

Approved April 28, 1988

Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Senator Joseph C. Harder at  
Chairperson

1:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, 1988 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Warren, excused

Committee staff present:

Mr. Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department  
Ms. Avis Swartzman, Legislative Revisor's Office  
Mrs. Millie Randell, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

HB 2725 - Kansas history, course of instruction required in schools and teacher preparation institutions (Harper et al.)

Proponents:

Representative Richard Harper, co-sponsor of HB 2725  
Representative Denise Apt  
Representative Jeff Freeman, co-sponsor of HB 2725  
Mr. Bill Moulden, Kansas history teacher, Washburn Rural High School  
Mr. Nick Jordan, President, Travel Industry Association of Kansas  
Mr. David DePue, Executive Director, Kansas Council on Vocational Education  
Kansas Federation of Teachers, written testimony only

Opponents:

Mr. Richard Funk, Asst. Executive Director, Kansas Association of School Boards  
Mr. Gerald Henderson, Executive Director, United School Administrators of Kansas

Comments:

Mr. Kenneth Rogg, Legislative representative, Schools for Quality Education  
Mr. Bob Kelly, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Independent Colleges

HB 2799 - School districts, tuition payments for pupils attending school in districts of nonresidence

Proponents:

Connie and Joe Gillilan, Hardy, Nebraska, written testimony only

Following a call to order by the Chairman, Senator Arasmith moved that minutes of the Committee meeting of March 21 be approved. Senator Allen seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

When the Chair called upon the principal sponsor of HB 2725, Representative Richard Harper informed the Committee that HB 2725 is a follow-up of HCR 5033, introduced in the 1986 session. He explained that HB 2725 "mandates a complete course of Kansas history be taught in every accredited school, grades 4 thru 8". (Attachment 1) In response to a question, Representative Harper agreed that although schools can implment such a teaching program now, "very little is taught in the schools". Representative Harper also replied that there are materials available for teaching the course. He recalled, however, the comment of a teacher who would be more than willing to teach the course on Kansas history if the Kansas Historical Society would write a book on it.

When Representative Denise Apt was called upon to testify, she proposed amending HB 2725. (Attachment 2) Representative Apt emphasized the importance for Kansas children to know the past and to appreciate their image. She, too, mentioned the resolution that was passed previously by the Legislature in support of the teaching of Kansas history but confirmed Represent-

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,  
room 123-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, 1988

tative Harper's assessment that very little had been done as a result of the resolution. Representative Apt felt that once it is established that a course in Kansas history will be required, satisfactory books for teaching the course would be forthcoming.

Representative Jeff Freeman, a co-sponsor of HB 2725, testified that Kansas history is lost in the confusion of our present social science curricula. (Attachment 3) Representative Freeman, however, suggested amending HB 2725. (Attachment 4)

Mr. Bill Moulden, a Kansas history teacher from Washburn Rural High School, urged the teaching of Kansas history at the secondary level, for he felt that increased maturity would help the students to retain the knowledge they had learned. (Attachment 5) Mr. Moulden felt that the study of minorities should be included in the Kansas history course.

Mr. Nick Jordan, President, Travel Industry Association of Kansas, stated that we are robbing the people of the state, particularly our kids, of a rich heritage and felt the teaching of Kansas history should be mandated. (Attachment 6)

Speaking on behalf of the thirteen-member Kansas Council on Vocational Education, Mr. David DePue, the executive director, commented that he appreciates that the focus for teaching a course on Kansas history is on the middle school level so as not to increase further the burden currently experienced by the older students. He also felt the course would have the greatest impact on students at the lower grade levels. He said the vocational and technical students already have problems fitting in all the required courses for graduation. He also supported delegating responsibilities regarding the Kansas history course to the State Board of Education.

A Kansas Federation of Teachers representative requested that their name be listed among the supporters of HB 2725 and indicated that written testimony would be forthcoming. (Attachment 7)

The Assistant Director of the Kansas Association of School Boards, Mr. Richard Funk, testified that HB 2725 mandates and legislates something that already is legislated and being done by our schools. He asked that HB 2725 be reported unfavorably. (Attachment 8)

Mr. Gerald Henderson, Executive Director, United School Administrators of Kansas, described HB 2725 as it now reads, as being very similar to present law. He stated that U.S.A.'s objection to HB 2725 is that Kansas schools have responded well to the resolution of a few years ago. Results of a survey conducted by U.S.A. regarding districts' responses to the resolution are found in Attachment 9.

Although Mr. Kenneth Rogg, Legislative Representative, Schools for Quality Education, took no stance regarding HB 2725, he did express concern that Kansas history might be added as another required unit at the secondary level. He felt that this could cause some dropouts among vocational-technical students who would not benefit from an additional graduation requirement. Mr. Rogg noted that the Kansas Historical Society has had an increase in the number of requests from schools asking for information on Kansas history. Mr. Rogg stated that he would furnish the Committee with information compiled as a result of a survey conducted by his organization several years ago regarding current and proposed graduation requirements. (Attachment 10)

Mr. Bob Kelly, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Independent Colleges, said he opposes mandating the teaching of Kansas history. He said that the independent colleges do have a semester course in Kansas history, but there is no mandate that requires the course to be taught. He felt that Kansas history should be taught as part of a social studies course.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,  
room 123-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~xxx~~ a.m./p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, 1988.

HB 2799 - School districts, tuition payments for pupils attending school  
in districts of nonresidence

The Chair informed the Committee that he had received written testimony relating to HB 2799 from Connie and Joe Gillilan, whose family is affected by the bill. He said that copies of the testimony had been distributed to the Committee at the request of Mr. Gillilan. (Attachment 11)

The Chair announced that the Committee would meet again tomorrow and explained that the meeting had been "on call". He then adjourned the meeting.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 p.m. PLACE: 123-S DATE: Wednesday, March 23, 1988

GUEST LIST

NAME

ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Matt Truell	Topeka	AP
Nick Jordan	Topeka	TIAC
KEVIN ROBERTSON	Topeka	TIAC
Richard Hines	St. Jo	House of Reps.
Jim Yonally	Shawnee Mission	USD #512
Philippa	Topeka	CPI
Jon Bras	Topeka	Life at the West
Tom Walsh	Topeka	Ka. State Int. Ed.
Bridle Highfill Scott	Topeka	USA
Seald Anderson	Topeka	USA
M. V. Gann	"	Civ. Serv.
Richard S. Funk	"	KASB
Deirdre apt	Topeka	Topeka
Kathryn Dyer	Wichita	USD 259

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 p.m. PLACE: 123-S DATE: Wednesday, March 23, 1988

GUEST LIST

NAME

ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

Harold Pitts

Topoka

Sue Kleason

Topoka

Governor's office

David DeLuo

Topoka

KCOVE

Becky Lingquist

Topoka

Private Citizen

Bill Maulden

St. #1 Wafarusa

teacher (no organization)

Ken Rogg

Paola

SQE

Carol Kish

Topoka

KFT

Kara Zunk

Topoka

apd #501

Bob Kelly

Topoka

KICA

Jo Fette

Times

STATE OF KANSAS

RICHARD L. HARPER  
REPRESENTATIVE, ELEVENTH DISTRICT  
BOURBON, CRAWFORD, AND LINN COUNTIES  
R.F.D. NO. 3  
FORT SCOTT, KANSAS 66701



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
CHAIRMAN: ELECTIONS  
MEMBER: INSURANCE  
TRANSPORTATION

March 23, 1988

Mr. Chairperson, and members of the Senate Education Committee

HB 2725 is a bill requiring the provision of a course of instruction therein by certain accredited schools; imposing a requirement for the study thereof by persons preparing to teach; amending K.S.A. 72-1103, 72-1372 and 72-1388, and repealing the existing sections.

This bill is a follow-up of HCR 5033, which was introduced in the 1986 session. The HCR legislation was a resolution urging the teaching of Kansas History in the Kansas School system, and also commended school districts which would have provided for strong programs of teaching Kansas history.

HB 2725 mandates a complete course of Kansas History be taught in every accredited school, grades 4 thru 8. The provisions of this section shall be implemented prior to or at the commencement of the 1990-91 school year.

I think we will all agree that there is something special about the Great State of Kansas. This is our home and we have every right to be proud of our State. Kansas was born in a time of national tragedy, but born with an ideal -- the ideal that all men are created equal. This is the accepted philosophy now, but it took many lives of Kansans to make the ideal a reality.

In order to appreciate Kansas, it is necessary to know something about the History of Kansas. The young person that studies the thrilling and true story of the transformation of the vast prairie into our productive farms and cities will have a new appreciation of courage and industry.

Attached you will find some of the things that many of us were taught in our grade school years which were known as "red letter dates" in Kansas.

I appreciate your time, and urge each of you to vote favorably on HB 2725.

Thank you for your time and concern on this important legislation.

Representative Richard L. Harper  
District # 11

DATE: Mon. 2-8-88

# Opinions

- MANHATTAN MERCURY
- OLATHE DAILY NEWS
- PARSONS SUN
- PITTSBURG MORNING SUN
- SALINA JOURNAL
- WINFIELD DAILY COURIER

## Courier views

### Kansas history: know thyself

We Kansans are not inclined to ask our legislature to pass laws setting curriculum requirements in our public schools.

The case of Kansas history is different.

Lawmakers should spell out in plain language a statutory requirement that a specific course in Kansas history be offered in every one of Kansas' 310 districts.

Questions of what, when and how should be left to educators.

But the legislature needs to act because Kansas history is lost in the confusion of our present social science curricula. In spite of official protestations to the contrary, our children do not learn the history of their state.

If you doubt this, just ask them.

And why should they bother learning Kansas history?

Because until an individual understands the world around him, he has no context in which to understand the larger world. Before embarking on the study of international social forces or the psychology of mass society, young students need to know about the state where they live.

They need some ground on which to stand.

Bringing Kansas history back into our public schools in a coherent, up-to-date course with high quality materials could do a lot to help students deal with the information explosion and the fast-moving future they face.

After all, Kansas history helps us understand ourselves. Nothing in education can be more important.

RICHARD L. HARPER  
 REPRESENTATIVE, ELEVENTH DISTRICT  
 BOURBON, CRAWFORD, AND LINN COUNTIES  
 R.F.D. NO. 3  
 FORT SCOTT, KANSAS 66701

*Richard Harper*  
*edit 11*

"Red Letter Dates" and a listing of information material on some of the famous people of Kansas.

- 1541 - The Spanish explorer Coronado entered Kansas.
- 1724 - Etienne Venyard, Sieur de Bourgmont, a french explorer crossed the region from east to west.
- 1803 - Kansas became United States territory as a part of the Louisiana Purchase.
- 1804 - The Lewis and Clark Expedition traveled south of the Kansas River.
- 1822 - Captain William Becknell established the route of the Santa Fe Trail.
- 1827 - Captain Henry Leavenworth built Fort Leavenworth.
- 1850 and 1860-s - Armed clashes between antislavery and pro-slavery forces gave the region the nickname of "Bleeding Kansas."
- 1854 - Congress established the Territory of Kansas.
- 1861 - Kansas became the 34th state on January 29.
- 1873 - Bernard Warkentin, a Mennonite immigrant from Russia, planted the first Turkey Red wheat in Kansas.
- 1881 - Railroads reached Texas, ending the famous cattle drives to Kansas "cow towns."
- 1894 - Kansas oil and gas fields began producing.
- 1903 - The Country's first helium was discovered at Dexter.
- 1912 - Kansas gave women the right to vote.
- 1934 - 1935 - Dust storms ruined much Kansas farm land.
- 1951 - 1956 - Severe droughts caused the driest five-year period in the state's history.
- 1956 - The 236-mile Kansas Turnpike opened to traffic.

Now let me draw your attention to some of the famous Kansans who have helped to make history in our fine state.

A statue of John J. Ingalls, lawyer and statesman, represents Kansas in the Capitol in Washington, D. C.

Now we come to Mary Ann Ball Bickerdyke (1817-1901). This lady was one of the most beloved army nurses in the Civil War, became known as "Mother Bickerdyke." After the war, she started a movement to help veterans move to the west.

Georgia Neese Clark, became the first woman Treasurer of the United States. President Harry S. Truman appointed Mrs. Clark, a Democrat, to the office in 1949, and she served until 1953. Mrs. Clark was a banker, businesswoman, and farm owner in Richland, Kansas, her birthplace.

James Henry Lane (1814-1866), a Democratic politician who became a Republican, was an outstanding leader of the antislavery movement in the Kansas Territory. He helped organize the Free State party in Kansas in 1855, and led the convention that wrote the Free state constitution at Topeka. Lane served in the U. S. Army as a colonel during the Mexican war, and was Kansas' first U. S. Senator.

Andrew Horatio Reeder (1807-1864), a Democrat, served as the first territorial governor. President Franklin Pierce, who had appointed him removed Reeder from office in 1855 because of voting frauds. Reeder later served as a Free State delegate to Congress. He was born in Easton, Pa.

Susanna Medora Salter, (1860), was the first woman mayor in the United States. The people of Argonia elected her on the Republican ticket in 1887, and she held office for one year. Mrs. Salter was born in Lamira, Ohio.

Andrew F. Schoeppel, A Republican, served as governor from 1943 to 1947. He received national attention for signing a labor-control bill that required union agents to be licensed and that prohibited sit-down strikes. He became a U. S. Senator in 1948. Schoeppel was born in Claflin.



Proposed Amendment to House Bill No. 2725  
(As Amended by House Committee of the Whole)

On page 1, by striking all of lines 41 through 47;

On page 2, by striking all of lines 86 through 88;

On page 3, by striking all of lines 89 through 120;

On page 4, by striking all of lines 145 and 146; following line 146, by inserting a new section as follows:

"Section 1. (a) The state board of education shall provide for a course of instruction in Kansas history. The course shall be provided and given for not less than 1/2 unit of credit, or the equivalent thereof. No student who has not taken and satisfactorily passed the course shall be certified as having completed the course requirements necessary for graduation from high school.

(b) The state board of education shall prescribe the school year in which the requirement of subsection (a) shall become effective. The state board may provide for such waivers from the requirement as it deems appropriate.";

By renumbering section 4 as section 2;

In the title, in line 33, by striking all after "concerning"; by striking all of lines 34 through 38; in line 39, by striking "sections" and inserting "Kansas history; requiring the state board of education to provide for a course of instruction therein; making passage of the course of instruction a prerequisite for graduation for students from high school; authorizing waivers";

# Kansas history requirement ignored

2-7-88 WICHITA

**K**ANSANS who truly love their state were overjoyed when Gov. Hayden included a Kansas history plank in his recent State of the State address. Now the people who have been sitting on their hands all these years when they should have been promoting the study of Kansas history are starting to chip away at the governor's proposal.

They say they are shocked — shocked! — that anyone would think the current state mandate on Kansas history isn't being followed. Matters of curriculum should be left in the hands of the State Board of Education, they say, and the Legislature — and, by extension, the governor — essentially should butt out.

It's because the teaching of Kansas history in the elementary schools has been left in the hands of the State Board of Education, however, that Kansas history isn't being taught in many schools today. The Kansas Association of School Boards is quick to jump to the defense of the school districts, using half-a-dozen lame excuses for why there's nothing they can do.

Horsefeathers. There are all kinds of things the state board and the local school boards can do, if they'd only do it. The governor's State of the State remarks, and the favorable response they have received from all over Kansas, may help sensitize them to that.

**T**HE Kansas Association of School Boards makes a big deal of the fact there's a law already on the books requiring the teaching of Kansas history.

Here's the law, KSA 72-1101 (Required Subjects in Elementary Schools): "Every accredited elementary school shall teach reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, English grammar and composition, history of the United States and of the state of Kansas, civil government and the duties of citizenship, health and hygiene, together with such other subjects as the state board may determine. The state board shall be responsible for the selection of subject matter within the several fields of instruction and for its organization into courses of study and instruction for the guidance of teachers, principals and superintendents."

