

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Section 133, Pages 3961 - 3990

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

Callnumber: Frederick W. Brinkerhoff Coll. #97, Box 1 Folder 1 - Box 8 Folder 5

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 228487

Item Identifier: 228487

www.kansasmemory.org/item/228487

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Feb. 26, 1951

Kirke Mechem
Secretary
Kansas State Historical Society
Topeka, Kas.

Dear Kirke:

Lawrence told me the other day that the ways and means committee had put in the Annals at \$6,000 and I asked him to call you to see that you knew about it.

I am anxious to visit with you and learn what the play was.

When I can get a little time up there I want to go over the letters that Senator Bowers sent you from Ottawa on the old Ottawa Chautauqua Assembly. Had Bowers talked to me a little before he did I would have had the letters myself and would have gone over them before sending them up there. But I would appreciate it if that collection of letters could be made available for me when I call for them on short notice.

I hope to get up there for a day this week but it may be next week.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FEB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

March 23, 1951

H. A. Meyer
The Reporter
Independence, Kas.

Dear Hub:

If you want to vote as I do here are your candidates for the regular places on the board: Roy A. Roberts, Palmer Hoyt, John S. Knight, James M. Cox, Jr., and W. H. Cowles.

For the director for cities under 50,000, Dolph Simons for the regular term.

But we have a vacancy caused by the death of O. S. Worden.^A The nominating committee by wire has nominated two candidates for this unexpired term, Raymond L. Spangler of Redwood City, Calif., and A. L. Alford of Lewiston, Idaho. I am voting for Spangler.

I will be glad to cast your proxy. Of course, it is not necessary for you to write the names on the ballot if you give me your proxy. Your vote will be cast just as mine is cast. You can do as you please.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

OFFICERS
FRANK HAUCKE, PRESIDENT
WILLIAM T. BECK, VICE-PRESIDENT
ROBERT TAFT, VICE-PRESIDENT
MRS. LELA BARNES, TREASURER

KANSAS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

KIRKE MECHEM, SECRETARY
TOPEKA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
JOHN S. DAWSON
T. M. LILLARD
MILTON R. MCLEAN
ROBERT C. RANKIN
WILFORD RIEGLE

April 6, 1951

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff
Pittsburg
Kansas

Dear Fred:

I am sorry I didn't get to see you last night at the Press Club party. I would like to have had a visit with you.

After a rather hectic session, we finally got nearly everything we asked for. I am particularly glad that the Annals appropriation was saved. I am hoping that we can finish nearly all of it within the biennium. We also got money for an additional janitor, another cataloguer and for quite a lot of repairs and improvements. Also, an increase for maintenance at the Shawnee Mission. On the whole, I believe we came out very well, although we did have to take a pretty drastic cut in the printing budget, which will prevent us from doing a lot of binding that should be taken care of.

I want you to know that I greatly appreciate your help. I realize that you were somewhat on the spot and it was very kind of you to offer to help.

Thanking you again, and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Kirke
Secretary.

KM:vb

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE

WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

April 6, 1951

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Mr. F.W. Brinkerhoff, Editor,
Pittsburg Sun and Headlight,
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Public Information is sponsoring a newspaper institute on "The Press and the Mentally Ill" on Monday and Tuesday, April 30 and May 1, in conjunction with the Topeka State Hospital and the Menninger Clinic. The sessions will be held at the hospital and clinic in Topeka, starting at 10 a.m. Monday and continuing through Tuesday afternoon.

You are one of a number of newspaper editors or publishers whom we are inviting to attend or to send a representative --- in all likelihood a reporter or other staff member who you would like to come into contact with the leaders and information at this conference.

Among the authorities in the field who have definitely accepted invitations to speak or to participate in panel discussions and question-and-answer periods are Albert Deutsch of Washington, D.C., author of "The Mentally Ill in America" and probably the outstanding expert among writers in this field; Harold Maine of Rochester, N.Y., author of "If a Man Be Mad" and numerous magazine articles; Harriett J. Smith, editorial writer of the Des Moines Register and Tribune, who spent a year working at the Menninger Clinic to become an expert on this subject; and Dr. Karl Menninger, who will open the conference with a keynote talk on the problem of the press and the mentally ill.

The program will consist of a series of round-tables and tours of the Topeka State Hospital, the Menninger Clinic and Winter General (Veterans') Hospital.

This will be a practical conference on such matters as methods of covering the "mental health beat." Participants will take up the problem of what constitutes authority in the field, the role of professional ethics among doctors and within the press, the role of the press in exposing bad mental hospital conditions or administration, the creative role of the press in helping to build pressures behind specific programs, methods of developing co-operation from sources of information, the use of pictures etc.

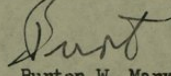
Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

There will be no registration or other fees charged, so your expenses would cover travel, housing and meals.

We should appreciate an early answer to this invitation, because it is important to our planning that we know who and how many plan to attend. If you plan to send a representative, please let us know his or her name and capacity on your newspaper. We have checked with the Topeka hotels and have been told there should be no trouble in getting accommodations.

