaw, Russel		6	3	1
Shively, Bernie	25	6	3	
Showalter, John	11	4	2	
Smith, Evolee	3			
Smith, W. Jack	2	12	2	
Sosh, LaRue			1	
South, Wendell	2		2	1
Stith, Robert	1	2		
Stone, William B.		4		1
Stout, W. T.		2	1	
Strull, Asher		1	1	
Sturgill, Billy	5			
Taylor, Harry		5		2
Taylor, James B.			1	1
Taylor, James M.				1
Thompson, Jack		1		
Thompson, Ralph		4		
Thompson, Sonny	11	6		
Thornton, Cecil A.			7	1
Tice, Robert Maxwell		5		
Tucker, Ed		1	1	
Tucker, Jack	3	2	1	
Tufts, James R.		7		
Turner, A. J.	11	3	3	

	Ex.	Good	Fair	Poor
Turner, Joe J.	3	5	8	
Utley, William O.	7	6	2	
Varble, William	4		1	
Vettner, Charlie	43			
Walker, J. Earl	5		8	
Ward, Edwin E.		6		
Warren, L. A.				1
Watters, Richard W.		2	1	
Wells, W. Haskell		2		
Wilhoite, C. O.		2		
Williams, J. C.	5		1	
Wilson, J. E.			5	
Wilson, Robert R. (Bullet)		2	2	
Wright, Lowry		2		
York, Andrew J.		2	6	

EAST LANSING, Mich.—Michigan State College has added four more games to its 1944-45 basketball schedule, making a total of seven. More are being negotiated as the institution resumes intercollegiate competition after a war-caused interruption.

Newly scheduled games include one with the University of Kentucky at Lexington January 13.

### Voiselle Grip Is Hard On Fingernail

NEW YORK—Young Bill Voiselle of the Giants has a peculiar manner of gripping the ball which causes unusual wear and tear on the index fingernail of his throwing hand. The nail was about half off when Voiselle reached the showers after being batted out by the Reds at the Polo Grounds the other night. As a remedy, Dr. Francis Sweeney, club physician, performed a sort of half-moon operation on the nail, leaving the good half intact. It is hoped that this will solve the big right-hander's problem.

### Arm Okeh, But Wyatt Has Nothing

NEW YORK—Belted out of the box by the Cardinals with 10 hits good for seven runs in three and two-thirds innings in his first serious attempt to pitch since June 28, Whit Wyatt said his arm didn't hurt. It was unnecessary for the Brooklyn right-hander to add that he didn't have a thing. The Georgian hopes to be better the next time out. He has done so little pitching this year that he wouldn't be in shape even if his arm were sound. It's all very discouraging, especially to Branch Rickey with the club paying its former ace \$22,000 a year.

Charlie Vettner was active in the Y.M.C.A., Rotary Club, church, taught Sunday school and even preached. He was widely sought after as a public speaker. He delivered speeches across the state and the country because of the national attention Jefferson County Parks Program had received while under his leadership:

- National Association of Counties Convention in Detroit, Michigan (8-2-1967)
- Second Congress of the National Recreation and Park Association in Miami Beach, Florida (12-5-1967)



He was a member of the Louisville Rotary Club, and public speaking was something he enjoyed doing.

