

## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

### Section 140, Pages 4171 - 4200

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

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## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

THE McNALLY PITTSBURG MFG. CORP.  
PITTSBURG, KANSAS

THOMAS McNALLY  
CHAIRMAN

June 18, 1958

Dear Sir:

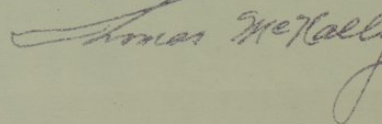
I have been so much concerned with the attempt by some folks, and I do not believe it originated in the Attorney General's office, to raise the technical question as to whether or not the people of Kansas should be given the right to vote on the "Right to Work" proposal. I am, today, writing Mr. John Anderson, Attorney General, as per the enclosed copy.

My action is prompted because of the tremendous interest in Southeast Kansas over this question, and literally hundreds of people have spoken to me about it without any solicitation, of course, on my part.

I thought you would be interested in knowing and having a copy of this letter.

Thank you, everyone.

Yours very truly,



TM:mwh

Enclosure



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

THOMAS McNALLY  
PITTSBURG, KANSAS

June 18, 1958

Mr. John Anderson, Jr.  
Attorney General  
State House  
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I have noted with much interest the position taken by the Attorney General's office in raising the technical question of whether the people of Kansas should exercise the right to vote on the so-called "Right to Work" proposed amendment.

Because of the number of persons who are now concerned--hundreds and thousands of Kansans--I am prompted to write to you. They are concerned not only about the "Right to Work" amendment, but what appears to them to be an attempt to deprive them of their inalienable right to express their views by the vote at the polls.

I feel that the Attorney General of Kansas is attorney general for all the people of Kansas. It has been my understanding that you are that kind of a public official, but it seems to me that in this particular issue you have a responsibility to insure to Kansans the opportunity to vote on a question that they manifestly want to vote on. This would be, regardless of your personal attitude toward the question itself, which I am sure you are not permitting to influence you.

We are both aware, I am sure, that your move has been credited by many critics to insistence by some persons who are fearful that the people will not vote as these persons desire. It is not my understanding that you are a man who would be pressured into a position against your own convictions, but I am merely saying that that sort of comment is being heard. I am sure that the people of Kansas are never as much interested in technicalities, such as have been brought up in this matter of the proposed amendment, as they are in the main issue--the vital thing. And, I am sure that there will be a great resentment if a move to prevent people from exercising their right to vote is successful.

## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Mr. John Anderson, Jr.

2

June 18, 1958

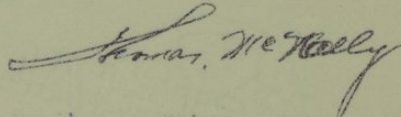
The lawsuit to keep the proposed amendment, which the legislature has moved to submit to the people, off the ballot is in effect saying that Kansans, after nearly 100 years of participating in democratic government, are too immature to vote intelligently on how they shall govern themselves.

If you have said something that challenges this statement, I would appreciate knowing what you said. I am sure that you have something upon which to base your action and that you believe it is your duty to act. But, I find it impossible to get away from the idea that the action, whether intended or not, is one that challenges the right of the people of Kansas to vote on a matter of extreme importance.

I have spent a lifetime in Kansas and think I understand Kansans. I am sure they want the right to vote, one way or the other, on the proposed amendment.

Believe me, Mr. Anderson, I remain

Yours very respectfully,



TM:wmh



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Mr. John Anderson, Jr.

2

June 18, 1958

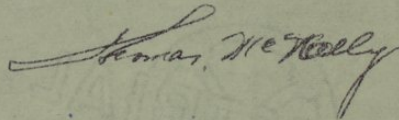
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Believe me, Mr. Anderson, I remain

Yours very respectfully,



TM:wdh

## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

### *Marais des Cygnes Massacre Centennial*

TRADING POST, LINN COUNTY, KANSAS

1858 — May 19 — 1958

ELTON D. WILSON  
Mound City  
General Chairman

Mound City, Kansas  
June 16, 1958

OLD SETTLERS'  
REUNION  
May 18

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

Dear Nyle:

Thank you for your complimentary letter of the 6th. It is particularly gratifying to us to learn that Fred Brinkerhoff made a favorable report on our centennial observance since we credit him with having the idea and getting it started in the first place.

Although there was some word here that the Centennial Commission was considering the sponsorship of an observance, the first actual discussion of the project in Linn County was inspired by a proposal by Mr. Brinkerhoff at a Pleasanton Rotary meeting last winter.