If you accept this invitation, more details will be sent to you latter.

Sincerely yours,


Burton W. Marvin,
Dean

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

April 27, 1951

Hon. Arthur J. Mellott
Chief Judge
United States District Court
Kansas City, Kas.

Dear Judge Mellott:

Haldeman-Julius, Girard, and I have never had much in common with respect to political principles and social ideas. However, I have known him for many years, have had friendly relations with him and at several times satisfactory business relations. I know nothing of the merits of his prosecution in connection with income tax matters. But I do know that through the long period of years I have known him I have heard nothing reflecting on his reputation for honesty. On the other hand many of my own friends in Girard and the neighborhood have talked to me through the years about the Haldeman-Julius publishing business and the volume which Haldeman-Julius built up:

I have just returned from a couple of weeks in the east. When I read of his conviction the thought immediately occurred to me that the operation of the business might have to be suspended due to the intensely individualistic manner in which he carried on. Returning home yesterday my thought on this was confirmed. My understanding is that if Haldeman-Julius was taken away the plant with 50 families depended upon it for their living will be closed down. No one has been brought up to do what Haldeman-Julius has done. Probably one with his peculiar characteristics could not build up someone to do what he has done. What I am trying to say is whether it is commendable or not that the Haldeman-Julius operation is that of a genius and there is only one genius in the organization.

Naturally as a resident of this county and community I am concerned about what would happen to a very substantial group of men and women. And it seems fully within the limits of good taste to offer my sincere wish that Haldeman-Julius be spared imprisonment if in your wisdom you feel this can be done in this case without violence to proper law enforcement.

Sincerely yours,

FWB:ls

F. W. Brinkerhoff



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

KANSAS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS
FRANK HAUCKE, PRESIDENT
WILLIAM T. BECK, VICE-PRESIDENT
ROBERT TAFT, VICE-PRESIDENT
MRS. LELA BARNES, TREASURER

KIRKE MECHEM, SECRETARY
TOPEKA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
JOHN S. DAWSON
T. M. LILLARD
MILTON R. MCLEAN
ROBERT C. RANKIN
WILFORD RIEGLE

May 2, 1951

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff
Pittsburg Publishing Company
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

It's always a pleasure to hear from an honest man like you, Fred, for you did have a ticket, though the meeting was over before you produced it. Yet the truth was that you said all along you had it, and you finally proved it to those goldurned skeptics! It was a dandy meeting and I enjoyed being with you. Boyle, however, should have talked louder.

I had not received my copies of Kansas Facts so I telephoned the Press Association when your letter came. They looked up the copy and said you were right. They must have skipped some lines. They'll try to correct it. Many thanks for tipping us off.

Franklin Rose has been over several times to talk to Kirke about the historical markers. He's had charge of the markers for the Highway Commission. The upkeep on the wooden markers has been terrific and the Commission is going to experiment with aluminum signs similar to the ones Kirke has had placed alongside our building. Six of the markers are to be redone the aluminum way and the Trading Post sign--with the change--was among them. Rose told me by telephone this morning that they expected delivery on the marker this month, and we all will be glad to have your reaction to the sign when it goes up.

I had photostats of the chronology of Brown's movements in Kansas sent to you yesterday. If they don't arrive right away, let me know. The pages are from Villard's book on Brown and will be handy to have around, so just keep them. They're only a token of our affection for you.

I've been trying to think of something that may be considered new on Brown, but with no success. I'll keep it in mind though, and if anything should occur to me before the week is over I'll try to get it to you. I know your speech will be a good one. And don't forget, I'm going to give you a choice of Mondays in November for a talk to our Kiwanis club here. I'll write you later in the year about it.

Come to think of it, about the newest thing on Brown happened a year or two ago when John Harvey and Judge Bill Smith steamed into my corner with the hot idea that Brown's bones ought to be returned to Kansas and buried with pomp and ceremony on the statehouse grounds. Harvey thought New York wasn't taking good enough care of the grave.

We were cold to the idea for several reasons. I think Harvey may have written a few letters to start the ball arolling, but he probably ran into some of the things that naturally would pop up on a move like that. At any rate

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

I believe the gentlemen are not now doing anything to disturb John Brown's bones. As far as I know, the idea was never picked up for discussion in the press. A United Press man telephoned about it some months later. I told him it was not our story, and I also explained why we personally were not hot on it. I have heard nothing more.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially

Nyle

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

May 10, 1951

Nyle H. Miller
Kansas State Historical Society
Topeka, Kas.

Dear Nyle:

I am returning herewith the Thaddeus Hyatt report. I was sorry that you did not get down to Osawatomie yesterday. Probably the boys have told you about it by now. They said that Kirke had just returned from somewhere and could not make the trip. In spite of the weather conditions which made it necessary to move the ceremonies into an auditorium at the stadium/near the park there was a big crowd on hand and I think we had a good time.

