

Kansas History off the Press

John B. Jeffries, president of the Geary County Historical Society, spoke on Junction City's early history at a recent Rotary Club meeting there. Excerpts from his speech were printed by the *Junction City News*, August 10, 1977. Jeffries told of first attempts to establish the city before it was finally incorporated in February, 1859.

The Marshall county jail which was supposed to be the finest prison in northeast Kansas when it was completed in 1902, brought a bid of only \$500 at an auction in August, 1977. The jail and a nearby two-story house had to go so a new jail and courthouse could be built on the site. A history of the Marysville jail was in the *Belleville Telescope*, August 11, 1977.

Early settlers of the Maple Hill area are the subject of a feature article by Nick Clark in the *St. Marys Star and Valley Ho!* August 11, 1977. Photographs, drawings, an early map of the area, and a letter written in 1933 from one of the early settlers, William A. Pierce, to W. A. Corkel, editor of the weekly *Kansas City Star*, who had requested information on the early history of Maple Hill township, accompany the article.

Albert T. Reid, well-known artist and cartoonist, was born in Concordia in 1873. An article by Christine Tyler on his career was printed in the *Concordia Blade-Empire*, August 12, 1977. Reid's painting, "Concordia Mainstreet 1873," which hangs in the Cloud County Historical Society museum, illustrates the article.

The wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. Bernhard Warkentin, whose home and mill are maintained as historic places in Newton and Halstead was in the *Newton Kansan*, August 12, 1977, the 102d anniversary of their marriage and 100th anniversary of their move from Halstead to Newton. In Halstead Warkentin milled turkey red hard winter wheat which he brought with him from the Ukraine.

"The Inside Story of Outside School" was a two-part series in the *Marysville Advocate*, August 25 and September 1, 1977. Oretha Ruetti wrote the historical articles on Outside school which was outside of Marysville, but part of the original Marysville District No. 4. The articles were illustrated with pictures of a

group of pupils attending in 1899-1900 and a horse-drawn school hack which provided transportation to Marysville after Outside school was closed.

Francis Wilson, retired editor and a past president of the Ellsworth County Historical Society, was the subject of a feature story in the *Ellsworth Reporter*, August 18, 1977. The interview, by Liz Nakahara, included Wilson's recollections of his newspaper career in Ellsworth as well as colorful sidelights on the town's history which he has studied over the years. Ellsworth observed its 110th anniversary in 1977.

An account of the execution of John Brown near Harper's Ferry in 1859 was published in the *Halstead Independent*, August 25, 1977. The story was written for the *Cincinnati Commercial* by Murat Halstead who witnessed the execution and for whom the town of Halstead was named. Halstead observed its centennial in 1977.

The Pony Express station northeast of Hanover, a historic site maintained by the Kansas State Historical Society, is believed to be the only unaltered station remaining in its original location of the hundreds originally lining the 2,400-mile route from St. Joseph to Sacramento. An article on the station was published in the *Washington County News*, Washington, August 25, 1977. Floyd Severin, site supervisor, provided much of the information for the article.

Saint Mary College in Leavenworth had its beginnings when a handful of pioneer nuns from Tennessee arrived in the city in the late 1850's and gathered boys and girls into a small frame building for classes. A history of the college, first incorporated in 1868, was in the *Leavenworth Times*, August 28, 1977. Written by Margot Desannoy, the article is illustrated with a photograph of the original academy building, Saint Mary's Hall.

Topeka Supply and Boiler Co., Inc., observed its centennial in August, 1977. An article with photographs of the original building as it appeared in 1877 and of Joseph Bromich, founder of the company, was in the *Topeka Sunday Capital Journal*, August 28, 1977. The company has weathered two major floods, rebuilt from four fires, and today is still a locally owned family enterprise.

Erna Graf who worked as a chambermaid at the Onaga Hotel before she and her husband Otto bought it in 1944, reminisced about the old hotel in an article written by Uteva Powers in the

Manhattan *Mercury*, August 28, 1977. The hotel after 77 years was "silent and empty," according to the article, as it awaited its sale by the Graf family.

A series of articles on Crisfield in 1885 began appearing in the *Anthony Republican*, August 31, 1977. Nyle H. Miller, executive director emeritus of the Kansas State Historical Society, is the writer of the series on the Harper county town founded in 1884 but which was to wither and eventually reach "ghost" status when the railroad built on farther west. In the summer of 1885 the town was booming though, the center of an army buildup resulting from stories of Indian unrest.

Newspapers in the early history of Winfield and Cowley county are the subject of a "Museum Footnotes" column by Roland Mueller in the Winfield *Daily Courier*, August 31, 1977. Part of the information was excerpted from an account which appeared August 13, 1926, in the *Courier*. Another source was the *Cowley County Telegram*, May 14, 1879.

The Cheyenne United Methodist church, northeast of Luray, celebrated its centennial September 4, 1977. An article on the history of the church, which has had three buildings since its beginning in 1877, was in the *Russell Daily News*, August 31, 1977, and the *Russell Record* and *Natoma-Luray Independent*, September 1. The article is illustrated with a picture of the frame church which burned in 1954. Dedication of the present brick building was in 1955.

Linn Centennial was a centennial project of the town of Linn, which celebrated its 100th birthday June 3-5, 1977. The 100-page, paperbound book was printed in 1977 by Ag Press, Manhattan. It includes a well-illustrated history of the community, business firms, organizations, schools, churches, biographical sketches of officials, family stories, and items reprinted from old newspapers.