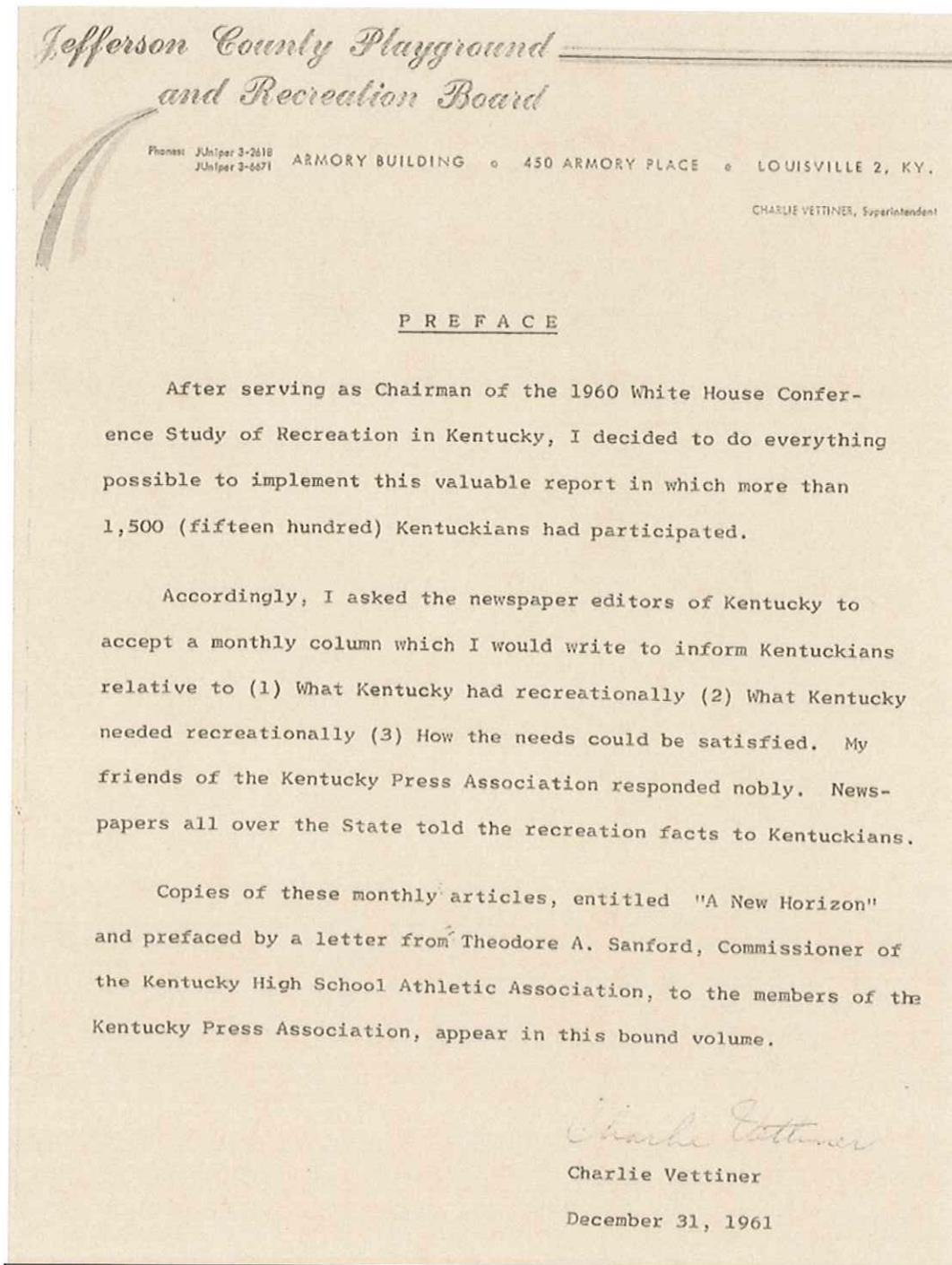


He was the featured speaker for countless park and recreation planning programs, high school graduation ceremonies, and various club luncheons.

