Kansas Historical Notes

The Wichita Historical Museum Association will present the “Cavalcade of Kansas,” a pageant which will factually depict the history of the state from Coronado’s visitation to the settlement of the state, on October 9, 10, and 11, 1953, at 2501 South Hillside in Wichita. Some 400 Kansans will take part in the historical event as cast members. The program is being written, directed, and produced entirely by the Wichita museum association under the direction of Owen C. McEwen, president, and chairman of the event.

The 78th annual meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society will be held in the rooms of the Society in the Memorial building at Topeka on October 20, 1953.

An essay contest for eighth grade students was recently sponsored by the Augusta Historical Society. The students were to write about the item they found most interesting in the society’s museum. The winner was Sandra Criss whose essay on the museum building, including its history, was published in the Augusta Daily Gazette, April 16, 1953. Stella B. Haines is president of the society.

The bell from the frigate Emporia has been mounted on a red granite pedestal in the Lyon County Historical Museum. It was presented to the city of Emporia several years ago by the late James Forrestal. Named for the city, the Emporia was a Coast Guard vessel in service during World War II.

The 27th annual meeting of the Kansas Association of Teachers of History and Related Fields was held at Washburn University, Topeka, April 17 and 18, 1953. Speakers and their subjects were: Oswald P. Backus, III, University of Kansas, “The Philosophy of History of Karl Jaspers as Presented in Concerning the Origin and the Goal of History”; Albert R. Parker, Wichita University, “Russo-American Relations Since the Stresa Conference”; Harley J. Stucky, Bethel College, “Russia’s Attitude on Disarmament”; Katherine F. Nutt, Fort Hays Kansas State College, “The Political Implications of Mexican Education Since the Revolution”; and Linwood L. Hogdon, Kansas State College, “Sociological Analysis of the 1951 Flood in Kansas.” Nyle H. Miller, Kansas State Historical Society, addressed the group at the luncheon session on “Kansas.” Officers elected at the meeting were: Charles Onion, Fort Hays Kansas State College, president; Verlin R. Easterling, Kansas State College, Manhattan, vice-president; and Miss Nutt, secretary-treasurer.
Elizabeth Cochran, Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg, was the retiring president.

C. M. Cooper, Pittsburg city engineer, spoke to the Crawford County Historical Society at a meeting in Pittsburg, April 29, 1953, on the surveys of the southeast Kansas boundaries. The southeast corner of the state was originally marked in 1857, according to Cooper. In 1915 Cooper was in charge of relocating the marker. L. E. Curfman is president of the historical society.

A marker has been placed by the Riley County Historical Association near the point where the old Fort Leavenworth-Fort Riley post road crossed the Blue river. On May 6, 1953, dedication ceremonies were held by the association, Dr. C. W. McCampbell, president.

A history of the Lindsborg community, by Emory K. Lindquist, until recently president of Bethany College, from the immigration of the Swedish pioneers to the Smoky valley in the middle and late 1860’s, through the development of the community to the present day, has been published in a 269-page book entitled Smoky Valley People (Rock Island, Ill., 1953).

Information on the route of the Santa Fe trail through the Kansas City area, with particular emphasis on its location in relation to present-day places, has been assembled by Dean Earl Wood and published in a 272-page book under the title The Old Santa Fe Trail From the Missouri River. Mr. Wood illustrated his work with several maps.

A description of school days in Kansas during the 1870’s and 1880’s is given in the reminiscences of the late Marshall A. Barber, internationally known scientist, published in an 84-page volume entitled The Schoolhouse at Prairie View (University of Kansas Press, 1953).

Two interesting pocket-size travel guides for Kansas were published recently. The first, Travel Kansas, No. 14 in a series of “Trip Guides,” lists 51 Kansas cities of especial interest to tourists, and gives historical information on each. The booklet was issued by the Helbert Travel Service. The second publication, See Kansas — Remember Kansas, features 24 Kansas views and paintings in color, with a descriptive sketch of each. This beautiful booklet, prepared by Milton A. Holmes, was sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Kansas. Copies of both booklets are available throughout the state.