I made a suggestion to Miss Remington and the others at Osawatomie that they arrange to send the melodeon to various Kansas cities which requested it. For instance, it could be brought to Pittsburg for display at the College for two or three days. Osawatomie should be willing to pay the expense of a couple of Boy Scouts to have charge of the memento. Perhaps the boy who played it yesterday on the program would be available to go with it. This would give Osawatomie and the John Brown Museum there a good play in communities before the public and the press. If we bring it to Pittsburg we will put it on the air over KSEK and I am sure it would have a big audience. A little propaganda publicity telling how this instrument was used at Brown's funeral, how Wendell Phillips, one of the great orators, stood near it as he delivered the funeral address, etc., could be obtained easily.

I have said for years that if we could do things like that for the historical society it would be very advantageous. You will recall that our display of the Wyandotte constitution at the meeting of the AP got considerable comment. Show this to Kirke. I am writing to Miss Remington to follow up my suggestion.

Thanks for your help in connection with the Osawatomie affair. I will be seeing you some of these days.

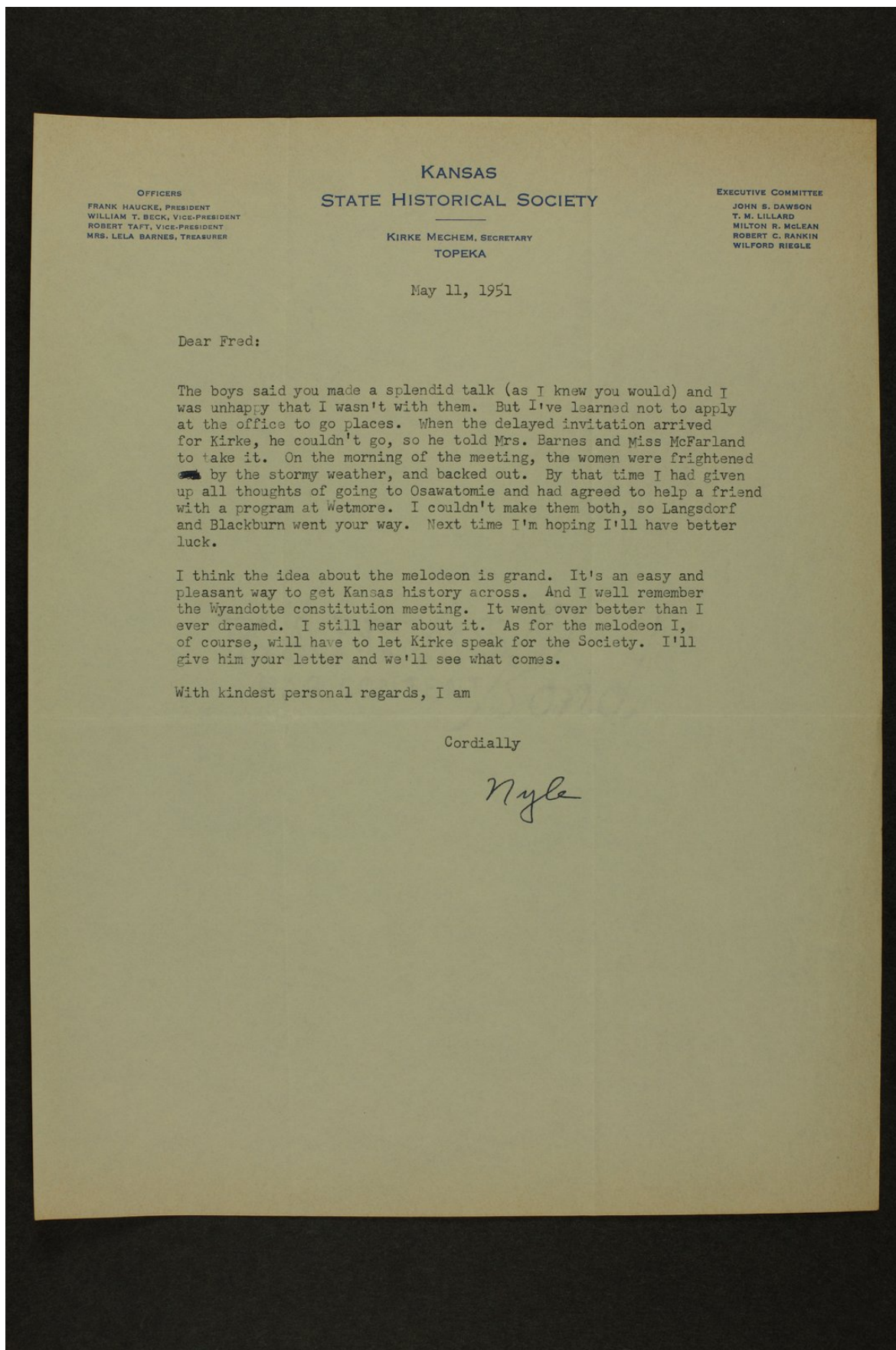
Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence



KANSAS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS
FRANK HAUCKE, PRESIDENT
WILLIAM T. BECK, VICE-PRESIDENT
ROBERT TAFT, VICE-PRESIDENT
MRS. LELA BARNES, TREASURER

KIRKE MECHEM, SECRETARY
TOPEKA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
JOHN S. DAWSON
T. M. LILLARD
MILTON R. McLEAN
ROBERT C. RANKIN
WILFORD RIEGLE

May 11, 1951

Dear Fred:

The boys said you made a splendid talk (as I knew you would) and I was unhappy that I wasn't with them. But I've learned not to apply at the office to go places. When the delayed invitation arrived for Kirke, he couldn't go, so he told Mrs. Barnes and Miss McFarland to take it. On the morning of the meeting, the women were frightened ~~and~~ by the stormy weather, and backed out. By that time I had given up all thoughts of going to Osawatomie and had agreed to help a friend with a program at Wetmore. I couldn't make them both, so Langsdorf and Blackburn went your way. Next time I'm hoping I'll have better luck.

I think the idea about the melodeon is grand. It's an easy and pleasant way to get Kansas history across. And I well remember the Wyandotte constitution meeting. It went over better than I ever dreamed. I still hear about it. As for the melodeon I, of course, will have to let Kirke speak for the Society. I'll give him your letter and we'll see what comes.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially

Nyle

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

1

Sunday, June 3, 1951

Dear Fritz:

Whether I get anything else done or not, I'm going to write you and Joe Murray.

There are no words to express my feelings because of what you said of the News and me in your editorial on the flood here. For my part of it, I deserved so little and you gave me so much.

I went home Tuesday night--day of the flood--and in a matter of minutes my left leg and thigh became numb. I was pretty sure what had happened but managed to get to bed and didn't tell Leota. There was just the chance it was the result of a nerve reaction but next day the doctor told me I had suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. He said the stroke was slight, that I'd likely recover even to the extent of the full use of my leg within a few months; but the first paralysis could be followed by a second. I told him I had considerable unfinished business and wanted it straight. He said he was handing it to me just as it was. I believed him. He was the same way when I had a heart attack five years ago this month. He's always called the score right. I returned to work last Monday (he said to get back on the job for two or three hours a day) but Thursday I tripped, fell down stairs and sprained both legs. But here I am at the office this morning and able to write a couple of letters and maybe go through the mail. If I don't manage to choke myself to death on breakfast food or cut my throat with an electric razor, it looks like

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

I might recover.

--

As for the news coverage of the flood which you so generously commended, I wrote two-thirds of the main stem story which was routine; picked out two lines of Cheltenham or Continental (don't remember which) for 8-col. heading, tried to talk to a lot of demoralized persons; then telephoned our two banks asking if they would ~~accept~~ set up a flood relief account. At the moment it ~~looked~~ looked like we'd need ten times ^{as much} ~~more~~ money ^{as} ~~than~~ we ever could get our hands on (it still does). Both said "yes." Then I telephoned the secretary of the chamber of commerce. He agreed to get the ball rolling. Did a nice job of it and we now have about \$17,000 in the poke most of which will, I think, be used to help get people back on their feet who lost their means of making a living--small businesses, women ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ supporting families with sewing (three lost their sewing machines), carpenters who lost all their tools and so on, ad infinitum. The C. of C. has taken over this enterprise and will, I'm sure, do a good job. We could hand over \$10,000 (if that much could be spared) to a fine young fellow who ~~had~~ two years ago had set up a small book store on the college campus. He lost his home, next door, and all his stock. Has a wife and two kids.

Our news editor did a magnificent job, really. He handled all the AP stuff and didn't refuse to answer a single phone call all through the day.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

A young woman reporter who has been here only seven weeks, came to work at 10:30 a.m. after being rescued ~~for~~ from a house where she had an apartment and wrote a lot of fine copy. Incidentally, the water was up to her neck when she escaped from her basement apartment lugging her typewriter with her! That's all she saved. She is homely, weighs 150 pounds, stands 5 feet, nine inches in height. Comes from Indiana University. Only 22. Probably the best reporter we've ever had. The gal is brains.

Leota, who is tops in reporting, worked ~~as~~ with ~~her~~ rescuers, helped place persons who had lost all their possessions in temporary homes and made herself useful generally. She didn't write a line, said there was more important work for her to do and she was right.

~~My~~ We could contribute only \$500 to the relief fund that we started and I'm sorry about this. But we had just spent more than \$30,000 in a new addition and office equipment and our cash account was low. As is usual in times of emergency when money is needed, a number of our citizens who are financially able to contribute up to \$3,000, subscribed from \$25 to \$100. But one always has those kind of people around.

Only a real friend could endure so long a letter but I had to take it out on someone, and it would have to be you! Best regards from Leota and me to you and Mrs. B.

As ever,

Frank

Note: I got my training under you. Might be glad to know the coverage pleased you, you would not want one of your trainees to mess up an important news event.