## Some of the Awards and Honors Vettiner Received

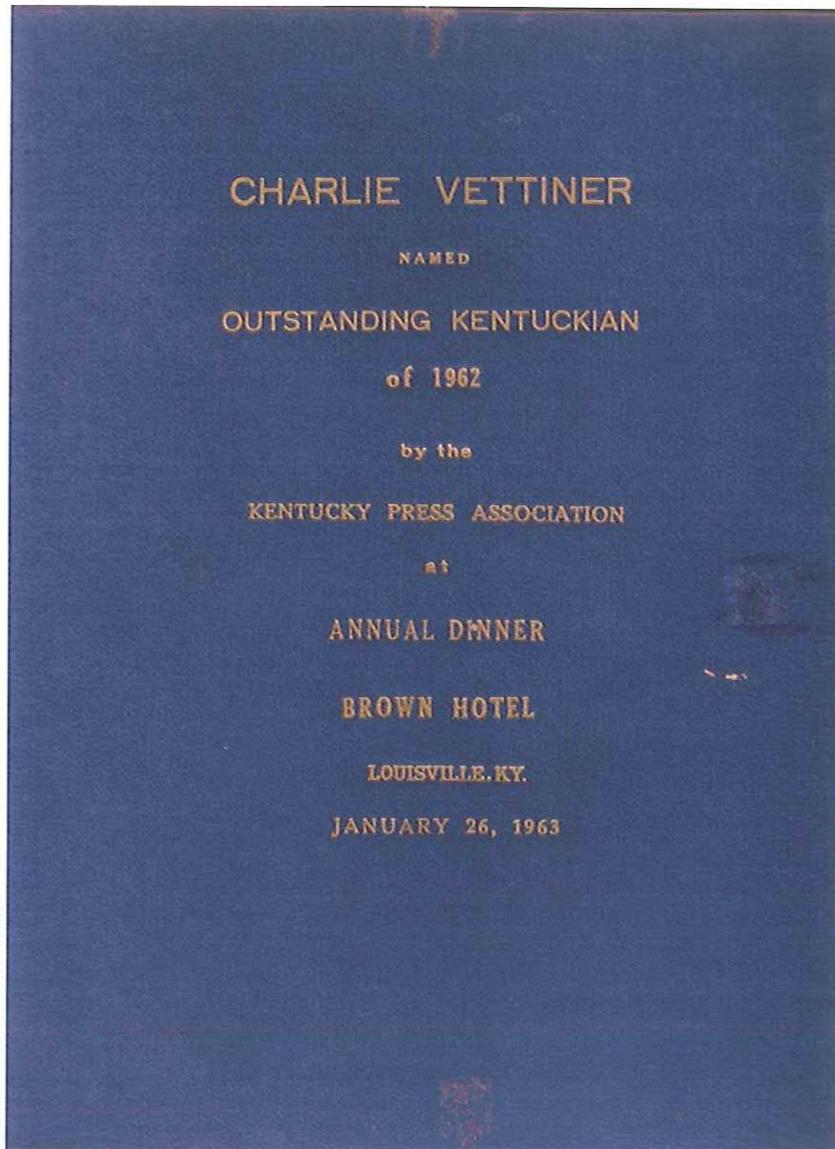
**1960**

Chairman for the Whitehouse Conference Study of Recreation in Kentucky (During President Kennedy's administration.)



1962

Outstanding Kentuckian



1966

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
STATE HIGH SCHOOL



ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS

Presents this

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

to

Charles Vettiner

Kentucky High School Athletic Association

for outstanding services in the field of school  
athletics and in appreciation of notable  
contributions in constructive thinking and  
achievement on the national level.

Presented in French Lick, Indiana this 28th day  
of June, 1966.

*W. J. Egan*

*S. F. Burke*

**1966 Louisville's Man of the Year**

CHARLIE VETTNER

NAMED

LOUISVILLE'S MAN OF THE YEAR 1966

PRESENTATION AWARD

by

Barry Bingham

of

THE COURIER-JOURNAL AND LOUISVILLE TIMES

AT AN HONOR LUNCHEON ARRANGED BY

RADIO AND TELEVISION STATION WHAS-TV

AND TELEVISED

JANUARY 1, 1967

PROGRAM

FLYING DUTCHMAN  
Column in Kentucky  
High School Athlete

WONHEART LAPEL BUTTONS

Young people overcoming  
Physical handicaps to  
Engage in sports

K.H.S.A.A. BASKETBALL CLINICS

Conducted Annually

COB PIPE OF HONOR

To individuals rendering  
Unselfish service



K. H. S. A. A.

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

P R E F A C E

PROGRAM

ABOU BEN ADHEM AWARDS

To communities and  
Groups extending friendship  
And hospitality to Visitors

"GAME GUY" PLAQUE

To the athlete overcoming  
The greatest physical  
Handicap to engage in Sports

K.H.S.A.A. SCHOOL

For Basketball Officials  
Conducted annually

[ACCEPTANCE SPEECH MADE BY CHARLIE VETTNER, SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1963, AT A LUNCHEON AT 12:30 P. M. AT THE BROWN HOTEL ON THE OCCASION WHEN HE WAS NAMED THE OUTSTANDING "KENTUCKIAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE KENTUCKY PRESS ASSOCIATION.]

*At this moment, my chief emotions are gratitude to the Kentucky Press Association for naming me the "OUTSTANDING KENTUCKIAN OF THE YEAR"; Pride in this great honor as well as an accompanying humility.*

*It is gratifying that Kentucky's Press Association feels that I have made a contribution to the progress of parks and recreation development in the Commonwealth.*

*Kentucky's communities need recreation. Industry is consistently refusing to locate in communities where parks and recreation programs are inadequate; young people will play in one of two places----the right one or the wrong one. We cannot determine if they play, but we can determine where and how they play.*

*Earlier retirements coupled with the fact that our citizens are living longer causes us to have a leisure-time problem of the Aging. Kentucky's communities have a choice! They can invest more in recreation or spend much more on bigger and better mental institutions.*