No formal organization was developed for some time. The Mound City Chamber of Commerce discussed the centennial at a couple of meetings and appointed a committee to represent it in case a general planning meeting was called. I suspect other organizations may have gone about that far, but that everyone hesitated to step forward and take the lead.

Following a session of the District Court on March 6 some of us were discussing the proposal and the need to get started on preparations. Judge Harry W. Fisher proposed that we hold a meeting and organize forthwith; and on being acclaimed the temporary chairman he called the meeting to order with attorneys, county officials, and others about the court house being called in to take part in the proceedings. The main business of the meeting was to elect as permanent chairman of the centennial Elton D. Wilson, Mound City---a wise choice as





### *Marais des Cygnes Massacre Centennial*

TRADING POST, LINN COUNTY, KANSAS

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General Chairman

OLD SETTLERS'  
REUNION  
May 18

Mr. Nyle H. Miller--2

we knew then and as subsequent developments have proved. The meeting adjourned until the call of the chairman.

The first meeting was called for March 14, and public meetings were held almost weekly there after. The attendance at these meetings usually varied from twenty-five to fifty persons. Organizations regularly represented included the La Cygne Commercial Club, Trading Post Home Demonstration Unit, Trading Post Community Club, Pleasanton Rotary Club, Pleasanton Booster Club, Pleasanton Lions Club, Pleasanton V. F. W., Mound City Chamber of Commerce, Mound City American Legion post, Linn County D. A. R., county 4-H and Extension councils; while representatives from the Cadmus Grange, the Prescott Commercial Club, and the Fort Scott Chamber of Commerce attended several meetings.

The committees appointed were program, publicity, finance, grounds, parade, concessions, and Centennial Ball. Of course there was considerable overlapping for the sake of liaison. In addition, a group from the program committee cooperated with the county ministerial alliance in planning the memorial program which was held Sunday, May 18. So far as I know, the program committee was the only one which held regular meetings, and we met almost weekly. All the public meetings were held at Pleasanton which was centrally located for people from the Eastern part of the county, where, of course, the interest was greatest. However, it should be noted that every town and community in the county was represented in some way --by its high school band, a queen candidate, a float, or volunteer workers.

The centennial operated on a very low budget so far as cash expenditures by the committee were concerned. Contributions and miscellaneous receipts totaled about \$500, largely from sale of centennial buttons and souvenir maps which were originally conceived as place mats. Sale of tickets to the Centennial Ball (ticket





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### *Marais des Cygnes Massacre Centennial*

TRADING POST, LINN COUNTY, KANSAS

1858 — May 19 — 1958

ELTON D. WILSON  
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General Chairman

OLD SETTLERS'  
REUNION  
May 18

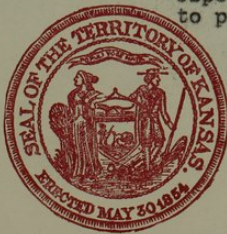
Mr. Nyle H. Miller--3

stubs were used to vote for the Centennial Queen) brought in an additional \$331. Total expenses were about \$500. Of course, we received good help from the county and state highway departments, the power and light company and the National Guard who footed their own bills.

We can't take too much credit for the good publicity; as we owe much thanks to Fred Brinkerhoff and Homer Taylor, and others of his staff for stories in their own paper and for A P releases; also to the Topeka papers, and no doubt some others which had their own stories. We are trying to keep the Fort Scott Tribune, Station K. M. D. O., and the weeklies in this and adjoining counties supplied with releases. In the week before the centennial we sent stories to seven or eight of the smaller dailies in this area. Of course, the press, radio, and television coverage of the event itself was most gratifying.

The Community Club and the Home Demonstration Unit of Trading Post had the major food concessions and did a fine job of planning and serving, especially considering the fact they have had no previous experience with such large crowds. Throughout the planning the question kept arising "How many do you suppose will be there?"; and frankly we had some misgivings about daytime program on Monday as a drawing card. However, we felt that it would not be unreasonable to expect 3,000 people. I think the best estimate on actual attendance was about five or six thousand people on the 19th, and perhaps eight hundred to one thousand on Sunday, the 18th. There must have been over five hundred people in the parade.

