

Kansas Historical Notes

The annual meeting of the Decatur County Historical Society was held in Oberlin, June 1, 1961. Marvin Meyer and Bill Warren were elected to the board of directors. The following officers were elected by the board: Ward Claar, president; Ira Laidig and Ralph Brown, vice-presidents; LaVerne Ploussard, secretary-treasurer; and Jay Paddock, chairman of the board.

A new Fort Wallace museum building on Highway 40 east of Wallace, was dedicated June 3, 1961. The program included a re-enactment of a stage coach run on the Butterfield trail, a parade, and the dedicatory address by Edward M. Beougher.

Paul Gibler, Claflin, was named president of the Barton County Historical Society at the society's annual meeting, June 6, 1961, in Great Bend. Other officers elected were: Leon McKinney, Great Bend, first vice-president; Mrs. Floyd Rich, Hoisington, second vice-president; Louis Ernsting, Ellinwood, third vice-president; Mrs. Ernest Grosshardt, Claflin, secretary; Mrs. Alex Casey, Claflin, treasurer; Mrs. Percy Converse, Pawnee Rock, corresponding secretary; H. Martin Glenn, Ellinwood, publicity director; Mrs. David T. Loy, Great Bend, co-ordinator; and Mrs. William Wells, Great Bend, historian. Ray S. Schulz, Great Bend, was the retiring president.

L. A. Powell was re-elected president of the Marion County Historical Society at a meeting of the society's board of directors in Marion, June 9, 1961. Also re-elected were Al Riffel, vice-president, and Mrs. O. J. Shields, secretary-treasurer.

On June 11, 1961, the Safari museum, Chanute, was opened to the public. A memorial to the work of Osa and Martin Johnson, explorers, authors, and photographers, the museum was made possible by contributions of a building, funds, and labor.

The Peabody Historical Society was organized June 12, 1961. Ross Baker was elected president; Mrs. S. H. Bennett, vice-president; and M. W. Mason, secretary-treasurer. Named to the board of directors in addition to the three officers were: Dr. D. M. Greene, Ernest Holler, Hartman Baker, Mrs. N. H. Poe, Mrs. Ted Craig, and Grace Roberts.

Clarence Winger was chosen president of the Stanton County Historical Society at a meeting of the directors June 17, 1961. Lewis Gum was elected vice-president, and Bernice Trostle secretary. Roger Jones was the retiring president.

Dedication ceremonies were held July 4, 1961, for the El Quarteje Kiva Indian Museum near Scott City. A kiva was "a circular, semi-underground structure for the performance of rites," used by the Pueblo Indians. Congressman Robert Dole gave the dedicatory address. The museum is a project of the Scott County Historical Society.

Officers elected by the Barber County Historical Society at a meeting in Medicine Lodge, July 15, 1961, were: Alice MacGregor, president; D. C. Chads, first vice-president; Alice Rankin, second vice-president; R. T. Ishmael, third vice-president; I. N. Hewitt, co-ordinator; Mabel McGuire, secretary; H. E. Nixon, treasurer; Jack Fisher, publicity; and Marjorie Stranathan, historian. Allan Hibbard was the retiring president.

Jack Porter was named president of the Stevens County Gas and Historical Museum at an organizational meeting in Hugoton, July 17, 1961. Other officers chosen included: Bob Schroeder, vice-president; Kate Morgan, secretary; and Harding Nix, treasurer. The museum was opened May 16, 1961.

A circus museum in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ned Aitchison, Columbus, was dedicated August 3, 1961. The museum area has been designated the Merle Evans rooms in honor of the Ringling Brothers, Barnum, and Bailey Circus bandmaster, who is a native of Columbus.

A 30-page mimeographed pamphlet containing local and family history of the Munden area was recently issued under the title *Munden Centennial*.

In its 1961 edition of the *Great Bend City Directory*, the R. L. Polk Co., Kansas City, Mo., planned a pictorial history of the city. A reprint of this history was made available for distribution during Great Bend's centennial celebration in May, 1961.

The History of Sheridan County, a ten-page pamphlet by Mrs. Pearl Toothaker, was published in June, 1961.

In connection with Meade county's celebration of its 75th year and the Kansas centennial, June 7-10, 1961, a 40-page booklet of articles on the history of the county was published.

In commemoration of Lane county's 75th anniversary the Dighton *Herald* recently published a 64-page booklet devoted to the history of the county.

A 96-page historical booklet, sponsored by the Leavenworth branch of the American Association of University Women, was published as a part of Leavenworth's observance of the Kansas centennial.

Historical sketches of points along the Santa Fe trail are included in a booklet consisting of 46 pages and a fold-out map, entitled *Take a Santa Fe Trail Trip*, published recently under the supervision of Mrs. Grace Collier of Great Bend.

1861—The Doctor—1961 is the title of a newly-published 32-page pictorial history of medicine in Kansas planned and edited by two 1961 graduates of the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Dr. John B. Runnels and Dr. George F. Sheldon. Included are pictures and biographical sketches of many physicians prominent in Kansas history.

History of Milford, Kansas, 1855-1961 is a 76-page pamphlet printed by the Republic Printing Co., Junction City, early in 1961.

The American Association for State and Local History, 816 State Street, Madison 6, Wis., recently published a *Directory of Historical Societies and Agencies in the United States and Canada, 1961*. The information in the 111-page volume was compiled by Clement M. Silvestro and Sally Ann Davis.

Reflections of Franklin County and Chautauqua Days, a 56-page brochure, was published by the Franklin County Chautauqua Day celebration committee and sponsored by the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce as a part of the Chautauqua days celebration, April 29-May 6, 1961. The booklet features historical sketches of Franklin county towns.

The Pony Express Rides On, a 163-page history compiled by the late Mabel Loving, was published in 1961 by the Robidoux Printing Co., St. Joseph, Mo.

Early Midwest Aviation History, an 85-page volume by Earl C. Reed, was published at Kansas City, Mo., in 1960. The book includes pictures of many of the aircraft that made aviation history.

Charles Rath, Indian trader, merchant, buffalo hunter, organizer of towns and trading posts, and trail maker, was the subject of a

204-page biography by Ida Ellen Rath, entitled *The Rath Trail*, published by McCormick-Armstrong Co., Wichita, in February, 1961.

Eugene D. Decker is the author of *A Selected, Annotated Bibliography of Sources in the Kansas State Historical Society Pertaining to Kansas in the Civil War*, published as the June, 1961, number of *The Emporia State Research Studies*, Emporia. Mr. Decker is a member of the staff of the Kansas State Historical Society.

David Rice Atchison of Missouri—Border Politician, by William E. Parrish, is a 271-page biography published in the current year by the University of Missouri Press, Columbia. The Missouri soldier, senator, and judge was a Proslavery leader in the struggle over slavery in the Kansas territorial period.

Frontier Book Co., Ruidoso, N. M., published a 191-page volume by Ed Bartholomew entitled *Western Hard-Cases or Gunfighters Named Smith* in 1960. Biographical sketches of more than 80 Western characters by the name of Smith comprise the book.

A 383-page book by Leon Wolff, *Little Brown Brother*, an account of the intervention of the United States in the Philippine Islands during the Spanish-American War and the Philippine insurrection, was recently published by Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N. Y. Of special interest to Kansans is Wolff's story of the capture of the Filipino leader, Aguinaldo, by Gen. Fred Funston, which greatly hastened the termination of the conflict.

Stanley W. Zamonski and Teddy Keller are authors of a 281-page work entitled *The Fifty-niners: A Denver Diary*, published in 1961 by Alan Swallow, Denver. The book is a detailed account of Auraria and Denver City history, 1858 to late 1861.

A new 200-page biographical work by F. Stanley is *Dave Ruda-baugh—Border Ruffian*, printed by the World Press, Inc., Denver.

Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, recently published a 301-page volume of history and folklore of the Plains from the writings of George Bird Grinnell, entitled *Pawnee, Blackfoot and Cheyenne*. The material was selected by Dee Brown who is also author of the introduction.

Rebellion in Missouri: 1861, the story of Gen. Nathaniel Lyon and his army of the West, by Hans Christian Adamson, is a new 305-page work published by the Chilton Co., Philadelphia and New York.

Cowtown—Abilene, the Story of Abilene, Kansas, 1867-1875, by Stewart P. Verckler, is a 76-page volume published in 1961 by the Carlton Press, New York.

"Selected works of quality and vitality by Kansas writers" have been included in a 173-page volume called *Kansas Renaissance*, edited by Warren Kliever and Stanley J. Solomon, with an introduction by Allen Crafton, and published by Coronado Publications, Lindsborg, in 1961.

A 450-page biography of the late Sen. William E. Borah, by Marian C. McKenna, entitled *Borah*, was recently published by the University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor. Borah lived in Kansas, 1885-1890. He attended the University of Kansas and practiced law at Lyons.

Abilene and some of its famous sons and daughters are the subjects of a new 203-page book by Henry B. Jameson entitled *Heroes by the Dozen*, printed by Shadinger-Wilson Printers, Inc., Abilene, and Myers, Inc., Topeka.

Frisco Folks, stories and pictures of the steam days of the St. Louis and San Francisco railway, by William E. Bain, was recently published in a 272-page volume by Sage Books, Denver.

John Kagi and John Brown is a 137-page volume by John W. Wayland, published by Shenandoah Publishing House, Inc., Strasburg, Va., in 1961. It is a biography of Kagi who was sometimes called John Brown's secretary of war.