Now granted, some laws are pretty imprecise by their very nature, but this one sets a new standard for imprecision. The clincher is that the state board is given the responsibility for making the teaching of the "required" subjects a reality — and that's where the whole thing falls apart.

**T**OM ISERN, history professor at Emporia State University, has been studying this problem for a very long time. He says one big reason



Gov. Hayden and young Kansans: Will he know the history of his state?



**George Neavoll**  
Editor of the Editorial Page

for the lack of Kansas history instruction is that the State Department of Education, in its recommendations on social studies curricula — where Kansas history usually ends up — does nothing to encourage it.

The department's current "Guidelines for Program Development in Social Studies" (1986), according to Mr. Isern, includes "nothing whatsoever that may be construed to satisfy the state requirement for the teaching of Kansas history."

The nearest the guidelines come is in their recommendations for Grade 4. There, in a section on the study of world regions, they say that "Where the local school district requires a study of the state, ... the state should be studied as a political region" ("whatever that is," adds Mr. Isern).

That isn't exactly a lightning charge from the responsible agency of state government, any way you look at it.

As Homer Socolofsky, history professor at Kansas State University and dean of Kansas historians, told the "Kansas Habits, Kansas Hopes" conference in Topeka recently: "Thirty years after a brief unavailability of new Kansas history texts the teaching of state history apparently has been

dropped as a requirement, at the very time when a relative abundance of Kansas history textual material has become available."

**F**OR years, the state education people and local school boards have used the excuse that no Kansas history texts were available, and therefore Kansas history couldn't be taught.

Emporia State's Mr. Isern and Fort Hays State's Ray Wilson now are completing a Kansas history text for Grades 7 and 8, however. Marsha Gladhart, in Wichita State University's College of Education, wrote me last week about an activity book, "This Is Kansas!", that she and a colleague put together several years ago. Other works either are on or are coming on the market.

No amount of Kansas history teaching material is going to make a bit of difference, though, if those responsible for its use don't get serious about exposing young Kansans to the rich heritage of their state.

Regardless of what anyone may say, that isn't happening now, and the governor is absolutely right to call the offenders to account.

Fifty-eight House members on both sides of the aisle have answered the governor's call and introduced legislation requiring "a complete course of instruction in Kansas history" in Grades 4-8. Already, the naysayers are giving all the reasons it won't work. For them, the state motto should be changed from "To the stars through difficulties" to "To the stars if it isn't too much work."

DATE: Mon. 2-8-88

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DATE: Sunday 1-24-88

TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL  
 WICHITA EAGLE-BEACON  
 KANSAS CITY STAR

GARDEN CITY TELEGRAM  
 HAYS DAILY NEWS

MANHATTAN MERCURY  
 PARSONS SUN  
 PITTSBURGH MORNING SUN

# Lessons from a Kansas history book

**B**ILL and Sally Avery, in Peabody, loaned me their son's old Kansas history book awhile back. I've kept it far longer than I should have, but I've enjoyed reading and looking through it so much that I wanted to keep it until Kansas Day, at least. That's because of the inspiration, as well as information, I knew it would provide.

Sadly, it's inspiration and information that isn't available to many Kansas students today. When Shreves Avery studied his Kansas history textbook in the seventh grade, and wrote all his marvellous notes in the margin, he probably didn't know how fortunate he was.

Bliss Isely and W.M. Richards' "The Story of Kansas" — the text young Shreves was using — went out of print shortly after, and nothing since has taken its place. Some teachers, in fact, squirreled away their old copies and are said to be teaching their students from it yet today. Some of the information might be dated, but the book itself is an educational gem.

One thing the book teaches is Kansas pride. While some might contend a textbook should present just the facts, it's important also to put the facts in perspective. The Kansas perspective is that this is a glorious state in which to live — something Isely and Richards noted at every opportunity.

**B**LISS Isely was one of the giants of Kansas journalism, before his death 25 years ago this March. He worked for the old Wichita Beacon and the Wichita Eagle, as well as the former Hutchinson Gazette (now the Hutchinson News) and three or four other Midwestern newspapers.

Along the way he wrote a half-dozen books, including his Kansas history text that appeared in three editions. Most of his other books were about Kansas, too. He was steeped in Kansas, and it showed in everything he wrote or did.

The message of his writing bears repeating now, as we approach Kansas' 127th birthday on Friday. (Again, maybe history texts shouldn't carry "messages." Bliss Isely always was a romantic, though — like myself and a

lot of other people I know. A book on Kansas history would have been incomplete without his assessment of how that history "fits" today.)

"We cannot ride with Coronado," he and his co-author, W.M. Richards, wrote in the concluding sentences of their book. "We cannot camp on the trail with the cowboys of the Chisholm Trail. But in this century the skies are as blue, the clouds as white, the grass as green and the rainbows as full of promise as in the days of the pioneers.



**George Neavoll**  
 Editor of the Editorial Page

**"K**ANSAS is not complete. The future is bright with opportunities to do great things.

Those who are in school today will be the builders of a better Kansas if they are true to the Kansas Spirit, if they will work not for themselves alone but for others.

"The way will be rough and hard for the builders, but the motto on our state seal tells us that if we ever expect to reach the stars, we must overcome difficulties. The young folks in the Kansas schools today are just as brave as were their fathers. They have found Kansas a good place in which to live, and if they do their part, they will live their lives so that when they go they will leave even a better and a happier Kansas."

One can imagine the impact such advice would have on the young reader. It would instill not only the desire to be a good Kansas citizen. It would instill a large measure of Kansas pride.

We talk a lot about Kansas' "image" these days, but what we're really talking about is Kansas pride. If Kansans are proud of themselves and of their state, they will project a positive image to the rest of the country. It's as simple as that, in my opinion. We have nothing to be ashamed of — not one

thing — and have a whole lot of which we can be very, very proud.

**I**N just short of two weeks' time, my wife and I will have lived in Kansas for 10 years — by far the longest we have lived anywhere in our adult lives. We loved Kansas when we first crossed into the state together, near where the Kansas and Missouri rivers merge, and we love Kansas today.

Ten years is a short time in many persons' lives, but for us it's been a lifetime. And if today we can call ourselves "Kansans," we are very proud of that fact. Like the early settlers, we have turned our faces toward Kansas, and we have liked what we found.

Sadly, even tragically, that isn't the case with many young native Kansans. Part of that is due to the human inclination to think any other place must be better than where one is. But a large part also is due to ignorance — many young people simply don't realize what Kansas is and what it has to offer because they've never been taught.

Folks such as Homer Socolofsky (see article on today's Op-Ed Page), fortunately, are determined to change that, after having devoted a large part of their lives to the teaching of Kansas history. Gov. Mike Hayden has made a Kansas history requirement a plank in his agenda for the state.

So Kansas Day 1988 will be brighter in that regard than any recent observance of the state's birthday, and that alone is cause for celebration. It's not too late yet for Kansas students to gain a proper perspective on their state, and "live their lives so that when they go they will leave even a better and a happier Kansas."

DATE: Friday 2-12-88

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|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> TOPEKA CAPITAL JOURNAL | <input type="checkbox"/> GARDEN CITY TELEGRAM   | <input type="checkbox"/> MANHATTAN MERCURY         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WICHITA EAGLE-BEACON   | <input type="checkbox"/> HAYS DAILY NEWS        | <input type="checkbox"/> OLATHE DAILY NEWS         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KANSAS CITY STAR       | <input type="checkbox"/> HUTCHINSON NEWS        | <input type="checkbox"/> PARSONS SUN               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KANSAS CITY TIMES      | <input type="checkbox"/> LAWRENCE JOURNAL WORLD | <input type="checkbox"/> PITTSBURG MORNING SUN     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMPORIA GAZETTE        | <input type="checkbox"/> LEAVENWORTH TIMES      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SALINA JOURNAL |

# Kansas history

Gov. Mike Hayden wants Kansas students to study state history. He's pushing for a tougher requirement in the state's schools.

That's sensible. Kansans don't know enough about the state's past. Too many of us think this is a state with little or no history, a place where nothing ever happened and most likely nothing ever will.

The Plains Indians, the abolitionists, the cow towns, the Carry Nation crusades are unknowns to too many Kansans.

The current state "requirement" is so toothless most schools appear to meet it by handing out a couple of work sheets on Kansas Day.

State history needs to be studied by youngsters old enough to appreciate at least some of the political and social complexities that went into the

state's founding and development. It also needs to be taught with attention to the fascinating personalities and events of our past.

That's a tough order. It's good to have the governor pushing for it.

One quibble: Kansas history is not the only thing Kansas schools need. They need more challenging course offerings that better prepare students for college, informed citizenship and careers. They need even better teachers and more money to pay them.

Yes, governor, let's teach state history. But let's not forget about the larger needs of the schools. A governor could make history by developing a program that really overhauls the state's education system and makes it a model of excellence and innovation.

# Kansas history: what's that?

Several Johnson County legislators are supporting a bill to require Kansas public schools to teach Kansas history in the public schools.

House Bill 2725, introduced recently by Rep. Richard Harper, R-Fort Scott, would require the course in grades four through eight. Harper's bill has won the support of Reps. Gene Amos, R-Shawnee; Rex Hoy, R-Fairway; Carol Sader, D-Prairie Village; and Frank Weimer, R-Lenexa. Gov. Mike Hayden has also indicated that he would support a Kansas history course requirement for high school graduation.

The Legislature passed a bill in 1903 "recommending" that Kansas history be taught. Unfortunately, most schools no longer offer it, say those who support Harper's bill. The few districts offering in do not require it.

The Shawnee Mission School District offers a high school elective course, Kansas and Local History, but only 100 students are taking it this year. No students are taking it at SM Northwest High School. The course is in its third year.

The Blue Valley School District does not have a separate course in Kansas history. Kansas government is included in the American Government course and Kansas history is included in American History. Both courses are required.

All fourth graders are required to study Kansas history and seventh grade unified studies includes a section on state government.

Kansas students should know the history of their own state — the Civil War days, Carrie Nation, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Charles Curtis, and Alf Landon. Surely it is as important as knowing the history of their country or the world. Hopefully, it would raise young Kansans' state awareness and make them proud of their state's heritage. Perhaps they would also become more aware of the opportunities in the state and remain here to attend college and work.

Ju Co Sun 2-10-88

DATE: Jan. 1-23-88

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL | <input type="checkbox"/> GARDEN CITY TELEGRAM              | <input type="checkbox"/> MANHATTAN MERCURY     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WICHITA EAGLE-BEACON   | <input type="checkbox"/> HAYS DAILY NEWS                   | <input type="checkbox"/> PARSONS SUN           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KANSAS CITY STAR       | <input type="checkbox"/> HUTCHINSON NEWS                   | <input type="checkbox"/> PITTSBURG MORNING SUN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KANSAS CITY TIMES      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAWRENCE JOURNAL WORLD | <input type="checkbox"/> SALINA JOURNAL        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMPORIA GAZETTE        | <input type="checkbox"/> LEAVENWORTH TIMES                 |  |

## Teaching Kansas history

Kansas will celebrate its 127th birthday Friday. It's not a round enough number to trigger a major celebration, but the anniversary still offers opportunities to learn more about the state's history.

Special events are planned at the new Kansas Museum of History in Topeka. The events will focus on 20th Century Kansas to draw attention to "Our Recent Past," the interesting new section of the museum's permanent display.

In another move aimed at increasing Kansans' knowledge of their heritage, Gov. Mike Hayden has called for Kansas history to be a required part of the school curriculum in the state. The idea, which Hayden raised in his State of the State address, seems to be a good one.

Many Kansas adults probably were surprised to know that Kansas history *isn't* a required subject, because it was a common part of the curriculum at one time. Perhaps, in our mobile society, some school districts decided that learning about the state wasn't that important because many of the students would eventually be leaving it anyway.

The number of Kansas youngsters who remain in the state no doubt has declined, but teaching children to appreciate the heritage of our great state might be a small step toward slowing the so-called "brain drain" from Kansas. If the state hopes to keep its "best and brightest" here in the state, one way to do it might be to teach them what a unique and interesting place Kansas is to live and work.

DATE:

Sunday 1-24-88

TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL  
 WICHITA EAGLE-BEACON

GARDEN CITY TELEGRAM  
 HAYS DAILY NEWS

MANHATTAN MERCURY  
 PARSONS SUN

MORNING SUN  
 IAL

# Losing memory of Kansas

## *Young Kansans grow up ignorant of state history*

By Homer E. Socolofsky

During more than three decades I have been privileged to offer at Kansas State University a course in the history of Kansas that has been taken by more than 3,000 students. The usual answer to the query, "Why are you taking this class?" evokes a response from these students showing state loyalty and interest in what has happened around them. Students often admit, "I've never had a chance to take a course in Kansas history."

This ingrown affection for Kansas was noticed by Kenneth S. Davis in his book, "Kansas: A Bicentennial History," when he wrote that he knew "of no other state, save Texas, whose citizens are as strongly, intensely, personally identified with it as Kansans are with Kansas." Certainly, it is also true, as noticed by Robert Smith Bader in his soon-to-be-published "The Imperfect Rectangle: The Twentieth Century Images of Kansas," that such a view is not unique for Kansans. It is typical of almost all humans to "identify profoundly with a particular place and culture."

This causes me to ask what has happened to the teaching of state history in Kansas public schools? I'm proud to have been born in Kansas and I realize now that my elementary school and high school were not especially innovative in courses that were offered. Yet, I remember taking Kansas history in grade school and Kansas civics in high school. Almost all of my university students over the past 30 years deny ever having had either course. Many of these students regard history or a historical event as something far removed from them, something occurring on a national or international scale. Students often remark that "Nothing has ever happened in my home town" or "There's no history at all in my community," without realizing that everything

that has happened has contributed in some way to history. While history is the sum total of human experience, it is true that certain elements in historical happenings, such as national and international events, dominate written history. That each person contributes to overall history is too often unrecognized by people of all ages. Is this typical in your experience that some people do not feel that they are a part of history? Many people have no understanding of the significance of local and state history even though every Kansas school district is legally obligated to provide training in the history of Kansas in elementary schools.

**THE** Legislature in 1903 mandated that among the subjects to be taught in elementary schools was the "history of the United States and of the state of Kansas." Yet something has happened to Kansas history teaching in our public schools. At least the products of those schools seem not to recognize ever having taken anything that they identify as state history. Still, the same wording of the 1903 law is carried in the 1985 annotated revision of the general statutes of Kansas, yet the mandate seems to be more honored in the breach than in its fulfillment.

Through the years there has been much discussion among members and officers of the Kansas State Historical Society about the lack of Kansas history offerings in the public schools. Also, I have attended meetings called by the staff of the Kansas State Department of Education seeking ways to fulfill the requirement in Kansas history. The usual outcome

from both these forums has been avoidance of any demands that would "rock the boat!" Suggestions that would require additional legislation have been avoided, although a feeling persisted that the Legislature would respond favorably to requests for a sterner law to make sure that every public school student was exposed to a course in Kansas history. However, outside events and administrative decisions have weakened the teaching of state history in Kansas.

Strong pressure coming from other disciplines — especially after the first flights of the Soviet spaceship Sputnik I — has put increased emphasis in the public school curriculum on sciences, math and English, by taking time from history, the social sciences and other areas of study. Because there was reluctance to expand the school day and there was only so much room in a student's schedule, decisions were made to reduce the content of state history in Kansas public schools, then drop the teaching of state history altogether. According to Emporia State Professor Thomas D. Isern, who made a recent study of this issue, the recommendations for social studies curricula coming from the Kansas State Department of Education in 1986 no longer contain any specific requirement for the teaching of the history of Kansas at any grade level in Kansas schools. Yet the state law of 1903 has neither been repealed nor amended. Who should be asked to assure that the statutory requirement agreed to by almost all 20th century Kansas Legislatures be followed in the apparently arbitrary specifications handed down recently by the State Department of Education?