The tours conducted by the National Guard, particularly those to the Massacre Memorial State Park, turned out to be an even better attraction than we anticipated, especially since we didn't have the time and man power to plan them as well as we wished. Response given to







## Marais des Cygnes Massacre Centennial

TRADING POST, LINN COUNTY, KANSAS  
1858 — May 19 — 1958

ELTON D. WILSON  
Mound City  
General Chairman

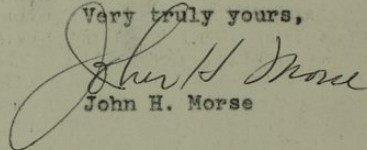
OLD SETTLERS'  
REUNION  
May 18

Mr. Nyle H. Miller--4

these tours and the mimeographed guide sheets distributed to the tourists, and the interest shown in the antique and relic displays in shop windows and public places, especially in Pleasanton and Mound City, should give impetus to a continuing program of preserving and publicizing the historic points in Linn County.

Of course, we are indebted to you and your staff for your good help in research on stories and pictures and for your encouragement.

Very truly yours,

  
John H. Morse

JHM.pq



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

### The McNally Pittsburg Mfg. Corp.

DESIGNERS AND BUILDERS OF EQUIPMENT FOR BASIC INDUSTRIES

Pittsburg, Kansas

EDWARD T. McNALLY  
PRESIDENT

June 12, 1958

Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff  
Editor and Manager  
Pittsburg Publishing Co.  
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

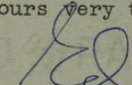
Your stout editorial on the "Right To Vote" was most reassuring. I am sending it along to some of my friends who are interested in the "Right to Work" aspect of the issue, but who are probably more concerned about the more basic issued of keeping the people from expressing their will on a technicality.

I am reminded of one of the numerous punch lines in the play "Life with Father". The father adamantly refused to be baptized after years of persuasion by his wife to do so. He finally declared in a rage, on one occasion, that the Lord wouldn't dare keep him out of heaven on a technicality.

I am attaching some non-partisan propaganda, which I received from the Kansans for the Right to Work, regarding the functioning of nine Kansas attornies in this matter. This may be useful to you.

I am also enclosing the voting score of Joe Schaub, E. E. Stonecipher, and F. O. Doty, who always voted for the union viewpoint on the issues listed, except when they were absent. I am sure you will find this neither useful, newsworthy, nor encouraging.

Yours very truly,

  
Edward T. McNally

ETM:wmh

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Reed Larson  
Kansans for the Right to Work

PLANTS: PITTSBURG, KANSAS; WELLSTON, OHIO.  
OFFICES: PITTSBURG, KANSAS; WELLSTON, OHIO; PITTSBURGH 22, PENNSYLVANIA; CHICAGO 1, ILLINOIS; RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL.



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

C O P Y

**The McNally Pittsburg Mfg. Corp.**

PITTSBURG, KANSAS

July 9, 1958

Honorable Frank Carlson  
United States Senator from Kansas  
Senate Office Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator:

I know you were shocked, as many of us have been shocked, by the proposal of Mr. James Hoffa of the Teamster's Union, in creating a Union monopoly of transportation.

We could not be more shocked if the railroads, the airlines, bus companies, and truck lines, all set up a comparable monopoly as a national transportation combine.

Back in the eighties the railroads misbehaved and they got the ICC for their trouble. Later the life insurance companies misbehaved, and you know what legislation they got for their troubles. After the 1929 debacle the brokers, lawyers and bankers got the SEC as payment for their misbehavior -- and these all stem from Acts of Congress and will stay with us for as long as we live.

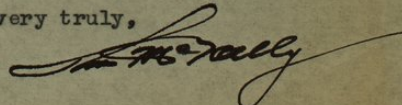
Isn't it about time that Labor combines should come under the Anti-Trust Laws as a protection to the American public from the worst combine of them all, such as proposed by Hoffa?

It is going to take some political courage in the Halls of Congress to cure this situation, but it must be cured.

Some of those of different political faith who have been inclined to hide under the bed when subjects like this are brought on the Floor are going to be exposed as to just what kind of Americans they are.

I am writing this to you as a Kansas Senator for I already know that you oppose monopolies in any form.

Yours very truly,



TM: jr

cc - Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff  
Pittsburg Publishing Company  
701 N. Locust

Same letter mailed to:  
Senators Schoeppel & Carlson  
Representative George



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Aug. 18, 1958

Mrs. Frank Motz  
Hays, Kas.

Dear Mrs. Motz:

Another of my closest friends in Kansas is gone in the passing of your fine husband. I was saddened no end to note the word from Hays the other day. Naturally I have long been fearful that such news would come. But I was not prepared for it when it did come.

