

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Section 107, Pages 3181 - 3210

This is correspondence to and from newspaper editor and publisher Frederick W. Brinkerhoff. The bulk of letters date from the 1940s and 1950s. His first newspaper job was with the Ottawa Herald, after which he worked for the Fort Scott Republican, Chanute Sun, Chanute Tribune, Kansas City Star, Pittsburg Headlight, and the Pittsburg Sun. Brinkerhoff was also vice-president and a director of Stauffer Publications as well as director of Capper Publications Inc., the Topeka State Journal Company, and Newton Publishing Company. In addition, he was vice-president of the KSEK Broadcasting Company in Pittsburg. Brinkerhoff was well known as a journalist, serving as president of the Kansas Press Association in 1935 and as chairman of the Kansas Associated Press in 1946-1947. He also served as a member of the Pulitzer Prize jury for editorial writing in 1950 and 1951. In 1956, he received the William Allen White award to a Kansas editor for journalistic merit. Active in community affairs, Brinkerhoff was a member of the board of the Pittsburg Public Library, served as chairman of the Pittsburg Industrial Commission, and was on the board of directors and served a term as president of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce. He was also active in Republican party politics. Brinkerhoff was interested in the history of the state and served as president of the Kansas State Historical Society in 1944. The correspondence is arranged chronologically and grouped alphabetically by individuals with whom Brinkerhoff was in frequent contact, including Roy F. Bailey, Arthur Capper, Rolla Clymer, Harry W. Colmery, Harry Darby, Jess C. Denious, Myron George, Merl Huffman, Clyde M. Reed, Richard W. Robbins, Andrew Schoepel, and Oscar Stauffer, among many others.

Date: 1909-1966

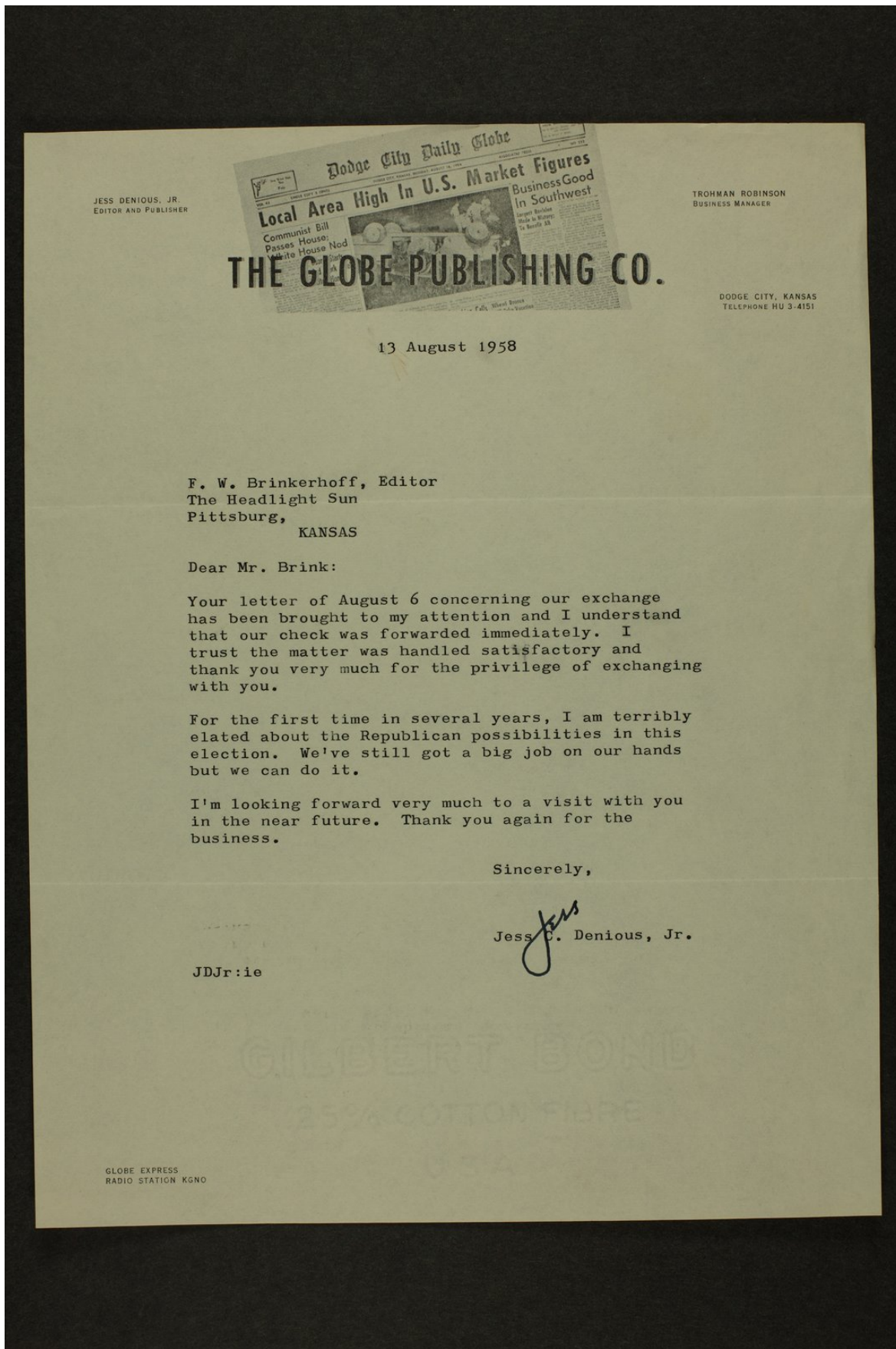
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Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Aug. 19, 1958

Jess Denious, jr.
Dodge City, Kas.

Dear Jess:

I am glad to hear from you. Clyde is on the way. He made a very effective and nice campaign and it paid off. So many things have bobbed up on Docking to take support away from him, including the teamster contribution, that his chances are sinking all the time. When folks say to me, "will it be possible to beat Docking?", I say the real question should be: "Has Docking a chance?"

We are having quite a wrangle as you probably have noted in defending our US69 highway. We had a big meeting in Topeka. We had 400 people there from the seven counties on 69. I am positive that Goodrich who has proposed abandoning a sector of Interstate 35, Ottawa-Emporia, and swinging it around to the south has the support of Docking. The proposal affects you and I think your chamber of commerce has already taken some action to give support to Emporia and Ottawa. The Goodrich idea is to shoot a section of interstate highway south from Ottawa. Ottawa is against it. I think Dodge City can be most helpful in giving strong support to Emporia.

Regards to your wife and your mother. Maybe this fall we can take a little swing around western Kansas and pay you a little visit. I hope so.

Sincerely,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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June 26, 1950

Marion Ellet
Blade-Empire
Concordia, Kas.

Dear Miss Ellet:

Aside from nominating Harry Colmery and eliminating Cloud county's favorite (?) son from the public scene, I am interested in making Marc Boss lieutenant governor. Just why he should want to be that I know not. I do know that he is quite a fellow and my close friend and loyal supporter in all good causes. He came in to say that he had a visit with you and to report on the nice reception you gave him. I hope that it will be possible for him to get a good vote up in your neck of the woods.

With kindest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

E.
Q.

June 26, 1950

Mrs. Marie Engleman
Hill City Times
Hill City, Kas.

Dear Mrs. Engleman:

Marc Boss told me that he had a visit with you when he was on a swift campaigning trip out that way. I hope it will be possible for you to give him support. He has long been my good friend. His father was one of the finest Republicans and jurists that Kansas has had and Marc himself has had a distinguished career as state senator, county attorney and county chairman. If you can promote him it would please me as much as if you were promoting me.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

MEMBERS OF
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, UNITED PRESS

MEMBER OF
AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION

THE ENID PUBLISHING CO.
PUBLISHERS



MRS. M. C. GARBER
EDITOR

MRS. W. M. TAYLOR
PRESIDENT AND BUS. MGR.

THE NEWS AND EAGLE
(MORNING EX MONDAY) (EVENING EX SUNDAY)

ENID, OKLAHOMA

February 7, 1951

Dear Sir:

Our paper, the Enid News and Eagle, is asking your cooperation on a survey we are making in regards to the city manager type of local government.

We would appreciate it very much if you or someone on your staff would tell us just how the plan works in your city. What we would like to know is this: does the mayor and city commission let the manager manage or do they take it upon themselves to do most of the governing?

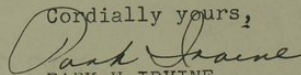
Here in Enid, this paper feels our city manager is not allowed to do his job as we feel it should be done. We think there is too much interference on the part of the commission and mayor. What we would like to find out is whether this situation is general in other cities using this form of government.

We are also interested in whether members of the commission and the mayor receive any pay, how many meetings a month they hold, do they devote their time to broad policy measures or waste it in innumerable small details and finally, do members of the commission go out of their ways to get citizens to bring their problems to them instead of the city manager.

Your help will be appreciated and if you or your paper wants any information from us at any time, we will be glad to furnish it.

PHI/fw

F W Brinkerhoff, Editor
The Headlight,
Pittsburg, Kansas

Cordially yours,

PARK H IRVINE
Editorial Assistant

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Feb. 9, 1951

Park H. Irvine
The News and Eagle
Enid, Okla.

Dear Mr. Irvine:

In Pittsburg the city manager is given full authority to administer the city's business. There is no interference on the part of the commission so far as I have been able to see. This commission was elected in the spring two years ago following the vote of the people for a change in a special election held at the time of the general election in March. There were various candidates in spite of the fact the commissioners were reduced to a maximum pay of \$100 per year. Five commissioners were elected. They had all declared themselves friendly to the manager form. After their election they announced their determination to take pay of only \$1 per year. They hold one meeting a week. There has been complete cooperation between the manager and the commissioners who elected him after having reviewed many applications for the job. The mayor has certain duties to perform as mayor. But in no way does he interfere with the work of the manager. The harmony existing at the city hall is very impressive. The mayor and the commissioners--and the mayor is elected from among the commissioners by the commissioners in what is developing into a rotation system--display no jealousy. They have not sought to take on any work or troubles that normally would go to the manager.

When the city election came on we knew that it was highly essential that commissioners friendly to the manager form be elected. We prepared a little questionnaire which we thought would cover the situation and invited each candidate to make answer. I am enclosing a copy which was signed by one of the successful candidates. You will be interested, of course in the questions but you may be interested in the answers. This commissioner has been very conspicuous in supporting the plan as well as the form of manager law. For our files, please return this sheet after you have lifted the questions, if you desire to do so. You will be especially interested in question No. 4.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Park H. Irvine--2--Feb. 9, 1951

I have heard rumors that some of those suffering by reason of good business management are trying to work up a fight in the coming election to elect commissioners who will "fire" the present manager. It is my judgment that they will not get very far. Pittsburg definitely has benefited from the change. And the attitude of the commissioners has been one of the principal factors in obtaining benefits.

Yours very truly,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

March 1, 1951

Miss Marion Ellet
Concordia, Kas.

Dear Miss Ellet:

Thanks for sending me the clippings of your column. I am using in an editorial the greater part of the one in which you make some kindly comments on my Kansas City speech. I am alarmed by the indifference of so many folks to the point I have tried to drive home concerning the effect of governmental extravagance on the patriotism of the average American. I will send you a copy of the editorial.

There is another editorial in my stock pile in which I quote your discussion of incentive. I used a part of the one Rolla used in his editorial.

With respect to Kansas politics, many months ago I warned Andy what to expect. I think he had anticipated what I told him. Others have also told him. Things have come to a pretty pass in the Republican party in Kansas when the biggest man in the Republican party and easily the most popular man and the most courageous is marked for destruction by would be bosses. They have three years to go and my guess is that some of the would be bosses will not be doing any bossing by that time.

Unless Republicans, especially the young Republicans, take some real interest in the party, they will permit things to get as bad as they were in the first 30 years of statehood when corruption was the watchword and government by bribery the regular order of business.

Thanks again for remembering me.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

THE RUSSELL DAILY NEWS

RUSSELL COUNTY'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

- RUSSELL T. TOWNSLEY
PUBLISHER
- ALLAN D. EVANS
BUSINESS MANAGER

RUSSELL, KANSAS

March 3, 1956

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff
Editor Pittsburg Headlight-Sun
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

May I ask a favor of you?

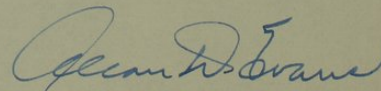
There is quite a lot of discussion here among our Russell County republicans about the Semple case and I thought it might be a good idea for us to carry a little more copy about it.

Would you please send me either the plastic cuts or the glossy prints of the pictures of Mrs. Semple's homes that you carried in your papers about 10 days ago?

I would prefer to have the plastic cuts if you still have them, as this would save us the cost of making engravings. In the event that you want them returned, we will be glad to mail them back to you.

Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,



ALLAN D. EVANS

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

March 6, 1956

Allan D. Evans
Daily News
Russell, Kas.

Dear Allan:

I sent you the cuts Sunday and trust you got them ok.
You can shunt them back to me. I may have further need
for them.