*In conclusion, I repeat that your naming me "THE OUTSTANDING KENTUCKIAN OF THE YEAR" causes me to feel humble. In all humility, I must accept this honor on behalf of those who really deserve the credit. My reference is to my own JEFFERSON COUNTY PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION BOARD which has set the pattern for park and recreational development across the State, the KENTUCKY RECREATION SOCIETY which has worked long and diligently to improve recreation conditions of the Commonwealth, the KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, and the hundreds of COMMUNITY LEADERS ALL OVER KENTUCKY who are even now crusading to bring parks and recreation to every County of Kentucky.*

THANK YOU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE KENTUCKY PRESS ASSOCIATION!!!

**Nominees:**

**J. Graham Brown**

**Mrs. J. Kidwell Grannis**

**Eben Henson**

**Adolph Rupp**

**J. Phil Smith**

**Charlie Vettner**

the makes; the grit that he daily shows; the way he stands on his feet and takes Fate's numerous bumps  
he is naught to fear, when nothing his progress bars; but it takes a man to stand up and cheer when some

jolts you get, the shock that your courage stands; the hour of sorrow and vain regret, the prize that escaped  
rove your worth. It isn't the blows that you deal, but the blows you take on this good old earth, that show

Telephone: 267-7426

**PROGRAM**

**FLYING DUTCHMAN**  
Column in Kentucky  
High School Athlete

**LIONHEART TROPHY**  
To young people overcoming  
Physical handicaps to  
Engage in sports

**K.H.S.A.A. BASKETBALL CLINICS**  
Conducted Annually

**COB PIPE OF HONOR**  
To individuals rendering  
Unselfish service



*The Flying Dutchman*  
Colonial Manor  
Jeffersonton, Kentucky 40029

P R E F A C E

Telephone: 267-6353

**PROGRAM**

**ABOU BEN ADHEM AWARDS**  
To communities and  
Groups extending friendship  
And hospitality to Visitors

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To the athlete overcoming  
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For Basketball Officials  
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(ACCEPTANCE SPEECH MADE BY CHARLIE VETTNER AT AN HONOR  
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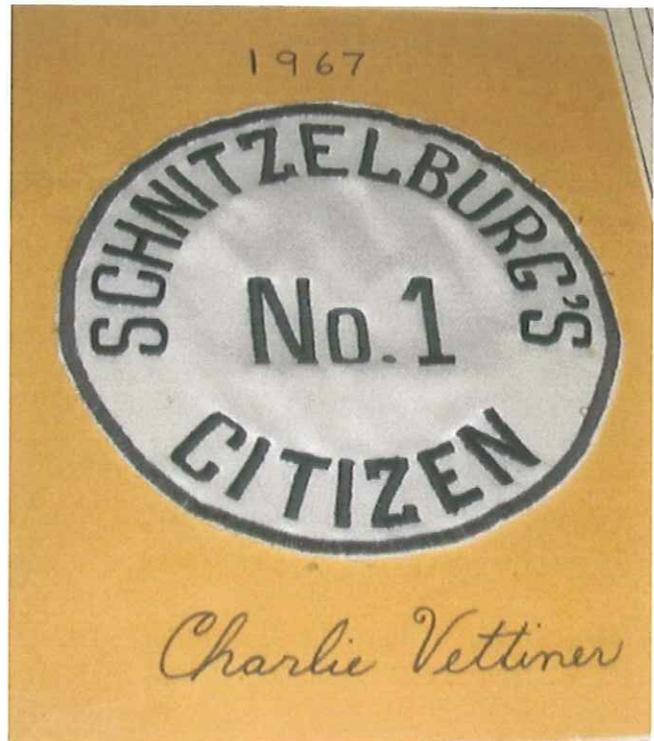
"MR. BINGHAM, I AM VERY PROUD TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD BUT  
ALSO MOST HUMBLE AND I MUST ACCEPT IT ON BEHALF OF MANY  
PEOPLE WHO HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE AND MY REFERENCE HERE  
IS TO THE FISCAL COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, MY RECREATION  
BOARD, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND MY OWN STAFF. THANK  
YOU SO MUCH!"

**THE TEST:**—The test of a man is the fight he makes; the grit that he daily shows; the way he stands on his feet and takes Fate's numerous bumps and blows. A coward can smile when there is naught to fear, when nothing his progress bars; but it takes a man to stand up and cheer when some other fellow starts.