13

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

July 19, 1951

A. L. Miller
Federated Publications
Battle Creek, Michigan

Dear Bert:

Under separate cover I am sending you some parts of the Chanute Tribune containing tragic pictures of Ottawa and some descriptive stuff. It is unbelievable but water struck through Maine Street and Second and Third and up to Fourth in Ottawa. As I understand it, the block between Fourth and Fifth was the only one not under water. The water was up to the ceiling of the first floor in the Herald office. I saw, as did you, flood waters rise to the Missouri Pacific tracks at First Street. But I never dreamed it could get to the door sill of the Herald office. The Herald set up a news room in the city hall which stands where the old Centennial Hotel stood on West Fourth. The Herald was printed in Chanute and flown to Ottawa.

I am also sending a couple of tearouts of stories written by one of our men on the Neosho flood. One trip was by air and the other by motor car, the latter yesterday. The Neosho river is a little more than 20 miles west of Pittsburg. The big power plant from which we get our juice is on the Neosho. Damage to this plant amounts to \$300,000. Fortunately we hook up to another plant of the company for emergency or we bring in the juice from two other companies.

The flood in the Kaw valley baffles description.

The immediate effect of the disaster has been to stimulate demands for dams. One thing that those screaming the loudest refuse to consider is that all the dams that could have been built at a cost of billions of dollars could not have taken care of the water that went down the Kaw and its tributaries, down the Neosho and down the Marais des Cygnes. Advocates of a lot of dams point to the Fall river dam near Eureka and to the fact that the Fall river did not give any trouble. The principal reason for the docility of the Fall river was that in its water shed there was very little rain.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

A. L. Miller--2--July 19, 1951

You will also be interested in this. While the waters were still raging through Iola a delegation of prominent citizens went to Topeka to insist that in the flood program then being talked by Kaw valley statesmen and leaders, the other rivers in Kansas should not be ignored. There is in the making a fine quarrel coming up in Kansas unless everybody gets what everybody wants.

I think you will be interested in the papers I am sending. I know you will not enjoy them.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

PWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

THE STATE JOURNAL
Lansing, Mich.
THE HERALD
Grand Rapids, Mich.
THE ENQUIRER AND NEWS
Battle Creek, Mich.
NEWSPAPER ENGRAVING CO.
Grand Rapids, Mich.
RADIO STATION WELL
Battle Creek, Mich.

Federated Publications, Inc.

Office of A. L. MILLER, President
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

July 25/51

Dear Fred:

You certainly rendered generous service in the news supply. Inconveniently enough, I had no direct service from the flood region other than as the wire services laid it down--and the wire interest wasn't concentrated as much as mine was. As I wrote you, I had stopped the Star on the final conclusion that it delivered too much bulk for my desk or any of the desks to handle--and I had ordered the Capital. All this before the floods started. The Capital is now coming, and with the splendid coverage which you sent we of the family have been able to "get" the story. And apparently there's nothing in the 40 years of separation that dulls the interest in the story.

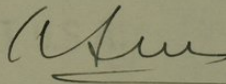
One of the incidental developments is my resolution to ditch a family collection of photographs of the "grest" (1908) flood which I know are still included with the family archives.

I hope your car of paper came through all right. Otherwise, there was a loss, indeed.

You are right about the futility of emotionally-promoted flood-prevention schemes. Nature and the law of gravity located some non-preventable dangers in certain locations with reference to streams. Those dangers become realities when a six-months' or a year's rainfall happens within a week. These things have to be taken into consideration; workable plans require a drying-out process as a preliminary to good planning.

But it is a hell of a thing--and so overwhelmingly costly that everything practical in the way of prevention should be done.

Regards,





Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

The Kansas Soil Conservation and Flood Control Association

RAYMOND WEGNER, President, Ozawie

P. H. SAUBLE, Vice President, Cedar Point
WILLIAM AVERY, Treasurer, Wakefield

MRS. EDITH MONFORT, Secretary, Reading
MRS. J. C. MCKINNEY, Publicity Chairman, Hartford
Reading, Kansas
July 26, 1951.

Fred Brinkerhoff,
Pittsburg Daily Press,
Pittsburg, Kansas.

One day Governor Val Peterson of Nebraska, acting as chairman of the Missouri River State's Committee, stood before a huge tense crowd at the big flood control meeting in Kansas City and wept tears over the poor flood victims of the disastrous Kansas and Missouri floods.

The next day he sold those same flood victims down the river for hydro-electric power!

It has just this moment been announced over the radio that Governor Peterson has petitioned the Senate Appropriations Committee in Washington in the name of yesterday's meeting urging an immediate start on the comprehensive program for the 105 dams proposed by the Army Engineers in order to lessen the flood threats in the future.

But the governor urges that not too much emphasis be placed on flood control in order that there might be hydro-electric power!

Now anyone knows that storage that is kept full for power will not be empty to hold flood waters when they come.