"*Homeland Schools, Cabins to Complexes*" was a bicentennial project of the Republic County Retired Teachers Association. The 277-page book was published in 1977 by the Telescope Publishing Co., Inc., Belleville. Illustrated with many black and white photographs the book tells the story of the schools in Republic county from earliest dugouts and log buildings, and its compilers have preserved much of the rural school heritage from extant records and pictures.

The Yakima Valley Genealogical Society of Yakima, Wash., published in 1977 "An Index to Andrew Ruley's *History of Brown County, Kansas*," and a biographical index of *A History of the Church of the Brethren in Kansas* by Elmer Leroy Craik. Ruley's book was published in Hiawatha in 1930. The Craik book was published in McPherson in 1922. The indexes are mimeographed.

"*My Home Town*," *Cedarville, Kansas*, is a 54-page, paperbound book published in 1977 by Valentine Enterprises, Cedar. Doris M. Swank is the author who has dedicated her history to the pioneer settlers of Cedarville. The book is well illustrated with historical photographs, and has one section on present-day Cedar.

Louise Brown Barr has written *Questing or Nesting*, a history of her grandmother's family who pioneered in four states beginning in the 1840's. The grandmother, Louisa Hymer Brown, provided much of the information as she remembered it, and the author added conversation and narrative "to string her memories together." The 383-page, paperbound book was copyrighted in 1977 by Louise Brown Barr, Box 1269, Bay City, Tex. 77414.

Blest Be the Tie, 1877-1977, is the centennial history of the United Methodist church of Medicine Lodge. The 157-page paperbound book was written by Regina Allen with the assistance of the church centennial committee. Black and white photographs illustrate the text; one picture is of the first schoolhouse in the community where several denominations worshipped starting in 1877.

Costume Display Techniques is a 1977 book written by Karyn Jean Harris of the Smithsonian Institution. The 90-page paperbound book was published by the American Association for State and Local History. It is well illustrated with fashion plates, photographs and diagrams of display techniques. There is a list of suggested supplies and a bibliography.

Identifying American Architecture, A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945, is a paperbound book published by the American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, in 1977. John J.-G. Blumenson is the author of the 188-page book which has 214 photographs from the Historic American Buildings Survey.

Lumir F. Buresch is the author and Dan L. Smith, the editor, of *October 25th and the Battle of Mine Creek* published by the

Lowell Press, Kansas City, Mo., in 1977. The 265-page book about the major Civil War battle in Kansas is well illustrated with photographs and maps. The editor, a native of Pleasanton, has been president of the Linn County Historical Society.

Steven L. Johnson has compiled *Guide to American Indian Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899*. The 503-page book published in 1977 by Clearwater Publishing Company, Inc., New York, is not a comprehensive index on all subjects pertaining to Indians, but is an important tool for researchers interested in documents dealing primarily with Indian relations with the U.S. government. The 10,649 documents on Indian affairs in the serial set from 1817 through 1899 are listed sequentially in a chronological section. A subject index lists titles and abstracts of documents as they appear in the chronological section.

Haysville was first chartered as a town in 1876. From a U. S. census count of 150 in 1950, the city has grown to a population of about 6,000 in 1970. The Haysville Lions Club in cooperation with the Haysville community published in 1977 a paperbound 55-page book on *The Heritage of Haysville, A Pictorial History of the Early Years in Haysville, Kansas*. Susan Armstrong was the editor of the community project.

The Eudora Bicentennial Committee sponsored the compilation of *Eudora Community Heritage of Our USA Bicentennial* which was published in 1977. The 208-page, paperbound book tells the community's story beginning when the area was Indian land. The town's namesake was Eudora Fish of the Fish tribe of Shawnee Indians. Illustrated with black and white photographs, the history includes biographical sketches and information on the town's schools, churches, organizations, and historical sites.

Through the Years, History of Denison, edited by Lloyd and Kathryn Copeland, was published recently by the Gossip Printery, Holton. The 86-page, paperbound book was the outgrowth of Denison's bicentennial celebration. Mainly pictorial, it includes a brief history of the community, family histories, information on schools, churches, and organizations.

The Anderson County Historical Society published in 1977 *Anderson County Kansas Histories*. The 386-page volume includes reprints of *The First History of Anderson County, 1876*, by Judge J. Y. Campbell; *History of Anderson County, 1877*, by W.

A. Johnson; and *History of Anderson County*, 1936, by Harry Johnson. Two of the histories were first published without indexes, but in this reprint indexes prepared by volunteers are included. A 62-page addendum to the book was prepared by the society, including early history, information, and pictures found since 1936.

Walker D. Wyman has written *Witching for Water, Oil, Pipes, and Precious Minerals* which was published by the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Press in 1977. This study surveys the literature throughout American history and mentions many of the dowzers who have operated in this country in recent times. No attempt is made to assess the validity of the belief in witching, though a number of investigations are cited. The 98-page book is paperbound and is illustrated with photographs and sketches.

Final Issue

This is the last issue of the *Kansas Historical Quarterly*. After 46 years of recording Kansas and Western history, the *Quarterly* will be replaced by *Kansas History, a Journal of the Central Plains*. The new magazine will feature larger, two-column pages for easier reading and better use of illustrations. The content will be much the same as has appeared in the *Quarterly*. We hope our readers are as anxiously anticipating the first issue of *Kansas History* as we are.—THE EDITORS.