Bypaths of Kansas History

Traffic Problems in Manhattan

From the Manhattan Express, December 24, 1859.

One of the greatest nuisances with which a town was ever cursed, is the habit people from the country have of leaving their teams standing on the crossing of streets, and any person of common sense will at once see the inconvenience to which pedestrians are subjected, and refrain from doing so. [See photograph between pp. 8, 9.]

Guilt by Association?

From the Emporia News, September 8, 1860.

Sam. Wood, of the Council Grove Press, has two very nice Suffolk pigs, which, judging from his looks, he eats with, drinks with and sleeps with. He took us to see them when we were at the Grove lately, thinking, we presume, that we would give him and his pigs an editorial notice. Out of respect for the pigs we didn't do it, as they undoubtedly would hate to have folks know that they associate with Sam.

Garbage Disposal in Dodge City?

From the Dodge City Times, July 27, 1878.

The practice of throwing rotten onions, potatoes, cabbage, turnips and sometimes eggs, is becoming a very popular amusement for the gentlemen of leisure who rusticate on the benches, boxes and kegs along the principal thoroughfare. It is better than a monkey show to see an unsuspecting pedestrian struck between the eyes with a rotten potato.

An Early-Day Flying Saucer?

From the Ottawa Weekly Herald, April 8, 1897.

The Air Ship Malady Breaks Out Here—Several Saw It Thursday Night.

The mysterious light which has created so many startling stories of its appearance over many cities and towns of the state of Kansas within the past two weeks, is reported to have been visible in the heavens to the westward of Ottawa that night and a large number of residents witnessed its mysterious passage. They state that at about dusk a bright light about the size of a street electric light appeared in the southwest and moved slowly in a wavy line across the heavens to the northwest where it gradually grew fainter and fainter in brilliancy until it disappeared from view. The same light was seen last night by many people of Kansas City and is perhaps the same light that hovered over Topeka a few days ago.