One seldom associates "Broadway" with Kansas, even though it is located in that other Manhattan (the "Big Apple," as opposed to the "Little Apple"), but the father of Damon Runyon, well-known journalist, author, and Hollywood screenwriter, built this house in Manhattan, Kansas, in 1880. Alfred Damon Runyon was born here on October 4, 1880, and lived in the modest, middle-class house until the family moved to Clay Center. Subsequently, they also lived briefly in Newton and Wellington, Kansas, and Pueblo, Colorado. As Damon Runyon (he dropped his given name and changed the spelling of his surname early in his profession), he launched his career in journalism while still in his mid-teens and is remembered for musicals such as Guys and Dolls and as the "father of Broadway." Throughout a highly successful career, much of his writing, although set in cosmopolitan New York, was infused with his, as well as his father's and grandfather's, Kansas and western experiences.

Alfred Lee Runyon, who with his wife, Libbie Damon, built the wood-frame, American Folk style house, moved to Manhattan with his father in 1855 aboard the steamship Hartford, and thus can be counted among the town's founders. By the late 1860s the younger Runyon had followed his father into the printers' trade and worked as a journalist in Manhattan and Junction City before co-founding in 1876 the Manhattan Enterprise, a predecessor of the city's present daily, the Manhattan Mercury.

The Runyon House, which was considered one of Manhattan's most interesting attractions at the time of Damon Runyon's death in 1946, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in December 2004, after narrowly escaping demolition just a few years before.
Volume 28  Winter 2005–2006  Number 4

TAXATION, SPENDING, AND BUDGETS: PUBLIC FINANCE IN KANSAS DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION
by Peter Fearon  230

"WE ALL HAD A CAUSE": KANSAS CITY'S BOMBER PLANT, 1941–1945
by Richard Macias  244

PORTRAITS OF THE PLAINS: THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF F. M. STEELE
by Jim Hoy and Catherine Hoy  262

URBAN HISTORY OF KANSAS
Review Essay
by William S. Worley  274

IN MEMORIAM  290

EDITOR'S NOTE  292

REVIEWS  293

BOOK NOTES  301

INDEX  302