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could afford to ship their cattle for sale, the prices they received barely paid for the cost of shipment.²² Consequently, the AAA began purchasing drought-stricken cattle to bring relief to cattle producers.

Cattle were bought only in counties designated for emergency drought relief by the United States Department of Agriculture. Dean Harry Umberger served in Kansas as the representative of the Federal Drought Relief Service and upon his recommendation counties were given either emergency or secondary ratings. In June the first Kansas counties with an emergency rating were designated.²³

In July the drought took its heaviest toll on the 1,819,549 cattle on farms and ranches in Kansas.²⁴ On July 14 Governor Landon wired E. W. Sheets, Federal Drought Relief director, that the shortage of water had created a need for emergency relief in 42 Kansas counties.²⁵ As the sun continued to bear down and temperatures soared to record heights, a gigantic movement of cattle, which often resembled the cattle drives of frontier days, was underway. By the middle of August most Kansas farmers were left with only burned pastures and dried up water holes and the entire state had been declared an emergency drought area.²⁶ By December 31, as the cattle purchase program neared completion, 522,297 cattle had been purchased on 44,676 farms and ranches; 497,384 had been paid for, bringing a revenue of \$7,187,384 to Kansas in 1934.²⁷

After purchase the cattle were delivered to field agents of the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation who in turn shipped the cattle to be fattened or slaughtered. Many cattle, however, were unfit for human consumption and were immediately slaughtered and buried on the farms and ranches where they had been purchased.²⁸ With the special permission of the FERA, canning plants were established in Kansas to handle the excess cattle that piled up before they could be shipped for slaughter in other states. The first canning plant in Kansas was opened at Parsons on August 1, and by the end of September additional plants were in operation at Kansas City, Wichita, Topeka, Leavenworth, Hutchinson, Coffeyville, Indepen-

22. *Ibid.*, p. 20.

23. *Topeka Daily Capital*, June 1, 1934; *Public Welfare Service in Kansas, 1934*, KERC Bulletin No. 289 (Topeka, The Kansas Emergency Relief Committee, 1934), p. 762.

24. AAA Report 1934, p. 31.

25. "Landon Correspondence," press release of the Agricultural Extension Service, July 11, 1934; KERC Bulletin 289, pp. 762-763.

26. *Topeka Daily Capital*, August 16, 1934.

27. AAA Report 1934, p. 31.

28. KERC Bulletin 289, p. 762.

FEDERAL DROUGHT RELIEF ACTIVITIES

409

dence, and Chanute.²⁹ During the busiest period of operation, using labor from relief rolls, the plants operated 24 hours a day six days a week.³⁰ The canned meat was distributed to relief clients by the FERA. In addition, fresh beef was distributed directly from the slaughtering houses to relief clients.³¹

While cattle producers had been aided by the government almost from the beginning of the drought, sheep and goat owners were not given any assistance until the middle of August when the AAA began purchasing sheep and goats in the drought areas. There were only 392,082 sheep in Kansas in 1934 and the industry was not of vital importance to the state's economy.³² The purchase of sheep and goats began in Kansas on October 6 and was completed by the middle of November. A total of 9,677 sheep were purchased in 32 counties and were sent directly to the FSRC for disposition.³³

The cattle purchase and canning programs may well be considered a success. Harry Hopkins later observed, "The drought Cattle Program was a severe test of the machinery we had set up for the quick movement of goods from places where they were unwanted to where they would do the most good."³⁴ The drought machinery in Kansas did operate quickly and efficiently and saved many cattle producers from complete economic ruin. By the end of the year cattle prices had increased sharply on the market and future prospects for the cattle industry brightened proportionately. The quality of herds in Kansas were also greatly improved as a result of the reduction program. The drought served as a culling process because little monetary difference was paid by the government for quality or poor stock, and farmers naturally sold their worst cattle to the government. In several counties it is true that stocks were badly depleted as a result of the drought, but without the program many cattle would have perished on the range and valuable meat supplies would have been wasted.³⁵

While the cattle purchase program was the major activity of the AAA, extensive measures were also taken to help farmers feed their livestock until they could be purchased by the government or, if the cattle producers did not wish to sell their cattle, to help them

29. *Ibid.*, pp. 761, 768.

30. *Ibid.*, p. 769.

31. *Ibid.*, pp. 761, 769; AAA Report 1934, p. 28.

32. *Twenty-Ninth Biennial Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1933-1934* (Topeka, State Printing Plant, 1935), p. 504.

33. KERC Bulletin 289, p. 765; AAA Report 1934, p. 33.

34. Harry Hopkins, *Spending to Save: The Complete Story of Relief* (New York, W. W. Norton and Company, Inc., 1936), p. 157.

35. KERC Bulletin 289, p. 761.



find feed to carry their stock through the summer and winter. As feed became scarce in the drought areas, the AAA made modifications in the crop adjustment contracts to enable farmers to grow forage crops on the idle land.³⁶

Governor Landon also contributed to the search for solutions to the feed problem. He appealed to Secretary Wallace to allow farmers to use the acreage reserve at Ft. Riley to feed their livestock. He estimated that 10,000 cattle could be saved if farmers were allowed to use this pasturage.³⁷ This request was denied, however, when the adjutant at the military reservation stated that the land was needed to pasture the army's livestock and for military maneuvers.³⁸

Landon also moved to curb the activities of feed speculators who took advantage of the drought conditions. On August 5 he protested against the excessive cost of feed and the exploitation of farmers to Fred Howe, director of the Consumer's Council in Washington.³⁹ Even where adequate feed supplies existed, many farmers in Kansas were still in distress because high prices prohibited them from purchasing the supplies which were available. Senator Capper joined with Landon to castigate the feed profiteer as ". . . greater pirate than Captain Kidd, for Captain Kidd risked his life and neck for his crimes."⁴⁰ When officials in Washington failed to respond to the crisis, Landon wired Secretary Wallace that if something were not done soon on the national level a nonprofit organization would be established in Kansas to locate and purchase feeds to insure farmers an adequate feed supply.⁴¹

While Landon was placing pressure on federal officials, the Roosevelt administration reacted by creating a livestock feed committee to coordinate the activities of various governmental agencies concerned with the feed shortage.⁴² By September a systematic plan to promote the conservation and efficient usage of feed supplies was inaugurated in Washington. Agricultural Adjustment Administration officials went into the field to make a complete survey of available feed supplies and of the needs of the various

36. AAA Report 1934, pp. 25, 35, 93.

37. "Landon Correspondence," Landon to Secretary Wallace, July 21, 1934.

38. *Ibid.*, communication from Fort Leavenworth, August 1, 1934.

39. *Ibid.*, Landon to Fred Howe, August 6, 1934.

40. *Capper's Weekly*, Topeka, August 18, 1934.

41. *Topeka Daily Capital*, August 15, 1934.

42. *New York Times*, August 18, 1934; "Press Conference No. 135," August 15, 1934, p. 2; "Roosevelt Papers," FDRL, "OF 987," Rexford Tugwell to Louis Howe, August 23, 1934; *ibid.*, Calvin B. Hoover, executive secretary, President's Drought Relief Committee and chairman of the Livestock Feed Committee, to Roosevelt, August 23, 1934.

FEDERAL DROUGHT RELIEF ACTIVITIES

411

states in the drought area.⁴³ On December 4, after the survey was completed, a clearing house of information was established with headquarters in Kansas City, Mo. Drought counties were advised to consolidate their needs and then to notify the office in Kansas City. Areas which had a surplus of feed were also requested to notify the office if they wished to sell feed, or if they had pasture lands which could be rented to farmers whose pastures had burned brown. The agency issued a weekly bulletin of the information it had gathered and greatly facilitated the shipments of feed to and from the drought areas.⁴⁴

With the shortage of feed supplies in the United States, the federal government also made plans to import feeds from Canada. On August 10 President Roosevelt, after completing a transcontinental trip across the drought area, signed a proclamation waiving the import duty on Canadian hay and other forages.⁴⁵ Most of the grain imported from Canada was frost damaged wheat. Although no wheat was imported for human consumption, the United States for the time being had virtually surrendered the international wheat market.⁴⁶

The efforts of the government to locate and redistribute feed supplies, coupled with the shipments of cattle to and from the drought areas, resulted in heavy railroad traffic. Consequently, extensive efforts were made on both the state and federal level to obtain a reduction in freight rates in the drought area. An interdepartmental committee on transportation was created in Washington to coordinate the activities of the various states and governmental agencies concerned with freight rates.⁴⁷ Governor Landon was also in constant communication with the railroads in an attempt to obtain rate reductions. On June 2 Landon received word that rates had been voluntarily reduced by two thirds on feed, 50 percent on hay, and 85 percent on cattle shipments from the drought area, with the privilege of returning the cattle to their home pastures at a later date for 15 percent of the normal rate.⁴⁸ With minor modifications the revised rates remained in effect until the spring of 1935.