Page  
1 of 2



DATE: Sunday 1-24-58

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| <input type="checkbox"/> EMPORIA GAZETTE                 | <input type="checkbox"/> LEAVENWORTH TIMES      |  |

**SCHOOL** districts in Kansas respond in a variety of ways to the law requiring the teaching of Kansas history. A token response for many schools comes on Jan. 29 when Kansas Day rolls around. Many elementary grades throughout the state use the occasion to study Kansas history briefly. Nevertheless, the gravest problem because of the absence of local and state history in Kansas public schools is the lack of recognition by the products of these schools that there is any connection between their lives and the immediate area in which they live.

No doubt you've heard it said that those who do not know their own history are condemned to repeat it. While I have no quarrel with that statement, a major justification for learning Kansas history in Kansas schools could be something quite different. In my estimation a major goal in studying Kansas history is to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the past and how we arrived at the place where we are. Someone has put it succinctly, "how we got into the mess we are in today!" An understanding of state and local history should help young people better understand Kansas habits and hopes. They will better be able to cope with the future whether they stay in Kansas or move elsewhere.

**WITHOUT** a study of Kansas history we fail our student citizens. We impoverish our own civic life by not providing an understanding of our state's heritage. Such a study will help young Kansans learn of the different groups of people who have made Kansas their home, of the explorers and traders who passed through the area, of the pioneers who began

settlement in Kansas some 130 years ago, of the conflicts that marked all Kansans then and since, of the economic, political and cultural activities that have created unity and diversity within this land called Kansas. These pioneers and their descendants faced many difficulties and their contributions were immense to those of us who, as Kansans today, represent a mere 1 percent of all Americans. This ability to survive innumerable hardships and tests of courage causes me to identify Kansans of yesterday and today as survivors. They have faced the challenge and they remain steadfast.

*Homer E. Socolofsky is a professor of history at Kansas State University.*

*Page  
2 of 2*

# *Coffey County Historical Society*

11 & Neosho  
Burlington, Kansas


February 3, 1988  
Coffey County Historical Society  
Burlington, Ks.

Rep. Jeff Freeman  
State Capitol Building  
Topeka, Ks. 66612

Dear Jeff:

Our board was delighted to hear of the introduction of your bill to mandate the teaching of Kansas History in the schools of Kansas. During our meeting February 1, we voted unanimously to support your effort in this matter. We further wish to thank you for your support of the furtherance of education and history in our great state.

Sincerely,



Paula L. German

Pres., Coffey County Historical Society

3/22

(Corrected)

[As Amended by House Committee of the Whole]

As Amended by House Committee

Session of 1988

### HOUSE BILL No. 2725

By Representatives Harper, Acheson, Amos, Aylward, Beauchamp, Bideau, Bowden, Branson, Bryant, Buehler, C. Campbell, K. Campbell, Douville, Dyck, Eckert, Empson, Flottman, Freeman, Fuller, Gatlin, Gross, Grotewiel, Guldner, Hassler, Hoy, Jenkins, Johnson, Kennard, King, Lacey, Littlejohn, Love, Mead, R.D. Miller, Mollenkamp, Moomaw, Neufeld, O'Neal, Ott, Peterson, Pottorff, Ramirez, Rezac, Roenbaugh, Rosenau, Sader, Sallee, Sand, Shallenburger, Shore, Solbach, Sughrue, Wagnon, Weimer, Wells, Whiteman, Wilbert and Williams

1-29

0033 AN ACT ~~concerning the state of Kansas history~~; requiring the  
0034 provision of a course of instruction therein ~~thereon~~ by certain \_\_\_\_\_ in Kansas history  
0035 accredited schools; ~~imposing a requirement for the provision~~  
0036 ~~of a course of study thereof~~ by persons preparing to teach  
0037 ~~thereon by teacher preparation institutions~~; amending K.S.A.  
0038 72-1103, and 72-1372 and 72-1388, and repealing the existing  
0039 sections.

0040 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*  
0041 Section 1. ~~K.S.A. 72-1103 is hereby amended to read as fol-~~  
0042 ~~low: 72-1103. All (a) Every~~ accredited schools, public, private or  
0043 ~~parochial, elementary school shall provide and give to all pupils~~  
0044 ~~a complete course of instruction to all pupils, in civil govern-~~  
0045 ~~ment, and in United States history, and in patriotism and the~~  
0046 ~~duties of a citizen, suitable to the elementary grades; in addition~~  
0047 thereto, all.

0048 (b) ~~Every~~ accredited school which is maintaining any or all  
0049 of the grades four through eight shall provide and give to all  
0050 pupils attending any of such grades so maintained a complete  
0051 course of instruction in Kansas history. The provisions of this

Attachment 4, 3/23/88

0053 subsection shall be implemented prior to or at the commence-  
0054 ment of the 1990-91 school year.

0054 (b) (1) Every accredited school which is maintaining any or  
0055 all of the grades seven through 12 shall provide and give a course  
0056 of instruction concerning the state of Kansas. The course shall be  
0057 provided and given for not less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  unit of credit, or the  
0058 equivalent thereof, at any one or more of the grade levels seven  
0059 through 12 and shall contain historical and biographical infor-  
0060 mation pertaining to Kansas and Kansans. The course may also  
0061 include, but not by way of limitation, information pertaining to  
0062 geography, natural resources, educational system, industrial eli-  
0063 mate and government of Kansas. [The provisions of this subsec-  
0064 tion shall be implemented prior to or at the commencement of  
0065 the 1991-92 school year.]

0066 (2) Commencing with the 1991-92 school year, except as  
0067 otherwise provided in this subsection, no student who has not  
0068 taken and satisfactorily passed the course of instruction required  
0069 by this subsection shall be certified as having completed the  
0070 course requirements necessary for graduation from high school.

0071 (3) Provision (2) of this subsection does not apply to (A) any  
0072 student who transfers from one accredited school to another  
0073 accredited school if the school from which the student transfers  
0074 provides and gives the required course concerning the state of  
0075 Kansas at a grade level or at grade levels higher than the grade  
0076 level to which the student transfers attendance and if the school  
0077 to which the student transfers provides and gives the required  
0078 course concerning the state of Kansas at a grade level or at grade  
0079 levels lower than the grade level to which the student transfers  
0080 attendance; or (B) any student who transfers to an accredited  
0081 school from a school in another state if the school to which the  
0082 student transfers provides and gives the required course con-  
0083 cerning the state of Kansas at a grade level or at grade levels  
0084 lower than the grade level to which the student transfers attend-  
0085 ance; or (C) any student who is not a resident of Kansas.

0086 [(b) Every accredited school which is maintaining any or all  
0087 of the grades four through eight shall provide and give to all  
0088 pupils attending any of such grades so maintained a complete

0089 ~~course of instruction in Kansas history. The provisions of this~~  
0090 ~~subsection shall be implemented prior to or at the commence-~~  
0091 ~~ment of the 1991-92 school year.]~~

0092 ~~(c) Every accredited high schools, public, private or paro-~~  
0093 ~~chial, school shall provide and give a course of instruction~~  
0094 ~~concerning the government and institutions of the United States,~~  
0095 ~~and particularly of concerning the constitution of the United~~  
0096 ~~States; and. No student who has not taken and satisfactorily~~  
0097 ~~passed such the course of instruction required by this subsec-~~  
0098 ~~tion shall be certified as having completed the course require-~~  
0099 ~~ments necessary for graduation from high school.~~

0100 ~~Sec. 2. K.S.A. 72-1372 is hereby amended to read as follows:~~

0101 ~~72-1372. (a) Any institution on the accredited list shall be subject~~  
0102 ~~to examination by the state board at its pleasure with respect to~~  
0103 ~~its course of study, its equipment, and the character of its work;~~  
0104 ~~and. Additional requirements of any institution on the accred-~~  
0105 ~~ited list may be made by the state board. [The course shall also~~  
0106 ~~contain information regarding Black history and the contribu-~~  
0107 ~~tions made by Black persons to the heritage of Kansans.]~~

0108 ~~(b) In addition to any other requirements, the state board~~  
0109 ~~shall require every institution on the accredited list to include in~~  
0110 ~~its course of study not less than two semester hours of credit in~~  
0111 ~~the subject of Kansas history a course of study concerning the~~  
0112 ~~state of Kansas. The course of study shall be designed so as to~~  
0113 ~~enable persons preparing to teach at the middle, junior high or~~  
0114 ~~high school level to provide and give the course of instruction~~  
0115 ~~required by subsection (b) of K.S.A. 72-1103, and amendments~~  
0116 ~~thereto. The provisions of this subsection shall be implemented~~  
0117 ~~prior to or at the commencement of the fall semester in the~~  
0118 ~~1989-90 1990-91 academic year.~~

0119 ~~(c) Any institution failing to maintain a standard satisfactory~~  
0120 ~~to the state board shall be dropped from the accredited list.~~

0121 ~~Sec. 3. K.S.A. 72-1388 is hereby amended to read as follows:~~  
0122 ~~72-1388. (a) The state board of education, in accordance with~~  
0123 ~~law, is authorized to adopt rules and regulations providing for~~  
0124 ~~the issuance, renewal, reinstatement and registration of certifi-~~  
0125 ~~cates for teachers and other personnel in the state department of~~

0136 ~~education and in schools and institutions under the general~~  
0137 ~~supervision of the state board of education.~~

0138 ~~(b) In addition to other requirements and subject to the~~  
0139 ~~provisions of K.S.A. 72-1306, and amendments thereto, the rules~~  
0140 ~~and regulations of the state board of education shall include After~~  
0141 ~~May 1, 1986: (1) Subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 72-1306, and~~  
0142 ~~amendments thereto, the requirement that applicants for initial~~  
0143 ~~issuance of certificates to teach shall take and satisfactorily pass~~  
0144 ~~an examination prescribed by the state board, and (2) after June~~  
0145 ~~1, 1990, the requirement that applicants for initial issuance of~~  
0146 ~~certificates to teach at the elementary, middle or junior high~~  
0147 ~~school level shall have satisfactorily completed at least two~~  
0148 ~~semester hours of study in the subject of Kansas history at an~~  
0149 ~~educational institution on the accredited list of the state board.~~

0140 ~~(c) The privilege to teach at any level or in any field or~~  
0141 ~~subject, if such privilege is or has been granted when a certifi-~~  
0142 ~~cate is issued, may not be withheld during the term for which the~~  
0143 ~~certificate is issued except as provided in K.S.A. 72-1383 or~~  
0144 ~~72-5412, and amendments to such sections.~~

0145 ~~Sec. 42. K.S.A. 72-1102, and 72-1372 and 72-1388 are hereby~~  
0146 ~~repealed.~~

0147 ~~Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and~~  
0148 ~~after its publication in the statute book.~~

Section 1. (a) The state board of education shall provide for a course of instruction in Kansas history, which shall be required for all students graduating from an accredited high school in this state. The course shall be provided and given for not less than 1/2 unit of credit, or the equivalent thereof.

(b) The state board of education shall prescribe the school year in which the requirement of subsection (a) shall become applicable and may provide for such waivers from the requirement as the board deems appropriate.

2.

Outline of testimony by Bill Moulden.  
Senate Education Committee.

Introduction

Raised in Kansas, over 30 years teaching of Social Studies courses.

- I. Concur with testimony before House of Representatives Committee that emphasized importance of State Heritage, Image, & Pride.
  
- II. Observation of student attitudes & their attitudes as adults
  - a) Most students remain in Kansas
  - b) Benefit from knowledge of Kansas history in adult tasks
  - c) Also benefit to students who leave Kansas
  
- III. Kansas History as currently taught
  - a) Incidental learning in elementary school
  - b) Often nothing beyond elementary school
  - c) As worded, proposed bill would not likely enhance the learning of Kansas History
  
- IV. Examples of Relevance
  
- V. United States History as taught (5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, college)
  - a) Kansas History doesn't take away from learning United States History; provides instead a clearer picture of effects on ordinary people and inter-relatedness of events
  - b) Availability of resources: speakers, field trips, primary resources

VI. Kansas History needed at secondary level

- a) Students' knowledge & maturity
- b) Efficiency of requiring Kansas History at secondary level
  - 1. One secondary teacher in each district
  - 2. 2 hr. course sufficient to teach

VII. Example of opposition to Kansas History requirement

-Washburn Rural H. S. currently dispensing with the requirement based on feedback from first semester college freshmen, who at that time are not in a position to appreciate the benefit of Kansas History.

Conclusion

- a) Kansans know very little of their history
- b) Historic knowledge encourages & is an invaluable aid for citizens faced with present choices & planning future of the State of Kansas
- c) Thus, a semester requirement for secondary students to increase both understanding & retention of Kansas History is essential.



LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

HOUSE BILL 2725  
The Teaching of Kansas History  
March 23, 1988

BY  
NICK JORDAN  
PRESIDENT  
TRAVEL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2725 requiring Kansas history be taught in any grade 4 thru 8.

The Travel Industry Association of Kansas certainly supports the teaching of Kansas history.

One of the worst enemies of a community, state or a nation is it's own self-image. As all of us travel we certainly hear local residents speak too negatively about their area.

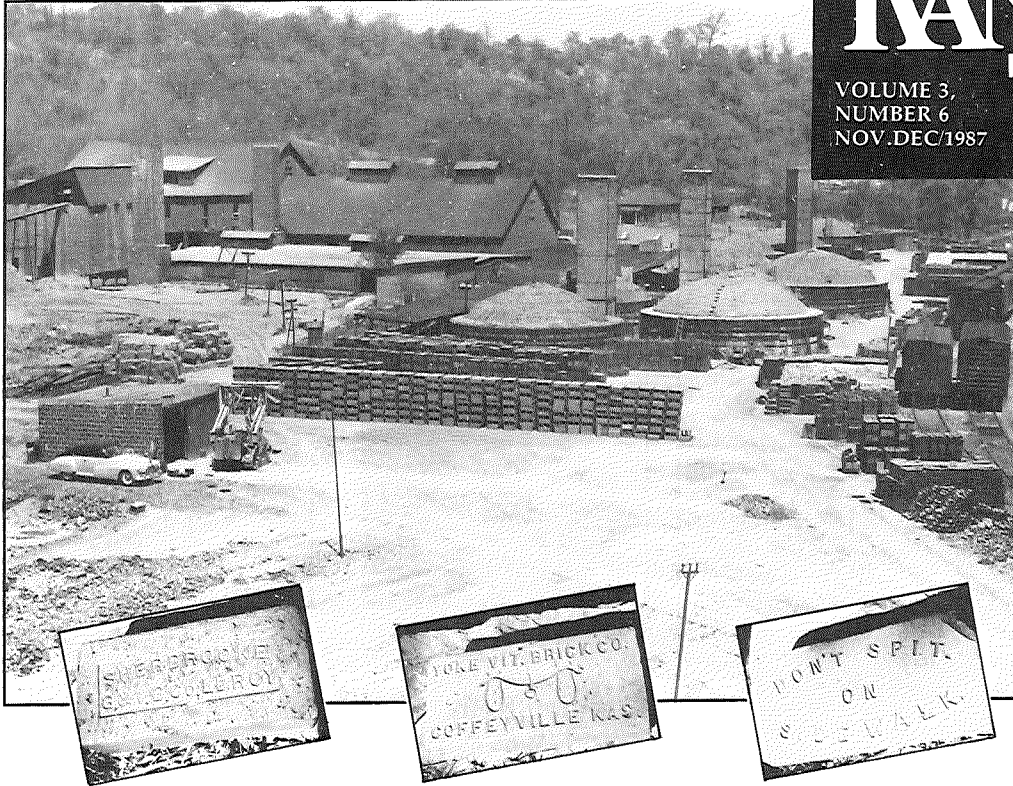
In the State of Kansas we have nothing of which to be ashamed. Our heritage is rich as Knasas was the start of the westward expansion. A home to native Americans.

