Bearing little resemblance to the suburban “super store” of today, the well-stocked grocery of the turn of the past century was nevertheless a vital fixture in any well-appointed downtown commercial district. Junction City actually boasted several such general merchandise and grocery establishments along Washington Street, the city’s main business artery. Nearby stood banks, bakeries, barber shops, butcher shops, clothing stores, confectionary stores, hardware and implement dealers, furniture and undertaking business, hotels, and restaurants, as well as dentists, druggists, physicians, and much more in the city’s business core.

The above image was made by Joseph J. Pennell, a Junction City photographer who kept a studio at 701 North Washington, just north of the Latham Cash Grocery. According to James R. Shortridge, Our Town on the Plains: J. J. Pennell’s Photographs of Junction City, Kansas, 1893–1922 (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2000), G. A. Latham was one of the three or four traditional grocers who operated downtown. He opened an altogether modern grocery and fruit establishment when he opened in October 1901, but his venture closed after only two years. Shortridge speculated that Latham’s short Kansas tenure might have been connected to the “No Credit” sign at the back of the store. No merchant liked the bookkeeping and financial uncertainty associated with charge accounts, but the practice was an accepted part of retail life.

Kansas History will use this space in each of the next three issues during 2001 to look back one hundred years by featuring depictions of typical scenes from 1901.
CREATING A "SEA OF GALILEE":  
THE RESCUE OF CHEYENNE BOTTOMS WILDLIFE AREA, 1927–1930  
by Douglas S. Harvey  

THE PEOPLE'S RAILROAD:  
THE LEAVENWORTH & TOPEKA, 1918–1931  
by I. E. Quastler  

THE FIRST DECADE OF EDUCATIONAL GOVERNANCE IN KANSAS, 1855–1865  
by A. Kenneth Stern and Janelle L. Wagner  

BEFORE BLEEDING KANSAS:  
CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES, SLAVERY, AND THE SHAWNEE INDIANS IN PRE-TERRITORIAL KANSAS, 1844–1854  
by Kevin Abing  

REVIEWS  

BOOK NOTES