This is precisely the turn events took in the Tennessee valley where reservoirs authorized by Congress for flood control were found by the Hoover Commission to be operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority for power instead with the result that the Tennessee valley today suffers greater flooding than it did in the days before the big dams.



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

The Kansas Soil Conservation and Flood Control Association

RAYMOND WEGNER, President, Ozawie

P. H. SAUBLE, Vice President, Cedar Point
WILLIAM AVERY, Treasurer, Wakefield

MRS. EDITH MONFORT, Secretary, Reading
MRS. J. C. MCKINNEY, Publicity Chairman, Hartford

Pittsburg Daily Press - 2

It should now be clear to all persons that Pick-Sloan like Missouri River Valley Authority is a skid into socialism by way of public power.

This writer attended the Kansas City meeting and heard the people pleading for flood control not electric power. She understands now why the governor avoided answering her question as to why the water detention program for flood control of the Department of Agriculture was excluded from the agenda. It does not store water for power. It merely controls floods!

The only way the people can be certain that a flood control program will not be converted in the future to a public power program is to construct the kind that cannot be so converted.

I am

Most sincerely yours,

Edith Monfort
Edith Monfort, Secretary,
Kansas Soil Conservation and
Flood Control Association.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Aug. 15, 1951

Mrs. Edith Monfort
Reading, Kas.

Dear Mrs. Monfort:

Thanks for the interesting letter you sent to me under date of July 26. From every one of my friends who attended the meeting at Kansas City came the same report. According to them it was a farce of the first degree.

I have been disgusted no end with the pell mell rush on the part of some politicians and some would be leaders to prevent future floods.

It has been my contention for some time that the crackpot outfit in Washington is trying to build dams everywhere for the purpose of making power and for recreation purposes, instead of providing for flood control. "Flood control" is largely a disguise for the idea of creating boating and fishing and picnicking along with power. The power is to be used for the purpose of destroying private industry. The recreation is to be provided for those in the future who work one day a week and play the other six.

The Kansas floods made up a major disaster. But a program for preventing flood damage in the future should be based on common sense and strict honesty and not on political radicalism and personal ambition.

I think we should do everything possible to prevent disastrous flooding but I think we should be sensible about it and get strictly down to business in our engineering. I think we will find that the hearts of the government boys are not beating so rapidly from an overwhelming desire to prevent future flood suffering. They are more concerned about putting political ideas into the flood prevention program. The political idea is to destroy one big branch of private industry.

We lost two carloads of newsprint in the flood waters at Kansas City. The Santa Fe could have taken thousands of cars of freight out on higher ground on the tracks toward Ottawa.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Mrs. Edith Monfort--2--Aug. 15, 1951

The Santa Fe knew three days in advance how high the water was going to be in Kansas City. But the excuse is that the army engineers gave full assurance that the dikes would hold and that there was no danger of a major overflow.

It seems that some of the fellows have put me in the ranks of those opposed to flood control. That, of course, is false. What they should have said was that I am opposed to the way army engineers have projected flood control, tied in with hydro electric power and fishing and swimming and hunting.

When you see Mrs. McKinney give her my regards.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

THE HAYS DAILY NEWS
HAYS, KANSAS

FRANK MOTZ
LEOTA MOTZ

Sept. 2, 1951

Dear Fred:

Only time I get to see the Headlight, ordinarily, is Sunday and I just read your comment on a fellow whom you didn't ~~identify~~ identify other than to say his name was Motz, in connection with parking meters.

Maybe my own comments have been confusing. Parking meters here without buying some vacant lots, near the business part of town which still can be had (I bought one and a half just off South Main street one day for \$16,000 and sold it within a week for the same price because we found it wasn't a fifth enough space for a radio station after the FCC man reversed our field and said we'd have to go out of town), wouldn't mean much except to keep shoving cars around in a turmoil. If you've been in Dodge you will know what I mean. Most of the time traffic there is in a hopeless snarl. If they'd buy the lots, have low rates and then put in the meters on the main business streets, it seems to me it would help. It works in El Paso. I talked with the director of traffic and he said meters only made things worse until they went the whole way, razed buildings on two half-blocks and provided more space for parking. And that's a crowded town from November until the middle of May. Tucson is bad, too, but Phoenix is spread out over half a county, has parking meters "for revenue only" and has no traffic problem. Last year Leota and I went through Oklahoma and Texas on a swing through the South. Had a look at Temple because we

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

THE HAYS DAILY NEWS
HAYS, KANSAS

FRANK MOTZ
LEOTA MOTZ

happened to have a friend there. However, I didn't talk to anyone and I really shouldn't have said what I did because I drew my conclusions from a hasty once-over. That's hazardous, of course, on any subject of discussion.

However, over all, I don't see any solution for our parking problems in crowded towns except to provide more room, or parking spaces. Mainly there isn't any real solution. Crowded conditions can only be alleviated as much as possible.

"Dutch" Shultz and I are planning a dinner at Topeka the night of the day before the AP meeting at K.C. this fall. Just a group of the old guys who are on the firing line but have old friendships and pleasant memories. If my left leg and foot don't pain me too much, I'll go through with my part of it and be there. Anyway, I know Dutch will fulfill the contract. Am feeling a little better but a stroke is a stroke, even though it is what the doctor calls a "light one." My brother-in-law, Bob McFarlin, who was ad-manager before he enlisted in the navy in the last war starts in Tuesday and will be able soon to look after details of management. That will be a big help. He had a business of his own which was quite profitable but he was bitten by the bug and sold out so he could come back.

Trust both you and your wife are feeling fine. Please give her our best regards. And here's hoping we'll see you at K.C.

Sincerely yours,

Frank

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Sept. 5, 1951

Frank Motz
The News
Hays, Kas.

Dear Frank:

Why should I have to identify Motz any more? Why among the readers of the editorial columns in the Pittsburg Headlight and The Sun is unfamiliar with the fact that Motz and Hays and the Hays News are synonymous terms. Ditto Clymer.

I enjoyed your dissertation on meters down south. The only thing I am reasonably sure of about the parking problem is that it never will be solved. I note you say there is no real solution. The resentment of safety drives and lack of respect for traffic regulations, including speeding, and an occasional weekend holiday offer about the only help we have in half way meeting the parking problem.

I am greatly interested in that dinner which you and Dutch are planning to give. I flatter myself into the belief that 40 years here and a few elsewhere on the so-called firing line have qualified me for admission. I must turn from this, by the way, to write a hurried note to old Dutch in response to a hurried note from old Dutch.

I am sorely in need of a good reporter or two. Such animals are hard to find.

Regards to the Motz pair from the Brinkerhoff pair. Since you have firmly made up your mind, you two, never to make that trip through here you may be surprised to see us coming out through Hays again. I anticipate that we may go back east in October for a few days in some scenic country near Washington. Otherwise, we might take a little look at Kansas.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

THE HAYS DAILY NEWS
HAYS, KANSAS

FRANK MOTZ
LEOTA MOTZ

Sept. 10, 1951

Dear Fred:

I'm hoping I can be a party to the party Dutch and I propose to set off in late October or early November. Think maybe I can be "conditioned" by then.

Wish I knew of a good reporter--or two because it looks like we're going to lose one. Girl is 22, thinks she's a magazine writer when she doesn't even know how to cover a beat. Only been here three and a half months and it is her first newspaper experience although she is a graduate of Indiana U. school of journalism. She is not imaginative and I don't think she is suited for any kind of creative work. We had a writer off Time (~~pronounced~~ pronounced T-i-m-e) in the war years who couldn't make the grade there for several reasons but she turned out to be a bag-up good news reporter. If I do hear of anyone I think you could use, I'll let you know. There's a fellow here who is starving trying to ~~sell~~ sell insurance. Name is Storm. Next time he comes in I shall tell him about you. He ~~was~~ the ~~making~~ makings of a good reporter and wants to be one but he married a girl whose father was an insurance agent. The father died and he's trying to make a living for his mother-in-law and his own family. *Family consists of wife and year old baby.*

If you folks decide to come out this way--which both of us surely hope you do--let me know a day or two ahead of time. I'll look over the chickens out our way and decide which roost to rob.

As ever, *Frank*
We couldn't use Storm for reasons that would affect you



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

The Kansas Soil Conservation and Flood Control Association

RAYMOND WEGNER, President, Ozawie

P. H. SAUBLE, Vice President, Cedar Point
WILLIAM AVERY, Treasurer, Wakefield

MRS. EDITH MONFORT, Secretary, Reading
MRS. J. C. MCKINNEY, Publicity Chairman, Hartford

Reading, Kansas,
October 9, 1951

Mr. F.W. Brinkerhoff:
Pittsburg Sun,
Pittsburg, Kansas.

My dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

The Kansas Soil Conservation and Flood Control Association invites you to act in an advisory capacity to a committee now being set up under the chairmanship of Dwight Payton, editor, Overbrook, Kans., for the purpose of organizing an association to be known as The Kansas Watersheds Association and to incorporate as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Kansas.

Prime purpose of the new organization will be to unify the work of the several individual watershed organizations now being organized to further the sound conservation and development of land and water resources including flood control. It will further assist in the organization of local groups on a watershed basis where desired.

This committee will have as its immediate assignment the drawing up of appropriate articles of incorporation, constitution, and by-laws for the new organization.

While the new organization will of course write its own aims and methods it may be expected, I believe, to follow more or less the following broad principles:

Firstly, that the people of any area have a sacred privilege and obligation to undertake an active participation in cooperation with any and all technical experts, both in and out of government employ, in the planning and promotion of a sound program for the conservation and development of soil and water resources. This is to the end that the resulting program shall best serve the needs of the communities, and that the regional controversies may be resolved in the process of planning, rather than result in futile bickering over a plan that is completed and unalterable.