Recently, I have been working with an organization to develop an attraction depicting experiences on the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails. As I have worked with this group I personally have learned more about the history of our State. Consequently my excitement and interest in our history has increased by leaps and bounds. My pride in our State and it's heritage has never been higher. In many ways the history of Kansas was as integral to the development of the United States as the east coast. Yet we don't teach or capitalize on our colorful past. We are robbing the people of the State, particularly our kids of a rich heritage.

When ever you have traveled to an area where history is taught and developed you find a successful visitor industry.

A pride in our State makes everyone a salesperson.

We certainly would encourage the Senate Education Committee to approve HB2725.



*Brick factories were once located in many Kansas towns.*

## Brick Factories Once Common in Kansas

Did you know that Kansas had a brick industry long before it was admitted as a state in the Union? Bricks were made at the old Shawnee Indian Mission in what is now Johnson County as early as the 1830's. The bricks were primarily used as "pavers" for the streets in Kansas towns.

Many Kansas towns had brick factories. The manufacturers of the early bricks nearly always put the name of the town in which the bricks were made on the bricks. Bricks with town names are prized by collectors of pavers. They are scarce but can be found because several cities paved their streets with two layers of brick. When the brick streets were modernized and repaved with another type of surface, it was discovered that the pattern on the bottom layer of the bricks had not been worn away. Since many of our brick streets and highways were simply covered over with asphalt or concrete, the bricks underneath will no doubt be discovered by future generations.

When the federal government funded the building of roads, the states were responsible

for getting the work completed. County officials wanted the bricks for their section of the road to come from a brickyard in their own county. The road building crews would reach a county line and then often switch to using bricks made in the next county.

You can still find these bricks in sidewalks, streets and buildings of many towns. Sunflowers are on the red clay Columbus bricks. You will find an oxen yoke on those once made in Coffeyville.

"Don't Spit on the Sidewalk" bricks were made in Topeka near the close of the 19th century. Dr. Samuel J. Crumbine, secretary of the Kansas State Board of Health, had the bricks imprinted and set in sidewalks to warn the public that disease could be spread by spitting on the sidewalk. The long dresses that were fashionable at that time could pick up the germs and carry them into the homes.

Some of these old bricks may still be in your sidewalks or streets. Look for them. Write KANSAS TOO! if you had a brick factory in your town or if you have seen some of these bricks that were made in Kansas.

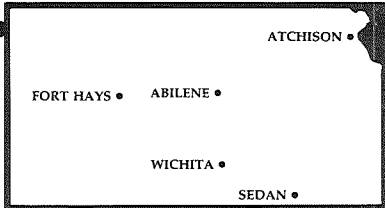
# KANSAS! TOO!

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 6  
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER/1987

Published by the staff of the popular KANSAS! Magazine, KANSAS TOO! is a magazine about Kansas for students.

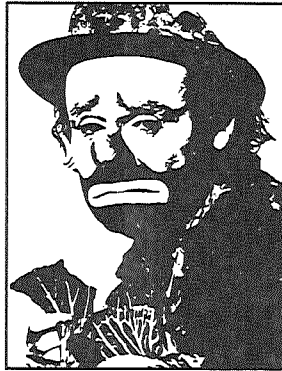
Andrea Glenn and Pat Stinson, Editors • Galen D. Senogles, Art and Design • Mary Jo Swietek, Subscriptions Coordinator • Mike Hayden, Governor of Kansas • Harland Priddle, Secretary of Kansas Department of Commerce • Lewjene Schneider, Director, Travel & Tourism Development, KDOC

KANSAS TOO! (UPS-71-711770) is published six times per year in the months of September, October, November, January, February and April and is available for \$2.50 per year by the Kansas Department of Commerce, 400 West 8th, 5th Floor, Topeka, Kansas, 66603-3957. Second class postage paid at Topeka, KS. POSTMASTER, Send address change to KANSAS TOO!, KDOC, 400 West 8th, 5th Floor, Topeka, KS, 66603-3957.

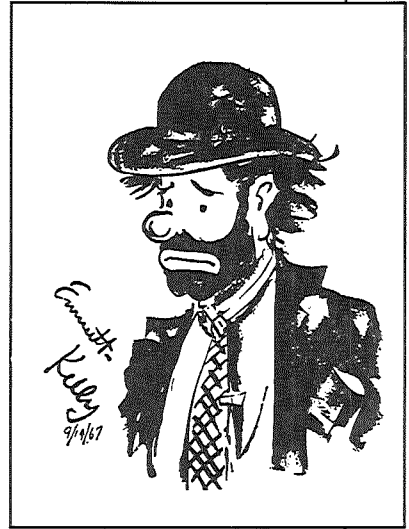


## A KANSAN YOU SHOULD KNOW

### Emmett Kelly



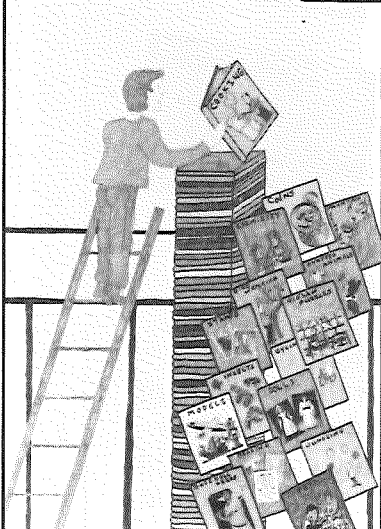
Emmett Kelly



Emmett Kelly's hobo clown cartoon.

## KANSAS KIDS

### HOBBIES



### Kelly McCartney Designs Winning Poster

*Kelly McCartney's winning poster design.*

Kelly McCartney, fourth grader at the Franklin Elementary School in Wichita, created this award-winning poster for a national poster contest sponsored by the Hobby Industries of America and the American Library Association. Kelly won the kindergarten through grade 4 category of the "Hobbies Stack Up At Your Library" poster contest with his poster which portrayed popular hobbies as titles of books.

Kelly won the contest when he was a third grader at Cloud Elementary School in Wichita—he was awarded a \$250 savings bond for his design. There were only four contest winners in the country. Congratulations, Kelly!

Emmett Kelly, the most famous clown in the world, was born in Sedan, the county seat of Chautauqua County, in December of 1898. He was the son of a railroad worker. His mother, recognizing his talent in art, enrolled him at an early age in a correspondence course in cartooning. This course is said to have started him on the path to fame.

Kelly went to Kansas City to begin a career in cartooning. One day while sitting at his drawing board, Kelly drew a clown character which resembled a hobo, the kind of clown Kelly would eventually become.

Kelly had always wanted to be with a circus and, when he got a chance, he joined one as a painter. He later became the popular pantomime character of Weary Willie who was similar to the cartoon he had drawn earlier. Kelly traveled with several circus companies but most of his career was spent with The Ringling Brothers/Barnum & Bailey Circus. He also performed in movies, on television, in nightclubs and many times before royalty. Kelly died in 1979.

Visitors to Sedan are greeted by a large sign that says, "Sedan—Birthplace of Emmett Kelly—World Famous Clown." To learn more about this famous clown, visit the Emmett Kelly Museum in the old Sedan Opera House building.

Answers. 1. F 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. T  
6. F 7. F 8. T 9. T 10. F

## Finney County is Fastest-growing Kansas County

Finney County in southwestern Kansas is the fastest growing county in the state this decade, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics recently released.

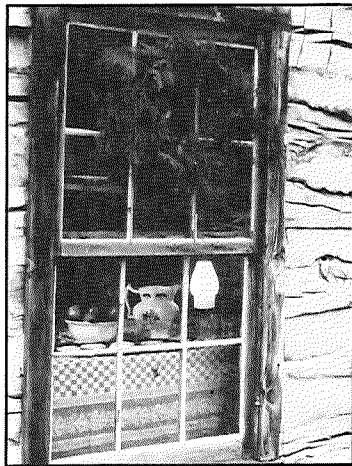
The population of Finney County grew 27 percent from 1980 to July, 1986, the largest percentage jump of any county in Kansas. The county gained about 6,400 people, growing to a total of 30,300 persons. Garden City is the largest city in the county.

The Kansas City suburban area of Johnson

County gained the most people in the state, with an increase of 48,000. The growth in this county represented a 17.8 percent increase for Johnson County.

Sixty-five counties in Kansas experienced a drop in population from 1980 to 1986. One county remained unchanged, and the remainder of the 105 counties showed an increase. Washington County in the northern part of the state had the largest drop in population during those six years.

## Enjoy Christmas Through The Windows of Cowtown



Your entire family will have a special holiday experience if you visit the Old Cowtown Museum in Wichita for the 12th annual "Christmas Through The Windows."

*Window display at Old Cowtown Museum.*

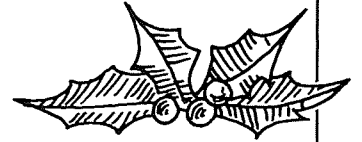
Old Cowtown Museum is a historic village with over ten authentically furnished buildings which depict Wichita and Sedgwick County during their early years, 1865 to 1880. On these special evenings, Father Christmas will be greeting visitors while the songs of carolers fill the air. Activities will also include musical programs, demonstrations of 1870's food preparation, children's activities in the old school and a historic crafts demonstration.

Learn how Christmas was celebrated in early Kansas through a visit to Old Cowtown Museum on November 30th, December 1st through 5th, from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, contact Elizabeth D. Kennedy, Old Cowtown Museum, 1871 Sim Park Dr., Wichita, KS, 67203, (316) 264-0671.

## Old Fort Hays Celebrates Christmas



*Holiday Display at Fort Hays*

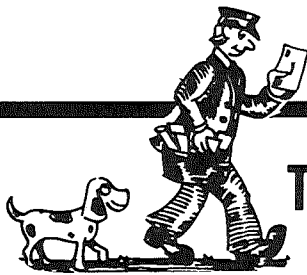


Historic Fort Hays is the site for a special Christmas presentation, "Christmas Past." The event is scheduled at the old Fort December

17th through the 19th from 6 to 9 p.m.

Visitors will enjoy a look at how Christmas might have been celebrated in the early days of the fort. The fort's staff and volunteers will be dressed as soldiers and their wives. The halls and rooms will be decked with Christmas trees, wreaths and other holiday decorations of the Victorian period. Candles and kerosene lamps will light the interiors of the historic buildings which are furnished as they were in the late 1800's.

The three-day Christmas celebration is a popular event. Plan to be among the fort's visitors this year. For more information, contact Ron Parks, Historic Fort Hays, Route 2, Box 338, Hays, KS, 67601, (913) 652-6812.



## THE MAIL BAG



Hi!

My name is Sonja Seirer. I live in Halstead. I am 11 years old and in the 6th grade. I like reading KANSAS TOO! It gives me lots of facts and I can learn a lot more things about Kansas that I don't know. I am learning a lot. Thanks Kansas!

Sonja Seirer  
Halstead, KS



Dear KANSAS TOO!,

I am a fourth grader at Sts. Peter and Paul grade school. I really enjoy your letters. I think Kansas is great because there is all kinds of things to do. My dad is also a dairy farmer and it is fun to be able to help him.

Valerie Rottinghaus  
Seneca, KS



Dear KANSAS TOO!

My name is Marie Diane Halvorsen and I live in Seneca, Kansas; Nemaha County. My father is a lawyer and county attorney of Marshall County. I am ten, and in the 4th grade, and go to Saints Peter and Paul School. I am very proud of Kansas history and I am glad to live here. I'm a Kansas fan!

Marie Diane Halvorsen  
Seneca, KS

## KANSAS FACTS

**1912**

The State Board of Health began a statewide crusade by closing all of Emporia's 14 barber shops for violating sanitation laws, mainly for using a towel more than once.

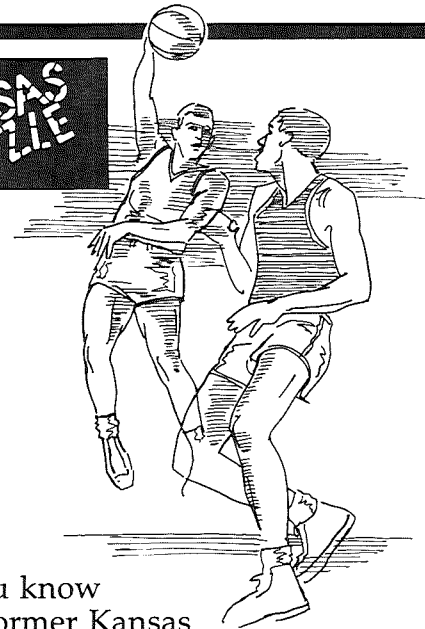
**1914**

Kansas had 32,980 automobiles registered.

**1917**

A monument was dedicated in Atchison commemorating Abraham Lincoln's visit there in 1859.

## KANSAS PUZZLE



Did you know that a former Kansas University coach, Dr. James Naismith, invented the game of basketball? Find these basketball words in this puzzle.

- Basket
- Broadcast
- Center
- Court
- Five
- Fun
- Goal
- Guard
- Jump
- Manning
- Point
- Referee
- Run
- Team
- Tickets
- Uniforms

T	E	K	S	A	B	T	C	D
E	E	R	E	F	E	R	O	R
A	R	E	T	N	E	C	U	A
M	A	N	N	I	N	G	R	U
W	E	V	I	F	U	N	T	G
S	M	R	O	F	I	N	U	O
J	U	M	P	R	U	N	O	A
T	I	C	K	E	T	S	P	L
T	S	A	C	D	A	O	R	B

**1924**

An old Dutch mill built in 1879 near Wamego was moved stone by stone from the Ed Regnier farm to the Wamego city park.

**1947**

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company blimp made an appearance in Topeka. This was the first time an aircraft of its kind was in the state.

**1957**

Protection was the first community in the nation in which every person under the age of 40 received all three shots of the Salk polio vaccine.

**KANSAS  
WILDLIFE**



*The opossum is North America's only marsupial.*

# The Opossum

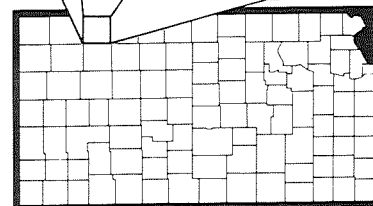
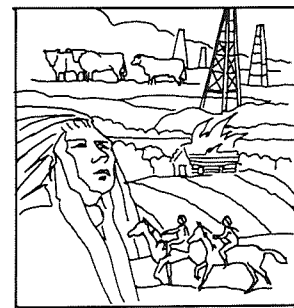
The opossum is North America's only marsupial (pouched animal). The adaptable animal, which once lived in rural areas, has moved steadily into our expanding cities mostly because of its eating habits. The opossum will eat almost anything—animal or vegetable—including nuts, acorns, insects, worms, chickens and eggs. They will often check garbage cans and dog dishes for leftovers.

The female opossum bears up to 14 kits in a litter, each about the size of a honeybee when born. Immediately after birth, the tiny creatures crawl into their mother's pouch, where they nurse for several months. After coming out of the pouch, they ride on their mother's back for

another few weeks. The female usually has two litters each year.

If threatened by an enemy, the opossum bares its 50 sharp teeth (it has more teeth than any other North American mammal), hisses and makes clicking noises. If this does not scare the enemy, the opossum will curl up and "play 'possum," pretending it is dead.