It's the knocks that you take and the jolts you get, the shock that your courage stands; the hour of sorrow and vain regret, the prize that escaped your hands—these test your mettle and prove your worth. It isn't the blows that you deal, but the blows you take on this good old earth, that show if your stuff is real.—Anon.

**1967**

December 13, 1967 he was given the Schnitzelburg's #1 Citizen for the year 1967.



**1968**

February 11, 1968 the Distinguished Community Service Award from Shelby Post American Legion.



1968 Southern Kentucky Officials Association For Outstanding Service.



## 1969

February 28, 1969 Citizen Laureate for his contributions to the community by the Younger Woman's Club of Louisville.

April 10, 1969 Distinguished Service Award from the Kentucky High School Athletic Association.

**1985**

On October 13, 1985 Chenoweth Park & Golf Course was renamed for his contributions. The History of Charlie Vettiner Park and Golf Course is that the park was originally purchased in 1957 for \$44,960 and was to be the first in a chain of county wide parks. The original name of the 283 acre park was Chenoweth.



**Charlie Vettiner Park Dedication Family Photo  
October 13, 1985**

Back row: Jeff Craig, Steve Porter, David Logsdon, Laurie (Porter) Logsdon, Chuck Porter  
Middle row: Barbara Ann Vettiner Porter, Pam Porter, Flossie Vettiner, Patricia Vettiner Craig, Charlie Vettiner, Becky Craig, Blossom Porter and Carlos Porter  
Front row: Great Grandchildren: Autumn Porter & Lindsay Porter (Children of Chuck and Blossom), and Carla Logsdon (Daughter of David and Laurie Porter Logsdon)



At the park dedication a heavy bronze plaque was revealed that stated:

**“AS DIRECTOR OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION BOARD, CHARLIE VETTNER’S LEADERSHIP GAVE BIRTH TO DEVELOPING A COUNTYWIDE “RAINBOW CHAIN OF PARKS’ TO MEET LEISURE TIME NEEDS OF ALL CITIZENS, REGARDLESS OF AGE FOR TWENTY-THREE YEARS (1946-1969). HE DEVOTED HIS VISION, CREATIVITY, SKILLS, AND DEDICATION SO THAT GENERATIONS HENCEFORTH WOULD BE ASSURED ADEQUATE PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. CHARLIE VETTNER’S LEADERSHIP FOCUSED NATIONAL ATTENTION UPON JEFFERSON COUNTY AS ONE OF THE FINEST LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEMS IN THE NATION. A TEACHER, A LEADER, A VISIONARY, CHARLIE VETTNER INSPIRED AND DEMANDED COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION TO ENHANCE MAXIMUM USE OF THIS COUNTY’S RESOURCES FOR RECREATION. HE SERVED AS THE FIRST DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT COUNTY METROPOLITAN PARK AND RECREATION BOARD.”**

**BREMER EHRLER  
COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE  
SYLVIA WATSON \* IRV MAZE \* DARRYL OWENS  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BOB WHITEHOUSE, CHAIRMAN    BOB KIRCHDORFER, DIRECTOR  
METROPOLITAN PARK AND RECREATION BOARD**

## Letter of Congratulations from President Reagan

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 11, 1985

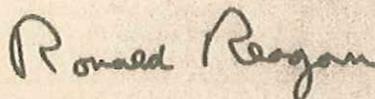
Dear Mr. Vettiner:

It gives me great pleasure on this occasion to extend my heartfelt congratulations for the honors bestowed upon you by Governor Martha Layne Collins, County Executive Bremer Ehrler, the Jefferson County Commissioners, and The Metropolitan Park and Recreation Board.

I join in the public accord associated with the dedication of the Charlie Vettiner Park and the acknowledgement of your vital role in the creation of The Louisville-Jefferson County "Rainbow Chain of Parks." You can take great personal satisfaction in these notable achievements of your long and successful career.

I commend your dedicated public service. Nancy and I send our best wishes and highest regards. God bless you and, again, congratulations.