If the Republicans of Kansas want to endorse the idea of
residence in Oklahoma for their national committeewoman
they will have a right to do it. But it will be funny
business.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Sept. 3, 1936

Allan D. Evans
Russell Daily News
Russell, Kas.,

Dear Allan:

We never have carried any libel insurance. The Pittsburg Publishing Company has had three libel suits in 29 years. The first one was brought by a couple of amateur lawyers with no basis and was thrown out by the court when it came to trial. The second one was filed by a jack leg trouble maker who had no case either and it was dismissed. It involved a labor leader and some city labor leaders. The third one was just filed the other day by the same jack leg and damages of \$50,000 are asked. A story of a drunken brawl said that the police said a woman "passed out." She thinks that is worth \$50,000.

The first case cost us \$200 or so, the regular fee when a lawyer goes into court. The second case never got to trial and there was no expense involved. This case may be thrown out or dropped. I have no fear if it should go to court.

We have always figured that there was no occasion for libel insurance--and our experience certainly indicates that libel insurance would have cost more than our lawyers have cost us.

You know, of course, that we went through a long period of labor troubles in this field. But we never had any trouble. When we bought The Sun, before The Pittsburg Publishing Company was set up, we inherited a law suit filed by a fellow who said he was damaged in a story about a bootlegger. I think Doc Moore settled that case for a little bit of nothing. I did not have any connection with that libel suit and I was not involved in the publication which created the alleged libel.

I do not anticipate taking out any libel insurance.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Aug. 31, 1949

John A. Fenimore
Joplin-Pittsburg Railway Co.
Pittsburg, Kas.

Dear John:

I am suggesting that you have this letter put on your own stationery and sent. I think it explains itself. I think that we should waste no time cracking out at those who ignore us.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Sept. 1, 1949

Kansas State Chamber of Commerce
Publicity Division
Topeka, Kas.

Gentlemen:

I have been shown a news release issued by your department and concerning the chamber's tourist promotion committee. It purports to be a statement issued by Mr. Lepley. As a member of the board of the highway 69 organization and as an eastern Kansan I want to say my say.

The list of "high spots" has only one spot east of mid Kansas. That is John Brown's cabin and the memorial park at Osawatomie. All of the others which are recommended to tourists are in the western two-thirds of Kansas. Aside from the Osawatomie "spot" the most easterly places mentioned are at Abilene and in McPherson and Washington counties. Certainly these three spots by no stretch of the imagination could be credited to eastern Kansas.

We have a highway, 69, from Kansas City on down to Oklahoma along the border line. This road runs through the battlefields of the border warfare. Just off of it at the north end is Shawnee Mission which all tourists to Kansas looking for historical places should see. Coming on down we come to Trading Post on the Marais des Cygnes river, one of the most famous spots in Kansas history. Three miles away, as the state's marker there shows, is Marais des Cygnes Massacre Memorial Park. The massacre in 1858 took place in a ravine which is in the memorial park. Across highway 69 from the marker is the ancient cemetery with a monument near which lies the bones of several of the victims. This monument was erected by the state. Thousands of persons every year stop to look at the cemetery and read the marker. Some of them make the short trip to the park. South of Pleasanton highway 68 runs through the battle fields of Mine Creek. Here was fought in October 1864 the only battle between uniformed troops ever fought on Kansas soil. The state marker on highway 69 tells of the battle. Farmers today pick up bullets in their fields. Twenty-five miles south is Fort Scott, an out post before the Civil War for the protection of white settlers from the Indians and an important outfitting post and concentration point during the entire Civil War. The block house that was built at that time is still standing. The Plaza and parade grounds and fine old officers' residences still stand, the latter being in use. Modesty prevents my mentioning what can be seen in the immediate Pittsburg district. But there is plenty.

On south, one can leave our highway and continue straight south on another paved road past the Spencer Chemical Works, the old J. O. W. plant, where Uncle Sam spent \$37,000,000 to build an ammonium nitrate plant. It is a sight for anybody from anywhere to see.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Kansas State Chamber of Commerce--2--Sept. 1, 1949

Then there is Riverton, site of a dam across Spring river which creates a large body of water and power. At Baxter Springs one will see one of the most noted outposts of the early years of Kansas. This was the scene of the Blunt staff massacre where Quantrill and his men murdered nearly 100 members of the staff and force of General Blunt. In the cemetery nearby the victims are buried. Among them was John Frye, the star rider of the pone express. Baxter was a wild and wooley cow town where they shifted the routes of herds of cattle from Texas for shorter shipment to reach the new railroad. On highway 54 as well as on highway 7 tourists may visit Girard, the site of the amazing book publishing business of Haldemann-Julius. On highway 54 twenty miles west tourists will come to St. Paul, formerly Osage Mission, one of the earliest settlements of Kansas, the history of which is well known. It was from Osage Mission that the Osage Indians went to Oklahoma shenaniganed out of the rich Neosho valley lands for scrub oak hills in Oklahoma from which oil gushed to make them the richest people on earth per capita.

And why overlook Lawrence, to mention one of half a dozen other communities in eastern Kansas, that contributed so much to Kansas history?

In other words why leave eastern Kansas off the list? Surely tourists who are going to spend these millions of dollars in Kansas want to see all of Kansas and not just part of it.

Sincerely yours,

John A. Fenimore
Director Highway 69 Association

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

March 27, 1950

Max W. Foresman
Director of Public Relations
Spencer Chemical Company
Pittsburg, Kas.

Dear Mr. Foresman:

Thanks for the donation to the baseball club. It will go with the donations of business firms and individuals who have shown a desire to retain this form of community entertainment for Pittsburg. The approximately twenty directors appreciate this spirit of cooperation.

There is an erroneous idea about professional baseball in Pittsburg. The story even has been circulated that some fellows were making a big lot of money out of it. The truth, of course, is that the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce sponsored the organization. A committee that did not want the job was named to see what could be done. Out of its efforts came the Pittsburg Browns, for better or for worse. The club is operated by a board of directors, most of the members being active in business in southeastern Kansas.

When it became necessary to borrow money upon which to operate on account of losses due to floods and other misfortunes, these directors signed their names on a note. No director is drawing a dime for his services. Nor has any director had any notion of doing so. The Pittsburg baseball club is strictly a non profit organization. Directors assemble at a pay-your-own breakfast one or two mornings a month. They buy boxes and pay for them the same as anyone else. They buy season tickets. Their interest is entirely unselfish and yet the story persists that this is a money making scheme with a lot of crooked business men in Pittsburg making big profits.

I know that you folks down there have no such idea. But I was interested in your statement that you are helping to pay a "deficit incurred by an organization owned by individuals." It happens, as I have just explained, that there is nothing much to own. But I do think that attention ought to be called to the origin of this baseball organization.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Max W. Foresman--2--March 27, 1950

Several of us who sat in on the original baseball deliberations also were present and in action a few years earlier joining Kenneth Spencer in his great campaign for a defense plant for Pittsburg and this area. That private individuals were to operate, and perhaps eventually own, the plant never occurred to us as destroying civic interest in the project. Tom McWally and various other men gave time and work to Kenneth's project, considering it a major item on our program. These men have the same idea today about encouraging and fostering other privately owned business enterprises for our community. Some of these men are on the baseball board and giving considerable time to it. I have known of no one who wanted to be a member of the board. I could name several eminent citizens who have accepted election to the board through willingness to help out what they considered to be a wholesome recreational feature for Pittsburg.

The ball club contributed heavily to rigging up the baseball field which belongs to Pittsburg. The field is of big value to the city. It is used by kid baseball organizations when the Browns are not at home. The deficit that the club has had practically is represented by the amount of money put into the park.

Thanks again and let me say we have big hopes that the team this year will be a good one and that will solve the club's main difficulty.

Yours very truly,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FEB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

O. S. STAUFFER, PUBLISHER

ESTABLISHED 1870

The Arkansas City Daily Traveler

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS
AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

ARKANSAS CITY, KANSAS

WILLIAM FRAILEY
EDITOR AND MANAGER

June 7, 1950

Mr. F.W. Brinkerhoff
Pittsburg Headlight & Sun
Pittsburg, Kas.

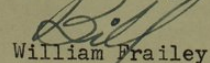
Dear Brink:

A joker was in here yesterday with an advertising schedule for a sex movie entitled "Dad and Mom" which they plan to show in a makeshift outdoor theater just across the state line.

We were hesitant about accepting the advertising and he insisted it had been placed without question in Pittsburg and several other cities.

I would appreciate it if you would check on this and let me know whether the Headlight & Sun have taken the ads and any comment appropriate.

With best regards,


William Frailey

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

June 8, 1950

William F. Frailey
The Traveler
Arkansas City, Kas.

Dear Bill:

Yes, we took the advertising. It was taken after a Joplin bank had okayed the financial responsibility of the fellow. The bill was paid promptly with a good check. The advertising was accepted because the show seemed to be no worse than many similar ones being put on in Pittsburg in the regular theatres.

We are teletypesetting. And it seems like a real go. We hope to get the bugs out pretty quickly and it would be well for you to keep tab on us.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls



Chairman
CLARENCE A. ROMER
Romer Grain Co.
Salina

Vice-Chairman
E. E. WOODS
O. E. Woods Lumber Co.
Independence

Secretary-Treasurer
W. R. SCOTT
Board of Trade
Kansas City

ALLIED PRODUCERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF KANSAS, INC.

Headquarters:
522½ Kansas Ave.
Topeka, Kansas

Telephone 4-1129

E. N. Sunderland, Mgr.
522½ Kansas Ave.
Topeka, Kansas

DIRECTORS

WM. E. ANDERSON
Anderson Bros. Produce
Topeka

C. PRICE BERRYMAN
Home Lumber & Supply Co.
Parsons

L. F. FADLER
Fadler Produce Co.
Pittsburg

EDW. A. GALL, Mgr.
Dodge City Cooperative Exchange
Dodge City

JAMES GRAFF
Griff Grain Elevator
Conning

J. F. CRANT
Grant-Billingley Fruit Co.
Wichita

HAROLD HARPSTER
Harpster Lumber Co.
Haworth

GUY A. HOUSTON, Pres.
J. B. Houston & Son Lumber Co.
Wichita

FRED C. LAUDICK, Mgr.
Farmers Cooperative Grain & Supply Co.
Spearville

R. R. BETH
Beth Grain Co.
Wichita

February 22, 1951

Mr. L. F. Fadler,
Fadler Produce Co.,
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Mr. Fadler:

You will recall that, when you consented to serve as a director of this Association, I promised I would ask for very little time or effort on your part, and then only when it was urgently needed.

As you know, after an absence from the state for ten years, I was asked to again take up the work in Kansas and secure, if possible, strengthening amendments to the itinerant merchant law passed in 1941, and, after the strengthening amendments had been passed and were in effect, to ride the highways and work with law enforcing officials and agencies to acquaint them with the provisions of the law and urge enforcement thereof.

The only amendment we deemed necessary was an increase of the fraud bond from its present \$500.00 to \$2,500.00. That increase has been and is being demanded by the grain interests of Kansas, as a result of the grain fraud cases brought to light by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Attorney General's office.

Rather than string this letter out, I am attaching copy of a memorandum to Representative Holmstrom (Riley County), who introduced into the House of Representatives House Bill No. 260. This attached memorandum covers, in a general way, the past history of the itinerant merchant law passed in 1941, the proposed strengthening amendment and reasons therefor.

For your further information, there are enclosed copy of House Bill No. 260 and a copy of the itinerant merchant law as it now stands on the statute books.

House Bill No. 260, after its introduction, was

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

#2

Mr. L. F. Fadler

2-22-51

referred to the Committee on State Affairs. It has been studied by that committee and will come out today with the recommendation "Do pass".

The next step is that it will go to the Committee of the Whole, where we are confident it will receive affirmative vote to place it on the calendar for third and final reading.

Comes now the important matter of placing House Bill No. 260, after it has passed the Committee of the Whole, on the House calendar well up toward the head of the list so there will be no danger of it dying on the calendar.

Talked with Representative Holmstrom this morning and he said the Chairman of the Calendar Committee is a very good friend of his, and he believes there will be very little difficulty in getting House Bill No. 260 places on the calendar in such a way that it will receive attention without undue delay.

However, Mr. Holmstrom said it would be very helpful if the Speaker of the House, Representative Lawrence M. Gibson, of Pittsburg, would speak favorably to the Calendar Committee, recommending that House Bill No. 260 be given favorable action for its position on the calendar.

Representative Holmstrom told me that the Speaker, Mr. Gibson, undoubtedly would be receptive to a word of favor from Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff.

In our telephone conversation this morning, you indicated that you would talk with Mr. Brinkerhoff and ask him to, in turn, drop a note to Speaker Gibson, asking, in a diplomatic way, that the Speaker do whatever he could to secure early attention by the House of House Bill No. 260.

It is unfortunate that the original itinerant merchant law, which became effective in 1911, did so very shortly before Pearl Harbor, with the result that no effort has been made during the past ten years to enforce it. In fact, Mr. Lou Richter, Chief of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, whose staff investigated the grain fraud cases, admitted before the Committee on State Affairs that he did not know there was such a law containing a fraud bond on the statute books.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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Mr. L. F. Fadler

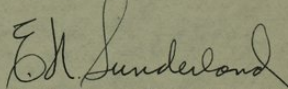
2-22-51

I have been assured by Mr. Richter and the Attorney General's office that they will do their part in enforcing the law after the present session of the legislature is over, and when I ride the highways, I should call attention of the nearest enforcing officer to violations of the law.