Secondly, that all known methods of conservation and flood control, and any that may be developed in the course of the planning, shall be given serious consideration without any previous prejudice.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Thirdly, that a sound and acceptable standard of feasibility of such program and its separate parts shall be developed and adopted with due regard to social, economic, agricultural, and engineering factors with due consideration given perpetual national welfare.

I hope I may hear from you soon that you will share this effort in this vital undertaking, that future generations may continue to enjoy the bounty of this great land.

I am

Most cordially yours,

(Edith Monfort)

(Mrs.) Edith Monfort, sec.,
Reading, Kansas.



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

The Kansas Soil Conservation and Flood Control Association

RAYMOND WEGNER, President, Ozawie

P. H. SAUBLE, Vice President, Cedar Point
WILLIAM AVERY, Treasurer, Wakefield

MRS. EDITH MONFORT, Secretary, Reading
MRS. J. C. MCKINNEY, Publicity Chairman, Hartford

Reading, Kansas,
October 18, 1951

F.W. Brinkerhoff,
Pittsburg Publishing Co.,
Pittsburg, Kansas.

My dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

I appreciate your letter in connection with the watershed association being set for Kansas and I think I understand your reaction that because Crawford County suffers no floods you would be out of place on the committee promoting the new organization.

However I can think of about four reasons why I think you would be valuable on that committee, both to your community and to the committee.

I believe I can safely guess that your region, while suffering no overflows from rivers, nonetheless has an erosion problem. Erosion control is item number one in any watershed program

Floods originate, not in the flood plains of the valleys, but on the uplands from which heavy rainwater flows to cause floods in the valleys. Flood control work then must be accomplished in those hills if floods are to be reduced. All the water that the soil cannot absorb that flows off the uplands in your area eventually finds its way into some stream.

The citizens of your area, while suffering no actual overflows, are as tax paying citizens of the nation going to be called upon to help finance some pretty huge undertakings for flood control. It is to their interest to know that their tax dollars are well spent.

The fact that you live in neither a reservoir area nor a flood plain area makes it possible for you to have an objective viewpoint not always so easy for those more intimately involved in the problem. Hence you could give good balance to such a movement as is now taking form.

I trust you will reconsider your decision and that we may see you at the meeting on Friday the twenty-sixth of October as announced.

I am

Most sincerely yours,

Edith Monfort

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

THE HAYS DAILY NEWS
HAYS, KANSAS

FRANK MOTZ
LEOTA MOTZ

Nov. 29, 1951

Dear Fred:

Trust you are feeling better--
lots better. It is not surprising you should
succumb a little to the wear and tear. You've
never been one to spare yourself, to the
contrary you have piled it on, year in and
year out. Something will have to give one of
these days unless you slow up. This isn't
advice sticking its nose into your business.
It's my own experience. First, a nervous
breakdown (up to the time I had one I used
to think they were so much baloney) 16 years
ago. Then a heart attack six years ago and
a slight cerebral hemorrhage the day of the
flood in Hays last May. Do what your doctor
tells you to do and just don't argue. I don't
have to talk with your doc to know you need
rest. If you take care of yourself you have
many useful years ahead of you. So far as)

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

THE HAYS DAILY NEWS
HAYS, KANSAS

FRANK MOTZ
LEOTA MOTZ

know you have the necessary physical fortifications--constitution, et cetera--to give you a guarantee of this. And I hope I am not wrong. Leota said you didn't appear "tired" when she saw you at K.C. Neither did I but that doesn't always mean something; looks, that is. Take the best of care of yourself, take time off, you and your wife go some place ^{and loaf}. Do both of you a world of good.

Still have bees stinging my left leg and two blocks is as far as I want to walk; but I have gained measurably in the last five months. Heck, I'm grateful for anything ^{good} ~~that helps~~ which comes my way. Work mornings only. I really think, all things being equal, I shall be feeling pretty fair by next summer.

As ever,

Best regards from Frank
Leota and me to Mrs. B.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Dec. 4, 1951

Nyle Miller
Secretary
Kansas-State Historical Society
Topeka, Kas.

Dear Nyle:

Thanks for sending me the clipping from the Capital. The boys certainly gave me quite a play and I appreciate it very much. I want to thank you for inviting me up to the meeting and to say that I enjoyed it a lot. Breaking the news on the matter of the crookedness of our politicians with particular reference to Ingalls is a bit thrilling. I noted the kindly dissertation on the subject by Art Carruth.

Occasions such as you gave me are much more pleasant than the political wrangles in which I have engaged during a great deal of my life.

I note that you are coming down to talk to the Rotary club and I will make a note and see if we cannot coordinate the county historical meeting with the Rotary meeting.

Thanks awfully for your solution of the puzzling thing in the senatorial term. I am sure that this is also news to Kansas and one of these days I intend to run an editorial clearing up the matter.

Furthermore, I plan to spend a couple of days in Topeka at the first opportunity to go through a bunch of things there in your building.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls