

## Kansas Historical Notes

Under the auspices of the Kiowa County Historical Society the Kiowa County Pioneer Museum has been organized and has been granted a state charter as a nonprofit corporation. The directors of the new organization met April 30, 1953, and elected officers as follows: J. H. Olinger, president; Herbert Parkin, vice-president; Mrs. Benjamin Weaver, secretary; and Mrs. Bruno Meyer, treasurer. The purpose of the museum is to acquire and preserve records and relics pertaining to Kiowa county history, and to provide for housing and displaying these items.

Officers elected by the board of directors of the Finney County Historical Society at a meeting July 14, 1953, were: Gus Norton, president; Mrs. Kate Smith, first vice-president; C. L. Reeve, second vice-president; Mrs. Josephine Cowgill, third vice-president; Mrs. Ella Condra, secretary; Mrs. Eva B. Sharer, treasurer; Ralph T. Kersey, historian; Mrs. Cecil Wristen, custodian; and P. A. Burtis, business manager.

Claude L. Peterson was elected president of the Wyandotte County Historical Society at a meeting in the old Grinter House, rural Wyandotte county, July 23, 1953. Other officers chosen included: Alan W. Farley, vice-president; Sixten Shogran, secretary; and Harry Hanson, treasurer. Farley was the retiring president.

Guest of honor and one of the speakers at the annual picnic of the Shawnee Mission Indian Historical Society on the grounds of Old Shawnee Mission in Johnson county, August 23, 1953, was Frank C. Wornall who was born 98 years ago in one of the mission buildings. Mrs. Homer Bair is president of the society.

Tom Van Bebber was elected president of the Doniphan County Historical Society at a meeting in Troy to reorganize and reactivate the society, September 2, 1953. Senter Brazelton was chosen vice-president, and Mrs. Margaret Rice, secretary-treasurer.

Mrs. Alma Piper, Parsons, was elected president of the Labette County Old Settlers Association at a meeting in Oswego, September 7, 1953. Other officers elected included: W. A. Blair vice-president; and R. H. Montgomery, secretary-treasurer. The principal speaker was Mrs. Laura Plumb, Wellington. E. E. Woods, Independence, was the retiring president.

The towns of Great Bend, Hays, and Russell joined with many private firms and companies in presenting a three-day oil show in Russell, September 10-12, 1953. One of the features of the program was the dedication of a monument at the site of the Carrie Oswald No. 1 discovery well near Fairport. The dedicatory address was by Gov. Edward F. Arn and the monument was accepted as an official historic site of Kansas by Nyle H. Miller, secretary of the Kansas State Historical Society. The marker was inscribed as follows: "Site of Carrie Oswald No. 1, discovery well of the Fairport oil field. Drilled November 23, 1923. Dedicated September 12, 1953. Russell county, Kansas."

Lloyd R. Hershey, Olathe, was chosen president of the Johnson County Old Settlers Association at the business meeting during the 55th annual reunion in Olathe, September 12, 1953. Other officers elected were: Jess L. Hall, vice-president; Mrs. Dale Dorst, secretary; and Herbert E. Julien, treasurer.

Fresh off the presses of the state printing plant in Topeka, is a 216-page, beautifully-illustrated volume by Bliss Isely and W. M. Richards entitled *The Story of Kansas*. Published for use in the Kansas schools, the book is a survey of Kansas geography and history from prehistoric times to the present. It takes the place of the authors' previous state history, *Four Centuries in Kansas*, which has been used as a schoolroom text for several years.

*A Century of Congregationalism in Kansas* is the title of a new 207-page book by Charles M. Correll, published by the Kansas Congregational and Christian Conference. The author, a former president of the Kansas State Historical Society, is professor emeritus of history and college historian at Kansas State College, Manhattan. He has traced the progress of the Congregational church in Kansas from its beginning on October 15, 1854, when the first church was organized in Lawrence under the leadership of the Rev. S. Y. Lum, through the difficult early period, and the years of growth, to the present church of over 90 congregations in Kansas.