The animal's large and extremely powerful jaw muscles, its sharp teeth and the tendency to bite anything that comes near make it a very poor pet. The opossum is found throughout the state but more live in the eastern section. Opossum often go unnoticed because they are active mainly at night.



**COUNTY—DECATUR**

**Location—Northwest**

**License Designation—DC**

**County seat—Oberlin**

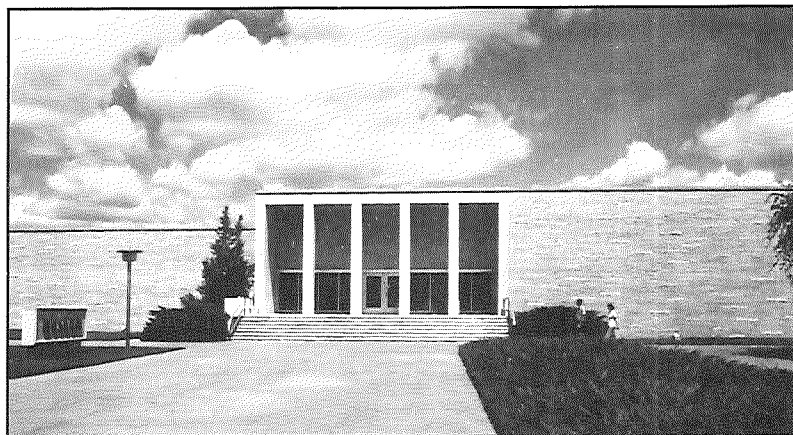
**Known For:** Major livestock and oil production center.

**Last Indian Raid Museum in Oberlin:** This museum is on the site of the last Kansas Indian raid. In 1878, during a tragic attempt to reach their homes, 40 settlers were killed by the North Cheyennes.

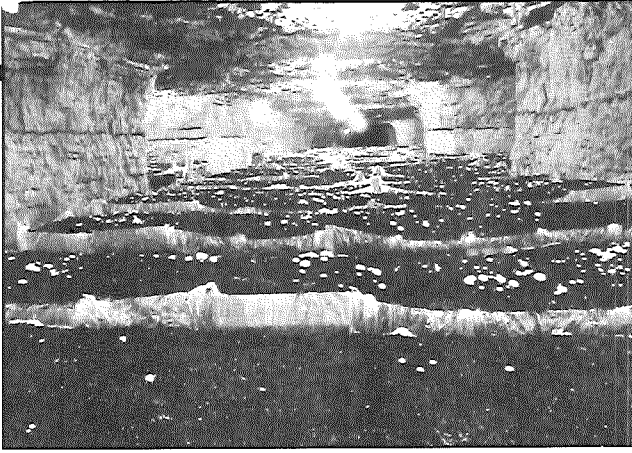
**Pioneer Family Statue:** Native stone sculpture by Hays artist Pete Felten recalls the struggle for survival on the plains.

## WHERE IS THIS?

This museum attracts thousands of visitors from all over the world each year. It has elaborate and interesting displays showing the life of a former president from his boyhood through his presidency. Can you name the museum and its location?



**ANSWER:** The Dwight D. Eisenhower Museum in Abilene.



## Underground in Atchison

Many people in Kansas grow wheat, corn, soy beans and other agricultural products but few grow commercial mushrooms. The Jerry Toto family has a commercial mushroom business in an abandoned underground limestone quarry on the right bank of the Missouri River at the south edge of Atchison.

The temperature in the cave is a constant 55 degrees. The Totos have found that it takes 120 days at that temperature for each crop to mature. The mushrooms are planted so the family can pick nearly every day. In fact, the Totos are producing over 3,000 pounds of mushrooms a week and hope to be producing 10,000 pounds a week soon.

Mushrooms are high in protein and, because they are 90 percent water, they are very low in calories. They have been eaten for thousands of years. History shows that mushrooms used to be a delicacy reserved for royalty. Today, we all enjoy them in soups, stews and many casseroles.

The mushrooms from the Atchison Underground Facility are sold to a Kansas City produce company. This company sells them to grocery stores and restaurants. Many stores in Kansas offer the Atchison-grown mushrooms for sale.

## KANSAS QUIZ

T or F (Circle the right answer)

1. Six towns in the state had brick manufacturing plants. T or F
2. Finney County was the fastest growing county from 1980 to 1986. T or F
3. "Do Not Spit On The Sidewalk" bricks were made in Iola. T or F
4. Emmett Kelly was born in Sedan. T or F
5. New born opossums are about the size of a honeybee. T or F
6. The opossum has 12 sharp teeth. T or F
7. Mushrooms are very high in calories. T or F
8. A former Kansas University coach invented the game of basketball. T or F
9. The last Indian raid in the state was in Decatur County. T or F
10. Kansas had 3,500 cars registered in 1914. T or F

Answer these true or false questions. If you are stumped, look up the answers on page 2.

**KANSAS!**  
**TOO!**

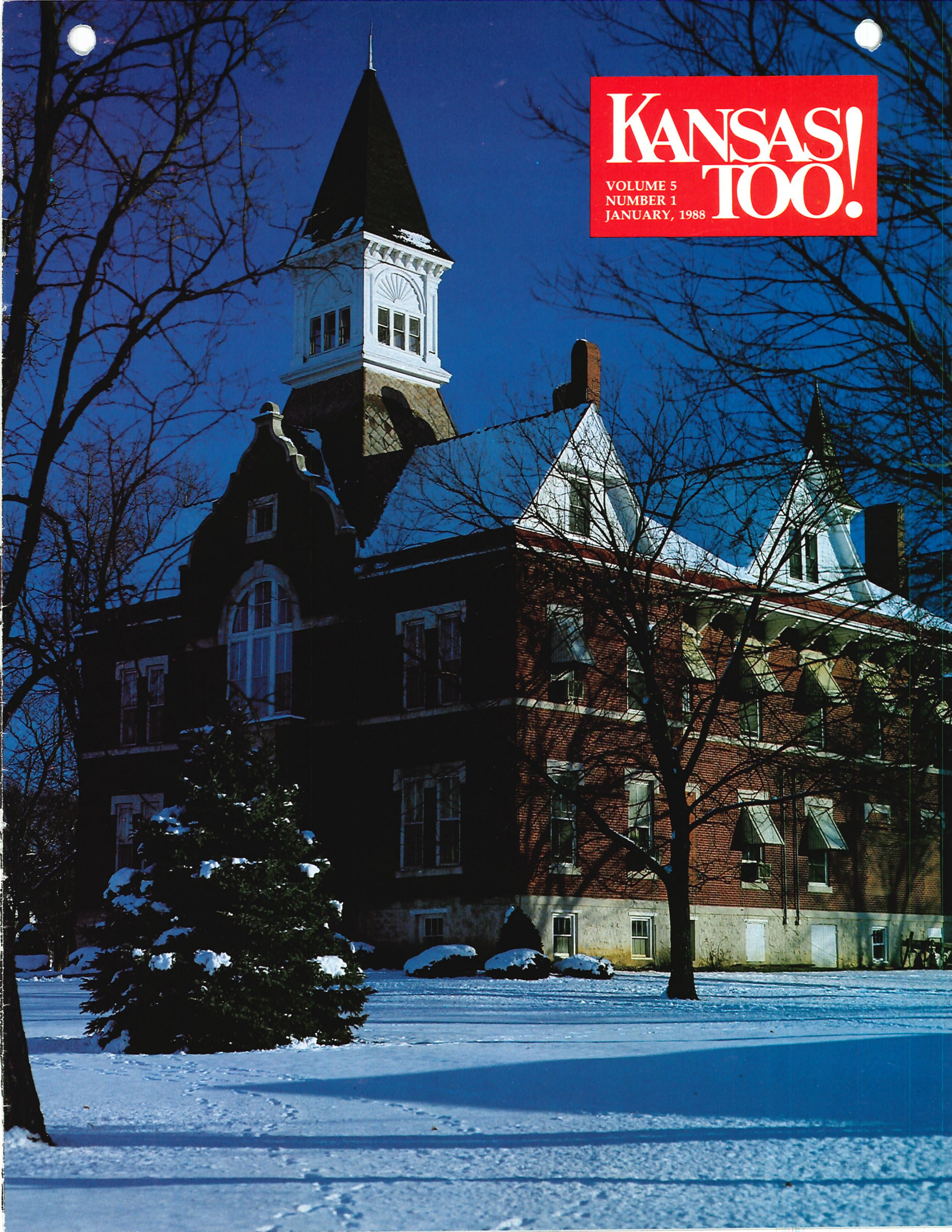
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400 WEST 8TH, 5TH FLOOR  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603-3957

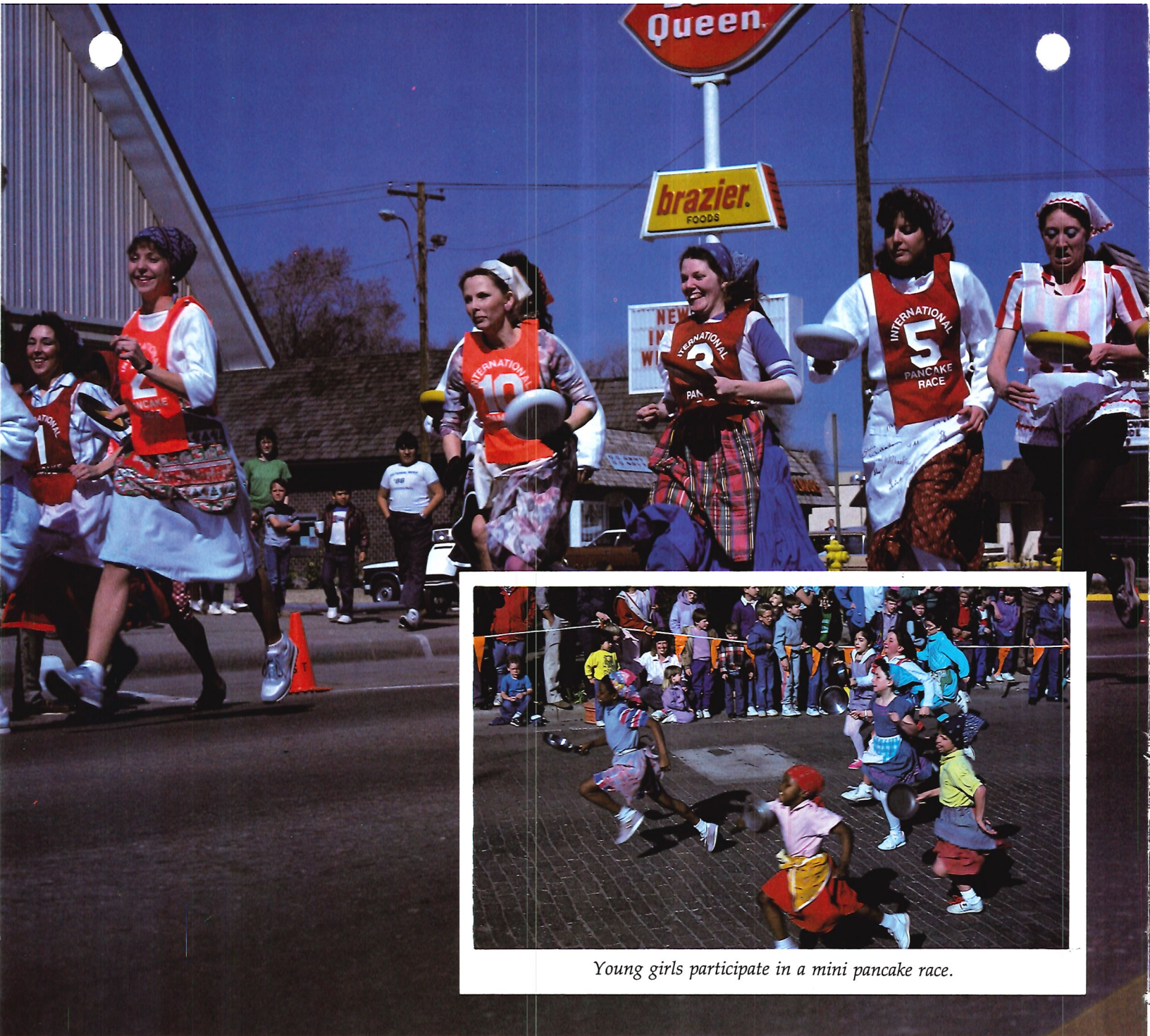
SECOND CLASS POSTAGE  
PAID AT TOPEKA, KANSAS.



# KANSAS! TOO!

VOLUME 5  
NUMBER 1  
JANUARY, 1988





Young girls participate in a mini pancake race.

*The pancake racers of the 80's wear running shoes and carry lighter skillets.*

## Liberal Plans 38th Annual Pancake Race

The city of Liberal in Seward County is planning its 38th annual International Pancake Race which will be Tuesday, February 16. Women in Olney, England, and women in Liberal will compete in running the 415-yard course with skirts on and skillets in hand. The race is timed and the winner is determined after a phone call is made from Liberal to Olney to see which winner had the best time.

Pancake races on Shrove Tuesday are a 500-year-old tradition for England. Women in Liberal challenged the women of Olney to an

international race in 1950 and the competition has been going on ever since. Women in earlier races used to carry heavy, cast iron skillets and wear regular street shoes. Today, the competing women wear running shoes and carry a lighter skillet but still must wear a skirt, apron and kerchief.

The pancake race has become a three-day event for Liberal and includes events for men and children. Pancake eating and flapjack flipping contests add to the fun.

Dear Readers:

This issue marks the beginning of the fifth year of KANSAS TOO! Thanks for making it all possible. We are proud that hundreds of young Kansans are reading and learning about Kansas.

If you have an event or place that you would like us to include in one of our issues, please write to us. We want to hear from you during this 127th year of the State of Kansas.

Your friends,

*Andrea Glenn, Pat Stinson*

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**Cover:** Linn County Courthouse in Mound City. Photograph by Dick Herpich.

Andrea Glenn and Pat Stinson, Editors • Galen D. Senogles, Art and Design • Mary Jo Swietek, Subscriptions Coordinator • Mike Hayden, Governor • Harland Priddle, Secretary, Kansas Department of Commerce • LewJene Schneider, Director, Division of Travel and Tourism Development, Kansas Department of Commerce.

KANSAS TOO! (UPS-711770) is published six times per year in the months of September, October, November, January, February and April and is available for \$2.50 per year through the Kansas Department of Commerce, 400 West 8th, 5th Floor, Topeka, KS, 66603-3957. Second class postage paid at Topeka, KS. POSTMASTER, send address change to KANSAS TOO!, KDOC, 400 West 8th, 5th Floor, Topeka, KS, 66603-3957.

## KANSAS FACTS

**1889**

Work began on the south side of the Capitol.

**1891**

Thousands of persons camped along the Cherokee Strip, near Arkansas City, South Haven, Caldwell and Kiowa, waiting for Congress to open it for settlement.

**1893**

Kansas buffalo brought \$1,000 each on the New York market.

**1897**

An earthquake was felt in southern Kansas.

**1912**

Heavy snow brought an invasion of hungry jackrabbits. At Hugoton a man took a picture of 422 jackrabbits eating at a rick of feed.

**1914**

The beet sugar factory at Garden City made 13 million pounds of sugar from beets grown in Finney, Kearney, Hamilton, Pawnee, Lyon, Chase and Greenwood counties.

**1916**

President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson were in Topeka for 5 hours.

**1918**

Kansas farmers were asked to grow castor beans for oil to lubricate airplane engines for the war.

**1920**

Goodland was assigned a government weather station, the only one in Kansas.



STATE OF KANSAS



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

State Capitol  
Topeka 66612-1590  
(913) 296-3232

Mike Hayden *Governor*

Hello Kansas students!

As Governor of the State of Kansas, I am pleased to send this greeting to you as a part of *Kansas, Too!* I am proud of you for taking the time to read this publication, and hope you will not stop here. There is so much to learn about Kansas and so many published articles and books telling of our state's illustrious history.

Kansas became a state in 1861, but her history began many, many years before. Inhabited by Indians for thousands of years, Kansas was traveled by many in search of gold, to establish trade routes and by settlers simply looking for a place to call home. Many of them found what they were looking for. Those looking for gold were disappointed they did not find it, but were thrilled by the simple beauty of our Kansas prairie. Trade routes were established and those routes are still identified today by markers pointing the way to the Santa Fe Trail, the Oregon Trail and others that crisscrossed our state. Settlers, traveling in wagon trains through Kansas, were so impressed they decided to settle here, instead of heading further west.

I could go on with many, many more stories of our Kansas history, but I challenge you to dig them out of books in your school library, search for them in your public libraries and ask your instructors questions about our Kansas history. You are a part of the heritage that is Kansas. Read about it.

Sincerely,

MIKE HAYDEN  
Governor

## Kansas Senator Robert Dole To Run For President

Robert Dole, the senior United States senator from Kansas, announced in Russell in November that he is officially in the race for the office of President of the United States.

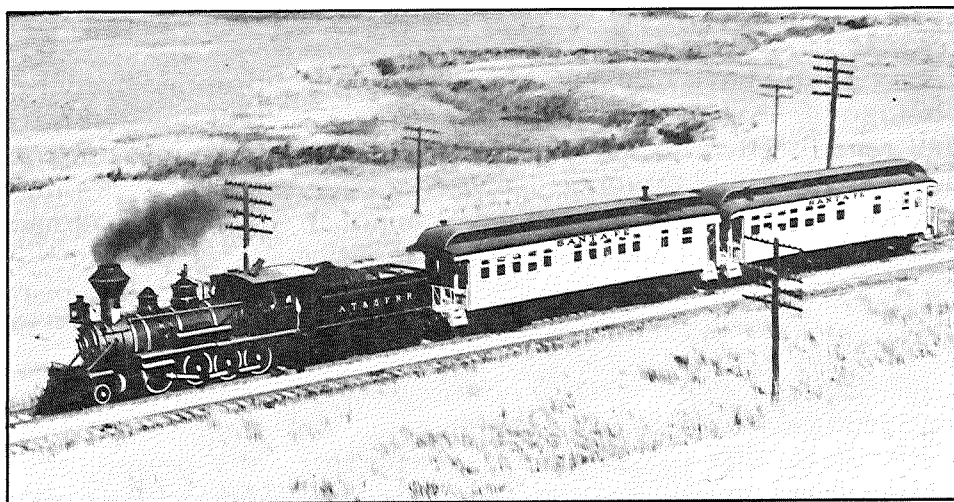
Senator Dole was born and reared in Russell. He was wounded in World War II and was decorated twice for heroic achievement during his military service. After earning his law degree from Washburn University Law School in Topeka, he served as county attorney for Russell County. He has represented Kansas in the U. S. House of Representatives for four terms and was elected to the U. S. Senate in 1968.

The presidential election will be in November of 1988. If Senator Dole is elected, he will be the second man from Kansas to achieve the highest elected office in the United States. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the 34th president of the United States, was a native of Abilene, Kansas.



*Senator Robert Dole*

## Kansas Museum of History Displays Old Locomotive



*The Cyrus K. Holliday locomotive has been restored and can be viewed at the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka.*

The next time you visit the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka, you will see the historic Santa Fe steam locomotive known as the Cyrus K. Holliday.

The engine, the Santa Fe Railroad's oldest surviving steam locomotive, was built in 1880. It was one of the most powerful locomotives of its time. In 1977, the Santa Fe Railroad offered the locomotive to the Kansas State Historical

Society. The locomotive has now been accurately restored to its original 1880 appearance. It is an excellent example of a freight locomotive which contributed to the settlement and development of Kansas and of the American West.

Two rail cars at the museum are now in the process of being restored and will be added to the locomotive display next fall.



*A family posed in front of their dugout home in Hamilton County in 1908. Inset: Students in front of a dugout schoolhouse in Thomas County in 1900.*

## Early Pioneers Lived in Dugouts

Many of you have probably seen early photographs of homes that were built by pioneers directly into the side of a hill. These homes were called dugouts. They were built into the sides of hills because there was not an abundance of wood and stone which could be used to build conventional homes. Also, the dugouts served as good protection from strong prairie winds.

It is difficult for us to imagine how it would be for us to live in a home in the side of a hill. We are fortunate that a young girl whose parents homesteaded on land near Burrton, in Harvey County, kept a diary about her experiences.

She wrote: "We live in a dugout, edged into the side of a hill, its door in the west toward the setting sun. The walls are made of sod and the floor of trampled clay. The roof supports are cottonwood logs covered with layers of sod. The entire house is one room. Chest high around this room is a wide dirt shelf. On this shelf lay bedsprings and mattresses. This is where we all sleep.

"It is not uncommon to see snakes coming through the ceiling. Once, a rattlesnake

dropped from the ceiling on my mother's head. Our dog grabbed the snake and killed it. When the rains come, the floor gets very muddy and the toads are thick.

"We are all happy. Happy that we have 160 acres of land. We grow watermelons, sweet potatoes and peanuts. We hunt for birds' nests and sometimes we see an eagle. The sandhills are covered with wild plum bushes. We pick the fruit and Papa sells them by the wagon load to all the nearby towns. We also sell watermelons, peanuts and tomatoes. It is work but all of our family works together. There are ponds for wading and one we stocked with catfish.

"The winds blow, the sun beats down on our heads and the winters are bitterly cold. We accept it all because we are a family. It was our claim, our home and our state of Kansas."

Today, there are homes that are built partially underground to save on fuel costs for heating and cooling. These modern homes are not dugouts as they usually have at least one wall that is glass and have all the conveniences of usual homes.

## Watch For New License Plates



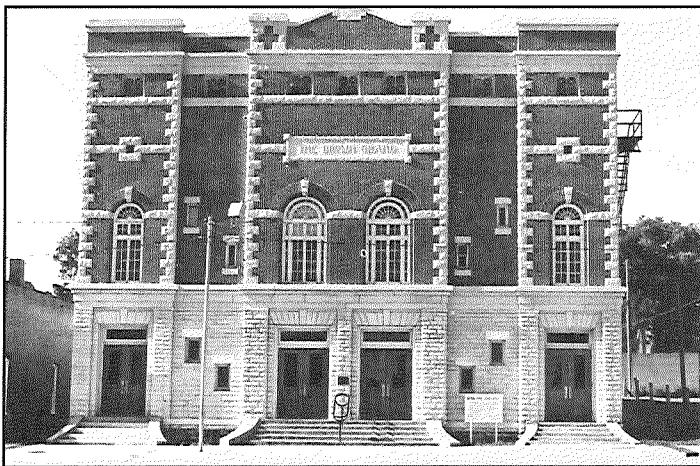
There are over two million automobiles and trucks registered in Kansas. Each of the vehicles will be issued a new license plate during the coming year.

The new tags, which will cost nearly \$4 million, will have a light grey background with a ribbon of yellow along the top. Letters and numbers will be dark blue and a brown shaft of wheat will occupy a prominent place in the middle of the plate. County designations will no longer be stamped into the license plates. Instead, they will be printed on decals that will be attached separately to the upper left corners of the tags.

All the license plates are manufactured by Center Industries Corp. in Wichita. This company is a non-profit organization affiliated with the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas. Center Industries employs both handicapped and able-bodied persons in tag production.

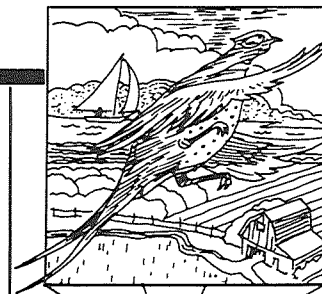
Watch for the new license plates and let us know if you like them.

## WHERE IS THIS?

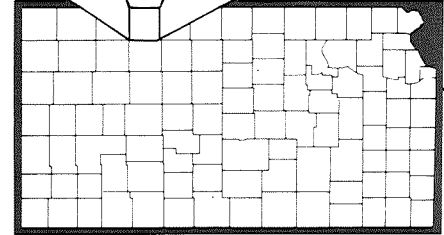


The Brown Grand Opera Theatre was built in 1907. The theatre staged many of the nation's finest theatrical productions and concerts. It has been restored to its former elegance and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Do you know where you can visit this beautiful opera house that was built from native materials?

Answer: Concordia



KANSAS  
COUNTIES



County—Norton

Location—Northwestern

License Designation—NT

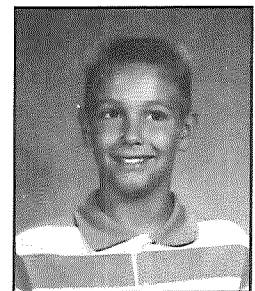
County seat—Norton

Named for Orloff Norton, a Kansas Cavalry Captain.

Known For: Pheasant Capital of Kansas, Keith Sebelius Lake, Replica of Stagecoach Station 15, Agriculture and Industry

## KANSAS KIDS

### Meet Craig Mehler



Craig Mehler is in the 4th grade at the Ellsworth Elementary School in Ellsworth. He enjoys playing the piano and takes lessons regularly. He is active in Cub Scouts and is working toward his Bear badge.

Collecting sea shells, transformers and reading are a few of his hobbies. Alf and The Cosby Show are his favorite television programs. His two dogs, Mickey and Mandy, like to watch television with him. His favorite food is oyster soup.



*Above: Historic Front Street in Dodge City features stagecoach rides.  
Left: Modern Dodge City has changed from its original appearance.*

## Dodge City Known Around the World

Dodge City, the county seat of Ford County, has a colorful history that is known all over the world through movies, television and books. When Kansans travel out of the United States, they are often asked about Dodge City.

Fort Dodge was established in 1865 on the Santa Fe Trail, between two major Indian crossings on the Arkansas River. It was an important outpost offering protection to wagon trains and served as a supply base for troops.

Dodge City was founded in 1872 just five miles west of Fort Dodge as a supply center for buffalo hunters. The plains were covered with buffalo and a good hunter could make \$100 a day killing buffalo for their skins and bones.

There was a great demand for buffalo hides to make robes and their bones were used in the manufacturing of many items including china. This demand attracted over 5,000 hunters to the Dodge City area in four years. The government paid the hunters well to eliminate the Plains Indians' food supply, the buffalo. History books tell us that, during those years, more

than five million buffalo hides and two and a half million dollars worth of buffalo bones were taken from the Dodge City area. In four years, the buffalo were virtually wiped out.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway reached the town of Dodge City in 1872 and it became a shipping center. During the next few years, over ten million head of cattle were brought up the Chisholm and Western Trails to the railroad cattle loading pens in Dodge City. In 1885, the cattle drives stopped and this period in Dodge City's history was over.

Nearly one-half million visitors each year tour Dodge City. They come from every state and many foreign countries to see the many interesting displays and exhibits at Boot Hill Museum and Historic Front Street, which is an authentic reproduction of the original Front Street in old Dodge City.

Today, Dodge City is a town that is very proud of its past and its future. Plan to visit this Ford County seat this year and learn more about its historic past.



# Garnett Company Makes Church Furniture

One of the few companies in the United States that makes church furnishings is in Garnett, the county seat of Anderson County. The Garnett Church Furniture and Manufacturing Company is owned by Don McAfee and was started by his great uncle in 1879.

Last fall, the company was honored by being chosen to create an 18-piece set of handcrafted furniture used in the visit of Pope John II to the United States. The furniture was made from cherry wood and some of it was upholstered in leather.

Forty-three employees make this business one of the larger companies in Anderson County. These craftsmen work on small



*Garnett Church Furniture employees review plans for a new product.*

orders, such as bookshelves or candlesticks, and large projects including furnishing a church with a complete set of pews. Anything made from wood in the interior of a church can be furnished by the Garnett-based company. These workers are so skilled and well-known for their work that they have customers not only in the United States but all over the world as well. Perhaps, the wood furnishings in your church were made in Garnett, Kansas.



Kansas celebrates its 127th birthday this month. Find these "early day" words hidden in this puzzle.

- Arrow
- Barn
- Blacksmith
- Cabin
- Cap
- Clog
- Cobbler
- Cradle
- Down
- Dugout
- Fire
- Gun
- Hat
- Indians
- Log House
- Loom
- Oxen
- Pot
- Quill
- Tools
- Wagon
- Windmills

S	L	L	I	M	D	N	I	W	T
B	C	L	O	G	H	O	U	S	E
C	T	C	A	P	N	O	G	A	W
A	R	R	O	W	M	O	O	L	W
B	L	A	C	K	S	M	I	T	H
I	N	D	I	A	N	S	L	B	A
N	U	L	L	I	U	Q	P	O	T
W	G	E	B	A	R	N	E	X	O
O	F	I	R	E	L	B	B	O	C
D	U	G	O	U	T	O	O	L	S

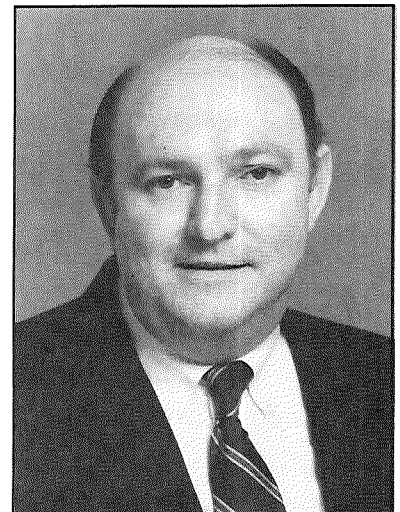
## A KANSAN YOU SHOULD KNOW

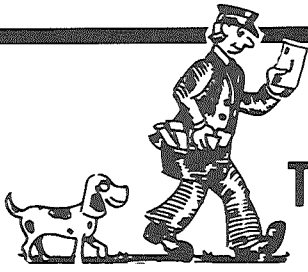
### Marlin Fitzwater

Marlin Fitzwater, a native Kansan, serves as press secretary or chief spokesman for President Ronald Reagan. Mr. Fitzwater was reared on a farm near Abilene and graduated from Abilene High School and Kansas State University. He worked on newspapers in Lindsborg, Manhattan and Topeka before going to Washington, D.C.

As a boy in Abilene, he undoubtedly did not dream that he would ever see a president of the United States. Today, Mr. Fitzwater sees and works with President Reagan daily.

Although he has lived in Washington, D.C., for 22 years, he still tells people he is from Abilene. In his office is a bumper sticker that proclaims Abilene is the home of "History, Heroes and Hospitality." Mr. Fitzwater visits his relatives in Abilene every year.





# THE MAIL BAG



"I like the things you come up with. My hobbies are football, basketball, baseball, collecting old rocks, and watches. I go to Boy Scouts. We are going to be going camping and go on hikes, and also have trap shoots. I think the most fun of all is going to be the trap shoot."

*Mitch Masden  
(Mitch didn't include his return address)*



"I wanted to watch the Royals play a game. And go swimming and play baseball and go shopping. And when I get home, I want to go to school and I ride the bus and I think it's fun. And when I get home I do my homework and when I get done, I go outside and play. Then I come in and play."

*Tony Zwick  
Leoti, Kansas*



"I really enjoyed my first issue of 'KANSAS TOO!' I liked 'Garden City Pool One of the

Largest' best. I was wondering if you could really waterski in it? I'm looking forward to my next issue! I'm a fifth grader at Benton Grade School. I'm 11 years old. I enjoy playing basketball and singing. I'm very proud to live in Kansas!