The efforts of the United States, in cooperation with state and

43. *Topeka Daily Capital*, September 4, 1934.

44. *AAA Report 1934*, p. 38.

45. *Topeka Daily Capital*, August 19, 1934; *New York Times*, August 19, 1934.

46. *AAA Report 1934*, p. 39.

47. *Forty-Eighth Annual Report of the Interstate Commerce Commission, December 1, 1934*, p. 8.

48. *Topeka Daily Capital*, June 3, 1934; "Landon Correspondence," Landon to Clyde B. Aitchison, August 28, 1934; "Roosevelt Papers," memorandum for the acting secretary of agriculture from the President's Drought Relief Committee, August 30, 1934.



private agencies, to soften the damaging blows of the drought for livestock owners had led to diverse activities by many federal agencies. Although suffering and economic ruin still resulted in many instances, the national government had played a vital role in minimizing the hardships that the rural community experienced. It is now necessary to consider other drought relief activities of the federal government which played an important part in helping farmers in Kansas and other parts of the nation to survive the caprices of nature in 1934.

The Federal Emergency Relief Administration, which had been established in May, 1933, for the purpose of making grants to the states for direct relief and work projects, provided important aid to drought-stricken farmers in 1934. During the first four months of 1934 Harry Hopkins, director of the FERA, received numerous requests for additional federal funds from states within the drought area. On May 19 he responded by promising that federal expenditures for direct relief and for work projects would be increased to \$6 million per month until the drought was broken.⁴⁹ The works program, which was to begin immediately in those areas already designated for emergency drought relief, was to be carried out under the supervision of state and local relief administrations. Direct relief grants from the FERA were to be handled as usual by the various state emergency relief administrations.⁵⁰

Under the proposed works program Kansas, which had already been granted \$100,000 for drought relief in May, was given an additional \$200,000 on June 2 to improve its water supply, to conserve food, and to employ needy farmers on road work.⁵¹ Although the Kansas Emergency Relief Committee was to investigate the proposed projects through its work supervisors, federal authorities in Washington had to be consulted for approval before work could actually begin on the projects. Nationally the works program had already placed 50,000 men to work by June 5 and officials estimated that within another week 150,000 men would be employed on the projects. Additional allotments totaling \$2,200,000 were announced on the same date for eight states; Kansas received another \$200,000, bringing the total drought grants since June 1 to \$400,000. The allotment was intended to place 8,500 Kansas men to work immediately

49. New York Times, May 19, 1934.

50. Doris Carothers, *Chronology of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration May 12, 1933, to December 31, 1935*, WPA, Division of Social Research, Research Monograph VI (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1936), p. 57.

51. Topeka Daily Capital, June 3, 1934.



on drought relief projects.⁵² Governor Landon indicated that most of the funds would be used for road work, but that some funds might be available for water conservation projects as well.⁵³

As the drought continued to worsen, Kansas farmers appealed with increasing frequency to their state legislators for drought funds to increase or to conserve the rapidly declining water supply. On June 9 the *Topeka Daily Capital* reported that a delegation from Jewell county, headed by State Rep. J. R. White, had asked for funds to drill new wells in their county.⁵⁴ The next day Senator Capper, after receiving a similar request from the Northwest Kansas Conservation Association, appealed to Hopkins for more funds to construct lakes and ponds in Kansas.⁵⁵ On June 13 Hopkins granted an additional \$200,000 to Kansas for drought relief.⁵⁶

With more drought relief funds becoming available Governor Landon called a conference with state officials for June 16 to discuss in greater detail the most efficient and constructive means of utilizing the newly acquired funds. Discussion centered around the construction of garden ponds, farm ponds, the creation of lakes of 100 to 400 acres in surface, storage reservoirs, and low water dams on running streams. The total cost of the program was to be an estimated \$157,700,000 with \$70,300,000 going for labor and \$87,400,000 for other costs.⁵⁷ While state officials were mapping out their plans, federal officials were also in the field making plans for the use of the federal funds.

Julius Stone, representing Hopkins, visited Kansas and proposed a plan which was very similar in content to that of Landon and his advisors. Stone emphasized that the use of the funds should have long-range objectives and should include the construction of more farm and garden ponds, the conservation of water, and the retirement of submarginal lands. In his appraisal Stone was assisted by the KERC, county commissioners, and case workers who made exhaustive checks of individual needs in the drought area.⁵⁸ In nine southwestern counties alone, 1,502 families were reported to be on relief. Stone urged that the drought be approached rationally

52. *New York Times*, June 5, 1934; *Topeka Daily Capital*, June 5, 1934.

53. *Topeka Daily Capital*, June 6, 1934.

54. *Ibid.*, June 9, 1934.

55. *Topeka Daily Capital*, June 10, 1934.

56. "Landon Correspondence," Harry Hopkins to Landon, June 13, 1934.

57. *Ibid.*, drought conference, June 16, 1934.

58. *Topeka Daily Capital*, June 17, 1934; see, also, "Roosevelt Papers," FDRL, "OF 987," statement on the drought relief activities of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, July 28, 1934.

and was appalled to find many localities hysterically appealing for additional funds.⁵⁹

After the surveys were completed, Hopkins sent a federal engineer to Kansas to evaluate the water and soil conservation programs proposed by Landon and Stone. In Washington Senator Capper talked directly with Hopkins about the programs. The *Topeka Daily Capital* reported that in the conference Capper had been one of the few men ever to hear the free spending Hopkins say, "But that is a lot of money." However, Capper related that Hopkins was very much interested in the outlined program and would give it additional thought.⁶⁰ On June 28, \$950,000 was granted to Kansas for drought relief by the FERA and Stutz announced the proposed works program was virtually assured of approval. He also anticipated that Kansas would probably receive at least \$500,000 per month for lake and pond construction projects until the drought was broken.⁶¹

As the drought continued to increase in severity federal and state authorities began to receive more requests for financial assistance. S. J. Willits of Rolla wrote Landon that the drought was one of the greatest downfalls for him as an oldtimer and asked Landon to ". . . please do something to help us drought-stricken people for we are in great need."⁶² Similar requests were received from other farmers and on July 13 KERC Director Stutz announced that within a few days he would be in a position to begin approving work projects throughout the state.⁶³ In a radio speech on the same date, Senator Capper said he had been doing everything in his power in Washington to put over the water conservation program, adding that it ". . . will be one of the most constructive things devised for the benefit of the state." He continued that the program would bring not only immediate relief, but might also change the climate and would certainly help in controlling future floods and droughts.⁶⁴ On July 21 Landon received another grant from the acting administrator of the FERA, Aubrey Williams, for \$1,000,000 to begin the drought relief program.⁶⁵ Detailed plans were then formulated to put the available funds into use.

59. "Landon Correspondence," "Special Report on Nine Drought Stricken Counties in Southwestern Kansas as of June 21, 1934"; *Topeka Daily Capital*, June 16-17, 1934.

60. *Ibid.*, June 27, 1934.

61. "Landon Correspondence," Harry Hopkins to Landon, June 28, 1934; *Liberal News*, June 29, 1934; *Topeka Daily Capital*, June 28, 1934.

62. "Landon Correspondence," S. J. Willits to Landon, July 4, 1934.

63. *Topeka Daily Capital*, July 13, 1934.

64. *Capper's Weekly*, Topeka, July 21, 1934.

65. "Landon Correspondence," Aubrey Williams to Landon, July 21, 1934.



By the end of July 101 of the 105 Kansas counties had requested funds for the construction of dams and ponds totaling \$10,000,000. With the enthusiastic response of the farm community, representatives of the FERA acted quickly to implement the works program. Stutz was praised by Hopkins for his work and said it had not been surpassed in any state and was far ahead of most states in efficiency and economy of operation.⁶⁶ The funds for the works program and for the direct relief of drought-stricken areas continued to come in rapidly and on July 26 Aubrey Williams announced that another \$1,000,000 had been granted to Kansas.⁶⁷

Although the original plans had called for the construction of a number of large lakes, on July 28 Stutz announced that few, if any, state, county, or city lakes would be completed under the water conservation program.⁶⁸ One factor in the decision was the time element since all projects were to be completed by March 1, 1935. Even on the smaller lakes and wells actual construction had begun on only a limited number, although numerous farmers were anxiously waiting for funds so they could begin work. Governor Landon protested to Hopkins that the red tape of the FERA was slowing down the program and complained of the excessive federal administrative costs.⁶⁹ Although the administrative slowdown was at times burdensome, most Kansans waited patiently for the promised federal funds. By the beginning of August a number of wells were under construction, but no work had started on farm ponds. Federal officials indicated that the construction of ponds would be the next phase in the drought-relief program.⁷⁰

One reason for the slowness of the works program was the rapid expansion of the drought throughout the nation. Understaffed federal agencies were poorly equipped to handle the increased administrative load which resulted when demands for immediate assistance began pouring in from all parts of the nation. By early August more than 60 percent of the United States had been affected, with damage estimated by Lawrence Westbrook at \$5,500,000,000, one half the total cost of the First World War. Even so, of the \$68 million that had been allotted to the FERA from the \$525 million congressional drought-relief appropriation on June 23, only \$34,916,571 had been spent by August 9.⁷¹

66. *Topeka Daily Capital*, July 27, 1934.

67. *Ibid.*, July 27, 1934.

68. *Ibid.*, July 28, 1934.

69. "Landon Correspondence," Landon to Harry Hopkins, July 31, 1934.

70. *Topeka Daily Capital*, August 5, 1934.

71. *New York Times*, August 7, 9, 1934.

At the same time Kansas farmers, who were watching their families grow hungry and their cattle die from lack of water, repeatedly pleaded for federal assistance. On August 12 Mike Diskin, owner of a stock farm of 160 acres five miles east of Greenbush, reported that "for the first time since I can remember all the ponds are dry and my stock is without water. Hauling water in ordinary tank trucks for the many cattle is like a small boy carrying water in a small pail for a herd of elephants. The feed problem is growing acute. My pastures have been burned up."⁷² While conditions were worsening in Kansas, the drought also continued to spread to other parts of the nation which had previously been unaffected.

On August 13, Roosevelt conferred with Secretary Wallace and Aubrey Williams and was informed that since the congressional appropriation on June 19 the drought area had increased by 300 percent.⁷³ On the same date federal officials announced another grant of \$500,000 to Kansas for drought relief, emphasizing that most of the funds were to be used to construct farm ponds, lakes, and emergency wells.⁷⁴ Late in August another grant of \$1,250,000 had been given to Kansas and the works program went into full swing.⁷⁵

By the end of August the following accomplishments could be credited to the works program: municipal lakes had been approved for Sedan, Wellington, Waterville, Howard, and Paola; 412 emergency wells had been approved, with 189 completed and 223 under construction in 95 counties; nine garden ponds had been completed, with 23 in progress and 147 surveyed but not yet approved; 126 farm ponds were under construction by families on homestead rehabilitation and surveys had been completed for an additional 136; 23 ponds were under construction for nonrelief farmers and surveys had been completed for 319 more; work projects for storing feed had been approved in six counties.⁷⁶ In September an agreement was also announced by the Bureau of Public Roads to use relief and Public Works Administration funds to provide work for drought-stricken farmers on public roads.⁷⁷

The federal government continued to provide funds through

72. *Ibid.*, August 12, 1934.

73. *Ibid.*, August 14, 1934.

74. *Ibid.*

75. *Topeka Daily Capital*, August 30, 1934.

76. "Landon Correspondence," KERC press release, August 30, 1934.

77. Carothers, *Chronology of the FERA*, p. 65.

FEDERAL DROUGHT RELIEF ACTIVITIES

417

November and December as many work projects neared completion. By December 29, 243 emergency pumping plants were in operation, 598 emergency wells were completed and an additional 93 under construction, 346 farm ponds under the homestead rehabilitation program were completed and 342 under construction, and 93 ponds were completed with 543 under construction on farms not covered by homestead rehabilitation.⁷⁸

The importance of the works program can hardly be overestimated. In addition to the long-range benefits, many farm families were able to survive the drought and to remain on the land because of the income provided by the works program. By early October Kansas had nearly 75,000 relief cases, the most in the state's history.⁷⁹ The great increase in the number of relief cases was largely attributable to the drought which had ruined gardens and consequently robbed farmers of their normal supplies of canned foods that usually carried them through the winter. Although a large number of Kansans were on relief, only 10 or 15 percent were receiving direct charity because most were employed on work projects.⁸⁰ On October 4 it was reported that almost all able-bodied persons needing aid were at work on drought-relief projects.⁸¹ By November 86 percent of the relief cases in Kansas were receiving work wages while the remainder were on direct relief.⁸²

While the livestock and works programs sponsored by the federal government provided many farmers with needed cash, others were still in need of immediate credit to purchase feed for their livestock or to finance the costs of producing the next year's crop. The most important federal agency which provided credit to the distressed farmers was the Farm Credit Administration. In addition to liberalizing the regular loans provided by the FCA, special drought-relief loans were also made available in 1934. From the \$525 million drought appropriation, \$96,785,900 was given to the FCA to make special loans for feed and forage in areas designated for emergency drought relief. Since adequate administrative machinery at the local level was already available, the funds were distributed with a minimum of delay. The first loans were made

78. *KERC Bulletin* 289, p. 51.

79. *Topeka Daily Capital*, October 7, 1934.

80. *Ibid.*

81. *Ibid.*, October 4, 1934.

82. *Monthly Report of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration*, November, 1934 (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1934), p. 12.



on July 3, only two weeks after the special fund for drought relief became available.⁸³

In Kansas 10,975 initial loans in the amount of \$690,177 and 496,861 supplemental advances in the amount of \$1,187,038 were made, making an average loan per borrower of \$108.16, by December 31, 1934.⁸⁴ For farmers whose crops had failed there was little hope that the loans could be repaid immediately, but at the beginning of 1935 they were assured by the governor of the FCA, William I. Myers, that "no farmer making an honest effort to take care of his obligation to the Farm Credit Administration, who is unable to do so because of the drought or crops failure, need fear that we will close him out. . . ." ⁸⁵

Although most of the drought-relief activities of the federal government in 1934 were designed to provide emergency relief, many of the measures also contributed to the permanent correction of many agricultural problems. Harry Hopkins later observed,

If we can say anything good about the drought of the summer of 1934 it is that it . . . was instrumental in arousing the country to the need of a better land utilization program. Culminating several dry years of increasing severity, it did what years of writing and talking by the conservationists had never done—focussed public attention on what was happening to our greatest natural resource.⁸⁶

As dust filled the air and food prices fluctuated, the entire nation became concerned with agricultural policy. The federal government provided an important lead by publicly demonstrating the value of long-range objectives in agricultural planning and by saving our natural resources through land conservation programs. In many instances even the measures taken by the government to provide immediate drought relief proved to have long-range benefits as well. Typical in this area were the activities of the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1934.

Acting under the instructions from President Roosevelt, the CCC made a special call for enrollees from the drought states in July.⁸⁷ In Kansas the drought-relief quota was 800 and on July 20, 725 men and boys answered the special call. The center of the drought-relief camps in Kansas was at Fort Riley.⁸⁸ Although the most obvious

83. *The Second Annual Report of the Farm Credit Administration, 1934* (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1935), p. 67.

84. *Ibid.*, p. 167.

85. *Topeka Daily Capital*, January 3, 1935.

86. Hopkins, *Spending to Save*, p. 148.

87. *New York Times*, September 20, 1934.

88. *KERC Bulletin* 289, p. 755.



benefit of this program was the provision of immediate relief through employment of many youths in the drought areas, at the same time their work provided many direct benefits to agriculture. The work of the drought camps was primarily concerned with soil erosion projects and work in state parks. Other work, such as forestation, flood control projects, and measures to conserve moisture, was helpful not only in checking the effects of drought but also in the conservation of natural resources.⁸⁹ The activities of the CCC and other federal agencies working on similar projects conclusively proved to many farmers the value of conservation work for protecting against the effects of drought and in solving general agricultural problems. The drought had made the soil loose and barren, leaving the land vulnerable to wind, water, and soil erosion. If the land were to remain productive the farm community realized that farming techniques would have to change. Increasingly farmers expressed interest in the federal government's conservation programs.

The government was ready to assist those farmers who made serious efforts to adjust their farming practices to challenge the forces of nature. One such effort was the sponsorship of soil erosion projects designed to keep water from running off the land and eroding the soil. In Kansas one of the more important soil erosion projects was established by the soil erosion service at Mankato in Jewell county.⁹⁰ Terraces, stock-watering ponds, and soil-saving dams were constructed there. Moreover, the value of contour farming was demonstrated through practical experiments, trees were planted, and crop planners attempted to convince farmers of the desirability of diversified crop planting.⁹¹

Although much had been done to restore land that was overused or left barren by the drought, many families could no longer hope to support themselves on their land in the foreseeable future. Many of these families, however, lacked sufficient resources to relocate on more prosperous land. To meet that problem, the federal government began buying submarginal land, which was to be taken out of production, and assisted families who had lived on the purchased lands to relocate elsewhere. In October the Land Policy Section of the AAA, which represented the FERA in land purchases, announced that a plan to remove two million acres of farm land in

89. *Summary Report of the Director of Emergency Conservation Work on the Operations of Emergency Conservation Work for the Period Extending From April, 1933, to June 30, 1935* (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1935), p. 57; *Topeka Daily Capital*, July 16, 1934.

90. *Ibid.*, July 26, 1934.

91. *Ibid.*, July 26, 1934.



Kansas from production was under consideration. Farmers in Kansas showed little interest in the proposed program and, as a result, no projects were worked out immediately for Kansas.⁹²

The continuing interest, however, of the federal government in land usage was evidenced by an executive order of July 2 which created the National Resources Board. After completing a survey of land and water usage in the United States, the board reported in January, 1935, that of the 52,204,226 acres of land in Kansas, only 3,764,287, or 7.2 percent was considered excellent, and much of the land was badly eroded. It was soon revealed that preliminary plans and surveys would be made in Kansas to retire from production 135,000 acres in the southeast, 80,000 acres in the west, and 90,000 acres in other scattered portions of the state.⁹³

While the National Resources Board was conducting surveys, the federal government began another long-range program which also promised to bring relief from the effects of future droughts. On July 11, by executive order 6793, President Roosevelt set aside \$15 million from the \$525 million congressional drought-relief appropriation to begin the Great Plains Shelterbelt project.⁹⁴ The project called for the planting of a 100-mile strip of trees along a line extending from Canada to Texas. In Kansas the border for the shelterbelt was to be Atwood, Colby, Scott City, and Liberal on the west and Phillipsburg, Larned, and Coldwater on the east. The project was to be completed in 10 years at an estimated cost of \$75 million. Although little actual work was done on the shelterbelt in 1934, Roosevelt remained undaunted and continued throughout the 1930's to push his pet project to fruition.⁹⁵

While federal officials groped for emergency relief programs which would also protect farmers from the effects of future droughts, leaders in the Department of Agriculture were faced with the more immediate prospect of having to change their long-range planning for agriculture as a result of the drought. Officials in Washington found themselves in a position of sup-

92. *Capper's Weekly*, Topeka, October 13, 1934.

93. *Topeka Daily Capital*, January 12, 1935; Noah Preston Luginbill, Jr., "Some Effects of the Federal Government's Program of Acquiring Distressed Lands in Kansas" (unpublished M. A. thesis, Kansas State College, 1946), p. 9.

94. *New York Times*, July 29, 1934; Richard Pfister, "A History and Evaluation of the Shelterbelt Project" (unpublished M. A. thesis, University of Kansas, 1950), p. 12.

95. *Topeka Daily Capital*, July 24, 1934; *Possibilities of Shelterbelt Planting in the Plains Region: A Study of Tree Planting for Protective and Ameliorative Purposes as Recently Begun in the Shelterbelt Zone of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas by the Forest Service, Together With Information as to Climate Soils, and Other Conditions Affecting Land Use and Tree Growth in the Region*, prepared under the direction of the Lake States Experiment Station, U. S. Forest Service (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1935).



porting a program designed to limit production while the drought was destroying crops and the abundance of surplus commodities. Before the drought was temporarily broken in the fall, wheat production for the nation had been reduced to one half of the yearly average, corn production was the smallest in 40 years, barley the smallest in 34 years, and oats, rye, and buckwheat production the smallest in more than half a century. Fall pastures were less than one third of normal, and hay and feed were less than one third of the amount needed to carry farmers through the winter.⁹⁶ With the end of surpluses many feared a shortage of food supplies would develop and pressure was brought upon the AAA to discard its production control program.⁹⁷

Those pressures came from many areas for many different reasons. In the East there were legitimate fears that the nation might be threatened by a food shortage; others in the East wanted to end the reduction program with the ulterior motive of hoping to obtain cheaper foods.⁹⁸ Others simply believed the drought was God's way of getting even with Secretary Wallace for tampering with nature.⁹⁹ Many Kansas farmers, who had distrusted Roosevelt's farm policy from the beginning, believed that crop controls were no longer necessary and that the road to prosperity awaited only a governmental decision to allow unlimited production. The cumulative effect of these pressures for change was soon to bear fruit. On June 1 Rexford Tugwell, then assistant secretary of agriculture, stated that the AAA's program was not necessarily one of reduction, and taking the drought and the international situation into consideration might even encourage full production.¹⁰⁰ Early in June Secretary Wallace toured the drought area and promised that some decision on the reduction program would be reached soon after his return to Washington.¹⁰¹

As the dimensions of the drought-expanded pressures were accelerated for the AAA to abandon all crop restrictions for 1935, Senator Capper, who had consistently supported the government's farm program, urged Wallace to lift all restrictions on the fall planting of wheat or at least substantially to modify the wheat contracts to avoid a food shortage in 1935.¹⁰² Wallace was hesi-

96. *AAA Report 1934*, p. 19.

97. *New York Times*, May 12, 1934; *Topeka Daily Capital*, June 1, 1934.

98. *Ibid.*, June 3, 1934.

99. *New York Times*, July 29, 1934.

100. *Ibid.*, June 1, 1934.

101. *Ibid.*, June 2, 1934.

102. *Topeka Daily Capital*, August 16, 1934.

tant, but indicated that some control would remain, even if just enough to allow farmers to receive benefit payments from the administration.¹⁰³ Subsequently events were to demonstrate that the AAA was by no means ready to abandon the crop-control program. Modifications in the Roosevelt administration's program were indeed made, but without in any basic way changing the philosophy of reduction underlying the farm program.

After an initial period of indecision, supporters of crop reduction began to find appealing reasons why the administration's program should not be abandoned. One such argument was that the acreage reduction program in times of drought was actually a positive gain since farmers saved the cost of seed and labor on crops that would have been abandoned in any event.¹⁰⁴ In addition they pointed out that the slaughter of "six million little pigs" in 1933 and the cattle purchase program in 1934 had made the feed shortage much less acute because there were fewer animals to feed.¹⁰⁵ Administration officials insisted that the gigantic reduction of crops in 1934 had not been the result of the agricultural adjustment program but of the drought. The wheat crop had been reduced by 363,641,000 bushels, but officials estimated that the drought was responsible for 309,417,000 bushels of the reduction. The government also estimated that the drought had caused a decline of 1,003,336,000 bushels in the corn crop.¹⁰⁶ The most effective argument used by the defenders of the AAA was the value of the reduction benefit payments given to the farm community during the drought. George E. Farrel, chief of the wheat section of the AAA, explained that the wheat contracts were a form of much needed "crop insurance," protecting farmers in years of drought as well as years of surplus.¹⁰⁷ When drought conditions became apparent in 1934, the AAA even reopened the time for signing adjustment contracts to enable more farmers, robbed of their profits by the drought, to have some form of income during the year.¹⁰⁸

Modifications were also made in the adjustment contracts to allow more farmers to receive benefit payments. The original

103. *Ibid.*, August 19, 1934.

104. *Ibid.*, April 15, 1934; AAA Report 1934, p. 83.

105. *New York Times*, July 28, 1934.

106. *Agricultural Adjustment 1933 to 1935: A Report of Administration of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, May 12, 1933, to December 31, 1935* (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1936), pp. 89-91.

107. *New York Times*, May 12, 1934.

108. *Ibid.*, May 12, 1934; AAA Report 1934, p. 80.

contracts provided that 52 percent of the base acreage had to be planted to crops. When it became obvious that such planting would be a wasted effort, farmers were allowed to abandon their land and still receive payments from the government.¹⁰⁹ In Kansas \$7,437,059 had been received from the AAA in 1933, and in 1934, \$30,397,631.¹¹⁰ The corn-hog contracts brought \$8,037,893 in 1934 and cotton and tobacco \$690 and \$3,726 respectively.¹¹¹ Adding the money received from the cattle purchase program, the total benefit payments in Kansas for 1934 totaled over \$45 million.

By the end of July Wallace stated that in spite of the drought the crop-control features of the AAA would continue.¹¹² Some modifications were made, however, in the provisions for the 1935 control program. Farmers were required by the new wheat contracts to leave 10 rather than 15 percent of the contracted acreage out of production.¹¹³ This move guarded against criticisms that the reduction program would lead to food shortages and at the same time guarded against wheat surpluses.¹¹⁴ Agricultural officials justifiably feared that with the rise in prices for agricultural products many farmers would be tempted to plant too much land in production. Governmental officials outlined their future plans stating that: "With accumulated surpluses of some farm commodities largely eliminated by the drought, agriculture's problem now is to carry forward a controlled expansion in step with increasing domestic and foreign demand, and to consolidate the economic gains already made."¹¹⁵

As 1934 came to an end, all Kansas joined with Senator Capper in the hope that it would ". . . be a long, long time until we have another summer as dry as that of 1934."¹¹⁶ Farmers had struggled valiantly against the forces of nature until, in late August, rain finally returned to the Great Plains region. With the return of rain S. D. Flora, a federal meteorologist, sounded a new note of optimism by stating that the drought had been definitely broken.¹¹⁷ As the prospects for the coming year soared, for the first time in months farmers flooded mail order houses with orders

109. *Topeka Daily Capital*, May 5, 1934.

110. *Twenty-Ninth Biennial Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture 1933-1934* (Topeka, State Printing Plant, 1935), p. 12.

111. *AAA Report 1934*, p. 84.

112. *Topeka Daily Capital*, July 30, 1934.

113. *Ibid.*, August 24, 1934.

114. *Liberal News*, August 24, 1934.

115. *AAA Report 1934*, p. xvii.

116. *Capper's Weekly*, Topeka, December 29, 1934.

117. *Topeka Daily Capital*, September 15, 1934.

for supplies, dresses, radios, and refrigerators. Although some weather experts warned that the drought might return in 1935, farmers refused to be daunted in their renewed faith in themselves and their land.¹¹⁸

Although many farmers had suffered untold hardship as a result of the drought, farm income continued to rise in 1934. Farm income for the year totaled \$250,300,000 in Kansas compared with the 1933 income of \$165,540,000. This sum included the benefit payments received from the AAA. The value of crops was \$118,139,000 in 1934, an increase of \$11,891,000 over the 1933 total and \$35,761,000 over 1932. In comparison to previous decades the acre yields were, however, only 50.2 percent of normal.¹¹⁹ Although wheat production had risen considerably over 1933, when drought had also limited the production, the real key to the high income was the rise in farm prices. Wheat prices had risen from \$.71 per bushel in 1933 to \$.84 per bushel in 1934.¹²⁰ Although the wheat crop had not been severely affected by the drought, the corn crop was virtually a complete failure. Of the 13,200,000 bushels harvested, only 189,000 could be used for grain and the remainder had to be used for silage or fodder.¹²¹ Although the price of corn had brought \$.97 per bushel in 1934, the value of the corn crop was only \$12,823,000 compared with \$35,390,000 in 1933 when corn sold for only \$.44 per bushel.¹²² The price of oats had increased from \$.33 to \$.49, barley from \$.39 to \$.64, and tame hay from \$6.10 to \$16.30 a ton.¹²³

Many farmers, of course, had not benefitted from the rise in farm prices because no crops had been harvested. Even the gains made by those who had managed to salvage a crop were in part reduced by the rise of other prices as well as those for farm products. Although the drought of 1934 had badly shaken the confidence of the agrarian community, most were optimistic about the new year and prayed that the Kansas State Board of Agriculture was right when it confidently predicted that "the stability of Kansas climate over a long period of years, in spite of occasional vagaries of weather from year to year, furnishes a sound foundation on which to build its agricultural and economic program for a long time to come."¹²⁴

118. *New York Times*, November 7, December 20, 1934.

119. *KERC Bulletin* 289, p. 785.

120. *Kansas Agriculture, Centennial Report* (Topeka, State Printing Plant, 1960-1961), pp. 517-522.

121. *Ibid.*, p. 518; *KERC Bulletin* 289, p. 785.

122. *Kansas Agriculture, Centennial Report*, p. 518.

123. *Ibid.*, pp. 520-521, 525.

124. *Twenty-Ninth Biennial Report of the KSBA*, p. 55.

Bypaths of Kansas History

THE POTTAWATOMIE BAPTIST MISSION AND BURNETT'S MOUND IN 1850

Published here are excerpts from the beginning lines of a travelogue written by Dr. Johnston Lykins, Baptist missionary, who journeyed from the Pottawatomie Baptist Mission building at the western edge of present Topeka, to Kansas [City], Mo., in August, 1850. An account of the trip was first printed in *The Indian Advocate*, Louisville, Ky., v. 5, no. 2 (September, 1850).

MR. EDITOR: . . . we start from a large stone building [this structure still exists and is now owned by the state of Kansas], standing with various out houses, half a mile south of the Kansas River, in a beautiful prairie valley. On the east and on the west of the building runs a small rivulet forming a junction ten rods below, and on the verge of the eastern streamlet rises the excellent mission spring. These two little streams are fringed with timbers and that dark line of low timber on the north, marks the course of the Kansas. All save this is smooth fertile prairie.

Three hundred paces northeast of the mission House rises a bold prairie mound several hundred feet high; and on either side of the valley low mural bluffs marks its bounds until lost in the green rolling hills of the prairie south. Our course is east and up the green rich valley, with a solitary clump of timber to the left. At two miles we turn the summit of a prairie ridge, and descend for two miles further to the crossing of the Shunga Newga,* a small branch three or four paces wide, and skirted by timber one-eighth of a mile in width. That towering mound, occupying in solitary grandeur, the forks of the stream, a mile above is Shunga Newga mound,† a noted land mark for travellers seen from various highlands around, for the distance of 30 or 40 miles. . . .

* A Kanza Indian term signifying running horse—shunga horse, nunga to run. Today this creek is spelled Shunganunga.

† Later known as Burnett's mound, for Abram Burnett, the Pottawatomie Indian chief who long resided nearby.

THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE WRITES OF KANSAS

From the *Guilford Citizen*, April 21, 1870.

A correspondent of the [N.Y.] *Tribune*, writing from St. Louis, speaks as follows concerning Kansas. No more enthusiastic words have ever been spoken by even our own press or people. As such we commend them to perusal:

Ten years ago, when Mr. Greeley was making his overland trip through Kansas, he predicted a glorious future for this State. The Kansas of to-day is a wonder of intelligence, wealth, enterprise, comfort and culture. It is



filling up faster than any state in the Union. With a climate unequaled, a soil rich beyond comparison, and a population made up of the best nerve and brain of New England and Germany, it is fast taking a place in the front rank of our Federal Union. The St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad will take you through lands which, though new, have become as fruitful and productive as the old lands of the East. Many a pioneer has purchased his 160 acres of the railroad company at \$2.50 to \$3.00 per acre, erecting a building of wood or stone, and with a plow and two yoke of oxen, the prairie is broken, and the first twenty acres of corn raised yielded him 2,000 bushels of the golden grain; twenty-five acres of wheat 1,000 bushels, while rye, oats, barley, peas, potatoes, and every garden product, have yielded in the same proportion. Soon, his orchard is planted, his farm stocked, and he has all the hay he needs without cultivation (though he needs but little, for the winters are very mild here). He occupies his spare time in fencing, and in a few summers he has a home with farm all fenced, and in as good subjugation as a Poughkeepsie farmer. Young fruit appears, and peace and plenty and health to enjoy them bless him and his family. This is life in Eastern and Northern Kansas. The railroad companies have hundreds of thousands of acres of just such land now coming on the market for sale as the road progresses toward Fort Kearney. This must be a source of immense wealth to this favored company, and offers a rare opportunity for securing good farms and happy homes.

AND SO IT HAS GONE

From the *Saline County Journal*, Salina, July 24, 1873.

Girls are marvels of beauty and wonderfully made. Though fashioned by the hands of the Creator they are shaped by the dressmakers and milliners. It takes exactly two hundred and eleven pounds of flesh and blood, thirty-two yards of dress material, ninety-seven yards of yellow ribbon, twelve pounds of cotton, sixteen feet of horse hair, thirty-three ounces of flour, two boxes of red paint, and a bottle of night blooming seriousness to prepare the average Kansas Girl for church. They know less in an hour, and can tell more in a minute than any other person on earth. Their strong suite is to make trouble and bustles, and the proficiency they have acquired is the conundrum of the age. In game of talk they invariably hold the right bower or take the ace with the king. They are totally ignorant of the rules of civilized warfare, and never let up when they get a fellow down. A girl can look pretty and ugly, happy and sorrowful, hot and cold, sweet and sour, sentimental and disgusted, in ten seconds, and the only place in the world where the boys have the best of them is in sitting up of nights. Yet with all their faults we love them still.

Kansas History as Published in the Press

Bicentennial editions of Kansas newspapers continue to appear. Among those not previously mentioned were: *Fort Scott Tribune*, July 15, 1976; *Conway Springs Star*, August 5; and *Citizen-Patriot*, Atwood, October 14.

In the issue of July 15, 1976, the *Fort Scott Tribune* began a series on the Leopold Edlinger murder, compiled by Clifford Lyman. Called the most sensational murder case in Fort Scott's history, it started with the discovery of Edlinger's body November 17, 1899.

A history of the Nemaha county towns of Central City and Richmond was printed in the *Nemaha County Journal-Leader*, Centralia, July 29, 1976. Both towns were established in 1855, but after competing unsuccessfully for the county seat in 1858 most of their businesses moved to Seneca and they faded away.

Wayne Archer is the author of a history of Iola real estate appearing in the *Iola Register*, July 31, 1976. Beginning with the first gas well in the Iola area in 1893, the author reviews Iola's booms and busts, and the effects of the depletion of the gas, the depression, the war, and the 1951 flood on real estate development.

The Kingsdown bicentennial committee published a 10-page bicentennial issue of the *Kingsdown Clarion* in August, 1976. The edition includes news of the bicentennial observance in Kingsdown and historical articles on the community. The *Clarion* was published in Kingsdown from 1912 to 1916.

In 1888 Steve Waters staked out a town in Thomas county and named it Levant. A history of the town, given by Inace Parker at the dedication of the new Bergman Park in Levant August 1, 1976, was published in the *Prairie Drummer*, Colby, August 4, 1976.

Historical articles on Gray county, its towns and institutions, were included in a 28-page Cimarron centennial supplement to the August 4, 1976, issue of the *Jacksonian* of Cimarron.

After a tornado destroyed Fairview school, District 57, Sherman county, in 1916, a sod school was constructed which served for



five years. A history of the school by Marion C. Parker appeared in the *Goodland Daily News*, August 5, 1976.

Histories of Kansas churches appearing in the newspapers in recent months included: Vesper United Presbyterian, Lincoln *Sentinel-Republican*, August 5, 1976, and *Salina Journal*, August 6; St. Joseph's Catholic, Damar, *Salina Journal*, August 13; Ebenfeld Mennonite, near Hillsboro, *Wichita Eagle*, August 18, and Hillsboro *Star-Journal*, August 19; Council Grove United Methodist, Council Grove *Republican*, August 25; St. Joseph Catholic, Offerle, *Kinsley Mercury*, September 2; St. Michael's Episcopal, Hays, *Hays Daily News*, September 26; Old Union (Baptist), Auburn, *Enterprise-Chronicle*, Burlingame, September 30; Ebenezer United Methodist, near Clay Center, *Riley Countian*, Leonardville, October 14; Temple church, Gypsum, *Gypsum Advocate*, October 14; Trinity Evangelical Lutheran, southwest of Russell, *Russell Daily News*, October 18 and 29, *Russell Record*, October 18, *Hoisington Dispatch*, October 21, *Hutchinson News*, October 23; St. Patrick's Catholic, Scranton, *Overbrook Citizen*, November 4; and Cumberland Community church, Augusta, *Augusta Daily Gazette*, November 12.

Articles of historical interest published in the *Salina Journal* recently included: "[Vopat] Family Farmhouse Is Wilson Area Show Place," August 9, 1976; "Sister Eveline [Fraser], 97, Recalls Teaching Days [in Clay Center]," and "Sister Ann Vincent [Glatter of Concordia] Believes in Hard Work," both by Linda Mowery, September 5; and "Ingleboro Enters New Era," an article on a historic Smith Center house which is being remodeled into a restaurant, by Jim Suber, November 16.

Paul Lindsey settled with his family near Caney in 1895. In an article appearing in the *Caney Chronicle*, August 11, 1976, Lindsey describes Caney as it was in 1900.

Heritage, a historical magazine published as a supplement to several Leavenworth and Wyandotte county newspapers, included the following articles in its Mid-August, 1976, issue: "[Anton] Sauer Family History Traced," by J. R. Russell; and "Rookery Played Key Role at Fort [Leavenworth]," by Cathy Gripka.

Reproductions of the four pages of *The Chautauqua Journal*, Sedan, September 8, 1876, comprised a supplement in the September 8, 1976, issue of the *Sedan Times-Star*. One of the fea-



tures of the *Journal* was a description of the national centennial celebration in Philadelphia.

The Harper county town of Freeport, population 14, is the subject of a brief history by Tim Kidd in the *Wichita Eagle*, September 14, 1976. In the 1880's and early 1890's Freeport was a growing town, reaching a population of about 700 in 1892.

H. S. Thompson's part in starting the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson is told in a story entitled "State Fair Had Its Beginnings in Sylvia," in the *Pratt Tribune*, September 18, 1976. Thompson operated the Zenith Ranch near Sylvia for many years.

Some of the early history of Tonganoxie compiled by John Lenahan was published in the *Eudora Enterprise*, September 22, 1976. The town was founded in 1866 by a woman, Magdalena Bury, but it was named after an Indian chief.

"Retired Coffey Mail Carrier Will Mark 103rd Birthday," is a biographical sketch of Allen W. Reed, in the *Burlington Daily Republican*, September 27, 1976. Reed, now living in Topeka, carried mail at Gridley and Burlington, retiring in 1938.

A two-part history of the famous 101 Ranch in present north-central Oklahoma by Judy Welch, was published in the *Arkansas Daily Traveler*, October 1 and 2, 1976. George W. Miller who, with his three sons, founded the ranch, maintained a home in Winfield from 1881 until his death in 1903.

Dorothy Hoobler's column, "Bicentennial Thoughts on St. Marys" in the *St. Marys Star*, began a series of articles on early St. Marys settlers, in the issue of October 19, 1976. Joseph Hamilton Bertrand, Jr., who had a store at St. Mary's mission, was the subject of the first article.

Lost Spring, a short distance west of the town of Lost Springs, is the subject of an article in the *Marion County Record*, Marion, October 27, 1976. Lost Spring was an important stopping point on the Santa Fe trail. It has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The "Bicentennial Corner" columns in the *Lewis Press* concluded October 28, 1976, with "The Duchess" by Myrtle H. Richardson, a biographical sketch of Cora G. Lewis who edited the *Kinsley Graphic* for many years and was active in community projects.

"George Washington Carver: The Making of a Myth," an article by Barry Mackintosh was published in the November, 1976, issue

of *The Journal of Southern History*, New Orleans. The author points out that, unlike some black Americans, Carver's reputation transcended the significance of his achievements.

Two articles of historical interest to Kansans appeared in the November, 1976, number of *American History Illustrated*, Harrisburg, Pa.: "The Pony Express," by Dee Brown; and "The Dawn Came but No Day: The Dust Bowl," by Brian McGinty.

On May 10, 1854, William Maeirs settled on 160 acres south of Lawrence. The farm is now owned by his grandson, William Roscoe Maeirs. The farm is said to have been in one family second longest of any farm in the state. An article on the farm and the Maeirs family was published in the *Lawrence Journal-World*, November 5, 1976.

Mrs. Alma Johnson is the author of an article on longhorn cattle in the *Dighton Herald*, November 17, 1976. Famous from the early cattle drives from Texas to Kansas, the longhorns are again gaining cattlemen's attention as a possible answer to the cost-price squeeze. Other articles by Mrs. Johnson include brief biographical sketches of Mrs. Hilda Preston Frye, Ransom, in the *Ness County News*, Ness City, November 11; and Tux Smith, Colby, in the *Oakley Graphic*, November 18.

"The Life and Times of John Baldwin, Sr.," is the title of an article printed in four installments in the *Overbrook Citizen*, beginning November 18, 1976. Baldwin was born in Connecticut, lived in Ohio, then came to Kansas where Baldwin City was named for him.

Mike Berry is the author of a brief story on a gold mine near Traer in Decatur county, published in the *Oberlin Herald*, November 18, 1976. Victor Anderson worked the mine with unknown results in the years before his death in the late 1930's.

Kansas Historical Notes

Current officers of the Douglass Historical Society are: Carl Valentine, president; Leon Broyles, first vice-president; Harry Robinson, second vice-president; Vivian Woody, secretary; and Jeanette Nicholes, treasurer. Jean Valentine is curator and Turia Bolington assistant curator of the society's museum.

A Revolutionary Mexican Historical Society has been formed for the purpose of recording and distributing information about the "Revolutionary Period" of Mexican history, about 1910-1920. The mailing address of the society is 1130 E. 35th Terr., Topeka, Kan. 66605.

New officers of the Lane County Historical Society for 1977 are Jay Cook, president; and Jean Cook, secretary. Holdover officers are: Sandy Patton, vice-president; Selma Schmalzried, treasurer; and Robert Jennison, Howard Lang, and Raymond Tillotson, directors. Lena Ruth Speer was the retiring president.

Officers of the Ellis County Historical Society for 1976-1977 are: Jim Bartels, president; Robert L. Maxwell, first vice-president; Don Bickel, second vice-president; Loretto Nicholas, recording secretary; Ruth Keating, corresponding secretary; Standlee V. Dalton, treasurer; Fr. Blaine E. Burkey, archivist-historian; and Rev. Harold Wisner, chaplain. A. A. Reisig is the immediate past president.

Mrs. Mary Lloyd Gamba has operated the Old Log Cabin Museum behind her home in Osage City since 1964. She is now preparing a little red school house at the same location which will soon be open to the public.

Volga-German centennial celebrations were held the last week of July, 1976, in Liebenthal, Schoenchen, Catherine, Victoria, Pfeifer, and Munjor. The week of festivities climaxed Saturday, July 31, with a parade in Hays and the final performance of "Exodus to Freedom," a three-hour pageant written by Norbert Dreiling. Newly published histories of the Volga-German settlements were presented to the Ellis County Historical Society.

An election of officers was held at a meeting of the Sumner County Historical Society in Wellington, August 23, 1976. Bill Post, Geuda Springs, was named president; James Robbin, Oxford,

vice-president; Orvaleen Post, Geuda Springs, secretary; Betty Jo Weber, Milan, treasurer; Mrs. Kenneth Stayton, Mayfield, publicity chairman; Opal Vulgamore, Milton, photographer; Mary Ellen Heeney, South Haven, historian; Eva Long, Wellington, assistant historian; and Grace Handy, Argonia, parliamentarian. Charles Medley was the retiring president.

At its September, 1976, quarterly meeting, the Linn County Historical Society reelected Mrs. Raymond Green, Blue Mound; Willis Baker, Jr., Pleasanton; and Otto Alexander, Parker, directors. Paul Creager, LaCygne, was named a new director. On November 12 the directors, meeting in Pleasanton, reelected the following officers: Mrs. Eugene Crawford, Prescott, president; Bill Hurley, LaCygne, vice-president; Mrs. Carl Nellsch, Pleasanton, secretary; and Baker, treasurer.

Frank Salmans was reelected president of the Hodgeman County Historical Society at a September 2, 1976, meeting of the organization. Logan Meade was named vice-president; Frances Pitts, secretary; Gersilda Guthrie, treasurer; and Leo Dixon, James Sorem, and C. O. Guthrie, directors.

Dedication ceremonies for the Fort Scott historic site, held September 3, 1976, were attended by more than 500 persons. Fort Scott Mayor John Baker was master of ceremonies at the event which honored persons associated with the restoration of the fort, including Rep. Joe Skubitz who was instrumental in obtaining federal funds for the project.

Mrs. William Short, Elmdale, was reelected president of the Chase County Historical Society at the annual meeting of the society September 4, 1976, in Cottonwood Falls. Leonard E. Croy, Cottonwood Falls, was reelected vice-president, and Mrs. Ida M. Vinson, Cottonwood Falls, secretary. Thomas C. Bell, Cottonwood Falls, was chosen treasurer, and Mrs. Had Whitney, Elmdale, chief historian.

Theodore Gibson's election to the presidency of the Tri-County Historical Society was announced at the second annual meeting of the society September 11, 1976, in Herington. Other officers are: George Kohls, vice-president; Mrs. Eleanore Rucker, secretary; Mrs. Nadine Hendrickson, treasurer; and Mrs. Helen Pierce, Otto Domann, Walter Koepke, Mrs. Laura Schumacher, and Woodrow DeBus, directors. Kohls was the retiring president. Dr.

KANSAS HISTORICAL NOTES

433

James C. Juhnke of Bethel College, North Newton, spoke at the meeting on "American Dreams."

At the October, 1976, meeting of the Republic County Historical Society, Henry Strnad, Munden, was chosen president; Wayne Sutton, Jamestown, first vice-president; Homer Cardwell, Republic, second vice-president; Jerry Melton, Belleville, third vice-president; Marcella Dolezal, Cuba, secretary; Lois Strnad, Munden, treasurer; Jeannine Kopsa, publicity director; and Frances Elyea, historian. Twila Bowersox was the retiring president.

The first annual meeting of the Nemaha County Historical Society was held in Seneca, October 4, 1976. Robert W. Richmond, state archivist for the Kansas State Historical Society, spoke to the group on "The Lighter Side of Kansas History." The following directors were elected: Rachel Bergman, Mary K. Gilbert, Larry D. Brock, Nolah Olberding, Teresa Winkler, Beverly Wenger, Amelia M. Sudbeck, Grace B. Kelley, and Eva Stark. The directors, meeting October 12, named the following officers: Sudbeck, president; Bergman, vice-president; Kelley, secretary; and Gilbert, treasurer. The society operates a museum in the Seneca city hall.

Ralph Schweitzer, Penokee, was reelected president of the Graham County Historical Society at the group's fifth annual meeting October 10, 1976. Also reelected were: Marie Dodd, vice-president; Ruth Siegrist, secretary; and Christine Griffith, treasurer. R. J. McCauley, John M. Moore, Dorothy Heisel, Maurice Blackford, and O. A. Pierce were named to the board of directors.

The Morris County Historical Society, meeting in Council Grove, October 12, 1976, reelected Tom Cosgrove, president; Neosho Fredenburg, vice-president; Mrs. Vivian Wilson, secretary; Mrs. Walter Hembrow, corresponding secretary; and Ruth Porter, treasurer.

Officers elected by the Humboldt Historical Society at a meeting October 18, 1976, were: George Brinkman, president; Gerald Barton, vice-president; Beverly Miller, secretary; and Edna Redfield, treasurer. Board members in addition to the officers are: Gene Miller, Lloyd Schoonover, Ludolf West, Lee Murren, Tom Ravins, John Ellison, Mrs. Lloyd Moon, Ann Ford, Helen Grother, and Sondra Alden.



Mrs. Frank Woodson, Byron Walker, and Betty Amick were reelected trustees of the Kingman County Historical Society at a meeting in the society's museum October 21, 1976. Officers named by the trustees were: Walker, president; David Amick, vice-president; Ms. Amick, secretary; and Mrs. Bob Hoover, treasurer. Ron Harkness was the retiring president.

A Stafford County Historical and Genealogical Society was organized at a meeting in Stafford, October 24, 1976. Mrs. Marshall Garey was elected president of the new society; Mrs. Emma Lou McDaniel, vice-president; Dixie King, secretary; and Mrs. Bill Fanshier, treasurer. Chairmen appointed were: Mrs. Virgil Hitz, publicity; Mrs. Laura Ritts, history; and Mrs. Marion Hearn, genealogy.

Gov. Robert Bennett was the principal speaker at dedication ceremonies, October 24, 1976, for the new Riley county museum building in Manhattan. The museum was a project of the Manhattan Area Bicentennial Commission. The new museum is expected to be opened in early 1977 continuing Jean Dallas as curator.

Directors of the Allen County Historical Society reelected at the annual meeting of the organization October 27, 1976, were: Dudley Henderson, Joan Willis, Jeanne Smith, June Toland, Dwight Howard, Ruth Hodges, Mary Lou Garver, and Dave Munson. Wanda Lytle was elected a new director. Henderson is president of the society; Willis, vice-president; Toland, secretary; and Lytle, treasurer. Dorothy Keyser, executive director of the society, has announced her resignation but will continue to serve temporarily.

Meeting in Grantville, November 11, 1976, the Jefferson County Historical Society named the following officers for 1977: John D. Bower, McLouth, president; Don M. Rice, Perry, vice-president; Mrs. Verona McDonald, McLouth, recording secretary; Elmer McAferty, McLouth, treasurer; and Marcial Burroughs, Grantville, Mrs. Helen Rodecap, Meriden, Orville Van Gaasbeek, Nortonville, Bill House, Ozawkie, Tom Grose, Oskaloosa, and William K. Rhodes, McLouth, directors. William C. Leech, Oskaloosa, was the retiring president. Mrs. Jean Lester spoke to the group on "The History of Grantville, 1854-1876."

Officers of the Saline County Historical Society for 1977 were installed at a meeting of the society November 15, 1976. Col.

John T. Hoyne, Salina, is the new president; Mrs. Pat Maley, Salina, vice-president; and Cleta Mulder, Salina, treasurer. Mary Crowther, Salina, was reelected secretary. New directors are Otto Laas, Brookville, and Harry Hughes, Salina. Dr. George Taylor, Salina, was the retiring president.

Sheldon Coleman, chairman, and Lawrence M. Jones, president, of the Coleman Company, Wichita, spoke at the "1975 Kansas Dinner" of the Newcomen Society held in Wichita, April 23, 1975, where they were guests of honor. In 1976 the addresses were published by the society in a 28-page pamphlet entitled *The Coleman Story—the Ability to Cope With Change*.

Comanche is the title of a 19-page pamphlet by David Dary, published recently by the University of Kansas, Lawrence, as the Museum of Natural History's Public Education Series No. 5. The horse Comanche is often incorrectly called the lone survivor of the battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876. Other horses are now believed to have survived as did a host of Indians.

John N. Edwards's *Noted Guerrillas, or the Warfare of the Border*, first published in 1877, has been reprinted in a new 488-page edition by Morningside Bookshop, Dayton, Ohio. The new edition includes a foreword by Albert Castel. Leading the list of noted guerrillas is William C. Quantrill, called Charles William Quantrell by Edwards.

Bvt. Maj. Gen. George A. Custer's years at Fort Hays, 1867-1870, are reviewed by the Rev. Blaine Burkey in a recently published 112-page publication entitled *Custer, Come at Once!* Published by Thomas More Prep, Hays, the booklet is thoroughly documented and well illustrated with maps and photographs.

Kansas—The 34th Star, the Kansas State Historical Society's bicentennial publication made possible through assistance from the Kansas American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and the state legislature was ready for distribution in late October, 1976. Seven weeks later all copies had been sold. The 153-page volume was prepared by Nyle H. Miller and the Society's staff. It is a pictorial record, partly in color, of Kansas from the time before the first people to the present.

Two Centuries of American Agriculture is the title of a 315-page book published in 1976 by the Agricultural History Society, Washington. Edited by Vivian Wiser, the volume is comprised of 23

articles on agricultural history which had been presented before a symposium on agriculture, April 21-23, 1975, at the Smithsonian Institution.

Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, and Doubleday & Company, New York, were copublishers in 1976 of *The Indian Legacy of Charles Bird King*, a 152-page work by Herman J. Viola. An artist, King painted the portraits of over 100 prominent Indian leaders who visited Washington between 1821 and 1845. The book includes a number of reproductions of his work.

Cities on Stone—Nineteenth Century Lithograph Images of the Urban West by John W. Reys, a 99-page volume published in 1976 by the Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, is a history of the development of lithography and the practice of depicting cities by this process. Fifty plates, including one of Sumner, Atchison county, Kansas territory, about 1857, are included in the book.

Eighteen articles by nationally known authors are included in a 226-page volume entitled *Kansas and the West—Bicentennial Essays in Honor of Nyle H. Miller*, edited by Kansas State Historical Society officers and staff and published by the Society in 1976. Miller retired at the end of 1976 after heading the Society for 25 years. The lead article is a brief review of his life and his work at the Society.

Lawrence A. Frost is the author of *General Custer's Libbie*, a 336-page biography of Elizabeth Bacon Custer, published in 1976 by the Superior Publishing Co., Seattle. Libbie was born in 1842 in Michigan, married Custer in 1864, and died in 1933 just two days short of 92 years of age.

Glenn G. Boyer is the compiler and editor of *I Married Wyatt Earp—The Recollections of Josephine Sarah Marcus Earp*, a 277-page volume published in 1976 by the University of Arizona Press, Tucson. Josephine and Wyatt met in Tombstone in 1880 where she had gone to marry another man. They had been married almost 50 years at the time of Earp's death in 1929.

Kansas—A Bicentennial History, a recently published 226-page work by Kenneth S. Davis, is a part of a series on *The States and the Nation* being prepared by the American Association for State and Local History with the financial assistance of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Gerald George is the managing

editor, and W. W. Norton and Co., New York, publisher, of the series.

Eight well-known Western writers are authors of articles published in a new volume entitled *The Cowboy: Six-Shooters, Songs, and Sex*. Edited by Charles W. Harris and Buck Rainey, the 167-page book was published by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

Western Populism—Studies in an Ambivalent Conservatism is a 163-page work by Karel D. Bicha, published in 1976 by the Coronado Press, Lawrence.

Some 190 views of early 1900 Wichita buildings and scenes are included in a recently issued 68-page volume entitled *Peerless Princess of the Plains—Postcard Views of Early Wichita*. The book was prepared by Hal Ross, Hal Ottaway, and Jack Stewart and published by the Two Rivers Publishing Co., Wichita.

Kansas' oil history goes back to the period of the Santa Fe trail and earlier. The first oil well was drilled by George Brown in Miami county in 1860. H. Craig Miner is the author of *The Fire in the Rock—A History of the Oil and Gas Industry in Kansas, 1855-1976*, a 110-page volume commissioned by the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association and distributed by the association at 940 Fourth Financial Center, Wichita, Kan. 67202.

Martin Litvin is the author of *The Young Mary, 1817-1861*, published in 1976 by Log City Books, Galesburg, Ill. This 201-page biography of Mother Bickerdyke, who later became a well-known figure in Kansas, tells of her early life and work including her activities during the first year of the Civil War.

The Historic Sites Survey of the Kansas State Historical Society recently issued a 124-page report entitled *Historic Preservation in Kansas—1976 Supplement to the Inventory of Historic Sites*. This volume contains information on the 900 buildings and sites added to the inventory between July 1, 1975, and June 30, 1976.