

Jacobson Park was named for **Ernest E. Jacobson**, who had the longest tenure of any manager.

"Jake," held an engineering degree from the University of Iowa. He joined the Lexington Water Company in 1931, was promoted to manager in 1936, and to vice president and general manager in 1958.

Under "Jake's" direction, the company experienced rapid expansion, improvement of service, and enlargement of facilities. The Kentucky River treatment plant and a second pipeline to the river were built in 1958. When he took over in 1936, the company served 13,242 customers. When he retired, it served 41,426.

He served as chairman of the Lexington Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau, and the Lexington War Chest.

Offered various promotions within the American Water Works System, he preferred to stay in Lexington.

He died here in 1968. He is survived by his wife, Leona Hauport Jacobson, and son, Robert E. Jacobson.



**Ernest E. Jacobson**  
(1936-1966)



**Gerald C. Smith (1966-1974)**

**Gerald C. Smith** led the company during a period of rapid growth and expansion. Under his leadership the company acquired nine water districts, extending service outside Fayette County. Smith was instrumental in the 1968 agreement to lease 386-acres around Reservoir 4 for a public park. He moved the company into its present office complex in 1970.

An effective civic leader, he served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the United Way and the American Red Cross, and vice chairman of the committee behind the successful move to merge the city and county governments.

Smith currently lives in Hershey, Pennsylvania, where he is system company president of both Eastern and Western Pennsylvania Divisions of the American Water Works System, as well as holding the responsibility for Municipal Management Operations in Pennsylvania. In 1978 he received the distinguished Fuller Award, the highest honor bestowed by the American Water Works Association.

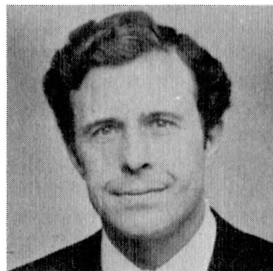
**William R. Cobb** managed the company during a period of water quality advances. When he was named vice president and general manager of Kentucky-American, he had almost 14 years experience with the American Water Works System.

Cobb was manager when the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act was passed in 1974, and the company was in total compliance when the regulation went into effect in 1977. In 1976 the company installed sludge disposal facilities at the Kentucky River Station. Kentucky-American was named the outstanding investor-owned water system in Kentucky by the 1976 Governor's Conference on Environment. The company also experienced record earnings during his tenure.

Cobb served on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and as division chairman for the United Way Fund Drive.

In 1979 Cobb was promoted to system company president for the Eastern Division of the American Water Works System.

He currently lives in Moorestown, New Jersey.



**William R. Cobb (1974-1979)**



**Robert A. Edens  
(1979-present)**

**Robert A. Edens** has been vice president and general manager during times of continued growth and environmental involvement.

Since 1979 total utility plant investment increased by more than 33 percent. In 1982 a \$6.5 million construction project at the Kentucky River enlarged the plant capacity by 25 percent. A major transmission main will be completed in 1985 at an estimated cost of \$3.6 million.

He has been outspoken about maintaining and protecting water supply. When pollution of the Kentucky River in 1981 caused water quality problems, Edens helped prompt government action to enforce pollution laws. He serves on the Kentucky River Task Force.

Serving on the board of directors of the United Way and the Triangle Foundation, Edens is active in local organizations.

Edens is vice chairman of the Kentucky-Tennessee Section of the American Water Works Association and serves on the Section Water Utility Council. He is a Kentucky Director of the National Association of Water Companies.

# Directors And Presidents

The first board of directors meeting was held on December 11, 1883. The original directors were G. W. Bowen, James Jackson, Jr., Gilbert Hinds King, General William Preston, Colonel R. H. S. Thompson, and Harvey D. Winsor. President Charles Hildreth was with the Holly Manufacturing Company of New York, which manufactured the machinery and hydrants for the system.

The list of directors includes some of Lexington's outstanding citizens. John G. Stoll, owner and editor of the *Lexington Leader*, served as the president from 1907 to 1926. Three members of the Hillenmeyer family have been directors: Hector F. Hillenmeyer (1912-1923), Louis E. Hillenmeyer (1923-1927), and Hector's grandson, Walter W. Hillenmeyer, Jr., has served since 1946.

