

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Here, at the dawn of the journal's thirtieth year, I would like to begin this year-end note with a few words of gratitude and farewell. Bobbie Pray, who helped birth *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* in 1978 and served as its managing editor for most of the last fifteen years, and Sue Novak, associate editor, who joined our staff in 1993, both left the Society late last summer. Bobbie retired after thirty years of service, first in the library and then in publications. Sue accepted a position at the University of Kansas. Bobbie and Sue were *Kansas Heritage* during its notable fourteen-year run; and together we guided *Kansas History* through the 1990s and brought it into the twenty-first century in style, if I may say so. I think I may, since the journal's appearance and more has largely depended upon their expertise, dedication, and commitment to professional excellence. Bobbie and Sue are and will be greatly missed.

During the year just past we noted the death of Emporia State University professor of history William H. Seiler (see, summer 2006 issue), a valued friend of Kansas history and mentor to many, and now I must mention Dr. Edwin C. Moreland, also of ESU. Ed Moreland, who died on February 14, 2006, impacted the academic lives of many students, including your editor, during his long and fruitful career as a professor of geography at Kansas State Teachers College (and then ESU). I still remember his Kansas geography class, which I enjoyed as an undergraduate many years ago.

As always, we were privileged to recognize an outstanding contribution to Kansas historiography with the presentation of the Edgar Langsdorf Award for Excellence in Writing at the Society's annual meeting on November 3. Board member Deborah Barker, director of the Franklin County Historical Society, chaired this year's committee, which selected the "best" article published in volume 28 of *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*. Dr. Bruce D. Mactavish, Washburn University; Dr. Sue Zschoche, Kansas State University; D. Cheryl Collins, director, Riley County Historical Society; and William McKale, director, U.S. Cavalry Museum, ably assisted Deb. Their very worthy choice was Karen Manners Smith's article, "Father, Son, and Country on

the Eve of War: William Allen White, William Lindsay White, and American Isolationism, 1940-1941," published in the journal's spring 2005 issue.

In her award-winning article on the Whites of Emporia, Kansas, Dr. Smith, a professor of history at Emporia State University, explored a complex father and son relationship at a seminal point in American history. Like the rest of Middle America, William Allen White was slow to accept the need for full U.S. participation in this second European war of his lifetime—ultimately, of course, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor converted him, as it did many others. "But throughout 1941, as Bill [William Lindsay] White and other war correspondents returned from Europe with attitudes tempered in the Great Fire, the heartland heard, in the voices of its own native sons, an increasingly urgent chorus of pro-British, anti-isolationist propaganda."

In addition, this year's Langsdorf award committee decided to give honorable mention to Aram Goudsouzian for his widely-praised, autumn 2005 article, "'Can Basketball Survive Chamberlain?': The Kansas Years of Wilt the Stilt." Dr. Goudsouzian, assistant professor of history at the University of Memphis, skillfully examined the controversial Kansas basketball career of the great Wilt Chamberlain, who "personally helped effect the racial desegregation of Lawrence" but who "was a considerably more complicated figure than an integrationist pioneer in the mold of Jackie Robinson." Chamberlain was a national icon who "foreshadowed the changing landscapes of American sports and race relations."

Finally, I should end with a special note of thanks to our editorial advisory board, several dozens of anonymous readers who evaluated last year's manuscript submissions, and the staff of our fine Library and Archives Division—especially helpful in the preparation of the winter issue in the absence of a publications staff were Nancy Sherbert, Lisa Keys, Barry Worley, and Craig Cooper.

Virgil W. Dean