Kansas History as Published in the Press

Heinnie Schmidt's column of southwest Kansas history, "It's Worth Repeating," has continued to appear regularly in The High Plains Journal, Dodge City. Included among subjects in recent months were: the part wells played in early settlement, January 24, 31, 1952; a review of Stanley Vestal's Queen of Cowtowns, Dodge City, February 21; a description of and quotes from a recently discovered promotion pamphlet issued in the middle 1880's, March 6, 13, 20, 27; the battle of Fort Coon, by Robert M. Wright, April 10, 17; the story of the Hinkle ranch, Clark county, by Fred Hinkle, April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; and Purdyville, Hodgeman county, by E. W. Harlan, June 5. A pamphlet containing 27 stories from "It's Worth Repeating," entitled Ashes of My Campfire, was recently published.


The Whitley Opera House, Emporia, was the subject of a column-length article entitled "When Emporia Was Young," which appeared
in the Emporia Gazette, April 15, 1952. Built in the early 1880’s, the opera house was the scene of many theatrical performances by famous stage personalities until it burned in 1913.

A one-column history of Antioch school, district No. 7, Marshall county, by F. W. Tebbut, was printed in the Frankfort Index, April 17, 1952. The first school in the area was a subscription one taught by a Mrs. Stoner. The district erected the first schoolhouse in 1866.

The struggle of Philip A. Emery in founding the State School for the Deaf at Olathe, was reviewed briefly in the Johnson County Democrat, Olathe, April 24, 1952. Emery opened the school late in 1861 with one pupil. A new building at the school has been named Emery Hall in his honor.


Articles of a historical nature appearing recently in the Arkansas City Daily Traveler included: “Arkansas City Once Served as Doorstep to ‘No Man’s Land,’” by Arthur J. Emahizer, April 26, 1952; “Arkansas City Once Was Known as Honest-to-Gosh Ferryland,” by Walter Hutchison, May 3, and “Oak Grove School’s History Reflects Growth of Arkansas City Area,” May 24.

Many of the historic and scenic points in Kansas are listed and pictured in the 48-page, May-June, 1952, issue of To the Stars, published by the Kansas Industrial Development Commission, Topeka. Designed as a tourist guide, the issue includes brief historical notes on many areas of Kansas.
The Topeka Daily Capital has published a historical feature by Margaret Whittemore each Sunday in recent months. A few of the articles were: “Last Covered Bridge [near Leavenworth] Dates Back to 1859,” May 4; “Grass Lodges First Residences in Kansas,” May 18; “Old Mission at Council Grove Honors Kaws,” May 25; “First College in Kansas—Baker University,” June 8, and “Fort Hays State College Is 50 Years Old,” June 22. On June 4, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower’s homecoming day, Miss Whittemore’s article entitled “Ike’s Home Attracts Tourists,” was printed.

Articles about historic sites in the Winfield vicinity printed in the Winfield Daily Courier, May 12, 1952, were: “Colorful Procession Haunts Scenic Tunnel Mill Vicinity,” by Charles O. Booth; “Winfield’s Main Street Follows Old Indian Trail,” and the Indian legend of Kickapoo Corral quoted from writings of Margaret Hill McCarter.

“Sketches of Pioneer Lore,” by Walter S. Keith, have appeared in recent issues of the Coffeyville Daily Journal. Included were notes on the Osage and other Indians May 12, 19, 1952.

A “See Kansas” series of illustrated articles on historic sites and historical collections of Kansas, by John Watson, have appeared in the Wichita Evening Eagle in recent months. Places discussed included: the museum of the Kansas State Historical Society, May 15, 1952; Council Grove, May 21, and Dyche Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence, June 19.

Some of the history of Baileyville and the near-by area by Mrs. Bert Hay, Holton, has been published in recent issues of The Courier-Tribune, Seneca, including May 22, 29, June 5, 12, 1952.

A historical account of five cemeteries near Oswego by Wayne A. O’Connell, was published in the Chetopa Advance, May 22, the Oswego Democrat, May 23, and the Oswego Independent, May 30, 1952. Included in the article were biographical information on Walt Mason, Kansas poet, and his comments on Oswego.

The Clay Center Dispatch, May 24, and the Clay Center Times, May 29, 1952, printed a list of over 40 “lost” towns and settlements of Clay county. A brief historical note with location was included for each community.

A 12-page 80th anniversary edition of the Baxter Springs Citizen was published May 29, 1952. Included in the issue were articles on the history of the Citizen and of Baxter Springs.