*Your Kansas Kid,  
Autumn Whisler  
Benton, Kansas*



"I play golf in the summer, and tennis in the winter. I like KANSAS TOO! because you learn a lot. Kansas is a great place. I'm in third grade."



*Emily Lee  
Topeka, Kansas*



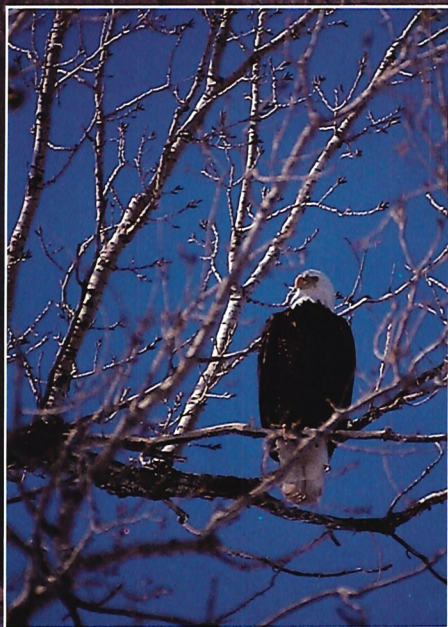
"I enjoy reading your newsletters. Here's a poem I wrote, and I hope you like it. I'm ten years old and I am in the fourth grade."

Kansas, Kansas we love you.  
That's why we all think of you.  
It's plain to see it's all from me,  
Kansas is the place to be.

*Lisa Beringer  
Sharon Springs, Kansas*

## KANSAS QUIZ

1. The oldest windmills in the state are made from \_\_\_\_\_.
2. How old will Kansas be this January 29th? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Has an earthquake ever been felt in Kansas? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who is the governor of Kansas? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What were the pioneer homes that were built in the side of a hill called? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Garnett is the county seat of which county? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who is Marlin Fitzwater's boss? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Which county is called the Pheasant Capital of Kansas? \_\_\_\_\_
9. In which year was the eagle chosen as the national emblem? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Dodge City was founded in what year? \_\_\_\_\_



*Bald eagles can be spotted in January and February.*

## Bald Eagles Winter in Kansas

In 1782, the leaders of the United States decided that the beautiful bald eagle had the correct qualifications to become the national emblem for the United States. The bird was elegant, strong, free and a fighter that could overtake almost any enemy.

Bald eagles do not nest in Kansas but several hundred vacation in our state during January and February. Mature bald eagles have a seven to eight foot wing span and weigh from ten to 15 pounds. They do not get their white feathers on their heads until they are about four years

old. Until then they are completely brown. The birds prefer to spend their days perched in large bare trees near a lake.

Eating dead fish stranded on beaches and river banks has caused many bald eagles to absorb large amounts of pesticides, which results in the birds having very thin shelled and often infertile eggs. This is just one of the reasons this bird is protected from hunters.

Take time this winter to look for our national bird. If you see one, write and tell us where you saw it.



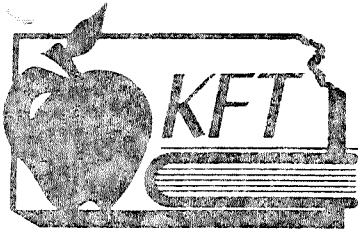
## Windmills – A Kansas Landscape Treasure

You cannot travel very far in Kansas without seeing at least one windmill. Watch for the very old windmills made from wood. In the early days of our state, before towns had city water, nearly every home had its own windmill. Some communities had hundreds of windmills towering over its houses. They used the power of the Kansas wind to pump water for the

town's citizens. The water was pumped from underground streams.

Today, few families rely on windmills to furnish water for their homes. However, windmills are still very important on Kansas ranches and farms where they are used to pump water for livestock.

Windmills were an important part of Kansas development.



# KANSAS FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

310 West Central Suite 110 • Wichita, KS 67202 • (316) 262-5171

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 2725

Carolyn Kehr

Curriculum and Special Projects

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Education Committee, the Kansas Federation of Teachers supports House Bill No. 2725 providing for instruction in Kansas history and government. As teachers across the state find their students, the majority being native Kansans, lacking in general knowledge of the state and its government, educators call for the study of the history of the State of Kansas, current local information and the mechanics of Kansas government. When students are exposed to these concepts, it often invokes a sense of heritage and responsibility toward the community. This in turn brings a new perspective to the student's studies in history.

As our youth become more politically aware of their world, it is imperative they have an understanding of the governmental process which affects their lives. A course which includes the study of state government enhances the opportunities for students to take part in that political process as they develop and mature in age and knowledge. As an organization we believe the more involved a citizen is in his/her community government, the more progressive that body will become. It is through that kind of involvement changes for the betterment of the state can be recognized and addressed.

While many teachers in Kansas are providing information covering Kansas history, there are still a number who do not. Through this legislation, all students of Kansas will be exposed to curriculum important to the understanding of the history and government functions of our state. The Kansas Federation of Teachers encourages the awareness of Kansas history and government through the favorable passage of House Bill No. 2725.



TESTIMONY ON H.B. 2725

by

Richard S. Funk, Assistant Executive Director  
Kansas Association of School Boards

March 23, 1988

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, we appreciate the opportunity to appear today on behalf of the 302 members of the Kansas Association of School Boards. KASB opposes the provisions found in H.B. 2725.

The Delegate Assembly of the Kansas Association of School Boards long has had a policy (III, Sec. H, 1, p.4) which states: "KASB believes that the curriculum of the schools should be established by local boards of education and not by state statute." Governor Hayden apparently agrees with our position. Quoting from his 1988 Legislative Message (p. 35): "Tradition in Kansas education would suggest that local boards of education should make curriculum decisions" (emphasis added). House Bill 2725 proposes to establish a curriculum that state statute (K.S.A. 72-1101 - attachment) already imposes. We begin with two objections: H.B. 2725 will (1) mandate and legislate a curriculum that (2) is already mandated and legislated; but it goes further and deeper.

The Actual Issue

The issue is not about teaching Kansas history. All accredited elementary schools already do this. The issue is that Kansas elementary schools do not teach enough Kansas history. So the question is, "should the Kansas legislature mandate how much is enough?" The answer is No. The Kansas Association of School Boards has never opposed teaching Kansas history or Kansas heritage, but we oppose legislated and mandated curricula.

The Philosophical Issue

Since Kansas elementary schools do not teach enough Kansas history - how much is enough? House Bill 2725 used to say that five grades are enough for teaching Kansas history. Yet you heard three years ago and again today from schools that have integrated Kansas history into the total curriculum. You are led to believe that Kansas history is taught only on January 29th. That is patently absurd and has no basis of fact.

Testimony on H.B. 2725  
March 23, 1988

Page Two

The governor, in his 1988 Legislative Message refers to Kansas history, but yet addresses 1) Kansas heritage, 2) Kansas politics, and 3) colorful figures in Kansas history. I would suggest that we include the word heritage and delete the word history - for that is what we are truly talking about - Kansas heritage.

Others have said it is essential Kansas students develop a pride in Kansas, yet I contend it is the adults first who need to develop this pride. For one flows to the other. It's the kids who hear the jokes about Kansas from the adults.

We are undergoing a new round of "legislated learning." This time we are being asked to add to our curricula "social" subjects. There is a price to be paid and it comes at the expense of the "academic" subjects. The reality is you shorten time available or drop that subject. Yet schools cannot lengthen the school day or school year nor change the number of class periods except by negotiating those issues.

### The Opposition

Some have said we need a new law because it would take a Philadelphia lawyer to interpret K.S.A. 72-1101. I believe you can see for yourself that K.S.A. 72-1101 is very clear.

We are led to believe boards of education have local control in this matter. It's local control if you believe: "we'll tell you what you have to do and you can figure out how to do it."

We are all aware there is a lack of articulated curricular materials about Kansas heritage. There will be an increase of expenditures for curricular materials, with no fiscal assistance from the state.

We know of no Kansas public school having lost its accreditation since 1903 because it has not taught Kansas history. I don't believe the argument that the State Department of Education has not been doing its job of curricular enforcement. That cannot be documented or proven and is an absurd accusation. Unless, of course, a representative from the State Department of Education testifies to this committee that they have not been doing their job for over 80 years.

If our leaders feel that Kansas history is so important, why is the Kansas Museum of History being funded for FY 89 at \$1,340,150 when it was funded in FY 87 at \$1,437,333 and is funded FY 88 at \$1,757,204. Remember: "the museum program is responsible for the collection and interpretation of objects related to Kansas history." (The State of Kansas Budget - Fiscal Year 1989, pp. 7-11 and 7-12)

Testimony on H.B. 2725  
March 23, 1988

Page Three

### Conclusion

What I have said today is not directed just at Kansas history. I believe we have reached our limits. Our schools are being asked to provide the "social" education of our students and at the same time we're being held accountable for the social education and academic preparation. This is the real problem. No one has really defined how this is to be accomplished - not within our present structure. No one has taken the leadership role, for no one can agree who should be taking the leadership role.

When will we begin to look at our Kansas schools as an investment in our future rather than as an annual expenditure?

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I ask you to report H.B. 2725 unfavorably. I ask you to do this mostly because of the administrative problems that I've outlined, not because we must decide the philosophical considerations of Kansas heritage. I ask you to report H.B. 2725 unfavorably because it mandates and legislates something that already is legislated and being done by our schools. House Bill 2725 may make good politics, but it doesn't necessarily provide good education. Thank you.



**72-1048a.**

History: L. 1955, ch. 334, § 1; L. 1959, ch. 278, § 1; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 353, § 13; May 1.

**72-1048b.**

History: L. 1955, ch. 312, § 1; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 353, § 13; May 1.

**72-1048c.**

History: L. 1959, ch. 305, § 1; Repealed, L. 1961, ch. 322, § 2; June 30.

**72-1048d.**

History: L. 1961, ch. 322, § 1; Repealed, L. 1963, ch. 356, § 2; June 30.

**72-1048e.**

History: L. 1963, ch. 356, § 1; Repealed, L. 1965, ch. 403, § 2; May 10.

**72-1048f.**

History: L. 1963, ch. 375, § 1; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 353, § 13; May 1.

**72-1048g.**

History: L. 1965, ch. 403, § 1; L. 1967, ch. 371, § 1; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 353, § 13; May 1.

**72-1048h.**

History: L. 1965, ch. 425, § 1; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 353, § 13; May 1.

**72-1049.**

History: L. 1945, ch. 294, § 3; L. 1947, ch. 361, § 3; L. 1955, ch. 313, § 1; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 353, § 13; May 1.

**72-1050.**

History: L. 1945, ch. 294, § 4; L. 1947, ch. 361, § 4; L. 1949, ch. 363, § 1; L. 1965, ch. 404, § 1; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 353, § 13; May 1.

**72-1050a.**

History: L. 1951, ch. 401, § 1; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 353, § 13; May 1.

**72-1050b.**

History: L. 1951, ch. 400, § 1; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 353, § 13; May 1.

**72-1050c.**

History: L. 1955, ch. 314, § 1; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 353, § 13; May 1.

**72-1050d.**

History: L. 1955, ch. 334, § 2; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 353, § 13; May 1.

**72-1051 to 72-1053.**

History: L. 1949, ch. 386, §§ 1 to 3; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 353, § 13; May 1.

**72-1054.**

History: L. 1951, ch. 395, § 21; L. 1968, ch. 328, § 1; Repealed, L. 1970, ch. 279, § 1; July 1.

**72-1055, 72-1056.**

History: L. 1957, ch. 415, §§ 1, 2; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 312, § 6; May 10.

**72-1057, 72-1058.**

History: L. 1957, ch. 415, §§ 3, 4; L. 1959, ch. 279, §§ 1, 2; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 312, § 6; May 10.

**72-1059 to 72-1061.**

History: L. 1959, ch. 280, §§ 1 to 3; L. 1961, ch. 323, §§ 1 to 3; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 312, § 6; May 10.

**72-1062, 72-1063.**

History: L. 1959, ch. 280, §§ 4, 5; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 312, § 6; May 10.

**72-1064 to 72-1070.**

History: L. 1961, ch. 351, §§ 1 to 7; Repealed, L. 1969, ch. 312, § 6; May 10.

#### Article 11.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, CURRICULUM AND ACCREDITATION

**72-1101. Required subjects in elementary schools.** Every accredited elementary school shall teach reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, spelling, English grammar and composition, history of the United States and of the state of Kansas, civil government and the duties of citizenship, health and hygiene, together with such other subjects as the state board may determine. The state board shall be responsible for the selection of subject matter within the several fields of instruction and for its organization into courses of study and instruction for the guidance of teachers, principals and superintendents.

History: R.S. 1923, 72-1101; L. 1943, ch. 248, § 37; L. 1945, ch. 282, § 57; L. 1968, ch. 20, § 1; L. 1972, ch. 253, § 1; L. 1979, ch. 220, § 11; July 1.

#### Source or prior law:

L. 1861, ch. 76, art. 4, § 7; L. 1867, ch. 124, § 1; G.S. 1868, ch. 92, § 48; L. 1874, ch. 122, § 5; L. 1876, ch. 122, art. 5, § 1; L. 1877, ch. 170, § 1; L. 1903, ch. 435, § 1.



HB 2725

Testimony presented before the Senate Committee on Education  
by Gerald W. Henderson, Executive Director  
United School Administrators of Kansas

March 23, 1988

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Arthur E. Wise, director of the RAND Corporation's Center for the Study of the Teaching Profession stated in an article in the January issue of the Phi Delta Kappan that ". . . problems of the quality of education cannot easily be solved by edict. Paradoxically, central mandates to improve the quality of education often reduce it."

Mr. Wise, a highly respected researcher and commentator on education management issues gives credence to a long standing position in our organization which favors leaving decisions concerned with specific curriculum to local teachers and administrators with the approval of local boards of education.

USA does not oppose the teaching of Kansas History in Kansas schools. Our sole objection is to mandated curriculum beyond that already in statute.

To illustrate that Kansas schools have indeed responded to the resolution of a few years ago, USA conducted a survey of the 304 Kansas unified schools districts. The results are summarized below.

1. 242 districts returned questionnaires (80%)
2. 160 districts (66% of 242) indicated that a course in Kansas History was offered.

Course Length	Year	Semester	Quarter	Other	Total
Grade Level					
K-3		1	1	5	7
4-6	5	15	18	14	52
7-8	7	34	24	15	80
9-12	10	34	3	6	53
Total	22 (14%)	84 (53%)	46 (29%)	40 (25%)	*192

\*Several districts offered Kansas History at more than one grade level and at varying lengths.

(over)

Attachment 9, 3/23/88

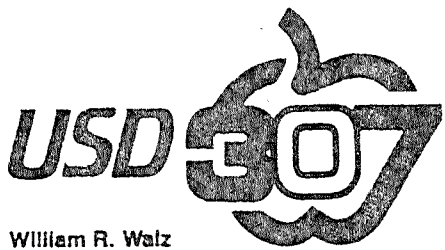
3. Of the 82 districts responding that no specific course in Kansas History was offered, 79 indicated that the subject was covered in a unit contained within another course, i.e. 7th Grade Social Studies. Units at all grade levels ranged in length from one week to 12 weeks.

The units offered by the 79 districts are summarized below:

K-3	44
4-6	64
7-8	61
9-12	22

Again many districts offered units at more than one level.

In final summary, all but three of the responding districts offer Kansas History either as a separate course or as a unit within a course.



William R. Walz  
Superintendent

# Ell-Saline Unified School District Number 307

(913) 827-8891 • 1757 North Halstead Road • Salina, Kansas 67401

<b>MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>		Marian Bettenbrock.....	Member
Willard Chegwiddden .....	President	Stephen Burr .....	Member
Carol Augustine .....	Vice-President	Shirley Cole .....	Member
Kenneth Berndt .....	Member	Carl Lindquist .....	Member

## NEWS RELEASE SCHOOLS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

In a study conducted by Schools for Quality Education (SQE) and completed in December, 261 schools (all class 1A - 4A) were surveyed to gain information regarding current and proposed graduation requirements. Of those surveyed 186 returned the survey, or over 71%. Because of the high return it is concluded by SQE, that these results fairly represent the beliefs and views of those schools we represent.

The survey results can be divided into two categories 1) those dealing with current requirements and the affects on vocational/elective courses, and 2) the recently proposed requirements by the Board of Regents.

### CATEGORY ONE - CURRENT REQUIREMENTS

When asked if their school district had experienced a decline in enrollment in elective courses since the current standards were adopted, 89 indicated yes, and 97 no. The courses identified varied, with Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics experiencing the greatest loss, but music and art were also affected.

Asked if their school had dropped any vocational/elective courses because of this decline only 28 indicated they had, with 154 saying they had not.

In answering whether they believed flexibility should exist in graduation requirements for non-college bound students, 130 indicated they thought there should be, 52 thought all students should meet the same standard.

Only 10 schools indicated they had experienced an increase in the drop-out rate since the current standards were implemented, 175 indicated no change.

### CATEGORY TWO - PROPOSED REGENT'S REQUIREMENTS

In polling the respondents regarding their support of the recent regents recommendations (at this time confined to only the three largest universities) only 32 schools were in support. The overwhelming majority, or 153, said they opposed these recommendations.

ONE MILE WEST SALINA JUNCTION I-70 & I-135 — ¼ MILE SOUTH EXIT 249 I-70

When asked if their schools offered two years of a foreign language, 125 responded yes, and 61 no.

Asked if the adoption of the regent's requirements would necessitate curriculum changes, 83 indicated yes, 102 said no. Adding a foreign language being the change most frequently noted.

## CONCLUSIONS

The current requirements have led to a decline in just under half of the schools elective programs. Far fewer schools have indicated eliminating programs. Therefore classes have either become smaller, or in some cases combined. Philosophically, support appears to exist for some type of multi-tier diploma system, perhaps such as New York offers.

Regarding the Regent's requirements, schools overwhelmingly rejected the proposal. Interestingly, it is not only the smallest schools that do not support this proposal, but support is lacking across the enrollment spectrum. The reasons are varied, but appropriately the concept of "Local Control" is high on the list. Also, the concept of universal educational opportunity under which our public universities were established is a compelling fact.

Other comments from respondents, both in writing or orally, include the questionable practice of waiving a certain percentage of incoming students. This has been perceived as establishing a method of bringing in athletes and thus propagating a double standard. Additionally, in the case of the foreign language requirement, research does not seem to substantiate the connotation that a student who has had a foreign language in high school will be more successful in college (this is not to take away from the study of a foreign language as important to international commerce and understanding). It appears contradictory to require high school graduates to have two years of a foreign language and then have so few college programs require a foreign language for graduation!

To close it should not be construed that SOE, and the schools it represents, does not support excellence in education. We strongly support students being "encouraged" to take the courses recommended, in the most part, by the Regents. We do not, and cannot, support these being "mandated" by the Regents and do not believe this attempt will be legitimized by our legislature.

Joe Gillilan  
Connie J. Gillilan

Rt. 1, Box 65  
Hardy, NE 68943

March 22, 1988

Senator Joseph Harder  
Senate Education Committee  
State Capital Building  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Honorable Harder:

House Bill No. 2799 is directly pointed at Joe and Connie Gillilan for attendance of our son, Michael, and our other two sons, to attend an out-of-state school located in Superior, Nebraska. It is a cover-up to repeal statutes 72-7201 et seq. the statutes we used. Parts of 72-7201 et seq. are obsolete, but not all.

This bill, to our understanding, was introduced by request of U.S.D. #427, our local board, and the Kansas Association of School Boards. By repealing the 72-7201 et seq. statutes we start all over with our local board.

We were denied out-of-state attendance for our son, because the board would have to educate on a valorem taxes past their state aid, therefore they would lose money by doing so. At the same time our board educated seven non-district students tuition free including one from Nebraska. They have set a precedent of paying out-of-state tuition by doing this. We felt this unfair and took our case to the State Board of Education. The State Board ruled in our favor to educate our son in Nebraska, but only for one year.

## Connie J. Gillilan

Rt. 1, Box 65  
Hardy, NE 68943

The year following our appeal to the State Board the statutes we used are now asked to be repealed. If you repeal 72-7201 et seq., you as a legislature, right the wrong of our local board. Our local board did not stay within the applied law of 72-7201 et seq. for our sons out-of-state attendance and were found unreasonable and inconsistent by taxpayers of their district.

Three Kansas school districts surround us. Belleville, our district, 30 miles southeast; White Rock, 60 miles southwest for elementary and 50 miles for high school or Pike Valley, 18 miles south for elementary and 24 miles for high school. To attend Pike Valley we would drive ten miles to pick up their bus. All the above schools are to the southeast, south or southwest. We have no Kansas district to the north, northeast, or northwest only a Nebraska school. We are bordered by a state line less than 200 feet from our Kansas home.

The admendments to H B 2799 state sending districts shall pay tuition to another state not to exceed their state aid. Tuition between Belleville and Superior can be negotiated if both boards give a little and ~~parents~~ parents too. This year our board agreed to pay Superior \$1,451.75 for our son's kindergarten tuition even tho Superior requested \$2,361.00. As parents, we saw to it that our son had a way to and from school and stood the cost of his special education for speech twice a week beyond what was federally funded. 72-7204 is workable and negotiable.

## Connie J. Gillilan

Rt. 1, Box 65  
Hardy, NE 68943

If any grandfather clauses are included in H B 2799 for U D S #104 White Rock to use the old 72-6757, then what about families currently using 72-7201 et seq. for attendance out-of-state. Were affected by the statutes repealed.

U D S #104 White Rock, knows that families of school-age children will leave the state of Kansas if the board does not continue to pay Superior or families will find another surrounding Kansas school district to educate their children. That definitely would hurt a small school like White Rock U D S #104. Our school district enrolls at least 600 students. It's much larger than U D S #104, but a small corner of U D S #427 lies much closer to Superior, Nebraska. Something needs to be done with education of students since smaller schools are now being closed in Kansas and children are being bused 30 miles, one way, for their education when another out-of-state school is much closer.

Superior has an education mill-levy of 150 mills compared to U D S 427's of 50 mills. One cannot ask taxpayers in another state to educate Kansas students for nothing when their mill levy is three times greater.

This past year two families moved to Nebraska from our district, so their children could be educated 10 miles closer rather than 30 miles to Belleville. (Read article attached Northern Kansas Population Decreases) Much of the population decrease has taken place since unification started in the late '60s, is this just coincidental.

Moving from our township to Nebraska has been increasing



## Connie J. Gillilan

Rt. 1, Box 65  
Hardy, NE 68943

faster the past five years than ever before and will continue till something is done for education of children closer to their homes. No families of school age children want to live here. We tried to find an answer last year and we did!

Of the many students that have graduated from Belleville since Republic High School was closed in 1973 there has not been any individuals return to our township. Some have come back to the area, but they reside closer to Belleville or as many do, they live along the state line in Nebraska.

Our township has a preschool and school age population (new born to 12 th grade) of 57 children. If a population count were to be taken 10 years from now, there would be only 19 preschool - school age children living in this township, a decrease of 66%

In Republic County for 1987 our Big Bend township was second, with the city of Belleville first, for paying real estate taxes (Big Bend 57,577.02 City of Belleville 234,142). Yet, children in this township ride buses the longest, because we border the state line of Nebraska.

We hope one of our three sons will come back to live on this farm and make a living on it as has been done for generations. If something is not done for education no young families of school age children will live here. Rural Kansas dies along the state line of Nebraska. The states idea of helping school districts with 90% of their transportation makes basing children 30 miles like having

Connie J. Gillilan

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**Connie J. Gillilan**

Rt. 1, Box 65  
Hardy, NE 68943

your cake and eating it too.

Why not strike out the parts of 72-7201 et seq. that seem obsolete than to repeal all the statutes and still keep the old 72-6757.

Joe and Connie Gillilan

Also included is written testimony from our attorney Darrell Miller before the Representative Education Committee on February 11, 1988.

Published Superior Express Sept. 24, 1987

# Northern Kansas population decreases

Reprinted from the  
Hutchinson News  
By John Marshall  
Harris News Service

The most stunning population decline in two decades in Kansas is across the northern tier of 13 counties from Cheyenne through Doniphan. There, every county has suffered population losses of 10 to 36 percent since 1965. Combined population of these 13 counties in 1965 was 123,222; by 1986 it had dropped to 93,800.

Nearly 30,000 people have left the 13-county tier in 22 years, a 24 percent decline.

This is among the stories that evolve from numbers in a U.S. Census Bureau September report on the Kansas population, with comparisons to a 1954 census used by the Kansas Legislature for its historic reapportionment.

The Census Bureau estimates the Kansas population at 2:46 million on July 1, 1986, up about 100,000 since the census of 1980. Many population shifts since the 1980 census were not surprising. But a comparison of county populations in 1965 with the Bureau's latest estimates show startling Kansas developments over the 22-year period. Here are other developments after a look at blocks of contiguous counties, or regions, in the state:

Losses in the state's northern tier seem to swirl south through an eight-county block in north central Kansas. The combined populations here — Osborne, Mitchell, Cloud, Clay, Lincoln, Ottawa, Ellsworth and Rice — in 1965 were 76,773. The latest estimate for the region is 61,100. More than 15,600 people have gone, a 20 percent decline.

Compared with the

staggering population loss across the north and through north central Kansas, the declines in southeast Kansas are modest. The population in a 15-county block (Greenwood to Chautauqua, Cherokee to Linn to Coffey and in between) in 1965 was 251,750. The 1986 estimate, 234,300, is a 7 percent drop.

There is encouraging news in other parts.

For the core of southwest Kansas — 14 counties from Hamilton to Morton, Hodgeman to Clark and in between — the population in 1965 was 100,350 and the estimate for 1986 is 118,400. The biggest population gains in this region were in Finney (from 17,681 to 30,300) and Ford (21,500 to 26,300) counties. Smallish Kearny County, though, shows a 1 percent population gain from 3,277 to 3,900. In that region, five counties — Hamilton, Hodgeman, Morton, Meade and Clark — have a net population loss since 1965 but Morton and Hodgeman show population gains since 1980.

Population growth in northeast Kansas has been steady and awesome since 1965, especially in Johnson (up 141,000 to 318,300), Douglas (from 37,500 to 72,600) and Leavenworth (from 39,360 to 60,600). The combined population of a six-county block — adding Wyandotte, Shawnee and Jefferson — has increased from 608,161 in 1965 to 802,400 (up 32 percent).

The meaning of all this is not clear, but several notions surface:

1. We have heard little of the grinding population declines in north and north central Kansas, and nothing from the public or

private sector about what can be done about such losses in this otherwise fertile and beautiful part of the state.

2. By comparison, southeast Kansas population declines are a worry, but distress here has been publicized only in terms of highways. Is a look north a look at the future? Is the trouble all along U.S. 36, U.S. 81 and K-14 only one source of the general distress? Age is a factor; 15 Kansas counties have a median age of residents of at least 40 years, while the state average is 30. Of those 15 counties, 10 are in northern or southeast Kansas.

3. Southwest Kansas is on a population roll, but what kind?

Who is causing the population increase, how will the economy diversify to meet new demands and pressures? And what about the water supply?

4. Up northeast, numbers pile on the numbers. Builders are in a boom. The growth in all areas is incredible. Is there cash to back all the credit, and steady work for those without white collars?

Population numbers are not clues to everything, but the latest report does tell us that there may be more trouble where we haven't looked than where we thought we had it most.

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February 9, 1988

Representative Denise C. Apt, Chairman  
Committee on Education  
State Capitol Building  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Apt:

Representative Don E. Crumbaker was kind enough to send me a copy of proposed House Bill No. 2799. I have a particular interest in this proposed bill because of my representation of Joe and Connie Gillilan in a hearing held in 1987 before the Kansas State Board of Education. Mr. and Mrs. Gillilan are residents of Republic County, Kansas, and appealed a decision of the Board of Education of U.S.D. No. 427, Republic County, denying their application for their son to attend an out-of-state school for the reasons specified in K.S.A. 72-7202. In that appeal the hearing officer found the decision of the Board of Education of U.S.D. No. 427 denying the Gillilans' application to attend an out-of-state school to be unreasonable, arbitrary, and capricious. The Kansas State Board of Education subsequently adopted the findings of the hearing officer and approved Mr. and Mrs. Gillilan's request to send their son to school in Superior, Nebraska for the 1987-88 school year.

It is of particular concern to Mr. and Mrs. Gillilan and to me through my experience in this case that House Bill No. 2799, if passed, would repeal K.S.A. 72-7203 authorizing an appeal to the State Board of Education. Additionally, this bill also repeals K.S.A. 72-7202 which recites in detail objective standards for determination of when it would be best for a child to be allowed to attend school out of state at the expense of the sending school district.

I do not believe that there is anything which would support the necessity of repealing the existing statutes. House Bill No. 2799 grants too much discretion to the local Board of Education; does away with valid existing objective criteria and completely eliminates the right of a parent or a legal guardian to an impartial determination of the right of their child to attend school out of state. The procedure as now set forth is workable and reasonable and allows a hearing in an expedient fashion and without the necessity of court action.

If adopted, I believe House Bill No. 2799 would result in increased litigation as parents of affected children would have no other alternative since the appeal provisions of K.S.A. 72-7203 would be abolished.

MILLER & LUDWIG

Representative Denise C. Apt, Chairman

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February 9, 1988

I understand that this bill is to be considered on Thursday, February 18, 1988, and Mr. and Mrs. Gillilan have requested that I offer my comments. I am providing additional copies of this letter for dissemination to the committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours very truly,

MILLER AND LUDWIG



Darrell E. Miller

DEM:jm

Enclosures (25)

cc: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gillilan

Joe Gillilan  
Connie J. Gillilan  
Rt. 1, Box 65  
Hardy, NE 68943

### Cost of Education

Superior, Ne.	K-12	\$2,903.51	'86-87
Belleville, Mo	K-12	\$3,849.52	'86-87
USD 427's	state aid in	'86-87	\$1,428.52
USD 427's	budget authority in	'86-87	\$3,861.92

### Travel time

To Belleville (rides two buses)

1 hour and 25 minutes (one way) 2 hours 50 minutes (round trip)

510 hours = to 47% of 1,080 hours of education

To Superior (boards in Hardy, Ne. rides one bus)

25 minutes (one way) 50 minutes (round trip)

150 hours = to 14% of 1,080 hours of education

### Miles traveled

For 180 days

3,600 miles to Superior

10,800 miles to Belleville

For 13 years

140,000 miles to Belleville

46,800 miles to Superior

---

93,200 miles less by attending Superior

**Connie J. Gillilan**

Rt. 1, Box 65  
Hardy, NE 68943

For Joe and Connie Gillilan

- have a Nebraska address
- phone service from Nebraska
- the two states alternate every 3 miles for maintaining state line roads
- even tho we live in Kansas we cannot use any 800 toll free numbers into Kansas
- hold a Kansas drivers license with a Nebraska address
- REA from Kansas serves Nebraska people along the stateline
- when we pay personal taxes 1.5 mills goes back to the Hardy Rural Fire Dept.