Kansas History as Published in the Press

Included recently in Elizabeth Barnes' series, "Historic Johnson County," in the Johnson County Herald, Overland Park, were an article on the Lone Elm camping ground, April 14, 1955, and a history of the Merriam post office, June 2. The Lone Elm camping ground was an area on the Santa Fe trail southwest of Olathe where travelers often spent the night. During the summer histories of the following volunteer fire departments of Johnson county were featured: Lenexa, June 16, 1955; Lake Quivira, June 23; Shawnee, June 30; Mission No. 1, July 7; Merriam, July 14; and Mission No. 2, July 28.

A biographical sketch of Calvin W. Floyd, 82-year-old cattlemen and banker of Sedan, appeared in the April 17, 1955, issue of the Coffeyville Daily Journal. The old iron bridge that spanned the Neosho river near Oswego, built 69 years ago, was the subject of an article in the Journal, June 7.

A history of the Pony Express mail service, established in April, 1860, and a brief description of the Hollenberg Ranch Pony Express Station, near Hanover, were published in the Hanover News, April 18, 1955. This station is one of the historic sites now preserved by the state.

On April 21, 1895, the Canton Christian church was organized under the leadership of the Rev. P. H. Guy. In connection with the celebration of its 60th anniversary, the history of the church was printed in the Canton Pilot, April 21, 1955.

The Manhattan Mercury published a 100-page centennial edition April 27, 1955. Included were historical articles on the town, the surrounding community, Kansas State College, and other Manhattan institutions.

A 64-page centennial edition was published by the Junction City Union, April 29, 1955. Many articles on the events, persons and institutions that make up Junction City history were included. During the months of March, April and May, the Union published dozens of pictures illustrating the history of the city.

Mrs. Margaret Curry's part in guiding her son, John Steward Curry, toward success as an artist was the theme of "Portrait of a Mother," by Oren Arnold, in the Farm Journal, Philadelphia, May, 1955. Curry is probably best known for his murals in the state house and his painting "The Line Storm."
The story of Clay Center’s two Negro churches, by L. F. Valentine, was printed in the Clay Center Times, May 5, 1955. Methodist and Baptist Negro congregations thrived in Clay Center 70 to 50 years ago. Neither exist now.

A history of the post office at Park, Gove county, was printed in The Gove County Advocate, Quinter, May 19, 1955.

The Ness County News, Ness City, printed an article by Ellen Maguire on the history of Ness county, May 26, 1955. The News published the reminiscences of the late J. W. Topping, June 2, covering the period 1883-1888, when Topping was a Ness county rancher.

A 68-page centennial historical edition was published by the Iola Register, May 30, 1955. The publisher stated “that it contains a substantial amount of original research revealing facts and pictures never before published, and that it does represent a reasonably comprehensive summary of the highlights of Allen County’s 100-year history.” One section was devoted to Humboldt and also appeared as a part of the Humboldt Union’s centennial issue, May 26.

The Holton Recorder’s 26-page issue of June 9, 1955, included historical sections printed in observance of Holton’s centennial. Articles and pictures told the story of Holton’s history.

Horton history is included in a report by J. W. McManigal in the Horton Headlight, June 16, 1955, on a study of a photograph collection. The pictures are views of Horton in 1886 and 1887.

The life of Charles Alger, pioneer in the Douglass community, was reviewed in the Douglass Tribune, June 16, 1955. Alger came to Douglass in 1870 when he was two years old.

Bennett Cerf, publisher and columnist, took note in his syndicated column, “The Cerfboard,” recently, of the demise of the Dalton gang in Coffeyville, October 5, 1892. His story was published in the Coffeyville Daily Journal, June 16, 1955.


The early history of the Dow creek (Lyon county) community by John A. Scheel was printed in the Emporia Gazette, June 22, 1955, and the Weekly Gazette, June 30. Lorenzo Dow and R. H. Abraham were the first settlers, arriving in 1855. The history was read at the centennial celebration of the community’s pioneers and descendants, June 19, 1955.

“Battle of Indian Rock Played an Important Part in Salina’s History,” is the title of an article by Bob Chesky in the Salina Journal, June 26, 1955. The information was compiled by G. S. Ripley, assistant curator of the Saline County Historical Museum. Chesky states that this fight in 1857 was between the “blanket,” or more civilized, Indians to the east and the wilder Indians to the west. The “blanket” Indians were victorious.

Two articles about Mrs. Lalla Brigham were published in the Council Grove Republican, July 1, 1955: a biographical sketch by Mrs. R. R. Cross, and an autobiography entitled “My Story,” written in 1942. July 2 was “Lalla Brigham Day” in Council Grove, honoring her on her 88th birthday. Another story about Mrs. Brigham, by Ruby Osborn, was printed in the Pratt Daily Tribune, June 30. Mrs. Brigham came to Council Grove in 1871 when her father, John Maloy bought the Council Grove Democrat. She developed an interest in history early in life and became the leader in the Council Grove community in promoting historical monuments, celebrations, and observances. For years she served as the town’s historian, writing extensively about the history of Council Grove and the Santa Fe trail.

Newspapers taking note of the 100th anniversary of the initial meeting of the first Kansas territorial legislature, July 2-6, 1855, in a stone building in the town of Pawnee, included the Junction City Union, July 2, 1955, and the Manhattan Mercury, July 3, which published accounts of the meeting.

Dodge City history found a place in a recent issue of Western Mobile Home News, Long Beach. The article, written by Hal Sackett, was reprinted in the Dodge City Daily Globe, July 4, 1955.

A series of articles on Olathe churches by Bill Miller was published through the summer by the Johnson County Democrat, Olathe. Included were: Episcopal church, July 7, 1955; First Methodist church, July 21; Assembly of God, August 11; and Nazarene church, August 18.