

Kansas Historical Notes

Wichita's "Cowtown" project is growing. Improvements now include a church, jail, the Munger house, drugstore, Santa Fe depot, railroad handcar and boxcar, and schoolhouse. The church, jail, and Munger house are original buildings; the others replicas.

Mrs. E. G. Peterson was re-elected president of the Edwards County Historical Society at a meeting in Kinsley, May 13, 1957. Other officers chosen were: Lavina Trotter, first vice-president; Harry Offerle, second vice-president; Mrs. Leonard Miller, third vice-president; Mrs. Elsie Jenkins, secretary; Cecil Mathews, treasurer; and Mrs. Mary Vang and Mrs. Myrtle H. Richardson, historians.

Hartford celebrated its centennial May 17-19, 1957, with a talent show and a parade high-lighting the program. Mrs. A. S. Bernheisel was crowned queen of the centennial.

An organization to re-create early-day Abilene as a tourist attraction and business promotion, called Old Abilene Town Co., was formed May 20, 1957. Directors and officers were chosen. The officers are: Henry B. Jameson, president; William Guilfoyle, R. R. Biggs, Charles Krenger, C. A. Case, O. B. Landes, and G. E. Duckwall, vice-presidents; Don Steffes, secretary; and Charles Stapf, treasurer. Guilfoyle was named legal counsel for the corporation.

Jetmore celebrated its 75th anniversary May 30, 31, June 1, 1957, with picnics, square dances, a parade, a horse show, and a historical pageant portraying the history of the area. The pageant was written and directed by Judge Lorin T. Peters of Ness City.

On June 1, 1957, Americus observed its centennial with a program which included a parade, a dance, and the re-enactment of one of the important events in the town's history, the stealing of the county records from Americus by a group of Emporia men in 1860.

All officers of the Hodgeman County Historical Society were re-elected at a meeting in Jetmore, June 15, 1957. They included: L. W. Hubbell, president; Mrs. Leigh Newport, vice-president; Earl Harlan, secretary; and Mrs. C. W. Teed, treasurer.

Muscotah observed its 100th birthday June 21, 22, 1957, with a two-day celebration high-lighted by a parade and the honoring of the community's oldest citizens.

Hanover's annual "Days of '49" celebration was held July 22-24, 1957, commemorating, this year, the 100th anniversary of the building of the Hollenberg pony express station. The three-day program featured two parades.

Emporia's centennial celebration, featuring a parade and "The Emporia Centurama," a pageant telling the area's history, was held June 29-July 6, 1957.

Ellsworth's 90th-year celebration began August 13, 1957, with an old settlers' day, and extended through August 18 with parades, dances, a 4-H fair, rodeos, and other events.

All officers of the Chase County Historical Society were re-elected at the annual meeting of the society in Cottonwood Falls, September 7, 1957. They include: Paul B. Wood, president; Henry Rogler, vice-president; Clint A. Baldwin, secretary; George T. Dawson, treasurer; and Mrs. Ruth Conner, chief historian.

J. Wallace Higgins, III, is author of a recently issued, 43-page booklet entitled *The Orient Road—A History of the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railroad*. The booklet is a reprint from *Bulletin 95, Railway and Locomotive Historical Society*, Boston, October, 1956.

Biographical sketches of Abner Yates, Swan Johnson, John George Hilbert, Peter Knott, and other Woodson county men, and some of the history of Yates Center, are included in a recently published 59-page booklet by Fannie Johnson Landes entitled *Silent Men*.

Campbell Brothers Great Consolidated Shows—The Story of the Second Largest Circus in the World, a 24-page booklet by Levi Bloyd was published in 1957. The Campbell brothers were Kansas pioneers, the family settling at Haddam in 1878.

The First One Hundred Years—a History of the City of Hartford, Kansas, 1857-1957 is the title of a 26-page pamphlet published as a part of Hartford's centennial celebration, May 17-19, 1957. A centennial edition of the Hartford High School alumni directory was also published which included histories of the town and high school.

Americus' history is summarized in a 32-page pamphlet entitled *Americus Centennial—Yesterday and Today*, issued as a part of the town's centennial observance, June 1, 1957.

Muscotah published a 41-page souvenir booklet in connection with its centennial celebration, June 21, 22, 1957. The booklet is largely made up of biographical sketches of residents and former residents of the Muscotah area.

Olathe published a 55-page historical album entitled *Olathe, "The City Beautiful,"* as a souvenir of the town's centennial observance, September 1-7, 1957.

De Soto, Kansas Is 100 Years Old, 1857-1957 was the title of a 64-page recently published history of De Soto by Dot Ashlock-Longstreth, commemorating the completion of the town's first century.

Topeka—Guide to the Capital City of Kansas is the title of a 32-page pamphlet giving historical facts and other information about Topeka. It was published recently by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

A new one-volume 417-page, general history of Kansas, bearing the title *Kansas—A History of the Jayhawk State*, by William E. Zornow, was published in August, 1957, by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. The author states that the book "is intended merely as a general survey which traces some of the pertinent developments in the political, economic, social, and intellectual life of Kansas."

Kansas Monks is the title of a 362-page book by Peter Beckman, O. S. B., published in 1957 by the Abbey Student Press, Atchison. The work is a history of St. Benedict's Abbey which was founded in 1857.

The American Heritage Book of Great Historic Places is a 376-page, highly-illustrated volume published recently by the American Heritage Publishing Co. The book tells the stories behind many of the most significant of America's historic places. A 28-page section is devoted to the Great Plains, including Kansas.

In 1905 Thomas Henry Tibbles wrote the story of his life, including his experiences many years before while living, hunting, fighting with the Indians of the Plains. Recently this manuscript has been edited and published by Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N. Y., in a 336-page volume entitled *Buckskin and Blanket Days*.

In connection with cases before the Indian Claims Commission, appraisals of certain Indian lands in Kansas have been made in the

last few years by William G. Murray. His detailed reports contain much historical information, particularly relating to physical features of the tracts, land markets, and population movements. The appraisals include: Pottawatomie tracts in Iowa and Kansas, 1846; Miami tract in Kansas, 1854; and Shawnee tract in Kansas, 1854. Copies of the reports, in booklet form, were recently presented to the State Historical Society.