Sincerely,



Mr. Charlie Vettiner  
Louisville, Kentucky

**Proclamation from Governor Martha Layne Collins**

*Presented to  
Board of  
Martha Layne Collins  
the Board of  
Charlie Vettiner  
10-13-1985*

**Proclamation**

by  
**Martha Layne Collins**  
Governor

of the

**Commonwealth of Kentucky**



*To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:*  
WHEREAS,

On Sunday, October 13, 1985, Chenoweth Park, a Jefferson County Park and Golf Course, will be renamed and dedicated CHARLIE VETTINER PARK in tribute to the many accomplishments during Mr. Charlie Vettiner's twenty-three year tenure as Director of the Jefferson County Park and Recreation System; and,

WHEREAS,

As the first Director of Jefferson County Park and Recreation System, he developed the rainbow chain of parks throughout Jefferson County and molded the county park system into one of the finest in the nation; and,

WHEREAS,

Charlie Vettiner has greatly enriched the lives of thousand of Jefferson Countians through his dedicated efforts on behalf of local recreational programs and the county park system;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTHA LAYNE COLLINS, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim October 13, 1985 as

**CHARLIE VETTINER DAY**

in Kentucky and urge all citizens to join with me in saluting this outstanding Kentuckian on this special occasion and expressing our sincere appreciation for his significant and lasting contributions to Louisville and Kentucky.

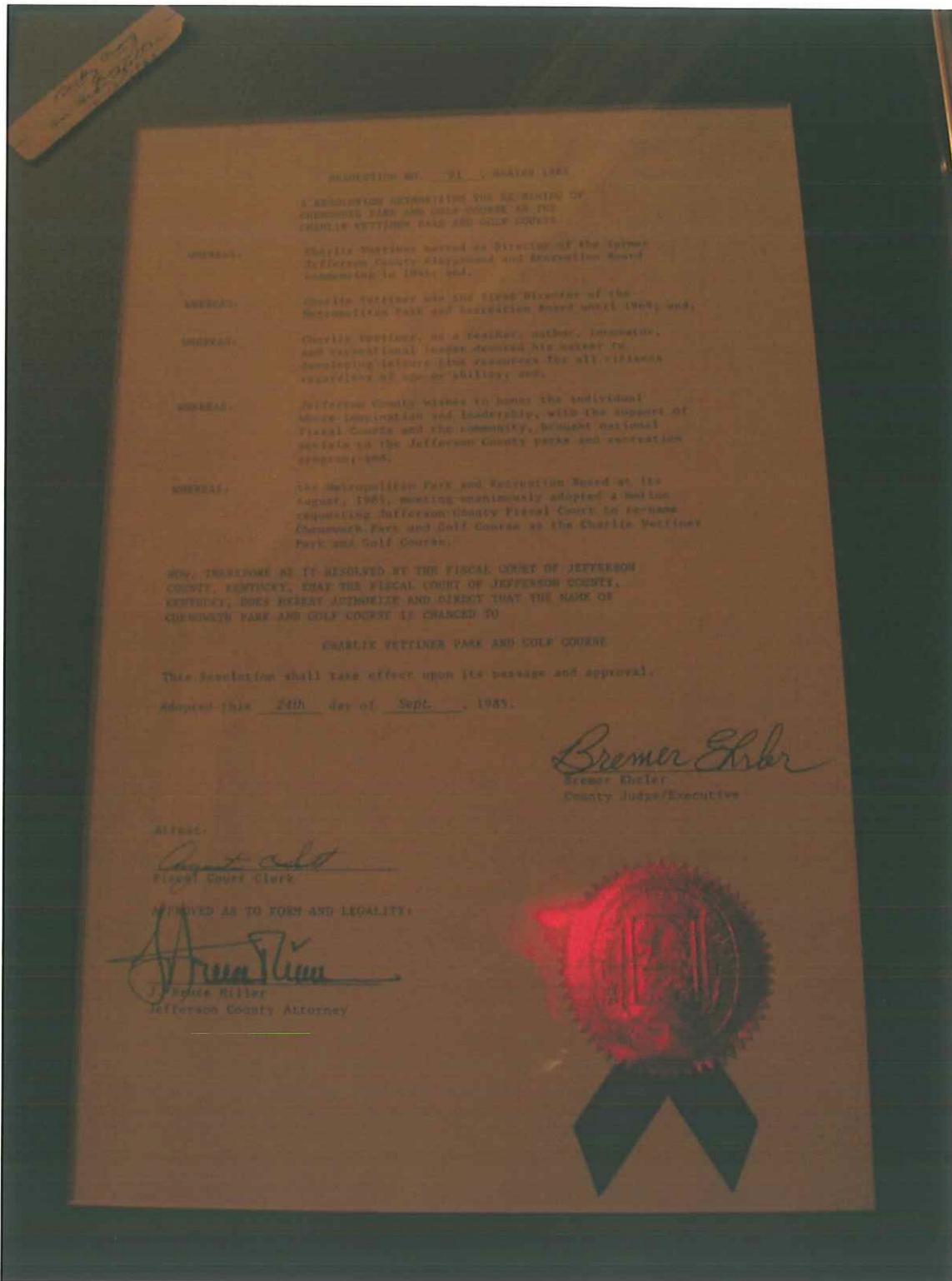
DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort, this the 20th day of September, in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-five and in the year of the Commonwealth the One Hundred Ninety-fourth.

