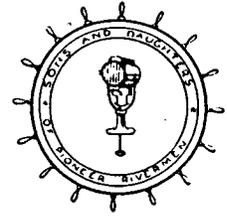


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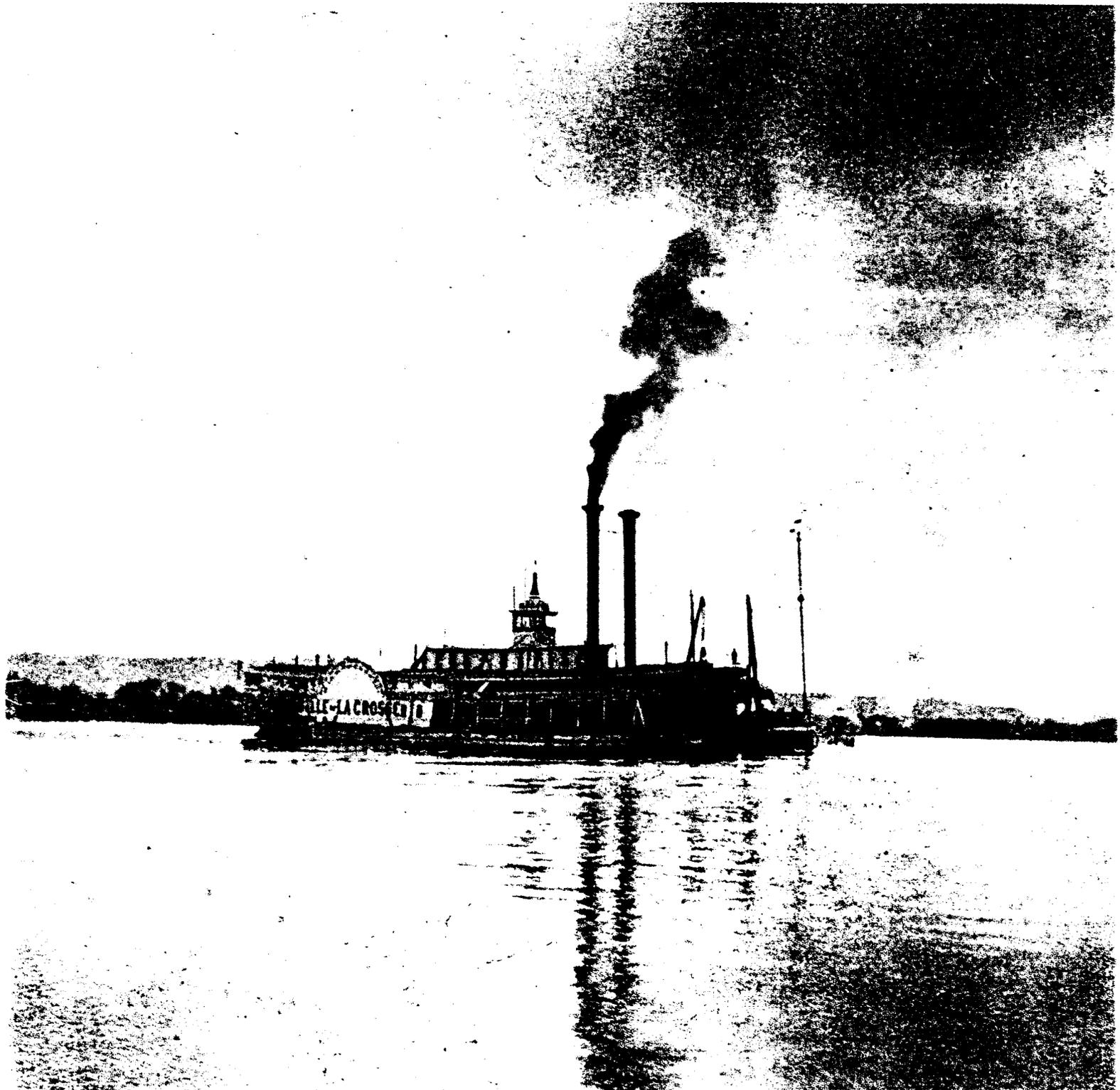
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JENKINS HOMESTEAD

Turns Into a Hot
Potato for U.S.
Engineers, Huntington.

In our Sept. '88 issue, page 41, a letter from Capt. E. P. Chancellor, written in 1924, recalls a visit he made to the homestead of Col. William Jenkins, situated along the Ohio River at Green Bottom, above Crown City, O. on the Virginia side. His visit was made in the fall of 1860.

Ye Ed had kept the letter in his file for 64 years, and the decision to release it in the REFLECTOR columns was made in complete ignorance of the recent controversy focused on the Jenkins homestead and its future.

Jim Wallen, upon reading the REFLECTOR story, furnished us with news clippings from the Huntington Herald-Dispatch and a publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District.

The Engineers bought the mansion and 40 surrounding acres along with 800 or so additional acres in a plan to swap the land with the state of West Virginia to replace a wildlife area disturbed by the Corps work at the Gallipolis Locks and Dam.

The Department of Natural Resources wants to make the tract into a hunting area and install a live-in wildlife manager at the mansion.

For the past 21 years the mansion, estimated to have been built in the 1840s, has been owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. James Knight. Recently they sold it to the Corps for \$145,000 and were scheduled to vacate promptly.

Clara Knight is quoted saying: "We were under the impression that the property would be used as a wildlife sanctuary where people could go and walk around. A hunting area is not what we had in mind."

The West Virginia Society of Architects held a rally on the property recently, and recommended "full-scale maximum professional address, study and programming to recognize its maximum potential as a prominent historical site."

The Corps stirred up a bee's nest by suggesting the removal of the Jenkins' mansion to a new location riverward across W. Va. highway 2.

"That's the most bizarre idea I've ever heard!" exclaimed W. Va. secretary of state Ken Hechler, who is writing a book about the Colonel and son Gen. Albert G. Jenkins of the Confederacy. "I'll go up there and picket the place. I'll lay down in front of their bulldozers."

We have yet to investigate the Civil War record of Capt. Albert Gallatin Jenkins, but in that catch-all, Way's Packet Directory, describing the FANNY McBURNIE (#2005), is this morsel: "In July 1861, upbound, she was hailed in below Green Bottom, opposite Crown City, O. where the 'notorious' Dr. Jenkins came aboard with 35 armed men, disarmed the passengers, took a case of revolvers and one sword, and departed."

The "notorious Dr. Jenkins" had studied in four German universities prior to the hostilities, relates Capt. E. P. Chancellor's letter.

The Herald-Dispatch in an editorial suggests that the owners and officers of the WEST VIRGINIA BELLE might investigate the Jenkins mansion as a shore stop on her 1989 tours. We also would pass along this idea to the DELTA QUEEN.

Adds the editorial: "What the Corps needs to do with the Jenkins house can be easily summed up in three short, simple words: Leave it alone!"



Visiting the Jenkins mansion: Mrs. Knight (Clara) talks with Colonel Farewell, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Huntington (left). At the right James Knight (white shirt) points out landscape to Bill Graham (to his left) of the U.S. Engineers, and W. Va. congressman Rahall.

Since writing the above, Pat Sanders of the Herald-Dispatch staff reports in the Dec. 18, 1988 issue, granted that financial support is forthcoming, the Jenkins homestead will undergo restoration to become a permanent public museum. It will stay right where it is, on the original site. The details will be announced sometime in May, 1989.



The Jenkins homestead, built c. 1840 by Col. William Jenkins on his acres at Green Bottom, West Va.



Greg Perry, of the Herald-Dispatch, Huntington, West Va. took this picture of the Jenkins mansion shortly before Christmas, 1988. Our thanks also to Jerry Sutphin for forwarding the print. The Jenkins property once comprised about 4,400

acres. The U.S. Engineers purchased 884 acres, including the homestead, for the purpose of creating a wildlife preserve to replace property U.S.E. required for rerouting the Gallipolis Locks.