Two other Lexington businessmen are among the current directors: Alex G. Campbell, Jr. and William T. Young. All native Lexingtonians, Campbell, Hillenmeyer, and Young represent the kind of leadership which results in a well-managed company with a strong civic conscience.

Community involvement is a way of life for **Alex Campbell**. Campbell is the founding chairman of the board of the Triangle Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of the Lexington area through the efforts of free enterprise. The Foundation was established in 1980 to build the Triangle Park and oversee future community improvement projects, which most recently included a share in the cost and building of Central Park.

Campbell serves as director of the First Security Corporation, the First Security National Bank and Trust, and the Great Eastern Energy and Development Corporation, as well as Kentucky-American Water Company. He lends his business expertise to many local boards, including: Transylvania University, the Kentucky and Lexington Economic Development Corporations, the Lexington Opera House Fund and the Development Council at the University of Kentucky.

He relaxes by running with the Todds Road Stumblers, a local running club he founded ten years ago.



Alex G. Campbell, Jr.

Once called the "grand old man of the city," **Walter Hillenmeyer** has had a celebrated business and military career.

He has been associated with First Security, Lexington's largest bank, since May, 1966, and he continues to serve as a director for the bank and for the First Security Corporation. Prior to that, he was a partner in Hillenmeyer Nurseries.

Hillenmeyer also serves as a director of Ashland Oil, Inc., The Keeneland Association, Kentucky Utilities Company, Inc., The Lexington Federal Savings and Loan Association, Blue Grass Automobile Club, and the Kentucky-American Water Company. He is past chairman of the board for St. Joseph Hospital and former president of the Greater Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was decorated with many honors, including the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star with Cluster, the Military Cross of Czechoslovakia, and awards from the French, Belgium, and Russian governments.



**Walter W. Hillenmeyer, Jr.**



**William T. Young**

**William T. Young** has been an important leader in Lexington in the past decade. He helped form the Lexington Center, including the Opera House and the Opera House Fund. His support was essential for the success of the Victorian Square project, Triangle Park, and ArtsPlace.

A U.K. graduate in engineering, he has had a varied business career. In 1949 he founded W.T. Young Foods, Inc. manufacturing peanut butter. He sold the business in 1955 to Procter and Gamble. Trucking, warehousing, and frozen food distribution were his next ventures with W.T. Young Storage, Inc. From 1966 to 1984 Young served as Chairman of Royal Crown Companies which include Royal Crown Cola and Arby's Restaurants. He was a cabinet officer and adviser to Governor John Y. Brown, Jr. from 1979-1981. Currently, he is chairman of the board of curators of Transylvania University, a director of First Security National Bank and Trust Co., Reynolds Metals Co., Humana, Inc., The Lexington Cemetery, The Lexington Center Corporation, and the Triangle Foundation.



# Directors

R.L. Aage	1926-1927	J.H. Combs*	1931-1949	L.G. Hall*	1942-1944
David Ades*	1931	T.A. Combs*	1926	W.S. Harris*	1967-1970
M.A. Anderson*	1947-1974	W.M. Coons*	1927	R.R. Harting*	1905-1926
S.H. Ballam, Jr.	1980-1982	W.H. Courtney*	1931-1973	J.W. Heiney•	1957-1960
S.J. Bargh	1955-1956	L.G. Cox*	1926-1927	C.G. Hildreth•	1883-1893
John J. Barr	1948-1973	H.R. Cramer*	1927	H.F. Hillenmeyer*	1910-1923
J. James Barr•	1975-present	W.S. Cramer*	1926-1931	L.E. Hillenmeyer*	1923-1927
David Barrow*	1905-1921	C.H. Dickey	1947-1953	W.W. Hillenmeyer, Jr.*	1946-present
F.E. Beck*	1932-1936	T.C. Earl	1968-1970	R.J. Hole	1926
G.R. Bell*	1927	K.B. Earnhardt, Jr.	1981-1984	B.F. Holsom	1887-1893
G.W. Biggs, Jr.	1936-1944	R.A. Edens*	1978-1984	G.R. Horning	1926-1927
H.H. Briggs	1947-1957	E.B. Ellis*	1904-1923	E.S. Horton*	1893-1897
" "	1960-1968	G.K. Evans	1931-1934	G.R. Hunt*	1931-1945
G.W. Bowen	1883-1893	S.B. Featherstone*	1927	H.M. Iverson	1953-1955
F.A. Bullock*	1910-1913	W.M. Fleming	1886-1887	James Jackson, Jr.*	1883-1884
R.S. Bullock*	1885-1886	E.M. Fox*	1927-1928	E.E. Jacobson*	1936-1942
S.R. Bullock	1893-1896	M.B. Frost	1931	" "	1942-1949
H.F. Butler	1944-1947	W.B. Gamble	1959-1970	" "	1966-1968
A.G. Campbell*	1973-present	J.J. Garland*	1957-1966	G.W. Johnstone	1984-present
W.H. Cassell*	1896-1905	H.R. Gautier	1931	R.P. Kaesshaefer	1945-1947
G.W. Chapman*	1936-1947	E.A. Geehan	1952-1959	J.F. Kimball	1893-1896
" "	1948	W.K. Gemmill	1983-present	Delcevere King	1897-1904
P.W. Chapman	1927-1931	K.A. Glenz	1970-1983	G.H. King*	1883-1884
S.A. Charles*	1886-1905	G.K. Graves*	1926-1927	L.C. King	1886-1897
Joseph Clark*	1896-1899	J.A. Gubanich	1968-1970	Theophilus King	1897-1904
W.R. Cobb*	1974-1979	" "	1974-1978	W.F. Klair*	1926-1927

J.V. LaFrankie	1974-1978	William Preston*	1883-1885	J.W. Stoll*	1907-1926
" "	1984-present	William Prucha	1929-1932	R.C. Stoll*	1921-1926
M.W. Lewis	1984-present	W.F. Putnam•	1884-1896	W.E. Stoney•	1939-1950
E.W. Limbach•	1984-present	A.L. Rae	1937-1940	W.H. Stromenger	1934-1936
Katie Maguire*	1927	L.T. Reinicker	1948-1967	R.E. Swart	1927-1931
C.N. Manning*	1923-1927	M.B. Rogers	1932-1942	C.R. Thompson*	1931
W.K. Massie*	1905-1910	P.L. Ross*	1944-1945	R.H.S. Thompson*	1883-1884
F.J. McAndrew•	1960-1967	F.W. Schultz	1932-1936	G.W. Thornburg	1974-1984
W.E. McCann*	1904-1910	Lorenzo Semple	1944-1948	J.E. Tracy*•	1927
H.D. McDowell*	1944-1947	L.E. Sharpe	1940-1944	S.A. Wallace*	1927
J.E. McFarland*	1927	" "	1947	J.T. Wankmuller	1970-1974
W.M. McFarland	1927	R.J. Sharpe	1949-1959	J.H. Ware, IV	1978-1984
L.D. Mellendorf	1984-present	J.T. Shelly	1902-1904	Frank Waters*	1884-1886
R.H. Moon	1979-1981	H.L. Shiflett	1931-1937	D.M. Watt•	1936-1939
D.C. Morrow	1933-1936	" "	1942	R.T. Wendell	1956-1970
J.H. Murdoch, Jr.	1931-1933	" "	1951-1952	G.A. Wentworth	1884-1893
R.J. Newsom•	1927-1937	" "	1955	J.K. Whanger	1931-1932
P.B. Niles	1947-1948	L.B. Shouse*	1931-1957	Walter Whetstone•	1926
C.M. O'Day•	1967-1975	C.W. Simpkins	1928-1929	P.S. Wilson*	1931-1932
M.W. Offutt	1926	John Skain*	1922-1926	H.D. Winsor	1883-1884
Alex Pearson•	1893-1904	Joseph Skain*	1914-1915	Simon Wolf*	1915-1921
A.E. Peirce•	1926-1927	G.C. Smith*	1970-1974	W.T. Young*	1958-present
John Pew*	1896-1905	H.A. Smith*	1884-1886		
Jerome Powers•	1937-1944	C.H. Stoll*•	1904-1907		
" "	1949-1957	J.G. Stoll*•	1905-1926		
P.B. Preston•	1927	J.W. Stoll*	1904-1905		

\* Lexington resident

• President

# The American Water Works System

Lexington Water Company became part of what is now the American Water Works System when Lexington Water Company was acquired by Community Water Service Company in 1927. The American Water Works System is the nation's largest group of investor-owned water utilities. It currently serves 500 communities in 20 states with administrative, technical, and financial expertise.

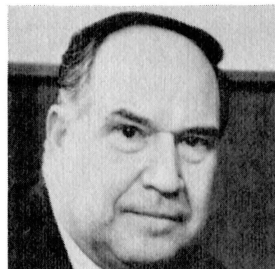
Community Water Service Company, which then included Lexington Water Company and 41 other water utilities, was acquired by American Water Works and Electric Company in 1936. The water utilities were separated from the electric utilities in 1947, and they have been owned and operated by American Water Works Company, Inc. since that date.

Kentucky-American Water Company is part of the Southern Division of the American Water Works System. The division offices are located in Charleston, West Virginia. The system offices are located in Haddon Heights, New Jersey.

The American Water Works Company, Inc., is headed by a man with over 35 years experience in the water utility industry. **James V. LaFrankie** began his career in 1948 at what is now the Western Pennsylvania Water Company. Except for a tour of duty with the Marine Corps, he has been employed by the American Water Works System ever since.

LaFrankie held management positions at the Monongahela Valley Water Corporation and the Alexandria Water Company prior to being named division manager of the Central Division of the American System in 1970. In 1973 he was made regional vice president, then in December of that year, he was elected president of the Service Company. In 1975 he was elected vice president of the American Water Works Company, Inc. (AWWC). In May, 1983, he was elected executive vice president and in December, 1983, he was elected president of the AWWC.

Since 1978 LaFrankie has served as chairman of the board of directors of the National Association of Water Companies, a nation-



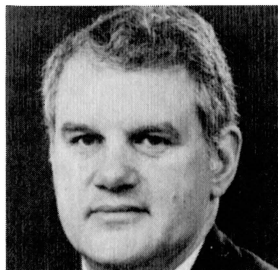
**James V. LaFrankie**

wide association representing investor-owned water utilities. In 1983 he was named an honorary member of the American Water Works Association in recognition of his distinguished service to that organization and the water utility industry. He is also a 1982 recipient of the prestigious Fuller Award, the highest honor bestowed by that association.

LaFrankie attended the University of Pittsburgh, and earned a degree in business administration at Georgetown University. He currently lives in Moorestown, New Jersey.



**Loren D. Mellendorf**



**Edward W. Limbach**

**Loren D. Mellendorf** is president of the American Water Works Service Company, the management subsidiary of the American Water Works Company, Inc. He is also executive vice president of the American Water Works Company. He has served with the American System for 19 of his 27 years in the water utility industry.

A certified public accountant, Mellendorf joined the Indianapolis Water Company as treasurer and assistant controller in 1958.

He joined the American System in 1966 as treasurer of the New Jersey, New York, and New England companies. In 1976 he was named treasurer and chief financial officer of the American Water Works Company, Inc. and the Service Company. He was elected vice president of the two companies in 1980 and executive vice president in 1983. He was named president of the Service Company in 1984.

A native of Indiana, Mellendorf has a degree in business administration from Butler University in Indianapolis. He currently lives in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

**Edward W. Limbach** was named president of Kentucky-American in 1984, when the company became part of the Southern Division of the American System, which now includes Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, and Kentucky. He is also president of five operating companies within the Southern Division.

A graduate of Bowling Green State University in Ohio, he has served in management positions in Ohio, Indiana, and Tennessee prior to being named system company president for the Southern Division in May, 1978.

Past president of the National Association of Water Companies, Limbach presently serves on that organization's board of directors. He is a trustee of the Management Division of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), a nationwide association representing public water utilities. He is a 1983 recipient of the distinguished Fuller Award, the highest honor bestowed by the AWWA. Limbach is currently chairman of the West Virginia Utility Council and lives in Charleston, West Virginia.

# A Good Neighbor



Enjoying Reservoir 4 at Jacobson Park

Through the years the water company has been a good neighbor with a strong civic conscience. The company has shared its land and supported local organizations, and its officials have taken a leadership role in the community.

Fire Station No. 9 is an example of this support. Adjacent to the Kentucky-American office, the land was donated by the water company in 1964.

Perhaps the most noticeable contribution has been the land and reservoirs which the

company has shared with the community for more than three generations. A 1903 article in *The Morning Herald*, describes them as "a beautiful sheet of water and...quite a resort for pleasure seekers from Lexington and vicinity." The reporter encourages visitors to see the lakes from the Mount Tabor Pike, "often known as Lovers' Lane, and probably the most wildly romantic road in the Bluegrass...."

Various areas adjacent to the reservoirs have served as public parks and game, fish,

and bird refuges over the years. The Audubon Society has identified hundreds of species at Reservoir 4 in Jacobson Park.

## Jacobson Park

In 1968 this 386-acre park was leased to the local government for a token \$10 a year for 50 years. In June, 1972, the park was named in honor of E.E. Jacobson, the beloved former manager of the water company. Each year thousands enjoy picnicking beside the water, fishing, and riding the pedal boats. The park is the second largest in the local government's park system. It includes a public golf course, and Camp Kearney, a day camp for children which is operated by the local government.

## Lake Ellerslie Fishing Club

This historic private club has had a longstanding relationship with the water company. Chartered in 1887, the club once included all four reservoirs but first moved to Reservoir 4 in 1914. The current clubhouse is listed in the *Survey of Historic Sites* in Kentucky.

# A Century of People Serving People



**An early public service announcement**

An so it is, as we look back over the first 100 years, we salute the people who have made it all possible.

This brochure discusses the company's growth, the building of the reservoirs and the expansion at the Kentucky River. It includes statistics on number of customers, miles of mains, and gallons of water.

What it doesn't tell, at least not directly, is the story of the individuals who have worked here...of the person whose back ached from hand digging the early trenches...of the person whose hands were nearly frostbitten from fixing a water leak in sub-zero weather...of the person who worked all day and then all night to be sure the water supply would be there.

It doesn't include what each individual did to enable the company to meet the many challenges over the years...the threatened water shortages prior to each reservoir being built...the drought of 1930...the rapid expansion of the 1970's.

It doesn't tell the story of the winter of 1977 when, during six weeks of record cold weather, the company logged 13,000 hours of overtime, answering thousands of customer calls, replacing more than 2,000 burst water meters, running approximately 15,000 feet of temporary service hose, and thawing nearly 1,000 frozen customer services. Nor does it tell the story of the weekend in December, 1978, when employees worked around the clock to move equipment and rewire the Kentucky River second lift building. This avoided a near-crisis when the Kentucky River flooded at a record 42 feet, causing the curtailment of water service in neighboring towns.

These stories and many others are interwoven in the history of water service to the Central Kentucky area. We will remember this dedication as we look to our second century of service.

# Acknowledgements

The Kentucky-American Water Company gratefully acknowledges the help of the following in research of this history:

Grant S. Bell  
Howard K. Bell, Consulting Engineers, Inc.  
Thomas P. Bell  
Colonel Clyde T. Burke  
Clark J. Cramer, Jr.  
Hugh Cramer, Jr.  
Judson Cramer  
Bettie Kerr and Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission  
Lake Ellerslie Fishing Club  
James K. Latham  
Leona Hauport Jacobson  
Lexington Herald-Leader  
Lexington Public Library

Lexington-Fayette Urban County  
Government Division of Fire  
Margaret I. King Library, Special Collections  
Margaret Smith Lisle  
Fire Chief Earl R. McDaniel  
Bettye Lee Mastin  
Thomas Cleveland Sadler  
E.I. (Buddy) Thompson  
Grace Cramer Webber  
Dr. John D. Wright, Jr.  
O. Clay Young  
Retirees and Employees of Kentucky-American  
Water Company

And a very special appreciation to Burton Milward, whose research and advice was invaluable.

This booklet was compiled and written by Lynsey Anne Snow, Community Relations Manager for Kentucky-American Water Company

Designed and produced by Carole Pettit Public Relations Associates

© Kentucky-American Water Company



**KENTUCKY-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY**

An American Water Works System Company

2300 Richmond Road

Lexington, Kentucky 40502