*Martha Layne Collins*  
MARTHA LAYNE COLLINS  
GOVERNOR



*Drexell R. Davis*  
Drexell R. Davis

# Park Resolution



RESOLUTION NO. 71, SERIES 1983

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RE-NAMING OF CHEWNOTH PARK AND GOLF COURSE AS THE CHARLIE YETTINER PARK AND GOLF COURSE.

- WHEREAS, Charlie Yettiner served as Director of the former Jefferson County Playground and Recreation Board commencing in 1943; and,
- WHEREAS, Charlie Yettiner was the former Director of the Metropolitan Park and Recreation Board until 1968; and,
- WHEREAS, Charlie Yettiner, as a teacher, author, innovator, and recreational leader devoted his career to developing leisure-time resources for all citizens regardless of age or ability; and,
- WHEREAS, Jefferson County wishes to honor the individual whose inspiration and leadership, with the support of Fiscal Courts and the community, brought national acclaim to the Jefferson County parks and recreation program; and,
- WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Park and Recreation Board at its August, 1983, meeting unanimously adopted a motion requesting Jefferson County Fiscal Court to re-name Chewnotch Park and Golf Course as the Charlie Yettiner Park and Golf Course;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, THAT THE FISCAL COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, DOES HEREBY AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THAT THE NAME OF CHEWNOTH PARK AND GOLF COURSE IS CHANGED TO

CHARLIE YETTINER PARK AND GOLF COURSE

This resolution shall take effect upon its passage and approval.

Adopted this 24th day of Sept., 1983.

*Bremer Ehrler*  
Bremer Ehrler  
County Judge/Executive

Attest:

*Robert A. ...*  
Fiscal Court Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

*Thomas Miller*  
Thomas Miller  
Jefferson County Attorney



Charlie & Flossie Vettiner 10-13-1985



Courier Journal 10-14-1985

## Park named for him leaves longtime official 'proud and humble'

By MARY ANN FRENCH  
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Early yesterday morning, workers began taking down signs that read Chenoweth Park and replacing them with ones marked Vettiner. A query came from the White House, wanting to know whether a presidential greeting had arrived. Before the day was out, the governor, county judge and mayor had all made proclamations. There seemed to be total agreement that Charles Vettiner was a leader and a visionary.

"I think I've got eight plaques here to bring home and I don't know where I'll hang them all," said Vettiner, a helicopter ride and 500 people later.

"I'll tell you, it feels very, very gratifying. I'm very proud and very humble. People came from all over — some from West Virginia, Indiana, Tennessee. A lot of young people who grew up in the program had matured and were now grandparents."

Sixteen years after leaving public service, former parks director Vettiner, 77, was being celebrated for a job well done. The daylong ceremony marked the renaming of Chenoweth Park and golf course, near Jeffersonton, in his honor.

When Vettiner signed on with the county recreation department in 1946, he recalled, there was no pub-

lic park in his jurisdiction. Twenty-three years later, when he stepped down after serving as the first director of the metropolitan park system, the county had more than 4,000 acres of park land.

"There was plenty of open space back in that time," Vettiner remembered of his first years of service. "But trying to get public officials to appropriate public money was hard to do because they were scared of a bad public reaction. It turned out to be the other way around, though."

What was Chenoweth and is now Vettiner Park was a cow pasture and farm land when Vettiner first set his sights on it. The land was the first major acquisition that Vettiner made for a park system he envisioned as a "rainbow chain" threading its way through the county.

Many people at yesterday's ceremony had fond memories of the lengths to which Vettiner went to get government officials to preserve those open spaces for recreation, said Jim Smith, special assistant to County Judge-Executive Bremer Ehrler.