Frank came here with me in 1912 and ever since the first day he was in Pittsburg we have been friends. There is no man anywhere that I enjoyed visiting with more than I enjoyed visiting with Frank. His originality of thinking and his independence of thinking and his ability to express his thoughts with force and clarity, whether in conversation or in print, always impressed me. One of the things I always looked forward to in attending various meetings was the contact with Frank. When he was absent much of the pleasure and profit of the meeting to me was missing.

Pearl joins me in a sincere expression of sympathy to you. You have taken a great loss but as I often pointed out you had many fine years with Frank and memories of those years must be a consolation for you.

Sincerely,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Sept. 6, 1958

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

Dear Nyle:

There should be no difficulty concerning funds for the Civil War Centennial Commission. There will be nothing much that will be expensive for the Civil War Centennial in 1961 as I recall it. By 1962 the state commission will have performed its task.

This is the first I have heard that Swain had declined. We must pretty soon obtain some man to take on this job.

Thanks for the PS. There was another Brinkerhoff family in Franklin County. One of the daughters married a Professor W. D. Wilson who was long with Ottawa University. Apparently Mrs. Alice Wilson is a relative. I knew of this other family but the relationship was at a considerable distance. However, "Derrick" was a common name in the family. Next time I am up there I should like to see the papers.

I was thrilled the other day to take the first look at a new book in our library, "The Official Atlas of the Civil War." I am sure you must have one. We just purchased our copy. I opened the book to a map of the battlefield of Gettysburg. There was my grandfather's farm spotted--where my father was born two miles out from Gettysburg on the Hunterstown road. In fact, two Brinkerhoff farms were on the map. If you happen to look at the atlas there are several maps of Gettysburg. They are not together. One is early in the atlas and the others are later.

Sincerely,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWE:ls



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

C O P Y

**The McNally Pittsburg Mfg. Corp.**  
PITTSBURG, KANSAS

August 26, 1958

Mr. Everett H. Burke  
U. S. Department of Commerce  
Bureau of the Census  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Burke:

Yesterday your division commenced business in the new building, and from the appearance of the applicants and those who have been put to work, I believe you would agree with me that they make a very fine and impressive appearance, and I am sure that your Mr. Musselman and others here are going to be most pleased with the type of citizenship you have so generously attracted.

The building is now complete, with the exception of some of the landscaping and grass seeding, and a little yet to be done on the auto park, but to all intents and purposes the Census can go along and it will be only a few days until we have those items completed.

I am particularly anxious now to hold a grand, big celebration and open house for the citizens of Pittsburg. The weather at this time of the year is ideal, much more so than the windy day when you were down here and we had the open house for the Agricultural Section.

Of course, we could not possibly hold this open house with a big evening dinner, without Mr. Burke and hundreds of citizens have asked me when Mr. Burke would be here. Besides yourself, of course, we would like to have Mrs. Burke, and if at all possible, it would be wonderful if we could have Mr. Arthur T. Moore and Mr. Burgess, plus a few more of your assistants. I realize fully that you cannot afford to take everybody out of Washington for such a party, but we would like to have all that you could spare, and have them bring their wives if possible, and with the twenty-six people that I believe you have here now, or will have here within the next few days, we could really have a nice evening dinner party like we did before, where you could have an opportunity again to renew acquaintances and meet the very grateful citizens who have such a kind feeling for you and your associates.



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

COPY

**The McNally Pittsburg Mfg. Corp.**  
PITTSBURG, KANSAS

August 26, 1958

Mr. Everett H. Burke

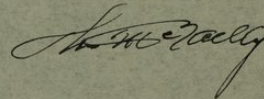
Page 2

Edward McNally and his wife are going to a convention on the coast after the middle of September and of course he wants to be at this open house and party. Therefore, if you could arrange for your group to be here, say the first half of September, it would be wonderful. When I have word from you as to the time you could be here, I will proceed with the arrangements.

So far everybody seems well pleased with the facilities at the building and also appear to be very happy, and believe me, all of Pittsburg will make them feel happy and comfortable.

With kindest personal regards to you and Mrs. Burke, I am

Yours very truly,



TJM:McN

cc: Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff ✓  
Mr. Edward McNally



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Nov. 11, 1958

Gordon Martin  
Topeka Capital  
Topeka, Kas.

Dear Gordon:

I read in the Sunday Capital a piece on campaigns by Jonathan M. Dow. Who is he?

I ask this because I note he said of Lincoln after describing the Lincoln-Douglas debates: "In the year following the debates (1859) he was invited to address a convention in Kansas. He replied that he would like to, but he had to attend to his own law practice, which was his means of livelihood."

I just wanted to remark that the writer evidently did not know that Lincoln came to Kansas in 1859 and spent a week here. I dealt with this visit to Kansas in my speech as president of the state historical society. If you are interested and care to, you might call Nyle Miller and have him send you the booklet which the society got out containing my speech.

The incident is of interest because next year Atchison and Leavenworth will be linked together under the sponsorship of the centennial commission to put on a preliminary centennial celebration, with a "Lincoln" starting at Elwood and traveling over the route of 1859 through Troy and Doniphan and Atchison to Leavenworth. We think this should be a smashing big day, with a week condensed into a day because of motor cars and maybe Raymond Massey will be "Lincoln."

I do not intend this letter to be a complaint and do not want you to pass it over to anybody as such. And I do not want to appear to be dipping in, if the writer is a member of the staff. But some way or other the matter should be set right and possibly you will have the opportunity to do it if you should be discussing the centennial program sometime.

Sincerely,

FMB:ls

F. W. Brinkerhoff



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Nov. 20, 1958

Dear Fred:

Your pardon for being late in answering your letter. It turns out this Jonathan M. Dow is an elderly gent who was employed by The State Journal to handle their ~~own~~ obituaries. I reckon he was told he could pick up some feature story money too.

I'm rather surprised the Sunday desk didn't catch the error since most people know, I would imagine, that Abe once visited Kansas.

I expect to see Nyle Miller shortly, will get your booklet and, in the course, of writing a Centennial ~~history~~ <sup>edition</sup>, straighten out the matter as best I can.

I was glad to hear from you.

Yours,

*Goiday*

## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

JOHN McCUISH  
NEWTON, KANSAS  
December 16, 1958

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff  
Pittsburg Headlight  
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

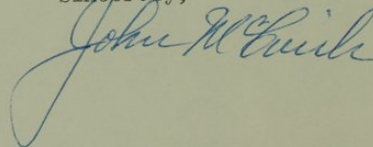
Recently I have become impressed with the  
"new look" in our junior senator from Kansas.

He was one of four United States Senators to  
publicly endorse Sherman Adams when Adams was  
under fire and now he is firm and forthright  
against Senator Dirksen as Republican leader  
of the Senate.

This is just a personal note and please treat  
it as such, but I do think that the junior  
senator's "new Look" is worthy of study.

With all good wishes for a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year, I am

Sincerely,





## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Dec. 15, 1958

Burton W. Marvin  
Dean, White School of Journalism  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kas.

Dear Burt:

I enclose copy of letter of acceptance by Ben Hibbs of the invitation. This pleases me very much. Ben called me after he had my letter of invitation and discussed the matter quite thoroughly. He followed the conversation a few days later with his letter of acceptance.

You will note that he is asking for copies of the booklets containing the lectures to date. As I recall it, some of these booklets are out of print. But please send him immediately all that are available.

I think in this case that some of us should devote some extra efforts to getting out a good crowd to honor Ben. I think it would be well for some of us to impress this upon numerous friends in Kansas journalism. I think also that an early announcement for the newspapers is advisable. I suggest that this be handled through Fred Moen at Topeka. In order to get the maximum publicity he should be asked to file it shortly before noon on the day it is released. That will catch the front pages of 30 or 35 daily newspapers of Kansas and the Star as well.

Sincerely,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Dec. 17, 1958

John McCuish  
Newton, Kas.

Dear John:

I have noted the phenomenon or something. I do not know whether there is any justification for study in this case or not. I have had a close up view of gyrations, back-ups and hula hoop politics on his part for a good while.

It is nice to hear from you. And for you a Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWE:ls



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Sept. 26, 1957

Rev. Robert F. Pepe  
Columbus, Kas.

Dear Rev. Pepe:

Newspapers do not make the news. They report the news.  
Newspapers did not file the McCullough lawsuit.

If these newspapers did not report this litigation  
accurately, I am sorry and would be glad to have the  
errors pointed out.

Yours truly,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

ST. ROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Columbus, Kansas

Sept. 22, 1957

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

My dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

I presume that by now you are aware of the fact that your handling of the Monsignor McCullough story has been extremely offensive to Catholics everywhere. Indeed, its foulness has been felt by sincere members of all religious faiths.

We expected more than this from a man of your apparent repute.

Very truly yours,

Rev. Robert F. Pepe  
Pastor



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

### St. Rose Catholic Church

Phone 453

Columbus, Kansas

September 30, 1957

Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff  
Pittsburg Publishing Company  
Pittsburg, Kansas

My dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

Thank you for your reply of September 26 concerning the Msgr. McCullough story. However there are several items in your letter with which I must take issue.

1. You make the statement: "Newspapers do not make the news. They report the news". While there is some truth to this, surely a man of your experience and intelligence is not unaware of the sophistry involved. The litigation under question has been in the courts for six years. It did not become "news" (sic) until you gave it sensational treatment on your front pages.

2. You imply that newspapers are completely impartial. "Time" magazine recently made the noteworthy statement that any "journalist worth his salt...concedes that, for all the lip service paid to it, there is no such thing as true objectivity in handling the news." (Underlining mine).

3. You will notice in my original letter (if it has not long-since been consigned to the nether-world of the wastebasket), that I was not objecting to your carrying of the story, but to your "handling" of it. Under this point, I think the following are worthy of consideration:

a) In your headlining of the article, you consistently used the sensational, dramatic, and highly-loaded word "embezzlement" which word at no place appears in the official court papers. I should think your passion for accuracy would have dictated otherwise.

b) You apparently made no attempt whatsoever to obtain a statement from Msgr. Stremel or Bishop Carroll. It seems to me this would have been in line with accepted journalistic practices, and it was followed in this case by the International News Service out of Kansas City. While this was perhaps not considered necessary,

## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

### St. Rose Catholic Church

Phone 453

Columbus, Kansas

Page two....

it would certainly have cast the story in a much truer perspective. I have heard you on several occasions proclaim publicly the friendship you had with Dr. Pompeny and Msgr. McCullough, and therefore you must have known very well that the latter was senile and enfeebled for a considerable time before his retirement. Yet you made no effort to mention or imply these extenuating circumstances.

It is my opinion that a newspaper can commit slander, morally if not legally, by what it omits as well as by what it prints.

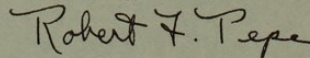
c) In the Msgr. McCullough article, you refer to him and to Msgr. Stremel consistently, after the first paragraph, by their last names alone. In a neighboring front-page story concerning two faculty members at K.S.T.C., you take the trouble, and properly I think, to use the titles "Professor" and "Dr." seven times, rather than refer to either of them by their last name only. In the next column over, concerning the death of a well-known area publisher, you use the title "Mr." more than a half-dozen times. Not once is he called by his last name alone. The same procedure is followed I notice in a recent front-page story concerning a prominent Pittsburg industrialist.

Clergymen have their proper titles and forms of address. I fail to understand why you do not apprise yourself of these and accord the dignity of their use, if not out of courtesy and respect, then at least out of consistency.

I have lived in several cities throughout the country, and I can honestly say that your newspapers are the only ones I can recall which offend in this respect.

Edward R. Murrow, himself somewhat successful in the trade, has said that the job of a journalist is "to know one's own prejudices and try to do the best you can to be fair".

Very truly yours,



Rev. Robert F. Pepe  
Pastor



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

### St. Rose Catholic Church

Phone 453

Columbus, Kansas

September 22, 1957

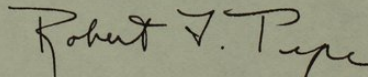
Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff  
Pittsburg Headlight and Sun  
Pittsburg, Kansas

My dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

I presume that by now you are aware of the fact that your handling of the Monsignor McCullough story has been extremely offensive to Catholics everywhere. Indeed, its foulness has been felt by sincere members of all religious faiths.

We expected more than this from a man of your apparent repute.

Very truly yours,



Rev. Robert F. Pepe  
Pastor

## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

May 31, 1952

National Broadcasting Co.  
New York City, N. Y. - 20

Gentlemen:

As a Kansan, speaking for many Kansans of similar views, I want to ask that you give time to Senator Taft that is comparable to that given to Eisenhower for his speech at Abilene. Certainly it cannot be said that the Eisenhower homecoming at Abilene is anything but a political rally. The general has been home previously and his coming has been celebrated. This time it is set up for political purposes and is being carried on for political purposes. That being the case, certainly it is only fair that you allot Taft similar time on the air.

Trusting that you will give full consideration to this,

Very truly yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

*30 Rockefeller Plaza*



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

CATERPILLAR TRACTOR CO.

PEORIA 8, ILLINOIS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 24, 1953

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

The power of the press is great, and I have always been intrigued with the devious ways in which it reaches individuals.

Arnold Burnett, our estimable Managing Editor of "The Journal", reaches me in his column, killing several birds with one stone -- (1) he brings his many readers a message on an interesting part of the country, and (2) the good humor of a Jayhawker and A.B. about the weather. (Believe me, we too have our "puzzlements" about weather in Peoria.)

And (3) as to the message about a Caterpillar plant -- I have no doubt but what the great State of Kansas offers much as a location. I have to be careful not to be influenced by the sound of an attractive locale, because you can appreciate that I, having married a Kansan, would have two strikes on me.

Our latest plant is to be located in Decatur, Illinois. It had to be reasonably contiguous to the "mother" plant at Peoria because of the many components it will obtain from that source. Moreover, it had to be close to a variety of raw materials. Decatur had a great many advantages for this particular installation for we had operated a government plant there during the war and had experienced a great many good things about the community.

It's not likely that we will build another plant for a long time; but should we, you can be sure that Pittsburg, Kansas will have its innings.

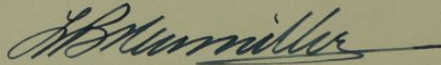
## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

CATERPILLAR TRACTOR CO.

-2-

Should you ever be up this way, we'll be glad to have you pay us a call.

Sincerely yours,



LBNeumiller  
mjs

P.S. An extra copy of A. B.'s story is enclosed. Several people in the community sent me copies, thinking I might not have seen it; but, believe me, it was the first thing I saw in the newspaper that particular day.

cc: Mr. Arnold Burnett

Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff  
Pittsburg, Kansas



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

### A's A. B.

### Sees It

### *Pittsburg, Kan., Citizens Puzzled About 2 Things*

—By ARNOLD BURNETT—

PITTSBURG, KANSAS: This city has 27,000 population, sits on the eastern edge of Kansas 4 miles from the Missouri border and 125 miles straight south of Kansas City, and is puzzled by two things: the weather, and Caterpillar Tractor Co., of Peoria.

I learned about the weather first. "Say, it got down to 62 last night," one Pittsburger told me. "That's pretty cold, by gosh, for this time of year. It was 113 one day last week—some difference! I was actually pretty chilly this morning."

"Are you complaining?" I asked.

"Well, no," he said, "but it's pretty unusual . . ."

• • •

THIS PIECE OF knowledge stood me in good stead when I went to get a room for the night, and the clerk asked if I wanted a room with air-conditioning.

"Air-conditioning?" I said. "Gosh, no—not with it getting so chilly these nights!"

"Sure does get chilly," he agreed. "Folks who have air-conditioned rooms don't hardly have to turn them on, even."

• • •

NOW—HERE'S why Pittsburg is puzzled by Caterpillar Tractor Co. I guess that they aren't really "puzzled," so much as they are wishful.

F. W. Brinkerhoff, editor of the two Pittsburg newspapers, and William F. Hansen, the city manager, were talking to me at lunch about Caterpillar.

"How come Caterpillar doesn't build a plant out here?" asked Bill Hansen. "I know that they are tremendously interested in their South American business, and I know they have a lot of it."

This is the ideal location for a Latin-America export plant, because we have direct, straight-as-an-arrow service right to New Orleans. It's overnight, on the Kansas City Southern railroad."

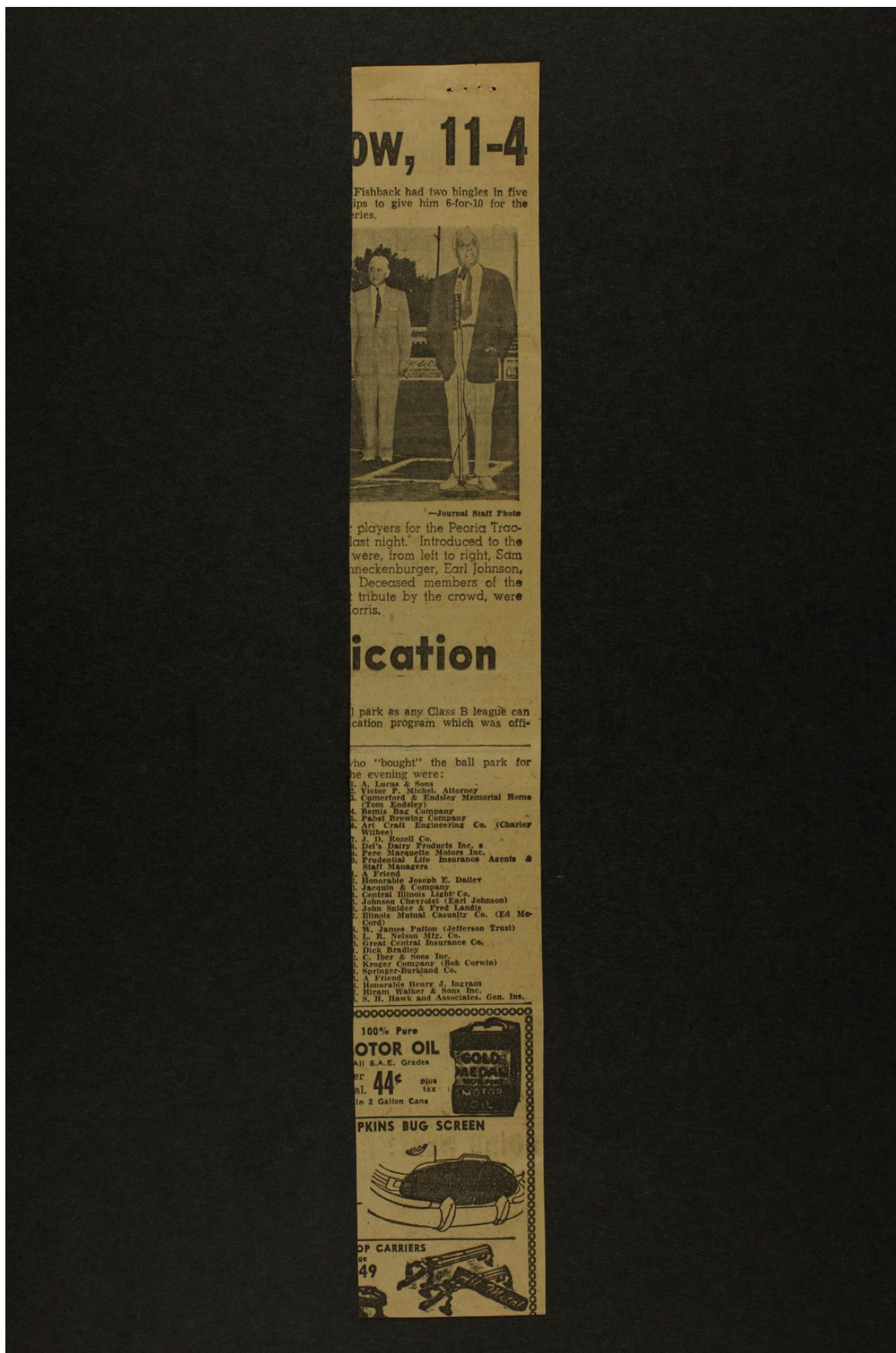
Well, I had to admit that I didn't know why Caterpillar doesn't establish a plant in Pittsburg, and Brinkerhoff told me that I ought to ask Louis Neumiller to remember about Pittsburg's strategic location as a Latin-American gateway, next time Caterpillar gets to putting up a plant somewhere.

SO THAT'S what I'm doing right here and now. And I can tell Caterpillar one thing—this is a clean, shining, wonderful little city, with wide streets, good schools, a college (Kansas State Teachers), fine facilities, and mighty nice people.

I recommend Pittsburg, Kansas. It's a good town.



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence





## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

July 23, 1953

Mr. L. B. Neumiller, President  
Caterpillar Tractor Co.  
Peoria 8, Ill.

Dear Mr. Neumiller:

Arnold Burnett who came out to see me on an entirely different matter discussed you and your plant and activities in a most interesting way. He said that you were putting in a plant at Decatur and even I could see the logic of having a new plant near the "mother" plant. As was suggested there are certain definite advantages for those who build Latin-American export plants in this section, particularly in this immediate area and more particularly in the Pittsburg sector. And whether it is for Latin-American export or domestic business, Pittsburg will be most happy to be considered in any future plans.

The weather is something I care to say nothing about. I stopped saying anything cheerful or even anything mild about Kansas weather in June. When I say that we are looking forward to August with no fear, certainly I paint the distress sign all over the place.

I note with interest that you married a Kansan and undoubtedly you have listened to a vast amount of propaganda about our state through the years.

Sitting here at this moment I am trying to find out a way to get back to New Salem before next Sunday night. I had hoped to take in the Lincoln play but various things have seriously interfered.

My mother's uncle--my grandfather's brother--was Peter Lukins, a shoe cobbler in New Salem whose cabin was one of those restored and is there today. My grandfather and grandmother are buried at Petersburg, the town that Lukins and George Warburton founded (they were said to have played a game of old sledge to see whether the town would be Petersburg or Georgetown.)