The fruit and vegetable dealers in Kansas, come into this picture on account of the fact that truckers bring into Kansas from Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas, citrus fruits, melons, berries, etc., peddling them throughout the state and, in order to secure pay loads to return, usually load with grain, feeds, and seeds. Therefore, your commodity trade should side with the grain dealers in advocating an increase in the fraud bond.

The vote in the House will come very soon, and I would greatly appreciate your talking with Mr. Brinkerhoff at your earliest convenience and finding out whether or not he will pass a friendly word on to the Speaker of the House, Mr. Lawrence Gibson.

Sincerely,


E. N. Sunderland, Manager

CC/ Messrs. W. R. Scott

C. A. Romeiser

E. E. Woods

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Mr. Holmstrom:

Topeka, Kansas
February 20, 1951

Here are a few facts concerning the present itinerant merchant law which you might want to look over:

The act became a law in 1941, so shortly before the Pearl Harbor attack that we did not have sufficient time to bring its requirements and exemptions to the attention of peace officers and law enforcing agencies.

As you know, after Pearl Harbor, Kansas like other states, in the interest of the war effort, closed its eyes to many violations of motor carrier laws, such as length, weight, speed, etc.

The grain and lumber industries did not feel they would stand in very good light with the general public if they insisted on enforcement of the itinerant merchant measure, as it was the consensus that every vehicle that could roll, should do so with the least hampering.

After the war, and when things got back more or less to normal, many new faces appeared among the peace officers and the members of the enforcing agencies. The itinerant merchant law either was forgotten by some of the older employees or they had never heard of it.

Therefore, not one single itinerant merchant license has been sold in the State of Kansas.

Nebraska, however, has secured some enforcement of their itinerant merchant law, and the last figure I have - about April, 1950 - they had sold 200 itinerant merchant licenses. The Nebraska law also carries an integrity bond.

Through the efforts of the Attorney General's office and the head of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, 36 men were indicted by the federal grand jury for moving stolen grain in interstate commerce. These were the truckers who, through manipulation of scales and scale weights and equipment could make their trailers weigh heavy or light, depending on whether or not they were buying or selling. Mr. Lou Richter has a vast amount of information on this subject.

In addition to those 36 men, and through the efforts of the Attorney General's office, 6 men were convicted and sentenced in Nemaha County and sent to the state penitentiary for the same type of fraudulent grain deals. They are still in prison, but I understand they are seeking commutation of their sentences and it is predicted that, upon their release, they will again engage in this illegal operation, as the Attorney General's office showed the profit for those 6 men ran approximately \$20,000.00 a week over a period of more than two years. Those 6 men could well afford to spend a few months in Lansing mid, upon release, re-enter the grain trucking business.

However, if enforcement is secured on the Kansas itinerant merchant law, an applicant for a license to do business as such will find it exceedingly difficult to secure a fraud bond in cases where they have shady repu-

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

- 2 -

tation, as very few surety companies would take such a risk.

The law, as you know, as it now stands, calls for a \$500.00 bond.

Kansas Grain, Feed & Seed Dealers Association, headed by Mr. Dwight Tolle, President, contends that \$500.00 does not come near the loss which may be sustained from just one operation, particularly when grain is around \$2.00 per bushel, and with huge equipment, the truckers can carry 800 or more bushels.

We hope to have present as witnesses today the following men:

Attorney General Fitzer
Mr. Lou Richter, Chief, Kansas Bureau of Investigation.
Mr. Dwight Tolle, President, Kansas Grain, Feed & Seed Dealers Association.
Mr. Allan T. Flint, Secretary-Manager, Southwestern Lumbermen's Association.
Mr. James Graff, Grain Elevator Operator from Corning, Kansas, who was one of the victims of the 6 men convicted in Kansas County. Mr. Graff promised to attend, providing weather conditions would permit him to drive safely.

E. N. Sunderland, Manager, Allied Producers & Distributors of Kansas, Inc., a trade association made up primarily of dealers in grain, lumber, feed, seeds, fruits and vegetables, etc.

In order to conserve the time of the Committee, I am going to ask everyone except Messrs. Fitzer and Richter to merely hold themselves in readiness, after they have been introduced, of course, and you can then tell the Committee that these men are there, not to make any long-winded talks, but merely to be at the disposal of the Committee in case any questions come up which need answers.

E. N. S.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

March 15, 1951

L. F. Fadler
Fadler Produce Co.
Pittsburg, Kas.

Dear Cap:

Since the peddler bill got along all right in the house and is over in the senate, Sunderland suggests you write to Docky D. and he also suggests that I do the same.

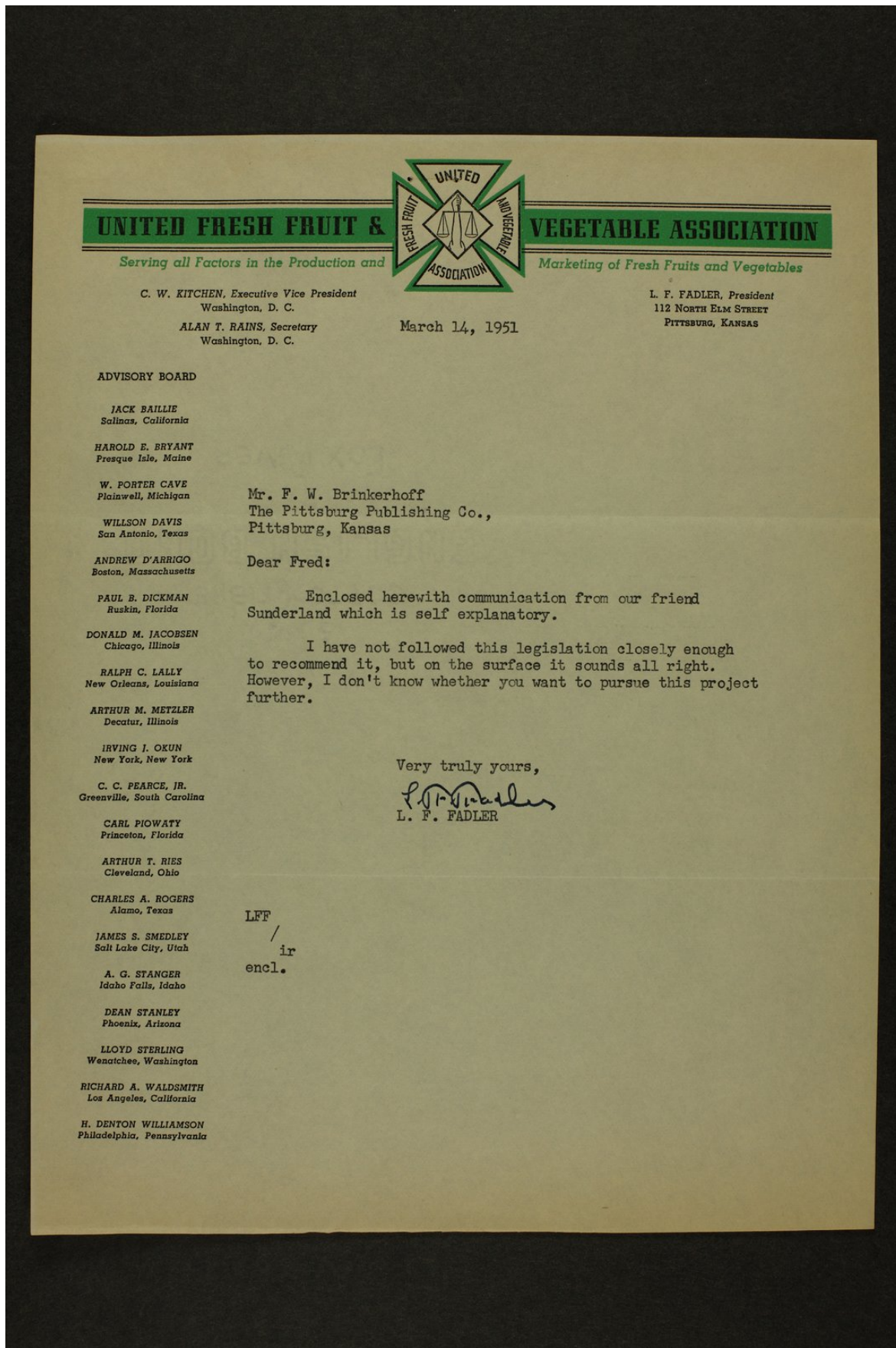
I suggest you drop Dellinger a letter and say that you talked to me and I suggested you do it and mention that it would save me a letter to him. I know he will understand.

Sincerely yours,

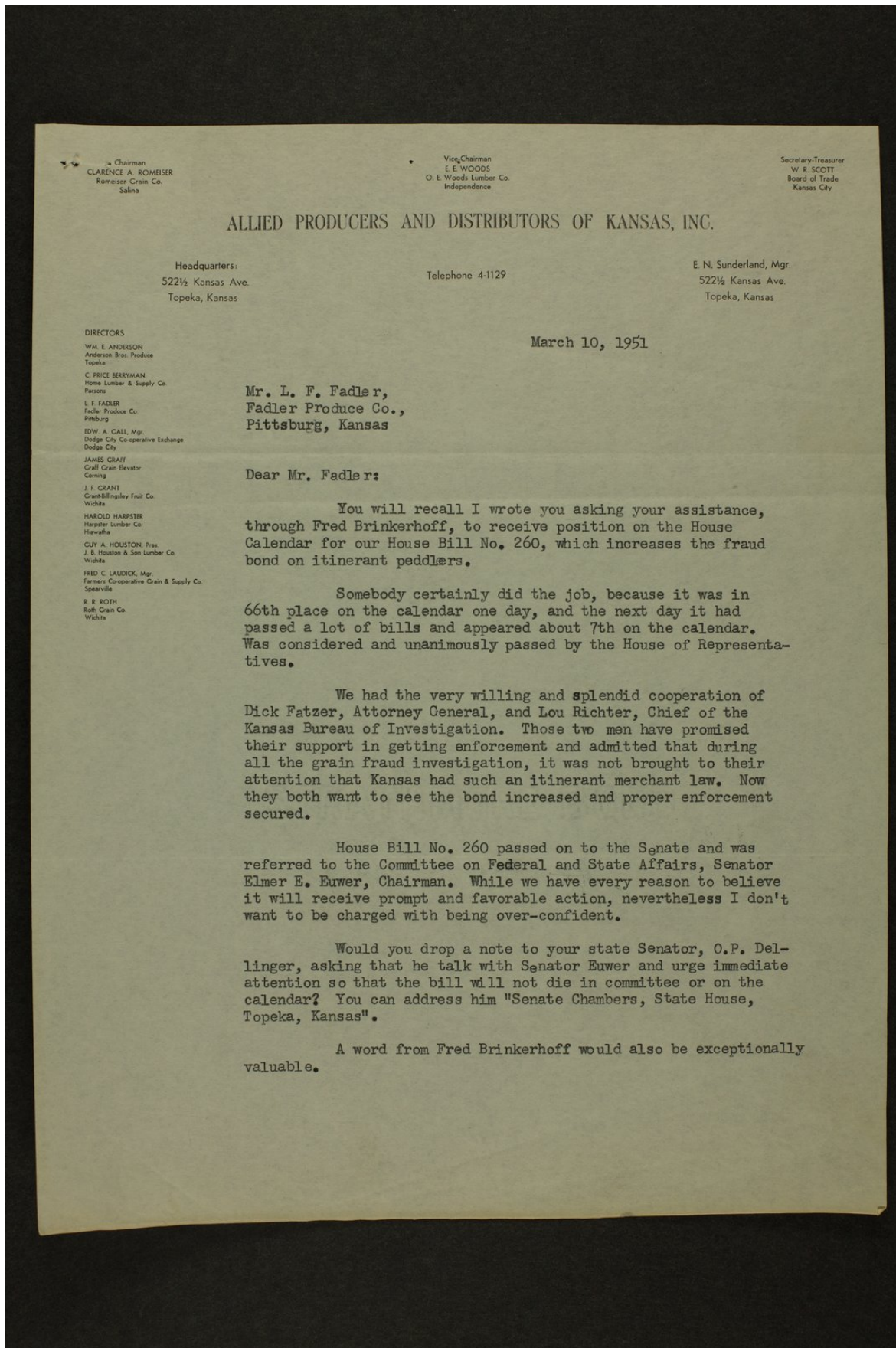
F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence



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CLARENCE A. ROMEISER
Romeiser Grain Co.
Salina

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O. E. Woods Lumber Co.
Independence

Secretary-Treasurer
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Board of Trade
Kansas City

ALLIED PRODUCERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF KANSAS, INC.

Headquarters:
522½ Kansas Ave.
Topeka, Kansas

Telephone 4-1129

E. N. Sunderland, Mgr.
522½ Kansas Ave.
Topeka, Kansas

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Anderson Bros. Produce
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Parsons

L. F. FADLER
Fadler Produce Co.
Pittsburg

EDW. A. CALL, Mgr.
Dodge City Co-operative Exchange
Dodge City

JAMES CRAFF
Craff Grain Elevator
Conning

J. F. CRANT
Crant Billingsley Fruit Co.
Wichita

HAROLD HARPSTER
Harpster Lumber Co.
Haworth

CLYDE A. HOUSTON, Pres.
J. B. Houston & Son Lumber Co.
Wichita

FRED C. LAUDICK, Mgr.
Farmers Co-operative Grain & Supply Co.
Spearville

R. R. ROTH
Roth Grain Co.
Wichita

March 10, 1951

Mr. L. F. Fadler,
Fadler Produce Co.,
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Mr. Fadler:

You will recall I wrote you asking your assistance, through Fred Brinkerhoff, to receive position on the House Calendar for our House Bill No. 260, which increases the fraud bond on itinerant peddlers.

Somebody certainly did the job, because it was in 66th place on the calendar one day, and the next day it had passed a lot of bills and appeared about 7th on the calendar. Was considered and unanimously passed by the House of Representatives.

We had the very willing and splendid cooperation of Dick Fatzer, Attorney General, and Lou Richter, Chief of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. Those two men have promised their support in getting enforcement and admitted that during all the grain fraud investigation, it was not brought to their attention that Kansas had such an itinerant merchant law. Now they both want to see the bond increased and proper enforcement secured.

House Bill No. 260 passed on to the Senate and was referred to the Committee on Federal and State Affairs, Senator Elmer E. Euwer, Chairman. While we have every reason to believe it will receive prompt and favorable action, nevertheless I don't want to be charged with being over-confident.

Would you drop a note to your state Senator, O.P. Dellinger, asking that he talk with Senator Euwer and urge immediate attention so that the bill will not die in committee or on the calendar? You can address him "Senate Chambers, State House, Topeka, Kansas".

A word from Fred Brinkerhoff would also be exceptionally valuable.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

- 2 -

I hope I am not causing you too much trouble, but
the most effective words to the legislators are those they
receive from "back home".

Thanks very much.

Yours very truly,

E. N. Sunderland
E. N. Sunderland, Manager

CC/ Mr. J. F. Grant,
Grant-Billingsley Fruit Co.
Wichita, Kansas

Mr. W. R. Scott

Mr. E. E. Woods

Mr. C. A. Romeiser



Guilty Pleas End \$20,000 Weekly Racket— TOPEKA DAILY CAPITAL 3-23-50

Grain Theft Gang Broken

Atty. Gen. Harold R. Fatzer said yesterday that a Midwest gang of grain thieves whose loot amounted up to \$20,000 weekly was broken up by four men pleading guilty at Seneca to obtaining property under false representation.

Judge John L. Grenon of Hiawatha sentenced the four to one-to-five years in the state penitentiary at Lansing.

Fatzer said a fifth man, whom he termed the ring leader, announced in open court thru his attorneys that he would surrender Wednesday at Seneca, would waive preliminary hearing and plead guilty to the same offense.

Over Entire Midwest

The attorney general identified him as Bruce Robert Diamond Jr., of St. Joseph, Mo.

Those sentenced in the Nemaha County district court yesterday were Lester Pope, Raymond Breitt and Burleigh McVey, all of St. Joseph, and Earl Counter of Kansas City, Mo.

Fatzer said that altho the gang's grain thefts thru false weights at elevators had spread over the entire Midwest, the four pleaded guilty to fraudulently obtaining \$620 from the James Graff elevator at Corning in Nemaha County.

Assisting County Attorney William M. Drumm of Seneca with the case yesterday was Ted Varner, assistant attorney general.

For more than two years the Kansas Bureau of Investigation has been working on the case, Fatzer said grain losses by elevators were reported the past year from Texas to the Dakotas, from Illinois to Wyoming.

At the time the four men were arrested February 1, Fatzer said grain elevator operators allegedly had lost up to \$20,000 a week in buying or selling wheat, corn and other farm commodities whose weights were manipulated by hidden mechanism in two-wheel trailers. He said their total "take" was over \$200,000.

Investigation showed, Fatzer said, a fleet of five trucks with "trick hitches" between the vehicles and trailers so that incorrect weights, either high or low, could be registered on the elevator's scales.

Fatzer said Diamond was owner of the trucks and trailers. The attorney general gave this explanation of how the weight frauds occurred:

Several grain trucks equipped with two-wheel "pup" trailers would arrive at an elevator to buy or sell grain. In weighing the two-wheel trailer it would apparently be disconnected from the truck and the tongue supported by a jack.

To all appearances the tongue had free play and was merely resting on the jack at the time of weighing.

However, concealed within the hollow tongue was a cleverly designed iron rod which engaged in a slot in the hitch-pin of the trailer so that instead of the jack merely supporting the tongue, it actually was putting leverage on the truck's weight.

The trailer could be made to weigh light or heavy, depending on whether the gang was buying or selling grain.

Witnesses Tell Of Grain Runs

Heard for Prosecution In Wheat Fraud Trial

Government witnesses in U. S. district court Monday testified that grain was seen running from extra spouts of the McCoy grain elevator in Sublette, Kan., into trucks which district attorneys say were used to defraud the elevator of 9,871 bushels of wheat in 1948.

Three of the witnesses fixed the time to coincide with that in which the government charges that eight truck drivers conspired to steal the grain from the elevator and transport it in interstate commerce to be sold at a Woodward, Okla., elevator.

RIGHT NOW WRITE YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATOR TO ASSIST IN PASSAGE OF

Session of 1951

HOUSE BILL No. 260

By Mr. HOLMSTROM

AN ACT relating to the licensing and regulation of itinerant merchants, amending section 8-805 of the General Statutes of 1949, and repealing said original section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

SECTION 1. Section 8-805 of the General Statutes of 1949 is hereby amended to read as follows: Sec. 8-805. (a) No license shall be issued by the commission until the applicant shall have filed with each application, and the same shall have been approved by the commission, the following bond, the forms thereof to be prescribed by the commission, issued by a surety company authorized to do business in this state: (1) A bond or cash in the penal sum of two thousand five hundred dollars, for the purpose of protecting the public against fraud. Such bond shall be conditioned upon the delivery of correct weights, footage, measure, qualities or grades, if itinerant merchant are those who, age, measures, qualities or grades, description, quality, or class of payment of license fees and tax mental subdivision thereof, checked delivered by the itinerant merchant of commodities, and conditions of 19ments that may be obtained.