"He showed up at fiscal court once with a bunch of bait worms when the county was considering getting some lakes," Smith said. "And long before everyone had Santa Claus in shopping centers, he had

See PARK  
PAGE 3, col. 1, this section



Staff Photo by Jeff Shrier

Charlie Vettiner, former director of parks in Jefferson County, received a hug from his great-granddaughter, Carla Logsdon, 2, yesterday during a ceremony that renamed Chenoweth Park. Its new name: Charlie Vettiner Park.

## Park ceremony honors Vettiner

Continued from Page B 1

annual Christmas Village in the park with Santa and Mrs. Claus arriving in unique ways — sometimes on a wharf by boat, sometimes by helicopter."

To commemorate that inventive spirit, the program yesterday called for Vettiner to arrive at the park by helicopter, with Santa and Mrs. Claus in tow. There were also hot-air balloons, a golf "scramble" tournament and a "Fun Run" for children.

Vettiner grew up in the Schnitzelburg area of Louisville. He taught physical education at the University of Louisville before joining the parks department. He also wrote a book, "Rural Recreation for America," that has been used as a text in college classes.

Vettiner stepped down as director of the parks department in 1969 during a dispute over the handling of the department's finances.

Charges of "fiscal irresponsibility" had been leveled against the department for unpaid bills totaling several thousand dollars. A Jefferson County grand jury later indicted a finance commissioner for the parks on four counts of misapplication of public funds.

Since retiring, Vettiner has devoted

ed a lot of time doing volunteer work with the elderly.

"I've been busy, but I don't take any assignments that aren't fun," he said last night. "I've paid enough dues. . . . If it's not fun, I won't do it."

Fun in the future will include occasionally teeing off at the Vettiner golf course, Smith said yesterday that the county commissioners have agreed to spend \$500,000 to \$600,000 to expand the course from nine to 18 holes.

In 1986 Harvey Sloane Jefferson County Judge / Executive made him an honorary Captain of *The Belle of Louisville*.



### **\* Loss of giants**

During the final days of 1989, we lost two men who had much to do with the success of high school athletics in Kentucky. Preston "Ty" Holland died at 83 in Murray and Charlie Vettiner passed away at 81 in Louisville.

Holland, a member of the Dawahares-K.H.S.A.A. Hall of Fame, was Kentucky's winningest football coach when he retired at Murray High. He served the K.H.S.A.A. as president during his term on the board of control.

Vettiner was the father of basketball officiating in Kentucky. He toured the 16 regions of the K.H.S.A.A., conducting clinics for referees. It was a thankless job because the loads were so bad, but Charlie loved people and he developed friends all across the Commonwealth.



**CHARLIE VETTINER**

Charlie also loved Western, his alma mater, and he taught there and also at U of L. But it was the people of Jefferson County who were the biggest beneficiaries of his considerable talents.

He headed the county's parks and recreation board for 23 years, and made sure that citizens got their money's worth. He stretched a shoestring budget by

insisting that communities match county money with either money or work. And once the parks were built, he insisted that users help maintain them.

Not many people know it, but he was almost solely responsible (after being nudged by his friend Earl Ruby, then the sports editor of The Courier-Journal) for A.B. Sawyer Park (the home of Lyndon Recreation).

He received several national and state honors and, in 1985, Chenoweth Park and Golf Course in Jeffersontown was named for him.

He played football and basketball for Western.

He lost his wife recently and is survived by two daughters, Patricia Craig of Mount Washington and Barbara Porter of Louisville; six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

I know that most basketball fans think they've never seen a good referee, but remember this: they are much better because of Charlie Vettiner.

## **Vettiner's 'good deeds'**

The whole community suffered a loss in the recent death of Charlie Vettiner. Charlie was a lifelong friend, and I knew him to be a man of integrity and a man who was tremendously honest.

He received many honors during his lifetime, and when he headed the Jefferson County Recreation Department he was known throughout the nation as one of the country's leading recreational men. His good deeds and works will live forever.

**GEORGE HAUCK**  
Louisville 40217



### THE RECORD

When the game is done and the players creep  
One by one to the League of Sleep.  
Deep in the night they may not know  
The way of the flight, the fate of the foe.

The cheer that passed, the applauding hands  
Are stilled at last — but the record stands.  
The errors made, and the base-hits wrought;  
Here the race was run! There the fight was fought!

Yet the game is done when the sun sinks low  
And one by one from the field they go;  
Their day has passed through the Twilight Gates,  
But the scroll is cast and the record waits.

So take, my lad, what the Great Game gives,  
For all men die — but the record lives.

—Grantland Rice