

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES

The meeting was called to order by SENATOR ROBERT V. TALKINGTON at  
Chairperson

9:00 a.m./p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 1984 in room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
all present.

Committee staff present:  
Fred Carman, Hank Avila, Rosalie Black

Conferees appearing before the committee:

- SB 662 - Senator Roy Ehrlich; Art Strube; Ed DeSoignie, DOT; Mary Turkington, KS Motor Carrier Association
- SB 693 - Senator Roy Ehrlich; Mayor Howard Bowman, Galen Unruh, Dorothy Bowman; Cathy Kruzic, Dept. of Economic Development; Jerry Lindberg, Great Bend; Joe Snell, Kansas Historical Society; Representative Jerry Friedeman

The meeting was called to order by Senator Talkington, Chairman, to discuss Senate Bill 662 and Senate Bill 693.

SENATE BILL NO. 662 - HEARING AND ACTION

Senator Roy Ehrlich said the bill allowing oversize vehicle permits to be continuous over a highway route originated when the need for it was brought to his attention by one of his constituents. He introduced Art Strube.

As an owner of an oil well servicing business, Mr. Strube has six oversize rigs and must obtain a permit from DOT every thirty days. He asked for a longer permit to cut down on paperwork and expense for himself and the state.

Ed DeSoignie and Mary Turkington both noted no opposition to the bill.

Senator Norvell moved to amend Line 77 deleting the word "any;" seconded by Senator Thiessen. The motion carried.

Senator Norvell moved that SB 662 be reported favorable for passage as amended; seconded by Senator Hein and passed.

SENATE BILL NO. 693 - HEARING

Senator Roy Ehrlich explained that residents of the area had been contacting

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES,  
room 254-E, Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m./p.m. on February 23, 1984.

SENATE BILL 693 - HEARING

DOT for sixteen years to restore the road to Pawnee Rock Historical State Park. Last summer, DOT indicated by telephone that Senator Ehrlich consider presenting legislation ordering the department to act. He asked for a blacktop base for  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles.

Representative Jerry Friedeman, Mayor Howard Bowman of Pawnee Rock, Dorothy Bowman, Jerry Lindberg, Cathy Kruzic, Galen Unruh and Joe Snell testifying in support of SB 693 said it is difficult to attract tourists to the park when the access street is not maintained properly and visitors from other parts of the world are not impressed with large potholes that have turned the access road into a path. As President of the State Historical Society, Mr. Snell said Pawnee Rock is the only state park not having properly maintained access streets. Pictures were presented by Mrs. Bowman showing large potholes. (See Attachments 1 - 3.) *cannot wholly identify atchs.*

A statement from John B. Kemp, Secretary of Transportation, reported that DOT is in opposition to SB 693 because of the precedent it would create in establishing highway project priorities and in adding miles to the state highway system. (See Attachment 4.)

SENATE BILL NO. 591 - ACTION

Senator Norvell moved that Senate Bill 591 be reported favorable for passage; seconded by Senator Hayden and passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

*Robert H. Zerk*

Please PRINT Name, Address, the organization you represent, and the Number of the Bill in which you are interested. Thank you.

NAME ADDRESS ORGANIZATION BILL NO.

NAME	ADDRESS	ORGANIZATION	BILL NO.
Dorothy Bowman	Pawnee Rock (Pride Community)		693
Linda Wilman	Pawnee Rock	City Council	693
Bette Howard	Pawnee Rock		693
Nancy Lindberg	Topeka	KNEA	
Tom [unclear]	Topeka	WDO	693
Jerry Lindberg	Great Bend	Convention Bureau	693
Tom [unclear]	Topeka	Ks Motor Carrier	
Art [unclear]	Cliffon	D94W Well Drilling	662
Joseph W. [unclear]	Topeka	state historical society	693
Lawrence Sawyer	Topeka Ks.		693
Mary [unclear]	Topeka Ks.	Kansas Motor Carriers Assn	662
Ed DeSorgnie	Topeka Ks	KDOT	662-693
Jusan Schroeder	Topeka	Budget Division	693
Laura [unclear]	Pawnee Rock Ks.	City Clerk	693
Mrs. P. D. Smith	Pawnee Rock Ks	(Pride Committee)	693
P. D. Smith	Pawnee Rock, Ks (Pride)		693
G. R. Prudema	Topeka Kans (Leg.)		662 + 693
Joseph Bowman	Pawnee Rock		693
Paul Bowman	Pawnee Rock		693
Carole Bowman	Pawnee Rock		693
Thomas [unclear]	Pawnee Rock	commissioner	693
Howard W. Bowman	Pawnee Rock	Mayor	693
Doris E. [unclear]	Pawnee Rock		693
Galen Church	"		693

Attachments 1-3

# KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STATE OFFICE BUILDING—TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612



JOHN B. KEMP, Secretary of Transportation

JOHN CARLIN, Governor

MEMORANDUM TO: SENATE TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE  
FROM: KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 1984  
REGARDING: SENATE BILL 662

SENATE BILL 662 AMENDS K.S.A. 8-1911; PERMITS FOR EXCESS SIZE AND WEIGHT, TO PROVIDE THAT SPECIAL PERMITS ISSUED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATUTE MAY BE FOR EITHER A SINGLE TRIP OR FOR CONTINUOUS OPERATION. K.S.A. 8-1911 PRESENTLY PROVIDES THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION THE DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY TO ISSUE EITHER SINGLE TRIP OR CONTINUOUS PERMITS.

THE BILL APPEARS TO RESTATE THAT AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY.

THE KDOT IS THEREFORE NOT OPPOSED TO SENATE BILL 662 AS DRAFTED.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Room 254 E

TESTIMONY

SB 693

Access Roads

for

Pawnee Rock Historical Site

Cathy L. Kruzic, Travel & Tourism Director  
Kansas Department of Economic Development

February 23, 1984



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Many Kansas tourist attractions are not on the interstate or major highway systems. One of the objectives of the Travel & Tourism Division of the Kansas Department of Economic Development has been to entice the traveler to visit places off these major highways. However, this is often difficult if the roadways to such sites are not maintained. The Travel & Tourism Division continues to encourage potential visitors to discover more about our state through publicizing attractions such as Pawnee Rock. In fact, even international publicity is occasionally the result of promotional efforts on the part of the division. Attached is a copy of an article which appeared January 7, 1984, in a United Kingdom newspaper as a result of hosting a Kansas familiarization tour for Travel Writers last fall.

Pawnee Rock State Historical Park is an attraction which currently is not easily accessible. Due to the fact that this is a state attraction, the Kansas Travel & Tourism Division supports Senate Bill 693 which provides for an adequate roadway to Pawnee Rock from state highways 56 and 156. Many of Kansas' attractions are historical in nature; these sights are appealing to visitors and extremely important to the state's tourism program. We are confident that the visitation to Pawnee Rock State Historical Site could be increased by making it more accessible with a maintained roadway. The end result could provide for a more positive image of the state by visitors, as well as the increased likelihood of tourism related expenditures due

to more time spent to tour the sight. By encouraging visitors to spend an extra hour or so visiting Kansas, they may have lunch, purchase gasoline, or perhaps stay overnight adding dollars to the economy.

With this in mind, adding a roadway to Pawnee Rock State Historical Site as part of the state highway system should be another positive step toward developing and expanding the travel and tourism industry. I encourage your support of Senate Bill 693.

# The State of 'Ahs'

by  
IAN WILSON

## Holidays

KANSAS, sometimes called the breadbasket of America, presents an interesting puzzle.

For most non-Kansans it is a vast, flat, 97,000 square miles of wheatfields and not much else.

At the lady immigration desk at Chicago International Airport could not get that I was going to Kansas. "But no one goes to Kansas," she said. "Try Miami or the West Coast with its sunshine and surf."

It said. It has to be Kansas. I laughed, stamped my passport and I was on my way.

Appearances, it seems, can be deceiving. Kansas is not part of the American Dream with its highways, big 4.5-litre cars and bigger houses with swimming pools in the backyards. These things does not have.

### Visitors

What does have, is something much better: Identity. It is a state where people who are extremely proud of what they are — Kansans — Americans second, and the history of a land carved out of the wilderness, fought over by outlaws and the warriors of both sides during the Civil War, all of which combine to state its nickname of "The Sunflower State of Kansas."

Things have changed. You can't fight the Indians anymore, but they still fight among themselves for the land.

What you do is to work hard on the land. It is estimated that only 10 per cent of the state's income comes from agriculture and industry, producing half of the wheat, including airliners, sold in the United States, and a million dollars worth of oil.

They want most of all to see the Wild West and the British in particular. TIAK — the Travel Association of Kansas — can get you out all the stops to get to the Wild West.

Wichita from Heathrow, via St. Louis, courtesy of Trans World Airlines, to see what was on offer. It is a two-day trip with TIAK and Ron from the Automobile Club of



KANSAS — a land carved out of the wilderness.

## Getting there

TRANS World Airlines fly regular services from Heathrow to Wichita Mid-Century Airport via Chicago and St. Louis.

## Where to stay

GOOD selection of reasonably priced motels and hotels to choose from, including Hilton Inns, Holiday Inns, Best Western Motels and Super 8 Motels.

Kansas is big and I mean BIG. The American Dream is made up of many elements, not the least of which is wanderlust, and Kansas is the place for it. Wichita, Dodge, Fort Scott, these are names to turn on the imagination and start the motor running for your daydreams.

Wichita, meaning "painted faces" in Indian, has a million head of cattle passing through its livestock market every year and what was once a little village has been transformed into a city of tall buildings, wide streets and bright lights.

### Rodeos

It is the home of the nation's private aviation industry and the famous names include Boeing, Gates Learjet and Cessna, a company that allows visitors to tour their plant on E. Pawnee Street.

But overshadowing it all is the lawless and bloody Kansas of the cattle era with towns like Dodge City and Abilene — watering holes where cowboys fresh from months on the trail could let loose for a few days.

And it's there still, to be found in the rolling, lonely Flint Hills of East Central Kansas where cowboys still herd cattle; or the Kansas Coliseum, a 12-million dollar construction that houses rodeos on the North side of Wichita.

It's a bit difficult today to imagine Wichita with its wide streets, museums, art galleries and orderly businesses, as part of the wild and bloody west.

But the people are proud of it and it's worth seeing. Wichita, for example, has

Cowtown, a 37-building village museum which shows life as it was from 1869 to 1890 and includes the city's first house and church and Wyatt Earp's jail.

There is the Mid-America All-Indian Centre, which houses a museum, workshop and gift shop, all of which are intended to promote and increase the awareness of the culture of the American Indian.

And if you happen to be there at the right time you can see the Kiowa Indians doing their tribal dances — war, rain, sun dances, etc. — all of which leave you with a lasting impression of these proud, true Americans.

And no matter where you travel in the state, the wild west is there, staring you in the face in the form of towns like Dodge City or Abilene, and the herds of bison which roam in safety now through game reserves like the one at Maxwell on US Highway 56.

### Careful

The best way to see them is from the back of a pick-up truck driving among the herd but be careful — they're big.

The violence of the past is perhaps epitomised in a little town that lies on US Highway 169 in the South-East corner of the state.

It's not too far from the Oklahoma state line and every year on October 5 the citizens re-enact an event that brought horror and disgust.

That town is Coffeyville. Today Coffeyville is an oil-rich town, lying in the midst of the state's major oilfield. But

its main claim to fame does not involve oil — but a sensational bank robbery which took place on October 5, 1892.

On that day, three of the Dalton Brothers and two of their friends rode into Coffeyville and tried to rob two banks. A big gun battle ensued during which four of the hold-up gang and several townspeople were killed.

### Imagination

Today the battle is re-enacted in the streets outside the original banks and the Dalton Defenders Museum on Eighth Street has mementoes of the battle, including several of the weapons used. Exciting stuff!

You can trace most of this past and the westward expansion by following the Santa Fe Trail from Fort Larned and Pawnee Rock, a red sandstone cliff jutting out on the prairie that can be seen for miles.

Fort Larned lies south-west of Pawnee Rock and six miles outside of the town is the Fort Larned Historic Site where several sandstone buildings of the fort are being restored to the way there were in the days of the Indian wars of the 1840s and 50s.

Interestingly enough, these forts never had a stockade around them. This is a mere figment of Hollywood's imagination.

As you drive along U.S. Highway 156 towards the fort, you pass the Santa Fe Trail Museum with its historic displays about life and travel on the trail and a settler's sodhouse built out of sods of turf simply because there are no trees on the prairie.

These are just scrapings from the surface of a remarkable state that is well worth making an effort to discover.

And in spite of its tabletop flatness, Kansas has a certain indefinable attraction.

Perhaps that is why Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz so wanted to return and gave the state its slogan: "Kansas Land of Ahs (Oz)."

**NEXT WEEK: Ian Wilson reports on Dodge City, a town with a wild and woolly past.**

with the sod house pleasantly cool in the baking prairie sun.

*Attachment 4*

# KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STATE OFFICE BUILDING—TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612



JOHN B. KEMP, Secretary of Transportation

JOHN CARLIN, Governor

MEMORANDUM TO: SENATE TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE  
FROM: JOHN B. KEMP, P.E.  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
REGARDING: SENATE BILL 693, PAWNEE ROCK HISTORICAL STATE PARK  
DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 1984

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT MY VIEWS ON SENATE BILL 693.

SENATE BILL 693 DESIGNATES CERTAIN PROPERTY IN PAWNEE ROCK AS A HISTORICAL STATE PARK AND DIRECTS ME TO PLACE THE ACCESS ROAD FROM US-56 TO THE PARK ON THE STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM. THE BILL FURTHER REQUIRES ME TO RECONSTRUCT THE ACCESS ROAD TO STATE HIGHWAY STANDARDS.

I AM OPPOSED TO SENATE BILL 693 BECAUSE OF THE PRECEDENT IT WOULD CREATE IN ESTABLISHING HIGHWAY PROJECT PRIORITIES AND IN ADDING MILES TO THE STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM.

THANK YOU.

*Atch. 4*