TRICKY IN GRAIN FRAUD

AT LEAST 42 MEN, MOSTLY TRUCK DRIVERS, INVOLVED.

Magnets and Trailer-Hitch Tricks Cheated Farmers and Dealers in Seven States, K. B. I. Reveals.

BY ROBERT H. CLARK.

Topeka, March 23.—A huge grain fraud in which farmers and elevator operators in the Middle West lost thousands of dollars last harvest season through weight manipulations by a ring of truck drivers, was disclosed today through the co-operation of federal and state authorities.

The indictment yesterday of thirty-six men by a federal grand jury here made a total of forty-two persons charged with obtaining money under false pretense in the widespread racket, according to Lou P. Richter, director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

Six to State Prison.

Six of the men pleaded guilty last week in the Nemaha County District court at Seneca, Kas., to state charges and were sentenced to terms of one to five years in the state penitentiary at Lansing.

Wheat Fraud Trial Starts

Government Details Conspiracy Charge

Government attorneys in United States district court Thursday opened their case against eight truckers accused in a \$20,000 wheat fraud. Federal charges allege that the men bought wheat in Kansas, trucked it to Oklahoma where they made weight gains through handling of their trucks on scales.

Assistant United States district attorney Malcolm Miller pointed out that each of five specific cases named in the grand jury indictment against the men charged they had sold wheat from the same trucks which they had loaded in Kansas, but that when they sold it, it weighed more than when loaded.

The wheat was hauled in five semi-trailer trucks owned or driven by the men, Miller said. The trucking sleight-of-hand, he said, gained them some 9,871 bushels and 20 pounds of wheat in a period of about a week sometime between June 20 to July 7, 1948.

Wide Grain Sale Fraud Alleged in Jury's Findings

Alleged racketeering in grain deals, which authorities estimate has cost midwestern country elevator operators in excess of \$100,000, was under scrutiny Thursday following federal grand jury action.

In a 2½-day session, jurors indicted 72 persons. Thirty-six of these were named in three true bills charging fraudulent participation in grain operations. There were 34 indictments.

The fraudulent grain operations charges follow closely the sentencing of six men on similar charges at Seneca. This action was brought by the Kansas attorney general.

\$2,500 Bond for Tramp Peddlers Check on Frauds

Riley County Solon Cites Crooked Deals in Offering Measure

By A. L. SHULTZ

(State Journal Feature Writer)

Life for the itinerant peddler with a leaning toward loose dealings with Kansas purchasers will be more complex if the Legislature approves a bill by Rep. John Holmstrom of Riley county.

He would boost surety requirements of competitors over present tax-paying, property-owning merchants 500 per cent.

Holmstrom's bill is inspired by transactions in his home community where he is engaged in the grain and feed business. Many of the lawmaker's neighbors and friends have had unpleasant experiences with itinerant merchants who prey on local citizens with price lures that often reveal fraud and deception. Holmstrom proposed to put an amendment in the present regulatory act. He would increase surety requirements from \$500 to \$2,500.

THE RILEY COUNTY solon has assembled information from colleagues and friends throughout the state. Most of it concerns peddlers who acquire possession of trucks and start marketing their wares along highways. The present law requires they post \$500 bond or cash with the State Department of Revenue and Taxation. Holmstrom insists it isn't enough.

"These fellows are generally unknown in the community in which they peddle their wares," the legislator said.

"They pass checks, hoping to market their products and get the money in the bank in some other state before the check clears. Most of the operators have cheap, broken-down trucks and offer prices which seem lower than prices of local merchants."

"Some conceal magnets in their trucks to produce improper weights. Some have false bottoms in their trucks. One came thru our community recently with a load of corn. He wanted to sell a dozen bushels or so, he said, to get some gasoline. Along the road he sold the load of grain to one of my neighbors on the showing of a scale ticket based on a Nebraska weight. My neighbor paid for the entire load before this peddler started marketing jags of grain en route."

BOND FOR 25 TRUCKERS

MOST OF THE 36 INDICTED MEN HAVE SURRENDERED.

All Are Scheduled to Appear in the Federal District Court at Wichita, Kas., May 8.

St. Joseph, Mo., March 29. (AP)—Eleven truckers, indicted in a Mid-Western grain fraud case, posted bonds of \$5,000 each today after their appearance before Maurice Pope, United States commissioner.

The defendants, indicted by a federal grand jury at Topeka, are scheduled to appear in the federal district court at Wichita, Kas., May 8.

Fifteen other truckers and truck operators, indicted on similar charges, posted bond yesterday.

All are accused of transporting grain in interstate commerce in violation of the national stolen property act. They allegedly defrauded farmers and elevator operators in Kansas and six other Mid-Western states by using devices which enabled them to manipulate the weight of their vehicles.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

O. S. STAUFFER, PUBLISHER

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The Arkansas City Daily Traveler

MEMBER | ASSOCIATED PRESS
AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

ARKANSAS CITY, KANSAS

F. W. FRAILEY
EDITOR AND MANAGER

April 30, 1951

Mr. F.W. Brinkerhoff
Pittsburg Headlight & Sun
Pittsburg, Kas.

Dear Brink:

With ITU contract time rolling around again, I thought it might be a good idea to compare notes on our situations.

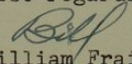
In the past you have had your troubles wound up by the time ours were well under way and I have been able to take advantage of the precedent established in Pittsburg. For the last few years I think we have ended up on the same scale you established.

This year, as I understand it, our contracts expire about the same time and I won't be able to take advantage of your prior skill as a negotiator. Our agreement is out May 28.

If you have opened negotiations or have any definite ideas about what you are going to do, I would like to hear about them. It looks as though attempting to hold the line will be a pretty tough proposition this year.

Some of our teletypesetter equipment has arrived, and we should be ready to go before the July 1 date originally contemplated.

Best regards,


William Frailey

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

May 3, 1951

F. W. Frailey
The Traveler
Arkansas City, Kas.

Dear Bill:

We are just starting negotiations. They have notified me what they want which is ten percent plus \$2. Just why the \$2 I do not know. They want double time instead of time and a half. They want some other things including concessions on the teletypesetter. In a few days hence I expect to dig in.

You can have 30 days longer than the date of expiration and we usually take it. I know it is going to be something of a scrap but I think I am better prepared for a scrap than usually has been the case.

If you should want some help in getting your teletypesetter going August Simion will be glad to advise you, I am sure. He could run over there on Friday sometime, which is the day they force him off here and I think it might be quite helpful to you.

Back to the other matter I will keep you advised as to progress or lack of it. My humble judgment is that if these fellows try to force an unreasonable settlement the teletypesetter prospect will be most helpful.

Of course, you will arrange to be at the AP spring meeting at Olathe.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls